

February / March 2020 Parish Magazine

**ST MARTHA PARISH COUNCIL**

**[www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)**

St Martha Parish Council wishes you all a Happy and Healthy New Year. A new year, a new decade!

Cllr Mrs Clare Price wrote: This is my first editorial as a Parish Councillor having stepped up to the role in June last year. Having previously grown up in the village and attended the village school it has been strange but pleasurable to attend the Parish Meetings in the school hall! Although we are a small Parish, I am pleased to report that we work closely with Shalford Parish Council and one of us always attends their meetings and likewise ours!

We thank Shalford Parish Council for the loan of the VAS Sign, (Vehicle Activated Speed sign) which has hopefully reassured some of the residents, in particular parents, who were concerned at the speed of the traffic approaching the school. It has also been agreed with Surrey Highways that 30mph signs will be painted on the road approaching the infant school.

In November there was a public meeting at the village hall held by Friends of the Chilworth Gunpowder Mills, in conjunction with the Parish Council and representations from Chilworth2gether. 2020 marks the 100-year anniversary since the closure of the Gunpowder Works and it is planned to commemorate this with various events. We had an interesting and informative evening with ideas/suggestions being put forward to recognise this occasion. We are also hoping to reignite discussions with Guildford Borough Council on West Lodge in the forthcoming months. This property is owned by Guildford Borough Council but as a parish we are keen to explore how we might make use of the small lodge, GBC have previously indicated that the property be put up for sale. The Lodge has an important historic significance, having been the entry/check point for workers to the Gunpowder Mills. The Parish Council believes it could possibly be used as an office, or an educational space with appropriate historic information relating to the site. We would welcome contributions from residents regarding the Lodge.

As a Parish Councillor we receive an interesting array of emails on various organisations, awards etc. One such email caught my eye, an invitation from the Head of Guildford YMCA notifying us that they had been given a national award for their work with unaccompanied asylum seeking children, and would we like to join them for mulled wine and mince pies in celebration of this award. Never one to turn down a glass of mulled wine I went along to meet some of these young people. I was bowled over by the work and dedication of the staff of YMCA Foyer who support and integrate these young adults. I have since had an email from the YMCA, asking if as a parish, any individuals or group would be interested in raising the profile of homelessness, domestic abuse etc. by participating in Sleep Easy 2020, i.e. sleeping out on the pavement for a night, and or raising or donating in support of the event. <https://www.ymcadlg.org/get-involved/fundraise/sleep-easy/> I hope that we may in some way support them, either individually or otherwise.

Our next meeting is Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at Chilworth Infant School at 7.30pm.  
Members of the public are welcome to attend. Information on the website:  
[www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk](http://www.stmarthaparishcouncil.co.uk)

**Councillors:**

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