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Newsletter of Horsham Trafalgar Neighbourhood Council (HTNC) Spring 2023

Your Neighbourhood Council meets on the second Wednesday of the month, and residents are always welcome at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church. The next meeting is **Wednesday 12th April**. Contact clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com for more information. Our website is www.horshamtrafalgarnc.com

About your Neighbourhood Council

What do we do?

We aim to create a thriving community that feels good about itself, by listening, sharing information and by actively supporting and promoting wellbeing. As councillors with individual views, we work together for residents. Let us know what is important to you and your life here. What are your suggestions and concerns?

Who are we?

We're a **non-political** body comprising

- Nigel Dennis, our County Councillor
- Christine Costin and Martin Boffey, our District Council members for Trafalgar Ward. Martin is also leader of the Liberal Democrat group at Horsham District Council.
- Our Chair Morag Warrack, a member of the Green Party. Our other councillors Olive Hobbs, Ben Peterson, Paula Dinnage and Adam Key, a member of the Labour Party.

We are ably supported by our clerk Rhoda, and Maria and Charlie, our Neighbourhood Wardens.

What's Happening in Trafalgar?

Micro Meadows

It seems apt to mark King Charles' coronation by planting wildflower meadows as this is something very dear to his heart and something colourful everyone can appreciate, as we celebrate enabling other species to survive and thrive as well as ourselves. Not only does it look beautiful, but we are healthier in beautiful communities and the economic benefits are that more visitors come to our attractive town. A separate sheet is included with this newsletter to explain all!

MAY THE 4th BE WITH YOU!

This year we can all pre-register for a postal vote so that we don't need to travel on polling day (4th May), but if you go to the polling station, then you will need to have photo ID to show when you choose your Horsham District councillors.

We are a nation happy to share our opinions freely on Facebook or Twitter, but we tend to be surprisingly unwilling to share our views with those who actually make the decisions!

Anyone over 16 can register at

<https://www.register-tovote.service.gov.uk/>, ready to be able to vote when they turn 18. **OneID4U** is a company which sells ID cards if you don't have a passport or driving license.

What do you think? Don't just 'comment' - USE YOUR VOTE!

Tidy Trafalgar Day 26th March at 2pm

We have many residents who regularly keep Trafalgar tidy on a daily basis and would like to thank you all for these actions which keep this area lovely. **Holy Trinity Church** will be the community meeting place to say hello on 26th March at 2pm and collect bin bags and litter pickers. Please bring your own gloves. We'll be supported by local Beaver scouts and Ryan from the Green Gym will bring about 20 litter picks and bags. He and his team will also kindly collect bags afterwards and dispose of them if you please stack them neatly by the church wall.

Families are most welcome, and cuppas and cakes will be served by more lovely volunteers at the church from 3-4.15pm.

The HDC littering fine is now £150, and we can report via Horsham.gov.uk, then search *waste*. Send an image using the 'What 3 Words' app to report it to the team, or call **01403 733144**.

HTNC Leonard Crosbie Community Awards, February 2023

Councillor Leonard Crosbie served Trafalgar Ward for 25 years, right up till a fortnight before his death in September 2020. He was a compassionate and popular leader and these awards are presented in his memory.

HTNC also thanks HDC Councillor Christine Costin for her many years of service to the Trafalgar community, working harmoniously alongside Leonard Crosbie for all his 25 years, Councillor Martin Boffey for keeping us informed about HDC news and WSCC Councillor Nigel Dennis who has served the Trafalgar community for 29 years. We count ourselves very fortunate to have such a consistent, positive and stable team here.

Individual Award

Steve Swain - the driving force behind the Cootes Farm Community for many years, Steve helped procure the land to safeguard it for the local residents in 2021.

Steve has taken the lead on the many Volunteer Clean-up days, the bench on the green, the new noticeboard made by Horsham's Men's Shed and he organises and funds the annual remembrance poppies on the lamp posts. In addition he organises the fantastic annual Community Fair Day which raised £2,000 in 2022 which was donated to Sussex Air Ambulance.

Also nominated:

Ann Turner

Group Award

Trinity Church Players, (TCP) – have been based at Holy Trinity Church, Rushams Road, for 40 years. They are an open membership group – although about 1/3rd of their members attend Holy Trinity Church, some travel significant distances to take part in TCP's annual charity pantomime and concerts, and carol singing, raising hundreds of pounds for local charities. Their shows are generally a sell-out, and are written by some of TCP's younger members. Props and costumes are sourced from jumble sales and boot sales and made by members. The age range is 15 to 80.

All the proceeds from performances are given away to good causes – In the past 10 years alone, TCP have given away £35,839 to good causes.

Also Nominated:

Cootes Farm Community

Shelly Allotments Society committee

Second Horsham Scouts
Trafalgar Road Baptist Church

Business Award

Tracy Bassett of TCuts who has been running her local business for many years, not only offering excellent haircuts at very reasonable prices, but also being a real community hub. Her salon is a sociable place, covid permitting, where you get chatting with all sorts of local people. Although she no longer has a noticeboard for local businesses and services, she still has a box to hold local business cards and knows just about everyone. The area would not be the same without Tracy!

Also nominated:

Budgens

Trafalgar News

Freemans the Undertakers

Tony Kneale

Trafalgar TVs

Climate & Ecology Individual Award

Daphne Mitchell – for instigating and leading Boldings Brook Conservation Group since 1997 and helping with new planting of bulbs and liaising with HDC. Daphne has lived in the area for several decades and is known by many for her kindness, ready laughter and enthusiasm with young and old alike.

Also nominated:

Ann Turner

Steve Swain

Climate & Ecology Group Award

Shelly Allotments Society. The current committee and members of Shelley Allotments, for actively encouraging organic practices, water saving, carbon capture and biodiversity, which benefits the area as a whole, and being friendly, approachable and supportive of plot holders.

Also nominated:

Cootes Farm Community

Boldings Brook Conservation Group

Warnham Nature Reserve Volunteers



Trafalgar Life

Reporting Bird Flu

Sadly, our area of the UK is now infected with Avian Flu, so if you spot a dead wild bird, please help prevent the spread by giving details of when, where, and what you saw via the government website: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/avian-influenza-bird-flu>
If you'd rather submit a report without providing contact details, just phone Defra on 03459 33 55 77.

Foxes

Current advice from HDC is that overall, the pains of messy urban foxes outweigh the pleasures of cute cubs, so please don't feed them! Fox-proof bins don't seem to exist and paying staff to empty them twice a week is obviously a cost we all bear. Thanks to residents who pick up the scattered junk food packaging on a daily basis, and to those who pick up poo! where there are no bins, the advice is to take it home and put it in your normal waste bin (NOT the garden waste bin). It is most unpleasant to work around and a tough plastic box is ideal for taking it home.

Visitors to meetings

We're pleased to welcome residents to our Trafalgar meetings and we have been delighted to invite new **Pastor Jon White at Trafalgar Road Baptist Church** and **Reverend Sam Maginnis, the Team Vicar of Horsham Parish** and Holy Trinity Church on Rushams Road. Together we hope to create a resilient community.

We also welcomed **Cycling UK** and members of the **Shelley Allotment Society** recently. Developing a program of visitors throughout the year is an aim. We are always pleased to welcome you too!

Wardens Walk

Several councillors have taken the time to walk with our wonderful wardens, Maria and Charlie, on their rounds and it was great to see how they're able to initiate and interlink things to help us all be safer. The Wardens' Reports are on our website under NEWS and they contain loads of useful contacts for all sorts of things.

Cycling Survey

In our efforts to support pollution-free, healthier travel, we'd like to know what residents would like.

What would make a positive difference to you?

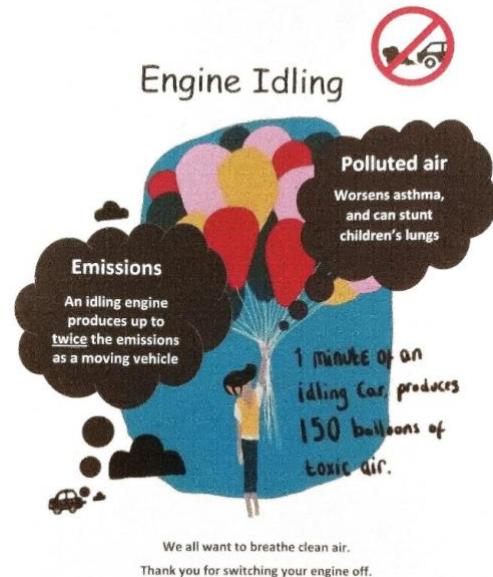
Our initial survey is about cycling, so be sure to give your opinion on our website to get your voice heard.
<https://forms.gle/w8bSVrTyEo81yGMeA>

Register your bikes on BikeRegister.com. It costs nothing, but it makes the bike harder to sell if stolen and enables police to return the bike to the owner.

New Electric Car Charging Points

As we are keen to reduce our carbon emissions, we're pleased that HDC have introduced electric car charging points on Rushams Road near Horsham Park and on Merryfield Drive at the Cootes Pond. Our hope is that cleaner energy will lead to cleaner air.

Engine idling is clearly harmful for schoolchildren and babies in buggies whose tiny lungs are at exhaust pipe level! Sometimes a polite word is welcomed by an inadvertently distracted driver!



Walking

Walking in Sussex

(<https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/sussex>) has hundreds of walks to download and print, free. Contact John Harris (john@walkinginengland.co.uk) for more information.

The People's Plan

Horsham town's "Blueprint Neighbourhood Plan" has now been approved, so the next phase is to see how we can make sure it is taken into account when Horsham District decides on their much larger **Local Plan**.

Greenway School Plans

Plans are afoot to build a new two-storey building close to Merryfield Drive and subsequently knock the existing Greenway main school building down. While

it seems the school buildings do need upgrading, a permanent two-storey building so close to residential properties will cause issues with noise, light and privacy. Residents can view and comment on planning applications at <https://public-access.horsham.gov.uk/public-access/> (search for 'Greenway School).

Tapestry Day Club Are you supporting someone with Dementia? Tapestry Day Club supports those affected by Dementia across communities in West, Mid Sussex and Surrey. Tapestry Day Club is a not-for-profit social enterprise offering small group day support for people living with early-stage Dementia and/or living in social isolation. They employ trained hosts who run their small groups (up to 6 'guests') in the comfort and safety of the host's own family homes. Transport, refreshments, a two-course lunch and fun optional activities are included in the day.

If you are interested please contact
directors@tapestrydayclub.co.uk

Thanks From the Chair

Huge thanks are due to everyone who stepped up to deliver our last edition of the newsletter. Your help was gratefully received again and it is wonderful to have many residents helping. If there are any residents who'd like to help with delivery, please contact the clerk.

Thanks to the **Evanson/Pearson family** for donating and the **Cootes volunteers** for planting more spring bulbs in the Rec and by the pond.

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about", says Margaret Wheatley. Your experiences are different to mine. I want to know how you feel about stuff. When it comes to making the world a better place, what we choose not to do can be just as important as what we choose to do. For example when we choose to turn away remaining silent, we are denying ourselves the opportunity to create positive change. We're all responsible for our actions or inactions and as they say, "All it takes for bad things to happen is for good people to do nothing". So do use your vote this year, especially if it's your first time.

Not every cause or action is for every person, but when a situation touches our heart, it's important to do what feels right for us. It may be simply offering a smile, giving our time, or just taking responsibility for our own behaviour. By

doing what we can, planting a few seeds of kindness, our own small contribution is enough to make a difference.

With this in mind, I'm delighted to be announcing the Leonard Crosbie Community Award Winners for 2023. We have so many wonderful people and businesses in Trafalgar, that it has been a hard job to choose! Hurrah for us all!

Look out for local **Coronation Celebrations** on the weekend of 6th & 7th May. Trinity Church will be welcoming the community on Sunday 7th May, so enjoy these historic moments!

Morag Warrack, HTNC Chair, March 2023

Contacting HTNC

Notice boards

We have two community notice boards in the Rec or email the clerk for community events you'd like to promote.

There is a further **notice board at Cootes Green**. Contact info@cootesfarm.org.uk

Clerk - Rhoda Hatton for initial/general enquiries - clerk@horshamtrafalgarnc.com

Chair - Morag Warrack - chair@horshamtrafalgarnc.com

Councillors (aka Members) - contactable **via the clerk** - Martin Boffey, Olive Hobbs, Ben Peterson, Paula Dinnage Adam Key and Nigel Dennis (for WSCC) - Nigel.Dennis@westsussex.gov.uk

Wardens

Horsham.NeighbourhoodWardens@horsham.gov.uk

Maria Colenso – 07795051561 **Charlie Nell** – 07795051555

Roads

For potholes, verges, drains, parking, and anything to do with roads and pavements, please report to:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/make-an-enquiry-or-report-a-problem-with-a-road-or-pavement/>

Police Operation Crackdown invites residents to take a photo and note times of speeding/parking offences/dangerous driving etc. Although an officer must see a parking offence for it to be acted on, it helps them to build up a picture of problem areas. There is currently no way of measuring legal noise limits for moving traffic.

Thanks to the local volunteer **Speedwatch** teams. If you like being outdoors with a friend for an hour, anyone can join in. Hand-held monitors and police training are offered. www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk/community-speed-watch-can-you-help/