

News from St Martha Parish Council

www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

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DofE Volunteers

Four local teenagers, who attend George Abbot School, have been working hard in the Parish to support the community. As part of the Volunteering section of their Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award, they have been taking on much needed tasks in St Martha Parish and will continue to do so over the next few months. From the pictures, you can see Oliver Martindale, Jasper King and Toby & Sam Bean (from left to right) outside the Station Bus Shelter and at work along the path by the pond. This is a great contribution and we are delighted that they have chosen to help in this way. Thank you so much from us and all our residents.

New Environment and Climate Change Webpage

As the leaves start to unfurl around us, we are taking the opportunity to focus on all things green. Firstly, if you have been watching Sir David Attenborough in the BBC's Wild Isles, you may know that three of Britain's biggest charities (The National Trust, WWF and RSPB) have joined together to try and halt the destruction of nature in the United Kingdom in the "Save our Wild Isles" campaign.

Even though a YouGov poll shows that 76% of people are worried about the condition of nature in the UK, according to the Natural History Museum 95% are not aware that the UK is in the bottom 10% for protecting nature compared to the G7 and European Union (as measured by their Biodiversity Intactness Index). In fact we only have 53% of our biodiversity left, which is why action now is so important.

Therefore we would like to draw your attention to our new Environment and Climate Change webpage where you can find information on our participation in the Inter-Parish Climate Change Group and links to helpful information and guidance on how we can all make a difference:

www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk and click on the Climate Change link.

Guildford Borough Council Climate Change Action Plan

We welcome the news that Guildford Borough Council has adopted their ambitious Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP). With over 120 actions (not to mention sub-actions) covering nine key areas, the actions range from adopting a low carbon procurement framework to exploring Bee Friendly bus stops and pollinator friendly planting schemes in public places.

Help Dormice through Surrey Wildlife Trust's Appeal

Until April 16th you can chose to donate to Surrey Wildlife's Dormouse appeal. Numbers have been plummeting over the last 20 years, yet they are a marker of well managed hedgerows and woodlands. Dormice have even been recorded at the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, therefore do please visit Surrey Wildlife Trust if you would like to donate to this worthwhile appeal.

www.surreywildlifetrust.org/save-dormice

Let's make the Surrey Hills Bigger and Better!

Please be aware that currently there is a public consultation on increasing the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This once in a lifetime opportunity, allows you to tell the government how important this area is for everyone living here and to ensure as much as possible is protected for future generations by increasing the areas included in the AONB.

Please note you can find Chilworth and the surrounding areas, including the Gunpowder Mills Site, on page 19 of the Consultation Document, titled 'Proposed Cranleigh Waters extension'.

Opening on the 7th March the consultation runs for 14 weeks until 13th June 2023. To share your views please visit Natural England's Surrey Hills Boundary Review website:

www.surrey-hills-aonb-boundary-review.org

alternatively visit:

www.defra.gov.uk/consult and enter Surrey Hills into the search bar.

Off-Road Cycling

If you like to enjoy our green spaces on your bicycle, Surrey Hills AONB have adopted the mountain bike code of conduct used by Cycle UK:

Ride responsibly

Show respect for all other users and take care of the environment.

Leave no trace

Practice low-impact cycling to protect trails and avoid wet and muddy trails. Keep to the line of existing trails, avoid skidding and take your and other people's litter home.

Control your bike

Stay focused, check your speed, and think about other people.

Avoid disturbing animals

Farm, pet and wild animals are startled by sudden noise – be considerate.

Always plan ahead

Know your bike, your equipment, your ability and the area, and be prepared for the weather conditions.

Always give way

Let people know you are there. Pass wide and slow, particularly with horse riders, and approach with caution on blind corners and descents. Remember: [Be Nice, Say Hi!](#)

Finally, if you are interested in climate change, the environment or simply making a difference to your local community then please consider becoming a councillor. You can find further information on St Martha Parish Council website or please feel free to contact the clerk or any of the councillors.

Next Full Council Meeting: 18 April 2023 7pm at Chilworth Village Hall

The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council: 16 May 2023 7:30pm at Chilworth Village Hall

Councillors:

Jean-Pierre Pugh (Chair) - pugh.jp@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Patricia Allen - allen.p@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

John Peake - peake.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Clare Price (Vice Chair) - price.c@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Julia Tantram - tantram.j@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk

Parish Clerk: Anne Tait - clerk@stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk