

SGMatters No.268 6th May 2026

NOTE: Please refer to <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/NEWSLETTERS/NEWSLETTER268.pdf> for the pdf version with improved quality of any photographs, maps, etc.

ARBUTHNOT HALL CRITICAL MILESTONE ACHIEVED

[Press Release](#). Congratulations to Jon Watson and the Arbutnot Hall team for reaching the critical milestone of funding for the Restoration and Development Project which can now go ahead. It is anticipated that the Hall will close at the end of June and the work take about 52 weeks. Temporary arrangements have been made for regular users during the period of closure. The support of Kevin Deanus, Jane Austin and Jeremy Hunt was critical in accessing funds including £900,000 from SCC's Your Fund Surrey and £360,000 from Waverley's Community Infrastructure Levy.

DUCK POND

[Ed.] I reported in the last issue that the Duck Pond was holding water following the Parish Council's contractor action. Closer examination showed that this is no longer correct. There is now significant water loss, seeping under the exit dam into the adjacent ditch, which contains water. Urgent action is needed to prevent the pond drying out in the current exceptionally dry weather. I have reported to the Parish Council.



In the last issue I reported on the female Canada Goose incubating eggs on the island. Four goslings emerged (photo courtesy of Bonita Smith). Unfortunately, on the Bank Holiday morning only two remained. This follows the pattern of recent years with the disappearance of ducklings with no evidence of what the culprit might be. However Jon Watson has co-incidentally been in discussion recently with a representative of the Joanna Wildlife Hospital based at Grafham, Charity 1198610, they regard Shamley Green as a centre of Polecat activity.



SURREY WEST COUNCIL ELECTION

Jane Austin and Kevin Deanus have served us well as local councillors and in particular regarding support for the Arbutnot Hall renovation project, see above. They are both standing for election for Surrey West Council. They are exactly the sort of Councillors we need.

LONGACRE SITE

The community was not involved or consulted in the decision to close Longacre, ripping out an important and well-loved piece of the fabric of Shamley Green. Whilst it is understandable that the short term priority for Bridewell and Longacre is the well-being of pupils and staff, it is important that the village has a voice in the decisions regarding possible use of the site, we are the ones who will have to live with the result. I believe the Village Association are best placed to carry out this role. Unfortunately Bridewell are not being co-operative. There is a group, Parents4Longacre, actively examining future uses of the site and the existing facilities. In order for Bridewell to share information with them they have been forced to sign Non-Disclosure Agreements making wider discussion impossible.

There is also the interesting proposal by the Isla Pieri Foundation. You can access the proposal document at <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/ISLAPIERIPROPOSAL.pdf>. Unfortunately, the Pieris have not even received any acknowledgement of receipt, let alone comment. We must challenge this secrecy and have open debate on the issue. It is also important that the Parish Council are involved as they can be significant when any Planning Application is submitted. I have suggested to the Parish Council Chairman that it would be helpful to have a Parish Councillor fully briefed on the matter.

TOUR IN SOUTHERN IRELAND

Penny Hodgson reports that it was excellent “with no rain and calm seas”!

DANGEROUS RUBBISH



[Ed.] I received this report (the reporter asked not to be named): On Sunday morning I awoke to find this mess on the Green! 6 large canisters of nitrous oxide scattered near the Hall. Apart from the mess they are highly inflammable, explosive and dangerous. I have cleared them up and have taken them to the dump in Elmbridge. The team at the dump were very good when I explained what had happened and took them off my hands with a cheery smile. [Ed.] I have asked Rod Weale to clarify what the procedure should be for reporting such an incident.

KEY VILLAGE DIARY DATES

May 14 Parish Council Annual Meeting
May 27 History Society “The History of Allotments.

May 29	Arbuthnot Hall Bingo Night
May 31	Arbuthnot Hall 200 Club Lunch
Jun 3	Gardening Club, Slades Farm
June 6	Shamley Green Open Gardens
Jun 13	Village Fete
Jun 24-27	Gardening Club Tour, Worcestershire
July 2	Arbuthnot Hall, Fizz & Live Music at Chilworth Manor Vineyard

USEFUL VILLAGE LINKS

Village Association: A compendium of useful links within and supporting the community [Shamley Green Village Association](#).

Road works and closures: Information on road works and closures is available, in particular with a map of the locations, at <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roadworks>. I find this more useful than the Highway Bulletins.

Wonersh Parish (Civil) Council, Shamley Green is a Ward within Wonersh (Civil) Parish. See <https://www.wonershparish.org/our-meetings> for (Civil) Parish Council meetings and agendas including (Planning) meetings reviewing local Planning Applications. For a map of Shamley Green Ward, see <https://sgmatters.org.uk/MAP/SHAMLEYGREENWARDMAP.pdf>

Shamley Green Parish Church and Parish Magazine, See <https://www.shamleygreen.church> for information on Christ Church and related events and also a **link to the latest monthly Parish Magazine**. The penultimate page always contains a list of useful contact numbers for activities in the village.

Cricket Club, See <https://shamleygreen.play-cricket.com/Aboutus> for fixtures and results.

Gardening Club, See <https://www.shamleygreengardeningclub.com/calendar> for a schedule of future events.

History Society, See <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/HISTSOC/HISTSOC26-27.pdf> for the programme of 2026-7 events. See <https://www.sgmatters.org.uk/HISTSOC/INDEX.htm> for reproductions of previous History Society publications, including Michael Harding's meanders.

Annual Village Fete & Dog Show, See <https://www.sgvillagefete.com> for information on the annual Fete and plans for the next fete.

Arbuthnot Hall, See <https://www.arbuthnothall.org> for events, bookings and how to contribute to costs of running this important community asset.

Environment Group, See <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk> for environment group initiatives.

Best wishes [Editor SG Matters](#)