



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.

Autumn Newsletter 2012 Vol.14

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 are returned as 'undeliverable'. If you have changed your email address, please let us know. Also, if you wish to be added to the email list, please visit the 'Contact page' on our website and complete the on-line form.

We thank those who have contributed to this newsletter.

The deadline for contributions for the March newsletter is Feb 14th.

Chairman's Chat

Each time a newsletter is due, I think about what we have achieved since the previous edition. Our sub-committees have all been very busy, and have contributed pieces on their own achievements.

We are now an established organisation, and we are here to represent all the residents of the Town as a whole, not just our members. Thus we are very grateful to our members who pay a subscription that enables us to function, and produce a newsletter.

In matters of representation, the Association endeavours to resolve issues brought before them, but often it is a matter of referring an issue to others. Having a councillor for a wife, and having been a local councillor myself, I can often point people in the right direction. The committee and I can give guidance as to whom you should speak, on matters which come under the local authorities. In matters such as healthcare, we have members who can assist.

We are often consulted by other bodies who want to know the Town residents' opinions, so do tell us your thoughts. And come to our open committee meetings - the first Monday of each month at the Institute.

Hubert Carr chairman@leatherheadresidents.org.uk

November 5th Open Meeting: Guest Speaker



On Monday 5th November, our visiting speaker is the Headmaster of St John's School, Mr Martin Collier. If you're interested in present & future plans of the school & the refurbishment of the Old Chapel, do join us.

At our open meetings non-committee members concerns will now be received together with correspondence, and before sub-committee reports, so that visitors, who do not want to remain until the end of the meeting for Any Other Business, can leave earlier, if they wish to do so. If you have issues that you wish to have followed up by the LRA and passed on to our Councillors or appropriate services, these can be sent by e-mail, by post to the Institute or delivered in person. We cannot promise immediate discussion. Our meetings are often attended by our Surrey County Councillor and MVDC councillors.

The High Street in Bloom

Perhaps you have witnessed the water bearers with their watering cans making trips back and forth in the High Street in order to keep the beautiful planters at Nat West corner alive. Although the bank has chosen not to plant the planters for many years, it was a location 'begging' for some colour and life. It was also a site that could be seen from all directions as you enter the High Street. With space for



eighteen planters, it was large enough to have a significant impact on the amenity of the area.

With all these thoughts in mind, the Environmental Sub Committee approached the bank and obtained permission to place planters for all to enjoy. The project was inspired by a summer that promised to be very eventful. From the feedback we have received, the flowers were enjoyed by people from far and wide. Passing pedestrians chatted as we watered

In addition the plants provided many photo opportunities, with some people taking photos of the planters themselves and some using them as a backdrop for their photos. Parents lifted their children to enjoy the lovely perfume of the petunias and to allow them to see the colourful blossoms up close.

A lady from Jamaica was very interested in knowing the name of the lobelia flowers. She planned to take some seed home to her mother in the islands. When people commented on the plants to the bank staff they were quick to give the LRA credit.

Then the plants abruptly disappeared. This was the year the bank chose to redecorate. When the painters appeared the plants had to be removed. By the time they could be put back, they were too far gone to use, so we forged ahead with our winter planting plan.

Once, a member of the public asked if we were working for the Council. We considered that we were working for everyone. It was our privilege to select the planters and plants, to be given the space to work on them in the poly tunnel of the Community Garden, and to watch the plants grow to their full potential. The watering was a chore but the reward was to see how the plants enhanced the town and to discover the heavenly fragrance of petunias.

The cooperation of Patrick Gardner's business assured that the project was a success. The staff of the Estate Agent has been most tolerant as we frequently pass through their offices to a source of water. We are very grateful for their help.

The money earned from the summer Open Gardens paid for the plants. We are planning a similar event next summer. Watch the spring issue for details.

Can you help us ? Volunteers needed for 2013. Contact Cheryl 01372 370 091

Community Support and Fundraising

Charity Concert with Fish & Chip or Chicken & Chip Supper
INSIDE OUT at the Leatherhead Institute on Saturday 17th November
7.30 - 10.15 pm

Come and listen or dance to the music of Glen Miller, Joe Loss and Big Band arrangements of more up to date numbers from the band.

Tickets £10 from Barton's Book Shop (BYO drinks and glasses)

RAFFLE Proceeds in aid of the Leatherhead Festivities, Teazle Wood and the Community Garden



Leatherhead Christmas Festival

This again is a matter of generous voluntary contribution in time spent fund-raising and by the Organisers (un-paid) on the days of festival events. Money raised is match funded by MVDC and this year extra effort has had to be made because of the time and money spent on the Cycle Races. Volunteers help to put the lights on the Christmas Trees and support the Halloween, Duck Race and St. George's Day festivals organised by the Festival Committee. Do come and enjoy our Concert and Supper (repeated by popular demand) on 17th November. This event will also help to fund not only the Christmas Festival, but also Teazle Wood and the Community Garden.

Chamber of Commerce Quiz Night Friday 9th November 7.00 p.m. £12.00 per person.

at the Police Federation, Federation House, Highbury Drive, Leatherhead Surrey KT22 7UV.

This has been a successful fundraiser, providing essential funds for our Town Christmas Festival.

As well as a quality Fish 'n' Chip supper, there will be a very reasonably priced bar (please do not bring your own drinks) and a raffle. Teams of 6 You are most welcome alone to come or in groups

If you'd like to take part, entry forms can be picked up from the Help Shop in Leatherhead High St.

Please note: This event is NOT bookable online. Please book by Nov 2nd

Proceeds to the Christmas Festivities.

Teazle Wood Update

On 31st July 2012, Teazle Wood (right at the northernmost tip of Leatherhead, behind Tesco) was saved for the sake of ecology, heritage and community by the Friends of Teazle Wood.

THANK YOU for your help

The purchase was only made possible by the generosity of many local people, businesses and organisations. We still need to raise £100,000 to repay those who have lent money over and above their donations.

If you can help, please become a Friend of Teazle Wood, by mak a donation. Thank you. **Contact: Tel: 01372 386453**
Friends of Teazle Wood, c/o lucyquinnell@aol.com



The Trader's Trophy

We owe a huge 'Thank you' to the shopkeepers and restaurants that responded to the Environmental Sub Committee's request to carry out a red, white, and blue theme for the summer.

We announced in May that the Trader's Trophy for a Brighter Leatherhead, awarded seventeen times between 1972 and 1990, would be reinstated in 2012. After careful consideration the environmental committee has selected Patrick Gardner's Estate Agency as the winner. Not only did the owners plant in the designated colours but they also placed the floral display on show for all the special events this summer. As the flags went up in honour of Saint George's Day the planters and hanging baskets with red and white geraniums and blue lobelia were set in place in front of the business. This done, the flowers were on show for the 120th Anniversary of the Letherhead Institute, the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and by the time the Olympic Road Cycle Road Race sped through Leatherhead the flowers had reached almost perfection. Congratulations to Patrick Gardner's business. Their name has been engraved on the trophy and they will have it in their possession for a year.



Hubert Carr, LRA Chairman (second from left) presents the Brighter Leatherhead Traders Trophy to staff of Patrick Gardner's Estate Agency (centre four), as a few of the Environmental Sub Committee look on. They will keep the trophy until next autumn.

Other businesses deserve credit for their efforts as well. We made mention last summer of the glorious display of violet coloured petunias adorning the Edmund Tylney Pub. At this moment the frontage of the pub is awash with this summer's designated colours. The pub, now under new management, had to change suppliers of flowers. Therefore, the flowers were not in place until mid summer. Fortunately they were in place to be enjoyed by visitors to the Olympic Cycle Race. Because of their late arrival the flowers have peaked as others fail as the season changes.

Another business that deserves an honourable mention is Vecchia Trattoria who did their part to enhance the High Street. Decorative table cloths and plants were added throughout the summer. Our committee greatly appreciates the bamboo that graces the Thai Pinto Restaurant year round. The restaurant's small brick planter was also kept in bloom this summer. Alan's Florist planted a lovely bed of flowers along the length of the shop's frontage. The Letherhead Institute's rose garden produced a bumper crop of buds all summer long. The Queen Elizabeth Foundation and Salvation Army shop both made big efforts to produce patriotic window displays in the chosen colours. The Swan Centre tubs, and the beautiful garden of The Penny Black have also been pleasure to the eye. Thanks to all who entered into the spirit of bringing life and colour to the High Street. We hope you'll all take part again next year.

Health & Welfare

Norbury Park, the High Street environment and heritage of open spaces are not our only concerns. Members represent Leatherhead on the Access, Disability Empowerment, Age concern, LINK (mid-surrey – monitoring health and social services), and Transition groups. Current concerns related to Water (CPRE), Ashted Kidsclub, the future partnership of Epsom Hospital and Ashford St. Peter's, Leatherhead Hospital, the Help Shop, Community Resilience (support in emergencies), affordable Housing etc. All opportunities where residents can have a voice in promoting social welfare for young and old. We would welcome an input from the voice of Youth, as well. Duke of Edinburgh Award students from Therfield are doing a great job at the Swan's Sports and Social Club.

Please enquire with your details, if you are interested in any of these activities, help is always welcome and provides enjoyable company, as those who helped with the litter pick discovered over refreshments afterwards.

Cherkley Court, Hotel and Golf course

As most of our members know, the committee of the LRA voted by a substantial majority against a commercial development on this rural residential chalk grassland site. It was also strongly felt that the Local Plan, involving protection for the Green Belt and an exceptional landscape, should be respected.

However, other people felt differently, perhaps hoping to improve the local economic situation and to offer more employment opportunities to local people.

Several major decisions have now been made and it would appear that the golf course is on its way. In April, the Development Control Committee rejected their officers' recommendation to refuse permission, and in May they voted to grant planning permission subject to a legal agreement and conditions. As this major development represents a departure from the Local Plan and national planning policy, Mole Valley referred it to Mr. Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for him to consider. However, Sir Paul Beresford, MP for Mole Valley, asked Mr. Pickles not to call it in but to send it back to Mole Valley. So on 21st September MVDC gave the application full approval, subject to 74 conditions, an exceptionally large number. These can be viewed online, the planning application number being MO/2011/1450.

Not surprisingly, some parties still remain opposed to the development, notably CPRE and the Cherkley Campaign who are considering an application for judicial review of Mole Valley's decision. The main concern is that this development will set a harmful precedent. In April, five local residents and the LRA wrote to Mole Valley's Monitoring Officer with concerns about Cllr. Rosemary Dickson's involvement with the Cherkley Court application. Consequently, the Standards sub-committee called for an investigation into the allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Investigating Officer reported on 28th September saying that he did not consider that Cllr. Dickson had breached the Code. However, in view of the conflicting evidence expressed in the sixty-page report, several of the complainants have asked for the report to be submitted to the Standards Committee for a proper hearing before the matter is closed.

Mrs. C. Brown, Chairman of the Planning sub-committee of the LRA.

Special Offers for LRA Members

Look for additions to this list in the Spring Newsletter.

The Edmund Tylney Pub, 20% discount to LRA members for up to four people, (for food only)

Vecchia Trattoria (24 High Street, 01372 383 290) 10% off your total bill

ATS Euromaster Ltd (89 Kingston Road, 01372 372 003) 10% discount on all services to cars. Tyres, MOT, servicing, brakes, exhausts, batteries etc provided.

Piazza Firenze (45-47 High Street, 01372 378852)

Winter Special - 10%. off everything January, February, March - Show your card when you order.

Barton's Bookshop (2 Bridge Street) 10%. off January, February, March

Please show your membership card at the time purchase or when placing an order.

Leatherhead Community Garden Grows and Glows

Watching the Leatherhead Community Garden develop over the last few years, we have seen a few challenges met and overcome. Those who attended the 29th September Open House and AGM saw that the merged dreams of Simon Woodhams and Andy McFarlane have now fully come to fruition.

The event provided a wonderful opportunity for family activity with the needs of both children and adults considered. On this special day there was a BBQ, while a guitarist played a live set. Two art projects allowed the children to design a tealight holder and woven willow hearts, butterflies or flowers. The occasion was blessed with glorious sunshine and the late autumn flowers and vegetables were a sight to behold; brightly coloured and aromatic. The giant Russian sunflowers formed the center piece of the garden. Just a few weeks ago the height of the sunflowers plants had been measured so that the person who had planted the tallest plant could be awarded a prize. The contest can now be considered an annual event since it has been one of the delights of both summers of the gardens existence. The sunflower seeds were used to supply the feeding stations for birds last winter, and seeds were also kept for replanting this year.

Other activities on the day included the tasting and sale of the chutneys, jams, and pickles prepared from the fruits and vegetables harvested from the garden. There was also a raffle. Since the community garden is a self funding venture, the £109 proceeds from the event will add to funds to cover expenses next year.

Phil Wessell and Kayleigh Aransulon, re-elected respectively as chairman and secretary, remain the backbone of the project with a wonderful supporting team of volunteers. Kayleigh's blog on the 29th read, "We must thank you all for your help and support of the Leatherhead Community Garden. The Garden is nothing without the people of Leatherhead coming together to make it work. We are looking forward to another jam packed year."

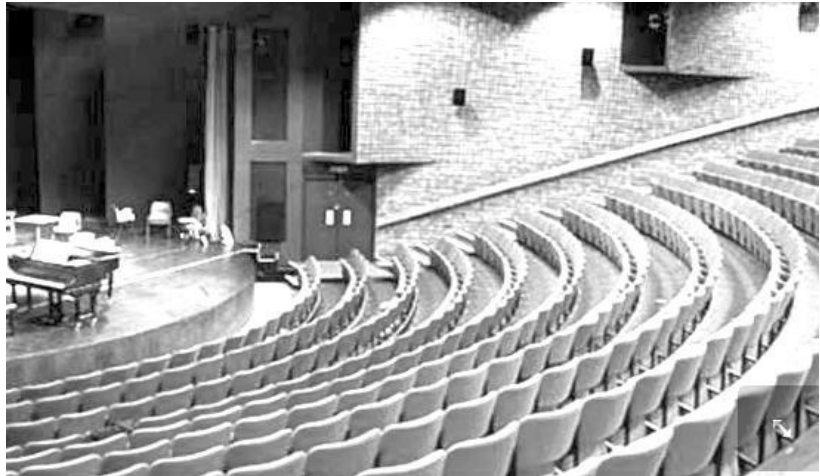
As a reminder to all, the Leatherhead Community Garden is located in the grounds of West Hill School on Kingston Road. Everyone is welcome whether as an active participant or as a curious visitor who wants to know more about an exciting project in our town. The garden is open on. Please feel free to come along and if so inclined lend a helping hand.



The Community garden
29th September 2012

The Leatherhead Theatre – Proud History : Bright Future

The current theatre opened in September 1969. Hazel Vincent Wallace welcomed Princess Margaret, Lord Snowdon, Sir Lawrence Olivier, Jenny Lee, Minister for the Arts and Dame Sybil Thorndike, who gave her name to the theatre. The building's interior immediately won an RIBA award for design and disability access. In 1999 it gained Grade II listed status for buildings of special architectural or historic interest.



In the first 26 years many well known stars performed on the stage and the Sir Peter Hall Company produced plays at the Thorndike prior to regional tours and openings in the West End. The theatre closed in April 1997 following the withdrawal of funding by South East Arts. In March 2001 Hague Investments granted a 15 year lease to the Leatherhead Revival Trust (LRT), a Christian charity and social enterprise. Following £1.5m renovation and repairs, the theatre re-opened in 2002.

The theatre is managed by The Leatherhead Theatre Company Limited on behalf of the LRT. The stated aim is "To create a vibrant community theatre providing excellent inclusive entertainment and educational activities". Current activities embrace drama, music, dance, comedy, film and visual arts.

In addition to the published shows and films, the theatre has many outreach activities and opportunities for community engagement. They include the Art Gallery, Theatre School, Performing Arts Classes, collaboration with the Freewheelers Theatre, Opera Brava, and National Shakespeare Schools Festival workshops and student performances. Support is given to charitable fund raising. The theatre is home to the new Leatherhead Repertory Company and the annual Leatherhead Drama Festival – the largest amateur drama festival of its kind in the country. Leatherhead Operatic Society stage regular productions at the theatre, as do local schools, dance and drama groups

In the 2005 Leatherhead Tomorrow Healthcheck, the theatre was cited as the second best feature of the town, after the riverside. Some financial value can be put on the theatre's role in the community. Using criteria developed by Professor Shellard for the Arts Council, it is estimated some £1million in economic added value is generated each year, with no public subsidy.

The fabric of the building gets a fair amount of wear and tear, the most visibly obvious being the auditorium seats. Many have torn fabric and exposed foam padding. They form part of the Grade 11 listing, so any replacement would have to be like for like. To refurbish the 520 seats will cost £35,000. This best of several quotations comes from local company, Dawson Reproductions. Further good news came with a grant of £25,000 from The Leatherhead Trust. A public appeal in May, on the 10th anniversary of re-opening, brought donations from individuals, community groups and local businesses to raise the balance. On 4th October a sample refurbished seat was approved and a schedule set to complete the work as shows and films allow.

There is always work to be done in an active theatre. We need to purchase digital projection equipment next year to meet the change to digital format. There are plans to further improve disabled access and the Casson Room, as well as one day treat the ugly exterior of the fly tower. All this and more can be achieved with local support.

Colin Langley

CPRE on Water in the South-East

People living in South-East England might be surprised to know that many areas of the South-East are in almost permanent water deficit, even in times of normal rainfall.

The CPRE recently hosted a public meeting, "Reliable Water, Healthy Rivers" at Bookham, to discuss the current state of water supply in the South East. The panel of experts; Graham Warren, Michael Norton, Jeremy Early. and Christine Drury highlighted just what serious issues we are facing.

The average UK household directly consumes around 150 litres of water per day. The Environment Agency is assuming that can be reduced to 130. But the true water footprint, including food clothing and other services, is over 3,000 litres per day. The demand for water is growing because of both growing population and increasing per-capita consumption. Part of the problem is that water is under priced and undervalued compared to other utility bills such as heating and electricity, so there is little incentive to use water more efficiently.

A large part of each person's water footprint is in the water used for agriculture. This is one reason why much of our food has to be imported. There simply isn't enough water in this country to grow all the food we need. The more vegies we eat, the lighter our water footprint! The problems need to be attacked on several fronts.

First, the cost of water has to reflect its value. This means all water use should be metered and priced to better reflect it's true value.

Second we need to make better use of the water we have, by encouraging more efficient use and promoting reuse. At the moment only some of our water is recycled. Much of it is treated in modern sewage treatment plants, but then around 1/3 is flushed out to sea as clean fresh water! It should all be reused : back into our rivers or ground water. From our rivers and ground water recharge, it can be re-abstracted and treated to drinking water standards. To reduce the amount of water that has to be treated to potable standards we should also be looking at grey-water recycling within new build houses, as is being done in places like Germany. This needs a change of the building regulations and a good understanding of the maintenance and filter cleaning requirements.

Third, we need to prevent inappropriate development that overloads the water supply system. A big obstacle to this is the conditions the Law imposes on the Water Companies regarding their statutory duty to supply water. These mean that when water companies respond to planning applications, they can't say that they can't supply the extra water, or they would jeopardise their licences. So they say they can, then later, this results in more extraction from rivers or groundwater at the expense of the environment, or as now happens increasingly, putting river life 'at risk' when flows are reduced by drought, but water demand is high. This needs to change so that the water companies can respond with a realistic assessment, not a blanket "of course we can".

We all need to work to challenge large, water hungry developments, where adequate water supplies are not available without putting other uses at risk. CPRE is campaigning for water supply issues to be more realistically assessed when planning applications are being processed.

Finally, some good news; in 1958 there were virtually no fish in theThames. Now there are 120 species. There are otters in every county except Kent, and Kingfisher numbers, which were dwindling, are on the increase due to plenty of fish and nest sites.

'How can I help?' you might ask. Liquid laundry detergents (rather than powders) are much less likely to contain 'Oxygen based bleaching agents' which pollute our rivers and damage wildlife. We can all play our part in a cleaner future.

Ian Cargill

Transition Events

Why Hold a Decluttering Workshop?

Early in 2012 the Green Mole Forum met and explored the way forward for the Transition Movements in the local area. One of the things mentioned was having joint projects so that some of the efforts of the organisers would not be duplicated and so that the individuals involved in the movement could get to know each other. In the Spring, the Bookham Transition Group used several of their monthly meetings to explore a series of films dealing with *Too Much Stuff*. The theme seemed to strike a common concern among the members of the group.

Because we live in a society in which goods are inexpensive and easily accessible, we seem to surround ourselves with too many things. Group discussions led to exploring both the environmental and psychological affect of the clutter. It was generally agreed that this was an interesting enough topic to focus on for the joint event discussed earlier in the year.



Left to right: Chris Ellis, Cherry Rudge, Professional declutter, & Flip Cargill, demonstrate the problem of trying to plan a workshop while surrounded with too much stuff.

During the Summer a group of like-minded women began to brainstorm to find the best way to plan a workshop. A central location (The Letherhead Institute) was selected. It was agreed that professional declutterers should be sought. The aim was to impart the best and most up-to-date information in the friendliest and most relaxed setting. This was the first inter-community workshop promoted by the Transition Movement. The October 20th event was the result of the effort.

October 20th Decluttering Workshop hosted by Transition Groups

Mole Valley residents, and some from further afield, gathered at the Abraham Dixon Hall in the Letherhead Institute to learn how to deal with having 'too much stuff.' The 3 hour workshop promised to help participants learn to lighten their life.

Billed as a fun afternoon to inspire and help us sort out the part of our home or office which prevents us from working or living to our full potential, Cherry Rudge and Lynda Wylie, from the UK Association of Professional Declutterers Organisation (APDO), took us through step by step techniques and skills to do just that. It was pointed out, that what we think about, we move towards.

The afternoon was a mix of information, interaction, delicious afternoon tea, generously served by the Club House and team of helpers.

There are many reasons for cluttering the space we live in. Two obvious ones have to do with downsizing our home or dealing with a bereavement. Sometimes emotional attachments will not allow us to declutter. Procrastination and poor organisation also play a part in cluttered spaces.

By the end of the workshop we understood that clearing clutter is 'doable'. Like any discipline, it just depends how organized and motivated we are, and planning & starting is more than half the battle. Whether you decide to declutter alone, decide to get professional help, or depend on the help of a declutter buddy, the participants left feeling they had taken a positive step in the right direction.

Guest speakers and exhibitors showed ways to keep unwanted or unused items out of landfill. Everyone went home with a booklet of environmentally friendly ways to clear clutter, including recycling, up-cycling, charity donations, Free Cycling, and selling or giving away. QEF Manager Barbara, begged us to give charity shops just about anything we don't want - in her words; 'Don't dump, donate'!! What they can't sell they will recycle.



£400 + proceeds were donated to Friends of Teazle Wood.

What is a Transition Town?

A Transition Initiative (which could be a town, village, university or island etc) is a community-led response to the pressures of climate change, fossil fuel depletion and increasingly, economic contraction. There are thousands of initiatives around the world working in their own ways, starting their journey to answer this crucial question,: "How can we make our community safer, stronger and happier as we deal with the impacts of peak oil and economic contraction, while at the same time urgently reducing CO2 emissions?"

The Environmental sub committee of the LRA functions like a Transition Group and participates in the monthly meetings of Bookham and Ashted Transition, & keeps in touch with Dorking Transition. With the organic Community Garden up and running and the committee and Westhill School dedicated to environmentally sound principles, we are well placed to be at the centre of the movement. *For more info (<http://www.transitionnetwork.org/>)* Cheryl Allen

Dates for your Diary

2012

Mon Nov 5th Open committee meeting with Guest Speaker from St John's 7.30

Fri Nov 9th Quiz night

Wed 14th November Leatherhead & District Forum meeting: 5.4 p.m. in Park House

Sat 17th Nov Charity Concert

Thurs Nov 1st and 8th Lunchtime concerts at Parish Church 12.30

Mon Dec 3rd Open committee meeting

2013

Mon Jan 7th Open committee meeting

Mon Feb 4th Open committee meeting

Mon March 4th Open committee meeting with Guest Speaker

If you have any comments or concerns, please write, email, or contact us through our website, which includes, blog, facebook, and twitter