

FEDORA

FEDERATION OF OXSHOTT RESIDENTS AND ASSOCIATIONS



A VOICE FOR OXSHOTT

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Spring 2018

CONTENTS

FEDORA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	2
FEDORA AGM NOTICE	3
CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS	5
TIMBER! THE CANADIANS IN OXSHOTT DURING THE GREAT WAR	9
THE ROYAL KENT SCHOOL'S SUMMER FETE	14
FULL SPORTING CALENDAR AT OXSHOTT VILLAGE SPORTS CLUB FOR 2018!	17
NEWS FROM ELMBRIDGE AND SURREY COUNTY COUNCILS	19
OXSHOTT VILLAGE DAY 2018	20
OXSHOTT VILLAGE SIGN	24
OXSHOTT STATION AND SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAYS	25
MAKING A DIFFERENCE WHEN BUYING A COFFEE	25
END PLAYS	31
MEMBERSHIP	37
ADVERTISER INDEX	39

FEDORA MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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To advertise in the next FEDORA magazine, in Autumn 2018, please contact advertising@fedora.org.uk. The magazine is produced 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: Spring Snowdrops © David Cooke

FEDORA

FEDERATION OF OXSHOTT RESIDENTS
AND ASSOCIATIONS

Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 17th May, 2018
7.30 for 8.00pm

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Chairman's Comments

by David A. D. Cooke

M25 Junction with the A3 – J10

In December Highways for England announced their preferred scheme for improving this junction – a roundabout elongated from north to south. It was the cheapest of the three alternatives offered, takes up the least land and was objected to by the least number of people. There will be dedicated left turn slip roads and the A3 will be widened to four lanes per carriageway from the Ripley to Cobham roundabouts.

RHS Wisley raised over 100,000 signatures against taking 10,000 sq metres of land, including a tree planted by the Queen in 1978. The result is that access to Wisley Lane will be by a bridge over the A3 and a road on the opposite side going directly to the Ripley roundabout.

The main remaining concerns are over land at Painshill Park.

Public exhibitions and consultations of the proposed scheme are currently taking place and construction is due to begin in 2020/2021 after all the formalities have been completed.

Wisley Airfield

A decision on whether the development of 2,100 homes will be allowed is expected to be announced by 13 March. If it was, the co-ordination of works on the M25/A3 junction and Wisley airfield would be interesting to say the least.

Council Services

With the government squeeze on council budgets many services appear to be less effective or to have disappeared completely, and problems are taking considerably longer to be acted upon. For example FEDORA asked for our mini green in the centre of Oxshott to be tidied up by trimming the lower branches of the oak tree which were growing along the ground. After two months with no action FEDORA did it themselves. Also it took several months for two traffic lights (the red and yellow) on the tallest pole by the station to be replaced. The roads in many places throughout the borough are in a very bad state and there is a considerable amount of litter around the village. FEDORA is considering organising a community litter picking morning if the situation does not improve.

One of our Elmbridge Councillors has advised that part of the Community Infrastructure Levy might be applied to repairing roads in Elmbridge. Residents' suggestions for priority areas can in emergency be reported (24/7) on 0300 200 1003 or otherwise online at www.surreycc.gov.uk. As well as its own inspections the Council does rely on residents to report road defects.

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.

Surrey has 3000 miles of road with a replacement cost of £8 billion, so it's a real challenge to maintain! The very bad potholes approaching the railway bridge on the A244 have already been reported.

Planning

There are two planning applications in Oxshott causing particular concern 2017/3765 in Twinoaks and 2017/3018 in Waverley Road. Both involve subdivision of plots. I have suggested to one of our councillors that to avoid vehicles being permanently parked on roads that developers might have to demonstrate that there is space to park two cars per dwelling on each plot.

Another application 2017/3920 is for a large sports hall at Danes Hill School. This massive L-shaped building would be some 9.5m (31ft) high, 20.5m (67ft) wide - or 36m (117ft) including the L - and 67m (220ft) long arranged around the new classrooms. It would mainly affect some of those living in Wrens Hill and Northcote Park. There would be major traffic concerns if the school ever opened this up for use by the public.

Oxshott Village Day

This will be held as usual on the first May Bank Holiday Monday 7th May. Apart from all the attractions it is a fun family day out and provides an opportunity to catch up with friends and neighbours.

The FEDORA AGM

Will be held this year on Thursday 17th May 7:30 for 8pm in the Oxshott Village Hall. All are welcome to come and discuss issues affecting our village.

Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100

This will take place on Sunday 29th July this year. The normal road closures will apply for most of the day, so a day to stay at home or be away for those living along the route.

Donation

FEDORA has recently donated £900 to 1st Oxshott Scout Group towards replacing two ageing large mess tents.

Magazine

Many thanks to about 40 volunteers who deliver the FEDORA Magazine twice a year, spring and autumn, throughout the village. Some areas are more difficult to cover than others, and for any particular delivery period people may be on holiday or otherwise away. We are having particular problems with deliveries to Sandy Lane and some of the roads off, and the Bevendean estate, so if you are able to help cover these areas we would be very grateful if you could make contact with me (davidadcooke@btinternet.com, 01372 842873) or Allan Bleach (allanbleach@msn.com 01372 842011).

Articles of general interest by residents are always most welcome.



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Timber! The Canadians in Oxshott during the Great War

by Stephen Spark

We tend to think of modern life inevitably being busier and noisier than the past. But 100 years ago, if you'd gone down to Oxshott Woods one day, you'd have been sure of a big surprise! Far from being the peaceful haunt of squirrels and dog-walkers we know today, it would have presented a scene of frantic activity, with gangs of burly young men laying waste to the pines. Along with the familiar sounds of birdsong and the occasional hiss and clank of steam engines going about their business on the railway, there would have been the distressing crack and sigh of mighty conifers toppling over. Once stripped of greenery the trunk would be carted away to be dismembered in a whining sawmill.

The destruction was all in a good cause: the war effort. Timber was needed for everything from pit props to papermaking, railway sleepers to roof timbers, but most of it had to be imported. The UK produced well under 1 million tons of timber a year, leaving 11.5 million tons to be imported. That was fine so long as it was safe to ship in supplies across the North Sea or from North America.

With the war barely a year old, it had already become clear that the German "submarine menace" was devastating commercial shipping. Britain risked being severely weakened unless it could reduce its dependence on imports. If we could use our own trees there would be more space on those precious vessels for food and other essentials. There was just one snag: we didn't have the skilled men to turn trees into timber.

In February 1916 the government appealed to Britain's loyal dominion across the Atlantic: "HM Government would be grateful if the Canadian Government would assist in the production of timber for War purposes... it is impossible to continue to import Canadian timber on a sufficiently large scale to meet War requirements, and arrangements must therefore be made for felling and converting English forests."

No time was lost. An advance party, bringing their own sawmill and other equipment, arrived in April 1916 and within a few weeks they were already producing timber with, as the official account puts it rather quaintly, "the energy, rapidity and 'hustle' for which the Canadians are famous". By December the ranks of lumbermen had grown substantially and at the turn of the year they started arriving in Oxshott. Soon, tents and huts began sprouting up across the area, as the men of 16 Company (later 114 Company) Canadian Forestry Corps (CFC), under the command of Major C H Massiah, set up their portable sawmill and other equipment.

The village hadn't seen an invasion like this since Irish navvies built the railway thirty years earlier and it must have been traumatic for some to witness the denuding of the woodland around them. Still, this was wartime and there was no room for sentiment.

Details of the Canadians' activities are rather scarce, but we know they worked

on the Crown's 'Esher Estate' from 31 January to 26 November 1917 and produced 751,816 cubic feet of sawn timber. Hansard records William Thorne MP asking in a Commons debate in April 1917, "what amount of money has been paid for the trees commandeered from Esher Common". Henry Forster, financial secretary to the War Office, replied "Timber on Esher Common has been requisitioned under the Defence of the Realm Regulations, and the question of compensation is at present before the Defence of the Realm Losses Royal Commission. No payment has yet been made."

In its final few months in our area 114 Company may simply have been tidying up, as in August it began moving the tree-felling teams to Earham and Slindon in Sussex, where it laid a narrow gauge railway to help shift the timber. There is no evidence anything like that was built on our commons, but the finished timber would no doubt have been taken out by rail from Oxshott station goods yard.

Another potential loading point was the railway siding that served Little Heath Brickworks at Cook's Crossing. The brickworks had been moribund for years until William Elijah Benton bought the property off the executors of John Earley Cook for a knockdown price in 1913. Unfortunately for Benton, he had only just got the works back into a fair state of repair when they were requisitioned by the War Office as an ammunition store. Some accounts suggest that the Canadians used the brickworks as their base in the area, and it would certainly have been a convenient location for the heavier machinery needed to saw and split logs. Equipment for the Oxshott operations would have come from the Corps' main depot in Windsor Great Park. The CFC also had a railway depot at Stewarts Lane locomotive shed in Battersea and later a fully equipped railway yard of its own at Egham.

This was clearly a huge operation, but it has been hard to unearth individual names among the 17,000 Canadians who served the Allied cause in the Great War with their lumberjacking skills. However, we know that they included George Engelhardt, born in Petrograd (now St Petersburg), Russia. The fact that his residence was St Marys Cottage, Oxshott, suggests either that he was an officer ('other ranks' would usually have been in huts or under canvas) or that he may have been settled here. And sadly 23-year-old Private Stanley Newman Ripley, of 16 Company CFC, never got to return to his parents Jesse and Susie in River Hebert, Nova Scotia, as he is buried in the churchyard of Christ Church, Esher; his date of death is given as 15 August.

The war ended on 11 November 1918, by which time the wooded tracts of Esher Common and Oxshott Heath had been reduced to a sandy wasteland of tree stumps. However, these were Crown plantations of Scots pine, not ancient woodland, and the clearance allowed regeneration of heather and other heathland flora and fauna. The Journal of Ecology reported a visit to the area in 1920: "We were impressed by the excellent opportunity presented of following recolonisation on the new ground exposed, which is so infrequent in this country." So the scientists were happy, at least!

One odd postwar addition to the Heath was a weapon of war. Writing to the Cobham News & Mail in 1991, P H Arcot of Rowlands Castle wrote:

Probably at the end of 1918... a redundant army tank was driven on to Oxshott Heath where it was used for target practice by the Artillery. Its journey to the Heath caused considerable excitement particularly among children – one of whom, my informant, still resident nearby, recalls sitting on the machine and, not without danger, riding on the tracks. In due course the machine evidently settled into the sand and about five years later only the top was visible. It would seem that the tank was never removed...

The image of the half-buried machine recalls H G Wells's description of the Martian cylinder on Horsell Heath in *War of the Worlds* – appropriately, as the sometime Woking resident also foresaw the tank in his 1903 short story *The Land Ironclads*. It's a tantalising prospect that someone with a metal detector might one day unearth an entire First World War tank – a time machine indeed! The Canadian Forestry Corps was disbanded in about 1920, but was reformed just 20 years later when British shipping was once again under attack from German U-boats. And once again, the Canadians returned to our village – which will form the concluding part of the story in the Autumn issue of the magazine

Author's note

If any reader is able to assist with more information about the Canadian forces in Oxshott during the First and Second World Wars, please contact the author via the magazine editor.

Sources

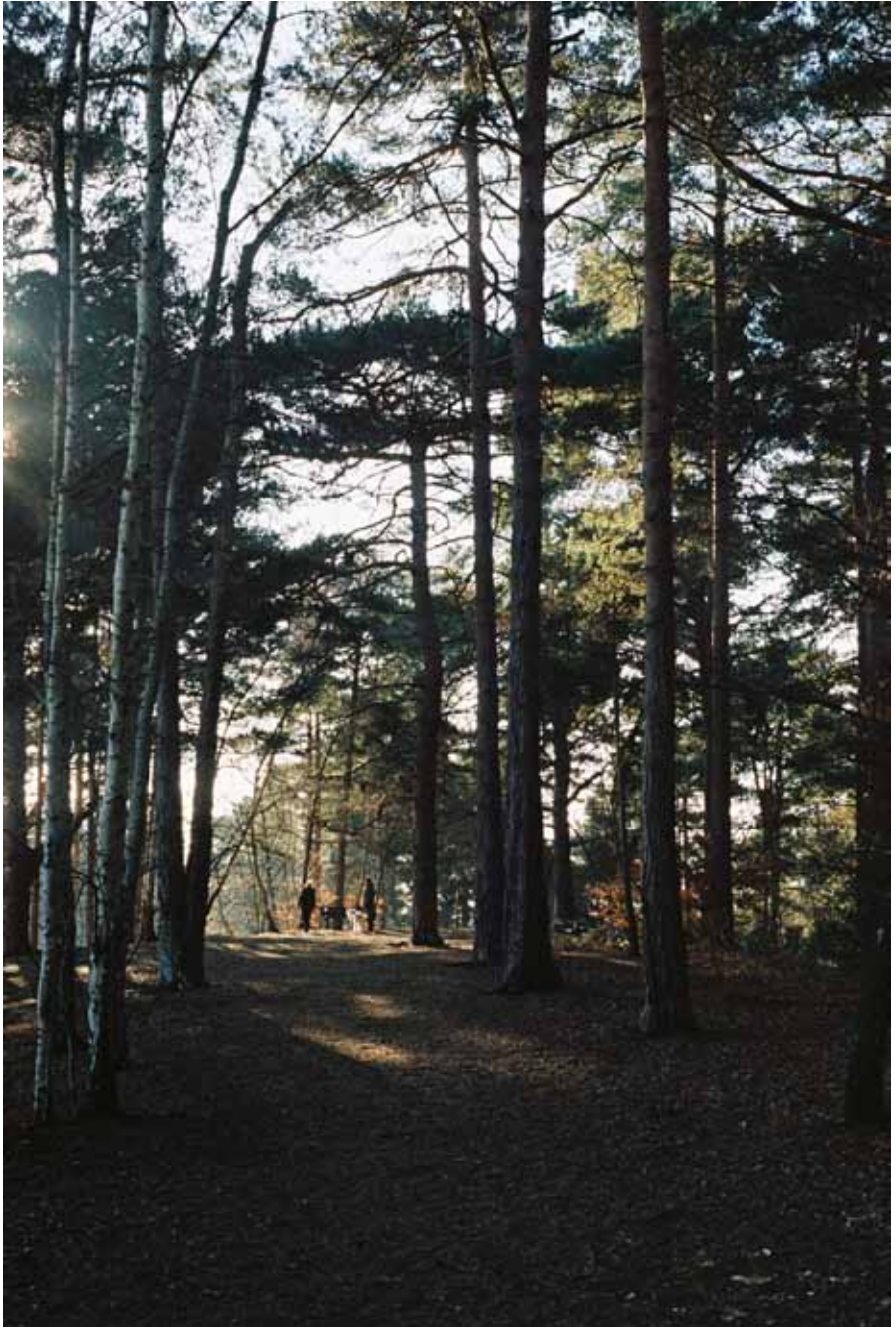
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Oxshott Heath 26 December 2008 © Stephen Spark



Scovell postcard of Oxshott Station from Warren Lane bridge, postmarked 20 July 1914



Esher Common, 30 January 2010 © Stephen Spark

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Full Sporting Calendar at OVSC for 2018!

It's a full year of sport in 2018, what with the Winter Olympics, football World Cup, Ryder Cup and Commonwealth Games as well as the usual sporting events and OVSC will be continuing with its own festival of sport and events throughout this year.

And there is something for everyone at the club during 2018.

The Club's calendar of events began with the annual Charity petanque tournament in January which saw over 50 members, family, friends and neighbours of all abilities enjoying a morning of petanque. The event which started with mince pies and mulled wine, culminated in the presentation of a cheque to Parkinson's UK, the charity nominated by the winner Carol Parker.

In February a squash doubles tournament was held with 16 members competing against each other in a fun filled evening of squash followed by supper and a few drinks in the bar afterwards. Bruce Edhouse and Seb Bessa were victorious in the final. It was a good warm up for the annual squash tournament which has also started. There will be evenings dedicated to the playing of the quarter-finals and semi-finals and culminating in the finals on Saturday 12th May.

The tennis coaching team will be running some great events throughout 2018 for both juniors and seniors. More events such as the successful Benenden Tennis Festival held last summer are planned, where over 50 tennis members enjoyed an evening of Tennis, Prosecco and Pimms.



As the weather warms up, we look forward to a new season of cricket, bowls and stoolball. The bowls season opens on Saturday 28th April and has an action packed season of drives, open days, candlelit tournaments and

matches. Stoolball - a cross between cricket and rounders, also starts in mid April.

Cricketers of all ages have been participating in winter net sessions on Sunday and are getting ready to build on the club's successes of 2017 which included the promotion of the 1st team to a higher division within the League. We are delighted that Henry Thorpe, 1st team captain and the 2017 OSCA's (Outstanding Services to Cricket Awards) Young Coach of the Year, will be looking after the colts cricketers this year as well as running a number of colt cricket camps in the Summer holidays.

As well as all the sport on offer there are also fun social events planned throughout the year. Some of the highlights will include quiz nights, curry evenings and BBQs.

We welcome anyone interested in joining the Club to pop down for a visit and would be delighted to show you round the excellent facilities on offer. Just give us a call on 01372 843652 or email at office@oxshottsports.com.

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News from Elmbridge Local Committee & Surrey County Council Cabinet

WINTER 2018

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SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL CABINET NEWS

Budgets



On 30 January, cabinet met and made recommendations to the county council on the revenue and capital budgets for 2018/19 to 2020/21 and the level of council precept for 2018/19 and the updated corporate strategy. More: pw.ly/L0gN30hYo7r

Joint items with Elmbridge Borough Council



On 30 January, cabinet considered two reports related to agreements with borough and district councils:

- civil parking enforcement agency agreements
- highways environmental maintenance agency agreements

More: pw.ly/DEnb30hIQIU

Surrey schools funding

- On 14 December, the 2018/19 Surrey schools revenue funding formula was agreed. More: pw.ly/5jww30hJRuP
- On 30 January, the responses to the consultation on changes to Surrey's admissions arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools will be considered, alongside Surrey's admissions arrangements and coordinated schemes for 2019. More: pw.ly/DEnb30hIQIU

LED street light conversion



On 30 January, cabinet considered a report to approve the principle of converting the Council's street lighting assets to LED. More: pw.ly/L0gN30hYo7r

ELMBRIDGE LOCAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Agenda item on the River Thames scheme



Led by the Environment Agency in a partnership including local authorities, this project will reduce flood risk for Thames-side communities between Datchet and Teddington including Elmbridge. This area has the largest area of undefended, developed floodplain in England with over 15,000 homes and businesses within the area at risk from flooding. More: <http://ow.ly/FQEP30i5zug>

Stoke Road speed limit



The speed limit on Stoke Road was reduced from 40 to 30 in 2014, following petitions by residents. Surveys have shown, however, that speeds haven't decreased. At its last meeting, the committee decided to set aside £5000 to look at ways in which speeds can be reduced and for a further report to be brought to a future meeting. Vehicle activated signs will be used and a community speedwatch requested. More: ow.ly/RBVO30i5zRl

Bids for Community Infrastructure Levy funding

The committee reviewed a number of bids from Surrey services for submission to Elmbridge Borough Council for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding, including a bid to refurbish and extend Weybridge Library and a number of highway schemes to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists and to resurface some roads in the borough. The submission of all these bids to Elmbridge for consideration was supported by the committee.

Upcoming at the next Elmbridge Local Committee...



At its next meeting on **5 March at 4pm in Elmbridge Civic Centre** the Committee will be reviewing the progress with Surrey County Council's Early Help Initiative for young people and the work of the local Advisory Boards. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Cllr Colin Kemp will also be attending.

Oxshott Village Day - 2018

This year we are very happy to celebrate the 11th anniversary of Oxshott Village Day, which will take place on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May 2018, from 11am to 5pm at Oxshott Village Sports Club.

This annual non-profit event has now become a key feature of the Oxshott calendar. It is run by a small team of volunteers. The entertainment and facilities are paid for from entrance fees, sponsorship and booking fees paid by stalls. Each year, any excess funds

are donated to a local charity; this year, we are very pleased to announce that we are supporting Shooting Star Chase, which supports sick, disabled and terminally-ill children and

their families in Surrey. In its 11 years, the Village Day has donated over £23,000 to local charities, of which £5,000 was donated to OVSC.



The Village Day is a family event and was a great success last year, with an estimated 4000 visitors who enjoyed the activities and picnicking on the grass listening to the Jazz Band. We are now organizing this year's event and expect to have at least 4500 participants. There will be a great variety of food and drink including a hog-roast and afternoon teas, and food from other countries. There will be entertainment for all age groups including bouncy castle, children's fairground, Shetland ponies, jazz music, Punch & Judy, face painting, climbing wall, circus show, and activities organized by OVSC such as pétanque, netball, tennis and boules.

If you would like to use this year's Village Day to promote your business or organisation through sponsorship or by providing a raffle prize, or would like to book a stall, please visit our website www.oxshottvillageday.com to get an idea of what to expect on the day and download a stall booking form, or contact the organiser Carmen Robinson at Carmen@oxshottvillageday.com.



Oxshott Village Day

Bank Holiday Monday

7th May 2018

11:00 am to 5:00 pm

Oxshott Village
Sports Club, Steels
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This year's sponsored charity:

Shooting Star Chase
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Oxshott's Village Sign

Did you know that Oxshott is now one of the few villages in Surrey that doesn't have its own traditional sign, proudly displayed in the village centre?

We aim to rectify this!

So come to see the short-listed designs for Oxshott's Village Sign! They've been created by Royal Kent and Danes Hill pupils, by Oxshott Arts & Crafts Society members - and by others!

They'll be on display at:

Oxshott Arts & Crafts Society's Spring Exhibition

Oxshott Village Centre

Saturday 5th May 12-5pm

Sunday 6th May 10-5pm

Bank Holiday Monday 7th May 10-5pm

(Admission free)

Oxshott is *your* village. So come along and support this exciting community project!

To find out more, go to our website:



www.oxshottvillagesign.com

Creating Oxshott's Heritage



Oxshott Station and South Western Railways

by Keith Chapman

So as featured in the last Fedora Magazine we have a new franchise operating from Oxshott – it's still early days but we know for whatever reason it's not been the easiest of starts. However the good news is that the Customer Service Representative at the Station has not changed - personally I always find him helpful and he is forever smiling. However South Western Railways why are you not looking after the entry to the Station and the car park areas? Given how much Oxshott Residents are paying for the car park and their rail fares shouldn't we expect more effort on removing leaf fall from the autumn and removing litter from the car park and entry points? Maybe most of us are resigned to putting up with it? However we can make a difference if we want to improve the area around the Station - Elmbridge Council is not responsible for the Car Park or adjoining area and hence if we want to see it improved use the Customer Service line that South Western provide. Even better send a letter to the Station Manager, Surbiton, South Western Trains who is responsible for the Station. Or even better send a letter to the MP for Epsom - Mr Grayling - to see if he can make a difference given he is the Minister of Transport.

Making a Difference When Buying a Coffee

by Keith Chapman

So Coffee for so many of us is a personal matter and for the residents of Oxshott the options are numerous. Your preference maybe the well known High Street Brands such as Costa, Starbucks or Cafe Nero. Then there are the Independents such as Giro in Esher or Bronte's in Cobham; and you can now add to the list of Independents 'All Saints' Coffee in Leatherhead. However buying your Coffee at All Saints is all about making a difference.

'All Saints' was launched from the headquarters for the Leatherhead Youth Project (LYP), a charity that supports local young people primarily in the Leatherhead North area , the area around B&Q and Tesco's . What was once a local Church is a Coffee Shop from 8AM to 3PM Monday to Saturday and then converts into the Leatherhead Youth Project from 3.15PM to support young people from local schools after school and in the evening.

LYP was set up in 2005. It was October 2014 when All Saints Coffee Shop was opened to the Public. All Saints is run by Matt Fleming and supported by 3 young apprentices, who will work for one year earning money and achieving their Apprenticeship in Customer Service. All Saints continues to develop its catering service and if you drop in you will meet a range of business people hot desking, families with their young children and even Cyclists enjoying some of the best coffee available locally.

So next time you are looking for a place to meet up for coffee give All Saints a try - (www.allsaints.so) - with its great coffee blend supplied from Beanberry in Woking you will be making a real difference - supporting the youth of Leatherhead to kick start their careers - as for the alternatives fine but how much of a difference will you be making ?

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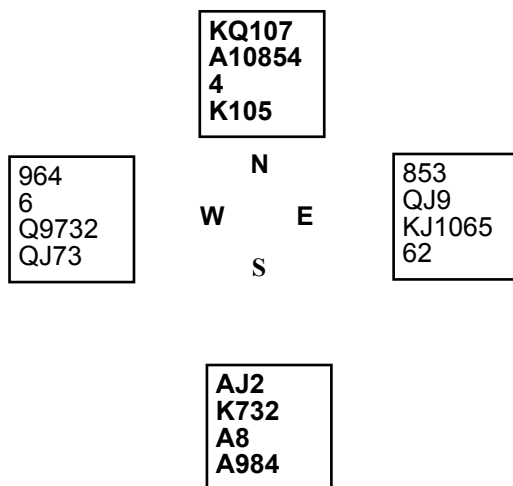


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End Plays

by R. Clair Sexton

For this edition I will introduce a hand that will illustrate two elements of EXPERT play, 'Elimination and End Plays' and 'Counting'.



The contract is 6H and the opening lead is D3. (The bidding is immaterial).

This is not a slam one would generally want to be in; your partner has somewhat overbid his hand. But you must give it your best shot.

That means that you must assume the cards are placed to make success possible.

South starts by winning the DA, trumps a diamond (start of the elimination process), and plays two rounds of hearts, west showing out on the second round. Pity, if they had been 2-2, twelve tricks would be in the bag.

So an alternative plan has to be made.

At this point the player should be thinking of eventually throwing in east with the last trump, to force east to lead something favorable.

Looking at the two hands, your only chance for the twelfth trick is a ruff/discard, or one opponent leading the club suit, with the honors divided between east and west.

The other prerequisite is that the spades must split 3-3; not to provide a discard, but to be able to eliminate that suit from both opponents.

So you play 3 rounds of spades and they hold up, great.
This plan now looks good but is it the best?

Can we add 'Counting the Hand', to the 'End Play'?

If you are playing against another 'expert' pair and the lead of the diamond 3 is to be trusted to be a fourth best lead from five diamonds (no D2 appeared from east when you trumped the second diamond in dummy), you can count the whole hand.

East has 3S, 3H, 5D and THEREFORE only 2C.

If you are correct, the hand is now 100%!!

Play the AK of clubs and throw east in with the last trump. He then has to lead a diamond giving you that precious ruff/discard for your twelfth trick.

This is a tough deal and you would benefit greatly from giving it a lot of attention.

BUT, it is how the really good players think!!!!

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

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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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Beejays Post Office	8
Boyce Thornton	27
Bumbles Gifts	29
Centre for Sight	15
Claygate Tutors	18
Danes Hill School	30
David Cooke Associates	22
Downs Solicitors	4
GCB Gardens	32
Homefix	22
Jess Richardson Styling	33
Kate Beard Foot Health Practitioner	33
Knight Frank	7
Leatherhead Motor Company	28
Liquid Gold Whisky Club	29
Milners Carpets and Blinds	16
N.J. Ricks Painting and Decorating	22
Parklane Landscaping	33
Savills	36
Tiptop Computers	34
Trenchard Arlidge	40
Village Ceramics	26
Weybridge International School of English	23



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