



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.

Summer Newsletter 2013 – Vol. 16

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.*

Our AGM in April in the Institute

On Monday April 8th, about 100 people, including 3 councillors and a MVDC officer, gathered at the Letherhead Institute for the LRA's largest AGM to date. Local Green Belt issues, proposed developments, and the possible loss of the Barnett Wood Lane Allotments had clearly aroused interest.

Three eminent speakers with diverse backgrounds shared their experience and brought a common thread to the fast moving evening; 'We all need to engage with our community and the council to ensure decisions are not made over our heads and in ignorance of our thoughts and feelings on matters that concern our environment'.

John Howarth, Director of 'Action for Market Towns', and Leatherhead Area Partnership (LAP) chairman, talked of potential developments planned in the Green Belt near Junction 9 of the M25: i.e. a hotel complex, housing, a shopping mall, or a luxury retail outlet similar to Bicester Village in Oxfordshire.

John questioned whether such developments, should be regarded as an opportunity or threat to neighbouring towns. Some evidence suggests the latter. At Bicester Village he found considerable traffic and parking problems, and, nearby, the original Bicester Village seemed 'dead'.

John suggested we should be gathering as much retail information and data as possible concerning the Leatherhead area in advance of such planning applications, with a view to either preventing development altogether, or ensuring that its financial benefits would spread to existing retailers and the wider community.

Lucy Quinnell, owner of the Fire and Iron Gallery, updated progress at Teazle Wood. Her account of how she had galvanised the community into supporting her bid to secure the future of Teazle Wood was heartfelt and heart-warming.

She described the erosion of the Green Belt with the coming of the M25 motorway in the early 80s and the consequent destruction of large areas of grassland and woodland. She showed evidence of destruction of nearby woodland and grassland as recently as winter 2013. Thanks to Lucy, a 57 acre wooded site is now safe.

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Andy Smith, Surrey Branch Director of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), explained the origins of the Green Belt and the reasons why it had come under threat, particularly in Surrey.

Andy expressed concern that too little was being done to ensure that brownfield sites were prioritised. His passionate appeal was that the Green Belt should only be considered when all other possibilities had been exhausted. He firmly believes in MORE Green Belt as a result of MV's Boundary review, not less.

He commented on John Howarth's, "nightmare vision of a retail village." He is convinced it would destroy Leatherhead High Street once and for all. Defending the Green Belt, saving the Barnett Wood Lane Allotments and thwarting plans for a retail village are all part of the same thing. This really is a question of saving Leatherhead from developers!

The mood and applause of the audience showed an appreciation of the three speakers and their messages.

Whilst we don't know what the future holds for the Barnett Wood Lane Allotment/Merton College Green Belt site, this AGM showed us some of the threats to the future of Leatherhead. Please join the LRA in our efforts to continue to support the preservation of the Green Belt and the allotments and to ensure a future for Leatherhead as a viable market town.

Cheryl Allen

The Assault on the Green Belt around Leatherhead

Since writing my article on the Leatherhead Residents' Association Blog about builders and developers looking carefully and covetously at our lovely green fields and hedges around our rather small town, things have become a lot clearer and many areas could be re-classified, thus opening the way for wholesale development. Green fields are much easier to dig up than brown field ones where there may be contamination of one sort or another and where surrounding buildings could put constraints on size and style.

The largest, and therefore the most shocking of the areas involved, is that to the south of our town, stretching right to the far extremity of Givons Grove. The spokesperson for one set of developers could see the possibility of 800 homes being spread around that site. They tempt MV with the idea of this being half of their total requirement over the next 13 years from the whole of the district! In other words, let Leatherhead shoulder the burden. If the Cherkeley Court Golf Course goes ahead (and the result of the Judicial Review into this should be known shortly), then wholesale urbanisation will take place as far as Mickleham. Nor will there be, from either side of the A24, any Areas of Great Landscape Value. Just the very slightest development will put paid to those because the green, verdant slopes of the sites are intrinsic to their value.

The next most controversial area is that on the Leatherhead side of the M25 on Barnett Wood Lane. The potential loss of the allotments has already made headline news, but the idea of extending development all through from Ashted with no break has caused an outburst of comments in the Green Belt Boundary Review, marginally more than any other. Rumour has it that it is the lucrative business rates that are driving this one forward.

Another large and unexpected area is that between the Surrey and S.E. Water Company. There were many letters in defence of the land around Thorncroft Manor (citing, with some relief, the flooding problem), but there were hardly any about the Water Company's idea. Yet, in spite of the varying levels, there is room there for a good many houses.

Further Green Belt areas falling prey to developers are those behind Tescos and up to the M25, the strip of land to the north of the cemetery and south of Randalls Road (already on the Reserve list with MV) and part of the land around Queen Elizabeth's Foundation where the architect estimates there would be space for about 100 houses. It would be like a large "hole" in the Green Belt.

Statistics supplied by MV suggest that the number on both Electoral Roll and the number of households in Leatherhead have both remained static over the last 5 years. Population numbers even show a decrease of around 14%. Apart from the desire to pick the UK up and out from its recession, one cannot help but wonder who these new houses are aimed at. As regards the suggestions for each side of the A24, surely there cannot be 200 to 800 people in Leatherhead all wanting to live at least a mile and a half from the centre and with no convenient bus or train service? No, such a development would be for people from outside the area, bringing with them the need for better roads, many more school places, more surgeries and so on. Nor can one be sure that a vast increase in population would necessarily help the town shops. Most of these new inhabitants would shop on the internet.

The LRA Secretary.

Contact readers might like to use: planning@leatherheadresidents.org.uk

Fortyfoot Road

Since our March newsletter, there has been much activity regarding Fortyfoot Road, (as you will have read and seen in the media).

Since our first meeting on Thursday, May 23rd, with 42 people representing all parties, there have been two June committee meetings, with the next planned for July 11th.

Our objective: to attract publicity for the cause and to persuade Surrey County Council to adopt, repair and maintain Fortyfoot Road this year.

A petition has been written by committee members of the FORTYFOOT ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN to petition Surrey County Council to effect two actions on a major, pressing *Health and Safety* issue. This is an urgent matter of moral responsibility and the Council has a clear duty of care to:

- 1. Make sound repairs to the craters in Fortyfoot Road, Leatherhead *without delay***
- 2. Adopt the road permanently at a July County Council Cabinet meeting before there are further serious incidents.**

Fortyfoot Road, although unadopted, is a Public Highway providing access for:

- County Special Needs School (with children from 21 Surrey Districts, involving 18 mini buses which not only carry children to and from the school, but make outings during the day)
- Care Home
- Mencap Centre
- Hospital
- Playgroup
- Scouts HQ
- Allotments
- Bowls Club
- Recreation ground
- Residents

The road has a huge daily traffic flow and has fallen into a serious, shameful and hazardous state of disrepair. Very little of this traffic is generated by the small number of local residents.

Please help us in getting this road adopted, by obtaining copies of this paper petition (Tel. 383468 for copies) and passing it to all your family, friends and contacts both on and offline. We're aiming for thousands of signatures.

Thanks to Councillor Clare Curran, we have been given a slot to present our petition at County Hall to the Transport & Environment Select Committee on the morning of July 19th.

Paper petitions need to be returned by July 18th. The online petition can be found at <http://petitions.surreycc.gov.uk/40FootRoadCam> and runs until August 24th.

Leach Grove Wood – update

In the Spring Newsletter I was about to 'resurrect' the application for Village Green status. All the papers were sent to a barrister who specializes in Village Green, Footpath and Right to Light issues. He assessed our case and thinks we have a good chance of succeeding.

I was then obliged to put in a fresh application, as the NHS had erected signs in January that meant that the first application could not be resurrected. I put in this new application at the end of March with 74 Evidence of Use forms, as it was essential to have it accepted before the new Growth and Infrastructure Bill was passed. This would have made it nearly impossible to attain Village Green status.

Due to another lengthy Village Green case being dealt with before ours, I was able to continue gathering Evidence of Use forms. So far, 362 forms have come in and have been posted (25/6/2013) to County Hall.

Notice of a 6 week objection period will go in the papers from 12 - 7 - 2013. If you have time to write letters of support to SCC during this period, it would be most beneficial: Write to Mrs Helen Gilbert, Common Registration Officer, County Hall, Penrhyn Road, Kingston Upon Thames, Surrey KT1 2DN

The LRA have some funds for Leach Grove, but down the line we will do some fundraising to meet the barrister's very reasonable fees. We have a much stronger chance of winning with his guidance and expertise.

A huge thank you to everyone who has spread the word about filling in forms, and to everyone who has taken the time to help in many different ways.

Flip Cargill

It is Time to Screen the 'Elmer Eyesore'

After years of patiently waiting for small trees in pots to grow to a size to screen the waterworks on Hawks Hill the trees have died. It is thought that there is a plan to replace the trees but some of us think that if the original plan did not work, why repeat it and spend years waiting to see the result.



For this reason a few residents have initiated a 'campaign' to get the attention of the water company executives. As with so many campaigns, the starting point is a petition so that the level of support can be gauged.

Some of you will be asked to sign the petition during the next few weeks. The petition states the following request to the Managing Director of the Sutton and East Surrey Water Company:



We, the undersigned, petition you to employ your landscaping contractor to effectively screen the Elmer Water Treatment Plant with suitable trees and provide camouflaged roof treatments; thus restoring the visual amenity to an area designated as Green Belt. It can be viewed from the Wesley House in the Town Centre, the steps of the Parish Church, the Church Park, most of the homes on Elm Bank, and from public pavements and streets throughout the area.

Background

Thirteen years have passed since the first prominent, white building was built on Hawks Hill. Then in 2004/2005 another enormous industrial building appeared on top of the hill. At this time, widespread displeasure was registered by people who wrote to the Sutton and East Surrey Water Company, the MV planning department, their MP, Sir Paul Beresford, and the Leatherhead Advertiser.

Because the planning statement said that the site would be screened and that it would have no impact on the wider area, we were optimistic that the situation would be rectified. We were also optimistic because everyone agreed that the site had created a loss of amenity that was totally inappropriate for its Green Belt setting.

The MV Council negotiated with the water company and the water company presented a schematic drawing that they hoped would work: that is, hoped they would screen the enormous building on Hawk's Hill.

The landscape design included only trees planted in pots. Knowing that trees have limited capacity to grow in pots, most people thought that success was doubtful. But the statement from the landscaper explained that the trees would be 4 to 5 metres tall when planted and, very optimistically said, they would be 7 to 10 metres tall after 10 years.

We were extremely disappointed when the spindly trees in giant pots were put in place; they provided no screening at all. However, because we were told that the trees would be 7 to 10 metres high after ten years we adopted a wait and see approach. Since the trees have now died there is no need to wait any longer. The scheme simply did not work. It is time that screening is taken seriously. The petition, which will be delivered to the managing director of the Sutton and East Surrey Water Company, is a first step.

When approached with the petition please exercise your right to sign it, if you agree with the statement. Although the LRA has not initiated the petition, the Committee voted to support and encourage those who did.

Cheryl Allen

Teazle Wood Update



It is almost a year since Teazle Wood was saved by its 'Friends', and a great deal is happening. Surveys are well underway in order to complete a comprehensive management plan; a photographic workshop and a talk on the plantlore of Teazle Wood took place in May; various community groups have visited the woodland; bee hives have been set up on adjacent land, and a special project to tackle the unique problems of the entrance has been launched and is slowly starting to reap the rewards of engagement.

Teazle Wood has become a 'Good Woods' wood (a project to improve levels of woodland stewardship) and talks about all aspects of Teazle Wood have been given to numerous groups.

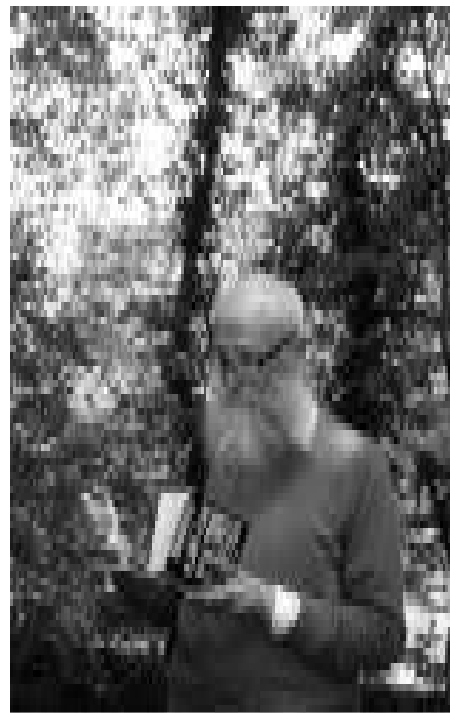
On the fundraising front, there has been plenty of activity, from sponsored swims, open gardens, choral performances and bric-a-brac sales, to Waitrose raising £235 in the Epsom store - **thank you** as ever to all those supporting the wood.

For more information or to get involved, e-mail lucyquinnell@aol.com or see the website www.teazlewood.org.uk

(Bottom of previous page) David Spink's photography students learned new skills, and also provided a valuable record of the flora in Teazle Wood.

(Right) Roy Vickery leads a walk in Teazle Wood, checking in the Oxford Dictionary of Plant- Lore, which he wrote!

Lucy Quinnell



New South Leatherhead: A Horror Story

Imagine. You wake up one fine morning to discover that all the beautiful countryside in South Leatherhead has become housing estates of hundreds and hundreds of new houses with hundreds and hundreds of extra cars driving along the local roads.

The countryside is gone forever and replaced with a huge area of urban sprawl. You live with building works for years and your house price has plummeted. You cannot get your children into a local school; you wait weeks for a doctor's appointment and your trip to the shops is through traffic queues and congestion. Welcome to New South Leatherhead.

This is our future if Mole Valley District Council makes it possible for housing developers to build on the green belt here. Developers have submitted proposals to build all around Givons Grove.

People have chosen to live in this area because it is an urban area set in very special countryside and most Leatherhead residents will be badly affected if these plans go ahead.

We have, therefore, set up a campaign to retain our green belt and fight against the housing estates. But we cannot do this alone. As local residents ourselves, we ask you, if you care about Leatherhead, to please join us. If you are willing to help, email us at:

SaveSouthLeatherhead@gmail.com

Irene Seifert

Hospital News

GOOD NEWS - The Friends of Leatherhead Hospital have, at last, been given an assurance of the future importance of the Hospital for the provision of services "closer to home".

However the decision on the future of services at Epsom Hospital is delayed by order of NHS England that is the power behind the Better Services Better Value planning. So consultation will not take place until the Autumn at the earliest. Meanwhile, the commissioning of NHS and community

services continues under the direction of the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Board. GPs and patient representatives are encouraged to take part in groups at local, district and County levels. Residents' associations for Bookham, Leatherhead, Epsom and Banstead, have representation at all levels.

Epsom Hospital will be subject to annual inspection by NHS England lasting two weeks, each year.

The Monitoring of Health and Social Services, previously carried out by area groups of LINKs (Local Involvement networks), has been re-designated and contracted to Healthwatch, NHS. There is an increased provision of support for Virtual Wards, i.e. support for people to be treated in their own homes rather than being admitted to hospital or remaining in hospital unnecessarily; but staying under the care of Consultant medical staff, matron and qualified nurses and carers. Under Healthwatch, members of the public with concerns about health or social services should go to the Citizens Advice Bureau or to the special service set up by the Clinical Commissioning Board.

The Mole Valley **Hub**, for information on services, has been opened in Dorking at **The Mayflower Centre, Lyons Court, High Street, Dorking RH4 1AB, together with Carers Support Mole Valley (Tel 01306 640212) and the Dorking Citizens Advice Bureau.**



The Surrey Access and Mid Surrey Disability Empowerment Groups meet at Park House in Leatherhead and there are monthly meetings of the former members of Mid Surrey LINK at the Leatherhead Institute incorporated into the meetings of SWAY, (Leatherhead Mental Health Interest Group), which also has representation on the Surrey Downs Clinical Commissioning Patients Advisory Group. Further information from: hm.porter@ntlworld.com or c/o the Leatherhead Residents Association, Letherhead Institute, High Street, Leatherhead, KT22 8AH

We can also have a direct influence on decision making at Government Department level with concerns for Housing and Health Care. Government Officers attend quarterly meetings of the South East England Forum on Ageing and their symposiums in London, through our representation on SEEFA. As a member of this Forum, I can voice your concerns.

Hilary Porter

The Inside Story of Leatherhead – it needs a happy ending!

Leatherhead Community - ACTION is needed - if you are reading this, I know you are interested in what happens in Leatherhead and how it affects you, what concerns you, the problems that no one seems to be doing anything about, fear of cuts in services because there is less money to go round, rising prices or reducing benefits. How your children can cope these days, when life was so much easier (?) 20, 40, 60 years ago!

To visitors, Leatherhead is a happy town. They say so, they come again. They visit the theatre and the restaurants. We have eight charity shops that survive, when the retailers do not. In May we lost Alan's, the florists, albeit temporarily we hope. We are notorious for our pot holed roads, but we have beautiful countryside that many come to visit. We have congested roads in the rush hour and we need some more housing provided with adequate parking space and/or gardens. We have elderly residents, who no longer drive, who need bus services and now we are threatened with cuts in hospital services.

All these aspects of planning, conservation, transport, highways, environment, health and social services are active concerns for members of the Residents' Association committee. We are challenged with the needs of North Mole Valley, our town and our neighbouring communities,

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supported by our County and Mole Valley councillors. But – more could be done if we had just a few extra residents willing to come and help or who would tell us the problems of their friends and neighbours. Some people do not know where to find their local councillors and, since the Help Shop has moved, we have lost our notice boards.

Many of our residents are already volunteering and their help is vital, but more are needed. Surrey Community Action held a conference in May: it was attended by leaders of voluntary organisations and highlighted a report by “RAISE” on all who needed support in Surrey and how the Council would co-operate with the voluntary sector. It was attended by people who were blind, deaf, disabled, all who know and understand the needs of the community, as well as retired doctors, clergy, Age UK, SILC and Council Leaders, a Government officer and voluntary support organisations. Their first informal topic of conversation was fighting the congested roads to reach the Leisure Centre!

MVDC planning department says, “Leatherhead does not have the time, the money or the people to plan for our future.” But, this is incorrect. We do care and we know you do too; out there many are already doing voluntary work or caring for family and neighbours. We need your help to work and to plan, even if a £2 subscription is the best you can offer with your complaints or concerns. Occasionally, our committee meetings, on the first Monday of the month in the Institute, are for committee only, but we are still there, if you want to find us. Someone will be there to listen to you from 7 p.m. From 18 to 100+, you have an independent voice, and can speak on behalf of your friends and neighbours - we need to hear from you.

Hilary Porter – Vice-Chairman

Linda Heath Remembered

Sadly Linda Heath, longtime Leatherhead resident and member of the LRA, passed away earlier this summer. She was revered for her knowledge of the history of Leatherhead, which she was generous in sharing as a guest speaker of various groups, including the LRA. By writing and co-writing a series of books about Leatherhead, Linda secured her own place in the hearts and minds of generations to come. Her help in organising thousands of documents and photographs held by the Leatherhead & District Local History Society was invaluable.

Her funeral service was held during the week of Jubilate, a historic first occasion in the Parish Church. She was aware of the planned festival and one of her friends has commented that she would have loved the event. It seemed a fitting tribute that the entire church was decorated in the beautiful floral displays that were on show for the 7 day festival - almost as if they were placed there in her honour. She and her vast knowledge will be sadly missed.



Weeks of Art, Floral Displays, Music, Drama, and Open Gardens Contribute to Leatherhead's 'Community Spirit'

From 10th until 16th June, the Parish Church of St Mary & St Nicholas held the first ever “Jubilate.” The name comes from opening of the 100th Psalm of the King James Bible and most modern English versions (numbered 99th in older Roman Catholic versions): “*Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands*” (*Jubilate Deo, omnis terra*). The event was combined with floral displays, which, some say, could match those of Guildford Cathedral.

The flowers were arranged beautifully and the fragrance of the blossoms wafted across the church as visitors were entertained during the 7 day celebration. Recorded birdsong could be heard as early

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visitors entered and moved among the floral displays, some of which had a musical theme with the inclusion of various instruments among the blossoms.

Local artists had their works on display to add to the beauty and visual impact of the event. However, it was the musical renditions that were the centrepiece of each occasion. To attract the widest audience the recitals were scheduled at various times and dates. A picnic, in the Church Park, was held prior to the Friday evening performance by Atlantis. A 3-hour organ recital was featured Saturday afternoon.

A particularly delightful performance of piano duets, featuring 300 years of music, was heard on Wednesday evening. The musicians were husband and wife team, Ian and Jan Assersohn. It was apparently Jan who planted the seed of inspiration for the “Jubilate” event a few years ago.

The Leatherhead Repertory Company Perform

The Golden Pathway Annual has now been staged in the Casson Studio of the Leatherhead Theatre twice, first in 1978 and now in 2013. The play, directed by local thespian Graham Pountney, was billed as being brilliantly funny, touching, fast moving, and nostalgic. Those who attended, during the first two weeks of June, would certainly agree. One of the play's authors visited during rehearsals to give his stamp of approval. Now in its second year, the Leatherhead Repertory Company is going from strength to strength.

Art Trail: Leatherhead Open Art Studios

Not only did local artists show their works in the Church during “Jubilate”, various studios were open to the public as a part of Surrey Artists Open Studios (SAOS) from the 8th to the 23rd June. We particularly appreciate Dorothy Stapleton, who opened her home and also her Garden for the Leatherhead Open Gardens.

The Leatherhead Open Gardens



Even the chilly weather on June 9th could not dampen the spirit of those stalwart people who wanted to visit the gardens of local residents. The LRA Environmental sub Group are pleased with the £684 pounds taken on the day (£649 after expenses) from ticket and plant sales, a raffle, and donations. A portion of that sum will go to Friends of Teazle Wood, as designated by one of the 8 garden owners.

A few years ago, the concept of ‘open gardens’ was first tried by Ann Cardew, when she opened her lovely garden to aid the Environmental Sub Committee in their effort to bring colour and life to the Town Centre. After only two years, 8 gardens were open this year. The Environmental Group will meet to see if there are ideas to improve the event.

The comments from both owners and visitors to the gardens have been very positive.

If you would consider opening your garden in the next year or two please let us know. We are compiling a list now so that people can plan ahead. Contact 01372 370091 - ask for Cheryl.

The LRA Environmental Sub Group members continue their work to make Leatherhead a greener, brighter place. Several spots have been 'claimed' for planting schemes. When the redevelopment of the High Street takes place our Committee, along with Cllr. Rosemary Dickson and LCA Chairman, June Robinson, have all pressed for additional planters as part of the new design. The Environmental Sub Group has promised to be involved with the planting and watering of these planters. The money earned from the Leatherhead Open Gardens will be applied to purchasing plants and replacing them as needed.

Another way we encourage the greening of the town is by presenting the 'Brighter Leatherhead Traders' Trophy. In November, a new recipient of the Trophy will be selected for their work in planting for public enjoyment. Last year's winner was Patrick Gardner & Co.

Thanks go to Montse and Geromin Zettlemeier, Ken and Ronnie Dodge, Shirley Preuveneers, Paula and Nigel Sabine, Ann Cardew, Phil and Ann Crowhurst, Dorothy Stapleton, and Cheryl and Roy Allen for allowing us to visit their gardens. The Community Garden also stayed open on June 9th so that visitors could see the work being done there.

We appreciate the gate stewards and the many people who donated plants, baked goods, and time in making this a successful event. Thanks to Ray Ward and Ian Cargill for providing promotional materials.

The winners of our raffle were Cornelia Cardew-Kelley, Jo Higgs and Mike Danks.

Cheryl Allen, Chair of Environmental Sub-group

News release for the June Leatherhead Residents' Association Newsletter Leatherhead Theatre and the Drama Festival

Sparkling performances and significant facility improvements have featured at the Theatre in the past couple of months. Shows ranged from Victorian Music Hall. The Vienna Festival Ballet, Leatherhead Operatic Society, Elizabeth to Elizabeth in verse and music, Rigoletto from Opera Brava, Leatherhead Theatre Repertory Company and two special Festivals.

The two-day Spring DAISY (Disability Arts in Surrey) Festival brought together the best in disability arts through exhibitions, workshops, films, music, theatre and dance. The Festival was marked by improvements for disability access into the two front rows of the auditorium, part funded by a £9264 grant from the Thomas Flack Fund.

The Leatherhead Drama Festival celebrated its 10th Anniversary in May, and is still the biggest festival of its kind in the country. Over two weeks there were 9 Youth and 17 Adult performances of one-act plays, 8 of which were new plays written for the Festival. Audience responses, appraisals by the professional adjudicator Mike Kaiser, and remarks from actress Virginia McKenna when presenting the Sir Michael Caine Awards to the winners, rightly praised the continuing high standards of acting, production and new play writing. The Junior winners were the Applause Youth Theatre Company from Dorking, and the Adult winners were the Cobham Players. The Festival Committee expresses its thanks to the 87 individuals and 8 community organisations, businesses and trusts that made donations to cover the shortfall in funds left by the local Council's withdrawal of grants to arts events.

Recent audiences have seen and benefited from the newly refurbished auditorium seats, many of which now carry the nameplates of the donors.

May saw the switchover to Digital film projection, which enables the Theatre to continue to screen new films, many of which are released now only in this format. It will also enable the screening of live

performances from the Royal Opera house and other venues, bringing live shows to our audiences that would not otherwise be seen in Leatherhead. The equipment cost £26,500 plus VAT. A donation appeal has been launched to help cover this cost, for which details are available at the Box Office (01372 365141).

In June we had the Leatherhead Repertory Company's co-production of The Golden Pathway Annual directed by Graham Pountney. This play was also performed in the Casson Studio back in 1978. This time around, however, performances took place over a two-week run; the longest run of a Leatherhead Theatre Repertory Company production to date since we launched the company in 2011.

Look out for The Theatre's autumn Guide that is soon to be published. If you would like further information regarding forthcoming shows, including our 2013 pantomime Cinderella, please visit our website: www.theleatherheadtheatre.org.

Colin Langley.

Summer 2013 Litter Pick

This time last year we were looking forward to the Olympic Games and wondering how we would be affected by road closures for the Olympic Road Cycle Road Races. We were also looking at ways to make the Town look its best for an event that would be televised worldwide.

The Olympic organisers promised us a legacy of events from the 2012 games. Sure enough, one year on, we have the Prudential RideLondon Cycling events coming our way this summer. Although the race may not be embraced with quite the degree of enthusiasm as the Olympics, the cameras will once again be on Leatherhead and surrounding areas of Surrey. The Environmental Sub Group would like to carry on their part of the legacy by repeating a litter pick to coordinate with the cycling event during the first weekend in August. This time we will not restrict ourselves to the path of the cycle race, but will look for troublesome spots throughout the town.

If you have an hour or so to help out on Thursday afternoon August 1st, please contact Cheryl: 01372 370091. More details will be supplied via telephone nearer the event.

Volunteers are also needed to help with Watering Plants in the Town Centre



We would like to create a rota of people willing to help with the watering of plants.

This is not a difficult job nor does it take a great deal of time. It can even be quite sociable, as people you know and even those you don't, stop to have a chat! It does, however, have to be done regularly.

Please use telephone number listed above to contact Cheryl.

Upcoming Events

Saturday 13th July, 11am-2pm - **"Bug Hunt "** - **Leatherhead Community Garden**. Checking the garden's biodiversity with sweep nets and tree bashing, the adventure will then move to Teazle Wood where other insects and small creatures will be sought. Suitable for all. Book your place by emailing: info@leatherheadcommunitygarden.org.uk and quoting "Bug Hunt".

Saturday 20th July, 10am-3pm - Leatherhead Community Gardens - "**Dress Up Day**" - a Kid's Forum Idea. A chance to dress up and run around, while taking part in a range of challenging team games. Bring a friend.

Thursday, 1st August, 2-4pm - **Litter Pick** - meet outside The Letherhead Institute for assignment and to collect equipment. Return at 3pm, for a photo opportunity and tea in Room 3F.

The Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 and Classic events are on Sunday 4 August. Roads will be closed from early in the morning until approximately 7pm so please plan ahead. More information can be found at www.gosurrey.info or www.prudentialridelondon.co.uk.

Monday, 2nd September, 7:30 pm at the Letherhead Institute, a Leatherhead Residents' Association open meeting with **Police Commissioner for Crime, Kevin Hurley**, as Guest Speaker. All are invited to attend.

Saturday 28th September 10am-1pm - **Leatherhead Community Garden AGM** - A brief meeting followed by a chance to see the garden at its peak.

Due to the Community Garden's late crop, a "**Cooking in the Garden**" event will be rescheduled for September. Check the Leatherhead Community Garden website for more details.

Cheryl Allen, Chair of Environmental Sub-group

New Artwork in Leatherhead

In celebration of the events of 2012 a work of art was recently installed on the exterior of the Letherhead Institute at first floor level.

The delicate metal work, was created in three parts, by young people of the Leatherhead Youth Project and the Fire and Iron Gallery.

The three events commemorated were:

1. Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee
2. The Olympic Road Cycle Races
3. 120 years of the Leatherhead Institute

The project was sponsored by: The Leatherhead Community Association, Leatherhead Decorative and Fine Arts Society, Leatherhead Institute Trustees, and Surrey County Council.



Regular Social Events

Complementary Health and Therapies - a group that shares D.I.Y. health responsibility with visiting speakers, including an annual visit from Professor Ward from Surrey University. They meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7.45 p.m. at Christ Church, Epsom Road. (No meeting in August).

For live music, fun, laughter and dance exercise, (including refreshments) visit the **Leatherhead Barn Dance** on the 1st Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. at the Letherhead Institute - all for £2.50.