



Spring Newsletter 2024

'Residents Working Together'

A Message from our Chairman...

Jill Shaw

Welcome to our Spring Newsletter for 2024

As in the autumn newsletter I would like to say a big thank you to a couple of our committee members, who have helped us for many years but are now leaving us, and welcome to a couple of new committee members.

John Halliday joined the committee in November 2019 and took on the role of planning secretary. He has done an excellent job ensuring that SRA had an input into all necessary planning applications within and around Summersdale, attempting to protect us from the continuous onslaught of inappropriate developments, as well as representing us in meetings on wider city planning issues. He took the lead in updating the Neighbourhood Character Appraisal which is on our website. John has now moved from Summersdale and is retiring from the committee at the AGM. Thanks, John, for all your contributions, we will miss you. I will be taking over the planning brief from John, ably assisted by Barbara Dart.

Thanks also to Sara Wain, who was deputy planning officer and also became vice chairman in March 2022 and has also moved from the area and so left the SRA. Sara has been a major asset to the SRA and extremely supportive, picking up anything that needed doing and always full of great ideas. Again, she will be missed by us all. We have however got two new committee members on board, Barbara Dart and Dr Isla Duncan, who I am sure many of you will know. Welcome to both of them.

Over the past couple of months, we have been supporting the parents of children at Jesse Younghusband School (JYS) who are fighting against a proposal by West Sussex County Council to move the school to a new building on the Minerva Heights estate in order to enable the expansion of St Anthony's Special school with whom JYS shares their current site. The proposal has gone through an informal consultation and, disappointingly, will probably go to a formal consultation about the time that this letter comes out. Please see the article on page 3 giving the background and how you can help challenge this move which will remove Summerdale's only primary school.

We are also working closely with the Friends of Oaklands Park. The organisation was formed to protect and treasure the Park for its biodiversity and to try to raise awareness of all the park has to offer in order to encourage residents to make greater use of it. Look out for the articles in this newsletter about it but they also now have a page on our website so you can easily see any events they arrange....and maybe join them.

Over the past 12 months you will all have experienced the disruption of the roads being dug up by City Fibre around Chichester. The old Public Switched Telephone network (PSTN) is planned to be switched off at the end of next year, which necessitates replacement by fibre optic cables. The PSTN is the current telephone network that we are all familiar with and supplies most people's landline telephone. Have a look at the article on page 2 but don't get alarmed because reassuringly the initial reports from people who have already changed over are favourable. Although those of you who have an emergency call alarm attached to your landline will need to ensure that you have back-up in case of a power or internet outage.

As last year we are again holding our AGM at St Michael's Church Hall with a small marquee outside for us to spill out into for the refreshments afterwards. I don't think we were too squashed last year and this year we will have a PA system so everyone will be able to hear. Our speaker will be Robert Lapraik, a local resident for 35 years and an SRA member. He is now retired but he enjoyed a career in the RAF flying Lightning-fast jets, followed by a second career in the NHS including 13 years as Chief Executive of St Richard's Hospital. Later he joined the Mary Rose Trust as deputy CEO. His talk will be "Life as a Fast Jet Pilot in the Cold War". Please put the date in your diary - May 15th - and come along to what promises to be an informative and enjoyable evening and a glass of something with your fellow residents.

SRA AGM Wednesday, 15th May 7:30 pm

Consultation about the relocation of Jesse Younghusband Primary School begins on 18th May for 4 weeks. Further details and updates will be sent by email and will be on the SRA Notice Board and SRA website. see the article on page 3

The long-standing familiar telephone network has worked using analogue signals over copper wires. Power driving land line phones comes from these, so the service does not depend on your own mains electricity.

There are limits on digital data speeds achievable over the long wires and the system is considered expensive to maintain. Recently, my unreliable service was eventually traced to squirrels attacking the telegraph pole cables! For these sorts of reasons, there is a national plan to completely phase out the copper PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) in favour of fibre optic connections. Unlike the loss of old-fashioned terrestrial VHF TV broadcast signals, I don't think the copper connections will be repurposed so the switch off deadline of December 2025 might slip?

Modulating pulses of light can now be done efficiently and reliably over thinner links with speeds consistent with the massive data transportation that we are increasingly dependent on. Often many signals can even be carried by the same fibre.

What does this mean locally? Our roads and pavements have already been dug up to install some backbones of the new services with the aims of bringing the optical fibre links right up to your house and Wi-Fi router. Sometimes this will be from telegraph pole overhead distribution, but some areas must rely on underground channels.

Fixed landline phones have been dispensed with by the young already, but older people may be more reluctant to lose them. The new fibre routers, which will be required, can provide a socket for domestic and cordless phones. However, this facility will be dependent on your mains electricity working, therefore possibly unreliable in an emergency. Also, there are likely to be issues with installed 'Telecare' monitoring items like pendants and alarms etc., that may no longer be compatible. But at least you should be able to keep your existing phone number.

In itself, the swap should not cost you more. It is likely to be a piecemeal offering of free upgrades initially, an obligation to change will follow, once the coverage is more complete. Changing your Internet Service Provider may give you an earlier opportunity to utilise these potential fibre optic benefits. Even if a vast increase in data speed is not important to you now, 'low maintenance' is promised. I suspect in time, it will all just be taken for granted. As with other utilities, the running of the backbone service and the marketing/billing to consumers is likely to be separated, giving an aura of competition.

Many areas covered by the SRA are already affected and, reassuringly, the initial reports of the changeovers are favourable.



Benches in Oaklands Park

Do you have a wish to place a useful local tangible memorial to someone special?

We have some "Oven Ready" ideas for new benches in Oaklands Park. Search for "benches" in our website to find details.



Recycling Visit to Ford

Paul Stross

Some of us would feel more confident if we better understood the practical local issues about effective recycling.

I plan to visit the BIFFA Ford Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in late May. If my visit proves to be worthwhile, I'd like to set up a SRA visit. Warning, their visit booking system seems quite bureaucratic. But please contact me ASAP if you would be interested in going and I'll collect names on a first come first served basis. It would be best to have an idea of local interest before I go, as that might be the best way to get an early date.

 **West Sussex recycles**

Save Jessie Younghusband Primary School

Save the only Primary School in North Chichester

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) are proposing to relocate Jessie Younghusband Primary School (JYS) to Minerva Heights (MH). Their reasoning is that a brand-new school is being built by the developers at Minerva Heights and moving JYS to that building provides a state-of-the-art building for an excellent school only ¼ of a mile from the existing location and, at the same time, enables St Anthony's special school, which shares the current site with JYS, to expand to deliver 50 extra Special Educational Needs (SEN) places, although there is no guarantee of funding as this will be subject to a separate business case.

Whilst we can see some advantages to moving the school to Minerva Heights, namely the benefit of a new school with the potential to expand to 2 form entry, should the need arise, and the ability to increase the much-needed SEN school places in Chichester, these benefits are predominantly financial and are outweighed by the social and community issues the move would create for current and potential future JYS children and parents, critically;

No ability to walk to school - Currently approximately 85% of the children at JYS walk to school. With a move to MH children coming from the Summersdale area are extremely unlikely to be able to walk to school; the journey is long and means endangering yours and your children's lives by trying to cross a very busy main road and walking along the very muddy, dark part of Centurion Way. Children will inevitably be taken by car. This goes against CDC and WSCC environmental and walk to school campaigns and loses the opportunity for children to develop essential social and motor skills, and to help develop the local community, Car journeys will also add to the already congested roads at that time of day, particularly Brandy Hole Lane and Northgate gyratory.

Longer term loss of places for children from Summersdale - Although current pupils from Summersdale will have a place in the new school at Minerva Heights, the development is planned to have nearly 1800 homes when it is complete, many of which will be family homes with young children. The current assumption is that, as Minerva Heights is built out, there will be a need to expand the school to 2 form entry, although with the current over capacity in primary provision across Chichester, that is not guaranteed. Whether this happens or not, children from Minerva Heights will have priority because of their locality to the school, so taking most of the available school places and leaving Summersdale with no local primary school. The result would see Summersdale children going to a multitude of different schools around Chichester so further affecting the local community, or young families not moving to the area because of lack of schooling.

The proposal went to an informal consultation in December / January and received 624 responses, 442 of which made various comments against the proposal along the lines of that rehearsed



above. The proposal went before the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny Committee of WSCC on 28th February. The committee is not a decision-making body but can make recommendations to the Cabinet Member concerned. In this case Cllr Jacquie Russell. Despite Cllr Russell's assurances that the plan is not yet determined, it gave all the appearances of a fait accompli; the objections in the informal consultation were responded to in a very trite way; the on-line petition, with 666 signatures, was dismissed by the WSCC Officers on the basis that it was not in line with WSCC petition guidance; apart from it being raised by Jeremy Hunt (WSCC for Chichester North), there was no mention in the meeting that the Head and Governors of JYS are opposed to the plan; the chairman commented that he had never seen the public gallery so full (of people anti the scheme) but this was not acknowledged by Cllr Russell's team. Despite an eloquent and well-reasoned speech against the proposal by Cllr Jeremy Hunt there were no recommendations made by the scrutiny committee that are likely to de-rail the project. Jeremy Hunt said after the meeting *"I have known and been involved with both these excellent schools for many years. I therefore find myself torn, because on a purely theoretical basis this proposal does make some sense. However, in this case I don't believe the huge disruption to the lives of 210 children and their families, in order to provide only 50 extra places at St Anthony's, has been fully appreciated. This is why I spoke against the proposals today, in support of both present and future families who would be seriously impacted should this decision go through"*.

At the time of going to press we have just heard that, disappointingly but not surprising, **the Cabinet Member has decided to progress the scheme. This means that it will go to formal consultation for 4 weeks starting 18th April.** We have no details of this consultation yet. We have been told that it will include a public meeting but crucially will consider only new information not a re-emphasis of what has already been said - this indicates that, the important points made above will have already have been dismissed. WSCC are consulting but seem determined not to listen! A decision will be made and communicated before the summer holiday.

Please help to save the only primary school in North Chichester for current and future Summersdale children.

**Please help to save
the only primary school in North Chichester
for current and future Summersdale children.**

You can still sign the petition at: <https://chng.it/dqjJ5ZSmdR> or scan the QR code

Please look out for and respond to the formal consultation at about the time you receive this newsletter. We will post details on our website.



I remember when all this was fields! How often have you heard someone say this? When you meet someone who knew first hand what an area of Chichester really was, it makes you want to know more.

I met a long-time former resident of Summersdale a few weeks ago, who told me that when he was a boy, he helped with hay-making on the farm in Oaklands Park. I couldn't imagine where this farm could possibly have been. The land we now know as Oaklands Park, from Wellington Road in the North down to the tennis and squash club premises in the South and bounded by College Lane on one side and Broyle Road on the other was a dairy farm owned by the Emery family.

The farm kept cattle which the farmer fed on brewers' grains that came into Lavant station on the train. Devon cattle were brought up to sell and were held on the farm prior to marketing. Where the carpark of the tennis and squash club is now were two ponds where the water from the springs that run down College Lane would drain into. This may explain why the bottom of College Lane floods in wet weather; the ponds they were supposed to drain into are tarmacked over!



Photographs from the archives of the late, great, Andrew Berryman

The farm moved on in late 1940s and relocated to Birdham, and Chichester City Council bought the land for £11,000 and at the time there were residential buildings and a farmyard on the land. During the war years, a reservoir was built at the Wellington Road end of the land about where the first rugby pitch is now, and was the size of an Olympic swimming pool. This was supposed to be a supply of water for the fire brigade in the event of fires in the city from enemy attack. The land was still used for haymaking during the war. The rugby club took over the land and the first matches were played in 1943 when a prefab club house was put up in 1963. This building was moved over to be used by the archery club when a new rugby club building was erected in 1964 and is still there today.

The Broyle Road side of the farm was where the local work house was situated, and is now the residential development known as William Cawley Mews. Built in 1625, originally as alms-houses, with money from benefactor William Cawley, they became the Chichester workhouse from 1681. In 1753 the building was extended with new wings, paved cellars and pantries, a garden wall and ovens, and in 1754 a brew house. The central building was the chapel and still has the gates and clock tower. Life in the workhouse was very strictly controlled. Residents were not allowed out unsupervised and were expected to undertake work such as spinning, weaving and knitting. Meal times were strict, and if you were late or had not finished your daily work you went without a meal. Attendance at church on Sunday was compulsory, and if you loitered on the way back and did not behave, you were locked up and missed your supper for the first offence and locked up for 24 hours on bread and water and kept indoors for 2 months for second offence. The buildings were taken over by West Sussex County Council in 1980.

Today Oaklands Park is home to many activities and buildings that are at the heart of the city; theatres, rugby, football, tennis and squash, archery, cricket, the park run, a playground, rifle and pistol shooting - not bad for a 12 acre dairy farm!

In 1107 Henry I granted Ralf de Luffa the right to have a fair for 8 days from 6 October to celebrate St Faith the Virgin.

Now we have the Sloe Fair on 20th October every year.

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

'Residents Working Together'

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday, 15th May 2024 at 7:30 pm

in the St Michael's Church Hall, Chichester

AGENDA

Welcome and apologies for absence

Minutes of the AGM held on 21st May 2023

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
for the year ended 31 December 2023

Re-Election of Committee Members

Peter Bickley; Raymond Carter; Barbara Dart; Isla Duncan;
Janet Leonard; Jill Shaw; Paul Stross; Pauline Sutton.

Re-Election of Independent Examiner, Clive Gaut

Other Resolutions*

Open Forum – questions submitted by email 10 days prior to the meeting**

Local Councillors (5 minutes each)

Speaker: Mr Robert Lapraik - Life as a fast Jet Pilot in the Cold War

- * If you wish to propose a resolution:
please send it in writing **c/o SRA 64 Ferndale Road**
or email to admin@summersdaleresidents.co.uk
at least 10 days before the meeting so that it can be
published on the SRA notice board next to the One Stop shop.

- ** Questions for the meeting can also be submitted using above address

SUMMERSDALE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of AGM Meeting held on 24 May 2023

St Michaels Hall, Summersdale, Chichester

www.summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Residents Working Together

Welcome and apologies for absence

Chairman Mrs Jill Shaw welcomed all residents attending, committee members and also West Sussex County Councillor Mr Jeremy Hunt, District Councillor Mr Jeremy Brown and City Councillors Mr Craig Gershater (recently appointed Mayor of Chichester), Rhodri More and Shiva Knight, and Chairman of Chichester Tree Wardens Mrs Paula Chatfield. Apologies were received from SRA committee member Mrs Sara Wain and SRA members Mr Michael Thomas, Mrs Carol Knight, Mr & Mrs Marsh, Mr & Mrs Tostevin, Mrs Hilary Swift and Mrs Maureen Corfield.

Minutes of the AGM held on 27 April 2022. Approved. Proposed by Mr Patrick Madeley and seconded by Mr John Halliday. Voted on by all present and carried unanimously.

Chairman's Report

JS said that it was good to be back in St Michael's Hall after the move to St Pauls Church because of lack of space. After comments from members who wanted to be back to St Michaels, which they can walk to and enjoy a glass of wine, more chairs were made available and a small marquee erected outside so people can spill out into the warm summer evening with a drink in hand.

She said that, having taken over as chairman last year, she would like to thank all the committee for all their support and hard work over the year. Sara Wain as Vice Chairman is her right hand person, willingly picking up anything needed, Peter Bickley is a very professional treasurer, Pauline Sutton supported by her husband Peter as membership secretary and Janet as minutes secretary. During the year Mark Todd took over as Goodwood Liaison and has made his mark already.

The year has seen the usual round of planning matters, mainly small with nothing major like the inquiry over Raughmere last year, but White House Farm phase 2 and the A27 are still bubbling under the surface and we do our best as an Association to keep on top of them and represent Summersdale as well as the Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Thanks go to John Halliday for the hard work put in, particularly as he has not been in Chichester for much of the year. John has been looking for a new home in the area and has now found one in Lavant. John is happy to continue in the planning role for the rest of the year but the SRA is now actively looking for someone to replace him.

A special thanks go to Ray Carter, our very active environment officer. JS said that he had been her environment mentor and had taught her much about the surrounding environment and its history. Several trees had been planted but the long hot summer took its toll on many, particularly the young ones, emphasising the need even more for volunteer waterers. Ray is also our representative for the Friends of Brandy Hole Copse. They were an active group, helping with the maintenance of Brandy Hole Copse but, as their members have aged, they have struggled with support and volunteers. Paula Chatfield has picked up the baton and is trying to build the support back up again. We have invited her to say a few words later.

Mike Steel has been our efficient Webmaster for over 10 years but has decided he would like to step down. He has agreed to stay on managing the website until we can find a replacement so, if anyone is interested or who knows someone who is, please let us know.

Unfortunately, this is also true of Mary Quiney, who has done an excellent job of producing our newsletter for years. We hope you enjoyed the latest edition. Mary has decided that she wants to make the next one her last, so we are looking for someone who has publishing skills and may be willing to take over. Mary will help with the transition to her replacement.

We also have a couple of representatives on the Lavant Road Surgery Patient Participation Group and would like to support their Wellness Event at the end of June. We have a few notices about it around the room so, if you are interested, please talk to Pauline Sutton.

In order to get closer to our membership, both to understand the issues that concern them and, hopefully, to persuade more people to help, we are trying to build up an army of Road Champions, someone in each road who knows their neighbours and can let us know when new residents move in. We currently have volunteers for over half the roads in Summersdale but are still looking for people for areas such as Stanton Drive, Chestnut Avenue, Maplehurst Road and Ferndale Road. If you live in these roads and can help, please let us know.

Mary and Sara have also produced a new introduction to the SRA leaflet and some of them are available here. If you have volunteered to be a Road Champion or just know of newcomers who may be interested in joining, please take some.

This might be turning into a request for volunteers, but an organisation such as this can't function without them. Very many thanks go to everyone who already does help and thanks in advance if you would be willing to volunteer for any of these roles.

Treasurers Report and Adoption of Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

Treasurer, Peter Bickley gave further information on the items in the accounts, copies of which were distributed to all members present. Approval of the accounts was sought and this was proposed by Mr Patrick Madeley and seconded by Mr John Halliday. The accounts were voted on by all present and agreed unanimously.

Election of Committee Members

JS asked for re-election of all committee members en bloc. Committee members are Peter Bickley, Raymond Carter, John Halliday, Janet Leonard, Mark Todd, Jill Shaw, Pauline Sutton and Sara Wain. Mike Steel was not included. This was proposed by Mr Jeremy Hunt and seconded by Mr Craig Gershater. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

Re-Election of Independent Examiner Mr Clive Gaut.

This was proposed by Mrs Janet Leonard and seconded by Mrs Mary Quiney. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

Proposed change to the Constitution

The item in the agenda should read "In Clause 6.1 newsletter – substitute "twice a year" for "Quarterly". This change was proposed by Peter Bickley and seconded by Jeremy Hunt. All members present were invited to vote and agreed unanimously.

Other Resolutions

None

Open Forum

Paula Chatfield was invited to speak in her role of representative of Friends of Brandy Hole Copse. She said that the copse was an area of ancient woodland with some scheduled monuments and was a local nature reserve. A diversity of volunteers was needed to keep it the attractive place it is, from "meet and greet" volunteers to raise awareness to hand-on work. Last September, the group only had one member, the treasurer. A few volunteers still helped with a CDC member, then Paula herself became involved. The aim is to reinstate working parties, with the first one due to be held on 1 June to reduce the laurel growth. CDC need to write a management plan and an AGM needs to be held, hopefully by the end of September or early October. Educational activity would also be welcome as long as it accords with the constitution. Paula is also a tree warden, and information on Brandy Hole Copse can be found on the tree wardens' website.

A letter has been received by SRA from Mrs Hilary Swift asking if we could bring any influence to bear on the quality of service at the post office in the One Stop in The Broadway. JS said that although many people had their own stories of the service at the post office, a complaint would be best followed up by councillors. She had spoken to Craig Gershater who had spoken to the One Stop complaints department and explained the issues residents had. A reply has been received and passed to Jill Shaw. Craig and Jill will continue to pursue the issue.

Local Councillors

Mr Jeremy Hunt addressed the meeting in his capacity as West Sussex County Councillor. He said that it was a pleasure to be back in St Michael Hall in the centre of Summersdale. He gave some insight into what the Council do. In February the budget was set for the year at £709m. More is actually spent, including the schools grants from Government, bringing the gross budget to £1.9 billion for West Sussex. Supporting children's services is £175m, and in the county, 94% of schools are now rated good or outstanding. Social care takes £435m, and infrastructure costs for fibre optic cable installation also comes from the budget. Highways have had demands on the budget with the heatwave followed by the cold winter taking a toll on road surfaces with over 11,000 potholes reported. Closures of the A29 and the centre of Midhurst also need repair work, with the rescue of the frontage of the Angel Inn now started and estimated to take 6-8 weeks. Government funds are to be given to help with repair work.

The paving in East Street and North Street in the city centre needs attention and is an ongoing project. On the plus side, Ofsted reports have been good and the fire service is back on track and rated excellent, along with the success of the appeal against building in the Daffodil field.

Mr Jonathan Brown of CDC addressed the meeting and introduced himself. He grew up in Southbourne and established an environmental group. He said that councillors were not experts but represented residents and visitors and provided an oversight. Planning matters were most important with a rather contradictory system. The local plan has been updated but still presented a challenge. He said that he stood in Chichester North and is now deputy leader. Another important item on his agenda is to tackle carbon emissions and wishes to liaise with WSCC on this. Water quality continues to be an issue due to lack of investment but Southern Water are not the only ones at fault in this regard.

Mr Craig Gershater then addressed the meeting. He said that he now has the distinction of being the first American mayor of Chichester, as he has dual nationality. He has a scientific background and is also a public governor for the NHS trust. He plans to address the needs of residents and support charities, and a business plan is needed. He is involved with the First Start organisation. His wife is also a councillor for Chichester South.

Shiva Kight also a City councillor stood up to introduce herself and said that she would be pleased to speak to any residents who had any queries or questions she could address.

Speaker – Mr Henry Potter of South Downs National Park

Mr Potter gave a wealth of background information on the national parks movement, encompassing parks such as Yellowstone in the USA to Dartmoor in Devon. He explained the ethos behind the parks themselves and how the South Downs National Park affects our area, from rewilding to vineyards. He also explained how the popularity of parks was leading to erosion and footpath damage and that government help was needed but not always forthcoming. Centurion Way needed investment also, and loss of trees especially on the Goodwood estate was becoming a problem. Members learned much about their local national park, and Mr Potter's talk was received with warm applause.

Mr Mark Todd, SRA's Goodwood Liaison representative, thanked Mr Potter for his insight into the running of the park and said how pleasing it was to hear of the work done there. The importance of the park to our area could not be underestimated.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8:45 pm and drinks and canapes were served to all attending.

Why did the toad cross the road?

Dr Ray McGlone

In summer 2020 I was walking past a drying up ditch and discovered hundreds of toad tadpoles about to die. I took a risk in order to save them and moved them to my new nature pond. "A risk" because Ranavirus virus can be spread this way – though toads seem more resistant to the virus than frogs. Some weeks later I had lots of little toads coming out of the pond, it was like a David Attenborough film. I spent some time trying to disperse them around the area knocking on neighbours' doors to see if they would like a natural way to keep the slug population down. Last year they started to return to my pond to breed, so we have a toad colony in Summersdale now.

A word of caution- frogs will spawn in quite small ponds, but toads need large ponds with some depth. If you have had an adult toad in your garden in the past it is most likely a remnant of an older native population as toads

can live up to 40 years; indeed such a toad lived quite happily in a Greenhouse in Yorkshire. Most are lucky to make it to 10 years in the wild.

There has been a 70% reduction in UK Toads over the past 30 years due to habitat loss and road kill. The Toads migrate back to their ancestral ponds/lakes usually in February though it does depend on the temperature and humidity. With global warming the toads have been migrating earlier so they are crossing roads in the dark during commuter time - so more cars to kill them!

It's estimated that **20 tonnes** of toads are killed on the UK's roads every year! So my next task to reverse the trend of decline was to look for a toad crossing place (*see below*). Eventually a retired GP told me that one of his old patients used to help out near Stansted Park near Brick Kiln Lakes. So in 2021 I drove to the site whilst it was raining in February having seen on Facebook that the Sussex migration had started. I was unprepared so got soaked trying to rescue all the many toads being killed by traffic.

I got the site recognised by FROGLIFE www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/facts-figures/ and we are now in the 3rd year of

patrolling the road. In my spare time as an A&E Consultant I organise the patrol with volunteers. One elderly patroller who helped at this site in the 1970s said there used to be hundreds crossing the road, but now with the increased traffic the numbers have declined drastically. When we are patrolling, the death rate is still around 10%, but without a Patrol it is nearer 50%. We try and target commuter time when there are more cars. Alas the toads are unaware of the Green Cross Code.

If you are interested in volunteering please register your offer on 'Find your nearest toad crossing (froglife.org)' and I will be notified. The toads started migrating earlier this year on 25th January!

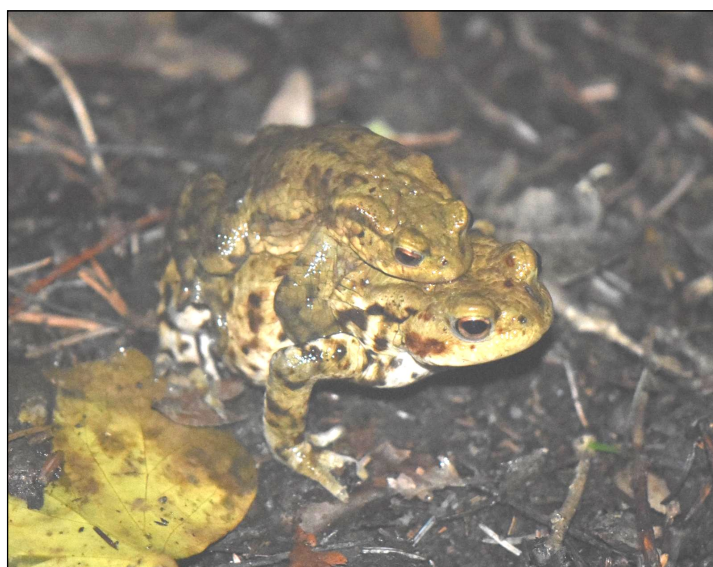
The site is near Post Code PO10 8RY or SU 757 092

The toad crossing is at

w3w.co/reservoir.vesting.ivory

and the GPS ref is 50.877008, -0.924252

Photographs courtesy of Toad Patrol



The site was acquired from the Goodwood Estate in 1938/39 as an emergency landing/dispersal airfield for nearby RAF Tangmere. Built on land belonging to the Goodwood Estate - the estate retained the Title Deed to the land which was returned when no longer required by the RAF in 1946. By 1940 the airfield was upgraded to satellite with its own squadrons based there.

In all 46 RAF, RN and USAAF squadrons operated from Westhampnett, including Polish, Belgium, Czech, New Zealand and Canadian aviators as well as British and American, supported by ground units and an Air Sea Rescue Flight.

The wartime airfield consisted of 3 grassed landing areas, Blister(8), Type T1 Aircraft Hangar(1), Pan Hardstandings(19), Small Pens(32) with enough temporary accommodation for 1362 males and 51 females. A number of buildings still stand from these times including the T1 Hanger, Control Tower, Blast Walls, and Parachute packing shed.

RAF Westhampnett was at the forefront during the Battle of Britain as a satellite station of Tangmere, which was a Sector Airfield in 11 Group, whose directing HQ was at RAF Uxbridge from where, Lord Hugh Dowding, as he was to become, successfully directed the air war. During the battle Hurricanes, Spitfires and P51 Mustangs operated from Westhampnett; as the war turned, Typhoons and Tempest took the fight to Germany and occupied Europe.

Group Captain Douglas Bader, one of the outstanding fighter pilots of the war, who had lost both legs in a crash during an air show in the 1920s, flew from Westhampnett. Today a statue of Bader stands close to the airfield entrance and in the village of Tangmere the pub is called the Bader Arms. The former Bader Arms on the corner of Malcolm Road, next to the dental clinic/community centre/recreation ground car park, has been a Co-op for a number of years. Bader a proponent of the Big Wing tactic was to fly his last sortie from Westhampnett; over Northern France he baled out from his damaged aircraft, and was captured and spent the remainder of the war in a POW Camp in Germany.

In 1946 the airfield closed and was returned to the 5th Duke of Richmond and the Goodwood estate. The Duke had a passion for both flying and motor racing and in 1948 The Goodwood Motor Racing Circuit was opened using much of the perimeter track of RAF Westhampnett. The motor racing circuit closed in 1966 having become too small for the increasing power of the modern racing car.

From 1958 Goodwood Airfield to the present day the airfield has been developed for civil aviation.

Summersdale Residents' Association

AGM

Wednesday May 15th 7.30 pm St Michael's Church Hall

Followed by wine and canapes

Life as a Fast Jet Pilot in the Cold War
Robert Lapraik

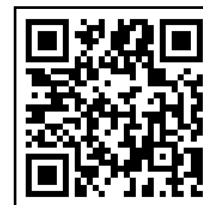


Hear about the background and training of an RAF pilot during the Cold War, a period when a tense peace was maintained through a strategy of mutually assured destruction. The talk includes original footage of flying training and the interception of Russian aircraft approaching UK Airspace through the 'Iceland-Faroes Gap' before briefly considering the impact of the Star Wars initiative on the end of the Cold War.

Since August 23 we have had a new website for the SRA. The concept is different in that it should be easier for more people to contribute and maintain it. We have also joined forces with FoOP (Friends of Oaklands Park). Because the new site is now 'mobile friendly' the exact layout depends on your device screen size.

The new site is intended to be more of a local community resource with the ability to have dynamic functions in different areas for a variety of needs. Its intended principles remain; locally focused, absolutely non-commercial, factual rather than opinion and primarily for the SRA and FoOP paid up members, with some input from Lavant Surgery too. Registration gives greater access within the site and facilitates adherence to our principles. Edits are attributable to the last author.

The structure and permissions can be adjusted to suit many purposes e.g. local clubs and interest groups or volunteering. It also aims to carry local 'late breaking news' items. FYI we also may use a URL shortener to provide more memorable links. So, a URL: <https://stross.net/u/sra-feedback> should bring you to a page requesting feedback on our website. These shortened URL may be adapted to point elsewhere in the site and all such links are benign and under this webmaster's direct control. We may use them to provide a thread for extra details and updates on paper newsletter articles.



Put your camera over this QR code and it will highlight the SRA web page in yellow

Useful features ...

- ◇ You can **subscribe** to pages so than any changes will generate an email to you ASAP or at the end of the day. You could try subscribing from <https://stross.net/u/lbni> You can also selectively review the most recent changes on the site.
- ◇ There is now a **search** facility you can use with your keywords e.g. try searching for 'diary' or 'calendar'.
- ◇ **Editing** the site only requires an ordinary browser, even on a phone, users can be granted appropriate permissions.
- ◇ PDF files can usually be viewed without needing a download.
- ◇ Newsletters and documents will now be **archived** on the new site.
- ◇ Within our guidelines we are happy to expand the site to your needs.
- ◇ Edits are ascribed to the last author and previous versions can be reverted to.
- ◇ Generally the webmaster is automatically made aware of all registrations and edits.
- ◇ There are no links to any record of users banking details.

SRA Home
Summersdale Residents Working Together, plus the Friends of Oaklands Park

Search

Recent Changes Media Manager Sitemap

Trace: • [minutes_of_our_previous_meetings](#) • [newart](#) • [newsartokpk](#) • [pstin-implications](#) • [recycle](#) • [newsletterwebsite](#) • [start](#)

The Summersdale Residents Association site.

Thank You! **alicia**, you are known to be in our paid up membership list for this group.

This area is the general area. It is maintained by **Paul Stross**

SRA Start Page

This is the **New Summersdale Residents Association (SRA) Website** (live since August 2023) also now it contains **The Friends**

Table of Contents

- SRA Start Page
- Main Areas
- Late Breaking News Items
- Meet Up Online?
- Data Pages

This is the SRA Home page - the page you will see on opening the SRA website

Spring will be an interesting time for discovering birds in Summersdale. With all the trees and large gardens, our area is a wonderful place for birds and with spring they are getting more active.

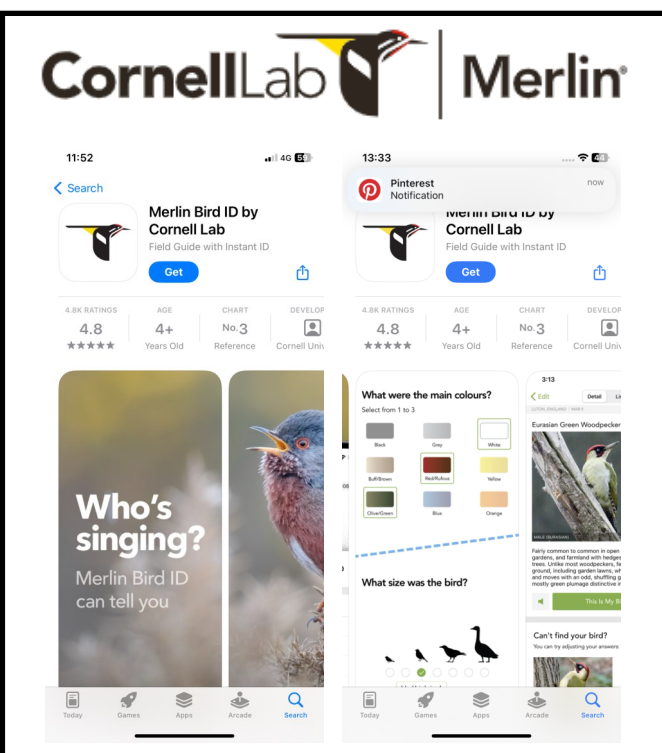
Many are getting ready to pair and nest, so it is an ideal time to listen and watch out for them. The great spotted woodpecker can be heard drumming on trees for food and to make a nest hole; its black, white, and red flash can be seen as its dipping flight takes it from tree to tree.

Blue tits, great tits and robins can be seen calling everywhere; you can download an app on your phone to help you identify them - the Merlin App can be used for free and helps you recognise their call (see more about this app below). You may also see and hear nuthatches (moving up and down the tree) and treecreepers moving up the tree.

You may start picking up and even hearing firecrests' and goldcrests' high pitched calls. Both are very small birds with a yellow/orange stripe on top of their heads; the firecrest has a white eye stripe and the goldcrest a white eye-ring. Both are very flighty, so patience and persistence is needed to see them; they are definitely here!

Another resident that is definitely here is the tawny owl; they can be heard calling to each other from dusk and constantly move around trees in the northern area of Summersdale from dusk onwards.

We are hoping to see the first spring/summer hirundines in Summersdale. We should see swallows and house martins very soon; they have already been seen in West Sussex. Swifts will arrive later and last year their high-pitched calls overhead were a feature of sunny summer days.



Photos courtesy of Jan Dart
Top Nuthatch
Middle Tawny Owl
Bottom Firecrest

'Supporting A Healthy Lifestyle'

Following last year's highly successful event, the Patient Participation Group for Lavant Road Surgery will be hosting 'Supporting A Healthy Lifestyle'.

This free event is on Tuesday 25th June from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm
at Oaklands Pavilion, Oaklands Park (Chichester Rugby Club), Wellington Road PO19 6BB.
For further information please email: Lrspg23@gmail.com

For 'out of control' dogs ring Ralph Walling 01243 521061 ext. 21061

Dates for Diaries 2024

Committee Meetings 2024	Goodwood 2024	Other information
Meetings will now be held at 7 pm at St Michael's Hall, Chichester Wednesday 10 April Wednesday 15 May AGM Meetings will then be held on Thursdays 6 June 18 July 12 September at St Paul's 24 October 5 December 16 January 2025 27 February 10 April 22 May AGM If any member has an issue that they wish to be discussed please email the Chairman at least two weeks before the meeting.	81st Members' Meeting Sat 13 - Sun 14 April Festival of Speed Thu 11 - Sun 14 July Qatar Goodwood Festival Tue 30 July - Sat 3 August Revival Meeting Fri 6 - Sun 8 September To contact the motor circuit call 01243 775060 or email on circuit@goodwood.com For noise management go to www.goodwood.com/motorsport/motor-circuit/history/noise-management/	Complaints about Goodwood flights go to www.goodwood.com/flying/aerodrome/noise-management/ fill in the online form, (or get someone to do it for you), and submit it so that there is a written record of the complaint. For other information summersdaleresidents.co.uk We post information on our notice board by the letter box in The Broadway. We will also advise you of any urgent matters by email No current allocated PCSO Phone 999 if urgent; 101 if non urgent

Your Committee up to May 2024

Chairman & Planning Secretary

Jill Shaw

email: chairman@summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Treasurer and Assistant Minutes Secretary

Peter Bickley

Minutes Secretary

Janet Leonard

Assistant Planning Secretary

Barbara Dart

email: planning@summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Deputy Chairman

Vacant

Membership Secretary

Pauline Sutton

email: membership@summersdaleresidents.co.uk

Environment Officer & Trees

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