

A VOICE FOR OXSHOTT

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Autumn 2017

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To advertise in the next FEDORA magazine, in Spring 2018, please contact advertising@fedora.org.uk. The magazine is produced on a non-profit basis, keeping advertising rates as low as possible, and is delivered to 2750 households in the Oxshott - Cobham area.

Further information is also available on our website or to contact FEDORA members you can e-mail to the appropriate position above, @fedora.org.uk; e.g. planning@fedora. org.uk or chairman@fedora.org.uk, etc., or for general enquiries info@fedora.org.uk.

Cover Photograph Autumn Leaves © David Cooke

Chairman's Comments

by David A. D. Cooke

Green Belt Consultation

Elmbridge has now published the results of its consultation into the release of Green Belt to provide for 9,480 houses to be built in the Borough between 2015 and 2035 in their new draft Strategic Plan. There were some 3760 responses with the vast majority opposed to release of Green Belt land and believed this should be sacrosanct and that there were no exceptional circumstances under which it should be amended. There was also a belief that amendments now would lead to further amendments in the future. Release of Green Belt Land was also seen as an easy option for developers. Many believed Green Belt land provided valuable recreation space and the areas under consideration to be strongly performing against at least one of the specified purposes and that the classification of the areas as weakly performing was flawed.

The government has now decided to amend the methodology for calculating housing needs, and it may go up or down. In the meantime Elmbridge has delayed the next draft version of its Strategic Plan.

Developments in the Neighbourhood

There is at the moment a great deal happening in the surrounding neighbourhood.

The plan for 2,100 homes on the Wisley airfield site was turned down by Guildford Borough Council but has been appealed by the developer. There is to be a public enquiry in the Yvonne Arnaud theatre from 19 September for an estimated 20 days. Were the development to be allowed to go ahead it would be another loss of countryside and more stress on local trains, roads and other facilities.

Also due this summer is a decision on which option is selected for improvements to the M25 Junction 10 interchange with the A3. Whichever option is chosen the plan is for Wisley Lane and the road nearly opposite to be closed off from the A3 but access to the A3 provided by two slip roads to the Ripley roundabout.

On the Wisley side of the A3 this would involve taking about 10,000 square metres of land from the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens, involving the loss of trees including a redwood and another tree planted by the Queen. RHS Wisley have organised a petition of over 100,000 signatures against taking their land so the decision may be delayed.

Whichever plan is chosen a significant loss of trees and countryside is inevitable.

Disclaimer: FEDORA, its officers and committee members make every effort to publish this magazine on time, to give correct information and advice in good faith, and to accommodate advertisers by including desired copy with accurate content. No responsibility or liability, however, can be taken for any inadvertent errors or omissions.

New Train Operator

The franchise was transferred on 20 August to South Western Railway. Stephen Spark attended the official handover at Waterloo on 4 September and has kindly written an article for us which is included later in the magazine. The trains are to have a new livery and 'Aventra' trains which will have 5 or 10 carriages. With the completion of the lengthening of platforms at Waterloo station it might be expected that 10 coach trains would soon appear but they are not expected to reach Oxshott before 2020.

Roads and Parking

Traffic on the A244 is as bad or worse than ever, which is particularly trying for residents who live along the road, but also for those wishing to travel through Oxshott. A pollution test there has showed higher than allowable levels.

It would also be helpful if planned restrictions on the M25 could be advised to residents in advance.

FEDORA has long championed the building of an Oxshott / Malden Rushett bypass but this has however been opposed by Claygate.

There have been complaints about the new parking regime in Goldrings and Holtwood Roads. Whereas parking used to be prohibited along the entire length of the road it is now allowed in some stretches close to driveway exits with the result that poor sightlines risk collisions. Parking is only reviewed every three years by Surrey County Council (SCC) but FEDORA has requested changes in due course. In the meantime SCC advise residents to contact the police if obstruction is sufficiently bad.

School related parking in Broom Hall and Silverdale Avenue also causes significant problems at certain times of the day.

Magazine Delivery

Volunteers are urgently required to help deliver the twice yearly FEDORA Magazine, especially in the Sandy Lane area. If you can help please email me on chairman@fedora.org.uk. Thank you.

Farewell

Many may know Rita Clarke, for many years FEDORA's membership secretary, and also previously magazine advertising organiser. Increasing family commitments have recently caused her to retire. Not that she is completely severing her FEDORA connection as she will still be organizing magazine deliveries and we hope to see her at some of our meetings. I am sure you would all want to join me in thanking Rita for her contribution to FEDORA and wishing her well into the future.

Please could I therefore ask all residents wishing to subscribe to FEDORA to send their contributions now to Carmen Robinson, as detailed on the membership page near the back of the magazine. Thank you.

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The New Colour of Oxshott's Trains

by Stephen Spark

The London & South Western Railway painted theirs in salmon pink and chocolate. Olive green, smartly lined out in chrome yellow, was the Southern Railway's choice in the Twenties, while in the 1950s British Railways opted for mid-green. A decade or so later British Rail entered its blue phase, then added some off-white to the mix, before ending the nationalised era in a colourful splash of blue, red and white. Since February 1996 we've become used to our trains being painted the pillar box red of South West Trains. But now the décor is changing.

On 20 August, South Western Railway (SWR) – a consortium of First Group and China's MTR – took over the franchise for operating services into London Waterloo. The handover came in the middle of a massive upgrade programme at the terminus, so the company waited a couple of weeks before unveiling its new corporate identity. Accessorised with a blue logo, the trains are largely white, with black ends relieved by diagonal slate-grey stripes – a sort of pinstripe suit for trains. It's a 'Marmite' colour scheme, with some observers praising the branding as smart and businesslike and others denouncing it as dull and uninspired.

If SWR managers thought a fortnight was time enough for Network Rail to get its infrastructure in order, it had an embarrassing reality check at the media launch on 4 September. Senior managers, camera crews and transport minister Chris Grayling (who uses SWR from Epsom) waited under the great curving roof of the disused Eurostar terminal as the appointed time came and went. Eventually, the newly branded unit crept in 14 minutes late, held up by broken down trains, points and signals.

It was an inauspicious start for a franchise based on bold claims. First/MTR says that over the next seven years it will invest £1.2 billion, introduce 90 new 'Aventra' trains with wi-fi, toilets and 'infotainment' on board, rebuild stations at Wimbledon and Southampton, and provide quicker and more frequent services, offering 30% more seats in the peak hours.

I spoke to Owen Hazell, First Group's mobilisation director, who was responsible for that winning bid. How can SWR promise extra services when we are told there is no more space left on the lines into Waterloo, I asked. Hazell explained that the extra trains will run mainly on Saturdays, while some lines will also see better services on Sundays.

On its own, that doesn't seem to offer much relief for overcrowded weekday peak-hour services. Commuters know how difficult it is to get on and off crowded trains at intermediate stations. Our present class 455 trains were designed when far fewer people were using the railways, so two double doors per carriage side were adequate. But these days, a solid wedge of passengers forms by the doors and faces an equal solid mass of people standing on the platform. As a result, trains spend longer at stations, delaying the ones behind and soon the whole system grinds to a halt.

So will the new trains have more exits? No, said Hazell, but they will have wider doors, full-width corridors between the coaches and better acceleration. As they will each have an extra carriage, there should be a better chance of finding a seat. But we'll have to wait for them: back in May, First Group told me the new trains won't reach Oxshott until 2020.

There are no significant changes to the timetable, but from December 2018 there will be three evening weekday services running fast from Waterloo to Surbiton compared with one at the moment. According to the First Group spokesperson, these will be formed of 12 coaches – which will be interesting to see, as our newly extended platforms can only take 10 coaches! There will also be an extra service to London in the morning calling at Wimbledon, Clapham Junction and Vauxhall.

SWR hopes to open two new stations in Surrey: at Park Barn, on the Aldershot line west of Guildford, and Merrow, between Clandon and London Road. The latter has been talked about ever since the Oxshott line opened in 1885, but it has been blocked for years by our 'rail-blind' county council. First Group has no experience of dealing with Surrey CC, and in time it may realise its optimism about adding new stations was misplaced.

SWR has rolled out a new app for passengers, with Nectar points if you book online. Just as importantly, there's a dedicated app for its staff. This will help to update staff during service disruptions, Hazell said. And indeed, there's nothing more frustrating than being unable to find out what has happened to your train and then realising that, through no fault of their own, the staff are clueless too.

Hazell was quite cautious in his answers, stressing that "it's still early days" in the franchise. He's wise to be reticent, as the Waterloo disruption is hardly the last challenge SWR will have to face. Unions are threatening industrial action over guards on trains, the Mayor wants to take over London's commuter services, and Crossrail 2 may fundamentally change the railway map – if the hugely expensive project ever goes ahead.

The long view, from LSWR to SWR

South Western Railway is only the fifth operator of trains at Oxshott in 132 years. The first was the London & South Western Railway, which built the line, mainly to keep rival companies out of its territory. Trains were infrequent and slow, and the line could hardly have been profitable as it served only a handful of scattered villages. Goods traffic – chiefly coal, bricks, timber and agricultural produce – were handled in the small goods yard, which made way many years ago for the car park. However, Oxshott's solidly built station continues to serve us well.

In 1923 the privately owned railway companies were amalgamated, in what was known as the Grouping. The Southern Railway took over the LSWR's network and developed it under dynamic general manager Sir Herbert Walker (look for his bronze cameo at Waterloo). Walker drove forward a big change

for Oxshott by electrifying the line through to Guildford in July 1925. Faster, cleaner, more comfortable electric trains running every 20 minutes made daily commuting practical – who wouldn't want to swap the smoky city streets for the fresh air of the Surrey pinewoods?

Electrification stimulated development, and within 10 years the boards of builders and estate agents – some of them still with us today – were going up in fields and along lanes in Oxshott, Stoke D'Abernon and Cobham. The Crown Estate began to develop its huge landholdings too. Fortunately for present-day residents, it moved very slowly. Had it been quicker off the mark, an unbroken swathe of suburban housing would have merged Oxshott with Leatherhead and Stoke D'Abernon. The outbreak of war in September 1939 put a brake on those plans; afterwards, the imposition of Green Belt controls to prevent urban sprawl stopped the wholesale destruction of our countryside.

In 1947 the railways were nationalised, and Oxshott came under the Southern Region of British Railways, later known as British Rail. The ravages of war took years to repair, but in the early Fifties the old trains were replaced by 4 EPB units – older readers may remember their slam doors, wood-laminate interiors, bare lightbulbs and tunka-tunka-tunk sound of the air compressor. In the 70s they were replaced by newer 4 VEP stock, which still had slam doors but included the luxury of toilets and first class compartments. That caused a great controversy, with local MP Carol Mather asking questions in the House about it and the Evening News memorably headlining an article "MP hits out at misery on 'snob' line"! Finally, in 1983/4 class 455 trains arrived, with sliding doors but no toilets or first class. By the time they depart from Oxshott some will be nearly 40 years old.

In the 1980s, Southern Region became part of a sector called Network SouthEast, which stretched from Exeter and King's Lynn to Dover. Under director Chris Green, it proved highly successful and many regretted its passing when the railways were privatised.

And so on 4 February 1996 the baton passed to South West Trains, a division of Scottish bus company Stagecoach. Its franchise started disastrously, with too few drivers to operate the trains, resulting in chronic unreliability and poor relations with passengers and staff. Gradually, it redeemed itself and proved to be one of the better operators, outlasting most of its rivals. SWT's management was hugely disappointed to lose out to First/MTR, especially as it had promised many of the same improvements. Perhaps the Department for Transport just thought it was time for a change.

We may not be sure what the next seven years will bring for our railway, but one thing is certain: if South Western Railway doesn't live up to expectations its passengers won't be slow in letting the company know!



South Western Railway launch - arrival of train in new livery, Waterloo, 4 Sep 2017 $\ensuremath{\mathbb{C}}$ Stephen Spark



Artist's impression of South Western Railway Aventra unit presented to Chris Grayling MP, Waterloo, 4 Sep 2017 © Stephen Spark



South Western Railway launch - transport minister Chris Grayling, Waterloo © Stephen Spark



South Western Railway launch - transport minister Chris Grayling left & SWR MD Andy Mellors right © Stephen Spark

OXSHOTT VILLAGE CENTRE

The Annual General Meeting of the Oxshott Village Trust Fund will be held on

Monday 13th November at 7.45 pm.

All Oxshott Residents are invited to attend and participate in this meeting. Notice of any matter you wish to be discussed at the A.G.M should be sent in writing to:

> The Chairman, Oxshott Trust Fund, The Gatehouse, Queens Drive Oxshott KT22 0PB by 6th November at the latest.

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A SPARKLING SUMMER AT OVSC!

by Sarah Murphy

Oxshott Village Sports Club are celebrating a sparkling summer of success in 2017. Not only are they delighted to have welcomed two new sponsors to the Club - Downs Law, who become a Principal Club Sponsor and Wellden Turnbull, Cobham-based Chartered Accountants, who join as a Club Supporter, but also great success for their various sports teams.

Henry Thorpe, Captain of the 1st XI Maori-Oxshott cricket team, led his team to victory in Division 5 of the Travelbag County Championship which means they secure promotion in 2018. Personal success as well for Henry, who deservedly won the Young Surrey Coach of the Year Award at the Surrey Coach Awards held at the Kia Oval in August. Tony Murphy, Captain of the 2nd XI, also secured success for our second team along with his team of youngsters to ensure they avoided relegation. Maybe promotion will come next year too!



Congratulations!

Daniel Hurst, one of OVSC's 12&U Performance Tennis Players, receiving his prize at the National Tennis Centre in Roehampton recently, after winning the Surrey Cup for his age group. He won the final, also played at the NTC in convincing style. Daniel has been an integral figure in the 12&U Boys team who also won their age group in the Aegon Tennis Summer league this year.

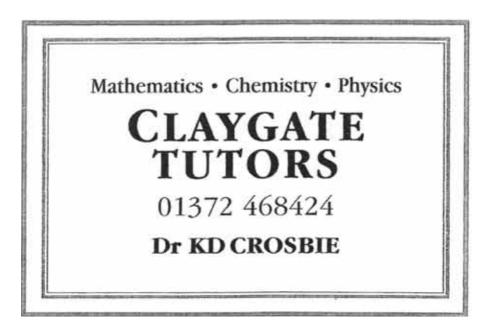
The 8&U A Mixed (unbeaten for 2 years), 8&U B Mixed, and 9&U Mixed also all won their leagues with the 10&U Mixed being runners up.



Daniel is in good company playing at Oxshott we even had a visit from Andy Murray during the summer when he came to practise on the wall, had a hit on one of the courts and even posed for some photographs. Seen here with OVSC Tennis Coach Michael Dolman.

Looking Ahead - As the nights draw in and our Autumn programmes start afresh, the running club, which meets on Tuesday mornings at 9am, have their first run on the 19th. All comers welcome! Netball has also started with training on Monday evenings and also "Back to Netball" sessions for any ladies who would like to start playing again. New coaching sessions for all levels of tennis from juniors to seniors and beginners to more

competitive are also running alongside the Club's normal tennis programme. Full information from www.oxshott-tennis-coaching.com



Community and Events Team West End Lane, Esher, Surrey KT10 8NA Telephone: 01372 461853 E-mail: bethridgley@pah.org.uk www.pah.org.uk



Supporter No:285743

Ms C Robinson Fairoaks Hardwick Close Oxshott Surrey KT22 0HZ

24 July 2017

Dear Oxshott Village Day

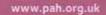
I would like to say a massive thank you for having raised an incredible £6,000.00 for Princess Alice Hospice at Oxshott Village Day. Thank you also for inviting me along on the day. I am so pleased I was able to see what a wonderful event Oxshott Village Day was, and witness so many people in the local community enjoying the day. It was evident that a lot of hard work and organisation had been involved in ensuring the event was really successful and ran smoothly, so please know that this is truly appreciated. Please do pass on our thanks to everyone involved.

We are extremely grateful and privileged that Oxshott Village Day decided to support Princess Alice Hospice for its tenth anniversary. The amount you raised is just brilliant and a testament to how hard you all worked organising a fantastic event. £6,000.00 can make a real difference to the quality of care we are able to provide. To give you some examples of just how far these funds can go, £6,000.00 could pay for over fifteen overnight sessions of night nursing care to a patient at home, it could provide a mattress for the IPU or alternatively, it could cover the cost of over six hours of all Princess Alice Hospice care inclusive of clinical services.

Without supporters like you and events like Oxshott Village Day, we would not be able to continue providing high quality care free of charge. I know that I can speak on behalf of everyone at Princess Alice Hospice when I say we are truly grateful for your support. Your support helps us to provide advice, support and comfort to our patients and their families at every stage. Crucially, it allows us to bring our patients the right care, by the right person, at the right time whilst ensuring they are in the place they want to be. Thank you again from all the staff, volunteers and patients for whom this money will make a huge difference.

Yours sincerely

Beth Ridgley Partnerships Fundraiser





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Join the Oxshott Village Day Team!

from Carmen Robinson

After 10 years, Oxshott Village Day has become the major annual village event in Oxshott. With up to 5,500 visitors each year, we have had many happy families enjoying a spring day out with fun and good food for everyone. The Village Day has also contributed its excess funds totalling over £23,000 to local charities. This year, for example, we donated £6000 to Princess Alice Hospice, in addition to £500 to Oxshott Village Sports Club to thank them for the use of their grounds.

None of this would have been possible without a dedicated and enthusiastic team of volunteers. Together we all work hard each spring to make the event a success, and at the same time our organising meetings frequently become fun social events in our homes.

However, people's lives change and they need to move on. We are very sorry indeed to see some of our friends leave the team after all their support for the Village Day over many years; in order to replace them we are now looking for new volunteers to join the team. Why don't you consider joining the fun and making a worthwhile contribution to the village?

We need help running several key roles;

- Organising the entrance team
- Organising and running the raffle
- Public relations working with local newspapers and media
- Social media Facebook, Twitter etc.
- Putting up and taking down banners and signs advertising the event.
- In addition we need support on the day, with the running of the event.

Next year the Village Day will be held on Monday 7th May, and we hope to have great weather and a fantastic turnout of visitors so that once again we can make a worthwhile donation to our selected charity.

We usually start the year with our first planning meeting in mid-January and gradually become busier as the big day approaches. While each team member has their own area of responsibility, all of the team contributes during our meetings with ideas, creativity and advice. Whatever you think you can contribute we would love to hear from you.

Come and join the team! We have a lot of fun, we have the satisfaction of creating a fantastic event for Oxshott village to enjoy and supporting local charities with our excess funds.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact Carmen on telephone 07961 426 470, or 01372 842 128, or email carmen@oxshottvillageday.com.



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Local man awarded the Albert Medal in World War 1



by Mike Crute

Lieutenant John Neale RNVR, was awarded the Albert Medal for gallantry in 1918. He lived with his wife Mary at Vintilla, in Sheath Lane, believed to be the third house on the left when walking from Steels Lane and was a Vice President of the Oxshott Men's Club.

He was commissioned Lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve in July 1915 and was soon transferred to the Ministry of Munitions Experimental Station at Claremont Park, Esher, the home of H.R.H. the Dowager Duchess of Albany, (Claremont House is now Claremont Fan Court School), where he later became Commanding Officer. As his work was the responsibility of the

Ministry of Munitions, the recommendation for the award of his Albert Medal was made to the King by the Minister of Munitions, the Rt. Hon. Winston Churchill, M.P., and Lieutenant Neale was presented with his Albert Medal by H.M. King George V at Buckingham Palace on 6 April 1918.

Details of the award are as follows.

From The London Gazette 25 January 1918 (Whitehall, January 23, 1918)

The KING has been pleased to award the Decoration of the Albert Medal to Lieutenant John Neale, Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, in recognition of his gallantry in saving life at Esher in August, 1916. The circumstances are as follows: —

"On the 25th August, 1916, Lieutenant Neale RNVR was conducting certain experiments which involved the projection from a Stokes Mortar of a tube containing flare-powder. An accident occurred rendering imminent the explosion of the tube before leaving the mortar, which would almost certainly have resulted in the bursting of the mortar with loss of life to bystanders. Lieutenant Neale, in order to safeguard the lives of the working party, at once attempted to lift the tube from the mortar. It exploded while he was doing so with the result that he was severely injured, but owing to the fact that he had partly withdrawn the tube from the mortar no injury was caused to others"

He was aged 50 when the incident happened and some years after the war he moved, with his wife to Molesey, but there seems to be no record of any family.

During his service he was promoted to Commander, Royal Marine Engineers and had a recommendation made for promotion to Captain, but it was rejected,

probably as by then he was being invalided out of the service (January 1918).

By coincidence whilst researching this item, the medal (shown), which was in very good condition, came up for auction in March 2017 and was sold for $\pounds 6,000$.

The Albert Medal, 2nd Class, for Gallantry in Saving Life on Land, is bronze and enamelled. On the reverse it is officially engraved 'Presented by His Majesty to Lieutenant John Neale, R.N.V.R., for Gallantry in saving life at Claremont Park, Esher, on the 25th. August 1916.'

It had been part of a collection of 44 Albert Medals and a large collection of Distinguished Conduct Medals held by a collector in Illinois, USA, until his death in April 2016.



From Our New Vicar

Rev Frances Trickey

I am grateful to the FEDORA Management Committee for this invitation to introduce myself and tell you a little about what we are up to at St Andrew's church.

Licensed by the Bishop of Guildford on 25th April this year, I can now claim to have lived and worked in Oxshott for six whole months. This time has inevitably involved settling in physically both to our lovely Vicarage on Steels Lane but also to the beautiful part of Surrey in which we all live. My husband is a keen runner and he has pored over local maps to plan routes along local bye-ways and paths. Over time, he is introducing me to them, which we both really enjoy. I love it that it is possible to walk so far across the local commons.

I have also spent the past months meeting people of all ages and in all conditions, from Oxshott Rainbows building campfires to elderly residents of both Sunrise Nursing Home and Gunters Mead. Oxshott Village Day back in May was a bit of a baptism of fire as children and parents were encouraged to play a game of 'Hunt the Vicar'. Small prizes were awarded to any of them brave enough to say 'Hello'! The local schools have all also made me very welcome and I am soon to take Harvest services for them.

Having had our holiday in early summer I was here throughout the school summer holidays and this time, with less activity and more opportunity to spend time with people, has really helped me to have a sense of belonging here in Oxshott. Jolyon, my husband, and I have enjoyed hosting some of our neighbours as well as some of you with long-standing connections with St Andrew's church in our garden in the light, warm summer evenings; something that we really enjoy and will continue to do.

The church family at St Andrew's has made me very welcome and I feel as if I belong here, which is a precious thing. People have asked me what I am going to do, now that I am here. My answer is that I approach moving to a new church in the same way as a wise gardener approaches a newly-acquired garden. My grandfather taught me to watch and see what a new garden produced for the first year if at all possible, rather than rushing in and moving things. However, where necessary, one needs to be brave and make changes immediately. For example, if a tree is dangerous or if there are invasive weeds. It is similar in a church, the body of Christ: one needs to watch and wait but also be brave enough to deal with things that are unhelpful, or which have outgrown their usefulness. Obviously, this is a difficult balance to achieve. However, it is what I am aiming to do, guided by God's Holy Spirit.

One of the areas where I am watching, listening and praying carefully concerns the necessary building work and outline plans at St Andrew's to make them fit for purpose for all of our users. I want to take this opportunity to thank local residents for their support in this. Without the community's help and goodwill we would be much poorer. I also want to ask that those of you who pray might pray for wisdom and guidance not only for me but the group working with me on this. Pray that we might be lead in the right direction and spend money wisely, not just for the sake of things that are currently happening at St Andrew's - your Church but for the sake of future opportunities in our village which we can only begin to imagine.

Next time you see me in the local area do stop and say hello: I would love to meet you.

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From Our Local Elmbridge Councillor Andrew Burley

07503830954 aburley@elmbridge.gov.uk

What a difference 6 months makes.

In the spring of this year, residents found themselves faced with the prospect of housebuilding on our precious Greenbelt.

More specifically, Elmbridge Borough Council consulted on a number of 'strategic options' as part of the creation of a new 'Local Plan', the strategy addressing the key development needs in Elmbridge, including social and affordable housing, to the year 2035. As part of the Local Plan process, Authorities can revise Green Belt boundaries, so paving the way for the development of housing.

The public response to the consultation was nothing short of spectacular. The Council received close to 4000 responses containing around 50,000 comments following a 10 week consultation period.

It will come as no surprise that the vast majority of responses opposed the use of Green Belt to meet housing need. A large number of comments disagreed with the analysis of our Greenbelt and its relative performance against the defining criteria.

Many residents pointed to urban (or brownfield) sites which could be more densely developed, a theme unpopular with residents from those urban areas. Concerns were also raised about the burden of additional housing on our infrastructure such as roads, schools, healthcare and public transport.

The simple truth is the UK needs more housing but it is critical that we strike a balance between delivering housing and protecting the character of the areas in which we live, be that Green Belt or otherwise.

During the consultation period, the Government produced a Housing White Paper - 'Fixing our Broken Housing Market'. Whilst maintaining its position that local Authorities must work to achieve their assessed housing need, the Government suggested that a standardised method of assessing housing need is required. A revised methodology is unlikely to see the light of day before 2018 and so for the time being, the new local plan for Elmbridge is on hold.

In the meantime, thank you for your energy and the time taken in responding to the consultation. The Localism Act empowers local communities. This is an example of communities working to good effect.

Traffic congestion on the A244 is a recurrent concern for local residents. We are fortunate to live where we do but also plagued by our location. The use of the Leatherhead Road and Copsem Lane as a relief road for Junctions 9 and 10 of the M25 is a frustration for many. This congestion also contributes to pollution at alarming levels. The responsibility for our roads rests with the County Council. FEDORA has lobbied Surrey on road improvement and congestion relief and I would encourage residents to contact the new Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport at Surrey County Council with your own concerns and ideas.

Some days we remember fondly. Others less so.

On 3 June a new contractor, Amey, began emptying the bins in Elmbridge. They didn't exactly hit the ground running. Despite 3 years of preparation (or so Amey tell me) many residents were left with overflowing bins for weeks on end. For this, I am truly sorry.

Why change you may reasonably ask - the previous service was all but faultless.

Elmbridge's waste services were combined with three other local councils in Surrey to form 'Joint Waste Solutions'. The benefit being cost savings in the region of £2.5 million. Cold comfort when you have maggots in your bins and uncollected Garden waste (which you pay extra for.)

The response from the company and the elected members responsible was tepid at best. In principle, the idea was a good one but execution has been appalling. The saving grace was the professionalism and responsiveness of the Joint Waste Solutions team. For those residents that were assisted by Councillors directly, it is this team that sorted the 'mess' out.

Reports suggest that 99.3% of bins are now being emptied on time against a KPI of 99.9%. I won't bore you with why I believe a KPI relying on residents making a report is a nonsense but in any event, there is still work to do. Please do report missed bins through the links on the Elmbridge website or by calling 01372 474474. Myself and my colleagues will gladly assist you if needed.



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Patient Participation Group Update

by Elizabeth Chovil (Chairman)

We are very pleased that our new Committee for 2017/18 is firmly in place and we are busy arranging events for the coming year.

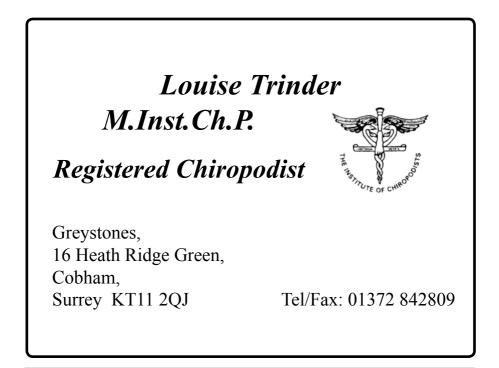
Meet & Greet Sessions on 7th – 9th November. We are planning Meet & Greet sessions at the surgery when we hope to interest some new members for the PPG which is now over 700 members strong. The PPG does appreciate all your comments and aims to make life better for patients and staff at the practice.

Flu season is fast approaching and the Practice hopes to start immunisation programmes from mid/late September.

NHS England Shingles 'catch up' programme is also available at the surgery for those patients who are eligible. The programme this year is: "if you are 70 years old or anyone who is in their 70's and was born after 1st September 1942 is eligible. Also included are those of you who are 78, plus anyone aged 79 who has missed out on the vaccination. The vaccination is not available for those aged 80 years and over".

Also, the Pneumonia vaccine is available to babies, patients over 65 and patients with long standing health conditions.

We very much hope to see you at one of our events very soon.



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Beginner Bridge

by R. Clair Sexton

We shall return to the basics for this edition.

Every hand you play should be treated in the following way. It is the 'norm' for the 'experts' – the only difference being that they are faster and have learnt, through experience, more options.

Declarer Play

As soon as the opening lead hits the table, it is time to consider how you are going to play the hand and make the contract.

You will have a few clues to help you with your initial thoughts.

- You have the opponent's bidding or silence.
- Their opening lead, and
- The way the play of the hand develops.

The early decisions that must be made are:

- Should all the opponents' trumps be drawn, or should some be left for ruffing, or controlling a suit?
- How are the extra tricks to be developed over and above the TOP tricks, before the opponents have time to develop theirs?

So summarizing this:

Once the lead is made -

- STOP, THINK, and consider your plan,
- COUNT your top winners every expert does it. (A, AK, AKQ NOT KQ, QJ10, etc.),
- CONSIDER where the extra tricks are to come from. Go through the suits one by one and choose the one where you have the best chance, AND THE TIME. Does their lead help you to decide?
- DECIDE shall I draw trumps?
- PUT the whole plan together in your mind.

Now the plan is made, proceed with it as quickly as possible. If something occurs that you had not considered (e.g. the trumps break badly) do not be afraid to stop and take time to reconsider and change the plan if necessary.

When you are in a semi-serious game do not take too long to make plans. It can upset your opponents. If you have a problem, try to remember it, or write it down while the next hand is being dealt, and look at it afterwards.

Most hands are solved by simple methods. They involve drawing the trumps and taking winners while moving from hand to hand using the obvious entries (sometimes these may be the trumps). This sounds easy, but it involves forward thinking so that things are done in the correct order - this is known in Bridge as 'good timing'.

If top winners do not produce sufficient tricks, you have to employ other means. The simplest of these are:

- Trumping losers in dummy, or infrequently in hand,
- Finessing,
- Developing a long suit.

Each of these is a standard play, and I hope you are familiar with them.

<u>Trumping losers in dummy</u>. The usual thing that goes wrong is that a round or two of trumps are drawn, or necessary entries played, **before** the idea occurs.

<u>Finesses</u> often do not succeed because the finesse is taken the wrong way, or because an entry has been used prematurely and you can no longer get to the correct hand. For example with QJ86 • A42 the correct play is Ace followed by small to the QJ, NOT QJ towards the A. This would only be correct if you held QJ10.

A way to reduce this sort of error is to spend some time looking at the standard finesse positions. Take one suit from the whole pack, and try them out. Seeing them on the table can often be much more instructive than seeing them in print.

Developing a suit, although a 'basic', is overlooked most often.

Here the thing that is not 'seen' is that a suit can produce tricks simply by being long!

If you hold Axxxxx • x and the opponents' cards split 3 - 3, you will be able to make the A and three small cards - 4 in all. If the suit breaks 4 - 2 you still make 3 tricks, and 5 - 1 then 2 tricks.

Clearly, <u>the</u> important thoughts are - <u>How is the suit breaking?</u> <u>Can I establish the winners in time?</u> Do I have enough entries?

I am sure this route to extra winners is not given enough weight in any plan!

More advanced plays that are available are:

- End-Plays these take many forms and occur frequently,
- Elimination and Throw-ins again quite frequent,
- Squeeze Plays and other Coups. These are rare (maybe 4 or 5%) so you need not spend time on these until you are already a 'very good' player!

If you want any help with these ideas please feel free to contact me.

Remember, the further you think forward, the better the Bridge player you will become.

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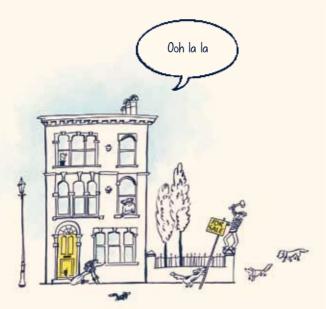
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Alternatively you can pay by internet banking Account Name: FEDORA, Sort Code: 20-90-56, Account Number: 80164445, but please use your surname and postcode as reference (so that we know who the payment is from) and send a confirming email (to advise payment) to membership@fedora.org.uk with the information from the form below.

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Carmen Robinson

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