



*Would you like to join the
Weybridge Society?*

*Please contact any Committee
member- see Page 8*

‘Editorial: A Splash of Summer’

By Haley Jenkins, Editor

We are now leaving behind that summer smell of cut grass and Sunday barbecues, along with the heatwaves and school holidays. The sunny season has left us with good memories, new arrivals and hope for the future. In summer, the Society saw the recruitment of Sue Ells and her enthusiasm and hopes for the Society continue to impress. I also joined the Society as Newsletter Editor. As this is my first official newsletter – the Summer edition being co-edited with Trevor Tarring - I can only say that I hope its contents and management will not disappoint our long-term members and that I hope we may attract new ones as we go on.

Each year the Weybridge Society celebrates the warm weather with the Summer Garden Party (5th July). This year the party was hosted at *Splash*, the beautiful home of Anne (Membership & Distribution Committee Member) and Ray Lindsay. Bordering Wey Meadows, their quirky riverside haven set the scene for the party and put everyone at ease. Speaking as a first timer, I was overwhelmed by not only this splendid location – my favourite feature being the Arthurian sword in the stone replica – but by the friendliness and warmth of the people.

While pianist Jack Honeybourne, bass Peter Morgan and singer Ray Lindsay played harmonious melodies, the tireless efforts of Anne Lindsay, Annette Davies and Lorraine Arnold provided the party-goers with succulent food, from honey-roasted ham to dark cherry cream cake. Our Patron Michael Aspel hosted the charity Raffle, which proved exciting and altogether the Society just under £210 each for The Red Cross and Sam Beare!



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Photography by Mike Buhagiar Top: Overview of the party. Middle: (left to right) Michael and Irene Aspel, Chairman Dave Arnold. Bottom: Anne and Ray Lindsay.

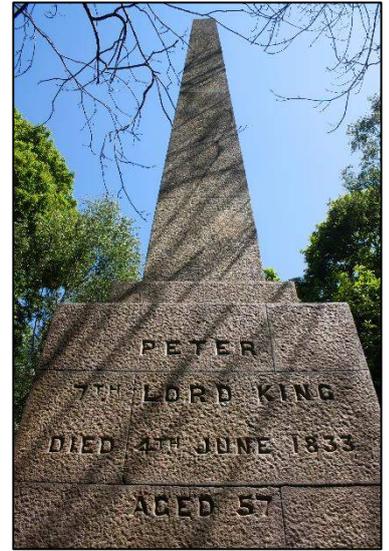
‘The Forgotten Monument’

By Haley Jenkins, Editor

Lost and forgotten in a nettle-infested woodlands of Brooklands College, is the Locke King Monument. First re-discovered in 1973 by a group of students, the monument remains hidden away, mostly unknown except to local historians and woodland conservationists. The inscription on the Monument reads: *Peter 7th Lord King Died 4th June 1833 Aged 57*. According to the 1973 article, the other two sides bare the inscriptions to Peter J. Locke King (died 1876) and Hester Lady King (died 1873), but these sides are now almost wholly inaccessible due to the wild nettles. Lord Peter King (1776-1833) was the 7th Baron of Ockham, educated at Eton College and Trinity College in Cambridge, he succeeded his father Peter King in 1793. He was a Whig Politian, but somewhat of a reclusive, rarely participating in debates save for two: supporting Lord Holland in his inquiry into the failed expedition into the ‘Low Countries’, to oppose the Habeas Corpus Suspension Bill or the bill to prolong the suspension the Banks of England and Ireland’s cash payments. He published one pamphlet entitled: ‘*Thoughts on the Restriction of Payments in Specie at the Banks of England and Ireland*’ in 1803. King married Lady Hester Fortescue on 26 May 1804, and had two daughters and more famously, two sons: William King (who became Earl of Lovelace in 1838) and Peter John Locke King, the father of Hugh Locke King who would go on to build the Brooklands motor racing track and the aviation field in Weybridge.

The best start to the path is shown below by the red circle. Between the concrete strip behind the old ‘Mansion House’ as it is known by students and between the Performing Arts building, there is a track leading into the woods. This editor recommends keeping to the left path, circling around the back of the college and surrounding estates. Keep to the left (tip: the sound of trains on the railway should be to your left) and keep on going. Beware, the ground is uneven and you possibly require mosquito repellent, as the monument has often been heavily guarded by such local wildlife.

Please Note: this information gained from *Dictionary of National Biography (1885-1900), Volume 31*, and available at Weybridge Library: *Reminiscences of Weybridge* by E. Lovelock / *The Locke Kings* by B.F.J. Pardoe’ produced by the Walton & Weybridge Local History Society, 1969; and *A Short History of Weybridge* by M.E. Blackman and J.S.L. Pulford.



(Top Left) Peter King, 7th Baron King of Ockham, portrait by John Linnell from 1832. National Portrait Gallery. (Top Right) Locke King Monument by local photography Lewis Jenkins. His photographs are available in The Riverside Arts Centre, Walton. Bottom: Google Maps.

‘An Invite To Attend The Main Committee Meetings’

If you are interested in how the main committee works or have any specific questions that you may wish to raise, why not come along to one of the bimonthly meetings? All members are welcome to attend the main committee meetings as observers and then raise questions at the end of the formal agenda. As space is limited in the meeting room a maximum of three members would be allowed to attend any meeting, selection would take place on a “first come, first served” basis.

Any member wishing to attend should inform the Society’s secretary of the date of the meeting that they would like to attend and, if known, advise of any specific topic that they would wish to discuss. The schedule of the main committee meetings for 2015/2016 will be published in the next newsletter and will be available on the Society’s website.

‘An Eloquent Witness: War Memorial Now Listed’

By Haley Jenkins

The Society would like to thank our War Memorial Officer Mr Ian Pickard in his efforts for getting the War Memorial on the junction of Queens Road and Hanger Hill listed as a Grade II on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial has now been put on the National Heritage List for England, the entry was made available for public viewing on 18th June 2015. The memorial remembers those Weybridge men who died in the First World War, as well as those who fell in the Second World War and the Korean War. It was built by J. Hatchard Smith (architect) and R L Boulton and Sons (sculptor). The unveiling of this key Weybridge monument was on 24 March 1923, making it ninety-two years old. The ‘Reasons for Designation’ on the memorial’s entry states: ‘Historic interest: as an eloquent witness to the tragic impacts of world events on this community, and the sacrifices it made in the conflicts of the C20. Architectural interest: as handsome, finely-crafted, example with strong sculptural merit.



Photo provided by Dave Arnold

‘Get to know the Weybridge Business Group’

by Paul Povey, Manager Waitrose Weybridge

Hello Everyone.

The Weybridge Town Business Group has been in operation for quite a while, and since March 2015 we have begun to re-energise our efforts to develop how the Business community might work alongside Elmbridge and Surrey councils, working with our resident community in order to strengthen and successfully build our Town economy.

Several aims have been developed that the Business community is keen to progress. Signage, Footfall, The look and Feel of the town, Community events, Promoting the Town, Parking and Traffic flow are all areas that we hope to develop and improve.

We believe there are shared aims that can only strengthen our case if we are able to progress together.

We meet monthly and would be really interested in any thoughts or views that you feel we should know.

Website: www.veybridgebusiness.co.uk - Email: info@veybridgebusiness.co.uk

Our local liason is Barry Judd, please contact him if you have any comments or questions! Email:

liaison@weybridgesociety.org.uk

'Upcoming Lecture'

by *Annette Davies*

Nick Pollard, who is the Chairman of Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society will present his talk: "The Islands in the Thames between Shepperton and Weybridge" at St James' Parish Centre, Weybridge, starting at 8pm on Thursday 8 October. Doors open at 7.30pm, members go free and guest tickets cost £3.00.



'St James' Gets Musical!'

by *Haley Jenkins*

On the last Friday of every month, you may hear the boom of a bass guitar or the beat of a drum rolling out from the doors of St James Parish Centre on Church Road. At 8.00pm on this night, Friday Night Music hold a live event music event. In July they were proud to present the Rock n' Roll Southern Knights, who sang amazing covers of Elvis, Buddy Holly, the Shadows and many others! There is also an open mic session, so for those of you who have not got up on stage for a while or perhaps never, here is a chance to give it a go and just have fun. Don't worry about being 'good enough', Friday Night Music welcomes everyone who just wants to have some fun and who loves music. You can be a solo act, a duo or a band, or you could just come to listen, dance and chat. There is the Bee Brewery beer and a Cash Bar to enjoy when you are all danced out (or just re-fuelling for the next round!). There are PA and Guitar Amps provided for those who want to bring their instruments.

MORE INFO: KEITH 07771 920976

www.facebook.com/stjamesfest

www.lemonrock.com/musicatstjames

Twitter: @musicstjames



'Local Entertainer for Children's Parties!'

by *Tracy Tomkins, 'Crazy Hazy'*

Hi I am Crazy Hazy a local children's entertainer, I have been doing this for thirteen years and I still love every minute of it! I work with a range of children from 4 months doing my weekly song time (term time only) right around to doing adult discos, so I cater for all ages. I came to Hersham and the surrounding areas during school holidays to do my Pay-As-You-Go parties.

I love to do the parties in the school holidays as it gives the children chance to meet up, have fun with their friends and get that party feeling plus you grown-ups get to meet up and have a chat. The parties are aimed at ages 2-11 years but all ages are welcome.

It's a real party atmosphere and you just pay per child. £5 for the first child then siblings/minded children £2.50 and under twos are free when accompanying a paying sibling.



The next one will be Halloween in the October holidays, feel free to come and join in the fun, I advise you put your name down for guaranteed entry on 07901 556351. All the details are on my Facebook page: Crazy Hazy Children's Entertainer. Please like it for all my up to date events.

For more information, visit: www.crazyhazy.co.uk

'Get Local and Read Alex Rushton!'

Interview with Alex Rushton

Compiled/edited by Haley Jenkins

Local Author Alex Rushton responds to questions about her book 'Sunrise at An Lac', which was published by SCRIPTORA – the indie press division of the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (SWWJ) – in July 2014. It is her first published novel.

2033. In An Lac ashram, at the tranquil heart of the Swiss Alps, a small group of men and women finds their oasis of peace under threat from the rise of religious fundamentalism and the catastrophic events of the outside world, where tsunamis have wiped out half the planet's coastline.

Their charismatic leader, Ajahn Annando, has followers worldwide who look to him for guidance. Compelled to act, he establishes An Lac as a resistance command centre. Ralph's difficult adolescent son Tom, steadfast Erin, the intellectual Ajit, and gentle Stefano who cares for the ashram's livestock, are now thrown into unfamiliar roles.

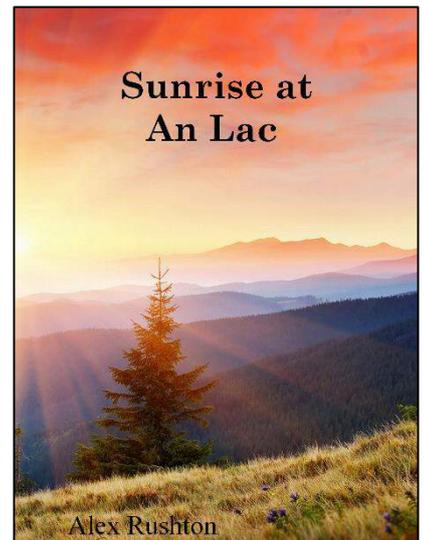
Forced to turn their energy outward from their utopian community, they journey to the desert in Turkey, to the fiefdom of the tribal leader, Jawal Kowi, and to the chaotic, frightening city that Madrid has become. In the face of ruthless opposition each will encounter challenges, both emotional and physical, they would never have foreseen or chosen.

This is their story.

When did you know you wanted to be a writer? I don't think there was any definitive moment. I'd had an idea for a novel for some time and decided to write my thoughts down. I had no idea where the novel was going, if anywhere. I just wrote instinctively, I had no genre in mind and no particular audience, which professionals in the field advised me later was a big mistake. I didn't even particularly want anyone to read what I was writing, I just wrote for myself, for the creativity, for the joy of writing. I still don't think of myself as a writer, just as someone who likes to write.

When did the idea of 'Sunrise at An Lac' present itself and why? I was spending time at a beautiful ashram – a place for contemplation and meditation – high in the Austrian Alps with an amazing view down the valley with rolling hills and forests. One day I looked at the view below and I had this vision of an enormous army climbing towards us. I had no idea who the army were, only that they wanted to destroy us and that we were the last stand. I had already written one novel, *The Asymmetric Man*, which is dormant at the moment, and planned a second. 'Sunrise at An Lac' became the third in this trilogy and seamlessly ran on from the others although each novel also stands alone. This one is the first to be published.

The novel deals with major issues – global warming, religious fundamentalism and terror – how much research did you have to do in order to write about these topics? I did an enormous amount over a very long period of time. The real challenge was knitting it together into a continuous story. When I read something I found interesting, either in a newspaper or periodical, for example, I would write it down in my notebook or remember it. I am quite a perfectionist so I spent a lot of time making sure my research was correct. For the battle scene I spent many hours researching the tactics of the Chinese general Sun Tzu as detailed in *The Art of War* (written in the 6th Century BC and never bettered). The chapters came to me like scenes in a film. At the beginning I wasn't quite sure how things would work, I was only sure of the end.



Above: Alex Rushton at the All-Party Writers' Group, House of Commons

Below: Sunrise at An Lac cover

Did you find it difficult getting a publisher? I didn't look for a traditional publisher. I have been a member of the Society of Authors (SoA) and the Society of Women Writers and Journalists (SWWJ) for some time. The SWWJ has recently launched SCRIPTORA, an indie press, and I approached them with a view to publishing my novel. At first they had reservations and I needed to do radical editing on the manuscript. This was extremely difficult, I had to delete whole chapters, add others and move things around. My editor was very skilful. Eventually they agreed to publish and I was thrilled.

What is the most important part of being a writer in your opinion? For me the most important thing is the creativity. When I become immersed in a novel it is so alive in my consciousness (or unconsciousness?) that it urges me on and I cannot stop, the characters are so vital, the dialogue so clear, the place so vividly real that I am overwhelmed by it. It is also very hard work and frustrating, especially when I've had a bad day and hate what I'm writing, or love what I've written but it doesn't work. For me it is often an emotional rollercoaster.

Do you have any recommendations/advice for new writers, particularly those starting out in later life? Join a writers' group and/or a writing class. I was very lucky. About seven years ago I joined my local writers' group Walton Wordsmiths. We are a small eclectic group and there are about eight of us. We write non-fiction articles, short stories, poetry and novels. Several of us have more than one interest. During our meetings we read out our work and receive constructive comment, help each other with the craft of writing, have a creative writing exercise, share our publication successes and failures and offer support. The writing process can be very lonely and the group has been invaluable. A novel, in particular, is an enormous undertaking. I was aware when I was writing that all my effort may, very likely, go absolutely nowhere. You need stamina and perseverance because it is a marathon. If you have an urge to write, you are never too old to start and it can be tremendously rewarding. If you like you can join Walton Wordsmiths, we always welcome new writers! Contact Pat Jones at johnpatweybridge@hotmail.com or telephone 01932 845617.

Where can we get hold of your book? Sunrise at An Lac is available on amazon.co.uk either as a paperback or as a Kindle edition. Bookmuse has recently reviewed Sunrise at An Lac, and the review is on their website bookmuse.co.uk. You can find further details about Alex Rushton on her website: www.alexrushton.co.uk

'Weybridge Walks'

by Victoria Spashett

Monthly – the first Tuesday of every month - social walks designed for all levels of fitness and ability. It doesn't matter if you are a seasoned hill walker or just want to take a break from your daily schedule Living Streets Project Coordinator Victoria Spashett will be leading monthly walks around Weybridge. Come along on with friends or on your own (and meet new people). The walks will start from a central location and finish near a café for those that wish to linger longer over a cup of tea or coffee.

The first walk will leave from in front of the Elmbridge Museum and take in local green spaces in the centre of the village. The walk will be approximately 1 mile in length along footpaths and tracks. Please wear appropriate footwear, you might also want to have a bottle of water and sun cream with you. If you have any questions about this walk or what Living Streets will be doing in Weybridge in the upcoming months please get in touch with local Project Coordinator Victoria Spashett on victoria.spashett@livingstreets.org.uk

'Touchtennis In Weybridge'

*by Mary Sheldon, Elmbridge Borough Councillor
Hersham North Ward, Portfolio Holder for Leisure & Culture.*

Since touchtennis was launched in Weybridge on 6 June we have had some really good feedback and have recently been running two sessions a week whereby people can come down and use rackets, free of charge, and we have also given away balls so that people can play in their own time.

Anyone interested in playing can hire rackets and balls for a very small fee from Monday to Friday 9-4pm and Saturdays 9-12 noon from either the Children's Centre or Centre for the Community adjacent to the courts in Churchfields Recreation Ground in Weybridge. Alternatively anyone can play at any time that suits them if they have their own rackets and balls.

We recently tried to get some of the local Weybridge businesses involved. We had a business taster session in Weybridge to which some companies encouraged their staff to try out touchtennis (held on Thursday 20 August between 5 – 6.30pm), so hopefully an ideal for those finishing their working day. Elmbridge Borough Council has sent letters to local businesses in the hope that some companies will encourage their staff to come down to try it out – so please pass the word around! touchtennis is still very much a growing sport so it's great to be at the forefront with events like the All England touchtennis tournament that was held at Leisure Live in Weybridge in July, with players coming from all over the world to play. Looking further ahead, we'd like to work with Xcel to try to give people the chance to play touchtennis there in the colder months, when Churchfields is unusable.

'Thank You'

Dear Friends & Members,

We would like to thank you for all the overwhelming support you have given my family and I since Carolyn left us in February. As you can imagine it has been an extremely sad and difficult time for us, and the letters, phone calls, donations and conversations from you all have been a great help. I would like to thank you all in person but feel that is not possible, so please accept this small note as a token of our appreciation to you all.

Best wishes, John and the Pennycook family

Planning News

Disclaimer: The following information is summarised from the Weybridge Society's 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 panel's opinion.

Weybridge North -

Land north of Grove House Devonshire Rd – (2014/4904) - This application to build a detached house, following demolition of existing garages, was recommended for permission by the planning officer, it was refused by the West Area Planning Committee, and is still awaiting the result of an appeal.

Locke King House 2 Balfour Road – (2015/2684) - Locke King House, close to St James' Church, and in the Conservation Area, was originally the old hospital built with money provided by Locke King. The building, although it has been altered, is kept in good order and is at present used as offices. This proposal is to demolish the building and to replace it with 18 retirement flats. To date there have been 8 letters of objection and one of support. Our planning panel will be supporting the objectors as we consider it to be an over development of the site with problems of bulk, massing, loss of light etc. as well as the unnecessary removal of a locally significant building.

47 Thames St. (2014/0884) - In previous newsletters we have reported applications for the conversion of this redundant warehouse into residential use. The Weybridge Society would normally support such an application, but in previous applications it was agreed, and supported by an Inspector, that it provided poor quality housing and was far too close to a number of houses. This application is unusual, as it is based on a Government initiative for change of use of small redundant storage or distribution warehouses into dwelling houses. For planning to be permitted it is only necessary to establish that this building was actually small enough, i.e. less than 500 square metres, at the time that it was in use as a warehouse. Weybridge Society will be objecting to this application on the grounds that, at the time of sale, this building was quoted as being 630 square meters.

St George's Hill –

Leeward House (formerly Windrush) Cavendish Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 0JW (2015/1360) – Accepted on 07/07/2015 - 2 detached two storey houses with rooms in the roof space, integral garages and new access following demolition of existing house.

Site of Arawa Cavendish Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 0JW (2015/2534) – Under Consideration - Detached two storey block with rooms in the roof space, dormer windows, basement car parking and associated landscaping, to provide 6 flats - We supported the local neighbours, who objected to the size and scale of the application. It is very similar to the previously submitted application, which was unacceptable to the inspector.

Dates for Your Diary:

3rd October 2015 18.30pm – RNLI Jazz Supper Evening at Byfleet Village Hall, held by the Byfleet & Weybridge Branch of RNLI. The doors will open at 6.30 pm with the performance starting at 8 pm. For those who want it (and book it in advance) there will be a fish supper available at 7 p.m. There will also be a cash bar and a raffle. All proceeds will go to the RNLI.

8th October 2015 8.00pm – Nick Pollack Lecture: “The Islands in the Thames between Shepperton and Weybridge” at St James’ Parish Centre, Weybridge, starting at 8pm on Thursday 8 October. Doors open at 7.30pm, members go free and guest tickets cost £3.00.

3rd December 2015 7.30pm – St James Parish Centre, starting at 8pm, a talk on Ashford and St Peter’s Hospitals Trust will be given by Valerie Bartlett Deputy Chief Executive of the Trust.

17th February 2016 7.00pm-10.00pm – St James Parish Centre – Allan Winn, the Director of Brooklands Museum, will be lecturing on the museum’s major redevelopment programme for the Finishing Straight and the relocation of the hangar it currently resides in.



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