

# Hersham Residents Association

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Active, Positive and Non-Political since 1971

Serving all Hersham Residents

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## Hersham Boundaries

The HRA submitted a clear response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's consultation on changing the ward boundaries in Elmbridge. This has been prompted by a call to reduce the number of councillors across the Borough. Unfortunately the complicated and interrelated population maths and commission rules mean that, as a consequence, ward boundaries will need to change.



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### *Will Hersham lose its identity?*

We are concerned that significant areas currently within Hersham wards will be omitted from the proposed new wards to be announced in December, notably Longmore, Whiteley Village and Burwood Park. We expressed concern that this would undermine the community of Hersham which has been established within the existing boundaries over many years.

*See the HRA website for more details of our response.*

We will of course be watching closely what the Commission's decisions are in December. If there are changes which significantly reduce the size of Hersham as set out by its future ward boundaries, the HRA would hope to play an even more important role in trying to maintain people's perception of Hersham and its sense of identity. On the other hand it has been suggested that Hersham's longer term sense of place and status alongside neighbouring Esher and Walton could only really be secured by the formation of Hersham's own Parish Council.

## A Note From The Chair

There seem to be a lot of developments happening or pending in Hersham. We can all see the progress with Cavendish House – the new flats on the Green. As you may be aware the HRA ran a successful campaign to limit the height of this building. The new Lidl store opposite Laithwaites was granted permission in January but is now the subject of an amended application. After this, development will start with the demolition of the factory on the site where cars were once manufactured in Hersham. (*See the HRA History walking tour leaflets on our website for more on this.*) Then following not far behind, the Rydens new school development is creating a good deal of excitement for those schoolchildren and teachers who will benefit. Of course, there will be costs, too, in terms of loss of some green space – some of the playing field will have to make way for the new school. However the impact on local infrastructure, particularly the roads, from people in the 296 new homes, which will be built on the site of the existing school, is still of some concern.

Whilst new homes are of course badly needed, we would like to see well designed housing set in a green and spacious development which makes the most of opportunities to include good paths and cycle ways to minimise vehicle traffic where possible. We will be commenting again along these lines before the planning application is considered by the full council later this year. Lastly, but perhaps just as significant for Hersham, there is a pending development which doesn't involve building works. The final recommendation of the Local Government Boundary Commission Review is expected in December, and we are all anticipating what this might mean for our village and community – more of that on this page.

David Lock  
Chairman of the HRA

[Hersham Residents Association](http://www.hershamresidents.info)  
Email: [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info)

## Hersham Community Calendar

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.**

**The Walton v Hersham Ashley Park/HRA quiz**  
**Can you help Hersham retain the winner's cup?**

**The Quiz starts at the**  
**Ashley Park Hotel at 8.00 pm**

**Don't miss:-**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2016 at 8 pm.**

**The HRA will be holding a**  
**General Knowledge quiz in The Watermans Arms .**

**All are welcome**



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**Forthcoming HRA events**

## **Hersham at Christmas**

**Hersham's Christmas Celebration!**  
**12th December don't miss it!**



The HRA is keen to promote and support community activities like this year's Hersham Christmas event on Saturday 12th December. Following the success of previous years, we have again been helping to coordinate this – many others are working hard to make it happen and it feels like a real village effort, which is great. So do please come and join us.

There will be various events in Hersham Green Shopping Centre but about the time it gets dark everyone will gather around the Christmas tree on the Green. The crowd will be encouraged to join in with some Christmas carol singing from about 4.45 - carol sheets will be provided – so bring your lanterns and torches so you can see the words.

The Mayor of Elmbridge will officially turn on Hersham's Christmas tree lights at 5.00 p.m. on Hersham Green. She will be ably assisted by a special guest from the North Pole who will be arriving by sleigh at about 4.30. Mince pies and mulled wine will be available afterwards at the Watermans Arms from 5.00 – 6.00 when the Mayor will draw the winning raffle ticket for a Christmas Hamper. All will be welcome.

All the local councillors, many local businesses, and the HRA have been involved in helping to organise and support this event. So, please look out for our leaflet which will include more detail – but for the moment please note this date in your diaries, and be prepared to come along and help to make it an occasion when Hersham can mark Christmas together as a community.

**HERSHAM** The HRA's Hersham Sunflower Competition has been a great success, with sunflowers grown in gardens all across Hersham. Over twenty of these were put forward for judging and each had to be carefully measured and assessed. The winner of the **SUNFLOWER** tallest category went to Mildred Zhanje from 19a West Grove who clinched the £25 cash prize with her impressive 3.32 metre sunflower. Gary Mott of Burwood Road was a close runner up at 2.97metres. The competition was designed to help brighten up Hersham, and that's why some of the prize categories focused on flowers which were visible from the street. Burwood Road (the Crescent part facing the play park) won the prize for the street with the most visible sunflowers, and Rebecca Varley at number 71 got the prize for the best front garden display.



There was also a prize that growers of short sunflowers could win; the prize for the nearest to a randomly selected height decided on the day before judging, went to Lorraine Thomson also of Burwood Road for her 60 cm plant. The prize vouchers and the seeds for the competition were generously donated by Squires Garden Centre in Hersham; and Flowers and Things in Hersham helped support and promote the competition, especially around seed planting time. The competition helped stimulate community spirit as well as plenty of discussion between neighbours.

The HRA has run various community competitions over the last few years. Some have suggested we should run the sunflower competition again – or even make it an annual event! If you have any views on this, or any other ideas for 2016, please let us know.

## **About Hersham Residents Association (HRA)**

**The HRA exists to help promote Hersham and its community. If you would like to support the work of the HRA we'd be pleased to hear from you at [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info).**

**For more about the HRA and how to join us**

**please click on the link to our website: [http://www.hershamresidents.info/blog/?page\\_id=2](http://www.hershamresidents.info/blog/?page_id=2).**

**If you would like to leave your details please click here**  
**[http://www.hershamresidents.info/blog/?page\\_id=735](http://www.hershamresidents.info/blog/?page_id=735)**