

Chairman's Address,

Good evening everyone and thank you all for coming. I do hope you are warm enough. I have a number of items to bring you up to date on.

1. The Ward Boundary Review has come up with an increase in the size of South Leatherhead. The aim of this, I believe, is to even out the number of voters and hence the number of councillors for each of the wards. Each of our two wards should eventually have 3 each, but the total number in MV will remain at 39. Much of the boundary of L'd South runs along the railway line from Dorking up to the Station. The ward line then turns into Randalls Road before heading up along the Kingston Rd. At the Plough Roundabout it turns along By-Pass Road and then into Cophorne Road. From there it turns left into either Linden Road or Levitt Road before hitting the motorway and moving into Ashted.

2. The Chairman of Fetcham Residents' Association, Tim Waller, is on the League of Friends for our Leatherhead Community Hospital. Recently he was at a Zoom meeting with James Blythe the new CEO at Epsom and Dr Hilary Floyd of the Molebridge practices. Leatherhead is considered an important site for Epsom and St. Helier Trust because of the number and variety of therapy and diagnostic services it provides on an outpatient basis, thereby creating more space for acute services on the Epsom site. The Managers at Leatherhead are hoping to bring it out of NHS England and to put it under the umbrella of Epsom Hospital.

Another change being mooted is that of de-merging the Molebridge practices from reliance on Epsom Hospital funding and instead to operate jointly with Eastwick Medical Practice

3. And now a topic we are all concerned about: UKRAINE and what we can do. Well, next Saturday at roughly 1 pm a van will be coming to the Catholic Church Car Park in Garlands Road to collect some items for the driver to take on to Ukraine. This is being organised by a Ukranian priest at St. Erconwald Church in Walton. Please do NOT bring them to the car park early and leave them!

They would like: all in date medicine and medical supplies

Re-hydration sachets for babies and adults

Over the counter medicine/herbal remedies to help with sleep and anxiety

Dettol/disinfectant, inc. wipes

Cold remedies, allergy, hay fever pills etc etc.

Water purification tablets

NEW thermal wear

Sleeping bags

Sleeping camping mats

Thermos flasks

Torches and Batteries

Heat patches (e.g. "Hot hands")

Dry and tinned food (i.e. non perishable food, inc. snacks and gluten free food)

Baby formula (esp. new born 0-3 months) Formula milk

Infant food

Power banks (please provide fully charged if possible and labelled "charged.")

Tape (to fix up shattered windows and for packaging our goods)

Adaptors for EU sockets

Washing powder/get for clothes.

There are a number of things that they do NOT want, like used sheets, towels, general clothing, shoes, perishable food and cuddly toys (for hygiene reasons.)

4. I have heard from the Leatherhead Community Hub. They had a super successful Opening Day a couple of weeks ago which I was very sorry to miss. They had lots of guests and superb weather which I could clearly see from the photos. On 19th April their Advice Café will be opening and, as I understand it, on a rota basis, there will be people there ready to offer advice on a wide range of subjects, often financial.

They also ask, perhaps predicatably, for people to become “Friends of the Hub” and commit to regular donations to help with the upkeep and running of the site.

They would like to hear opinions on the possibility of a new care home being built on the former school site next to the hub. Also on offer is space in front of the home for a small “Community Building.” But this would have to be run and financed completely separately.

5. I did write about this in the end of March Bulletin, but I think it is so useful and valuable that I am daring to repeat it: The Projects Officer at Joint Waste Solutions has come up with a scheme (WRAP) to help people to save food and money. He has produced a (free)kit for people to try out, but he does want them to share the scheme with others and answer some questions, probably online.

That is the end of my speech and

we are now about to hear from someone who is eminently knowledgeable about Water and probably about our Rivers too. Graham Hanson has been a Go-between for customers and Water Companies for many years. Just recently, there has been much attention given to the unlovely subject of Sewage creeping into our rivers. A group called “The Rivers Trust” has been trying to accurately measure how often this actually occurs. I must point out that different water companies have different jobs and in our case it is not SES but Thames Water which has the task of dealing with sewage.