



Autumn Newsletter 2024

From the Chair of the Parish Council, Anthony Shutes

Dear Residents

This newsletter is later than we wanted, but that is because lots has been happening in the Parish, whether it be the Seminary development discussions, Shamley Green ponds, the passionate volunteer Environment Groups in all our villages, the significant efforts of the resident led group working up plans and seeking funds for the new Barnett Fields and Healy's Wood (named after Graham and Louise whose generosity allowed the auction bid to be made and won), and the rejuvenation of the Playgrounds in Lords Hill and Wonersh.

None of this happens without Councillors and the many volunteers plus the hard work of the Clerk and Assistant Clerk. We have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor in Shamley Green on the retirement of Mike Band after many years on both Waverley and Wonersh Councils. Please do contact clerk@wonershparish.org if you are interested in becoming a councillor.

Gerald's Wood Update

The sale of Gerald's Wood is currently with conveyancing solicitors. The sale is conditional on retaining public access in perpetuity to the lower footpath parallel with the road and the footpath up the steps, plus a new footpath through the adjacent fields exiting further up Chinthurst Lane.

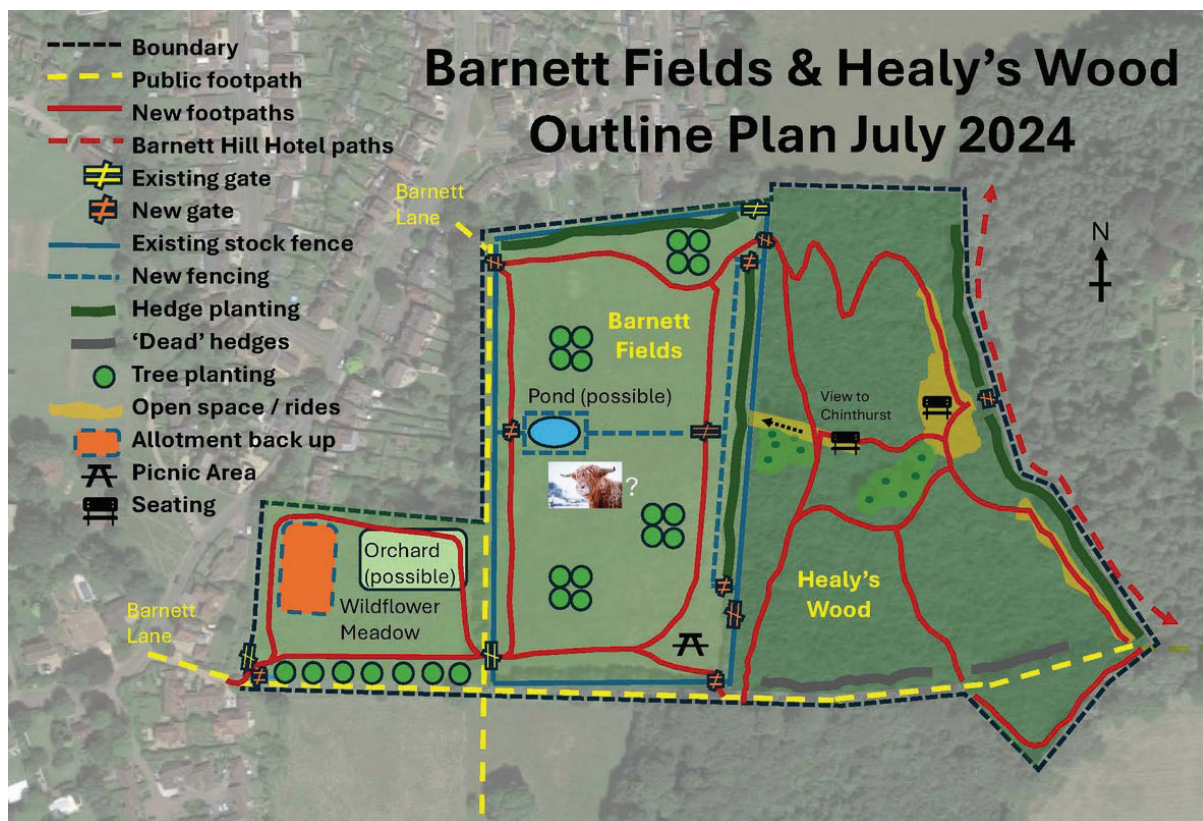
Members of WEAG have built new steps (see photo) down into the field and Chinthurst House have installed fencing and new gates, as a requisite for Surrey County Council formally adopting all the paths.

We hope this can all be completed by year end!



WEAG volunteers building steps on Public Right of Way

Barnett Fields and Healy's Wood



Outline Plan of Barnett Hill Fields and Healy's wood

The resident led Barnett Fields Group (BFG) plans for the newly acquired fields and woods (now known as Healy's Wood) have been agreed in principle by the Parish Council. Thank you to the BFG and of course the Wonersh Environmental Advisory Group (WEAG) of volunteers who will do much of the work. The plans (see map above) include completing base line wildlife and plant surveys, paths through the woods, hedging, new trees, new gates and fencing, coppicing and thinning, and dead-hedging. Other options to be evaluated include a pond, orchard and possibly even short-term grazing by highland cattle. Barnett Hill Hotel has kindly agreed to a connecting gate between the hotel and Healy's Wood. We also plan new signage (sponsored by our Surrey County Councillor) and have received a generous grant from the Wonersh Fair for seating, a picnic table and a gate.

Can you sponsor a Gate or Tree?

All the community are very welcome to join in WEAG volunteer activities and have the opportunity to sponsor one of the planned new gates in the Barnett Fields or a new tree by contacting anthony.shutes@wonershparish.org or clerk@wonershparish.org. The sponsor can opt to have their name or that of a relative on a plaque - Example plaque in the photo to the right.



Plaque on gate

Seminary Update

Planning permission was granted for 52 units in the Seminary building earlier this year. The Parish Council, supported by Surrey Highways, has negotiated with the Developer to secure over £230,000 towards road safety improvements in the centre of Wonersh village, as well as new bus stops outside the seminary, a new path through the seminary to connect the Mill Lane footpath with the Barnett Hill footpath, plus existing footpath upgrades. We understand the developer is relooking at how the project is funded and hence the project is currently delayed – once this is resolved we hope to start design work on a new mid island pedestrian refuge near the Pepperpot. We will of course be seeking further resident input on the design options when the funding is released.

Community Speedwatch

Wonersh and Shamley Green Speed Watch Groups continue to operate at least weekly. Both groups need more volunteers if they are to have at least weekly sessions so that they can make an impact. Please contact the Clerk if you are interested at clerk@wonershparish.org

Can you help the Arbuthnot Hall Redevelopment?

From the Shamley Green Village Hall Management Committee:

"We are delighted that Waverley have approved the planning application for the Shamley Green Arbuthnot Hall redevelopment. Surrey County Council have recently invited us to submit a detailed application to their Your Fund which, if successful, could provide the majority of the funds we need. Our Councillors support the application. But we must apply by 30 November.

A key part of any bid is match-funding, both to fill the financing gap and demonstrate local commitment to the project. The Parish Council's offer of £100,000 following the very positive vote in the parish in 2023 is helpful towards this and we have received some other generous pledges of support, but we need quickly to secure more. If you would like to pledge support or to help with fund-raising in other ways please contact Jon Watson, Chairman of the Management Committee (chair@arbuthnohall.org). More detail about fundraising will issue in other village media during October."



Arbuthnot Hall: Proposed West (Side) Elevation

Playground Rejuvenations in Wonersh and Lords Hill

We are presently rejuvenating our playgrounds and encourage residents and visitors to make donations to support this where possible. We are receiving support from other funding sources too, including Cranleigh Lions, Surrey County Council and the Wonersh Foundation.

Wonersh Playground Committee are hoping to replace the Junior Multiplay equipment which is rotting at the posts and will have to be taken out of use if found unsafe. They are looking to replace with a new unit.

Following last year's success, the Lords Hill team are holding another Festive Family Fun event on the afternoon 1 December 2024, to bring the community together and to fundraise for the following items, plus some stepping logs. We look forward to sharing more information soon.

Donations to our playgrounds is usually done via The Wonersh and Shamley Green Voluntary Playground Committee Reg charity 803625. The advantage of giving via the Wonersh Foundation is the recipient receives the benefit of gift aid and hence a 25% uplift.

Please complete a gift aid form and submit to louise.healy605@btinternet.com.

To donate to online for each of the schemes, please follow:

This link for the Wonersh Playground (<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/wonersh-village-playground>)

This link for the Lords Hill Playground (<https://pay.sumup.com/b2c/Q6SAGF4J>)

To donate through BACS, please make payments to:

Account name – Wonersh and Shamley Green Voluntary Playground Committee (on bank statements this comes up as Wonersh/Shamley GRN VIntry Plygrnd Cmtte)

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account Number: 65449512

Please state Lordshill Playground or Wonersh Playground if you have a preference in where your donation is invested, otherwise each playground will receive an equal proportion.

Please contact the clerk@wonershparish.org if you wish to donate direct to the Parish Council.



Junior multiplay Wonersh



Tractor, Lords Hill



Freeplay climber, Lords Hill

Blackheath Update

Blackheath summer passed by with less threat from forest fires this year enabling the heath to be utilised to full extent by the local community. In contrast the drainage throughout the village remains an issue with heavy rains resulting in the road access to Blackheath flooding regularly. The village continues to explore how additional drainage could be added to prevent some of the water reaching the crossroads and then down through the village. The ditches and culverts need clearing more regularly and a working party will be used again to help the residents who are responsible for their culverts but who are unable to keep them clear.

The plan to reopen the Villagers Pub suffered a blow this year when the owner of the remainder of the building allocated for the local facility requested planning to change it into a residential unit again. Initially this planning was granted by Waverley under strong protest from the majority of the village (80%). The pub committee confirmed with a legal team that the decision was flawed and have reason to believe that the current decision will be reversed and will once again engage with the owner with the intent of purchasing the unit and returning it to use as a local Cafe / Pub.

A spate of recent thefts from within the village and in the surrounding communities has highlighted the need to review how are communities are protected. The village is currently looking at how residential security camera footage that accidentally covers the roads could be coordinated to identify and report vehicle engaged in criminal activity, and to look at how broadly the village is covered by residential security cameras. The village consulted with a local security to firm to see what more could be done and is also examining signage to warn criminals that the security cameras are in place and that the community intend to pursue all legal avenues against criminals in the case of thefts within the community. The village have invited the community police constable to attend the village to further engage with the village and get any further advice or support.



'KNOW YOUR WONERSH'

Saturday 12th October 2-5pm
Wonersh Memorial Hall

Come and find out about everything that goes on in Wonersh, whether you are new to the village or have lived here for many years. Everyone is welcome to join us for drinks and snacks at any time during the afternoon. Come and meet all the village Clubs and Societies and catch up with friends and neighbours.

We are celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Memorial Hall and the re-launch of the Wonersh Connections website.

Shamley Green Environment Group

Another busy few months for SGEG.

Mowing. We supported the Parish Council at the 19 September meeting on Lords Hill mowing which agreed action on brambles. We will advise the Council on 2025 mowing plans, likely to be agreed at their February Council meeting at which members of the public can give their views. Evidence has been gathered for the 2024 studies of invertebrates and flora and both should report by the end of the year giving us an early indication of results from changes to the mowing regime.

Ponds. We helped the Parish Council to agree autumn works for their pond contractor for late autumn. The Azolla has gone from the Bricklayers Pond but reed mace and duckweed need to be controlled. We look forward to the restoration of the village bench by the Duck Pond as soon as Waverley have completed their works to make the willow safe.

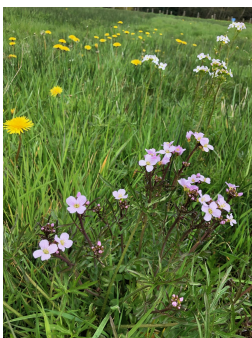
Litter The autumn litter pick will be on Saturday 19 October. Meet at the Arbuthnot Hall at 11.00. Do come and help.

For more details of what we do please visit our website <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk>. Please tell us via the website if you would like to join any of our groups on mowing, trees, wildflowers, birds, amphibians, communications.

Wonersh Environmental Group (WEAG)

Thank you WEAG! We now have over 70 volunteers. WEAG volunteers have undertaken several volunteer days around Wonersh, including clearing long grass from around recently planted hedging and trees, removing weeds from the pavement along the Common, ragwort and Himalayan removal and clearing out all the old debris (barrels and troughs, old bike parts and assorted rubbish!) from the Barnett Fields and Healy's Wood. The team has also excavated numerous metal spikes on the Barnett Hill footpath, but more keep appearing!

We will be scheduling days to plant a 1,000 hedging whips and plugs (all funded by grants) at the margin between the Barnett Fields and Healy's wood. Two members of WEAG have undergone training to use chain saws and will lead small teams of volunteers undertaking woodland thinning, coppicing and dead-hedging in Healy's wood. Do contact the clerk@wonershparish.org if you are able to join WEAG. All help much appreciated.



Environment Group Activities in Shamley Green and Wonersh

Wonersh and Shamley Green Commons Update

Mowing Regime changes: Shamley Green and Wonersh will be reviewing our regimes for next Spring and Summer 2025. If any residents have suggestions to make, please let the Clerk know. **Tree Mapping:** Both villages are undertaking this. The purpose is to create an inventory, to identify high value trees for potential Tree Protection Orders and to help develop a 5-year tree replacement programme. The work is well advanced on mapping trees on common land and it has been agreed to include, for information at this stage, key high value trees immediately adjacent on private land that overhang/overlook community land.

Signage on Commons: Many organisations and businesses want to place signs and adverts on the Commons. This is not allowed without permission as otherwise our beautiful villages would be awash with obtrusive signage. However, the Parish Council does give permission for occasional signs for a specified period. The current policy has been re-adopted to include leased Waverley Borough Council land. The policy on this can be found at: <https://www.wonershparish.org/policies-and-procedures>.

Football on Wonersh Common: Many residents with children ask us about playing football on the common in Wonersh. A possible link with a local football club unfortunately did not come to fruition. However, the Parish Council will be discussing at its next meeting in October a proposal for informal football on the commons by providing/seeking sponsorship for removeable football posts? Councillors would be interested in hearing residents' views on this. Please email the clerk: clerk@wonershparish.org.

Licences for events and outdoor leisure provision: As part of taking on further common land from Waverley we are required to adopt the Borough Council's policy on licensing and charges. Details and application forms for these can be found : [https:// www.wonershparish.org/policies-and-procedures](https://www.wonershparish.org/policies-and-procedures).

Placing skips on common land: Permission is required to place skips on common land and the policy for this and associated conditions and charges are available: [https:// www.wonershparish.org/policies-and-procedures](https://www.wonershparish.org/policies-and-procedures).

Pavilion Christmas Tree in Wonersh

We are looking to have a Christmas Tree on the pavilion balcony this year which will be a joint venture with the cricket club. If anyone would like to sponsor this for us, we would be very grateful.

Please contact the Clerk at clerk@wonershparish.org



Dogs on Common Land and around the three villages

The number of dogs and walkers has increased markedly since the Covid Pandemic. Most dog walkers deal with their dogs' excrement in the correct way by picking it up and disposing of it in their bins at home. However, we have noticed that many more dog owners are being irresponsible and not picking up after their dogs. This is particularly distasteful in public places, on paths and verges where children are likely to walk and play. Dog fouling is a major concern to many people, not just because of the mess it causes, but because it can be a health risk. Dogs may deposit roundworm eggs (*toxocara canis*) in their faeces, which become infectious after about three weeks, and can remain so for up to 2 years. Anyone, but particularly children playing near to the ground, can run the risk of picking up and swallowing the eggs. The eggs then hatch in the intestine, burrow through the intestine wall into the blood stream and pass into the body. Please, please, please if you are a dog owner pick it up and take it away.



A polite reminder to scoop your dog's poop

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Parish Council meet regularly for Full Council Meetings currently the second Thursday of the month but changing to the third Thursday of the month from November. The Parish Council does not meet in August and December. Upcoming dates are: 10 October, 21 November 2024, 16 January, 20 February 2025.

The Planning Committee meet every three weeks, on a Thursday morning, upcoming dates are: 3 & 24 October, 14 November and 5 December 2024.

Details are available on the Parish Council Website (<https://www.wonershparish.org/our-meetings>) and agendas are placed on the noticeboards in each village. Members of the public are very welcome to join us.

The Advisory Groups, meet regularly and welcome new members with expertise and interest in transport, environmental matter and playground improvements.

Contact details for Councillor's and staff can be found on the website and the Council noticeboards in each village.