



Designed by Anna Campbell,  
aged 11, from Vale School.

## Findon Valley Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of our community  
and the countryside around us.  
[www.findonvalley.org](http://www.findonvalley.org)

# SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Following on from our successful AGM in March, this is the first newsletter under the name of our new Chairman, Doug Jull, and myself as President.

We are pleased to inform you that 2011 is our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! The FVRA was formed in 1936 as a result of 36 Valley people coming together to successfully stop the building of a factory. A lot has happened since then as the Findon Valley community grew and brought in both retired and younger families with the wider variety of houses and bungalows built on both the east and west side of Findon Road!

More can be read about the history of Findon Valley and its local people via [www.findonvalley.org](http://www.findonvalley.org) Let's swiftly time travel to the present day and let you read a summary of our recent AGM Minutes.

Leroy W. Bryan F.I.B.B., FVRA President  
Doug Jull, FVRA Chairman

### **Special thanks**

Firstly we would like to say a big thank you to some members of the FVRA committee who have made a significant contribution in the work they have done and have now stepped down from their responsibilities: David Goncalves as Chairman, Tony Wray as Treasurer, Pam Pilbury as Events Committee Secretary, Brian Oliver as Events Committee Member, Alex Clouter as Membership Secretary, Doreen Tickner as Assistant to Membership, Susan Smith as Committee Member. Iona Harte is now Acting FVRA Secretary until we find another person to take this role on. We appreciate everything they have done in their roles for the benefit of everyone.

We also want to convey our thanks to the rest of the committee and our team of road collectors in their dedication and hard work over the past 12 months

Secondly we welcome Helen Higgins who has come forward to be the new Membership Secretary. She is now having a handover of work from Alex to prepare everything for collecting 2011 subscriptions from Findon Valley residents, during the summer.

### **Your help please**

We always like to see 'new blood' in our team and we have decided to encourage interested people who would like to attend our monthly committee meeting to find out what we do and possibly play a more active role.

If you are keen to be part of our FVRA committee or indeed help us with the Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening or be on our road collector team,

you can call Doug Jull on 01903 872241 or email him on [chairman@findonvalley.org](mailto:chairman@findonvalley.org)

### **Welcome from the previous Chairman**

The meeting began at 19.30. David Goncalves welcomed everyone and introduced all the guests who were present: Tim Loughton MP. , Martin Garratt, Headteacher at the Vale First and Middle School, Carole Beatty, Manager of the Findon Children & Family Centre (C&FC), PCSO Shauna Bowen, Cllr Clem Stevens, Cllr Reg Green, Cllr Elizabeth Sparkes & Fred Weller, Chairman of the High Salvington Residents' Association.

There was a one-minute silence out of respect for Mrs Betty Quinell, lifelong member of FVRA, who passed away early this year.

### **Election of Committee**

The people below were proposed by Reg Green, seconded by Barry Winter, representing the general public, and were therefore unanimously and duly elected:

President – Leroy Bryan  
Chairman – Doug Jull  
Acting Secretary – Iona Harte  
Treasurer – David Goncalves  
Membership Secretary – Helen Higgins  
Planning/Environment Liaison Officer – Maggie Winter  
School/C&FC Liaison Officer – Verity Cullingford  
Webmaster – Alex Clouter  
Neighbourhood Police Panel Rep – Maggie Winter  
Friends of FVRA – Doreen Tickner/David Morgan

### **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that, with the support of the committee, he had been instrumental in many achievements for the FVRA. Membership is at an all time high and records are maintained confidentially on a computerised database. The web site has been extensively developed to its current state and enables residents with email to receive a regular e-newsletter. A strong working relationship between FVRA and Vale First and Middle School is developing as well as ongoing contact with councillors and special interest groups to ensure local harmony and tackle local issues together. Also the FVRA accounts have been successfully moved to an IT-based system.

The FVRA mounted a huge campaign against HSBC closing the King's Parade sub-branch and although unsuccessful, there is now a well-used cash point installed at the Findon Valley Post Office also offering other banking services.

The FVRA also helped to promote the 'Save Findon Fire Station' campaign but West Sussex County Council decided to go ahead with the closure at the end of March due to local government cutbacks.

Another campaign was the 'Use it or Lose it' initiative for Findon Valley Library. Opening hours have been cut back and usage is being monitored. The FVRA urges all residents to use the library facilities to ensure its future.

#### **FVRA Treasury Report**

The team of 28 road collectors were out and about collecting annual membership subscriptions last year and collected £1573 from residents.

£3032 is the healthy year-end balance considering the number of campaigns fought.

Over £1000 was donated to Chestnut Tree House due to the success of the 2010 Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening and a special thanks must be given to the FVRA Events committee for their hard work in making it a highly successful occasion.

The FVRA accounts are in the process of being audited.

#### **2010 AGM Minutes/Matters Arising**

Minutes were proposed as correct by Alex Clouter and seconded by Reg Green.

Allotments: No suitable land in Findon Valley has been found.

Membership: Total paid members were 901 as of 31/01/2011, 76 were new members and total unpaid members were 193.

Travellers: There were various meetings between Worthing Borough Council (WBC) and the FVRA; there are now bunds at the car park in Bost Hill and new gate locks. Costs have been approved for high-rise barriers at Storrington Rise. Shepherds Mead is tenanted land and we still need to keep an eye on this.

For residents whose gardens back onto the Gallops, their privacy has been affected by the removal of hedgerows; the Russian vine has been removed and new saplings have been planted. The only complaint now is that WBC are still cutting this hedgerow back at the wrong time of year and should look to do this in the Autumn to avoid the season when birds are nesting and local wildlife are raising their young.

A24/A27 issues: David Morgan does not believe there is anything worthwhile to do as there are many government cutbacks but will help out as and when required.

#### **Vale School Headteacher's Report – Martin Garratt**

The Vale First and Middle School is a great school with great children and staff. Mr Garratt is keen to form a stronger link with the FVRA. Last year the school had a successful Carol Concert at the Late Night Christmas Shopping event. The school wants to continue to develop the children and to include them working in the wider community as part of this development. An

example is a museum that has been started at the school with a Second World War themed exhibition - the school doors are open to whoever would like to see this. Mr Garratt also expressed his interest to invite local people who have the time to become readers, listening as school children are reading aloud. CRB checks would have to be carried out. If anyone is interested please contact the school via [office@vale.w-sussex.sch.uk](mailto:office@vale.w-sussex.sch.uk) or on 01903 872 322.

#### **Q&A**

Parking is still an issue. Could the school contact the local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator if there is an after-school event or Sports Day for example? Yes, ask the coordinator to contact the school office.

A proposal of thanks for help with the FVRA logo (this can be seen p.1) was given from Alex Clouter, which is now in use on all FVRA printed and online communications.

#### **Children & Family Centre Report – Carole Beatty**

Carole Beatty has worked in Early Years during her working life and is passionate about learning. Services at the C&FC are developing all the time and now have around 250 visits per week. There are partnerships with Maternity Services, Health Visitors, Physiotherapy, NCT/Childminding, help with speech and language. There is an open door policy and any ideas will be gratefully received.

#### **Q&A**

Is the success of the Findon C&FC dependant upon the number of people through the door? Yes, it is funded by WSCC and has OFSTED evaluations with the aim of working more closely with the Vale First and Middle school and Findon Valley library. The C&FC is also offering informal support for the pre-schools.

Will there be any celebration to mark the first year anniversary of the opening of the centre? Yes, at the end of May.

What about special needs? Once a month on a Saturday, they support families with additional needs like autism, ADHD and mobility issues.

What is the catchment area for the C&FC? A24 and A27, High Salvington, Clapham and Patching.

#### **Police Report – PCSO Shauna Bowen**

Residents are very lucky that our area is a low crime ward.

#### **Q&A**

Where can we find crime figures for our ward? Visit website [www.police.co.uk](http://www.police.co.uk) and enter in your postcode. The information archive goes back on a rolling 12-month basis.

What has happened with the reported trespasser seen walking around on the Gallops? There has been no further incidents or activity.

#### **Report from Tim Loughton, MP**

The Late Night Christmas Shopping Evening was very successful and was bigger and better than in previous years.

A delegation of local people including MPs Tim Loughton and Peter Bottomley, a representative from the Chamber of Commerce and individuals from local businesses went to Westminster to meet with Philip Hammond, Transport Minister, to discuss the impact of A27 heavy traffic on local businesses. Philip Hammond indicated that improvements around Chichester would be first, followed by work on the Arundel by-pass, thereby giving the A27 stretch through Worthing a stronger case. He also mentioned that rather than a through pass, a tunnel could be considered alongside the cost implications and its likelihood. Philip Hammond subsequently came down to Worthing to see, firsthand, the A27 traffic flow from Shoreham to Chichester. It was unfortunate he chose an exceptionally traffic-free day to drive along this part of A27 and did not encounter the issues we all encounter on a daily basis.

There is a consultation over the future of Southlands Hospital, to transfer the operating capacity and beds over to Worthing Hospital. Ophthalmology could be moved to Southlands. Worthing Blind Society is not happy about this and will oppose any move of the unit to Southlands. A public meeting took place on Tuesday 15 March regarding this and we are awaiting the outcome.

With regard to the 134 Warren Road development one of the conditions is to have a clear view of the A27. This can only be achieved if the developers could buy a strip of land owned by Worthing Homes. Worthing Homes have categorically said that it will not sell and therefore the development is unlikely to go ahead.

**Q&A Forum with the FVRA**  
No questions were asked

**Q&A Forum with the MP and Local Councillors**  
What is happening with the development at Teville Gate? There is no further development at present. A multiplex cinema, a supermarket and underground parking are planned and the plans can be seen at Portland House. There are issues with the roads and access and this is being reviewed at WSCC.

There have been complaints about the new cycle path on the east side of Findon Road: there is concern that the path is a 'free for all' and the new tarmac surfacing reduces tyre noise meaning that those with hard hearing are unaware of cyclists coming from behind pedestrians. These issues were passed to Clem Stevens to investigate.

Both East and West Sussex Fire Brigades are to merge following the lead of the current Police structure.

The mortuary task force are looking at 5 possibilities to site a mortuary in West Sussex, however 2 have been closed. Investigations will continue.

**Any Other Business**  
Leroy Bryan proposed a vote of thanks to David Goncalves for all his hard work as Chairman and congratulated him and his wife, Donna, on the imminent birth of their baby.

Leroy Bryan also welcomed Doug Jull as new Chairman of FVRA and thanked the FVRA committee for all their help in the voluntary work undertaken over the last 12 months.

He also expressed his appreciation to Tim Loughton, Reg Green, Clem Stevens, Fred Weller and the guests, Martin Garratt, Carole Beatty and Shauna Bowen in attending the AGM. A special thank you was given to residents in coming along to the AGM.

The meeting closed at 20:50.

**Advertised vacancies on the FVRA Committee**

- Vice Chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Press/Publicity Officer
- Event Committee Chairman
- Event Committee Members
- Road Collectors

If you want to know more and/or interested in applying for these positions or would just like to sit on the committee in a general capacity, please contact Doug Jull: telephone no. 01903 872241 or by email [chairman@findonvalley.org](mailto:chairman@findonvalley.org)

**FVRA e-newsletter service**

Receive our fortnightly e-newsletter giving you the latest information update from the FVRA web site. Just send your name, postal address and email address to [site@findonvalley.org](mailto:site@findonvalley.org) All personal information is securely stored on Microsoft Access database and the FVRA is registered in accordance with the Data Protection Act. It is our policy not to pass personal information onto any third party outside of the FVRA.

If you have recently changed your email address, please email [site@findonvalley.org](mailto:site@findonvalley.org) to enable us to amend your records.

**Promote your business or interest on our web site**

Our 'useful links' section is the 4<sup>th</sup> most popular page on the FVRA web site.

We try to cover all local businesses, clubs and other voluntary groups promoting special interests in charity, sports, walking, craft, scouts, guides etc. Do take a look at 'useful links' and if we do not feature your organisation please email [site@findonvalley.org](mailto:site@findonvalley.org)

All we ask in return is to reciprocate by including our web site in your links section.

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**EVERYONE AT THE FVRA  
WISHES YOU A VERY  
ENJOYABLE SUMMER**

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