



WEYBRIDGE HALL UPDATE

As a member of the Weybridge Hall partnership, the Society is continuing to help boost the appeal and use of the Hall. As those who have visited it recently - for example for the Olympic cycling presentation - have been able to see for themselves, it could still do with a re-paint. This will very properly be funded by

Elmbridge as owners of the Hall, acting through their agents DC Leisure, but we have no idea now when.

Next step to enhancing its appeal is to replace the old cinema-type wooden swing doors with more inviting glass doors and updating the transoms. Benefactor Max Clifford stands ready to defray the cost of this significant item, while contractors Castellum will undertake it at cost. But first we must have planning permission for the change. As we all know, planning permission takes time to obtain, even when the property is owned by the planning authority itself. And that's in normal circumstances. Here we have the added factor that the Hall is in a conservation area. Shoulders are now being applied to the wheel to try to keep these inherent delays to a minimum. Meantime, it's down to



Would you like to join the Weybridge Society?

Please contact any Committee member- see Page 8

all of us to reap the reward from this investment through increased bookings.

A factor to keep in mind is that the full capacity of the Hall was not utilised for the Olympic cycling

meeting, as the balcony was not in use. There is also a separate first floor meeting room, which gives scope for simultaneous bookings for different types of event. This could be a really humming place. Stop press news is that the dodgy cooker in the kitchen has been replaced with a new one. Next stop a crockery update?

One encouraging new development in this direction was a Craft Fair staged at the Hall on March 31, which was much enjoyed by those who attended (See separate item). It is hoped this will become a regular - possibly monthly - event. Things are certainly better than they were almost a year ago, when regular bookings were shrinking at an alarming rate, but we are still chasing that target of 15% growth.

ROYAL 60

The Flower Festival in St James' Church as mentioned in our last newsletter is on Friday 25th May, Saturday 26th May and Sunday 27th May.

Elmbridge Museum is having a display at the Flower Festival, of some of the watercolours painted by Weybridge resident, Miss EJ Harting in 1897, of flowers from many of the local gardens, and some from further afield. Weybridge Society is making a small contribution towards this display, helping to make Royal 60 a real community event.

2012 AGM

This took place at 8pm on Thursday April 26 at the St. James's parish church hall and featured two innovations. Members were not signed in at the door, thus eliminating the attendant logjam. Instead an attendance register was circulated for them to complete once everybody was seated. Also, each of the specialist Panels or sub-committees had a table at which representatives of those bodies were available to answer questions from early arrivals. The bodies represented were Planning, Transport, Education, Events and Marketing. Please see Page 7 for the report of the meeting



Picture courtesy of Elmbridge Museum, part of Elmbridge Borough Council's Leisure and Cultural Services

Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

Society member Steve McCarthy, who manfully looks after our website, is also very active in supporting the Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He points out the Trust is looking for support from local people who can join as members.

NHS Foundation Trusts are membership organisations answerable to their local population. Membership is one of the cornerstones of hospital foundation trusts. It helps to make sure they listen, and are responsive, to their local communities. There are over 6,000 public members of the Trust but currently people in Elmbridge are under-represented compared to other boroughs. As a member you can do as little or as much as you wish. The Trust tells you what's going on in the hospitals and if you want to, you can contribute your views on plans and services. You can also become more involved if you wish - for example by joining some groups or going along to Members' Events.

An important feature of foundation trusts is that members elect Governors whose role is to hold the hospital's Board to account and also represent members' views to the Trust. Membership is completely free and is open to anyone over 14 years living locally. All members have the same benefits starting with:

- Receiving information about the Trust and its plans
- Receiving a copy of the Trust quarterly membership magazine – Members' Matters

More active members may also to do some or all of the following:

- ❖ Give feedback to the Trust via their Governor or via the membership office on a variety of issues including the Trust's future plans and priorities
- ❖ Go to meetings of the Council of Governors
- ❖ Go to Health Events & the AGM
- ❖ Vote in elections for the Council of Governors
- ❖ Stand for election as a Governor
- ❖ Use the discount benefits available via the NHS Discount Scheme as all NHS staff are able to do
- ❖ Become involved in consultations and questionnaires about aspects of the Trust's services or participate in focus groups

Interested members can sign up at: <http://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk/foundationtrust> or call the Membership Office on 01932 722063. Steve is the Governor for Elmbridge. You can contact him via <http://www.ashfordstpeters.nhs.uk/contact-your-governor> (Please note that Governors do not get involved with complaints).

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT MORRISONS?

One of the worst-kept secrets of recent weeks - the news that Morrisons is actively looking at the old Focus/Do It All site for a substantial food store, café and car park - is now in the open. As part of a broad move to gauge local opinion prior to submitting a planning application, they have approached the Society's Planning Panel and informed us of public exhibitions of the project. These will be held at Weybridge Hall (good!) on the following dates: May 10th 5pm - 8pm, May 11th 5pm - 8pm & May 12th 10am - 4pm

Morrisons say they are keen to have the views of the general public, local businesses and community representatives. The positive aspects of the plan Morrisons will be eager to project are (1) An investment of £3.5m, (2) Creation of 300 jobs & (3) It will generate new business for High Street shops

The area to be occupied will be larger than just the old Focus site. If the application makes headway, there will almost certainly be a public enquiry. At this stage all we can tell members about this is to keep watching the Elmbridge website and the Morrison consultation website <http://www.morrisonsweybridge.co.uk/>.

MEMBERSHIP

The strength of any organisation is in its membership, and we urge all members to recruit at least one new member this year. The membership application form can be downloaded from the website (www.weybridgesociety.org.uk) or hard copies are available from the Secretary and other committee members.

Incidentally, if you know of a lapsed member, please encourage them to rejoin – and if your own membership needs renewing, please send your subscription to the Treasurer. (PO Box 492, Weybridge, KT13 8WX).

Olympic Cycling in Surrey

A packed Weybridge Hall welcomed Surriya Subramaniam from the Surrey 2012 team to hear him explain the amazing and detailed organisation that the Olympic Cycle Races through Surrey on July 28/29 and August 1 entails.

Weybridge Society put on the meeting on the 22nd. of March to enable residents, businesses and everyone interested in these unique events to hear, first hand, what to expect, the long term legacy benefit to the county, and the temporary closures which will be imposed on 351 roads and 67 rights of way during the races.

Surrey will be hosting teams from more than 23 countries in the weeks leading up to and during the Olympics – more than any other county; it is anticipated that a TV audience of 4 billion will watch the cycling; 600 tons of barriers will be put in place and removed for each race; 3800 stewards will be on the route – and even ‘sandpaper’ will be put on some manhole covers to prevent cyclists slipping!



Chairman Barry Judd with Surriya Subramaniam

Special attention is being paid to security, safety and care of the vulnerable – and to the legacy benefits that it is anticipated the events will bring to Surrey. The kerb side spectators are hard to estimate for this free Olympic event, but if the trials of last summer are anything to go by, millions might be expected, accentuating the importance of efficient crown control.

Surriya, the Business Development Manager for Surrey County Council answered the many questions from the floor. Judging by the questions, most of the audience were interested in how to get the best view of the cyclists, especially on the Box Hill loop.

Carolyn Pennycook

However, for a small minority who had had their travel plans seriously disrupted by the practice event last year, there was no good news. With Weybridge totally surrounded by the route of the races on July 28 and 29, the only escape is via the A3, which last year thus became totally blocked. Surriya explained that, as last year, there will be escape routes across the line of the races for pedestrians and even possibly motor vehicles. However, the location and timing of these will not be publicised in advance for fear of creating congestion. There is no exact information about road closures yet on either the Surrey (www.gosurrey.com) or Olympic website. Residents may wish to plan their heart attacks for dates other than July 28 and 29. On August 1 the impassable nearby road will be Seven Hills Road, so travel to the East will be very difficult. More information at <http://www.gosurrey.info/>

Weybridge Society was fortunate to have two exceptional bicycles on display from Brad Preston of Pure Motion Cycles(PMC) in West Byfleet, and details of the Sustrans Cycle paths to complete what was agreed to be a thoroughly successful event, in the historic Weybridge Hall.

Our photograph shows the healthy audience attracted by this event and enabled members to see what a useful community asset the Hall is. Many thanks to Ray Spary for the photographs.

VISIT WEYBRIDGE'S PRETTIEST GARDENS

The Friends of Weybridge Hospital are once again organising an Open Gardens event in aid of Sam Beare Hospice. On Saturday May 12 gardens in the Oatlands area will be open to the public, and on Sunday May 13 its gardens in the area of Weybridge town and the river. Hours on both days are 1pm-5.30pm.

Programmes price £5 will be on sale from April 24 from the Sam Beare bookshop and Weybridge Hospital reception. A programme gives admission to gardens on both days and gives all the addresses and a map. On both days teas will be served at the Hospice day unit at a cost of £2.50 for home-made cakes and tea; this is also an opportunity to see the

fruits of volunteers' work on the Hospice garden.



Photo Courtesy of Friends of Weybridge Hospital

DID YOU KNOW?

In Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee Year, 1897, Weybridge had some significant events – and not all connected with the Jubilee. According to the Rawlings Year Book for 1898 (which looked back at the previous year) on:

30 March 1897 – It was decided by a public meeting at Weybridge to celebrate Her Majesty's diamond jubilee by the erection of a social club

7 April 1897 – Weybridge Cycling Club was inaugurated

9 April 1897 – Weybridge Liberal Association was formed

12 April 1897 – The labourers employed by Mr George Jarvis, Weybridge, struck and stopped work – for an extra half-penny an hour. They went out, and remained out!

(Editor's note: Jarvis was a builder in Weybridge for many years – and a half-penny represented one four hundred and eightieth part of £1.00s.00d!)

15 June 1897 – A serious accident happened at Weybridge to a gentleman who was out driving with Dr Graham. The horse



Reed's shop in Monument Hill decorated for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria 1897.

Photo Courtesy of Elmbridge Museum, part of Elmbridge Borough Council's Leisure and Cultural Services

bolted and the doctor's friend was thrown out of the trap and badly bruised

28 June 1897 – Tradesmen of Weybridge held a dinner at the Hand and Spear in commemoration of the Jubilee

7 July 1897 – The annual supper for the choirs of St James' and St Michael's churches was given in the Parish Room

21 July 1897 – Objections were heard regarding making up of roads on the Portmore Park Estate

19 August 1897 – Weybridge Amateur Regatta took place – and was very successful

8 September 1897 – Annual Meeting of the Weybridge Harriers was held

11 November 1897 – The 23 Annual Show of Walton, Weybridge, Oatlands and Hersham Chrysanthemum Society was held at Weybridge

(Editor's Note - This wasn't held in Weybridge Hall – it wasn't built until 1899, and then it comprised two shops, then became a cinema – and in the 1950s, Weybridge Hall).

27 November – Members' 3rd Annual Show in connection with the Weybridge Fanciers' Society was held *(was this perhaps pigeons?)*

The 1898 copy of Rawlings Year Book may be viewed in the Local Studies Area of Elmbridge Museum, to whom we are indebted for this information. The Museum is open on Fridays, 11 – 5, and Saturdays 10 – 1, and 2 – 5, and regular monthly Family Fun events are held. For more details telephone 01932 843573.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you would like to receive information via the email about Society activities and other events in Weybridge, then please make sure you send your current email address to our webmaster at webmaster@weybridgesociety.org.uk If you have changed your email address, please also inform our webmaster.

THE PLANNING PANEL-APRIL 2012

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.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY DRAFT CHARGING SCHEDULE

Don't let the title put you off! This is a mechanism whereby Elmbridge can charge developers a levy to contribute towards the infrastructure enhancements that are made necessary by building development. New build means more residents and thus a need for more schools, social support, health care, road repairs, parking, public transport, services and drains.

Elmbridge agreed a new Schedule on April 19, which is open for comment until May 14. It will then be independently assessed in the summer. We can be sure developers will be making representations to keep down their costs from the levy, so it is up to residents to ensure it is, in fact, sufficient for its intended purpose.

Representations can be made to Elmbridge on a form they are issuing for the purpose. It can be downloaded from www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/policy or obtained by e-mailing tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk. Or it can be obtained by post by writing to Planning Policy Team, Elmbridge Borough Council, Civic Centre, Esher KT10 9SD. If all this isn't clear enough, you can direct queries to Elmbridge on 01372 474787.

WEYBRIDGE SOUTH PLANNING – APRIL 2012

St Martins Court, York Road (2012/0986)

The application for a single -storey detached building in the car park to house two offices (2012/0156) was refused earlier this year on the grounds that the proposed building "would appear out of place to the rear in an area that is presently the setting of the low density Oakland Glade due to it failing to respect local context and being out of keeping with the layout of buildings in the area".

A modified application, this time with a lower roof but with the same area, has now been submitted (2012/0986). Weybridge Society continues to object to this development as it is still out of character with the area and would add to the parking problems in York Road. Moreover we see no need for more office space in Weybridge when a third is currently empty and as the current trend is to convert offices for residential use, as evidenced by several of the previous applications for development at St Martin's Court.



Robin Clarke, Joint Chair, Planning Panel

ST.GEORGES HILL PLANNING - APRIL 2012

Lincoln Court Old Avenue 2011/5485

An application was submitted to demolish the current block of flats and build 8 new houses and three flats.

We have objected to the application as we feel the proposed building is too large and high and will dominate this prominent corner position with Gower Road.

The application was refused by the Council but the applicant has appealed the decision.

We await the Planning Inspector's decision.

Heatherley, St. Georges Road 2011/8413

Following the refusal of a previous application, a new proposal has been submitted to develop the site, with four houses. The application is similar to the previous scheme so we have objected on the same grounds of overdevelopment of a modest site.

The application was refused by EBC.

Pinecroft, St. Georges Road 2011/8284

This application has been approved.

Redhill Road

Wood fired generating Plant 2012/0423 and 0522. The long awaited application to build a large electricity generating plant in Redhill Road has been submitted to Surrey County Council. A group of local residents has formed Surrey Environmental Guardians (**SEG**) to object to the scheme (contact is benn@tesco.net).

The Planning Panel have objected to both Elmbridge BC and Surrey CC. The plans are we believe a serious infringement of the GREEN BELT status of the land and an industrial development would be very inappropriate for this location.

For more information regarding SEG please see Page 6

Weybridge House 2012/0434

A new application has been submitted to develop the site with a mixture of 17 flats and four houses. We believe this application is a great improvement on the previous proposals, and did not require an objection.

Peter White, Joint Chair, Planning Panel

WEYBRIDGE NORTH PLANNING APRIL 2012FORMER Portmore Dental Practice at 4 Balfour Rd (2006/2047,2007/1838,1840 & 1859, 2011/0460,6301)

The latest application to build 8 flats on the rear car park was the subject of a recent site visit by the appeal Inspector. A large number of local residents, a Ward Councillor and a significant number of the Weybridge Society Planning Panel were present. It is hoped that the Inspector supports our concerns regarding the considerable damage to the Devonshire Road street scene which the proposed development would cause.

54 Church St (2011/0326/7,2012/1150)

This is a significant listed building in the Conservation Area. Previous applications to replace some rather poor showcases in front of the building have been refused. The most recent application is to maintain the existing brick showcases but to modify the inside of them using modern materials and to illuminate the cases internally.

The Planning Panel is considering whether this proposal would be in keeping with the listing of the building.

Land off Darnley Park (2012/1079)

The Planning Panel does not normally get involved with an application for a single house, but in this case it will be supporting virtually all the residents of Darnley Park in objecting to a proposal to build a two storey house, with rooms in the roof, which would be totally out of character with the rest of this road.

Ray Spary, Joint Chair, Planning Panel

REDHILL ROAD WOOD-BURNING INCINERATOR

A planning application for this project is still making its way to Surrey County Council. Surrey Environmental Guardians (SEG), the organisation set up to fight it, is equally continuing its efforts, which we believe are of interest to many residents. SEG is calling a further meeting at Silvermere Golf Centre to update all those interested; it will be at 7.30pm Wednesday April 25 and has been called mainly to review progress and development since the last meeting on 27 February. SEG has produced a booklet, which will be distributed electronically, but hard copies, together with campaign posters, will be available at the meeting.

SEG point out that because SCC do not have their own planning website, they continue to rely on Elmbridge to post copies of documents, though several people have complained that at least some of the documents have been absent from the Elmbridge website. SEG have also heard that Elmbridge Planning Dept have sometimes been unhelpful to those seeking information or printed copies when visiting the Civic Centre in Esher. SEG chairman, Ben Ruddock says he has been assured verbally that all documents are now on the Elmbridge website. The main items are: Planning Application; Non-technical Summary; Environmental Statement; PA Supporting Statement. There may be some new reference numbers, but SEG can't get these. The old references were EL2012/0423 and 0522; those with difficulties should call Julie Mainwaring at EBC on 01372 474787.

A concern is that while the SEG petition continues to attract signatures, it does not, in its present form, remind people to include their post codes. These have been omitted from some of the forms on display at St George's Hill Tennis Club. These forms will be included in the campaign booklet. Other people have initiated electronic petitions, which are a useful form of publicity and a reminder to elected councillors and MPs that a large number of their electorate ask for their support. However, anyone simply signing a petition or endorsing a letter of objection submitted by someone else is excluded from being counted as an individual objector in the SCC records. Only if you add your own individual comments, making extra observations, whilst giving your name, address and post code, will you be listed as an objector in your own right. In this sense, SEG worry that petitions can sometimes be counter-productive because signatories may think this is all they have to do and then don't bother to send in their own individual objections.

Members of the press and elected councillors have been invited to the meeting.

SARUM SCHOOL REUNION

On Sunday 22 April more than 70 former pupils of Sarum School (which closed in 1967) gathered at Silvermere's 'Inn on the Lake' for what was anticipated to be their last reunion. The event, organised by 'old' girls Penny, Jill and Ann, attracted past pupils from around the world – coming from as far afield as Canada, USA, France and all parts of the UK. This event was the closing of an era, started by Miss VME Connolly way back in 1941 when she set up a school for girls in Ashley Road, Walton on Thames, later moving to a large house 'Cleeves' in Oatlands Chase where the school remained until its closure. Sold for redevelopment, the area is now the site of Cleeves Wood and Sarum Green. It is perhaps a testament to Miss Connolly's vision that after 45 years since the school closed a gathering of so many old pupils was possible – and great appreciation was expressed for the commitment of Penny, Jill and Ann to organise the reunions over the past years.

It is understood that research is continuing into the school's history and anyone with information, artefacts, photographs or memories they would like recorded is invited to contact the Secretary of Weybridge Society, Carolyn, who will pass the information on.

WEYBRIDGE TOWN BUSINESS GROUP

At the invitation of the Weybridge Town Business Group (WTBG), I attended their first two meetings held at the Ship Hotel, at the kind invitation of the manager. A group of business people who work in Weybridge in both retail and professional spheres discussed their aims to improve the town, encourage footfall and generally promote Weybridge. Led by Adam Moreve of Ben Vestito (the ladies fashion store next door to Waitrose), the group is arranging Jubilee Celebrations to take place on Saturday 26 May. It is hoped a highlight will be 'A Taste of Weybridge' with participating restaurants having special menus, food tasting and other attractions and promotions. 'Weybridge Jubilee Day' as the WTBG describes the 26 May, will have events, stalls and attractions on Monument Green, The Quadrant and in Baker Street – 'kicking off' at 11 a.m. on Monument Green and ending in Baker Street at about 6 p.m.

Weybridge Society hopes to have a promotional stand in Baker Street, to support the event and advertise the society's own aim "Your community association working to keep Weybridge special". The WTBG event coincides with the St James Church Flower Festival, "Royal 60", which was highlighted in the society's Spring 2012 newsletter, and they hope that visitors to the Festival will also enjoy WTBG's **Weybridge Jubilee Day** too.

Looking further ahead, on 25 October 2012 the WTBG is hoping to have a special dinner at the Ship Hotel, when The Rt Hon. Dr Vince Cable, MP, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, and President of the Board of Trade, is hoped to be the guest speaker. This event is to be open to all – and tickets will be available nearer the time.

As with all groups, this new venture encourages membership and involvement – please apply to Adam Moreve, adam@benvestito.co.uk, 01932 854505. Weybridge Society wishes them every success, for a thriving town is good for all, residents, those who work here and visitors alike. We have really good independent retailers in our town, as well as many group businesses – they deserve our support – and though not exclusively, especially on "**Weybridge Jubilee Day**".
Carolyn Pennycook, Secretary

THE 2012 AGM (from Page 1)

The chairman, Barry Judd, opened the meeting by welcoming the approximately 60 members present. Apologies were received from: Our Patron Michael Aspel, Trudy Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Ewing, Laurie Keitch, Anne and Paul Littleton, Mary and Terry Pitronps, Dr. Willie Lester, Peter and Pamela Scott, Minda and Stanley Alexander and Elvira Spary.

He began his report with the news he would not be seeking re-election as chairman after the meeting, but was happy to stay on the Committee and contribute to its work, including on the Weybridge Hall Partnership. Two other resignations from the Committee have come from Robin Clarke (planning) and Stephen Beaumont (education), while earlier Maggie Alderman (membership) and Kevin Walker (newsletter editor) had also resigned. He warmly thanked all four for their contributions. He also thanked Carolyn Pennycook, whom he

NEW EVENT FOR WEYBRIDGE

New member Nadia Townsend recently set up an events business organising Craft and Artisan food Fairs. She has booked 10 local Craft Fairs for the 2012 season in Weybridge and Cobham and plans to do so again in 2013 if they are a success. For her first Fair in Weybridge she booked Weybridge Hall, being aware it was under threat of closure a little while back. She also decided to put a little back into the community by offering a free charity table at each event to a local charity. At her first event this was the Sam Beare Hospice. Her forward programme for the Craft Fairs is:-

Weybridge Hall - April 28th, June 30th, September 29th, October 27th, November 24th and December 15th

Cobham (Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart) – June 23rd, July 21st and November 17th

Nadia claims she has lined up a terrific selection of crafters for her Weybridge April event. Their products include: original paintings, handmade jewellery, scarves and handbags, home furnishings, photographic artwork, bespoke wood products, designer silk and fused glass products, candles, cards, cake stands, shabby chic home gifts and teddy bears, pies, cup cakes, jams and fudge. .

The events will run from 10am - 3pm with the exception of the November and December Weybridge events which will run from 10am - 4pm for the Christmas period. She has also included a themed area within the Hall as a 'Craft Fair Cafe', offering a selection of teas, coffees, cakes and biscuits for exhibitors and attendees all day at reasonable prices. If the weather holds up, she will also bring along her Ice Cream Tricycle.

Nadia also identifies opportunities for sponsors to be associated with aspects of the Fairs and is seeking to make progress on these. She can be contacted on 01932 842278 until 6pm Mon – Fri or by e-mail: nadiatownsend@hotmail.co.uk

described as the hub of the Society, for her continuing work as Secretary.

Barry singled out from among all the special Panels and sub-committees the work of the Planning Panel under its four chairmen, Raymond Spary, Robin Clarke, Peter White and Geoff Banks.

Whilst regular planning applications have quietened down in the past year, bureaucratic national initiatives have multiplied. We are now working on:

- The Community Levy draft charging schedule
- The Developer contributions Supplementary Planning document
- The National Planning Policy framework and
- The Design and Character supplementary planning document

as well as attending regular EBC Planning Service User meetings. The Panel were not happy with the Design and Character document which they feel is inferior to its predecessor.

Still to come on planning are consultations on Neighbourhood Planning under the Localism Bill and the major plans for a new Morrisons store on the old Focus/Do It All site. They hope to open it by Christmas 2013, when it would be a town changer. The other ongoing planning issue is the proposals for a wood burning generating station on Redhill Road, where we have already registered objections to Surrey and EBC.

He congratulated the Transport Panel on getting Surrey to withdraw their proposals for on-street parking charges as well as the strength of their representations to Surrey about their lack of preparation for the chaos associated with the closure of Haines Bridge last year. The Marketing Panel is working on a 3-year plan to grow membership, especially among younger residents.

Barry also congratulated Annette Davies for the two talks in the past year and her organisation of last year's Summer Party at Anne and Ray Lindsay's garden. He concluded his review by noting the Society's membership of the Weybridge Hall partnership, whose effective motto is "Use it or lose it".

Looking ahead he cited the following issues:

- Neighbourhood planning
- Weybridge library, where Surrey may have something afoot
- Elmbridge Museum, where change is already occurring
- Gaining charitable status
- Member Ian Pickard's ongoing efforts on behalf of the War Memorial.

The Treasurer Margaret Wicks then presented her report, noting that while membership numbers had slightly receded, subscription revenue was up by £140. Barry Judd proposed and Tony Palmer seconded the adoption of the accounts which was carried unanimously. Jon Tait being willing to continue as independent examiner, his appointment was proposed by Barry Judd, seconded by Raymond Spary and carried unanimously. It was then proposed by Peter Vey and seconded by Elaine Tait that the surviving Committee be re-elected en bloc; this was carried unanimously.

It was suggested from the floor that the Society should direct part of its charitable giving to the Weybridge Land charity. Peter Vey pointed out that this charity is very well funded, especially in relation to the small number of beneficiaries nowadays. The feeling of the meeting was that our principal charitable efforts should continue to be for Sam Beare hospice. Mrs. Eldridge asked whether the Committee should set charitable targets; Tony Palmer said donations should be a matter for the AGM. Michael Julien pointed out we had, inter alia, given £500 to the Scouts. Raymond Spary defended the established practice for such ad hoc donations being at the discretion of the Committee.

Under Any Other Business, Jenny Doyle, chairman of the Friends of Weybridge Hall updated her earlier address to members in January. She stressed the need for speedy action on the enhancements to the Hall for which we had Max Clifford's generous funding on hold pending resolving planning permission. Slow progress, she pointed out, was not helping us to meet the target of a 15% increase in bookings (by number, not value) by end-November 2013. Our plans for new glass doors and a brighter entrance foyer would give the Hall a more welcoming appearance. Areas for potential hirings included keep-fit classes, antiques fairs and bridge evenings. The new series of Craft Fairs are a good example. Film evenings and badminton were suggested from the floor. On both planning and hirings, progress depended on continuous nagging. She pointed out she had lived in several towns in the UK and Weybridge was the only one without a social focus building.

In further debate, there was a general feeling that a Morrisons store would be good for the town. Carolyn Pennycook said there was serious momentum behind the new Weybridge Traders group covering Baker, Church and High streets. They plan a Weybridge Jubilee day on May 26. Peter Vey asked further about recruitment of new members and Ann Lindsay said she has taken over the Membership Secretary role. Raymond Spary stressed the need for more members to come forward to support the work of the Society, whether as Committee members or otherwise and Mrs. Etheridge thanked the Committee for their work.

Committee List

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