

Weybridge Society

Your Residents Association, Working to Keep Weybridge a Pleasant Place to Live

Newsletter

Registered with the Civic Trust



Autumn 2008

Hon. Patron - Michael Aspel, OBE

The next meeting of the Weybridge Society
will be held on

MONDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 2008
at 8.00 p.m.(doors open 7.30 p.m.)
in St James' Church Centre, Weybridge
(please note this venue – ample parking in
Churchfields Car park)

The Speaker will be
JOHN D SMITH
who will take as his subject

**"WEYBRIDGE – THE STATION
THE RAILWAY COMPANY
DID NOT WANT"**
(illustrated by slides)

This is the story of how the mid-nineteenth century
residents of Weybridge persuaded the company to provide
them with a station.

All welcome - Members free, Guests £1.00

John Smith has been a member of Walton and Weybridge
Local History Society for some twenty years and was its
secretary for ten. Long interested in railways, he became
curious about some features of Weybridge station and
decided to research into its history. His investigations
started in Elmbridge Museum, and led via Surrey History
Centre, to the National Archives at Kew and the National
Railway Museum at York. The results were recorded in a
small book published by the Walton & Weybridge Local
History Society in 2003. Copies will be available for sale
at the meeting.



**TO JOIN
THE WEYBRIDGE SOCIETY**
**Please contact
any committee member
see back of this newsletter**

RECRUITMENT WEEK, SEPT 23rd TO SEPT 28th

Following suggestions
at the AGM in April that
the Society should be
more active in seeking
new members Carolyn
Pennycook arranged, at
the very last minute, to
organise a stall at the
Oatlands Village



Fayre. This was very successful, resulting in several new
members, and interest in the Society. (see item elsewhere in
this newsletter)

Alan Smith, a member of the Planning Panel approached
Weybridge Library with membership recruitment in mind,
and the manager, Judith White has kindly agreed that we
may have a small Recruitment Stall just inside the Library
by the Returns Desk with a member of the Society on duty
throughout Library opening hours, Sept 23rd - 28th. Please
note the Library has new opening hours, being closed on

Mondays, open Tuesdays 9.00 am to 7.00pm, and the rest
of the week, including Saturdays, 9.00am to 5.00pm. Most
duty periods for our recruitment volunteers will be 1 hour
and 50 minutes, meaning that it will be possible to park in
the Library Car Park for less than 2 hours.

If you would like to help with this project, talking about the
Society to any likely new members and hopefully signing
some up, please contact Alan Smith, as below. The Library
have been most helpful, offering tea/coffee to volunteers
as appropriate and the use of their toilets. Alan Smith
01932 857797 or alansusansmith@sky.com

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SURREY POLICE AUTHORITY CITIZEN'S PANEL

At the public meeting to launch *The Partnership Plan announced in the last newsletter the secretary asked the Surrey Police Authority to give information about their new 'Citizen's Panel', and they have kindly provided the following:

"Surrey Police Authority is an independent body made up of local people. Its job is to make sure that you have an efficient and effective local police force that meets the needs of the community, by consulting with the public, setting the budget and strategic direction for the force and holding the Chief Constable to account on behalf of local people.



Each year, we conduct county-wide research to establish people's views on policing, the results of which go to the Authority for their consideration when setting the Local Policing Plan for the year. In 2007, we took the views of 1,500 Surrey people through a series of road shows, a newspaper survey, a postal survey and a youth conference, helping us to understand people's priorities for Surrey Police in 2008/09.

For the next 3 years, we plan to establish a 'Citizen's Panel', a group of around 3,000 Surrey residents who are regularly asked for their views on policing matters by postal or email surveys. We are now inviting people interested in being a part of this Panel to contact us to sign up. When the panel is ready to begin, we will get back in touch to see if you would still like to take part.

We expect to send out 3 or 4 surveys a year to panel members via post or email, according to their preference. Participation is entirely voluntary and you can join or leave the panel at any time. If you would be interested in taking part in this panel and having your say on policing in Surrey, please send your name and preferred contact address to PO Box 412, Guildford, Surrey or spa@surrey.police.uk

*The Partnership Plan is a group of statutory bodies that make up the Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership, (ECSP), itself the statutory Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) for the Borough of Elmbridge, and is comprised of Elmbridge Borough Council (Chief Executive and Elected Member); Surrey Police; Surrey Police Authority; Surrey County Council; Primary Care Trust; Surrey Fire and Rescue Service, and Elmbridge Housing Trust. In order to achieve its aims, ECSP works in partnership with a variety of agencies from the public, private and voluntary sectors. Each year it must carry out an assessment of the levels of crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour within the borough. More information may be found on the Elmbridge Borough Council web-site at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/yourlife/crime.htm. E-mail contact with ECSP is:- communitysafety@elmbridge.gov.uk

At the formal part of the meeting, your secretary raised again the question of providing Police Community Support Officers within Surrey Police with stab-vests. Again the meeting was told that this was under consideration, that no decision had been taken, and that PCSOs were not deployed into situations where risk was anticipated. Their main aim was to reassure the public by their presence on the streets, etc. Surrey Police is apparently one of the few police services which do not provide such protection for their PCSOs.

PRESERVING FOOTPATHS

Richard Marshall, after relinquishing the chairmanship at the Annual General Meeting, has taken on 'Footpaths' as his new society responsibility, and to this end had submitted the following:

"If Weybridge is not to be throttled by traffic, generated by dependency on cars for all journeys, we need to keep open any paths which provide direct walking routes to town, station, schools etc. Surrey County Council (SCC) has responsibility for paths and for recording them on maps by a certain date. Some private roads are also public footpaths, e.g. across St Georges Hill, but many such old routes for pedestrians need to be witnessed by long-standing users so that SCC is bound to enter them on its maps. We hope to co-ordinate some witnessing from people who can remember the longer history of paths they use. Any member who knows of a valuable footpath which needs to be officially recorded is invited to let us know. This also applies to the sometimes little known 'short cuts' which run between roads in built-up areas.

Fortunately, the longer footpaths which are already recognised for leisure-walking or for cycling to work are fairly well marked. A new footpath to Byfleet along the Wey is nearly complete but awaits the railway's approval for the section near Seven Arches Bridge. Meanwhile, the Brooklands Museum has reopened the tunnel under the racetrack near *The Dell which is to be used only for major museum events, so that a walk to the Museum from the station is now shorter and mostly 'off-road'. More such routes would help save Weybridge from traffic congestion". *(Please contact Richard, details in the Committee List at the end of this newsletter, if you have suggestions or comments regarding footpaths).*

* The Dell – (With thanks to John Pulford, Head of Collections & Interpretation at Brooklands Museum, who with the help of volunteer Tony Hutchings has supplied the following information about the tunnel):

"The Paddock Entrance Road tunnel was constructed beneath and at the same time as the Members' Banking in the winter of 1906-07. It was used by members of the Brooklands Automobile Racing Club both on foot and in their cars, and by those members competing in events as it led them straight to the Paddock. It closed in 1939 when racing ceased and was eventually blocked up, probably during the war.

It was also part of a High Speed Reliability Trials circuit when the cars drove through the tunnel, out on to the entrance road, back over the Members' Bridge and down the Test Hill".

DID YOU KNOW?

Because, by 1872, 1,000 people regularly attended St James' Church, it was decided another church was needed. St Michael's in Princes Road was built, and consecrated in 1874. The architect was William Butterfield.

Services at St. Michael's lasted until 1973, and because of declining congregations, the church was closed, and the parishioners returned to St James'. St Michael's was demolished – and now St Michael's Court – a block of flats – is on the site. (Information from Weybridge Past, by Neil White, published by Phillimore).



HERITAGE OPEN DAYS – 13/14 September

This year the United Reformed Church, Queens Road, Weybridge, will be open to welcome visitors as part of the annual celebration of England's cultural heritage organized by the Civic Trust.

This church was built and dedicated in 1865 as a Congregational Church, mainly as the result of the beneficence of the Chamberlain of the City of London, Benjamin Scott. He was an early commuter, having moved to Weybridge in 1854 to live in his new home, Heath House (now Lorimar House) in what is now called Hanger Hill.



The church is a Grade II listed building designed by John Tarring, an architect noted for non-conformist churches in SE England. It contains a Willis organ, also given by Benjamin Scott, and this will be played during Open Days.

In 1972 the Congregational Church in England & Wales united with the Presbyterian Church of England to form the United Reformed Church, hence the church's current name.

All are welcome to visit the church and also the hall where light refreshments will be available and exhibitions relating to church activities on view. Opening times: Saturday 13th September 10am–5pm, Sunday 14th September 12noon–5pm (*This item was contributed by our member Jean Smith, to whom we express our sincere thanks – we hope as many of you as possible will take the opportunity to visit this important Weybridge building*).

FRIENDS OF ST JAMES' CHURCH

Linda Tame, of the Friends of St James writes:

"St James' Church Weybridge warmly invite you to *A Passion for Churches* - 21st November 2008.

Poet Laureate, writer and broadcaster - or 'poet and hack' as he described himself in *Who's Who*, John Betjeman celebrates the art and architecture of church buildings, in a documentary made in 1974, entitled "*A Passion for Churches*". And there is more - the producer of the film, the eminent and acclaimed documentary maker Edward Mirzoeff CVO CBE will be introducing the film along with copious anecdotes about Sir John, who became a good friend. A Big Screen presentation in the church building with a wine reception. A light-hearted but informative evening to relax you into Autumn. Doors open 7.00 for 7.30 : Tickets £7 inclusive of first glass of wine, available from Linda Tame, 01932 240869, or Raymond Spary, 01932 888214.



(Edward Mirzoeff may also be researched on *Who's Who*. Most famously he spent some 12 months in the close presence of HM Queen in the making of his documentary "*Monarchy*" but this is only one of his many triumphs - you can guess he was not chosen as the producer of this work without having an impressive track record!)."

SUMMER PARTY REPORT, 15.06.2008



More than 90 members and friends enjoyed the delightful Monet-esque gardens of Committee Member Anne Lindsay and her husband Ray. Ray and two colleagues provided music during the afternoon, which added to the gentle ambience of the event. The weather was kind, though hardly the 'flaming June' of previous years! Unfortunately, our Patron Michael Aspel and his wife were unable to be with us this year, and neither was our new chairman, Barry Judd – they all had other engagements.

Anne Littleton, in her capacity as Society Vice Chairman welcomed all present, and reminded everyone that the proceeds of the afternoon would be donated to the Sam Beare Hospice in Weybridge Hospital. A raffle took place, with prizes donated by many Weybridge shops (a full list is at the end of this report), and the tickets were drawn by Chris Flemington, CEO of the Woking and Sam Beare Hospices, who attended with his wife. The buffet lunch was organised by Annette Davies, with other helpers, and in her closing remarks, Anne Littleton thanked everyone concerned, particularly Anne and Ray Lindsay for generously providing their garden, and Annette for her organisation of the event, but most to everyone who attended and made the afternoon the success it was.

It was pleasing that we were able to donate £500 to Sam Beare Hospice, the result of the raffle and profit from the ticket sales, plus a small amount from Society funds to 'round it up'!

Those businesses that provided raffle prizes were Authentics; Church Pharmacy; Collections Hair Club; Dry Cleaners, Baker Street: Fleurs Amanda; Hill House Interiors; Jacquie's; Kitchen Shop;*Linen Room; Lloyd Roberts Opticians; Maurice Jones; Oatlands Park Hotel; PR Photographic; Slug & Lettuce; Weybridge Audio; Weybridge Books; York Road Dry Cleaners and our thanks are extended to them for their generosity. Members Sally and Robin Sutton generously donated a case of wine to the raffle. The*Linen Room in Baker Street, instead of providing a prize, offered to donate 10% of their takings on the following Saturday, June 23rd, to Sam Beare Hospice.



PLANNING

This information is summarised from the Weybridge Society Planning Panel's records; it is up to date at the time of writing and we hope that it is a true representation of the committee's opinions. Members may not know that letters sent commenting on planning applications are usually available to see on the Elmbridge Borough Council's web-site, Planning section, and this includes the letters sent from the Planning Panel.

Oatlands Planning, submitted by Geoff Banks, Joint Chair

1.159a and b, 161, Queen's Road, Weybridge (2007/1665 and 2007/3249)

This site at the corner of Queen's Road and Netherby Park is at present occupied by three detached bungalows. There have been two similar applications for two houses and a number of apartments. The appeal on 1665 was allowed. The second (3249) was refused by the Council in February.

2. 1-6 Oatlands Court, St Mary's Road (2007/1900)

The appeal on this application for one detached house and a terrace of six houses was dismissed in June.

3.18-22, Barham Close (2007/2864 and 2008/1221)

It was reported last time that the Council refused the application (2864) for 12 town houses. The subsequent appeal was allowed. Meanwhile a further application (1221) has been received this time for 10 town houses in three blocks. Although for a fewer number of houses the new proposal is physically as large and imposing as the previous one (2864). The Planning Panel has lodged an objection on grounds of over-development, character and parking problems. However, this application has been withdrawn.

4.13 and land to the rear of 9 and 11 Hall Place Drive (2007/2114 and 2008/0291)

The first proposal (2114), for 4 houses, was refused by the Council in October last year and has now gone to appeal. The later application (0291) is for one detached house and a block of 6 flats to the rear of 9, 11, and 13 Hall Place Drive. The Planning Panel objected to this proposal on grounds of character, dominance and overlooking. It was refused by the Council and has subsequently been taken to appeal.

5.44-46, Oatlands Chase (2008/1152)

This is a proposal to replace two two-storey detached houses by a block of 5 town houses, each with living accommodation on **four** floors. The Planning Panel has objected to the application on grounds of bulk, dominance, character and inadequate plans. This application has now been withdrawn.

6.77-79, Oatlands Drive (2008/1207)

This proposal is for the replacement of two detached houses by a terrace of 6 town houses. The previous application on this site (2007/1718) was refused on grounds of mass and scale. This new application is for an even wider and higher building and is therefore not acceptable for this reason alone. An objection to it has therefore been made to the Council. This application was refused on 1st July.

7. Land rear of 2 Vale Close (2008/1396)

This is an application for a detached house in part of the rear garden of 2 Vale Close. The plot is very small and the amenity space very limited making the development cramped. The Planning Panel has lodged an objection to it on these grounds.

St. George's Hill Ward – submitted by Peter White, Joint Chair

8. Woodcote Court, Brooklands Road 2007/2945

This proposal for a development of 16 houses and 6 flats was refused by the council in February. An appeal against the decision has been submitted by the applicant to the "Planning Inspectorate". The appeal will be decided at a Public Hearing later this year (date not yet available). Any person who would like to speak at the appeal hearing can do so by registering with the inspector on the day.

9. Rothsay Court, Gower Road 2008/0058

A plan to demolish the existing block of 9 flats and replace them with a new block of 14 flats in a similar style to those already under construction next door at Gower House. Permitted 20.05.08

10. The Dell, Locke King Road 2008/0231

Two blocks containing 48 flats for the Elmbridge Housing Trust. This application was refused by the Planning Sub-committee as an "inappropriate and unattractive residential environment"

11. Southernhay, Cavendish Road 2008/0256

Two detached houses and two pairs of semi-detached houses. This application was refused. (A later application 2008/1279 was permitted)

12. Grove Lodge etc., Old Avenue 2008/0484

This application, for just four houses, was refused by the council on the grounds of the loss of dwellings on the site. The applicant has submitted an appeal against this decision.

13. 38, Queens Road 2008/1163

Another application to develop a building containing one flat with a car-port. This latest application was, again, refused by the council.

14. Warrenhurst, Bridgewater Road 2008/0721

Planning approval was granted for eight houses late last year 2007/2847.

A further application was submitted to add a very large basement to seven of the approved houses together with a large underground parking area for the site, with a landscaped garden and water feature at ground level. Whilst this application will not alter the surface appearance of the finished development it will require considerable volumes of excavation and spoil removal from the site. The council permitted this scheme. 20.05.08

15. Southernhay, Cavendish Road 2008/1279

(see 2008/0256 above)

This application was for two detached houses and two pairs of semi-detached houses. The proposal amended the layout of the proposed site to reduce the overlooking of adjacent properties, which was the reason the previous application failed. This application was permitted.

16. Heatherley, St George's Road 2008/1540

An application to demolish the existing house and replace it with a block of eight flats. We will object to this scheme as we think it inappropriate for the site and out of character with the location.

WEYBRIDGE NORTH & SOUTH – Submitted by Raymond Spary, Joint Chair

17. 20&20a Church Street (2005/0184,1437,2576 & 2006/0156, 0950,1813,2288,2007/0367,0980,1797 2501 & 2850, 2008/0229 & 0845)

This is the narrow site of the old bakery, adjacent to the entrance to Weybridge Hospital and has a complicated history of 14 planning applications and 3 appeals. Our Planning Panel is continuing to object on the grounds of confusing and contradictory information. There are also issues regarding access and intrusion into the hospital land. We understand that Elmbridge Council has twice defined the application for the front building as invalid. The application for the rear building has also been deferred for a definition of the means of access.

18. 39 Thames Street (2007/2556 & 2579)

An application for 55 flats, and another for 14 dwellings on this site were the subject of an appeal. The Weybridge Society representative, as well as interested neighbours, attended the inspector's site visit and the problems of closeness to the neighbours were pointed out. The inspector refused the application for 55 flats but permitted the application for 14 dwellings.

19. 31-33 Radnor Rd (2008/0861)



The residents of Radnor Road fought this proposal to replace a commercial building with 11 flats. The main objection was that the proposal would not fit in with the street scene. The residents were very concerned about additional cars, as the parking situation is

already virtually out of hand. This application has been refused by the Elmbridge Planning Officer.

20. 27a & b Fortescue Road (2007/2173 & 2008/0966)

This second proposal is for a three storey building in Fortescue Road. The Planning Panel objected on the grounds that this latest proposal would be just as out of character in the road, which consists mainly of bungalows, as the previous application. The application has been refused by the Elmbridge Planning Officer.

21. Bulldogs Island, Little Mill (2007/0715 & 2440, 2008/1048)

The Planning Panel objected again to this latest proposal for a large garage to be built in Green Belt on the flood plain. We are pleased to report that the Councillors agreed and refused the application.

22. Brooklands College Buildings (2008/1003)

This is a very large proposal to demolish and replace many of the buildings on this site as well as to refurbish the listed building. Weybridge Society Planning and Transport Panels have studied this proposal with much care. In general terms the idea of modernising the College is supported. The Weybridge Society has objected to any increase in traffic at the entrance on this dangerous bend. We are disappointed that Brooklands College has not taken this opportunity to include improved access to both the College and to Heathside School.

HOW TO OBJECT TO A PLANNING APPLICATION

At a recent meeting of the Planning Panel it was suggested that members might find it useful to have some background information about planning issues, and to start this series of topics, Geoff Banks, Joint Chair (Oatlands), Planning Panel, has submitted the following:-

Be aware of all the applications that are made in your locality.

HOW? - The Council publishes a list of new applications every week. This list appears in local newspapers (e.g. News & Mail, Herald) with the address, a brief summary of what is proposed, and in the News & Mail, the planning application number. For those with internet (preferably with broadband) the full weekly list is put on the EBC website, usually late each Thursday morning. This also includes the name and telephone number of the Case Officer dealing with the application and the closing date for representation letters.

Web address:

www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/apps/eplanservices

Familiarise yourself with the details of the application.

HOW? - Visit Planning Department reception at the Civic Centre, Esher and ask to see the relevant file (quote the application number). This will contain all the information you need, including the plans. Or visit the Council's website (address above) and you will have access to the same information, even the plans. Note that Weybridge library will usually have a full copy of the plans etc, for major applications in the Weybridge area.

If you decide to write a letter, please note the following:-

Timing is important.

WHY? - Most applications are determined by the Planning Department. Larger or controversial ones are dealt with by the West Area Planning Sub-Committee. For these the Case Officer prepares a report to the Committee with a recommendation to approve or refuse. If you want your comments to be taken into account in this report your letter must reach the Planning Department by the closing date mentioned above. If you miss this date and your letter reaches the Planning Department by the morning of the day of the Planning Committee meeting, your points will be verbally summarised by the Planning Officer at the meeting. If you want the application to be considered and decided by the Area Planning Committee get **at least** two other affected neighbours to send in their own **individual** letters of representation – identical letters signed by different people will not do.

Content is important.

WHY? - The Planning Department deals with over 3000 new applications every year, and some of them are extremely complex. So it is important to make your representations clear, concise, factual and relevant. Always quote the title of the application and its reference number in your letter.

Relevance to planning is particularly important, and includes compliance with Elmbridge Local Plan Policies, design, appearance, layout, effect on listed buildings and Conservation Areas, loss of significant trees, effect on residential amenities (e.g. loss of light, overshadowing, overlooking), traffic generation, parking, noise generation and smells. Always give clear reasons for your objections.

The following are **not planning issues**: matters covered by other legislation (structural stability, fire precautions, drainage); disputes on boundaries and access; loss of value of property; loss of a private view; legal covenants; nuisance associated with the construction period (hours of work, noise, dust etc.).

What to do if further applications are made for the same site.

Some developers make a succession of modified applications on the same site until they obtain a permission. Do not assume that your objection letters will be "passed on" from one application to the next. **Examine each new application carefully** and if you still object to it **write a new letter**, repeating as necessary your earlier objections.

Address your letters to the Head of Town Planning, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD

TRANSPORT PANEL

Joe Hall, Chair of the Transport Panel reports:

In the last Weybridge Society newsletter we included a questionnaire about transport, and were very pleased to receive a response from over 50 members.

The questionnaire was made up of three parts.

The first part sought to ascertain whether traffic was an important subject to members. We made two statements. The first '*Transport (incl. traffic, safety, public transport) was considered a key issue in Weybridge*' – 98% thought it was. The second statement '*Transport (incl. traffic, safety, public transport) is good in Weybridge*' attempted to discover whether transport issues were being addressed sufficiently by Surrey County Council – 92% thought transport was not good in Weybridge.

The second part of the questionnaire looked at individual items including speeding, nuisance, heavy goods vehicles, cycle routes, safer footpaths, public transport, planning, road maintenance and provision of school buses. We made the statement '*The Weybridge Society should continue to lobby (inc. Elmbridge and Surrey councillors and officers, Police, MP) on the following subjects*' and received the following results

- Improved maintenance of roads, footpaths and drains 98% agreed
- Improved public transport provision 98% agreed
- Provision of safer footpaths 98% agreed
- Restricting through traffic by heavy goods vehicles 96% agreed
- Improved public transport provision 96% agreed
- Improved road safety through design and planning conditions 94% agreed
- Provision of school buses for Weybridge Schools 94% agreed
- Lowering speed limits in residential areas and near schools 85% agreed
- Provision of cycle routes 81% agreed
- Introduction of speed cameras on key roads 72% agreed

The last part of the questionnaire looked at the type of activity we should undertake to achieve our members aims. We made the statement '*The Weybridge Society should*'

- *Use the local press to publicise issues and seek support* - 98% agreed
- *Use posters, banners or car stickers to raise awareness of issues* - 84% agreed
- *Use legal demonstrations to highlight key issues* - 59% agreed

We would like to thank all those who took the time to respond and will refer to these results when formulating future Committee activities.

THE 77th NATIONAL HONEY SHOW

We thought members would be interested to hear about this event to be held at St George's College, Weybridge, from 30th October to 1st November 2008.

Apparently this is a new venue for the show which will feature Beekeeping Lectures, Workshops and Honey for Sale. Usual entry to the event is £12, but for Saturday afternoon, between 12 noon and 4.45 p.m., the entry fee is £5.00

Contact details – Sandra Rickwood, 01932 244326, e-mail srhoneyshow@googlemail.com.



THAMES GATE-WEY CLEAR-UP

This was an occasion when the weather beat us! Not because it was bad on the day (31st May – as advertised in the last newsletter), but because the torrential rain at the previous Bank Holiday weekend had swollen the River Thames to such an extent that the Environment Agency could not move their barge into position – and without the barge, we had no-where to put any scrub, etc., which we hoped to clear. The fast running of the river also meant that it would be more hazardous to work on the river bank, and so the clear-up was cancelled.

It has been rescheduled for Saturday 29th November 2008 – a long way off, but please note it in your diary, and confirm with Tony Davis (01932 844261) or Carolyn Pennycook (01932 848244) if you will come. As before, please meet at the Thames-side car park in Walton Lane, adjacent to the canoe club, at 10 a.m. Volunteers should come prepared with suitable protective clothing, gloves, etc., and cutting tools – saw, secateurs – and if anyone has a lightweight power saw, and is prepared to use it (suitably protected) that would be much appreciated. Whilst every care will be taken, Weybridge Society stresses that anyone taking part is responsible for his or her own safety. It is difficult to anticipate how long the work might take, as it will depend upon how many volunteers there are – but we would recommend that you bring refreshments. At the end of the session, we hope volunteers will join us for a well-earned drink. By the way, the nearest public toilet is next to the Old Crown Public House in Thames Street.

SURREY LIFE MAGAZINE WEYBRIDGE

Members may remember that last summer, Surrey Life magazine featured Weybridge, and invited a contribution from the Weybridge Society, which was published in their August 2007 edition (see Autumn 2007 newsletter).

Matthew Williams, the magazine's Editorial Assistant approached the Secretary again this year, to suggest someone who would give a 'one-liner' about why they like living in Weybridge – and Carolyn suggested our new Chairman, Barry Judd. His comments may be seen in the August edition of Surrey Life, available at news outlets in Weybridge, and throughout Surrey.

ELMBRIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The annual event, an **Open Evening** at Sandown Park, Esher, will take place on **Monday 13th October 2008**. This event is part of Neighbourhood Watch Week. Further details from Pauline O'Sullivan, Regional Co-ordinator, 01932 844753.

OATLANDS VILLAGE FAYRE

Following suggestions and comments at the Annual General Meeting about ways in which we could promote Weybridge Society and increase our membership, it was decided that we should apply for a stand at the Oatlands Village Fayre (May 10th).

So, on a wonderful sunny day a stand was duly erected, and a band of kind volunteers promoted the society, handing out membership leaflets and newsletters, and generally telling people about how the society works to 'keep Weybridge a Pleasant Place to Live'. Memberships and interest in the society did materialise from these efforts, which was good, and we are therefore considering making attendance at the Fayre an annual event.



The Fayre generated a friendly atmosphere, and the thousands who attended (the Oatlands Recreation Ground was full of happy families, and people of all ages) obviously enjoyed it greatly. We were lucky to be next to the 11F (Brooklands) Squadron Air Training Corps, for their cadets put up our gazebo in record time and with military precision, which was much appreciated.

Thanks are due to our members Maggie Alderman, Margaret Wicks and Helen Mills, who in addition to Committee Members Anne Lindsay (who was on the stand all day), Joe Hall, Richard Marshall, Carolyn & John Pennycook, and our new chairman, Barry Judd, took turns of duty between 10.45 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., and contributed to the success of the venture.

WEYBRIDGE SOCIETY WALK

As part of Elmbridge Borough Council's Out & About in Elmbridge cultural event, Weybridge Society again led a walk around lesser known parts of Weybridge.

On 20th May, 15 people met at the Churchfield Recreation Ground gates, to walk firstly across the park, and through the Churchfields Allotments (by kind permission of the Trustees). It was good to see so many plots flourishing, and particularly the ones that Walton Leigh School cultivate. The party continued to the old Wey Bridge, and along the towing path to the Thames Lock. A pleasant interlude was spent in the gardens of the Old Crown Public House, before continuing to The Thames, and the picnic area in the Walton Lane car park (renovation of which has been part of the society's Thames Gate-way project). The walk progressed along the public footpath beside fields behind St George's junior school, eventually passing beneath the Tudor Archway that was part of Oatlands Palace – back into Thames Street, and across Monument Green, Springfield Lane and Springfield Meadows to the recreation ground. During the walk historic points of interest were highlighted, as were the many improvements and achievements in the area with which the Weybridge Society had been involved.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF CHURCHFIELDS RECREATION GROUND, 1908 – 2008

Churchfields in the Making - A Brief History

On the 28th April 1908, Churchfields Pleasure Grounds as it was originally known was officially gifted by John Lyle of the Golden Syrup Company to the Urban District Council of Weybridge by Indenture at a cost of 10 shillings.



An extract of the Indenture reads:

'...the said John Lyle is desirous of conveying by way of gift to the Council the premises hereinafter described in trust for the perpetual use thereof by the public for exercise and recreation pursuant to the provisions of the Open Spaces Acts 1877 to 1890...'

The original byelaws stated that no organised games, especially football were to be played. The ground was laid out as a park, with flower beds, walks and seats and was set aside for old people and children.

Mr Lyle generously gave a set of iron gates for the main entrance which originally came from Bushy House, Hampton. It is believed that Queen Victoria much admired an identical set at Bushy House. The gates were originally erected some 20-30 feet in front of the present position. The gates were moved to their current position around 1949 to allow road access and development of the adjacent car park. The gates are Grade II listed.

When the park was opened Mr Lyle planted a Copper Beech. In July 1911, a commemorative tree was planted by Mr Durrant, a centenarian, the oldest man in Weybridge. In 1937 a Red Maple was planted by Mr Killick, Chairman of the Weybridge Council to commemorate the coronation of George VI.

A news article from the Surrey Herald in 1920, reported that:

'Mr Waller appointed Superintendent of Churchfields Pleasure Grounds, receives wages of £3 per week. 1st Oct, - 31st March and £3.10 shillings from 1st April - 30th Sept. Hours 8am to 1 hour after sunset.' Thankfully, 88 years on, Churchfields still has a full-time attendant! Although the park has developed over the years with additional facilities, the original basic layout still remains.

(Information courtesy of Elmbridge Museum and supplied by Ian Gayton ,Parks & Recreation Manager of Elmbridge Borough Council, Leisure & Cultural Services Division).

To celebrate this 100th anniversary, on **Sunday, 27th September** there will be **MUSIC IN THE PARK**, with Cobham Brass Band from 2 – 4 p.m.; Cream Teas will be served in Weybridge Centre between 2.30 and 4 p.m., and there will be an exhibition of the history of Churchfield Recreation Ground. All welcome.

POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

A date for your diary – the next Panel meeting will be held on Thursday, 9th October, 2008 at 7 p.m., in the St James' Parish Centre. Come along, and take the opportunity of raising matters that concern you about Weybridge and which you would like the neighbourhood police to target. To contact our neighbourhood officer PC Dick Bowen, phone 07967 988406, or for urgent matters, when a crime is being committed, or emergency services are required, dial 999; for less important events, and to report a crime then use 0845 125 2222.

OUT WITH A BANG

Richard Marshall writes: "On 28th April this year a very fierce bolt of lightning shook Weybridge, knocking out phones and other wiring in Elgin Road. At about the same time that day, a longstanding Weybridge Society member and resident of Elgin Road, Meriel 'Binkie' Biggs died in hospital, and her carer found the house damaged by lightning on returning from St Peter's just after Binkie's death.

Binkie was an exceptionally lively and imaginative woman, independent, and with her own ideas on many things. She taught at Brooklands College and was keen on music, drama and art. She was one of the contributors to Judith Hewitt's book of reminiscences by 18 longstanding Weybridge characters (called 'Rose Remembers'). Binkie believed in interesting causes, whatever the politics. Always enthusiastic, even at 96, and a great inspiration to the young (and the young at heart)."

(Elmbridge Museum has a copy of 'Rose Remembers' for public reference in their Local Studies Area).

ELMBRIDGE MUSEUM – 'MUCKRAKING'

The latest exhibition at the Museum is '**Muckraking! Archaeological art from Elmbridge's discarded past**', running from 2nd August until 22nd October, 2008. The RC Sherriff Trust has provided funding for this joint project between Landskip, an artist-led organisation, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Esher College students are interpreting finds they excavated earlier this year from a former landfill site on West End Common. Younger residents will have the opportunity to participate through the EBC 'SHOUT' programme, when their finds will be exhibited at the museum, under the guidance of Alistair Grant, public artist.

Muckraking! – is it the ultimate reduce, reuse, recycle? Or is it all still rubbish? Come and see for yourself at Elmbridge Museum (01932 843573), www.elmbridgemuseum.org.uk

BUSINESS PROFILE – WEYBRIDGE NATURAL THERAPIES

In this issue we are featuring another branch of health care, having covered conventional medicine, hospital, doctors, etc., in previous newsletters.

"Established 10 years ago starting with just one therapist, Weybridge Natural Therapies has grown to over 14

therapists, offering more than 18 different forms of treatment, working with the NHS, private individuals and the wider community.

They offer a comprehensive range of natural therapies, which include many types of relaxation techniques, as well as clinical treatments for general well being. The clinic provides the individual with a choice in the way they would like any imbalances or injuries to be treated. The therapists at the clinic work hard to ensure that treatments take place in a relaxing and calming environment. They can help with many conditions, both physical and emotional. All the practitioners are fully qualified and registered members of their governing bodies. They are members of the integrated health movement, a movement designed to work along side traditional forms of western medicine.

The list of therapies offered is impressive – osteopathy, medical acupuncture, shiatsu, sports massage, aromatherapy, holistic massage, bowen therapy, pilates, reflexology, kinesiology, acupuncture, counselling, psychotherapy, hypnotherapy, craniosacral therapy, homoeopathy, herbal medicine and yoga/meditation.

Weybridge Natural Therapies is making a special offer to society members – Free Spinal Health Checks (20 minutes), and reduced rates for osteopathy and medical acupuncture, and **all other therapies** (subject to availability). They have recently joined Weybridge Society.

If you think the Clinic may be able to help or you would like to find out more, for an informal chat with one of their therapists, or to book an appointment their contact number is 01932 888663, and the practice is at 30 Monument Green, Weybridge KT13 8QW".

(With thanks to therapist Andrea Lecky for submitting this information).



COMMITTEE LIST

Position	Name	Address	KT13	Tel	@weybridgesociety.org.uk
Chairman	Barry Judd	13 Barham Close	9PR	853895	chairman
Vice Chairman	Anne Littleton	1, The Wharf, Whittet's Ait	8LH	840860	vice.chairman
Treasurer	Andrew Davis	20 Holstein Ave	8NX	840888	treasurer
Sec/Newsletter	Carolyn Pennycook	Redstairs, Brooklands Rd	0QZ	848244	secretary
	Derek Lindfield	17 Marlborough Drive	8PA	849020	
Distribution	Anne Lindsay	Splash, Wey Meadows	8XY	854204	
Planning	Raymond Spary	Shambles, Round Oak Rd	8HT	888214	planning.chair
Planning	Peter White	11 Summerleigh, Gower Rd	0HE	840447	planning
	Richard Marshall	12 Churchfields Ave	9YA	849513	footpaths
Events	Annette Davies	11 Churchill Drive	9HE	844664	events
Minutes	Trevor Tarring	Robin Hill, Brooks Close	0LX	843428	minutes
Transport	Joe Hall	242 Brooklands Road	0RD	859595	transport