

September News Letter

Her Majesty

It is of course with great sadness that our Queen has passed on to be with her late husband the Duke of Edinburgh. Our thoughts are with the Royal family, the United Kingdom, the common wealth and the whole world that she has touched for so many years.

God rest the Queen and God Save the King.

Street Party

A big thank you to Emma and James for arranging this event to celebrate Her Majesty's 70th year on the throne. A truly historic and unique event. Thank you to all who took part to make this day special.



Summer Party

This year's party was really a welcome back to normality after the covid pandemic. We had over 50 people attend and made a modest profit of around £100. A big thank you to all that helped and contributed to the event. This year it was moved to midday in order to secure a live band and enjoy the warmth of a summer day. The band **Kent** was fresh off the plane from the USA. The lunch time event meant we could organise some field games which entertained the children and some more adventurous adults.



Roads

Wheatsheaf Lane and Riverside are still holding up well. Thames Side continues to crumble.

The committee has been looking into various options for repairing the pot holes in Thames Side in the most cost efficient way. Hence the delay in getting it done. As we are getting to the end of the good weather it is important we now act swiftly.

Work Party

We are now moving ahead with a work party on Saturday 17th of September at 12:00 to fill the pot holes on Thames Side with cold tar. We will need around half a dozen volunteers to prep the holes, fill and compress. Meet at the cutting between Riverside and Thames Side. Please let me know by emailing chairperson@silverysands.org if you are able to contribute. If anyone has a wacker plate compactor please let me know as this will save hiring one. If necessary we can have another go on Sunday.

The area outside 94 Thames Side will be left or now until the drive way is sorted.

Soakaways

We have three soakaways on Riverside Close at the entrances to Thames Side. All of these are blocked and need to be cleaned out before the real rain storms come.

BT Fast Fibre Internet

BT will shortly be putting in connection boxes so we can get their fast fibre to the home service. BT no doubt will be dropping notes through the door when it is available.

Bins On Silvery Sands

We have all bin watching as the council and environment agency squabble over who should empty the two bins on Silver Sands. Currently we have the environmental health putting pressure on the EA and Michele is trying to work wonders with the council to find the funds.

In the past we have emptied the bins on occasion to keep the neighbourhood clean and tidy. However, at the moment we are not doing this in order to keep the pressure on via environmental health.

We hope the situation is sorted soon. However, we still have a few aces up our sleeve. So please be patient.

Swans

Over the years we have always had a presence of swans which have come over from Truss Island to be fed or to graze on the bank or meadow which has never been a problem. Over the last 18 months or so the numbers of swans in our area has increased dramatically. We now get flocks of 100+ birds on the bank which deposit a considerable amount of guano. This overflow from Truss Island has started to cause environmental health issues for local residents on our side of the river due to the amount of droppings including:-

- Asthma from the ammonia.
- Blue bottle flies.
- Rats

The problem appears to be caused by the re-homing of swans by the Swan Sanctuary to Truss island and the large scale illegal dumping of commercial food waste which contributes a considerable share of the over feeding. The swans are better off eating their natural food such as weed and grass which are both in plentiful supply. We are trying to reduce the illegal feeding and hence encourage them to disperse. We are not trying to discourage the legal activities of families with a few slices of bread.

Rogue Boat

We get the occasional boats mooring along the public footpath. However, they are only supposed to stay for up to 24 hours. Some stay a little longer. We have one boat outside 84 Thames Side that has overstayed it's welcome. The EA have been contacted and they are actively trying to get the boat to move on. Thanks to all those people who have contacted the EA to in support with this issue.