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# Washington Parish Council Newsletter

## Autumn/Winter 2017

### Chairman's Message

Since the last newsletter, we've been pleased to welcome Dominic Glithero as a new member for the Washington Ward. Dominic is the first member residing in Millford Grange, having moved from the Pulborough area a couple of years ago, and it is very helpful for the council to have a member who can relate the issues affecting residents in this newest part of our community. Vacancies do occur from time to time, so if you have spare time and are interested in becoming a parish councillor, and doing your bit for this beautiful area in which we live, contact our parish clerk, Zoe Savill, to register your interest or find out more.

Many thanks to those residents who responded to the final public consultation for the Storrington, Sullington and Washington Neighbourhood Plan. It has taken far longer than we ever envisaged, but with final amendments, the plan will now move to examination, and finally referendum. One site in Washington Parish is allocated for development of suitable new homes – Vineyards, adjacent to Lamorna in Old London Road. The Plan also gives protection to the Parish's many "green" and historic areas, as well those unsuited to future development.

Heath Common was the first area in Horsham District to develop its own Design Statement, adopted by HDC in 1999 as supplementary planning guidance. Following recent discussions with HDC, a local working party comprising parish councillors, members of the Residents Association and public, has been tasked to update the design statement for "re-launch" in 2018,

ensuring that it is relevant and robust within today's planning environment.

You may also have read that the Horsham District Planning Framework (HDPF) is undergoing review. It is hoped to incorporate a new policy enabling protection for Heath Common, which has been under pressure from several "infill" applications, potentially compromising the character of the area and traffic levels in The Lanes.

Some time ago, Washington was declared an "unlit parish" – an important policy which dovetails with the National Park's "Dark Skies" policy. This came too late for Millford Grange, where the streets were designated to be lit, though we understand the residents are hoping to re-visit this in the future. All parish residents can play their part in keeping the skies dark by ensuring no unnecessary floodlighting or bright external lighting on properties or at the roadsides.

The Wiston Estate has produced a comprehensive 'whole estate' plan for the years 2017 - 2030. With the majority of the land being in Washington Parish, the Estate is mounting a public presentation in St Mary's Church, Washington on Monday 20th November, 3.30 – 8.00pm. All are welcome.

The public are welcome to all regular Parish Council and Committee meetings – details on the noticeboards and on the website [www.washingtonparish.org.uk](http://www.washingtonparish.org.uk)

*Clr Patrick Heeley*



## Christmas Carols

Is there someone, musically minded, who would like to take over the organisation of the community's Carol Singing on Christmas Eve? This has been an event taking place, over the past sixteen years, in a resident's front garden at 6.30pm and is a wonderful start to the Christmas Festivities. It is not an arduous undertaking but is very rewarding with a collection going towards many worthwhile charities. Heath Common Residents Association fund the refreshments with the help of some local businesses. Please contact Christine (7461296) for more details.

## A Washington Monument

On 7th September a small area of Washington underwent a significant change of status: by order of the oddly-titled Secretary of State for Digital, Media, Culture and Sport (Karen Bradley, since you ask), it became a Scheduled Monument, stringently protected against development or any other unauthorised interference. A map and a statement about the designation should have been posted on the Historic England website.

The place in question is a stretch of the Roman road known as the 'Greensand Way' that runs in a straight line roughly S-E from Mutton's Farm towards Bunton, and is a clearly visible feature within a shaw at a field's edge. Here - and further, across the A 24 - it coincides with the boundary of the Anglo-Saxon Washington Estate (and subsequent parish). The scheduled stretch might indeed have continued further, through Spring Gardens and beyond, but the line of the road has been compromised and obscured by recent development, particularly gardens. Its course was published only in 1953, and it has never been archaeologically investigated. As for the rest of the ancient Estate boundary, much of it (unusually) marked with a bank, it remains unprotected.

'Scheduling' isn't a small matter. Even with a supposed fast-track procedure, it took me much form filling and well over a year's wait, with two visits from representatives of Historic England, to get this welcome, if limited result. The only other such location in the parish is Chanctonbury Hill. As for all Washington's many other places of historic interest or beauty, they should be included in the West Sussex HER (Historic Environment Register) - but that of itself won't protect them. We must remain vigilant for threats...

**CLlr Robin Milner-Gulland**

## Stranded by the A24 bus stop suspensions?

Did you or one of your neighbours rely on the buses which served the Spring Gardens area of Washington? If, so please get in touch. Thanks to the intervention of local County and District Councillor Paul Marshall, West Sussex County Council has agreed to consider assessments of individual cases in need of assistance. Call the Parish Clerk for details: 0777 6771921.

Buses from Washington to Storrington are published on the noticeboards and the Parish Council's website. It includes contact details for Community Transport providers in the area, who may be able to assist residents unable to access public services.

## Green light for traffic signs

Heath Common Residents Association reports that new signs to help reduce cut-through traffic on the bridleways of Heath Common 'Lanes' should be appearing by the end of the year.

Barratt David Wilson Homes, developers of Millford Grange, are donating towards the costs, with the bulk being met by the HCRA. The signs will clearly show vehicle restrictions and 'Heath Common Residents Only', to be located at the main junctions where the Lanes meet the public highways and by the National Trust car park.

**Mike Gould**, *Chairman of the Heath Common Residents Association*

## Know your Washington ABC!

If you're new to the parish, there are a few remaining copies of the 'Washington ABC' booklet. This 55-page publication is packed with fascinating local knowledge and skills, all contributed by members of the community. To arrange collection of your free copy, please telephone Alison Milner-Gulland on 01903 892602.

## Allotments

There are two plots available on the parish allotment, and no one currently on the waiting list. Priority is given to those living in the parish only. For further details and to make an application, please contact the clerk on **0777 6771921** or email: [clerk@washingtonparish.org.uk](mailto:clerk@washingtonparish.org.uk)

### 'Handyperson' wanted

If you enjoy DIY and the outdoors, the Parish Council is looking for someone to look after Vera's Shelter on Heath Common. The job involves light upkeep of the shelter and cutting a small patch of grass for a few hours a month.

### Cricket at Washington

Washington's cricket team has 'retired' after 30 years, and the village grounds are once again available for hire to any clubs in the area.

Calling all local groups, art clubs and societies and anyone involved in community culture!

Do you want to do something new or exciting?

What would drive people to come to your events?

### If so, this could be your chance to get involved in the Horsham District Year of Culture 2019.

This exciting project was launched in September by Horsham District Council, to celebrate the rich culture and heritage of the whole area. Anyone wishing to organise events and apply for grants, please complete the expression of interest form on the Year of Culture website: [www.hdculture2019.co.uk](http://www.hdculture2019.co.uk). Applications are open until 30 November 2017. Please see the site for information on guidance on applying and read the letter below from the Project coordinator.

*Letter from HDC Project coordinator Lisa Brace.*

#### What's the Year of Culture?

It's an enormous task we've set, but we want to do something big for the Horsham district – something which says 'this is what our district is about'. The aim of the Year of Culture is to bring together groups, businesses and people from across the district together to celebrate what culture means to us, and in turn, encourage visitors from within and outside the district.

#### But what is culture?

Good question – and one we are asked regularly. What does culture mean to you? For some it might mean your own community's culture, or high culture, our heritage and the relevance it has to the district's culture or something completely different. The Year of Culture wants to highlight, celebrate and enjoy the many exciting aspects of culture.

#### What does Year of Culture have to do with us?

Simply put the Year of Culture won't happen without you. The year is about celebrating our district, and to do that we want to support you and the work you do, and encourage you to go further. We will be making available a grant fund to support projects which fulfil certain criteria, and expressions of interest for these grants will be open from the end of September.

As well as grants, we will be looking to support your plans with advice on how to make applications to other organisations, as well as providing publicity packs and endorsing your event on the Year of Culture website as well as providing help and assistance wherever we can.

#### It's only 2017, why are you telling us now?

These plans take time. If you're keen to take part and you have a large event you wish to plan for, or a year round trail you'd like us to consider, you need time to organise. Also, if you are looking to make a funding application with us, we need to know by November 30 2017 (applications open September 27). So get involved now! The time will quickly disappear and before we know it will be January 1 2019.

#### Who is organising the Year of Culture?

Horsham District Council is coordinating the Year of Culture, working closely with advisors representing arts and heritage in the community but the aim is for the whole district to get behind the project.

For advice email: [yearofculture2019@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:yearofculture2019@horsham.gov.uk) or call Lisa on 01403 215060

## Washington Ward Members

**Cllr Lesley Britt** – 1 Rose Cottage, The Street, Washington, RH20 4AS  
Email: [lesley.britt@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.britt@btinternet.com)

**Cllr John Henderson** – 27 Montpelier Gardens, Washington, RH20 3BW  
Email: [atr42@btopenworld.com](mailto:atr42@btopenworld.com)

**Cllr Robin Milner-Gulland** – Tilley's Cottage, The Pike, Washington, RH20 4AA  
Email: [r.r.milner.gulland@gmail.com](mailto:r.r.milner.gulland@gmail.com)

**Cllr Dominic Glithero** – 15 John Ireland Way, Washington, RH20 4EP  
Email: [dominicglithero@fdcl.aero](mailto:dominicglithero@fdcl.aero)

## Heath Common Ward Members

**Chairman: Cllr Patrick Heeley** – Uphill Cottage, Vera's Walk, Storrington, RH20 3JF  
Email: [patrick.heeley@gmx.co.uk](mailto:patrick.heeley@gmx.co.uk)

**Vice-chairman: Cllr David Whyberd** – Wychwood, Chestnut Close, Storrington, RH20 3PA  
Email: [davidwhyberd@uwclub.net](mailto:davidwhyberd@uwclub.net)

**Cllr Christine Beglan** – Wrens Hill, Georges Lane, Storrington, RH20 3JH  
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**Cllr Trisha Cook** – Mulberry Cottage, Sandy Lane, Storrington, RH20 3JJ  
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**Cllr Rick Thomas** – Windrush, Vera's Walk, Storrington, RH20 3JH  
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**Cllr Antony Lisher** – Dera Doon, George's Lane, Storrington, RH20 3JH  
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## District and County Councillors

### West Sussex County Council and Horsham District Council

**Cllr Paul Marshall** – Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council  
Email: [Paul.Marshall@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.Marshall@horsham.gov.uk)  
[Paul.A.Marshall@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:Paul.A.Marshall@westsussex.gov.uk)

**Cllr Jim Sanson** – Horsham District Council  
Email: [jim.sanson@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:jim.sanson@horsham.gov.uk)

**Cllr Ray Dawe** – Horsham District Council  
Email: [ray.dawe@horsham.gov.uk](mailto:ray.dawe@horsham.gov.uk)

## Clerk to the Council

**Zoe Savill**  
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# News from the Parish Tree Warden



Autumn is upon us, the trees are shedding their leaves, so now is an ideal opportunity to spot any truly magnificent ancient, veteran or notable trees near you.

'Ancient trees are precious. There is little else on Earth that plays host to such a rich community of life within a single living organism.' Sir David Attenborough.

An ancient tree is one that makes you go 'wow, it's huge, fatter than any other tree like that round here'. It will be really fat, but not necessarily that tall, as like old people they shrink down with age. Like people, trees grow and age at different rates depending on where they are and what happens to them during their lifetime.

Elderly trees are as much a part of our heritage as stately homes, cathedrals and works of art. However, they do not enjoy the same protection. There are 500,000 listed buildings in the UK, and there may be as many ancient trees but as yet we have no way of knowing.

If we are to keep our ancient trees for future

generations they need to be managed, to prevent them from collapsing prematurely, to retain their historical or cultural significance, to perpetuate aesthetic values such as characteristic landscape features, and to provide continuity of habitats for wildlife.

To date we have over 20 ancient, veteran and notable trees recorded in Washington Parish, many of them in the woods of Washington Common, Warren Hill and Jenners Wood. You can find them by going to <http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/discoveries/interactivemap> then the next time you are out walking, pay one or more of them a visit, and just admire.

On a more practical note, as the trees are shedding their leaves, now is an opportunity to take a look at the trees in your garden to see if you have any broken hanging branches, especially after the two recent storms. If you have, there are numerous local tree surgeons that I suspect will be more than happy to make your trees safe.

David Hill

## Face-lift for Washington's Village Sign

Over the years, the weather has taken its toll on the village sign. But recently it has been restored, with some inspired little changes, thanks to artist and former local resident, Tom Milner-Gulland. He first painted the sign 20 years ago, a colourful double-sided impression of the area's landmarks, including the parish's medieval St Mary's Church. They are featured against a backdrop of the nearby Iron-Age hill fort of Chanctonbury Ring - a most fitting representation of this sylvan and historic Sussex village.

The paints used are gloss enamels which should help the sign stay bright for a good many years. Local heritage restoration specialist, Tim Ralph, has been busy cleaning and repairing the oak frame before it is reinstated at the entrance to the village.

**The Parish is constantly having to get odd jobs done around the area. So if any anyone spots something that could do with a bit of TLC or is happy to volunteer some help, please contact any member of the Parish Council on page 3 of this newsletter.**

## News from Heath Common 'Lanes'

### A VERY BIG THANK YOU

Over the past fifteen years many residents have volunteered their time and efforts, under the guidance of Madeleine Shaw who was joined by Christine Beglan some ten years ago, to put together a Summer Gathering of residents and friends. These functions not only bring people together to enjoy super home prepared food (with the odd bottle of wine!) but to also raise money for some well-deserved charities.

However the time has come for new leadership and maybe a new style of Summer Event, as it would be very sad for this lovely gathering to fall by the wayside. We are sure that someone living within the lanes would have great pleasure in forming a group to run their own version, and many of the current group would be willing and able to continue to help.

If you would like to be involved please contact either Madeleine (743223) or Christine (742196).

