

## St Martha Parish Council

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Hello from St Martha Parish Council. Thank you in advance to the dedicated volunteers who deliver the parish newsletter, the weather is not being particularly kind at the moment!

You may wonder at times what we as parish councillors contribute so I thought I would give you a 'snapshot' of some recent tasks. If you need any assistance on a local issue, although it may not necessarily be our responsibility, we would be glad to 'point you in the right direction' or follow up on your behalf. The following is an example.

Local residents were concerned about the overgrown vegetation encroaching onto the pavement between Lockner Farm and towards Roseacre Gardens, requiring pedestrians to have to walk close to the edge of the pavement. This being the responsibility of Surrey County Council's Highways team we persevered in requesting that this section of pavement was 'sided' out and cleared of overgrown vegetation. This particular section of road is also narrow in places and doesn't always allow for vehicles to pass each other without coming very close to each other or the pavement. This was drawn to the attention of Surrey Highways and after a consultation, requested by the parish council, they have resited the 'road narrows sign' now mounted on a yellow background highlighting to motorists this problem.

Back in September I organised tours of the Gunpowder Mills during the Heritage Open Days. It is easy to forget what a significant historical site this is. My thanks to Debbie Toynbee and Hugh Anscombe for conducting the tours. I don't know about anyone else but I would love to see the 'canal' or waterway alongside the monuments by The Snail cleared. It is a shame to see it 'clogged' up with weeds/vegetation inhibiting the flow. If anyone has any ideas or is interested in how we might achieve this do please get in touch. The site is managed by Guildford Borough Council, but they have limited time and resources.

We also maintain the War Memorial which I hope you will agree is in good order. We have had some stones replaced this year and planted new trees which one of our councillors has been extremely diligent in watering during the hot summer. Currently we are getting quotes for a tree to be removed which is close to the war memorial, due to it being unsafe and not in good health.

Of course, we also are a 'statutory consultee' on planning applications for the area which keeps us busy.

On a 'personal' level I recently canvassed in the local bi-election for the Tillingbourne Ward which took place due to the sad passing of Richard Billington. I would like to thank everyone who took the time to talk to me on the 'doorstep' and indeed to those of you who voted for me. This was my 'first' foray into an election and although unsuccessful, I gained 185 votes representing Guildford for Residents & Villages. Full Borough Council elections will take

place next May and I shall try again. Clearly and significantly you all share concerns on speeding and lorries, particularly in Blacksmith Lane where there is no pavement and some of you said you feel 'vulnerable' when walking or crossing the lane. I completely concur and will continue to highlight to Surrey Highways and local police the serious and troubling concerns you have. There are serious discussions now being had on 20mph zones in the area. I wonder if any residents would be interested in contributing to a Speedwatch Campaign, either in Blacksmith Lane and/or along the Dorking Road. Volunteers would receive guidance and monitoring equipment from the Police and any motorist caught speeding is given a 'warning' letter with repeat offenders being penalised. This of course relies on volunteers being able to dedicate their time and commitment on a regular basis. If any residents would like to find out more about this, please do get in touch. Chat to your neighbours and see if they too would be willing to get involved. We can achieve so much more when we help each other. This applies to any resident in Chilworth, not just the St Martha residents.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and good health for the forthcoming year.

Clare Price

**Member Vacancies:** – would you like to join us and make a difference? Being a Parish Councillor involves:

- Participating in the management of the Parish – including attendance at meetings, setting policies, strategies, the budget (Council Tax), service delivery etc.
- Representing the interests of the local community
- Putting something back into your local community and environment
- Having useful skills to offer
- It's actually good fun – most of the time!

Anyone wishing to be considered for co-option should contact the Clerk or any of the Members.

**Councillors:**

*Jean-Pierre Pugh* (Chair) - [pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*Patricia Allen* - [allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*John Peake* - [peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*Clare Price* (Vice Chair) - [price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

*Julia Tantram* - [tantram.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:tantram.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Parish Clerk:** Anne Tait - [clerk@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:clerk@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 in Chilworth Village Hall at 7:00 p.m.

