

# HERSHAM RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

ESTABLISHED 1971

1. Non-political
2. Serving all Hersham residents
3. President Andrew Sturgis
4. Chairman David Lock

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<http://www.hershamresidents.info/>

## COME TO HERSHAM VILLAGE PICNIC

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June

1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

On Vaux Mead (Entrance on Faulkners Road)

The Association's stand will feature a Human Fruit Machine as well as Hersham Poetry Books and other items for sale. Come and try your luck!

## DIAMOND JUBILEE OAK TO BE PLANTED

Hersham Residents Association is sponsoring the planting of an oak tree on the Coronation Recreation Ground this autumn. It will commemorate Her Majesty The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and will be planted by Elmbridge Mayor, Councillor Janet Turner on a date to be announced. A site has been chosen near to Cardinal Newman School boundary hedge. Donations towards the cost of the tree will be welcomed by our Treasurer, Jean Campbell (telephone 01932 227808)

**“The new chairman has exciting plans for expanding the Association's activities and membership.  
Watch this space!**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING APPOINTS NEW CHAIRMAN

This year's well-attended AGM of the Association on May 10<sup>th</sup> needed to elect a new Chairman.

David Lock of Burwood Close, who joined the Committee in January 2011 and who ran the very successful poetry competition later that year, volunteered to take on the job from Derek Williamson, who had decided to retire from the chairmanship following serious illness in his family. Derek was thanked for all his work as Chairman over the past 4 years, especially his expertise as quizmaster at the Association's Quiz Nights. The meeting appointed him Vice-President of the Association so that he will be kept in touch with activities and, hopefully, be able to help at social and other functions when his current anxieties become less pressing. The meeting accepted David Lock's offer with alacrity and he was unanimously elected Chairman for the coming year. David has exciting plans for expanding the Association's activities and membership.

Watch this space!

The meeting paid tribute to Valerie Myers, a former Chairman, who had died in February. The President, Andrew Sturgis, referred to her great affection for Hersham as a strong,

caring, local community and her many years of service to the Association as Membership Secretary, Chairman and organiser of social events.

The AGM also agreed to fix subscriptions for 2012-13 @ £2.50 for Individuals & £5 for Households. The Treasurer would welcome payment from anyone who has not yet paid. Please contact Jean Campbell on 01932 227808

After the formal business of the meeting local "TV Celebrity" the Rev. Jonathon Andrew, Assistant Priest at St. Peter's Church, Hersham, spoke of the Church's contribution to the local community over the 125 years since the present church was built. He also talked about his doubts about whether to agree to the approach by Channel 4 TV for the Big Fat Gypsy Wedding to be filmed in St. Peter's. Having recounted some of his unusual experiences as the reluctant star of the show, he concluded that, on balance, his decision to say 'Yes' had been right.

**NOTE:** The AGM once again failed to elect a Secretary owing to the absence of any volunteers. Any member willing to consider this task, essentially as Minutes Secretary, should please contact David Lock on 01932 703175 (e-mail [david.lock30@gmail.com](mailto:david.lock30@gmail.com)) or Andrew Sturgis on 01932 220379 (e-mail: [andrew.sturgis@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.sturgis@btinternet.com)) as soon as possible



## LOCAL ELECTIONS May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012

Congratulations to John O'Reilly, Leader of Elmbridge Borough Council and a former chairman of HRA on his win to retain his seat as a Councillor for Hersham South and to Roy Green on his win to regain a seat as a Councillor for Hersham North. We do not, necessarily, support the views or policies of either winner, but they are both able and experienced Councillors, ready to respond to issues put to them by and on behalf of local people.

For full results of the voting go to [www.elmbridge.gov.uk](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk).

### NEW PLANNING SYSTEM

"There is a strong sense of community in Hersham"  
This is the view expressed in the new "Design and Character Supplementary Planning Document" about Hersham completed in April 2012 by Elmbridge Council Planning Department (with the help of outside Consultants). It should be read in conjunction with the new Elmbridge Local Plan and the new "National Planning Policy Framework" as part of the Coalition Government's new planning policies.

Representatives of HRA attended 2 meetings convened by Elmbridge Planning Dept and their consultants last year in a wide ranging review of Hersham's essential character.

On the whole the committee welcomes the new planning framework with its emphasis on good design sympathetic to local community characteristics. We shall be studying all these new documents, including the Localism Act which allows for the establishment of "Neighbourhood Forums" with limited planning powers, to see whether any opportunities present themselves for ensuring better planning and development in Hersham.

### HRA's NEW CHAIRMAN

The newly-elected Chairman of the Hersham Residents Association hails from Ilfracombe in North Devon but has lived in Hersham for 7 years with his wife and two children. He says he can bring to the role useful experience and knowledge of local authorities through his work at the Local Government Association where he currently deals with local authority related police and crime issues. He has previously worked as an Environmental Health Officer.

He is an enthusiastic organiser and promoter of community events and initiated the now annual St Peter's pancake competition. More recently he has helped organise a Street Party in Burwood Close.

His many interests include DIY, woodwork, gardening, railways and model railways. He insists, however, that he is definitely NOT a trainspotter! When the demands of local government and the family allow, he keeps fit by cycling. He has even been known to perform the occasional conjuring trick!

### INTERESTED IN LOCAL HISTORY?

Hersham's history, together with that of Weybridge and Walton, has featured for many years in the research and publications of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society. The Society also holds monthly meetings from the autumn onwards, with speakers on (mainly) local topics, and has a quarterly newsletter. New members are always welcome: the annual subscription is £5 OR £8 for a household). If you are interested and would like to learn more, please contact the secretary, Pat Brady, on 10932 226878 or the Treasurer, Bryan Ellis, on 01932 225876.

