

Weybridge Society

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



Newsletter

Registered with the Civic Trust

Spring 2008

Hon. Patron - Michael Aspel, OBE

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the
Weybridge Society
will be held on

MONDAY, 21ST APRIL, 2008

at

8.00 p.m. in

St James' Church Centre, Weybridge

*(Please note this venue – ample parking in
Churchfields Car Park)*

**Please make a note of this date in your
diary, as this newsletter serves as the
formal notice of the AGM**



Before the business part of the meeting, students from Heathside School will, we hope, tell us about initiatives the school is undertaking. Mr David Scully, Assistant Principal, who will accompany the students, has submitted an item for this newsletter, concerning the School Food Trust and the government's Nutrient Based Standards.

With the exception of Sheila Bartlett, who has tendered her resignation, all those listed at the end of this newsletter offer themselves for re-election to the main Committee. Our Chairman, Richard Marshall wishes to stand down this year after three years in the post, but is prepared to remain on the Committee. A nomination form is enclosed with this newsletter, and it would be kind of you to return it to the secretary at least two weeks in advance of the meeting should you wish to make a nomination, or volunteer yourself. The Committee elects the officers from its number at the first meeting after the Annual General Meeting, in accordance with our constitution.

A word about Sheila Bartlett – Sheila has been a valued member of the Committee over many years, and has

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

contributed in so many ways, including welcoming new members and for a long time was in charge of distribution of the newsletter. We extend our thanks to her for her generous support, and hope that we may have the pleasure of welcoming her, and indeed her husband, John, to many meetings in the future.

FEEDBACK FORMS

Thank you to everyone who kindly returned a completed Feedback Form which was enclosed with each Winter 2007 newsletter. Of the approximately 500 newsletters distributed, the response rate was 4%. It is not too late to respond – so please do so – if you have mislaid your Feedback Form, please contact the Secretary (01932 848244) and a copy can be sent to you either through the post, or via e-mail.

Responses varied from very satisfied with what the Weybridge Society does, to criticism of the seeming lack of protest, militant action and campaigning on local issues, with the loss of the Weybridge Adult Education Centre being cited as an example.

Many members offered help with various activities, including the web-site, and in due course we hope to take up these offers (indeed you may already have been contacted). Several of the topics raised are earmarked for discussion at the Annual General Meeting – so please come prepared to add to the debate!

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- Police Neighbourhood Panel
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- Heathside School

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

"My short message in the last Newsletter mentioned the energy and enthusiasm of many who work on our Committee, sub-committees and panels in trying to serve the interests of members and of Weybridge as a whole. We are pleased to have had several useful responses to the members Feedback Form which was inserted into the last Newsletter, and it is not too late for further responses, especially from new members. The Committee is open to fresh nominations to the Committee for election at the AGM which is scheduled for 21st April.

1. Planning This has been the main area where the Society keeps a watch and makes comments in favour or against proposals, with a view to improving the outcome. We meet as a single panel, but with separate chairmen for the wards of Otlands (Geoff Banks), St Georges Hill (Peter White), and the onerous Weybridge North and South wards, which we would like to subdivide (Raymond Spary). We gave a qualified endorsement to the new Walton Bridge proposal. Many of the significant comments we have made on building proposals were reported in 92 summary reports included in the four Newsletters of 2007. An innovation on which we have commented, on the whole favourably, is the new Council charge on developers' proposals, known as 'PLANNING OBLIGATIONS', which will set in place a tariff to collect funds for repair and improvement of infrastructure, whether roads, drains, education, etc. How this is used will require further attention. As regards the town centre, we are conscious of the possible competition to Weybridge's shops from Walton's new centre, but think we may be best served with Weybridge High Street's character unchanged, provided there is better maintenance.

2. Transport This is a subject for which we have a panel of 7 with a wide brief to seek remedies for obvious problems in traffic, roads, foot and cycle paths and in public transport. Joe Hall chairs this, with Tony Palmer and Louis Solway also very active members. Our main purpose is to engage with Surrey County Council on road and path improvements, mainly in the interest of safety and reduction of speeding. Congestion is also critical at busy times, and, though its cure is a reduced dependency on cars, public transport does not yet provide much adequate alternative, apart from a reasonable train service. We are meeting the Freight Partnership about the HGV traffic through the town.

3. Thames Riverside The towpath at Weybridge has already been tidied up by the Council. The 'Thames Gateway' project which we promoted now provides the car park/open space by the Elmbridge Canoe Club with a vista of the river, D'Oyly Carte Island and Desborough Cut, in place of scrub. We have been asked to invite suggestions and support for either a piece of public art or a 'heritage marker' to show that this is Weybridge riverside. Weybridge need not be famous just for St George's Hill, and is a town of many and varied parts. Combined with the large fields on Desborough island, there is already something approaching a riverside country park of a modest kind in this part of the Thames Landscape Area, to be added to by a path along the North bank of the Broadwater in due course.

4. Education We maintain contact with the schools which took part in the suggestion programme for making Weybridge a better and safer place. We hope the Assistant Principal at Heathside will bring some pupils to our AGM. We have protested that the Churchfields Adult Education Centre, now closed, should be re-opened for an education purpose.

5. Health We have helped raise funds for the Sam Beare Hospice at our Summer Party, which was again held at Anne Lindsay's by the Wey, with Michael Aspel, our patron, enthusiastically drawing the raffle.

6. Events In January, Barry Hylton Davies, Ambassador Speaker for Painshill Park gave an erudite and entertaining illustrated talk entitled "Five Fine Surrey Gardens"; The AGM in April took the form of an Open Forum, discussing the Society's aim "To Keep Weybridge a Pleasant Place to Live"; in June we had our Summer Riverside Party; and in October we had an excellent illustrated talk by Brian Roberts on Weybridge's Place in Britain's Waterways, particularly the historic Wey Navigation. Our last meeting, about Surrey Air Ambulance is fully reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

7. The Committee The Committee is looking to rejuvenate itself with some younger members. Having been its Chairman for nearly three years now, I am hoping to be replaced quite soon, though it has been an enjoyable experience for me, with many new contacts. The team of people who keep things going is an exceptionally harmonious and congenial group, covering a range of activities, but there is scope for a fresh introduction of new blood, new skills (e.g. the website) and new interests. I hope the AGM will produce some people and ideas."

Richard Marshall

DRAFT ACCOUNTS

Our Treasurer, Andrew Davis has prepared these draft accounts. The certified accounts will be presented at the Annual General Meeting.

Weybridge Society Draft Accounts 2007 2006
Bank balances at 31 December £5,233.82 £5,346.75*

Revenue

Subscriptions	£3,594.00	£3,448.00
Donations	£20.0	£0.00
Social Events	£672.00	£489.10
Interest	£72.16	£45.52
Maps	£6.00	£2.00

Total Revenue £4,364.16 £3,984.62

Expenditure

Newsletter	£1,268.76	£1,319.00
Social Events	£347.34	£359.38
Website	£245.56	£1,066.90
Stationery	£166.69	£209.68

Post and Telephone	£62.25	£83.48
Ctte Room Hire	£110.00	£50.00
Subscriptions/Donations	£915.00	£735.00
Insurance	£190.00	£190.00
Travel	£12.96	£14.96
Sundry Expenses		£69.77

Total Expenditure £3,364.22 £4,097.77

Operating Surplus £999.94 -£113.15

Bank balances at 31 December £6,233.76 £5,233.60

*after correction for late presented payment of £190.00 for last year's insurance

OUT AND ABOUT IN ELMBRIDGE

This year's Cultural Festival will take place between 10th and 24th May, at venues throughout Elmbridge. The Festival is co-ordinated by Elmbridge Borough Council's Leisure and Cultural Services, and the borough wide advertising campaign is sponsored by Mercedes Benz World.



Weybridge Society will take part again this year, by arranging a **Walk Round Weybridge** on Tuesday, 20th May, at 10.30 a.m. In previous years the route has been Weybridge Society's published 'Aspects of Weybridge' walk (still available from the secretary 01932 848244 - £2). This year, a new route has been devised taking in points of interest and historical sites, starting at the gates to Churchfield Recreation Ground at 10.30 a.m. It is anticipated that the circular walk should finish at approximately 1 p.m., and as the paths – mostly off-road – can be muddy and uneven, stout footwear is recommended. You might like to bring a drink with you as there could be an opportunity, weather permitting, of taking a break half way. There is one stile to cross on this route. The walk is free, and open to all – contact the secretary, Carolyn for more information.

RECYCLING IN ELMBRIDGE

The following item has been submitted by Lucy Conway of Elmbridge Borough Council, through the initiative of Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Environment and Economy, Weybridge Councillor Glen Dearlove.



"We must drastically reduce the amount of waste that we send to landfill. In order to do this, the Government has set national targets for recycling and composting household waste. By 2010 we need to recycle and compost 40% of our waste, and by 2020 this needs to reach 50%.

Two years ago we recycled around 21% of all our waste. Last year, we already recycled 33%. We have achieved this increase in a number of ways:

- We expanded our popular blue-top recycling bin service to the whole borough.
- A garden waste collection service, for residents who cannot compost at home, has been introduced.
- In summer 2007 we engaged with around 7,000 residents to thank them for recycling and composting, and find out how we could help them do more.
- We have piloted a kitchen waste collection service in parts of the borough which is being extended for a second year.

We are working hard to make recycling even easier. As of this January, glass can be put in your blue top recycling bin. This means kerbside glass recycling is available to the whole borough.

To provide cost effective services we are now looking at reducing the number of recycling sites across the borough. We are trialing litter-bin recycling in Weybridge, and looking for ways to make battery and textile recycling easier."

Richard Marshall, Society Chairman says "Recycling is fine but is only the third of the 3 environmental virtues in the official phrase '**reduce, re-use, recycle**'. We, the public need to reduce the amount of **non-recyclable** waste we create. The Council is properly concerned with its duty to deal with recyclable items, though it takes energy to reprocess and turn them into reusable things. 'Intact' recycling involves direct reuse – e.g. via charity shops, car boot sales, etc., requiring or even finding another use for things."

TRANSPORT – A CYCLIST'S TALE

"A couple of weeks ago I had my car repaired in one of the garages in Chertsey Bridge Road, on the north side of the river. When the repair was completed, I decided to cycle to the garage to pick the car up. Although the distance from Brooklands Road, where I live, is less than two miles, the journey takes you through three boroughs – Elmbridge, Runnymede and Spelthorne. The Weybridge part of the journey (Brooklands Road and Heath Road) is by far the most hazardous for a cyclist. The roads are fast. In fact, cars are almost encouraged to drive faster by the centre road markings separating the traffic. Once across the Wey Navigation (Weybridge Road) towards Addlestone (Runnymede Borough), the cyclist's journey is a joy – as there are cycle lanes. Over Chertsey Meads and across the Thames at Chertsey Bridge into Spelthorne Borough. Guess what! There are cycle lanes in Spelthorne too. By comparison, Elmbridge seems poorly served with cycle lanes, especially in this area, and perhaps we should lobby Surrey County Council to make better provision for cyclists. If you have a similar story concerning cycling, and would like to campaign for change, please get in touch." (Contributed by Joe Hall, Chair of the Transport Panel, 01932 859595, e-mail transport@weybridgesociety.org.uk)

EVERY SQUARE MILE

Although only a very small part of Weybridge comes within the area of the BBC's 'Every Square Mile' local history project, members may be interested to look at the web site www.everysquaremile.co.uk. The organisers of the site request that local people add information about the history of the area that is basically centred on Runnymede. This is a pilot exercise, which, it is hoped, will be rolled out into other areas.

DID YOU KNOW

Weybridge Urban District Council, (before it was joined with Walton, and much later became part of Elmbridge Borough Council), had its own horses which were stabled behind the Churchfield Institute on ground that is now the site of Weybridge Centre off Churchfield Road. In the records of Elmbridge Museum there is a receipt dated 14.4.1908 from Drake & Mount for the payment of £4 2s 8d 'for oats, hay, clover, straw, bran and molassine, supplied for horses'. The stables were not demolished until the 1960s, to make way for the Centre. (We are indebted to Elmbridge Museum for this information).

PLANNING

The following information is summarised from the Weybridge Society Planning Panel's records, it is up to date at the time of writing (February) and we hope that it is a true representation of the committee's opinions.

1. Oatlands Ward 159a and b, 161, Queen's Road (2007/1665 and 2007/3249)

This site is at the corner of Queens Road and Netherby Park and is currently occupied by three detached bungalows. The Council refused application (1665) for a 2/3 storey building comprising 2 houses and 12 apartments, and the result of the subsequent appeal is awaited. Recently a further and similar application has been submitted and the Planning Panel has objected to it on the grounds of over-development, character and traffic hazard.

2. 1-6, Oatlands Court (2007/0381, 2007/1900 and 2007/3172)

The original application (0381), for a detached house, and 13 apartments in two blocks was refused by the Council and the subsequent appeal was dismissed. The second application, for a detached house and a terrace of 6 town houses was also refused by the Council, and is now under appeal. Recently a further application (3172) has been submitted, this time for a terrace of 6 town houses only. This application was permitted at the West Area Planning Sub Committee on 4th February.

3. Land at 2/4, High Pine Close and 1, Oatlands Avenue (2007/2832)

This application concerned a plot of land adjoining the former Texaco garage site at the corner of Queens Road and Oatlands Avenue, and was for a 2-storey block of 6 apartments, with access onto Oatlands Avenue. The Planning Panel objected on the grounds that the proposal was too cramped, with inadequate amenity and parking space. The Council refused the application.

4. 18-22, Barham Close (2007/2864)

This application was for the replacement of 5 detached houses by 12 2/3-storey town houses in three blocks. The Planning panel objected on grounds of over-development, character and traffic hazard. The Council refused the application.

St. George's Hill Ward

5. Woodcote Court, Brooklands Road 2007/2945

Another application has been submitted for this site for 16 houses plus 6 flats. This is similar to the previous application (2007/1488) which was refused by the Council. We have objected on the grounds of the layout being too cramped, and the buildings being "out of character" with the surroundings.

Other considerations were, proximity to green belt woodlands, energy conservation, and no provision for "affordable housing".

The Transport Panel have also objected to the possible dangers with the Brooklands Road layout and site access. This application was refused at the West Area Planning Committee on 4th February.

6. Warrenhurst, Bridgewater Road 2007/2847

The proposal for 8 houses was permitted by the council on 15th January

7. Nyleve, Godolphin Road 2007/2238

This application was refused by the Council on the 21st January.

8. Weybridge House, Queen's Road 2007/2352

The application for a new roof and 8 extra flats on this 1960's block was passed.

Weybridge North & South

9. 20&20a Church Street (2005/0184,1437,2576 & 2006/0156,0950,1813,2288,2007/0367,0980,1797, 2501 & 2850, 2008/0229)

This is the site of the old bakery adjacent to the entrance of Weybridge hospital. The history is complicated with 13 planning applications and 3 appeals. Planning application 2007/2850 was permitted, despite the Weybridge Society



objection that this application was for the detail of the proposed building to the rear of the site without information as to how the front of the site was to be developed. As well as this the proposal was for an even larger building than previously proposed and requiring access to be provided by the Hospital Trust. The Planning Panel is now considering application 2008/0229 for the replacement of the now demolished front building.

10. 133 Queens Rd (2005/2819, 2006/1747 & 2007/1426)

The first application for 14 flats and the second for 12 flats were refused by Elmbridge Council but the second application was permitted on appeal. The third application, for 28 apartments was refused by Elmbridge Council but is now subject to an appeal.

11. 55-57 Hanger Hill (2007/0831 & 1796 2008/0006)

The Planning Panel objected to the latest proposal which it considers to still be overbearing in this location.

12. Bulldogs Island, Little Mill (2007/0715 & 2440)

We are pleased to report that the latest proposal for a slightly smaller, but still large, garage and a store has been refused by Elmbridge Council.

13. The Monument, Monument Hill (2007/1736 & 2500)

As previously reported the Planning Panel objected to both these proposals which were to add a 5th floor to the office block at the top of Monument Hill. The first application was refused by the Council but the second application was permitted.

14. Land 10 & 11 Chestnut Lane (2005/1269, 2005/2646, 2006/2600, 2007/0369,1696, 2302 & 2825)

The first 6 planning applications have been refused by Elmbridge Council. The latest application is for a building which appears to have access from Pine Grove. The Planning Panel expressed its concerns again with regard to this latest proposal because of the access near the bend of Pine Grove, but approval was given.

15. 27a & b Fortescue Rd (2007/2173)

Weybridge Society's Planning Panel supported many local residents in expressing their concern about this proposal for a three storey building which would have been out of character in this road. We are pleased to report that this application was refused by the Council.

16. 39 Thames St. (2007/2556 & 2579)

We are pleased to report that an application for 55 flats, as well as an application for 14 dwellings, on this site were both refused by Elmbridge Council.



17. Churchfields Avenue (2004/2380 & 2006/2810 & 2007/2666 & 2674)

All of the proposals to build on this site, (formerly the playing fields of Wallop School), and which has been defined by the Council as Strategic Open Urban Land (SOUL), have been refused.

18. Whittets Ait Moorings (2006/0713 & 2007/3335)

The Weybridge Society has supported local residents in objecting to the latest application to build moorings on the bank of the old course of the River Wey. It is considered that the river is far too narrow to support the proposed moorings and still provide access.



THAMES GATE-WEY PROGRESS

Tony Davis reports that Phase 1 of the project has been achieved – Scrub clearance work on the Walton Lane Car Park and Desborough Island Bridgefoot sites has been done; reseeding has taken place; a new tree-screen has been planted; and picnic tables and litter bins installed. Views of the river from the car park have opened up, chain link fence removed, and area levelled from car park to towpath. The boundary hedge line will hopefully be reduced to improve sight lines out of the car park into Walton Lane. This is all good news, and we hope has made an area that will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

Phase 2 is to persuade the Environment Agency to improve their boat moorings and adjacent towpath/footpath/cycleway – and it is hoped this will be achieved in the next financial year.

Phase 3 is to provide a piece of art or a 'heritage marker', and your committee is making enquiries and seeking advice from other groups who have provided similar art forms for their community. If you have experience in such projects, our Chairman or Secretary would be very pleased to hear from you.



Phase 4 is to pursue the upgrading of the Thames Street Car Park – but this is likely to be a longer term project, involving Elmbridge Borough Council's legal department.

Our thanks are extended to Tony Davis for his long, painstaking and continuing involvement in the Thames Gate-Wey

Project which he initiated, to Elmbridge Borough Council for funding and work undertaken, and also to the Environment Agency.

CHERTSEY SOCIETY

In January, Richard Marshall, accompanied by John and Carolyn Pennycook, attended the Chertsey Society's annual **Town Forum**. This well established event brings together residents and interested parties, local groups, councillors and the MP, Philip Hammond to discuss significant issues in the town. Part of the meeting was taken up with a presentation from the Environment Agency concerning the very real flooding risk in the area, and after a break, the meeting continued with discussion on more individual issues affecting Chertsey. Would members of Weybridge Society be interested in a similar Forum being arranged for Weybridge? It certainly was a very well attended event, and gave people the opportunity to air their views, and hear thoughtfully considered responses. It is an event which could be a very useful and popular addition to the Weybridge Society events programme, if members felt it worthwhile. Please let the Chairman, Secretary or any Committee Member know your view.

ON TOP OF YOUR GAME

The current exhibition at Elmbridge Museum is celebrating the achievements of Elmbridge athletes, and Matthew Cowpe, Museum Officer says

'With an exciting summer of sport on the horizon, Elmbridge Museum presents some of the Borough's sporting heroes. These athletes have pushed their bodies to the limit to achieve greatness. Discover if you share their mental stamina, eat the right foods, and train hard enough to go for gold!'



The exhibition started on 16th February, and runs until May 14th, and is open during usual Museum opening hours – Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday – 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. – 1 p.m, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. (Closed Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays).

There is a vestibule exhibition staged by the 1st Weybridge Girl Guides, marking how Guiding has changed over the years. The Museum itself is always worth a visit, and there are facilities for local study, in addition to the displays of history throughout Elmbridge. Special events for children are held once a month, on Saturdays, and there is usually a 'Trail' for young visitors to follow if they wish. Contact the Museum on 01932 843573.

SAM BEARE HOSPICE – BRING A BOOK

Start the year by doing your bit for charity. Woking & Sam Beare Hospices need quality second-hand BOOKS for their specialist shops in Weybridge and Horsell. The shops then sell the books at discounted prices. Rosemary Vyse, Area Shops Manager said "Everyone has a book lurking in their cupboard, and they can be donated at any of our charity shops in the area. Please call the central sorting office on 01483 799711 for further information." The proceeds of the Hospice shops help towards the running costs of the Hospices where all services are offered free of charge. The Hospices provide care, advice and support for patients and their families affected by a terminal or life-limiting illness. **A book is a small way you can help.**

THE SAMARITANS

This organisation may be contacted on 08457 90 90 90, e-mail jo@samaritans.org, and text: 07725 90 90 90.

SURREY AIR AMBULANCE MEETING 21.1.08

Our Chairman, Richard Marshall, welcomed an audience of over 80 members and friends, and explained that the Committee had been considering the Society's future, particularly with regard to encouraging 'new blood', and he said that the responses to the Feedback Form enclosed with the last newsletter had been encouraging, and had produced ideas and offers which were being pursued. However, he emphasised that it was not too late to submit further suggestions and comments to any member of the committee. He announced that the Annual General Meeting would be on 21st April 2008.



He then introduced the speaker for the evening, Julie Jenkinson, Campaign Manager for Surrey Air Ambulance Appeal.

'Saving Time – Saving Life'

Julie explained that Surrey Air Ambulance was started in June 2007, after 18 months campaigning to raise the £250,000 needed to set it up. Penelope Keith, CBE, who was at the time High Sheriff of Surrey, had been a tireless supporter of the cause, and her involvement, along with that of many other dedicated campaigners had resulted in its establishment.

Since it began, the service has undertaken more than 300 missions – not least because Surrey has one of the highest percentages of motorways in the country (and possibly the busiest). Among the reasons why Surrey was not one of the first counties to have an air ambulance was that it has neither a coastline nor mountains, but it became clear that the number of missions the Kent Air Ambulance undertook in the Surrey area made the provision of a Surrey Air Ambulance essential.

The service receives no funding from government, the NHS or the National Lottery, and it costs £750,000 a year to run – all of which has to be raised by contributions, sponsorships and its own 'lottery'.

The ambulance has three highly trained people on board – the pilot, a doctor and a paramedic – both the doctor and the paramedic have specialist trauma training – and all undergo ongoing training – some of which is at the service's headquarters in Dunsfold, Surrey where the helicopter is stationed. The crew wear red jumpsuits to distinguish them from the other services at an incident. The doctors are employed by the Surrey Air Ambulance Service, whilst the paramedics are on secondment from the NHS. The service runs 12 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days a year (but not at night, because of the difficulty of landing in restricted areas where overhead hazards may be invisible).

The helicopter can get to incidents very quickly, and take the patient very quickly, after being stabilised, to the most appropriate hospital for their injury – for multiple injuries, usually to the Royal London Hospital. A 999 call reporting an incident is assessed by paramedics, and the helicopter is used accordingly – each mission costing between £500 and £1000.

The manoeuvrability of the aircraft makes it ideal for reaching places often inaccessible by road. The helicopter is a MD 902 Explorer, costing £3.5 million fully equipped, and it is leased by the service. It is larger than most other air ambulances, having more space inside, making it much easier to move and care for patients during transit to hospital, and it is very stable in flight – an important factor for many serious spinal injuries. It is quieter and being without a tail blade, makes it safer on the ground when the engines are running. The Service, along with all others has priority over airspace.

Fund raising is an essential part of Surrey Air Ambulance, and Julie cited the following ways in which the fund campaigned – Online Donations

(www.surreyairambulance.co.uk); Campaigning Talks; Corporate and other sponsorship (Dagenham Motors of Epsom, for example, supplied the Fund's car); Gift Aid for individual's donations; collection boxes; street and door to door collections; the fund's own lottery; and encouraging groups to fund raise for Surrey Air Ambulance as their chosen charity.

Visits can be arranged for up to 15 people to the Dunsfold HQ – and talks booked -

Julie may be contacted via e-mail at juliej@kaat.org.uk, and by telephone on 07843 336720.

Julie answered questions from the floor, and Richard Marshall thanked her on behalf of all present for her interesting and inspiring talk, and said that Weybridge Society would be making a donation (£100), but that gift aid envelopes were available for individual donations.

ROSE THEATRE, KINGSTON

Just opened in Kingston, the Rose Theatre is a most extraordinary new theatre, the design having been inspired by the 1587 Rose Theatre of London's Bankside, the site of many premieres of Shakespeare's plays. The new theatre seats 900 people, has a studio venue seating 220, a meeting space, and an area for exhibitions. Whilst not in the immediate Weybridge area, it should be a great asset for residents to have such state of the art theatre nearby offering a '*creative, engaging and participative theatre for the whole community*'. For further information contact the theatre on 020 8546 6983, www.kingstontheatre.org, Kingston Theatre Trust 26/27 Market Place, Kingston upon Thames KT1 1JH. Weybridge Society member, Sheila Millington, a Founder Friend of the Rose Theatre, would be pleased to answer any questions you may have, and may be contacted on 01932 859699.

COMMITTEE PARTY REPORT

The annual 'thank-you' party for committee members, panel members and distributors of the newsletter took place on February 2nd. Approximately 35 attended the event, the Society providing the venue (Weybridge Centre), and those attending bringing food and drink. Chairman Richard Marshall welcomed all present, introduced the various committee and panel members, and thanked Annette Davies for all her hard work in organising the event. The 'How Well Do You Know Weybridge' quiz created fun and comment, even to the extent as to whether St James' Church was 'built' or 'rebuilt' in 1848!

POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

At the meeting on 17th January in St James' Church Hall, Rev. Brian Prothero, Rector of St James', welcomed those present and handed the meeting over to PC Dick Bowen, leader of the Weybridge Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team.

PC Bowen introduced PCSO Tom Brown (who was imminently to leave this post to take up training as a Police Officer with Surrey Police), and PCSO Mark Saunders who had just taken up his post. (Ian Harding, who had been the area's PCSO at the last meeting, had already started his Police Officer training with Surrey Police). PC Bowen said that a new PCSO to replace Tom Brown would soon be appointed.

PC Bowen said that there had been a significant reduction in reported crime in Weybridge – 250 less in 2007 than in 2006, and crimes committed so far in 2008 had also been lower than in previous years. Arrests of suspected perpetrators of local crimes had been encouraging, and resulted in an obvious reduction in burglaries and arson attacks in the area.

The purpose of the Panel, PC Bowen explained, was to discuss issues raised by residents relating to crime, its prevention, and anti-social behaviour, and prioritise them for attention by the Policing Team during the next three months. Concerns raised included car crime in Kenwood Park, Gower Road; Vandalism and Graffiti in the Churchfield Allotments and Recreation Ground toilets; burglaries in residential central Weybridge, and from Churches; Cycling on Pavement in town centre; drug crimes in the Heath woods. A vote was taken, and 'burglaries in central Weybridge' was identified as the problem those present wished to be addressed. However, PC Bowen said that the other issues would not be ignored in the officers' usual patrol of Weybridge – and he would pay particular attention to cycling on the pavement, especially when it was an obvious hazard to pedestrians.

In answer to a question from the floor, PC Bowen confirmed that the theft of metals of all kinds (especially lead) was a real problem in the whole country, and Weybridge was no exception. Any suspicious activity when metal theft was suspected should be reported immediately – 999 if the theft/crime was in progress, but after the event when theft/crime was discovered, 0845 125 2222 – these numbers could be used for any crime, but 999 only in real emergency. (For graffiti reporting/removal contact Colin Flaxman at Elmbridge Borough Council, 01372 474474 main switchboard).

Stab Vests for PCSOs – Carolyn Pennycook reported that she had heard from Inspector David Hollingsworth, PCSO Manager at Surrey Police, that provision of stab vests for PCSOs was constantly under review, but at the time of writing (October 2007), no decision had been made to supply the PCSOs with this body armour as a matter of course. Those present were concerned and surprised that this was the case. Mrs Pennycook undertook to write again, to see if the decision had changed. *(A reply has been received from Inspector Hollingsworth to say that the matter was still under consideration, and awaiting the result of a review by the National Policing Improvement Agency).*

The next Panel Meeting would be held on Thursday 10th April 2008 at 7.00 p.m. at St James' Church Hall, Weybridge. PC Bowen can be contacted on 07967 988406.

HEATHSIDE SCHOOL

Mr David Scully, Assistant Principal of Heathside School has kindly submitted the following item about Heathside School's pilot of the Government's nutrient based standards:

"Heathside is one of only 12 secondary schools in England to work with the School Food Trust (a group sponsored by the government giving independent support and advice to schools and parents about school meals) to identify the issues that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Government's **nutrient based standards** for school meals in secondary schools in September 2009.

Following the debate about healthy eating of young people popularised by Jamie Oliver, the government introduced its **school-based food standards**, which required schools to provide healthy food to young people in schools. However, a recent report by the government's Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted) showed that complying with the food standards in secondary schools was proving tough, with many schools seeing a decline in the numbers taking school meals. So the implementation of the more stringent nutrient standards in 2009 will prove a major challenge.

It is a challenge that Heathside is already meeting with some success. The School Food Trust was so impressed by the school's approach in promoting healthy, nutrient-based food, that it commissioned a short promotional DVD that was filmed during a visit to Heathside in January. The DVD will accompany guidance that will go out to all secondary schools in the whole country.

How have we been so successful? Dr Willoughby, the Principal, is certain of the reasons. 'We have taken a whole school approach as a registered Healthy School to engage the students, staff, parents and governors to work with the school caterers, Scolarest, in highlighting the value of eating healthy food and understanding the importance of achieving a balance of nutrients in our diet. Above all it is the work of the students who are bringing about change through positive action.'

GARDENS OPEN IN WEYBRIDGE

Friends of Weybridge Hospital are arranging another **Gardens Open Day on Sunday 18th May 2008**, when visits may be made to private gardens in Weybridge to raise funds for the hospital. Please make a note of this



date in your diary. Full details and programmes of gardens open will be available nearer the time when you will have the opportunity of purchasing them from Weybridge Hospital. Jackie Roberts, the Hon. Secretary of the Friends would be especially pleased to hear from you if you would like your garden to be included in the scheme – her contact number is 01932 855899.

BUSINESS PROFILE

Instead of featuring a single Weybridge business, in this issue we are reminding members of some we have featured in the past. These included **Church Pharmacy**, Queens Road; **Lloyd Roberts Opticians**, Church St; **Weybridge Equestrian Centre**, Genside Road; **Fleurs Amanda**, Church St; **Grove Garage**, off Princes Road; **Oatlands Glass & Glazing**, Oatlands Drive; **Motor Mate**, Church St; **Maurice Jones, Butcher**, Oatlands Drive; **Church House Antiques**, Church St; **Baker Street Dry Cleaners**; and **Mercedes Benz World**.

HEALTH

After an approach by our vice-chair, Anne Littleton, the Doctors Green, Fozard, Langton, Brown, Maher and Styles have submitted the following information about the changes that have been made to the appointments system at the Church Street Practice



"CHURCH STREET PRACTICE – Following their 2007 Patient Survey it was clear that not all of their patients were happy with the current appointment system. As a result the doctors reviewed their procedures and introduced a new appointment system effective from November 2007. The changes they have introduced are intended to offer patients appropriate access to a doctor, improve the availability of routine appointments and alleviate the pressure on the telephones at 8:30am when the Practice opens.

A leaflet is available from Reception which outlines clearly the contact details, explains how the appointment system works and offers some suggestions how it can be made easier to make an appointment.

For those of you who have easy access to computers their website address is www.churchstreetpractice.nhs.uk which gives full information about appointments and the services offered in addition to the names of the doctors and their availability, practice nurses, the counsellor and non medical staff. Their email address is churchstreet.practice@surreypct.nhs.uk which you can use to request prescriptions and ask for an application form for internet access to book appointments on-line.

The Practice also asks that we remember to cancel our appointment should we not need it or be unable to attend so that when possible the appointment can be given to another patient."

RACING PIGEONS IN WEYBRIDGE

Weybridge Society has a member who has won three national pigeon racing competitions in recent years. His birds grace the air as they wheel around the Weybridge Park area and you may have noticed them. This prompted our

Chairman to research 'pigeons' further, and he writes:

"Pigeons were vital for military communication from Roman times. In World War 2 the mother of the recently retired head of MI5 (Ms Manningham-Buller) worked with pigeons and some birds even won decorations for valour. They were also used for stockmarket news (Reuters used them till the 1940s). Long before telegraphy, telephone, radio and email, the birds were a quick way to send messages across the seas (provided of course they were first taken to the right places). If all electrical power systems fail, as they might in some kinds of disaster, 'pigeon-post' could again be a useful strategic back-up.

The demolition of a small office in Brooklands Road, once the home of Pigeon Racing News, is a reminder of Weybridge's role in this activity, which the Queen and her ancestors have fostered through the Royal Pigeon Racing Association.

Between 1940 and 1980 the Bishop family at Redferns on St Georges Hill were leading racers and ran the publications of the Pigeon Racing Society.

For races, the male birds are taken by lorry to places as far away as Barcelona, while their females remain at home as the magnet to draw the males back as fast as possible. Pigeons are dedicatedly monogamous. They can fly 550 miles in a day and their speed varies between 30 and 70 mph, depending on the wind and on whether they are long-distance or sprinters. A normal average speed is 40mph. Like racehorses they are bred for speed. Like marathon runners they spread out during a long race and each bird uses its own navigational skill, based on the Earth's magnetic field and the sun. In speed and accuracy they are superior to human runners. The distance of 550 miles in a day is more than many a high-powered car-driver might manage, and fuelled just on bird-seed!"

AND FINALLY

Many of you may have noticed that trees have been replaced in the small car park in the Conservation Area at the foot of Monument Hill, and the parking layout improved. We extend our thanks to Elmbridge Borough Council for restoring the trees – members may remember that Mr David Wiltshire, Strategic Director, Services, EBC promised early last year that the trees would be replaced (newsletter Spring 2007 relates).

COMMITTEE LIST

Position	Name	Address	KT13	Tel	@weybridgesociety.org.uk
Chairman	Richard Marshall	12 Churchfields Ave	9YA	849513	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
	Sheila Bartlett	7 Bladen Close	0JA	848719	
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
Planning	Barry Judd	13 Barham Close	9PR	853895	planning 2
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