

TONGHAM PARISH COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2024

As Summer comes to a close we look back over a mixed season of some very hot days and a few spectacular rainstorms; the type of weather which seems to be becoming our norm in recent years.

Works carried out in the centre of the village appear to have mitigated the impact of heavy downpours including in The Street, Grange Road and Northside. Time will tell if this is a long-term fix for the previous problems.

WHITE HART It has been encouraging to see that the new owners of The White Hart have invested in our "local" and have carried out a number of improvements to the building, both internally and externally and the pub now makes a more welcoming impression in the heart of the village.



SCOUTS The Scout Hut was officially opened on Saturday, 5 September. We hope to bring you a report on this in our next newsletter.

VILLAGE UPDATE As reported previously, a proposed 20mph limit on The Cardinals has now been instigated. It is hoped that residents will benefit from and maintain this step towards their safety. To add to these measures if you have to drive to St Paul's Infant School to drop off children please park legally, safely and courteously. Congestion at peak times can be easily alleviated by using alternative travel methods whenever possible. If you encounter problems with things such as pavements and overgrown vegetation when walking to the school please pass your concerns on to Surrey County Council. You can report these issues here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/roadworks-and-maintenance/report-a-highway-problem>

Our **recreation ground** is a wonderful asset to the village. We are proud that it is kept in a clean and tidy state but remind all dog owners that they should clean up behind their animals. The whole area is used by many people including sports teams and much time is spent ensuring the area is clear of fouling. Please use any of the number of bins which can be found in the area to dispose of your dog poo.



Due to the financial situation within Guildford Borough Council our funding for projects in the village is on hold. We have looked at a number of enhancements in The Rec, including improving access to the Outdoor Gym and hope to move forward with these should funding be available.

Responsibility for Tongham Moors green space off Oxenden Road is being taken on by the Parish Council and we are looking to work with other organisations in the area to improve its appeal and usefulness.

TONGHAM BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS

Our locally famous
Bonfire and Firework Event
will be taking place this year on
Sunday 3rd November

at The Recreation Ground, Poyle Road.

Gates open at 17.30 Bonfire to be lit at 18.45

Fireworks and music 19.00

There is no entry fee but we will be taking donations
at the gates. Please give generously.



There will be children's rides, food and drink and sweets stalls

For safety reasons there will be **NO PARKING** on site.

PLEASE WALK to the venue if at all possible.

BONFIRE BUILDING We welcome **volunteers** to help build the bonfire (bacon sandwiches and coffee provided). This will take place from 8.30am on Saturday 2nd November. Any suitable material can be brought to The Rec until 11.30am that day. If you wish to bring material before that time this will be **by appointment only**. Please phone **07747695269** to arrange.

TONGHAM FC In order to define the football area Tongham Football Club have been busy raising funds to enable the building of a fence around the main pitch. This will be in line with the other activity spaces we have - playgrounds, tennis court, multi sports area- all of which are fenced. This is a major project and of the £36,000 required they are now working to raise the final £7500. Tongham Parish Council have contributed £5000 to the pot and see this as a benefit to the village, putting ours on a par with other football pitches in the area.

PARISH IN BLOOM Tongham was awarded a Silver award this year, down from a Silver Gilt last year. This was partly due to an attack of graffiti in the month before judging, and the amount of dog 'poo' and litter in the Tongham Woods and the village generally. I feel sure that given some public involvement, e.g. regular litter picking, removal of the graffiti by Guildford Borough Council and encouraging more people to pick up their dog's 'poo', we will be able to regain our Silver Gilt award - or higher!

We have litter pickers and hi-viz available to borrow if you wish to clear up your area; to arrange collection please email clerk@tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk.

BUS ROUTES At the end of August the 520 bus route connecting Poyle Road, Ash Green and Normandy was withdrawn. The alternative offered by Surrey County Council is the Surrey Connect Digital Demand Responsive Transport service. This can be accessed here [https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/community-transport/surrey-connect#:~:text=Surrey%20Connect%20is%20a%20safe,Responsive%20Transport%20\(DDRT\)%20solution](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/roads-and-transport/buses-and-other-transport/community-transport/surrey-connect#:~:text=Surrey%20Connect%20is%20a%20safe,Responsive%20Transport%20(DDRT)%20solution)

RURAL LIFE MUSEUM We have been asked to highlight the campaign launched by an important local attraction. Loss of this collection to the area would have also have an impact on other local businesses and venues. If you haven't visited yet give it a try – it is a wonderful collection of nostalgia! Their goal is to raise £150,000 by October 31st 2024. Please support them in any way you can. To learn more and donate, visit the website www.rural-life.org.uk The Rural Life Living Museum, Reeds Road, Tilford, Surrey, GU10 2DL.

WHAT IS THE TONGHAM INSTITUTE FUND? The Institute Hall was found in Poyle Road, at the corner with Northside, just up from the church. When it was sold for development (in the 1975), the resultant funds were invested, and the interest used to provide help for the elderly and youth of the village. It is not a huge fund, but can be very useful in these challenging times. The fund can help with a variety of needs, for example fuel bills, school uniform, toddler group equipment.

It is administered by a small committee of local volunteers, chaired by the Vicar, Rev Claire Holt, which meets twice a year to discuss applications – though nowadays if an urgent request comes in decisions can be made more quickly by email!

So if anyone would like to apply, whether an individual, family or local group to do with young people or the elderly, please contact us!

You can apply to: vicar@stpaulstongham.org.uk, or write to Claire at The Vicarage, Poyle Road, Tongham GU10 1DU.

SURREY HILLS AONB—ACTION NEEDED!! There is to be a further consultation on the extension of the Surrey Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and everyone is urged to participate in this important further opportunity to protect our countryside for the future. Details are given below – please take time to submit your comments to support the extension. It is suggested focus is made on the responses in the report from the first consultation rather than re-submitting previously considered evidence.

From The Natural England Surrey Hills Boundary Review Team—Since the 2023 consultation has presented the opportunity to include additional land we will be undertaking a second round of consultation. This consultation will be launched on Tuesday 17th September 2024 and will last for 12 weeks, ending on the 10th December 2024.

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/ne-landscape-heritage-and-geodiversity-team/surrey-hills-boundary-variation-2nd-consultation/>

YOUR PARISH COUNCIL We meet on the third Monday of most months at the Old School Hall, Poyle Road (next to St Paul's Church). Please check website and notice boards (situated at the recreation ground and by the shops) for agendas and dates. All residents are more than welcome to attend and share their ideas, concerns and to meet your parish, borough and county councillors.

Tongham Recreation Ground and Community Centre in Poyle Road is one of the main responsibilities of the TPC. A number of activities take place in the community centre. For more details please check the notice boards in the village or visit the community centre website

www.tonghamcommunitycentre.org.uk

At the recreation ground there is a play area for older children (7-16) and another for smaller children (0-8). In addition there is an outdoor gym, a wild wooded area which is ideal for dog walking and a large multi-use games area with seating and facilities for football and basketball and a tennis court (no need to book).

Check out our website for news and information www.tonghamparishcouncil.gov.uk and follow our Facebook page to see what's going on in your village.

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT OUR NEXT MEETING!
WHERE YOU CAN HAVE YOUR SAY ABOUT ANY CHANGES / IMPROVEMENTS
THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN YOUR VILLAGE.