

# August/September 2021 Chilworth Village Magazine

## St Martha Parish Council

[www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk) or follow us on Instagram westlodge2021 and at stmarthaparishcouncil

We hope that life is feeling more 'normal' for you all and you are enjoying the summer months in this beautiful part of the Surrey Hills where we are so lucky to live. We are now holding **Parish Council meetings in-person**, rather than on Zoom, and we hope those who wish to will join us at these meetings. *Details of meetings are displayed on the PC website and Parish Council Notice Boards.*

The Parish Council continues to look at avenues for the educational and community use of **West Lodge** and has had some encouraging offers. It is in discussion with Guildford Borough Council over terms of a lease and ways of working together to benefit the whole **Gunpowder Mills Site** and is actively pursuing grants to renovate the Lodge. Furthermore, the PC has been publicising the newly formed **Friends of West Lodge and the Gunpowder Mills Group** as the PC would welcome your community input and for local people to join the Group. *Please see the poster below.*

The **Gunpowder Site** is holding an **Open Day on Sunday 19 September** as part of the **Guildford Borough Heritage Open Days**. We are hoping to have some guided tours and a nature trail for children. *Please check out our website nearer the time.*

Highways matters under discussion has again referred to **Blacksmith Lane** and **Halfpenny Lane** and also the narrowness of the road from **Pine View Close to Mill Lane**. Encroaching vegetation, the speed of traffic and overtaking traffic in this area have all be raised, as has the **Lockner Farm bridleway junction with Dorking Road**. The Council is looking into ways of improving safety in this area for road users, pedestrians and riders.

### **New Rail to Ramble routes highlight sustainable access to the Surrey Hills**

29 June saw the launch, at **Chilworth Station**, of a new series of **Rail to Ramble** routes. St Martha PC was represented at this event by Patricia Allen. The new initiative is designed to highlight how accessible the Surrey Hills is by train and to encourage people to visit this nationally protected landscape in a more sustainable way. The four new routes have been created along **Great Western Railway's North Downs line**, between the stations of **Guildford and Reigate**. Each route can be accessed directly from the railway station and takes in some wonderful Surrey Hills views as well as the North Downs Way National Trail and many points of interest. **Rail to Ramble leaflets** have been launched as a collaboration between the Surrey Hills Society, who created and tested the routes; the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), who worked on the design and content of the leaflet itself; and with funding from Great Western Railway via the Southeast Community Rail Partnership (SCRIP). As well as detailing a scenic walking route that is directly accessible from the station, each leaflet also highlights local points of interest along the way. The four leaflets cover routes of 5 to 6.5 miles long (8 to 10.5 km) between: 1) **Shalford and Chilworth via St Martha's** (with the option of starting the route from Guildford) 2) **Chilworth to Gomshall via Blackheath and Shere** 3) **Gomshall to Dorking Deepdene** 4) **Dorking Deepdene to Betchworth via Pixham and Brockham**. The start and finish points near the stations have been designed so that routes can be connected to form longer explorations for those looking to embark upon a more substantial adventure. The new Rail to Ramble leaflets will be widely available to pick up locally in the areas around the routes,

in local businesses and at stations on the line. They can also be downloaded from the **Surrey Hills website**. For further information visit [www.surreyhills.org](http://www.surreyhills.org).

### **Off Road Cycling Events**

The Parish Council is concerned at the increasing number of commercial off-road cycling events planned for the Surrey Hills. These are not only likely to damage the fragile countryside but be a danger to other users of bridleways, such as walkers and horse riders. The Council has raised its concerns with the Surrey Hills AONB.

Next year will mark the **Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Thursday 2 June-Sunday 5 June** – a four day weekend to celebrate. The **Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)** is a tree planting initiative being created to mark this occasion when everyone across the UK is being invited to plant trees from October 2021, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022. This will create a green legacy of its own, with every tree planted bringing benefits for people, wildlife and climate, now and for the future. The PC is considering how it can contribute to this and has already ear-marked a place to plant a fruit tree on land near the Chilworth War Memorial, replacing an earlier tree that died a year ago.

Very best wishes from the Parish Council – Patricia Allen



## **Friends of West Lodge and the Gunpowder Mills**

This historic site is owned and managed by Guildford Borough Council. Aside from its history, **there is much to admire with the Tillingbourne stream, the flora and fauna, and the 'canal' that feeds into the Tillingbourne.**

St Martha Parish Council is looking to raise vital funds to refurbish West Lodge, a small but important building, located at the entrance from Blacksmith Lane. We wish this building to provide a 'base' for volunteer groups to conduct 'working parties' within the Gunpowder Mills site, which is a designated Scheduled Ancient Monument. We also anticipate local history and educational groups using it. There is a suggestion that as a Parish Council we could use it as a 'contact' point for our residents.

The Parish Council would welcome community input; indeed, we feel it vital that we have an enthusiastic group to work with, alongside Guildford Borough Council. If you would like to be part of this newly formed group or require further information, please contact Clare Price of St Martha Parish Council [price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](mailto:price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

The Parish Council plan to make an application to the Surrey County Council 'your fund surrey' to acquire funding to refurbish West Lodge. We require 'votes' for this funding and would ask you to visit the following link to support our application.

Thank you and look forward to hearing from you.

<https://yourfundsurreymap.commonplace.is/comments/603f85454a9338fd005be703>