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Time: 7:00 PM
Venue: St. John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh

Autumn 2023

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Surrey County Council



Ewell Court, Auriol and Cuddington Division

County Councillor
Eber A Kington

eber.kington@surreycc.gov.uk

1 Hendon Grove,
Epsom KT19 7LH

07726 458 493 [Twitter @EberaKington](https://twitter.com/EberaKington)

Committees: People, Performance and Development Committee
Member Conduct Panel



Ewell Division (inc. Stoneleigh)

County Councillor
John Beckett

jbeckett@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

7 Walsingham Gardens,
Stoneleigh KT19 0LS

020 8393 8208

Committees: Communities, Environment and Highways Select Committee.



Epsom & Ewell Borough Council



Auriol Ward KT19

Councillor
John Beckett

jbeckett@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

7 Walsingham Gardens
Stoneleigh KT19 0LS

020 8393 8208

Committees: Environment (Chair), Financial Policy Panel, Surrey Climate Change Partnership (TBC), Surrey Environment Partnership.



Councillor
Darren Talbot

dtalbot@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

27 Ravensfield Gardens,
Stoneleigh KT19 0ST

Committees: Community and Wellbeing, Crime and Disorder, Mental Health Champion



Stoneleigh Ward KT17

Councillor
Hannah Dalton

hdalton@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

[Twitter @CllrHDalton](https://twitter.com/CllrHDalton)

18 Gayfere Road, Stoneleigh KT17 2JX
07305 980 411

Committees: Residents' Association Majority Group (Chair), Strategy & Resources (Vice Chair), Standards and Constitution (Vice Chair), Financial Policy Panel, Surrey Leaders



Councillor
Anthony Froud

afroud@epsom-ewell.gov.uk

6 Mannamead, Epsom, KT18 6HU.

01371 811 555

Committees: Environment, Nonsuch Park Joint Management Committee, Alternative Transport Champion



Save the Date!

Thursday, 21st September 2023 Time: 7:00 PM
@St. John's Church, Station Approach.

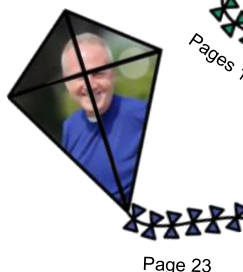
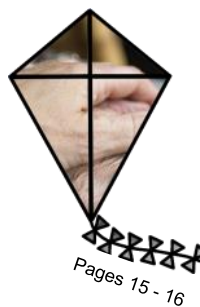
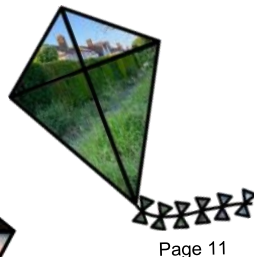
Join us for a special SARA / EETAB Meeting about Trees, Tree Planting and helping the environment. See our advert on page 10 for more details...

Other Useful Numbers

For useful local information and telephone numbers, please see page 29.

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Chairman's Letter

Welcome to our Autumn issue. If you've been on holiday, I hope that you had a relaxing time and avoided the heatwaves in Europe or rain in the UK. I joined my son Harry in New York to celebrate his completing a 4000m cycle epic across the USA: LA to NY in 2.5 months.

Thank you to all those who responded to the SARA survey in the last Magazine: it's not too late if you have any issues, to send in via chair@stoneleighandauriol.org or drop it into the Library or St Johns church. You'll find it in this issue on pages 7 & 8. We really want to know what you think of SARA as your Residents Association, what you want it to be doing on your behalf and how you can be involved in it, as I know many of you do want to help. We are busy processing your initial suggestions, all very relevant and positive. It's a key period of change in its more than ninety-year life, so gaining and listening to your views about it is our number one priority. Watch this space as we move forward and our Facebook page for exciting events, talks and activities that you can join in.

A few of the stand out issues so far that concern you are: SARA is asked to fight local campaigns; to support local businesses; to do more work with young local entrepreneurs; supporting supper clubs; fighting SCC more; improving life locally for you; ensuring the Broadway remains a vibrant and valuable shopping area; representing the views of you the residents to the borough council; adopting a view on important issues in Stoneleigh and Auriol. TRIFEST as a key event that SARA collaborated on is mentioned a few times, perhaps you'd like to see that on again.



As you know from my previous letter in the last issue, I am seeking enthusiastic people to fill the key roles in SARA: see page 27 of the Resident for details of the vacancies. You'll be joining a great team, sharing in the fulfilment that volunteering for one of Epsom's best-known associations brings.

Happily, I have now found a new editor for the magazine in Sharon Smith, who is starting this month after many meetings with our exiting editor and myself. I am sure she will bring a new and exciting editorial vision and purpose to the Resident. A Big Welcome to Sharon. She is enthusiastic about volunteering with SARA as its editor and loves Stoneleigh (the Broadway in particular).

Also joining is ex Cllr Chris Webb as publicity and press officer going forward, he will bring his extensive press, PR and comms experience to the role. So that's two of the seven vacancies filled. More remain unfilled, so do step forward if you can help.

I am still urgently seeking a successor for myself as chair to take the association into new directions. If you are at all interested, without any obligation do call or send me an email for a chat.

Stoneleigh station is changing in front of us with the demolition and rebuild for a Step Free station in 2024. Nostalgic in a way (for some) to see the demolition of the old closed toilet block, for others the end of an unused eye sore, but good to see that public loos will be available once again on the station platform. Keep in touch here with progress reports.

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Chairman’s Letter (Continued)

An upcoming date for your diary: Thursday September 21st 7pm at St Johns Church: SARA in collaboration with Epsom and Ewell Tree Board and St Johns are presenting an open to all not to be missed event on Trees within the Borough: including the vital role they play in slowing climate change. Watch out for our publicity and press releases on this in local social media.

This is the summer that global warming / climate change has come close to home on our TV screens with all its damaging and life-threatening effects. Maybe you have thought about what you can do to help

mitigate the worst of it, come along and find out what trees and tree planting can offer.

As a community we all owe it to each other to act on our awareness of climate change. Think about which single action you take today that will help avert this. We in SARA will be featuring this in our events and magazine over the coming year. If have examples that you want to share then send to editor@stoneleighandauriol.org.

What do we live for if not to make the world less difficult for each other: SARA’s strapline is so relevant to all our children’s future in a climate changed World.

Boundary Changes Reminder

We have been asked to remind the residents whose roads changed wards just before the Borough Elections to ensure they have cancelled any automatic payments to their previous Residents’ Association.

This applies to these roads formerly covered by the Cuddington RA:

- Cuddington Avenue, 48 to 94
- Vale Road 173a to 195.

- Sterry Drive
- Bannow Close
- Chestnut Avenue
- Timbercroft
- Kingston Road, 332-368

Of course, you are more than welcome to set up membership with SARA and details can be found on page 28. If you would like to become the zone rep for your road, please reach out to Keith Rodger, whose contact details can be found on page 25.

Stoneleigh Station Update

by Cllr Hannah Dalton

We are aware that many of our residents are concerned about the proposals to close the ticket office on Stoneleigh Station and have listened to your concerns. In response to these Cllrs Beckett and I have submitted a written response to the consultation voicing your concerns.

In the meantime, work continues on the station step free work and we want to thank everyone for your patience, especially as between now and early October work will

commence to construct the foundations for the 3 lifts, which will involve noisy work to excavate and construct the piling.

As part of the stations works it means that a number of parking spaces are no longer available at the station end of the Broadway. We appreciate this is an inconvenience but want to remind residents that the parking restrictions in the surrounding works remain in place and you could receive a parking ticket for parking during restricted hours.



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Residents Survey – 2023



Serving the Residents of Stoneleigh and Auriol since 1933



Please read and answer the following questions:

1. Have you heard of SARA (Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents' Association)?

☐ Yes - go to question 2

☐ No - go to question 3

2. Are you a member and have you paid your £3 subscription?

☐ Yes

☐ No

3. Have you been to any of SARA's sponsored events in the last five years?

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. What would help to encourage you to be an active member of SARA?

Continued Overleaf...



Serving the Residents of Stoneleigh and Auriol since 1933

5. If we described SARA's main purposes and activities as these:

- To find and support the election of new Borough and County Councillors (every 4 years)
- Actively promote and support social events: large and small
- Publish the quarterly magazine.

What else would you want to see a Residents association doing?

6. What sort of social events would you be interested in?

7. Any additional comments:



Name and email address (if you want us to contact you)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.

Please return the completed form to your zone rep (or any other member of SARA if your road does not have a zone rep. (details can be found at the back of the magazine) You can also drop off this completed form to either Stoneleigh Library or St. John's Church.

County Notes

by Cllrs John Beckett and Eber Kington

Your Fund Surrey Small Community Projects

S CC has set up a Small Community Projects scheme, which allows for a funding pot of £50k to each Surrey County Councillor. We would be delighted to use the funding we have been allocated to support community projects across Stoneleigh and Auriol so, if you do have a community-based project idea, please get in touch to discuss your proposal.

Eber has already used the funding to provide equipment for a newly launched

Squirrel Scouts Group. Squirrel Scouts provides Scouting for 4 to 6 year olds, based on a “family Scouting” model which means that each child has a parent or other adult with them.

John has recently posted links on the SARA Facebook page which includes further details and links on how residents can apply for funding to support local initiatives.

If you have any questions, please contact us to see if we can help you.

Councillors Community Fund

We are also provided by SCC with an allocation of £5,000 to support even smaller funding requests. This year we have supported Age Concern Epsom and Ewell by funding the training of volunteers to give welfare benefit advice to older people and to pay the hall hire costs at Stoneleigh Methodist Church where ACEE provides afternoon tea and entertainment for older residents. In July Eber funded a bid to

provide and fit bird nest chambers and boxes to houses so as to encourage the presence of three UK Red Listed species that rely on roof spaces to nest: the house sparrow, swift and starling. The project has targeted Elmstead Gardens for the first allocation of the boxes.

Please get in touch if your voluntary group or local initiative needs some small amount of funding to get a project started.

Household DIY waste

In June, the Government announced that it is proposing to change the law to require Local Authorities to accept small amounts of household DIY construction waste free of charge. Up to two 50-litre rubble bags or one large item no larger than 2m X 0.75m x 0.7m per household will be permitted free of charge, at a frequency limited to 4 visits over 4 weeks.

Surrey County Council currently charges for all DIY rubble and plasterboard but has been forced to review their policy. Their intention is to of introduce a free allowance for householders in line with the Government’s announcement, from September this year.





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TREES AND TREE PLANTING

Join us for a
special SARA/
EETAB meeting
about Trees,
Tree Planting
and helping the
environment.

Meeting to be held at

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ,
on **Thursday 21st September at 7.00pm**, everyone welcome.

Presentational Speakers, Q&A's and Refreshments.



Visit our Facebook Page or
Website for more details.



County Notes

by Cllrs John Beckett and Eber Kingston

Verge Cutting

Most residents will be aware that, as of April, SCC took back responsibility for cutting the highway verges from Epsom and Ewell Borough Council. Under SCC's new policy, cuts have been reduced to four per annum, from the weather dependent six to eight cuts by the Borough Council. The Borough Council was prepared to continue undertaking verge maintenance, but SCC would not agree.

SCC has stated that it wants to have a more consistent approach to grass cutting across the County but, unfortunately, the experience so far is that it has just been consistently bad. Grass so high that street name plates, bollards and signs cannot be seen, and sight lines that are dangerously obscured, making driving hazardous. And the policy of blowing back grass cuttings on to the verge, whilst sensible and manageable when the grass is cut at a reasonable level, is not workable when the grass has been left to grow so high. The blow back just spreads the grass on to the footpaths and has the potential to block the drains.



Unfortunately, there has been some misinformation circulating about SCC's verge cutting policy. The failure to cut verges for up to eight weeks in some areas is nothing to do with No Mow May but rather it is the result of inadequate planning and insufficient resources deployed from day one. Neither is it to do with encouraging biodiversity or wild flowering. Clovers, trefoils and daisies in our verges are the plants of most nectar value and will best cater for our wildlife, yet they are swamped by tall growing grass and weeds. And wildflowers will not survive if, as is SCC's policy, grass cuttings are blown back to rot in the verges.

Many residents have made their feelings known to SCC and some have made a formal complaint. Along with other RA and Independent County Councillors, we have made strong representations to the Conservative Leader of the Council and his Cabinet Member for Highways, including calling for an increase the number of annual cuts from 4 to at least 6. They have promised to do better in the future, but then matters really could not get much worse.

On-Street Parking Control

A reminder that from April SCC also took back responsibility for on-street parking enforcement. If you wish to report a parking problem to SCC email:

SurreyParkingEnforcement@nslservices.co.uk
or telephone 0330 175 5930.

We continue to report parking violations raised with me by residents but, unlike the Borough Council's Parking Team, SCC's Parking Enforcement Service is not feeding back to us on the action they have taken.

More information on what SCC's Parking Enforcement Service covers can be found at:

www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/parking or use this QR code.



ST JOHN'S SEASON OF MUSIC



MAMMA MIA SING-ALONG

Saturday 30th September 7.30pm

Adult £10 inc. a glass of fizz, under 18's £5 inc. a soft drink. (Raffle 1st prize: 2 tickets for Abba Voyage)

Mamma Mia! It's sing-a-long night at St John's! Time to channel your inner Dancing Queen and enjoy the music of Abba. Imagine yourself on a Greek island where a local girl is about to be married. Imagine she discovers that any one of three men could be her father so and so invites them all to the wedding without telling her Mum. Imagine the chaos!

Bring friends, bring a drink and snacks...70's outfits, disco dancing and loud singing highly encouraged. Our main raffle prize is 2 tickets for Abba Voyage, an astounding show of technical wizardry that will convince you you're watching Abba play live.

SEPTEMBER



JONATHAN VEIRA

Saturday 28th October 7.30pm – £10

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)

The amazingly talented and versatile international singer Jonathan Veira is coming to Stoneleigh as part of his Unlocked Sessions Live Tour. You can expect a stunning evening of music and laughter. With a voice like melted chocolate, Jonathan sings songs from Billy Joel to gospel and everything in between: ballads, blues, rock 'n' roll, jazz and even opera – everything sounds completely authentic and exhilarating. Accompanying himself on the piano, his glorious singing frequently moves people to tears and then they later find themselves weeping with laughter!

OCTOBER



BRYN HAWORTH

Saturday 25th November 7.30pm – £5

(wine and soft drinks available for a donation)

Back by popular demand! Following last year's fabulous concert at St John's, legendary slide guitarist and singer songwriter Bryn Haworth returns with his inimitable brand of gospel, country rock and blues music which makes for an inspirational and entertaining evening. Bryn has made numerous radio and TV appearances, especially in the 70's when he recorded sessions for John Peel and appeared on the BBC's Old Grey Whistle Test.

NOVEMBER



ROCK CHOIR

Friday 15th December 6.30pm – £5

(plus charitable appeal to support Andrew Amukowa, founder of RUSH Academy Kenya)

Rock Choir at Christmas has become a tradition at St John's, and this year is no exception. Join us outside for carols and mulled wine around the Christmas tree, then head into the church at 7.15pm for a fun-filled, infectious and awe-inspiring vocal performance by the massed ranks of the Rock Choir. The evening includes a collection for Andrew Amukowa, the founder of RUSH Academy in Kenya which educates orphaned children.

DECEMBER

To purchase tickets, or more information on the Season of Music, please visit our website

www.stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk/music

St John's Church, Station Approach, Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ

County Notes

by Cllrs John Beckett and Eber Kingston

Other Grounds Maintenance Issues

SCC has also taken back responsibility for other grounds maintenance services from the Borough Council, including the maintenance of highway roundabouts and the control of weeds. The SCC website includes the following:

We will not maintain shrub beds, flower beds, hedges (other than for sight lines and safety issues), roundabouts that have sponsorship or cut any grass which is part of the Blue Campaign

On the treatment of weeds on the highway and in our alleyways and footways, the website states:

The standard across the whole County will beone weed spray treatment per annum.

Our concern is that the alleyways used by residents, for example on the walk to school (Walsingham Gardens, Amberley Gardens, Seaforth Gardens) will not be cleared of weeds unless residents themselves are active in reporting the problem on SCC's Report it Page: www.surreycc.gov.uk/do-it-online/report-it-online or use the QR Code below. Please use that website to report any area of grounds maintenance that you feel needs attention.



Litter Clearance Reminder

Please note that litter clearance in our roads and alleyways remains the responsibility of the Borough Council, so please continue to

report requests for the clearance of litter to EEBC at: ContactUs@epsom-ewell.gov.uk or telephone 01372 732000.

Borough Update

by Cllr Darren Talbot

It was an honour to be voted in to support residents at the last election. As someone who has always set out to help people, it's great to be in a position to be able to make a real difference in the local community.

I've already been involved in a wide range of topics from yellow lines to neighbour disputes and even a wasps' nest! Not to mention grass verges...

I am looking forward to starting with a couple of committees in the autumn.

Health & Wellbeing is a great fit in my full-time job running a cricket business in the county and Crime & Disorder. For the latter, I have taken a lead in looking into the Neighbourhood Watch schemes being run and looking to co-ordinate those and, where needed, extend them across the borough. I hope to have more information on that in the coming months.

Please let me know if you have any thoughts on any of the above or anything that crops up.

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stoneleighandauriol.org and click on
Advertise.

Looking Out for Loneliness

by Amanda Reed

I recently listened to a radio programme about Sheila Seleokane who had lain dead in her flat for 2½ years without anyone noticing her absence. I thought how terribly sad and how can something like this happen in this day and age? Which then made me think how can we as a community, ensure that something like this never happens in our area or even to someone we know.

Yes, we are busy but are we really too busy to check on a neighbour, a friend or even a family member? Unfortunately, we assume that those around us are 'fine and coping' but that isn't always the case.

My mum would chat to anyone regardless whether she knew them or not, I asked her "why do you always speak to strangers" her reply was "I may be the only one who has spoken to that person all day." Since then, I too will speak to random strangers, even if it is just "good morning and isn't the weather lovely"

Loneliness can affect anyone. Experiences of loneliness can be profound and wide ranging and can be attributed to a change of circumstances such as –

- Divorce
- Bereavement
- Retirement
- Redundancy
- Children leaving home
- Ill health
- Change in mobility
- Becoming a carer
- New to the area
- Low self -esteem

In 2022 49.3% of adults (25.99 million people) in the UK reported feeling lonely occasionally, sometimes, often or always.

Approximately 7.1% of people in Great Britain (3.83 million) experience chronic loneliness, meaning they feel lonely often or always.



What can **we** as a community do to help those around us?

- Check in with your neighbour, a chat over the garden fence, a note through the door or invite them in for a cuppa
- Take time to phone your friends and family members, not a quick call as you drive to work. Put time aside to sit and have a proper chat on the phone if you cannot see them in person. Try not to WhatsApp, Snapchat or text, remember the old BT advert said "it's good to talk"
- We now have Zoom, Face Time etc so try using this with those who are tech savvy
- Maybe put pen to paper and write a letter
- Listen to what people are actually saying, are they really fine? Remember, we have two ears and one mouth and it's best to use them in that proportion. How many times has someone said they are having a bad day and we say "I'm sorry to hear that" and then we carry on as normal. Perhaps we should ask more questions and take a proper interest.

- How about suggesting that you meet up for a walk or a trip to the garden centre, don't say we must make a date, get a definite date in the diary there and then as it is too easy for us to forget or make other plans
- Suggest they join a local group, adult classes, sports club i.e., bowls, cricket, golf or a local church, many churches hold a weekly coffee get together or cafe, some have a craft group or knit and natter. They may find going on their own daunting so perhaps suggest that you go with them the first time.
- Volunteering is also a great way to meet new people

There are many organisations that can help so here are a few:

- Age Concern Epsom & Ewell
- Age UK
- The Silverline
- WI
- U3A
- Way – Widowed & Young
- St John's Church, Stoneleigh
- Stoneleigh Methodist Church
- Stoneleigh Baptist Church
- Raja Rajeswary Amman Temple

We cannot solve the problem of loneliness and social isolation nationwide but wouldn't it be lovely if we could make a difference to those living in Stoneleigh and Auriol?

Poppy Appeal - Volunteers Needed

Do you have an hour or two to spare to collect for the Epsom and Ewell Poppy Appeal this November?

We are proud in this Borough of raising the most in Surrey to support our serving and veteran Armed Forces, but in the last few years the number of volunteer collectors has decreased.

If you would like to collect at Sainsbury's Kiln Lane, Homebase, Ashley Centre or Bourne Hall for a couple of hours between the 1st and 12th of November, please go to the Royal British Legion Epsom and Ewell Facebook page, or email Amy Johnson, our Poppy Appeal Organiser at amyjohnson84@gmail.com.

Thank you so much in advance.



Barb Warwick, Chair,
RBL Epsom and Ewell



Fit for Purpose?

We're all aware of the attempts that are being made to reduce pollution and encourage healthier lifestyles by getting people out of their vehicles. This includes, amongst other things, measures designed to encourage more people to take up cycling such as an increase in the number of cycle lanes, some existing ones have been made wider and some have been partitioned off.

Whilst these measures are commendable, are they enough to encourage more people out of cars and on to bikes or do we need to go even further?

I am a keen cyclist (a member of Cycling UK) but I'm also a motorist and a former motorbike rider so my aim with this article is to try to take a balanced view. I enjoy cycling because not only does it keep me fit but I also find it beneficial for my mental health - there's nothing better for my happiness than going for a ride in the country. Many of my family and friends are cyclists too which is why I'm so passionate about the subject and keen to get others into cycling. I love it and think it's hopeful for the future when I see families out on their bikes, encouraging a new younger generation to cycle.

I used to cycle to work in central London back in the 1980s/90s. I rode up the A24 through Morden, South Wimbledon, Colliers Wood, Tooting etc. There were cycle lanes then - usually narrower and not partitioned but they seemed adequate for that time. When I drive through Tooting now, the bit of the road for vehicles is so narrow that, as we know, it can be difficult for emergency vehicles to get through traffic (and for motorbikes to filter), not ideal. Have they gone too far? Maybe.

However, there are other considerations. We all know how the surface of our roads has deteriorated over recent years. It's bad enough for motorists but for cyclists, potholes are probably more of a problem. Let me give some examples, Woodcote Green Road (which runs up behind Epsom Hospital) has a cycle lane but its surface is poor (see picture).



I have to leave the cycle lane to avoid the worst bits which is dangerous as the road is not very wide. Apart from the safety aspect, bear in mind that most road bikes don't have any suspension!

Another example is Kingston Road in Ewell, going from The Spring towards The Eight Bells. Just before The Wheatsheaf (I'm not really an alcoholic!), there is a manhole cover right on the cycling line which is surrounded by badly broken tarmac (see picture). It can be perilous to ride round it if there is traffic coming the other way or even following you.



Another problem is Craddocks Avenue which runs from Leatherhead up through Ashted to the A24. It has a cycle lane on part of it but there are often cars parked on it and it is covered in grit and detritus. Here is a quote from a letter in a recent edition of Cycle magazine (the magazine for Cycling UK); "... in Germany, the cycle lanes are great. They are well cared for and regularly swept ..." Something for our councils to consider?

Another concern is flora impinging on to roads. An example here is Rushett Lane/ Christchurch Road running from Malden Rushett towards Epsom (see picture). It forces cyclists out into the path of motorists.



Bear in mind, changes to the Highway Code in January 2022 in which there is updated guidance on safe passing distances for people driving when overtaking vulnerable road users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders), including leaving at least 1.5 metres (5 feet) when overtaking people cycling at speeds of up to 30mph, and giving them more space when overtaking at higher speeds. It goes on to say: "Wait behind them and do not overtake if it's unsafe or not possible to meet these clearances."

The overgrown vegetation can make it difficult for motorists to comply with this guidance. As a motorist, I can understand the frustration of some drivers. Regrettably, some are impatient and overtake without giving cyclists enough room. That said, I am aware that there are some cyclists who do not always abide by the code (going through red lights etc). As we know, there are good and bad in all aspects of life.

These Highway Code changes introduced a: "Hierarchy of Road Users ensuring quicker or heavier modes of travel have the greatest responsibility to reduce the danger or threat they may pose to others on the road". It places those road users most at risk in the event of a collision, at the top of the hierarchy, so pedestrians top, then cyclists and horse riders etc. It goes on to say that; "It does not remove the need for everyone to behave responsibly."

Finally, Cycling UK encourage cyclists to use quieter side roads if there are no cycle lanes. This is sensible as there is less traffic to hold up and the roads are slower. However, ironically, it is often the quieter roads that have the worst surfaces.

I hope that by writing this article, it will bring these matters to the attention of the relevant authorities and I will not need to report them separately.

Whilst the latest measures to stimulate cycling are laudable, more needs to be done if we want to encourage more people out of cars and on to bikes. Even if whole roads can't be resurfaced, at least make sure that cycle lanes and the parts of roads that cyclists use, are fit for purpose. And let's get more families out on their bikes.

Stuart Allen

Zone Rep zone 21a

A Memorable Encounter

by Trevor Dunford

I remember an incident in the early 80's which was rather distressing, but which I now laugh about.

I've experienced more than my fair share of the absurd, but rarely more than this. I had an elderly spinster aunt (old, axe and battle are words that spring to mind) who was always outspoken and never discreet. She asked me to accompany her to a piano recital one Sunday afternoon at the Wigmore Hall in London given by the acclaimed Vladimir Horowitz. I think she was just using me as a taxi service, but I accepted the invitation and looked forward to hearing the great man play. It was all a bit of a rush, but I managed to park up after dropping my aunt off and, in a state of near collapse, joined her at the venue. I found my aunt in the busy foyer talking to a column; with poor eyesight she'd mistaken it for a person. She asked me if the person was deaf since she could not get a response. *'Like talking to a brick wall,'* she muttered.

Time was pressing so I said nothing, but ushered her away from her Mr. Magoo moment and into the auditorium which was filling rapidly. This was about the time when I had started feeling vulnerable due to anxiety so it really did not help when the pre-booked seats were at the centre of the front row and inches from a Steinway piano.

I started to feel quite ill and conscious of the throng behind staring at the back of my head. I nearly made an excuse to escape, but then all the doors closed, and the audience fell silent when the great man walked on to thunderous applause. It was too late, I was trapped and had to endure

the next few minutes while my nerves settled down. *'Is he here yet?'* my aunt asked in a loud voice which pierced the silence and just as Horowitz was sitting down to commence his performance. I started to feel more ill when he looked stonily in our direction and I imagined everyone else doing the same. *Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee,* sprang to mind.

The first piece seemed to settle me and I have long appreciated Chopin's Ballade number 1 in G-minor. More applause followed at the end, and then Horowitz played Schubert's Impromptu in G-flat for which he is probably the best player yet born. It wasn't so bad after all, I thought as I watched the pianist's effortless playing; his hands seemed to caress the keys and hardly appeared to move at all.

When the performance was over, a large and pompous looking man, presumably the manager of the Hall looking flushed and hurried in a heavily creased suit, suddenly appeared to conclude the recital with a few words of thanks. It was clear that he had been otherwise engaged when called upon because part of his starched wing collar had escaped from its front stud and there was a red lipstick mark on the loose, flapping part which he failed to reattach. This amused me no end and clearly his afternoon entertainment had been

different from ours. The audience sat in respectful silence although I think everyone had noticed. This just made it more comical, but my earlier anxiety had quite disappeared.





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A Memorable Encounter (Continued) By Trevor Dunford

There was a reception after the performance attended by some of the audience, and Horowitz himself was the guest of honour. My aunt had made sure our tickets included admittance to this post performance treat. Glasses of champagne awaited our arrival in an adjoining room, but my aunt, unused to alcoholic beverages, did not cope with it well. Two glasses for her were enough to ensure little control of a much louder voice. I winced at some of the booming comments and numerous hostile glances from the guests. After a while, we found ourselves in the presence of Vladimir Horowitz who turned to see who had the loud voice. He was then an old and frail man, but still played like a wizard. He smiled briefly and my aunt, not recognizing him other than as a blur, said that she wondered if Mr. Horowitz could read music and if he played by ear. My poor aunt had not the wit or vision to realize that a professional artist had no need of a score or that she was talking to the guest of honour. She did enquire if Horowitz played any Beethoven or had ever met him. I could not embarrass her by saying the composer had been dead for over a century. But Horowitz was shocked into continued silence. Still not realizing her mistake, she then asked the blur, for such he remained to her, if he could point out Mr. Horowitz since she had not been introduced and wished to compare with his skill. But, in her confused state, also managed to spill half a glass of champagne on him which I don't think she noticed. She clearly, or rather unclearly, could not see who the person was standing

in front of her. There were gasps from surprised guests, and I noticed space appearing around us as they quietly moved away from the daft people as we must have appeared. The image of hostile Indians circling an isolated wagon sprang to mind. I would have preferred if a sink hole had opened up and I had disappeared into the abyss. 'Excuse me madam' a waiter said to her (he might have said madman) as he pushed passed with a tone denoting obvious displeasure and undisguised condescension.

I took the empty glass, which my poor aunt still grasped in a shaky hand, and placed it on a side table leaving Horowitz to wipe down his shirt with a napkin offered by the waiter. I then made an excuse to get off home and ushered her away from the venue. But my now unsteady aunt still managed to tread on



Horowitz's foot while tottering towards the exit. The only word that Horowitz had said to us during the encounter was 'ouch.' I felt relieved when outside, but aunt was rather confused and she had left Vladimir Horowitz damp and damaged. Poor aunt, she always managed to get herself into awful scrapes.

I have not returned to the Wigmore Hall for forty years, but don't think they would recognize me now. My aunt did not discover the truth of the encounter and often referred to Vladimir Horowitz as that talented, but horrid man. I wonder what he remembered of her.

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Churches in the Community

by Rev'd Geoff Andrew

Church of England parish churches like St John's have always been at the heart of local communities throughout our nation. Historically, they have served not only as places of worship but as social hubs, hosting events and community meetings, acting as centres of support and assistance for local people and providing a rallying point for organising projects that make our neighbourhoods better and more enjoyable places to live. These activities are all done out of the love each church has for its neighbours, born out of the love Jesus Christ has for all of us.

We see ourselves very much as a community hub. In the past couple of years, St John's has partnered with local residents to host two very enjoyable and well-attended street parties for the Platinum Jubilee and the King's Coronation. Last year we launched our Season of Music, a series of concerts that ranged from blues music to Rock Choir at Christmas. This Autumn we have a new program that includes a sing-along Mamma Mia evening. Tickets are available on our website, stjohnsstoneleigh.org.uk. I'm sure many of you have also attended or hosted children's parties in the church hall or taken part in the various dance and exercise classes held there.

I want to highlight two specific events that I know are appreciated by many. St John's Baby and Toddler group meets every Tuesday at 10am during term time. There's no need to book, just come along with your pre-schooler. The kids will have a great time and it's also good for parents, grandparents

and childminders to meet and support each other in a safe and fun environment.

The second event is the St John's Café that takes place every Thursday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm. The café is particularly aimed at those who would welcome some company and a good chat, together with great coffee and homemade cake at a very competitive price.

As part of our commitment to the community, we are conducting a short survey. We want to learn more about your experience with St John's, your opinions on church services and events, and what kind of groups or activities you think are needed to enrich our community life. It will take only a few minutes of your time and your response will remain completely anonymous. To participate in the survey, please follow the QR link



below.

Of course, as a church, we exist primarily to serve and give glory to God and his son, Jesus Christ. We hold worship services every Sunday at 9.30am (traditional Holy Communion) and at 11am (a more family-oriented, contemporary, Worship for Everyone). Do come and join us!

Rev'd Geoff Andrew
Associate Minister
St John's Church
Station Approach
Stoneleigh KT19 0QZ



St John's Survey

Online Membership Payment Information

Our £3 Annual membership can be paid via our website using our trusted partner:

GOCARDLESS



Or via <https://stoneleighandauriol.org/w/join/>

This payment is set up to be made once a year for a maximum of 5 years and can be stopped at any time by sending an email to: payments@stoneleighandauriol.org requesting the recurring payment is stopped. If any change in payment is made, you will be automatically notified by email, and asked to confirm that you are happy for the change to be made. Our zone reps will still call once a year if you'd prefer to use good old-fashioned cash.

Epsom & Ewell North Safer Neighbourhood Team

PC 41797 Verity Crosbie

PCSO 17343 Keleshia Dublin-Cumberbatch

PCSO 13692 Sedhra Naheem


Email: SNTEpsom@surrey.police.uk



Only call 999 in a genuine emergency requiring urgent police attendance. For all other matters call 101. If you would prefer to give information anonymously, call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111

Your Association needs you!

We are looking for zone representatives to deliver quarterly editions of 'The Resident'. If you live in or near one of the vacant zones listed below and can spare a couple of hours during the year, please contact us now.



Vacant Zones – Stoneleigh (10)

If you can help with one of these zones, please phone DAVID OR HILARY TURNER on 020 8393 9215.

- Zone 1: London Road, 65 to 205*
- Zone 1a: London Road, 207 to 297*
- Zone 4: Ewell By-Pass, 1 to 75*
- Zone 4a: Ewell By-Pass, 77 to 153*
- Zone 10: The Glade*
- Zone 11: Rutherwyke Close*
- Zone 11a: Glenwood Road and Dell Road*
- Zone 12: The Broadway (North Side)*
- Zone 12a: The Broadway (South Side)*
- Zone 16: Chadacre Road, 121 to 153 & 128 to 180*

Vacant Zones – Auriol (5)

If you can help with one of these zones, please contact KEITH RODGER at keith.rodger@tiscali.co.uk or on 07964 065512

- Zone 43: Moormead Drive*
- Zone 49: Sterry Drive & Bannow Close*
- Zone 50: Chestnut Avenue*
- Zone 51: Timbercroft*
- Zone 52: Kingston Road, 332-368*

Sudoku

Easy

4	3	7		1		2	6	
	5				6	3		1
							8	5
	7	4	6	2				
		9	7		3		1	
	2		9		5			
	9	3						
7			8		2		3	4
8			3	7	9			

Answer to the previous Easy puzzle

1	9	3	5	2	7	8	6	4
2	4	5	9	6	8	7	1	3
6	7	8	1	4	3	9	2	5
7	3	4	2	8	5	1	9	6
5	6	1	3	7	9	2	4	8
8	2	9	6	1	4	3	5	7
9	5	2	8	3	6	4	7	1
3	1	7	4	5	2	6	8	9
4	8	6	7	9	1	5	3	2

Medium

4	6	8		3		5	7	
		2		5		8	1	
1	3				9	6		
		4	1	9	5	7		
9								4
		1			3		9	
				4		2	1	
	4					9		8
			5					

Answer to the previous Medium puzzle

3	6	4	2	1	8	5	7	9
1	7	9	5	6	4	8	2	3
5	8	2	3	7	9	1	6	4
7	1	3	8	2	6	9	4	5
8	9	6	4	3	5	2	1	7
2	4	5	7	9	1	6	3	8
4	2	8	1	5	3	7	9	6
6	5	7	9	4	2	3	8	1
9	3	1	6	8	7	4	5	2

Hard

1		5				9	6	
	8		5					
		2	3	7			4	5
			9					
2	4	7				1	5	
	6			4				
			9	4		2		
		1	7		3			4
	5	8						3

Answer to the previous Hard puzzle

6	7	2	8	4	1	3	9	5
8	9	4	6	3	5	2	1	7
1	3	5	7	2	9	6	4	8
2	1	7	9	5	6	8	3	4
9	8	3	1	7	4	5	2	6
4	5	6	2	8	3	9	7	1
3	2	1	5	6	7	4	8	9
5	4	9	3	1	8	7	6	2
7	6	8	4	9	2	1	5	3

Stoneleigh and Auriol Residents' Association

What do we live for if not to make the World less difficult for each other?



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- 35 Seaforth Gardens, 91 to 133 & 92 to 136
Mr. G. Srinivasan, 135 Seaforth Gardens.
- 35a Seaforth Gardens, 135 to 179 & 138 to 182
Mrs J. Durbidge, 178 Seaforth Gardens.
- 36 Seaforth Gardens, 1 to 89
Ms L Turnbull, 17 Seaforth Gardens.
- 37 Seaforth Gardens, 2 to 90
Cllr. P. Webb, 13 Amberley Gardens.
- 38 Kirby Close
Mr D Hughes, 105 Firwood Avenue
- 38a Lympington Gardens
Mr. R. Page, 15 Lympington Gardens.
- 39 Cunliffe Road
Ms S Home, 135 Stoneleigh Park Road.
- 40 Stoneleigh Park Road, 165 to 187 & 218 to 248
Ms S Home, 135 Stoneleigh Park Road.
- 41 Mavis Close
Mrs Alison Beckett, 7 Walsingham Gdns
- 42 Mavis Avenue
Cllr. J. Beckett, 7 Walsingham Gardens.
- 43 Moormead Drive
Vacant
- 44 Thorndon Gardens, 1 to 69 & 2 to 68
Mr S Rabbani, 64 Thorndon Gardens.
- 45 Kingston Road, 230-328A
Mr G. Marcou, 312 Kingston Road.
- 46 Kingston Road, 164-228, Rembrandt & Gainsborough Courts
Ms. R Alibhai, 20 Rembrandt Court
- 47 Westways, 1 to 29 & 2 to 36.
Mrs T. Anderson, 24 Westways.
- 48 Vale Road 173A to 195.
Mr R Mcaneny, 72 Stoneleigh Park Road
- 49 Sterry Drive & Bannow Close
Vacant
- 50 Chestnut Avenue
Vacant
- 51 Timbercroft
Vacant
- 52 Kingston Road, 332-368
Vacant

Useful Local Information

Keep this copy of **The Resident** handy where it is available for reference

Utilities – Emergency Contacts:

Sutton & East Surrey Water	01737 772000
Thames Water	0845 920 0800 (24 hours)
Gas	0800 111999 (24 hours)
Gas - Deaf telephone/text	0800 371787
Electricity SEEBOARD	0800 783 8866
Electricity - Deaf telephone/text	0800 015 3312

Samaritans: (Leatherhead) 01372 375555 (24 hrs)

Epsom and Ewell Borough Council 01372 732000
Surrey County Council 03456 009 009

Children's Clinics:

Ewell Court, Ewell 020 8786 7400
Bourne Hall, Ewell 020 8394 1301

Well Women Clinic:

Epsom Clinic 01372 741973
Ewell Court: Friday 9-11 am 020 8786 7400
Ring for Appointments Thursdays 9.30-11.30am or 1.30 - 3.30 pm.

Citizens Advice Bureau:

7 The Parade, Epsom. 0300 330 1164

Police

Emergencies Dial 999

Non-emergencies: Dial 101

Neighbourhood Team Officers:

PC 3701 Elena Boaf
PCSO 10514 Paul Woodhouse
PCSO 13692 Sedhra Naeem
Twitter @EpsomEwellBeat

Facebook:

facebook.com/EpsomEwellPolice

Website:

www.surrey.police.uk

Crimestoppers:

0800 555 111



Trading Standards:

01372 371700

Epsom Community Recycling Centre

Longmead Depot, Blenheim Road, Epsom:

Telephone: 01372 728722

Mon 8:00am - 4:00pm
Tue - Wed Closed
Thu-Fri 8:00am - 4:00pm
Sat - Sun 9:00am - 4:00pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

Auriol Park

Recreation Department at Town Hall Telephone: 01372 732580

Gates locked at 8pm (Summer) and 6:30pm (Winter).

Emergency Park Ranger: 01372 732589 (24 hours)

Environmental Health Division

Mon-Fri 08.45 am-5.00 pm 01372 732000
Out of hours 01372 732555

EMERGENCY CHEMIST

If you need a Chemist outside normal opening hours

LLOYDS PHARMACY

11 The Broadway, TOLWORTH. Tel: 020 8390 6797
is open 7 days a week, from 9 am until 11 pm.

Library Opening Times

	Ewell Library	Stoneleigh	Ewell Court
Mon	Closed	10.00am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm	Closed
Tue	9.30am - 5.00pm	10.00am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm
Wed	9.30am - 5.00pm	Closed	10.00am - 5.00pm
Thu	9.30am - 5.00pm	10.00am - 1.00pm	Closed
Fri	9.30am - 5.00pm	10.00am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 5.00pm	10.00am - 5.00pm
Sat	9.30am - 5.00pm	10.00am - 4.00pm	10.00am - 4.00pm

The telephone number for all libraries is: 0300 200 1001



GIVE BLOOD

Please visit blood.co.uk or phone 0300 123 23 23.

We can collect your garden waste from your kerbside

What you can recycle

- Grass cuttings
- Leaves
- Flowers
- Small twigs & branches
- Prunings & clippings
- Straw & hay

No branches thicker than 3" (7.5cm), plant pots, soil, stones, ashes, fallen fruit or any food please.

240-litre wheeled bins are currently £68.60 each per year. Check the EEBC website for the latest prices.

Collected Fortnightly on your normal collection day.

To Join fill out our direct debit form at epsom-ewell.gov.uk/gardenwaste

recycle for Surrey

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