

BYGONE TONGHAM

The second in a series of historical images of our village by Ye Olde Codger

TONGHAM RAILWAY - Part One

Bridge Mews, the group of houses adjacent to the parade of shops in The Street, sits on the site of the old warehouse and Tongham Railway Station. In 1846 the London and South Western Railway Group were granted permission by Parliament to construct a line from Guildford through to Alton. Tongham station was built some three years later providing a link to Aldershot which at that time was still a small village. The importance of this connection was due to the development of Aldershot into the huge military establishment that became known as the Home of the British Army.

Of course, no such endeavour could be constructed without a certain amount of controversy. And just as the great railways being built across the wild west of America shunted the native Red Indians from their homes, so the LSWR affected the farmers in Tongham. The original Manor Farm, which stood by the cross roads, suffered as the railway cut right through the yard of the farm almost touching the wall of the house. A level crossing was constructed to give access to the fields. Sadly, with the arrival of the railway the farm's prosperity declined and it changed hands several times. The last owner of the farm was declared bankrupt, the land was sold, the buildings became derelict and finally demolished in 1930. (For more information about this episode see Geoffrey Birch's book "The History of Tongham...a Surrey Village").

The railway, however, continued to thrive (including the additional line that was added in 1898 to give a direct line running north from the station to the recently opened Aldershot Gas Works). To the people of Tongham the line must have seemed like a Godsend once the dust had settled. Speedy access to Guildford, Farnham and Aldershot was perfect for both the commuters and for the farmers and small businesses who could move their products quickly and cheaply to the market towns.

Sadly it was not to last...and by the mid 1920's the railway had come under the ownership of Southern Railway. By the late 1930's it had been reduced to an unmanned Halt. But a worse fate was yet to come. Nationalisation saw the demise and closure of many village stations and the last train through our village was in December 1960.



Tongham Railway Station.

OLIO

Join the food sharing revolution with OLIO

OLIO's vision is for millions of hyper local food sharing networks all around the world. OLIO can help create a world in which nothing of value goes to waste, and every single person has enough to eat – without destroying our planet in the process. If you love food, hate waste, care about the environment or want to connect with your community, OLIO is for you.

What is OLIO?

OLIO connects neighbours with each other and with local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by date in local stores, spare home-grown vegetables, bread from your baker, or the groceries in your fridge when you go away. For your convenience, OLIO can also be used for non-food household items too.

Share it!

If you have frozen, stored and filled your belly but still have some food that needs a new home, try sharing it with family, friends or neighbours. Alternatively, you can donate it to someone in your area via a free food sharing app such as OLIO.

OLIO is super easy! To make an item available, simply open the app, add a photo, description, and when and where the item is available for pick-up. To access items, simply browse the listings available near you, request whatever takes your fancy and arrange a pick-up via private messaging.

Although they've only just begun, OLIOers have already accomplished a lot. Together, we can end food waste!

401,208 Items of food have been shared
260,534 OLIOers have joined the Food Sharing Revolution
172,608 Meals saved from going to waste
13,278 OLIO volunteer Ambassadors and Food Waste Heroes!
271 Radio, TV and press pieces
41 Countries food has been shared in

OLIO believe that small actions can lead to big change. Collectively – one rescued cupcake, carrot or bottle of lotion at a time – we can build a more sustainable future where our most precious resources are shared, not thrown away. Join today! Get the OLIO app on your phone now!

<https://olioex.com>



Courses available in Seale Village hall, only 5 minutes 'drive' away, for puppy training and socialization and scent work, Contact info@tricksntreats.co.uk or call 07702 070592 to book your place. Check out the website for all other services, e.g. dog-walking or cat sitting.

www.tricksntreats.co.uk



TONGHAM PARISH NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2018

TWIG

TONGHAM WOODS IMPROVEMENT GROUP (TWIG)

A little bit of countryside within the village Tongham Woods lie between the village and the A331 and can be accessed from Garbetts Way through the lockups, from Grieve Close or from the Moors by the underpass. It is popular with dog walkers, families, joggers and cyclists and is used as a scenic shortcut from the underpass to the village centre.

The area has been managed by a group of volunteers (TWIG) assisted by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership since October 2002 when the neglected land, unmanaged, overgrown and subject to fly-tipping, was adopted and



turned into an amenity that could be used by the whole community for leisure and recreation and to further encourage wildlife to the area. It consists of an ancient woodland, a mature but recently planted woodland, meadow, and recently planted hedgerows. Part of it was originally an orchard and some of the old, original fruit trees have been supplemented over the years by the planting of a number of new fruit trees with varieties that gave their names to the surrounding estate street names.

Since taking control of the management of the area number of habitats have been developed that visitors can walk around: the orchard brings blossom in spring and fruits in autumn (apple, pear, plum, blackberries, cherries and elderberries); the butterfly glade brims with activity in summer and the wildflower walk becomes full of colour and attractive grasses. Shaded woodland walks can be taken through old oak trees and rest taken at the benches positioned throughout the wood.



Over the years the volunteers have performed a number of improvements including:

- Path laying and maintenance
- Building bridges across ditches
- Replanting the orchard
- Planting new woodland
- Managing the existing woodland
- Establishing new wetland habitats
- Planting new hedgerows to encourage wildlife

These activities have been made possible by the hard work of the volunteers who have been assisted in some of the bigger tasks by the local Scout Group. Some funding has been gratefully received from Tongham Parish Council and from Samfest and has been used to purchase tools, plants and benches.

New Volunteers Always Welcome

The volunteers meet for a work task once a month on the third Sunday of the month and meet at the Garbetts Way entrance at 10.00am and new volunteers are always welcome if you fancy a free workout to benefit wildlife and the community. Stout footwear and suitable old clothing for the weather should be worn but tools are provided along with well deserved tea and biscuits at a convenient break point in the task. The task generally lasts about 2 - 3 hours but you only need to stay as long as you wish or are able to. Activities can range from light duties of litter picking, to cutting back bramble, coppicing, planting, brush cutting and tree lopping - you can choose whether to carry out light or heavy duties.

VICTIM SUPPORT

Victim Support (VS) is an independent charity dedicated to supporting victims of crime and traumatic incidents in England and Wales. Our purpose is to provide specialist help to support people to cope and recover to the point where they feel they are back on track with their lives.

Our volunteers play a wide range of vital roles within Victim Support, providing emotional and practical support to people affected by crime, supporting our office teams with project work or administration, and raising much-needed funds. Victim Support volunteers generously give their time to help people move beyond crime. Their support helps people feel stronger, understood and able to move forward with their lives.

We always need new volunteers to join our local Surrey team – we'd love to hear from you! For more information see our website: <https://www.victimsupport.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/being-volunteer> or email SurreyVolunteering@victimsupport.org.uk

FOOTBALL'S COMING HOME

Tongham Football Club . . .

. . . are delighted to announce the return of the Saturday senior football club to the Poyle Rd Recreation Ground for the coming 2018-19 season after a 2 season absence.

The club formed in 1902, where records showed the reserve team winning the Surrey Junior Cup is steeped in a proud history and is well respected throughout the county of Surrey.

Like a lot of voluntary run sports club's nowadays the club ran into problems a couple of seasons back with commitment from its playing members, and struggled on until throwing the towel in half way through the 2016-17 season, however they are now back and will compete in the Guildford and Woking Alliance Premier Division this season which is only one division below the Surrey Intermediate League Western which they were competing in when the club's officers decided enough was enough, Chairman Les Oakley said " It can only be good for the village to once again be represented on the football front as village life needs this" The team will be managed by the ex Fleet Spurs and Ash Utd 's Adam Streeter.

The rebirth of football at the rec has seen local organisations getting together to help with funding for new goals and equipment these include Nisa Tongham, Tongham Parish Council, Tongham Community Association and it is hoped the Tongham Institute fund will also contribute, so huge thanks to all those organisations in demonstrating the unity that still exists within Tongham Village.

Along with the Saturday side there will be a Sunday senior side playing Sunday mornings as well as an Ash Community u13's team coming to play at the rec on a Saturday morning for more information and forthcoming fixtures please refer to the many village notice boards or visit the Tongham Community website, the season will commence at the Recreation Ground for all teams following the conclusion of the current cricket season on the 15th September 2018. Bar in the community centre is open to all on match days so why not come along enjoy a drink in your community centre and support your local village team !!

USEFUL CONTACT INFORMATION

Tongham Parish Council

W: www.surreycommunity.info/tonghamparishcouncil
E: tonghamclerk@outlook.com
T: 01252 782893 (Mon AM & Tues AM only)

Surrey County Council

W: www.surreycc.gov.uk
E: contact.centre@surreycc.gov.uk
T: 03456 009 009

Guildford Borough Council

W: <https://www.guildford.gov.uk>
E: customerservices@guildford.gov.uk
T: 01483 505050

WHAT'S ON

TONGHAM BONFIRE EVENING

Tongham Bonfire will be burning again on Saturday 3rd November. Look out for more information on Facebook and website –we will be asking for help to build the bonfire.

The Scouts will be taking part in a torchlight procession, there will be a Guy competition, side shows, fireworks by Flashpoint Fireworks, the Scouts will be cooking Burgers, there will be glow sticks, drinks – and once again no charge, just a contribution to the Scouts who will be manning the gates. The money received is split 50/50 between the Scouts and the Parish Council (who use the money towards the cost of the Fireworks.)

This is a fantastic event and growing ever more popular – so be warned, as parking is very VERY limited in Tongham, car share, park in a friend's driveway, or walk where possible.

AUTUMN FAIR / EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Come and join us for a relaxed afternoon where you can browse through handmade craft stalls to stock up on gifts etc in time for Christmas (or even a treat for yourself!). Afternoon tea will be served, and there will also be a raffle. Taking place on Saturday 27th October from 2-4 in Old School, Tongham.

GUILDFORD INNOVATION

The Guildford Innovation Awards 2018 have been designed to celebrate what Guildford does best- innovate!

The awards build upon the success of the 2017 Innovate Guildford programme, celebrating inspirational innovation across a spectrum of sectors in the borough and promoting Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths ('STEM') subjects. They are open to individuals, businesses and social enterprises located in the Guildford Borough, with eight categories open for entries and a ninth, special award for 'Most outstanding innovation' whose winner will be drawn from all categories.



You can apply online for the Guildford Innovation Awards. Information supplied on the application form will be used to shortlist the entries. These will be evaluated at a group judging session which may then require members of the judging panel to visit the applicant to gain a better understanding of the innovation.

The deadline for submissions is noon on 31 October, allowing entrants to promote the best of their innovations in 2018. The judging will take place following this date. Applications are welcome from now until the closing date.

<https://www.guildford.gov.uk/innovationawards>

ST PAUL'S CHURCH

The vicar is leaving us.... temporarily!

Some of the village may be aware by now that our vicar, Revd Claire Holt, is on study leave from 1st August – 31st October 2018. If you know Claire at all, you will be aware that she puts 110% of herself into the vocation of vicar; as this is a distinct occupational hazard, all vicars are expected to have study leave / sabbaticals from time to time to re-charge their batteries.

Claire is hoping to have a time of quiet retreat, and a trip to the Holy Land; also to spend some time with family and friends, and come back to us refreshed in November. She will be in the village, but NOT on duty.

During her absence, the church will be manned by Rutton Viccajee, who is training at St Paul's (ordained on 1st July 2018) and by Revd John Kellagher; all services will be provided as usual, including Messy Church, Coffeepus, Fellowship lunch and so forth. Do come along and meet Rutton and John; you can be assured of a warm welcome!

COFFEE PLUS?

Join us for coffee, chat and play!

St Paul's church runs a Wednesday morning 'Coffeepus' group for mums, dads, Grandmas, childminders . . .and of course their babies and toddlers.

It's held in the Old School hall, next to the church in Poyle Road, every Wednesday from 10.30 am – 12 noon - except during the summer holidays – and yes, we continue running over half-terms, when older children are also welcome with their little brothers or sisters! The cost is a very reasonable £1.00 per adult; the sessions are set up and run by volunteers from the church, so you can simply come in, have a cup of tea or a freshly brewed coffee, (and nice biscuits!) and relax. There are lots of toys available for every taste and age from baby toys to slides to dolls and prams and trains and cars.

After the 10.00 am Wednesday service, around 11.00, The Vicar, Claire Holt, joins us and tells the children a story, during which they are given biscuits to munch on, and then they have activities linked to their story. They carry on playing until it's tidy up time; that's always good fun, as Claire leads a sing-a-long session whilst the volunteers clear the toys away and wash up. New members are always made very welcome – why not give it a try? We re-open on Wednesday 5th September at 10.30 am.

CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME

We hope you enjoy your newsletter and find it informative; it would be good to receive more input from you, the residents of Tongham and to know what you would like to see featured in here.

If you would like to contribute to the content of the next newsletter or would like to place an advertisement, please email Margaret our Tongham Parish Council Clerk on . . . tonghamclerk@outlook.com

TONGHAM WAR MEMORIAL

We cherish our past . . .

The war memorial (outside St Paul's church in Poyle Road) is Parish Council responsibility. Our thanks go to the church and especially the Buzz clubs for regular cleaning of the memorial; however, to mark the centenary of the end of the first World War, we have decided to ask Stonecrest of Ash to give the memorial a proper clean up, and to re-lead any existing names which need work. They will also be adding four names which were omitted from the memorial.



The annual service of Remembrance will take place on 11th November; the church service will commence at 10 am, and will move outside to the war memorial so that a proper memorial service can take place, with one minute's silence at 11 am. It would be a fitting tribute if the road closures (lasting for five minutes or so) were met with

support; last year our voluntary teams reported that several people were aggressive and full of complaint about the delays. Rest assured, signs will be up advising of the closure of the roads around the memorial, we are all aware that waiting for five minutes can seem a long time when you are in a hurry, but the men we are honouring gave their lives. So, please understand when our volunteers ask you to wait for a few minutes, or better yet – come along and join the service of Remembrance.

WANTED!!

Volunteers for Speed Gun Training

The whole village must be aware of the selfish and uncaring people who speed through our village, particularly in the evenings and early mornings; The Street and Poyle Road being particular speed-spots. The Parish Council are keen to promote the use of speed guns and are seeking volunteers for training; 6 people are needed to make the course happen.

We are also working with Surrey County Council (and many thanks to SC Councillor Matt Furniss for his support) to make the speed limit of 30 MPH more prominent and obvious.

From the Surrey Police website: "CSW has a credible part to play in making communities feel safer. The evidence shows that perceptions of speed vary from being unsubstantiated, through to levels that demand an effective enforcement regime. The volunteers are committed to the concept of self-help, and are providing both their communities and Surrey Police with an extremely valuable contribution to the wider objectives of road and community safety, as well as casualty reduction".

Volunteers – please contact the Clerk on tonghamclerk@outlook.com and hopefully we can prevent this nuisance behaviour from continuing – or at least make it better than it is right now!