



Leatherhead Residents' Association

We aim to:

- Conserve and develop the amenities of Leatherhead.
- Promote an active interest in the community and in local government.
- Foster and promote the development and enhancement of the local community for the benefit of the residents.

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Contributions to the Newsletter are always most welcome. The views expressed are those of the contributors and are not necessarily shared by the Association.

*We email members when new information comes our way; sometimes emails have been returned as "undeliverable". **If you have changed your email address, could you please let us know.***

Also, if any member reading this wishes to be added to the email list, please visit the 'Contact page' on our website and complete the on-line form.

Now the Leatherhead Residents' Association (LRA) has embraced social media

The LRA is has launched facebook and twitter websites.

<http://twitter.com/#/LeatherheadRA1>

<http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100003101134290>

By expanding its communication channels the LRA would like to trial the effectiveness of social media in conjunction with its website to reach more of the town's residents.

Chairman of the Council

Following the sad loss of Councillor Anne Howarth, we are most grateful to Bridget Lewis Carr for taking on the responsibility of Chairmanship of the Council with all its additional social commitments and responsibilities. Combining work, family and representation of a local area is arduous enough without all the additional commitments of chairmanship.



Cllr Anne Howarth

As one who had the privilege of working with Anne Howarth I know that many appreciated her concern not only for the Residents of Bookham, but also her support for residents of the Housing Association, empowerment for the disabled and voluntary fund-raising at the Duck-race for the Leatherhead Christmas Festivities, and other interests of which I was unaware.

Few of us realise how much may be involved in commitment to responsibility for ensuring that our concerns (how our money is spent and services provided) are taken up not only in the Council chamber but also in the wider community. Thank you Bridget for again taking on all these extra responsibilities of Chairmanship of the Council.



Cllr Bridget Lewis-Carr

Hilary Porter, Vice Chairman LRA

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From our Chairman

Dear members

Since the last Newsletter there has been much action by the committee and some of the members who have attended the open committee meetings. Some of this is in part, the effect of Localism kicking in. In particular there are the Planning Applications which our team have always studied and made submissions on behalf of our members. The issues over the Cherkley plans are well reported elsewhere – but at the time of writing this, no application has yet been submitted.

Recently we have been consulted over the future of the Council Offices at Pippbrook. The building looks fine from the outside, but suffers problems of inconvenience within. Like many buildings of its type, it loses a lot of heat – particularly through its many single glazed windows in their frames of tropical hardwood. These are not easy to replace. However the main issue is that with the diminished responsibilities for housing, and the increase in computer processing of business, the staff needs are barely more than half of what they were originally. This also includes the absorption of the Police front office within the building. So the Council are looking at the alternatives of renovating the existing building, or replacing it with a smaller and more efficient building. This might be on the same site, or a different site within the area. The costs for each are about the same. But there are some great opportunities either way.

No doubt the arguments will continue for some time to come. There are other issues which Localism brings to us apart from those of our Council and the future of its services. We hope that our Local Plan can in the future combine services such as the bus and train services. Next year will see a radical study into our bus services. This will start in November with a consultation of the 479 service which comes through Leatherhead. But we hope to learn more of other infrastructure decisions – water supply and drainage - Health services – Emergency services and so on. Hopefully this will result in a more coherent and all embracing community serving all of the residents of our community. This is the challenge before us.

Kind regards

Hubert Carr
chairman@leatherheadresidents.org.uk



From our Secretary

Dear members

By the time you receive this Newsletter, Longshot's application for the redevelopment of Cherkley Court and its grounds is likely to have been lodged with Mole Valley District Council; but at the time of this Newsletter is being written the application, as our Chairman says, has not been submitted.

Longshot's proposals have attracted much interest over the last couple of months. It has become apparent that this is a divisive issue, at least as far as the proposal for a golf course is concerned, with strong feelings on both sides.

In this issue you will find two more articles concerning the proposals. Readers, however, must understand that these are the *opinions of the individuals who wrote the article*, they are **not** to be taken as the views of the LRA Committee. Indeed, the Committee cannot make any comment until it knows the terms of the application. We would, however, welcome opinions and views of our members

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Our enthusiastic Environment Subcommittee continue its work to improve our town's environment. In the article which follows, you see two of 'eco-warriors' planting out what was once a barren flower bed near the east end of the High Street; you may also have noticed two planters with flowers by the "Waterless Feature" at the west end of the High Street; these are also due to those two and other eco-warriors from the Subcommittee. Indeed, the Subcommittee's eco-warriors are busying themselves with the Community Garden and with trying to protect Leatherhead's wooded areas, as you will see from articles in this Newsletter.

Ray Ward's article highlights once again the problems of inconsiderate parking. When Surrey County Council introduced parking restrictions in some roads two years ago, we said that this would only transfer the problem to neighbouring roads and that a *comprehensive parking plan* was needed for the whole of Leatherhead. We have been proved right; indeed, parking problems in neighbouring roads, as I know only too well since I live in one of them, has *considerably* worsened over the past two years.

Ann Crowhurst's article about the problems of residents in Highlands Road is clearly heartfelt. We would like to know of any other roads that suffer similar problems. We will continue to press SCC and our County Councillor to address the problems both of parking and maintenance of our roads in Leatherhead.

Kind regards,

Ray Brown

secretary@leatherheadresidents.org.uk

Eco-warriors Come to Town

For some time the LRA Environmental Committee has worked toward bringing some colour and life to the Leatherhead High Street. Ann Cardew (far right) amazed us all by raising over £250 for the cause, by holding an open garden and plant sale in August.

Although the MVDC is continuing to meet with the High Street Advisory Group, the redevelopment of the High Street will not begin until after the Olympic Games next summer.

In the meantime, the Environmental Committee have become 'eco-warriors' and are finding nooks and crannies in order to trial plant and experiment with ways of watering.



We have been very pleased to see that some shopkeepers have placed planters or pots near their doors. The Edmund Tylney Pub is to be especially commended for the fabulous display of hanging baskets with violet coloured petunias.

Cheryl Allen,

environment@leatherheadresidents.org.uk

Parking considerately

The issue of inconsiderate parking was brought close to home at a recent meeting of the Leatherhead Residents Association when discussions at the Letherhead Institute were interrupted by a fire officer searching for the owner of a vehicle blocking the pedestrianised High Street. Some considerable time was spent before the vehicle owner was found. Fortunately this was not an emergency but the

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emergency services have to regularly deal with trying to negotiate streets made impassable by inconsiderate parking.



It is not only the emergency services that are affected but also refuse and delivery lorries. In one recent case a refuse lorry worked its way into a long cul-de-sac and when it turned round to make its way out, found its way blocked by a newly parked car.

You can help your community and the Fire and Rescue Service by parking considerately, especially in narrow streets. Whenever you park, even temporarily, take a moment to make sure that a fire appliance would be able to pass your vehicle. As a guide, a fire appliance requires a width of approximately 3.5 metres (10 feet) to pass. Fire brigade officers urge residents to think about their parking as they could be putting the lives of their families, friends and neighbours at risk.

"If our access to a specific road or home is restricted, it can mean the difference between the emergency services saving a life or not" said one watch manager. "Cars may be able to pass down streets which have restricted access due to double parking or incorrect parking, but fire engines and ambulance can't."

Ray Ward

Cherkley Court Redevelopment Project



To Be or Not to Be?

On the 14th and 15th

October Longshot Cherkley Court Ltd held its third and last public consultation before drawing up a proposal to submit to the MVDC Planners to decide whether a 5 star hotel, a world class golf course, a spa, various restaurants and a tea room and a cooking school are appropriate for the site.

Longshot and their 28 consultants have gone a long way to answer the questions of our members but some people are still not convinced that an Area of Great Landscape Value (AGLV) adjacent to an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) with some sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) is the correct place to create a golf course (see LRA member's comments below).

At each consultation, committee members present asked Longshot questions that had been put forward by members. The following is a summary of members questions and *our understanding* of Longshot's answers (The LRA itself has not taken a stance to approve or reject Longshot's anticipated planning application):

Question: Is there any truth in the rumour that plans for a helipad are being proposed?

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Answer: When Cherkley Court was purchased it came with a condition prohibiting the landing of helicopters. We (Longshot) have no plans to ask that the condition be removed.

Question (*this question was asked in the second consultation and answered more fully in the third*): With Tyrrells Wood Golf Course sometimes having restricted water supply from their bore hole, won't there be a problem with a water supply on the site? If so, won't this affect the water supply of other parts of Leatherhead.

Answer: Tyrrells Wood Golf Course has a bore hole that is connected with a chalk aquifer about 50 feet underground that runs into the River Mole. Since that water **is** connected with our water supply, Sutton and East Surrey Water Company sometimes have to limit Tyrrells Golf Club usage. However, Longshot will not be able to use the same aquifer because it works on a first come basis. They will drill down 250 feet to a completely different source of water in greensand. This source of water does not run into the River Mole and will not affect the local water supply in any way.

Question: Because some of the land in the proposed golf course site is extremely rare calcareous grassland(Chalk grassland), is it wise to build a golf course that will destroy the possibility of restoring the area to its former state?

Answer: Longshot have been advised by Surrey Wildlife Trust that most of the land has been ploughed and enriched over the years and that it would be impossible to restore it to its original nutrition-poor condition. However, the developers have found a 50 acre plot at the outskirts of the proposed golf course that could possibly be restored. They plan to graze this land with sheep in an attempt to restore the calcareous grassland that once existed on a much larger part of the site.

Question: As owners of Cherkley Court are you willing to give up the permission to play amplified music which had already been granted when you purchased the property? There is some concern that the sound from an elevated site like Cherkley Court may resonate over the valley below and disturb local people.

Answer: Whereas we could play amplified music any place on site, we are restricting ourselves to play amplified music only in a walled area inside a marquee. We think it necessary to give a wedding party the ability to celebrate with music. We intend to abide by the law for environmental noise nuisance.

Question: Do you have any intention of selling the project on to others, and what protection is there for the house and grounds then?

Answer: We are committed to making it work and will only sell after seven years or maybe sooner if it is working well.

Question: What will happen to the contents of the house, particularly the library?

Answer: The furniture, pictures and books belong to the Beaverbrook Trust. There is a plan to reproduce some of the furnishings exactly.

Cheryl Allen,
Environment Subcommittee

Comments from an LRA member

After visiting Cherkley Court last Friday I have very mixed feelings. I would like to see some of the work carried out in order to save the historical property for future generations. However, placing the golf course on such a ecologically sensitive site at the entrance to the property seems to be a step too far. This location is mainly meadow land that is a glorious sight to behold in the spring.

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In conversation with the Longshot consultants, I was told that the golf course will require that 70% will be mown to keep it in good shape. That actually means 70% less meadow and a great deal less biodiversity. I do not believe the golf course will benefit many local people. With the debenture system of investment, over 400 people will invest perhaps as much as £150k each for the privilege of owning the golf course. I believe most people will simply carry on golfing at one of the three courses already available in Leatherhead.

I would like to encourage our Councillors to log on to <http://www.cherkleycampaign.co.uk> before they vote on this planning decision.

Carole Neeser

Brook Willow Farm

Members may be interested to know that representatives from your committee attended the Appeal called for by Mr. Burgess, the owner of the above farm. The Appeal lasted four days, was held in the Council Chamber at Pippbrook and included a site visit. Most of you will know that this farm is located on the Green Belt and should have had a purely agricultural use. However, over the years, many small businesses have found the lockup buildings very useful.

This was a very confusing application: The number of buildings appeared to be a straightforward 13, but they were subdivided and numbered according to the subdivisions within each building. A further complication was that the appeal did not relate to absolutely everything.

Moreover, some of the maps being used were not uniform so that an extra building appeared on some but not on others. Some buildings, which might not have formed part of the Appeal, had been extended and there was some discussion as to how much had been added. Some of the access roads had been allowed, but others had not. Some of the parking had been allowed, but some had not. Some of the “illegal” buildings had been up a sufficiently long time to no longer require planning permission.

However, the Planning Inspector was very thorough. On the (bitterly cold!) site visit, she looked into each and every one of the buildings so as to ascertain their exact use. Every key had to be located. It was pointed out that expansion of Green Belt areas results in a lack of demarcation between towns and that this site was a sizeable one.

Many arguments were put towards the definition of “open countryside.” Large buildings obviously spoilt it, but what about smaller ones? Mr. Burgess obviously feels that with the motorway on one side and the Amenity Site on the other, he is making satisfactory use of an otherwise difficult site. However, undeclared use of these areas cannot, obviously, be condoned.

The result of the Appeal should be out around the end of November.

Caroline Brown

planning@leatherheadresidents.org.uk

Norbury Park Liaison Group (NPLG) Holds Autumn Meeting

On 10th October representatives of the local towns, councils and organizations met with representatives of Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) at the bi-annual meeting of the NPLG. Ranger, Graham Manning told us of the work that has been done at Norbury Park this past year.

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With the Douglas firs, planted in the 1980s, now cleared a planting programme will begin in early 2012. Volunteers are needed to help plant 2000 ash, cherry, and field maple trees. There are two days scheduled for planting: 15th and 22nd January. On each day the hours are 10 a.m. until 12 noon and 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering contact Graham Manning: 07968 832 508

Ranger Manning has given notice that 3 Tenax fenced enclosures will be erected in Norbury Park during the coming year. The enclosures that are 15 square feet with a height of 6 feet are to exclude deer. The goal is to compare the grazed and ungrazed areas in order to assess the damage to trees and other flora done by deer. This notice is to allay public concern about the structures.

Some NPLG members are disappointed that the sawmill was closed for two weeks for restructuring. They are even more disappointed that this resulted in only 3 of 7 men retaining their positions at the mill. The manager has been made redundant with SWT taking on the role of managers.

An important agenda item was Swanworth Farm, farmed by Nick Bullen and his family for the last 35 years. Mr. Bullen has been in danger of losing his home, job, and way of earning a living for most of this year. The managers of SWT have said, when asked specifically, that they will work toward an amicable agreement with Nick Bullen. NPLG members are to be notified when an agreement is reached.

*Cheryl Allen,
Norbury Park Liaison representative for the LRA*

SUE OR POLLARD?

History of the Road

Until the mid-1890s, Highlands Road was a country lane bordered by already long-established hedgerows with fields on either side but was developed over a period of ten years or so with cottages at the lower end and a single row of houses further up on the right raised up from street level with the hedgerow bounding their front gardens and rural views out towards the rest of the town. You can still see the steps that accessed these homes although they no longer serve the houses directly. In the 1920s houses sprang up on the other side of the street and it was apparently then that the row of lime trees was planted to give the feel of a suburban avenue. At some point pre-1960 a strip of land was compulsorily purchased by the Council to create safe pedestrian access along Highlands Road for residents of the Royal School for the Blind, the magnificent Victorian redbrick building now forming the centrepiece of Beechwood Park.

Tree Maintenance – Then and Now



Under the care and control of Mole Valley District Council, the trees and hedgerow were beautifully maintained until around the year 2000. MVDC attended every two years to carry out radical pollarding and hedge-cutting to retain the open aspect and neat appearance of Highlands Road and prevent the trees getting out of control. This can be seen from the photograph on the left in April 1985 where the trees are cut back to the growth points and the intervening hedge is rather lower than it is

now, allowing ample light onto the frontage of the houses and keeping leaf litter at bay.

However, virtually all maintenance activity ceased from around 2000 when Surrey County Council assumed this responsibility. Since 2003, the Council has attended only twice - to trim the blackthorn hedge rather



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hurriedly (leaving the debris where it fell) and to cut off small outgrowths on tree trunks. There have been no attempts to tackle the crowns. The photograph to the right, taken in October, shows the effects of a dozen years of neglect by the Council and the street as a whole is almost unrecognisable from what it once was.

Why is this a problem?

Leaf fall accumulating year on year in an unsightly mess presents a major slipping hazard, exacerbated in icy weather. Unfortunately it is not particularly alleviated by Mole Valley District Council's efforts (more of which below) which are too limited in scope to be effective.

Heave affects all of us but is a particular problem where the frontage is paved or tarmaced. Our frontage is now breaking up in large areas and we have had two visitors trip up (one of them sustaining a nasty knee injury) as a result of the grossly uneven paving. When we lifted some of these stones to investigate, we found huge roots from the lime trees lying on the surface, pushing up everything in their path. Lopping these in a few selected areas is a difficult job and does not solve the problem whilst the tree canopies are allowed to grow apace.

Drainage is badly affected in that drains from our downpipes which should direct rainwater into the foul water main appear to be blocked, almost certainly because the clay drainage pipes which were laid down at the time these houses were built have been broken and penetrated by the dense root system of these trees

Lack of light causes a hazard for pedestrians where the ground is uneven. Virtually none reaches the most neglected section of path adjoining the entrance to St Nicholas Hill in summer as the trees and hedge on either side form a dark tunnel and this is a nerve-racking section to walk, especially at night. Lack of light discourages 'healthy' vegetation from growing on the verge, leaving a form of scrubland suitable only for the hardiest weeds. Together with broken drains, lack of light to the north-facing frontages from the overhanging canopies encourages dampness in the walls as these never get a chance to dry out properly after seasons of wet weather.

Appearance of the street is badly affected. Weeds and decaying vegetation encourages litter dropping as well as fly tipping and destruction of the natural hedgerow. We have had several instances of people who live elsewhere abandoning MOT failures for weeks or even months outside our houses, presumably on the basis that the area is so generally run down that one more eyesore will not be noticed. *If the Council itself demonstrates such patent neglect of this beautiful feature then it only serves as a green light for a few selfish individuals to further harm the appearance of the road.*

Nuisance to parked cars. Many of the residents here have only street parking but in the summer any cars left for even just a few hours under the lime trees will become thickly covered in sticky residue from the leaves. This is unavoidable but the problem would not be nearly so bad if the canopies were cut right back once in a while. The sharp thorns of the overgrown hedge also cause a problem to people trying to get out of their cars – I have noted that one resident even carries a pair of loppers specifically to enable him to exit the driver's side without damaging his clothes!

What does the County Council plan to do about these problems?

A Council representative visited in July, acknowledged the problems were urgent and gave assurances that remedial works to end heave damage and curtail the trees would take place 'by the end of August'. There was no further contact or any action. When I pursued this, I found the position to be starkly different from what we had been led to believe.

The good news is that Highlands Road now features on the newly-commenced rolling programme of County Council tree maintenance as I gather that (incredibly) it has never been on it in the dozen years since it became their responsibility, the meagre works that have been carried out having apparently been as a direct result of the tenacious lobbying of a few individual residents.

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The bad news is that it has been allotted the lowest priority rating possible on the four-year rolling programme, despite over a decade of neglect. There are no plans to undertake any tree or hedgerow maintenance here until 2015 or to tackle the roots at all, despite the damage they are causing. Worryingly, it is not even clear that the work will be as extensive as it needs to be, given that it will by then have been 15 years (perhaps more) since these trees were last radically pollarded.

Personally, we cannot wait until 2015 to undertake essential repairs in view of the extent of the ongoing nuisance and damage. We are pressing for tree maintenance to be brought forward to this coming year as a matter of urgency. We are sensitive to the fact that we are by no means the only road with overgrown trees and we entirely appreciate the enormity of the task Surrey County Council is facing in getting 'back on track' with its programme in these straitened times. However, the excuse of financial constraints with which we have been fobbed off for over a decade (long before this recession hit) has worn thin.

Ann Crowhurst

News from the Leatherhead Community Garden

When I attended the 24th September Celebration at the Community Garden I could not have been more pleased to see the progress that has been made at West Hill School in less than a year. Simon Woodhams, who is one of the few volunteers who has worked on both the scout hut location and the present location, personally showed me around the site with pride.



There is much to be proud of as, the garden has been fenced and laid out with two large storage units, an enormous polytunnel, two large compost bins, a fruit cage and numerous planting beds at various heights to be accessible to all. Six chickens, almost a year old, have been hatched by the students and now provide 6 free range eggs daily. They are housed in a spacious pen within the fenced area containing the garden.

The Garden is a community development/grow your own initiative managed and developed by local people and supported by a range of partners from across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The open house celebration provided the opportunity to showcase the Garden to the wider community and to highlight the success of the ongoing **Making Surrey** community art project, in which craft workshops have been held for local residents.

The art project is organised by the Mole Valley District Council (MVDC) and funded by Arts Partnership Surrey and Arts Council England.

Artist Ruth Wheeler and apprentice Belinda Kelland have led the workshops that began at the start of the summer. There is now a range of beautiful artwork embedded in the garden. The workshops have thus far focused on willow-weaving and wood carving. A decorative willow sculpture made by residents now forms a centre piece for the garden. The sculpture is surrounded by wooden benches which residents have carved with their own unique designs (Below left). A wooden sign for the Garden (Below right) has also been designed.



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All are welcome to drop in between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturdays. For those unable to attend but interested in the progress at the garden, photos are taken and posted on the web site weekly: <http://www.leatherheadcommunitygarden.org.uk/the-garden.html> Alternatively just google Leatherhead Community Garden. The website announces upcoming events. On Saturday the 29th of October pumpkins grown in the garden were carved for Halloween. Pumpkin soup was made and served on the site.

Focus on a Special Volunteer

One of the delights of volunteering to work on the Leatherhead Community Garden is to see a very special facility develop before your eyes with new projects unfolding each time you arrive. The other delight is to meet and get to know the other volunteers.



Pat with Charlotte Wessel
planting daisies

Pat is one of those volunteers who has emerged as a 'star' in the garden's two year struggle to exist. She has brought a wealth of experience and expertise to the site as she found her niche working with the children and steering the planting program that began with planting the potatoes in early March. The children have enjoyed many activities covering a range of plant propagation techniques.

Once the polytunnel was in place Pat and the children planted many seeds in anticipation of transplanting them outside. Many of the plants spent their short lives in the polytunnel. We were all amazed at the speed at which the lettuce and radishes developed in the warmth of the tunnel.

Pat saved a single marguerite daisy from her own home last summer. That daisy became the source of cuttings that produced 30 mature plants for an attractive flower bed (See below). As the raised beds were completed the seedlings and rooted cuttings from the polytunnel found new homes outside.

When you talk to Pat, she frequently speaks of her father, who also has a love of gardening. I was surprised to find that at aged 93 his interest in the community project led him to whittle the little divots the children use to make holes for planting their cuttings. Pat's efforts have been invaluable. The children have benefited from her patience, kindness and knowledge. I'm sure that they will never forget her.



A Volunteer from Afar

You never know who might show up to lend a hand at the Leatherhead Community Garden. Never was this more true than when a young lady named Bianca arrived one Saturday afternoon in late July. Seeing that she had cycled, I asked her if she lived locally. "No," was the answer, "I live in Germany." She had cycled from East Horsley on the day.

Pat and I were planting the last few trees in the hedgerow at the boundary fence and I thought that someone who had come all the way from Germany might like to plant a few trees in Leatherhead. Bianca was enthusiastic about the idea and set to work helping us.

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While we worked we found out more about our new volunteer. She was not a student nor was she on holiday. We asked how she had heard about the Community Garden. Someone from Reigate had told her about the project. All was revealed when we discovered that she had received a travel grant to explore the customs of people in a foreign country. She had chosen to come to England to find out about the English love affair with their gardens.

In the first part of her 8 week project she had visited allotments, family homes and gardens, and public and private gardens. She had interviewed people and made personal observations. Our Leatherhead garden was the first community garden she had found. She was to stay in England throughout August and then return to Germany and report on her trip.

Help from the Green Mole Forum

Colin Brewer, representing the Green Mole Forum, is shown presenting a cheque to Cheryl Allen on behalf of the Leatherhead Residents' Association. The money was designated for a 'green' project. The members of the Environment Subcommittee submitted, and had approved, a proposal to provide berry plants for the fruit cage at the Leatherhead Community Garden.



On 12th October Rebecca Bevan, Team Leader for fruit and vegetables at Royal Horticultural Society at Wisley, met members of the Community Garden Committee and representatives from West Hill School. After viewing the site and testing the soil she has recommended that the plants should be planted in March when the ground begins to warm up. In the meantime, the grass should be removed from the heavy clay base and 10cm of compost or well- rotted manure should be applied. The winter's frost should begin to break up the clay and help the compost to incorporate into the soil. Ms. Bevan said that the £250 should go a long way toward filling the fruit cage.

Caroline Brown

Leatherhead's Wooded Areas: Teazle Wood and Leach Grove Wood



Our attention has turned to two beautiful wooded areas in recent months. Teazle Wood, an ancient wood located on 57 acres in North Leatherhead, came to our attention when the owners decided to sell it this past summer. Although £140000 was pledged in a very short time, the Friends of Teazle Wood failed to reach the targeted amount before a buyer came forward. That buyer's offer has now been gazumped and the new owner is unknown.

Leach Grove Wood, located behind the hospital and between the allotments, Forty Foot Road, and Highlands Road, came to our attention when redevelopment of Woodlands School began. That

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redevelopment has 'eaten into' the wood when a corner of the land was recently completely cleared to make way for the school project.

Both woods have been enjoyed by local people of all ages for many years. They form a part of a green corridor so vital for the natural world. They are also essential for relaxation and escape from the hustle and bustle of modern life. We believe it should continue this way.

LRA Committee member, Fran Smith, suggested to the Environment Subcommittee that Village Green status should be applied for. In finding a way to preserve our woods, we discovered that the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) are urging the council to change the current legislation for Village Green status. Once the new legislation goes through, we have been told that it will not be possible to get this status for wooded areas, therefore we are very keen to get this application in this year.

Lucy Quinnell has gathered a large body of information from individuals and organisations (i.e. Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People and a Veterans group, Combat Stress in Oaklawn Road) supporting the retention of public access to Teazle Wood. We have designed a brief, easy to use questionnaire and urge as many people as possible to record their use of Leach Grove Wood over as many years as possible. This activity could include walking to school, to Leatherhead, to the recreation grounds or to the allotments. Strolling baby or walking the dog, blackberry picking or playing with children are among the kind of activities that could benefit the cause. If you have not received one of our questionnaires please call 01372 370 091

Lucy Quinnell would be happy to add your endorsements of Teazle Wood to her list if you e-mail her at: lucy@fireandiron.co.uk.

In the case of both wooded areas, the goal is to prevent development of the sites, to guarantee continued access, and to gain sensitive management of these treasured parts of our environment.

Flip Cargill

“Up The Tanners”



After a successful two seasons the fortunes of the town's football team have taken a turn for the worst as a few games into the new season they sat rock-bottom of the Ryman Isthmian Premier Division with one point. A change of manager has brought a change of fortune and the club has started to pick up some points and had has enjoyed some success in the FA Cup so far winning £12,500 in prize money.

The Fetcham Grove club has invested well into its facilities with a refurbished clubhouse that is available to hire for most functions, enhanced car park and one of the finest playing surfaces in non-league football. The club, which has a community spirit, running teams of all ages, plans to continue to invest in its facilities and build on recent successes.



Ray Ward
County Secretary,
Surrey County Football Association Limited

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