

Weybridge Society



Your Residents' Association – Working to keep Weybridge a green and pleasant place to live

Autumn 2010

Hon. Patron - Michael Aspel, OBE



Mr Philip Hammond
MP, Secretary of State
for Transport



Councillor John
O'Reilly, Leader
Elmbridge Council



Margaret Hicks, Chair
Elmbridge Local
Committee

Would you like to join To Join the Weybridge Society?

By joining us you will be able to add your voice and weight to our campaigns. The Society has been going for over 50 years and during that time has gained the respect of borough and county councillors. We support new initiatives and guard against inappropriate development. We also work closely with Neighbourhood Watch and the police to ensure a safe and secure environment for all who live and work in Weybridge. Please contact any member listed on Page 2 for details

Transport Panel meet with MP and councillors

ON FRIDAY 23rd July 2010, Committee members of the Weybridge Society met with our elected representatives and officers from Surrey and Elmbridge to discuss the Society's views on a the need for a transport infrastructure vision for the next 20 years, against which shorter term strategies such as the Local Development Plan and Local Transport Plan can be considered.

We were honoured that, with our County Councillor and Borough Councillors representing all Weybridge wards, attendees included Mr Philip Hammond MP, Secretary of State for Transport, Councillor John O'Reilly, Leader Elmbridge Council, County Councillor Margaret Hicks, Chair Elmbridge Local Committee, Rob Moran, Chief Executive Elmbridge Borough Council and James Painter, Area Director Surrey County Council. All attendees generously gave their time and support for this event. Society attendees comprised members of the Main Committee

and the Transport and Planning Panels.

We discussed the long term needs for the town's transport infrastructure, based on the Society Transport Panel presentation to the AGM. All recognised that current financial constraints will restrict expenditure in the short term but that economic conditions will change and we need to know what we want for the town in the medium to longer term.

Together we agreed that we would work together to:

1. Develop and maintain a vision, a shared set of aspirations, for our transport infrastructure, and
2. Promote and jointly publicise a stream of regular successes that will encourage continued engagement.

It was also agreed that the Society would collate all ideas, from all local elected representatives and the Weybridge Society, about how to deliver the above objectives and would circulate a prioritised action plan.

Members are invited to send any ideas to the Transport Panel on: transport@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Core Strategy Inquiry Delayed

FOLLOWING the recent Government decision to revoke Regional Spatial Policies and revise certain other National Planning Guidance, the planned Inquiry into Elmbridge's Core Strategy (submitted to the Secretary of State in March) has been deferred to allow a new public consultation to be carried out. This will allow the new changes to be taken into account in the Core Strategy.

The new consultation is expected to take place during September, and the Pre-Hearing meeting is likely to take place in January 2011, followed a few weeks later by the main Inquiry.

The Next Meeting of the Weybridge Society

will be held on
WEDNESDAY,
13 OCTOBER, 2010

at 8 p.m. in the hall of the
Catholic Church Christ The Prince
of Peace,

Portmore Park Road,
Weybridge

(please note the different venue
compared to recent meetings)

The Speaker will be
INSPECTOR STEVE
CHEESEMAN
of Surrey Police

who will give an illustrated talk about the
Surrey Police Air
Operations Unit

Members free – Guests £1.00

Weybridge Thames-side Festival,

Saturday 4th September 2010

in support of Sam Beare Hospice and other Weybridge Charities

- **FREE boat trips** ● **FREE music,**
- dance, canoeing, rowing, sailing,**
- narrowboats, riverboats, model**
- boats, food, stalls, car parking**

www.weybridgesociety.org.uk

or write to us at:

Weybridge Society, PO Box 492,
Weybridge, Surrey KT13 8WX

Weybridge open gardens weekend

ORGANISED by Jackie Roberts of the Friends of Weybridge Hospital. This year the event was shared with the Sam Beare Hospice. On the Sunday, Friends of Weybridge Hospital provided the teas and on the Saturday they were provided by Sam Beare Hospice supporters. The event raised two thousand pounds and these proceeds were shared equally by both organisations.

News of our Patron

AFTER his successful Christmas pantomime role as Baron Hardup, our Patron, Michael Aspel is taking to the boards again! This time he is to be the narrator in Woking's New Victoria Theatre's, Rocky Horror Show from 1 to 4 September. Box Office 0844 871 7645, or www.ambassadorickets.com/woking. Quite a change from drawing the raffle at the Weybridge Society's Summer Party!

Committee list

Chairman: Barry Judd
13 Barham Close KT13 9PR 853895
chairman@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Vice Chair & Education: Derek Lindfield
17 Marlborough Drive KT13 8PA 849020
vice.chairman@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Treasurer: Andrew Davis
20 Holstein Avenue KT13 8NX 840888
treasurer@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Secretary: Carolyn Pennycook
Redstairs Brooklands Rd KT13 0QZ 848244
secretary@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Membership: Maggie Alderman
8 Melrose Road KT13 8UP 843344
membership@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Distribution: Anne Lindsay
Splash Wey Meadows KT13 8XY 854204
distribution@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Planning: Raymond Spary
Shambles Round Oak Rd KT13 8HT 888214
planning.chair@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Footpaths: Richard Marshall
12 Churchfields Avenue KT13 9YA 849513
footpaths@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Events: Annette Davies
11 Churchill Drive KT13 9HE 844664
events@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Minutes: Trevor Tarring
Robin Hill Brooks Close KT13 0LX 843428
minutes@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Transport: Joe Hall
242 Brooklands Road KT13 ORD 859595
transport@weybridgesociety.org.uk

Newsletter: Guest Editor, Kevin Walker
07768 930001 walkerman2000@mac.com

The sixth Elmbridge Literary Competition

THIS year Elmbridge's Literary Competition will be linked into The Elmbridge Hundred project.

Contestants will be asked to choose one or more of the 100 personalities and write themselves into their story.

Join them as they lived, loved, or journeyed through Elmbridge, pinpointing their place in our history and marking their time in our lives.

The competition, promoted by Elmbridge Borough Council and the RC Sherriff Trust, will be judged by a panel of professional authors. Winners will receive book tokens and certificates, which will be presented at public readings of their

stories and poems at Riverhouse Arts Centre, Walton-on-Thames, in November 2010.

The best entries will be published on the RCS and EBC websites.

To learn more about The Elmbridge Hundred project and to choose characters for your story, go to www.elmbridgehundred.com.

The application form may be downloaded or hard copy requested from lhowells@rcsherrifffrust.org.uk, or simply call: 01932 229 996 for more details.

There are four age categories: 5 to 8, 9 to 13, 14 to 18 and 19 plus. Closing date is on November 1, 2010.

1 See Page 5 for more details of The Elmbridge Hundred

Summer party - Splash, at Wey Meadows

IT COULD not have been a better setting than that enjoyed by the over 90 members and friends who joined together with our Patron, Michael Aspel and his partner, for the Society's annual summer party on June 27. Constant sunshine, and the delightful surroundings of our Committee Member Anne Lindsay and her husband Ray's lovely garden, Splash, at Wey Meadows, and music from a jazz band too!

Annette Davies and her team of helpers put on an excellent spread. The raffle and profit from the event is hoped to result in approximately £700 being donated to Sam Beare Hospice, the Weybridge Society's chosen charity for this year.

Our thanks go to the generous businesses in Weybridge (and beyond) that so kindly donated to the raffle:- Westcott

Barton, Devon; Scarlets, Baker Street; Plantation, Woburn Hill; Obsessions, Church Street; Lequest, Baker Street; Browns Beauticians; Waitrose; The Kitchen Shop; The Ship Hotel; Hill House Interiors, Baker Street; The Linen Shop, Baker Street; Weybridge Arts and Frames; Fleurs Amanda; Dandini Florist; Maurice Jones, Butcher, Oatlands; Pollingtons, Oatlands; Not Just Silver, Oatlands; Church Pharmacy, Oatlands; Treasures, High Street; Weybridge Books, Church Street - and last but not least Helen Mills, for her lovely painting of Weybridge.



Walton & Weybridge Local History Society

ORIGINALLY named the Walton and Weybridge Historical and Preservation Society, it was formed in 1964, following requests made by members of the public for a history society to the Hon. curator of Weybridge Museum, Mr. Tony Martin, and the District Librarian of Walton and Weybridge Mr. G E Mawson.

The first general meeting was held on April 11, at Weybridge Museum (then situated in the former Weybridge UDC offices in Aberdeen House (where Baker Street meets Church Street).

Mr Martin agreed to act as Chairman and Mrs Grenside, local historian and Hon Curator of the Museum for many years, accepted the invitation to be the Society's first President. The main objective of the Society was to research, write and record the history of Walton and Weybridge.

Several special groups were formed within the Society to look at particular subject areas. Tony Martin took photographs of the Society's activities in 1960s.

A Junior Section was started, led by Mrs. Le Fevre, with support from local schools. This section continued until 1970.

The Society still holds regular meetings on Saturday afternoons alternating between Weybridge and Walton, with outside speakers lecturing on a wide range of historical subjects relating to this area. Lately we have heard about Prince Frederick and his family at Kew, Timber-framed buildings in Surrey, and a Victorian Bobby's notebook.

Research has been undertaken by members and published in the quarterly Dial Stone, or published as Monographs or books. If you would like to know more about the Society, call the Chairman, Jean Smith 01932 846 081

HELP – Weybridge Thames-side festival, September 4

AFTER concerns about sponsorship and the completion on time of the works currently occupying the Thames Path, meetings in mid July with both the Environment Agency and our Sponsors, Curchods, confirmed that we will be able to properly celebrate the completion of brand new ferry access and

visitor moorings at the the ‘initial opening.’

We were hoping to advertise the event with banners across the road at Baker Street and elsewhere. However this was denied. We are now VERY concerned that Weybridge residents should know about the event as well as finding it on our own website (see address below).

Please spread the word amongst your

neighbours, this is an ideal opportunity to involve the whole community and maybe even make new friends.

Walk down to the end of Thames Street to ‘Weybridge Waterfront’ on September 4th, ‘soak up’ and enjoy the atmosphere, alternatively there is a free vintage bus service to the site from stops at the Rail Station, Library and Ship Hotel with free boat rides and lots more

when you get there.

Some people do not know of this great location – so encourage them to come and see – they can check out our Weybridge Society website – under ‘Events’ page – to find an aerial photo of the Thames waters at:-

http://www.weybridge-society.org.uk/Events/Weybridge_Thames_Side_Festival_2010.

● See ‘Weybridge Waterfront’ on page 8 for more details

Communities can defeat terrorism

ENCLOSED with this newsletter is a small card published by Surrey Police with useful information about how to report any suspicious activity, confidentially.

Everyone has a role to play in helping to prevent terrorism. The smallest piece of information could be the last link in the ‘jigsaw’ which could prevent a terrorist attack. Don’t rely on others, if you suspect it, report it.

The confidential **Anti-Terrorist Hotline** is **0800 789 321**. It is very important to report any suspicious activity whether thought to relate to terrorism or local crimes or incidents.

The contact number for **Surrey Police** is: **0845 125 2222**.

Please use this to report any information relating to crime or incidents that you may be aware of.

However, if you wish to report such information confidentially, you can always call **Crimestoppers** anytime, anonymously on **0800 555 111**.

Weybridge Thames-side Festival, Saturday 4th September 2010
in support of Sam Beare Hospice and other Weybridge Charities

- FREE boat trips ● FREE music, dance, canoeing, rowing, sailing, narrowboats, riverboats, model boats, food, stalls, car parking

A –	Entertainment area
B-C –	One-way boat trips
C-B –	One-way boat trips
SSS –	Stalls area
M m –	Moored boats
W –	Waterspace
F –	First Aid Post (safety boat on patrol)
T –	Toilets
P –	Disabled Parking only
ECP –	Event Car Park (in field) Set down stop (from Library, Ship Hotel, & Rail Station)
BUS	

http://www.weybridgesociety.org.uk/Events/Weybridge_ThamesSide_Festival_2010

Socialism in Surrey?! Surely not...

Our membership secretary, **MAGGIE ALDERMAN** recently attended a lovely production by the **Fast & Loose Theatre Company** at the **Riverhouse Barn**, **Walton-on-Thames**.

ABOUQUET to the **Fast & Loose Theatre Company!** I hope lots of our members were able to attend ‘**The Diggers Daughter**’, a production at the **Riverhouse Barn**, recently advertised on our Society website. I found it to be thoroughly enjoyable, bringing fun and laughter to a rather serious subject: **Socialism in Surrey?!**

Lottie, a thoroughly modern misfit from 2010, and **Alice**, a preacher's daughter from 1649, stumble upon each other one night. Their lives could not be

more different yet they could be sisters, comrades, companions for life.

Part comedy, part time travel, part coming of age, part political epic, ‘**The Digger's Daughter**’ told the story of Britain's first experiment in social life – that of the **Diggers**.

Educated, idealistic Puritan families, under the charismatic leadership of the preacher, **Gerrard Winstanley**, came from the North to farm unused private land, choosing as their base **St George's Hill** in **Weybridge**. The

contrast between the different life-styles of **Lottie** and **Alice** being lived on what is now an affluent estate is explored in this exciting new play written by **Jonathan Kemp**.

The **Diggers'** action paved the way for future political ideologies which are still in evidence today.

Well done to **Celia Andrews**, one of our members, the producer of this top quality performance. The **Fast & Loose theatre company**, which is based at **Riverhouse**, believes in encouraging both young people and adults

to develop their talents and, most importantly, to grow in self-esteem and confidence and use professional technicians to train and work with youngsters from local schools in lighting, sound and stage management.

If you would like to be involved or want more information about this innovative company call **Celia Andrews** on **01932 226 458** or email **Celia** at: **celiaandrews@yahoo.co.uk**

For details of forthcoming events at **The Riverhouse Barn** call: **01932 254 198** or email: **arts@riverhousebarn.co.uk**

Maggie Alderman,
Membership Secretary

Planning Focus: By Geoff Banks **Oatlands Park**

1. 75 and land to the rear of 75, St. Mary's Road (2009/2042 and 2010/0458)

THESE applications were reported in the last Newsletter.

Both applications, one for 5 two storey houses(2042) and one for 4 two storey houses (0458) have been refused by the Council and both have been taken to appeal and the results are still awaited.

2. 4 Woodland Grove (2009/1996 and 2010/1695)

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.

Application (2096) proposed to place 2 detached, 5-bedroom houses, both with basements on this site.

THIS application was withdrawn by the developer before it could be considered by the West Area Planning Sub-committee. A new, but similar application (1695) has now been submitted.

3. 1, Oatlands Close (2009/2158)

THIS ongoing application was reported in the last Newsletter. This is a proposal to build a detached house on part of the garden of 1, Oatlands Close. The application was refused by the Council in February and has now been taken to appeal, the result of which is still awaited

4. 77/79, Oatlands Drive (2010/0836)

THIS is an amendment to an application (2008/1207) which was permitted on appeal in 2008. It concerns a terrace of 6 two storey houses, 5 with rooms in the roof space.

The changes include moving the end house (plot 1) slightly backwards and retaining the existing access in Beverley Close to serve that house. Permission was granted in June.

Weybridge North & South

1.20&20A CHURCH STREET (2005/0184, 1437, 2576 & 2006/0156, 0950, 1813, 2288, 2007/0367, 0980,1797,2501 & 2850, 2008/0229, 0858, 2417 & 2771, 2009/0362, 0732,1832, 0502, 0953, 2010/1495)

THE NARROW site of the old bakery, adjacent to the entrance of Weybridge Hospital now has a complicated history of 22 planning applications and 3 appeals.

Following permission on appeal for access to the entire site by a nominal 1.5 meter wide path, the second application for change of use for the rear building to 4 houses has now been permitted.

The only minor matter outstanding is the change of use for the area behind the shop to an office.

2.CHURCHFIELDS AVENUE (2004/2380 & 2006/2810 & 2007/2666, 2674 & 2008/2686 & 2009/0301, 1546 & 2010/0406)

THIS SITE was the playing fields of Wallop School and has been defined as Strategic Open Urban Land (SOUL). There have now been 8 applications and 1 appeal for houses on this site.

The seventh application for 5 houses, reported in the last newsletter, was refused by Elmbridge Council and is still under

appeal.

The eighth application for 4 houses which offered 70% of the private land for public use was permitted and we await the detail of the legal agreement for the use of the land.

3. UNIT 4 ST. MARTINS COURT YORK RD. (2008/2751 & 2009/1664,1665)

DESPITE objections from both the local residents and ourselves at the appeal hearing, the least objectionable of the latest two applications for eight flats and retail space was permitted and the other one refused.

4. CHURCHFIELD HOUSE (ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE) (2009/1319, 2299, 2010/1410 & 1411)

THE PLANNING Panel has objected to the latest planning applications for an even greater number of large signs in brushed steel. In our opinion these would be out of keeping with the important features of this Grade II listed building in consideration of size, quantity and construction.

5. 31-33 RADNOR RD (2008/0861, 2627 & 2010/0387,1454)

THE WEYBRIDGE Society has supported the residents of Radnor Road who are opposed to another proposal to replace a commercial building with 8 flats and a house. As for previous applications the

objections were that such a development would not fit in with the street scene and would create parking problems.

6. QUEENS HEAD 1 BRIDGE RD. (2010/1151)

PLANNING permission has been granted for 3, non-illuminated signs which, in our opinion, will be an improvement on the original signs.

7. ST. MARTINS COURT 37 QUEENS RD. (2010/1123)

ELMBRIDGE Council gave planning permission for 8 flats despite very many objections from local residents.

The Planning Panel were of the opinion that there were no valid planning reasons to refuse this application.

8. 3 BRIDGE RD (2009/0371, 1131 & 2010/1164)

PREVIOUS applications to demolish or extensively change this significant building in the Conservation Area have been refused. The most recent application for a two storey rear extension, single storey side extension and a detached garage have been approved. It is hoped that with good use of appropriate and matching materials the integrity of the Conservation Area will be maintained.

Making development control decisions

DEVELOPMENT control decisions should be taken to include:

- Planning applications
- Enforcement actions
- Lawful Development Certificates
- Section 106 agreements
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Advertisement consents
- Initial assignment of delegation level
- At registration, planning applications are assigned a level of delegation. In the vast majority of cases the decisions are delegated to officers .

2. A few larger or contentious applications are assigned to an Sub-

Committee(SC) for decision.

3. Applications initially designated for officer decision can be promoted as follows.

Decisions Made by Officers

1. The relevant officer is normally the Director of Environmental Services (DPES).. Some decisions (e.g. enforcement notices) are dealt with by the Borough Solicitor.
2. Decisions are taken on a daily basis by the DPES or by the Head of Town Planning
3. All officer level decisions are reported to the next available meeting of the SC

4. Decisions to issue notices (enforcements; TPOs; etc.) are reported to Ward Members prior to issue.

Decisions referred to Area Planning Sub-Committees:

1. Those 'conditionally'* promoted by a Member of the SC
2. Those recommended by officers for approval but having an unresolved objection from 5 or more households
3. Those applications within the Government's 'major'** category
4. Those submitted by or on behalf of Members or Officers of the Council
5. Enforcement actions promoted by a Ward Councillor.

Decisions referred to the Main Planning Committee (PC)

1. Those referred to the PC by two

members of the PC (not necessarily members of the SC, but they must have been present during the whole of the debate on the item). This must be done before the SC meeting moves on to the next item

2. The applications where the SC decides that permission should be granted and there are unresolved planning objections from more than 40 households
3. Those 'major' category applications where the SC decision is contrary to the officer recommendation
4. All departures from the development plan which have to be submitted to the Government Office for the South East.

* 'Conditionally' means only promote if the officer recommendation is in one particular direction: permit or refuse. No reason needed ** 'major' means a residential development of 10 or more units or more than 0.5 hectare. in area or a commercial development or change of use covering 1000 sqm. floorspace or more than one hectare in site area

The Elmbridge Hundred

THE CURRENT exhibition at Elmbridge Museum, which comes to an end on September 15, is a history of people and place.

The exhibition is the result of an ambitious community project to put the Borough's human history on the map.

Find out which of the 552 historic figures (and still counting!) have made it through to the exhibition.

Using objects from the Museum collections their intriguing stories have been brought to life.

See what tales lie behind Queen Victoria's boots, RC Sherriff's letters, or the Duchess of York's dog collar. Student artworks inspired by the historic figures are also on display.

There is also the opportunity to search further on the

Elmbridge Hundred website both at the Museum, and on www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk

Michael Aspel, OBE, TV presenter and Honorary Freeman of Elmbridge Borough was joined on the Final Selection Panel ultimately responsible for choosing the Elmbridge Hundred by David Taylor, Cobham historian; Tony Hutchings, Archivist at Brooklands Museum, and Heather Hawker, Chair of the Surrey History Trust.

In addition to Elmbridge Museum, the following organisations are partners and/or funders of the Elmbridge Hundred project:

- Brooklands Museum;
- The Friends of Elmbridge Museum;
- Landskip Organisation;
- MLA South East and the RC Sherriff Trust.

Elmbridge Museum also

worked with Claremont Landscape Gardens, Painshill Park, the Surrey History Centre and all Elmbridge secondary schools.

- Elmbridge Museum, in Church Street, Weybridge, is a wonderful place to explore local history. It is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am until 5pm, and on Saturday from 10am until 1pm, and 2pm until 5pm (closed all-day Thursdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays).

On the second Saturday in the month free family fun events are also arranged.

- For further information and details Call: 01932 843573, or email: ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk, or view the website at: www.elmbridge.gov.uk/museum.

Did You Know?

CAPTAIN Alcock and Lt. Brown, who made the first transatlantic flight were welcomed back to Weybridge to attend a 'hurriedly arranged' reception on 18 June 1919.

The Vickers Factory at Brooklands had built the converted Vimy bomber used in the crossing. So not only was the aeroplane built locally, but the propellers were made in Addlestone, castings from Chertsey and it was designed by the son of Chertsey's former vicar. John Alcock had lived in Weybridge as a boy.

In recognition of, and to celebrate the achievement, Vickers workers were granted a day's paid holiday; Alcock and Brown were knighted as national heroes. They subsequently presented £2,000 of their £10,000 prize money to the men at Vickers who had worked on their machine.

- Information from 'A Window on Weybridge', by DM and JL Barker, in which there is a fine picture of the celebrations. This interesting pictorial book is available from Elmbridge Museum - perhaps a 'must' for anyone who is interested in how Weybridge was!

Don't forget you can see aeroplanes from the Vimy to Concorde at Brooklands Museum along with all with the Weybridge connections.

Your chance to add to the Elmbridge Hundred

Visitors to the Elmbridge Hundred website: www.elmbridgehundred.co.uk can access biographies of more than 600 people who have made a difference in the Borough.

These biographies were researched by local AS and A-level students, and at the launch of the website, Alistair Grant opened up the research phase to wider participation. Many historic figures' stories remain to be told, and keen biographers are invited to browse the website to discover those still waiting.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in researching and writing a biography, contact Joanna Tapp, Elmbridge museum officer on 01932

843573, or by email on: jtapp@elmbridge.gov.uk to let her know the figure you intend to research - in case research is being undertaken by someone else already.

Joanna will be able happy to offer some guidance on how to structure the biography, which should be typed and emailed to the Museum.

This is a chance for keen local historians to add to what is becoming a very popular website – the more research that can be included, the more informed visitors will be about the illustrious past of Elmbridge Borough – and from Weybridge Society's point of view, historic figures who had connections with our town.

ADVERTISEMENT

Your local Sure Start Children's Centre has moved!



You can now find us at the Churchfield Pavilion, Churchfield Road, Weybridge. All families with 0-5 year old children are welcome to join us

from 11am to 1pm for great fun, fabulous food and friendly faces. Every day your Weybridge Children's Centre is open to give advice and information about a

wide range of issues:

- Pre and post natal support
- Early learning opportunities for 0-5 year olds
- Childcare

- Healthcare
- Specialist financial advice
- Training and development for adults

For more information on our services please visit our website: www.weybridgechildrenscentre.co.uk or phone us on 01932 300 106 We look forward to your call or visit

Transport: The final piece of the long-awaited jigsaw

A NEW pedestrian and cycle path from Weybridge Station to Brooklands opened on the 15th July, signalling the first new positive provision for Weybridge pedestrians and cyclists.

After years of hard work and campaigning by the Weybridge Society and many others, a path now joins the public footpaths from Weybridge Station for those wishing to access Brooklands, giving off-road access to Mercedes Benz World (MBW) and the Brooklands Museum reducing the time taken by foot and bike.

The new path goes under 7 Arches Bridge along side the west side of the banks of the River Wey.

This final part of the path has taken 5 years of hard work and was spearheaded by former St George's Hill

ward councillor Peter Harman.

We congratulate all involved in the latest phase of the project – especially Peter Harman, Ian Gayton, Parks and Recreation Manager at Elmbridge Borough Council and David Morris from Network Rail.

This route has been high on the Weybridge Society priority list for almost 20

years and we have supported proposals in discussions with Mercedes Benz World, Network Rail, Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council.

The paths to the boundary of the former racetrack were

built with help from Mercedes Benz World and it has taken many years to get the route completed.

The Weybridge Society has lobbied for recognition of the public right of way through the Dell for maintenance on the paths and for MBW to support the path



and include it in their travel plan. All paths are suitable for pedestrians; although the Dell

path is not really suitable for cyclists.

For the last 5 years Peter Harman and Elmbridge Borough Council have been negotiating with Network Rail to make the final link between the paths and thus complete the off road route

from the station to Brooklands – for access to the stores, Brooklands Museum, MBW and Brooklands Community Park.

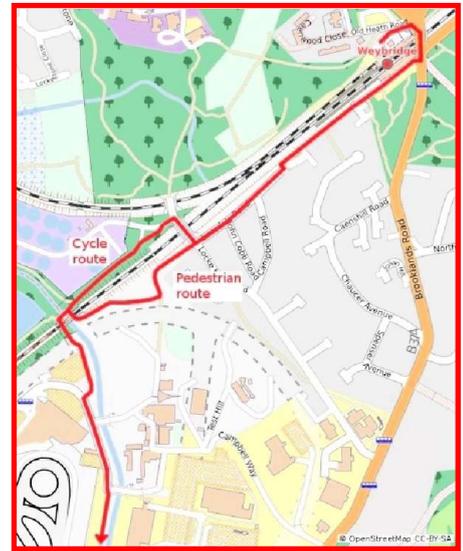
The works on the final link were carried out by Elmbridge Borough Council.

The route provides for staff and visitors to Brooklands to walk and cycle off-road from the station and will contribute to reduced car traffic to MBW and Brooklands Museum.

We will now be asking Surrey County Council to publicise the new route on their interactive maps and cycle and footpath publications.

Elmbridge Borough Council are now hoping to arrange 'healthy walks' along the new path later this year.

FIRST FOOTING: Left, Weybridge Society members embark on a walk of the new completed route **BELOW:** A map showing the pedestrian route



Clear paths for pedestrians and cyclists along the route **INSET:** Overgrowth at the arches prior to completion.

Strong leader or elected mayor? What do you think?

Elmbridge Borough Council is interested in hearing your opinion on how it should govern itself

Why is this important?

A change in the law means that the Council needs to vary its current Council Leader and Cabinet arrangements, or take a bigger step and change to an Elected Mayor and Cabinet.

It is important that you let us know which of the two options you would prefer so that the Council can take this into account when deciding which of the two options to propose for Elmbridge.

We want as many people as possible to register their opinion by email or by post. We also want to hear any comments you may have so that we can consider these when we come to draw up our final proposals.

What are the options?

The Council has two options, both of which are different from the current arrangements:

Option A - Strong Leader and Cabinet

The Leader would be supported by a Cabinet chosen by the Leader. This is similar to the Council's current system but instead of the whole Council (all 60 councillors) deciding who will be the Leader and which other councillors will make up the Cabinet, they would only be able to decide who will be the Leader.

The Leader will then remain in office until the first Council meeting after they have stood for re-election

as a councillor. This could be up to 4 years (although if there are concerns the other councillors can still vote to replace him or her). In the current system the Leader stands for election or re-election by councillors each year at the Annual Meeting - this will change if this option is chosen. Once the Leader has been chosen by the Council it will then be up to the Leader to choose which councillors, up to a maximum of 9 others, to include in the Cabinet.

Under this option the role of the traditional Mayor is unchanged.

Option B - Mayor and Cabinet

With this option there would be a specific election process for the voters of Elmbridge to directly elect an individual as Mayor.

The Mayor would be elected for a term of 4 years and if there were any concerns the councillors would not be able to vote to replace him or her. The elected Mayor is not a councillor and does not represent a ward. As with option A, the Mayor would choose his or her Cabinet.

An elected Mayor is a political leader and this is entirely different from Elmbridge's current Mayoral arrangements, where a Mayor is appointed annually to carry out a civic and ceremonial role and chair the meetings of Council. The Council would no longer elect a traditional Mayor if this option were adopted.

Timetable

The Council must choose one of the above options by December 2010 for implementation in May 2011. We are consulting electors and other interested persons with a view to drawing up proposals.

The consultation period closed on August 9, 2010, and the intention now is to develop proposals and report to the Cabinet on September 22, 2010. The resolution to adopt a new form of Executive Arrangements will be made by Council at a Special Meeting on 6 October 2010.

Views

We want to hear the views of the public and other interested parties. Anyone wishing to comment can do so by email or post, stating your name and address and any body you represent.

Comments will be made available to Borough Councillors and a summary of consultation responses will be made in public reports.

All comments via email to:

legalservices@elmbridge.gov.uk

Or write to:

**Head of Legal Services,
Elmbridge Borough
Council,
Civic Centre,
High Street,
Esher, Surrey KT10 9SD**

FACT BOX

Elmbridge Borough Council is reviewing its political leadership arrangements. Legislation requires the Council to change its executive decision-making process to one of two leadership options, namely Strong Leader or Elected Mayor. The Council would like to find out your views on the two options.

REVIEW BACKGROUND

Under its existing leadership arrangements, Elmbridge Borough Council has a Cabinet comprising ten Councillors, one of whom is the Leader. The Council at its Annual Meeting in May appoints the Leader and also the other members of the Cabinet. These appointments remain in force for one year.

The Cabinet is normally formed by the majority political party and has a wide range of executive responsibilities, including the power to determine all proposals within existing policy that require member approval. The Cabinet, or its individual members acting within their portfolio responsibilities, can carry out all functions that are not reserved to the Council, its Committees or delegated to officers.

New legislation requires any local authority currently operating executive arrangements to move to a new form of governance. There are two options. The Council is seeking the views of local residents/electors and other interested persons on which option to adopt. The decision will be made by a Special Meeting of the Council on 6 October 2010.

Weybridge Waterfront – a brief history by Brian Roberts

Waters of the river Wey, which once passed a gunpowder wharf at Stonebridge, a boat building yard at Dapdune and an iron mill at Coxes Lock now carries pleasure boats down to join the Thames at its southernmost point at Weybridge Waterfront.

Parish boundaries of the County of Surrey still follow the centres of the ancient riverbeds of both the Wey and Thames, but since these boundaries were established man has played God with the rivers themselves.

Over 350 years ago (1653) at the height of the political turmoil of the Commonwealth and Restoration, Sir Richard Weston achieved his ambition of deepening and straightening the river Wey – to form the Wey Navigation from Guildford.

It involved seven miles of improved river bed and nine miles of artificial channels forming 'short cuts' around

shallows and meanders of the river, especially as it enters Weybridge forming Whittets Ait.

Pharaoh's Island on the Thames, was formed 100 years later (1774) by cutting an artificial channel to the north of the natural stream, and 50 years after that a lock island was created by the cut for Shepperton Lock (1813) to the north of Hamhaugh Island – itself defined by the two Shepperton Weirs. More recently Desborough Island was created in the 1930s by the Thames Conservancy's work constructing the straight Desborough channel and demoting the old meandering river past Halliford, both named

after the Conservancy's Chairman Lord Desborough.

Weybridge Waterfront standing at the confluence of these many courses has been the scene of much boating activity over the years, including sporting clubs which nurture a competitive spirit among local people leading to achievement at international levels.

The Second Olympics of the modern era in Paris (1924) saw a Weybridge Rowing Club Coxed Four representing Great Britain, and

500m) from Beijing Olympic Games 2008 and bronze (KI 1000m) from the Sydney Games. He was Worlds Best 1000m in Athens 2004 and has a day job as a local Doctor. He started canoeing here in 1987 when he was just ten years old.

Weybridge Rowing Club member 20 year old Matt Tarrant won a silver medal for Great Britain at World Rowing Junior Championships 2008 is now representing GB in World Rowing U23 Championships 2009.

through the Wey Navigation. Of these three, the first was re-opened in 1990 but only fully completed in 1996, the second was reopened in 1991 after 17 years of volunteer dredging, and the last is moving forward steadily.

Steady improvements have been made to the waterfront over the last 30 years resulting in a generously wide towpath. Designated both as long distance Thames Path and Sustrans Cycleway Route 4 it is also used by local dog walkers, joggers and other fitness seekers by land.

Recent improvements include picnic tables, landscape changes and better car parking. Finally, this summer, the towpath has been closed to all users for three months to allow the Environment Agency to improve the approaches to the landing stage of Shepperton/Weybridge ferry – uniquely linking two lengths of the Thames Path - adding easy-gradient ramps, and improve the safety of the moorings for visiting boats by regrading and providing

proper landings.

When these works are completed and the towpath finally re-opened the Weybridge Society and seven of the sports clubs along here are holding a celebration on Saturday 4th September called the **Weybridge Thames-side Festival** (see below) to which all members of the public are welcome. Come and enjoy the area, now an amenity to be proud of.

Plus on the following Sunday, September 5th, the Dunkirk Little Ships return on their annual visit, to complete a splendid Weybridge Waterfront weekend.

BRIAN ROBERTS



MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER: There's always something to smile about while floating along on the river

right now we have at least three elite athletes whose current international careers started at one of the seven sports clubs on the Weybridge Waterfront.

Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club member Sarah Birch represented Great Britain at Junior World Championship level and later at Senior level at World Championships from 1997-2004 in various lightweight crews.

She started rowing here in 1984 after a period with Thames Valley Skiff Club.

Elmbridge Canoe Club canoeist 33-year-old Tim Brabants has a gold medal (KI 1000m) and bronze (KI

The Waterfront also hosts public gatherings of boats, in the 1900's a gentle regatta took place with skiffs, punts, early steam cruisers all watched from an extended beach along here. The gentry leaving their horse drawn carriages on the bank much as cars are now parked here.

In 1975 the local branch of the Inland Waterways Association arranged a Rally of Boats of many types promoting three of the then current canal restorations accessible from the Thames – the Kennet & Avon Canal from Reading (86 miles), plus the Basingstoke Canal (31 miles) and the Wey & Arun Canal (18 miles) both connected

Our Thames-side Festival takes place on Saturday, September 4th, 2010 in support of Sam Beare Hospice and other Weybridge charities. The festival will be supported by local sports clubs and Estate Agents Curchods

WEYBRIDGE Waterfront starts at the bottom of Thames Street, passes along the wide towpath to the Thames Path's unique ferry across to Shepperton and ends with the Council owned Walton Lane open space – where the Society hopes to install a new public sculpture. There are wide views across the water to the weir system of Shepperton Lock and of the historic D'Oyly Carte Island with many boats passing towards Teddington and Windsor, or enter-

ing the mouth of the Wey Navigation.

Over 30 stalls will be arranged facing these views and there will be live music and entertainments on the lawn. Up to 50 boats of all types – riverboats, narrowboats and barges will be moored on the improved landing stages from Friday Lunchtime onwards.

Free boat rides from the rowing club and canoe club steps will encourage the public to 'get afloat' and access will be possible by **Free vintage bus rides** from Weybridge

Station and stops at the Library and Ship Inn. Also cross by ferry from Shepperton.

Open to the public on Saturday from 11am till 4pm with formal opening at noon. After an illuminated boat parade on Saturday at dusk, the week-end will be 'rounded off with a visit from Dunkirk Little Ships on Sunday.

All details are regularly updated on the Weybridge Society website: www.weybridgesociety.org.uk/Events/Weybridge_ThamesSide_Festival_2010

Weybridge Thames-side Festival

Saturday September 4th 2010 • 11am - 4pm

Bottom of Thames Street opposite Shepperton Lock

Sponsored by

CURCHODS