

SHERE PARISH COUNCIL

Serving the villages of Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake,
Shere and a large part of Abinger Hammer

ANNUAL REPORT For the year 2008/2009



How to contact your Parish Council for assistance or information

Address: Shere Parish Council, Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road,
Gomshall, Guildford, Surrey. GU5 9LF.

Telephone: 01483 203431

Email: clerk2009@shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.shereparishcouncil.gov.uk

Please note that all correspondence for the Council should be sent to the Clerk of the Council at Tanyard Hall.

This report is delivered to all houses in the Parish to give residents an understanding of the work the Parish Council has done on your behalf during the past year and to give details of some plans for the year to come.

The Parish is the largest by area in Guildford Borough and covers the villages of Gomshall, Holmbury St. Mary, Peaslake, Shere plus a large part of Abinger Hammer, excluding the village centre. Total population is around 3,500 which swells considerably with the visitors we get to the Parish who come to enjoy the beauty of the villages and their surroundings and the recreational facilities on offer.

Thanks to the efforts of the Parish Clerk, Lesley Childs, this year we have had our Quality Council status renewed for another 4 years which you can take as recognition that the Council is run to the highest standards. It also allows us to take on additional responsibilities if we choose to do so.

During the year the Parish Council has taken ownership of the Holmbury St. Mary Football Pavilion from Shere Manor Estates (we already own the adjoining football pitch). Also in Holmbury St. Mary, following consultations with the local traffic working group, the Parish Council has arranged for sleepers to be installed around the Village Green together with some reflector posts which has had the desired effect of keeping most vehicles from driving onto the Green. Unfortunately the transfer of ownership of the Felday Chapel has been delayed due to Land Registry problems but it is hoped that these can be resolved during the current year.

In the centre of Peaslake the area around the bus shelter has been greatly improved with the assistance of the Surrey Hills Office.

Following the leasing of the land around the Shere War Memorial from Shere Manor Estates the area has been greatly improved in sympathy with the surroundings. Planning permission has been granted for a public car park on the Shere Recreation Ground subject to traffic calming facilities in Upper Street and work will commence in late summer. The long awaited project to prevent further erosion of the riverbank in Shere has been completed. A request has been submitted to Surrey County Council for the installation of a hatched area at the junction of Lower Street/Middle Street to improve traffic problems at the junction although implementation is taking some considerable time. The Old Fire Station has been repaired and repainting of the exterior will be carried out in late July/August.

New rubberised safety surfaces have been installed in the Millennium Play Area in Gomshall and these surfaces will be extended gradually to the other play areas in the Parish. The path between Gomshall and Shere has been improved and the flooding problem eliminated. We are still battling to get London Lane closed to traffic, as Beggars Lane has been, but with, as yet, no success. The Parish Council believes that this would go a long way to stop material being washed down into the village after heavy rain.

Following talks with First Great Western, the Parish Council is hoping that more trains will be timetabled to stop at Gomshall Station from December 2009.

British Telecom expressed the desire to remove three red telephone boxes in the Parish during the year but two of these have been saved thanks to the generous sponsorship by two Parish Councillors and a resident of Peaslake.

A set of equipment has been purchased and training will take place to enable volunteers to carry out "speedwatch" in Gomshall and Shere as well as Peaslake and Holmbury St. Mary where such checks are already being carried out.

Tanyard Hall in Gomshall, the home of the Parish Council, has been redecorated and was open to the public on Heritage Open Day last September. It will be open on 12th September this year and will include a display about the old Tannery in Gomshall.

The state of the roads throughout the Parish has continued to cause great concern. These are the responsibility of Surrey County Council and the Parish Council continually reports problems to them.

I take this opportunity of thanking all Parish Councillors and the Parish Clerk for their dedicated work. I also thank our two Borough Councillors Roy Hogben and David Wright for their support plus our recently retired County Councillor David Davis. Also thanks to Graham Eusden, Christine Gorsuch and her team for looking after our white ducks in Shere, the Council's contractors Brian Hilsdon and Graham Rapley, Judy Colebrook (for planting and caring for the flower troughs in Peaslake), David Colebrook for his voluntary work each week on the Peaslake field surface, Kenny Madgwick for caretaking the Old Fire Station and our internal auditor Malcolm Foster.

Roger Newman (Outgoing Chairman)

Council

From May 2009 Chairman: Dr. Candace Brooke **Vice Chairman:** Roger Newman
Present Council: Councillors Bob Andrews, Chris Carlisle, Raymond Smith (Holmbury/Abinger), Marion Taylor-Cotter, John Tenner, Michael Urban, Jane Williams (Peaslake), Candace Brooke, Roy Davey, David Hall, James Hutton, Roger Newman, Sally Nielson (Shere/Gomshall). The Council is not party political.

Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Lesley Childs.

At least 9 full Council Meetings are held each year. In addition to the Council meetings many other meetings were held during the last year for the Council's Finance, Health & Safety, Parish Maintenance, Planning, Playgrounds and Tanyard Hall Committees.

All Council/Committee meetings are open to the public and there is an adjournment during each meeting to enable members of the public to ask questions or to address the Council. Meetings are held in the Council offices at Tanyard Hall. Dates and times of these are published on the village notice boards and on the website. A short report of each Council meeting is published in the Parish magazines and the full Minutes of all recent Council and Committee meetings are available on the website together with the contact details of individual councillors.

The Parish Council is a statutory consultee on planning applications in the Parish which means that Guildford Borough Council have to consult the Parish Council on approximately 150 planning applications in the Parish each year. The Council's views on all applications received during the year were conveyed to the Borough Council.

Finance

During the year expenditure was incurred on the following:- 50% of the maintenance costs of 3 cemeteries in the Parish, maintenance and provision of 5 play areas, 6 recreational areas and 2 small car parks, maintenance of much land including grass cutting and street furniture in all villages, a proportion of the operational costs of the public toilets in Shere, insurances & legal fees, staffing and contracting costs, new safety surfacing for the Gomshall play area, redecoration of the interior of the Old Fire Station. Funding was also reserved for the Parish Council's contribution towards the provision of a public car park on the Shere Recreation Ground and also some kerb work in Gomshall although it is regretted that the latter has been delayed.

Beneficiaries of donations given this year included the Hurtwood Control (£800), Shere Museum (£1,354), Peaslake Village Hall new curtains (£1,000), South West Surrey Mobile Physiotherapy Service (£600), Holmbury Emergency Help (£100), Crimestoppers (£35), WASP Bus (£1,000).

The Precept for 2009/10 has been set at £111,618 (£1.12 per week for a Band D property). This includes finance towards new safety surfacing for the Shere Play Area, exterior redecoration of the Old Fire Station, the remainder of the funding for the Shere War Memorial project (in addition to finance from the North Ward Film account and grant aid from Guildford Borough Council), work to various trees in the Parish, traffic calming schemes and donations to local organisations in addition to the normal services provided annually by the Parish Council.

The Council strongly encourages suggestions from members of the public for schemes to improve areas of the Parish. These should be submitted to the Clerk of the Council

before 24th August 2009. Local voluntary organisations requiring assistance should also request, and then return, an application form before this date.

Wonderful venue for parties, meetings, functions, classes

Residents are reminded that Tanyard Hall, 30 Station Road, Gomshall, is a beautifully beamed 15th Century building. It is owned by the Parish Council and is available for hire for functions, meetings, classes etc. It is especially ideal for children's parties or gatherings of friends or family. Please contact the Parish Council office (01483 203431) to book or view the building.

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Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer: Lesley Childs

Please note that all correspondence for the Council should be sent to the Clerk, Mrs. Lesley Childs, at Tanyard Hall.

Councillors:

North Ward (Shere & Gomshall)

Candace Brooke, (**Chairman**) The Old Netley Mill, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9HA
(01483 203267, Candace@sonofthebear.com)

Roger Newman, (**Vice Chairman**) 18 Leather Lane, Gomshall GU5 9NB (01483 205429)

Roy Davey, Fernside, Upper Street, Shere, GU5 9JE

(01483 202443, roymdavey@rmpc.co.uk)

David Hall, Pantrys, The Square, Shere GU5 9HE

(01483 229122 Davidhall@culpanandhallconsulting.com)

James Hutton, Netley House, Shere Road, Gomshall, GU5 9QA

(01483 203800, ei@handr.co.uk)

Sally Nielson, 21 Station Road, Gomshall, GU5 9LQ (01483 209526, simonandsally@gmail.com)

South East Ward (Holmbury St. Mary)

Bob Andrews, Ansells Cottage, Pitland Street, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NP

(01306 730693, bobaandrews@btinternet.com)

Christopher Carlisle, Upfolds house, Holmbury Lane, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6ND

(01306 621209)

Raymond Smith, 5 Felday Houses, Holmbury St. Mary, RH5 6NJ

(Email - Raysmith.Holmbury@envirohistory.waitrose.com)

South West Ward (Peaslake)

Marion Taylor-Cotter, 9 Fulvens Cottages, Peaslake, GU5 9PG
(marionptc@yahoo.com)

John Tenner, Oak Hill, Hoe Lane, Peaslake, GU5 9SW
(01306 731783, JohnLTenner@aol.com)

Michael Urban, Woodhouse Farm, Rad Lane, Peaslake, GU5 9PB
(01306 731760 Michael@murban.net)

Jane Williams, Bracken Lodge, Rad Lane, Peaslake, GU5 9PB
(01306 730484, knowdough.peaslake@virgin.net)