

# Hersham Residents Association

Chairman David Lock

(Established 1971)

Non-political

Serving all Hersham Residents

Newsletter February 2013



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## Walton and Hersham Food Bank

*The HRA would like all residents of Hersham to be aware of the local food bank.*

*Foodbanks are community-based projects, where food donated by local people is stored and distributed locally to people who might need an emergency food donation to fill an unavoidable gap in income. It's a model, led by the Trussell Trust, that has seen rapid growth over the last few years.*

*Local volunteers tell me that those who use food banks come from an increasingly wide range of ages and backgrounds.*

*Our local food bank is a partnership between St Mary's and St John's Churches in Walton, St Peter's in Hersham and Walton Charity.*

*It provides a 3-day food parcel to families and individuals who are normally referred from a recognised voluntary group or statutory agency, although sometimes self-referral is accepted.*

*Since April 2012 it has provided over 150 food parcels to 110 individuals or families, and was extremely busy in the run up to last Christmas.*



*The Food Bank relies on donations from the community. If you live in Hersham (or Walton) and would like to donate to the Food Bank please contact St Peter's Church Office on 01932 253452. Enquiries about donations and general questions about the initiative can be directed to Walton Charity on 020 3195 8286 which provides coordination for the partnership. Please note that any donated food should be non-perishable items such as dry goods, cans or packets. Clearly it is not a good thing that food poverty exists locally, and it is a concern that the use of food banks during 2013 seems set to increase as the economic situation continues to bite. However, it is good to know that our local food bank provides a safety net for residents of Hersham and Walton. It also provides a great example of what is possible when the community comes together to try to help and care for others.*

## A Note From The Chair

Happy New Year! I think we are going to be busy in 2013, but I hope some of you might be able to assist. We are still keen to involve more people with the work of the HRA. For example, to help look at the feasibility of creating more cycle routes in Hersham and to help review the detail of potential developments in Hersham such as the expansion and re-development of Rydens Enterprise School.

We'll be busy with social events too. Following the success of the Beetle Drive at the end of last year, we'll be running a Hersham related quiz (with optional fish and chips) on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of April at St. Peter's Church Hall. Further details to be confirmed, but in the meantime do please note the date in your diaries. Please let us know if you think you might be able to assist with this event or contribute any questions about Hersham that can be added to the quizmasters list!

Other dates for your diaries are the HRA AGM which will be held on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> May in the WI Hall, and Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> July which has been

fixed for a repeat of the very successful Picnic in the Park event on Vaux Mead. The HRA will be sponsoring this excellent community initiative again and contributing a stall, probably the human fruit machine again - if I can work out how to reassemble it! So do come along, we'll need some volunteers on the day.

We will also be running a Hersham photograph competition during 2013. Further information and details about the competition are to follow soon on the HRA website. For the moment, however, do please dust off those digital cameras and start snapping life in Hersham (and thinking up suitable captions for your photos) so you will be prepared to submit your entry.

If you are not already a member of the HRA and you would like more information about joining, supporting and keeping in touch with us please visit:

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

## Book Now for the 12th April!

**Note:** Space is limited so book your place now. Please email [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info) or just leave a message on 01932 703175 with your booking, your contact details and whether you will pay on the door or in advance.

**Note:** We will only order fish & chips for those who have pledged payment or sent payment in advance by post or on-line by clicking on our new website donate option at: <http://www.hershamresidents.info/>

## HRA Committee Meetings

These are held every month and if there are any items you feel we should be looking into do please let us know. If you would like to attend one of the committee meetings - perhaps with a view to getting more involved with the HRA - then do please contact us at [info@hershamresidents.info](mailto:info@hershamresidents.info)

*Pat Shore, Superintendent of the Division writes:-*

The Hersham Division (as it then was) of St. John Ambulance began life in 1946. Initially meetings were held in an old gas cleaning station in Thrupps Lane. The division had no permanent home until 1962 when St. Peter's Church offered St. Peter's Institute in Faulkners Road to the division. This offer was gladly accepted although the building was in a sad state of disrepair. Over the years we have brought it up to a good standard and it is now a well maintained welcoming base for the division, with adjoining garaging for the division's vehicles.

In 1986 the Esher division closed and its members transferred to Hersham, followed by Hinchley Wood and Thames Ditton, resulting in our current title. Sadly many other divisions have since closed, including Walton & Oatlands. We are now one of only 3 remaining divisions in Elmbridge, Weybridge and Cobham being the other two. We work closely with the Weybridge Division which remains strong. Our national body, St. John Ambulance, believes that everyone should learn the basics of First Aid. Locally, our division offers first aid training to members of the public ranging from parents keen to know how to treat the smallest grazes to sports therapists who need to treat the most serious and complex injuries suffered on the football field.

The annual "Save-a-Life" campaign in the spring or early summer is always popular. Members of the public are shown how to resuscitate a person who has had a sudden heart attack or stroke.

The local division's other main activity is to provide first-aid cover, now required for all public sporting and other events such as school fetes, fireworks displays and circuses. We are often called to help out at larger events such as Hampton Court Flower Show, the Epsom Derby and Ascot races. Last year (2012) our members were out in force to cover the Olympic cycling events, when our base in Faulkners Road was one of the main treatment centres.

We are all volunteers and, as with most voluntary organisations, rely heavily on the generosity of the local community. Equipment continually requires replacing and updating. Our premises and vehicles require regular maintenance and new uniforms have recently been issued. Even more important is the need for volunteers to become members. Meetings are held weekly on Tuesday evenings, 7.30 - 9.30. Training is provided to cover all aspects of first aid in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and members can do as much, or as little, as they feel able to offer.

5 - 11 year-olds can join the Badgers Set, 11 - 18s can be Cadets and adult members are accepted from 18 upwards. Badgers and Cadets meet on Fridays, Badgers from 5.30 to 7 p.m. and Cadets from 7 to 8.30 p.m.

Please contact me on 01932 227800 if you would like to become part of the St. John Family here in Hersham and help provide a vital service to Hersham and to the wider community

**Pat Shore**  
**Divisional Superintendent**  
**Hersham, Esher & District**  
**St. John Ambulance**

### **The Queen's Tree**

It was back in the summer that the committee decided that it would be good to plant a tree in Hersham to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. We decided that Coronation Recreation Ground would be an obvious place given that its name commemorated the start of the Queen's reign. The committee, led by Andrew Sturgis, discussed and agreed the arrangements with Elmbridge Borough Council to make it all possible. As a result, on the 4<sup>th</sup> December last, the Mayor of Elmbridge, Cllr. Janet Turner, ceremonially planted



our new oak tree at the Hersham Station end of the recreation grounds just at the back of the Hersham Youth Club in Arch Road. A plaque identifies this special tree and its status in commemorating the Queen's 60 year reign.

Although this is a good time of year to plant trees, you might wish to wait until the weather warms up a bit to see the tree at its best. The HRA has planted various trees since it was founded in 1971 as we think they can help make an area attractive and give it character and individuality.

If you have any views or ideas about trees in Hersham do get in touch. The tree was planted as part of the Woodland Trust's goal of planting 6m trees during the diamond jubilee year

#### **Mr. Geoff Clark**

We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Mr. Geoff Clark. Geoff had been a stalwart of the HRA since its inception in 1971 and came up with a number of great ideas to improve the environment in Hersham.

Amongst those was his suggestion to bank up spoil from the construction of the Hersham by-pass to form a sound barrier for the recreation ground.

He was a great champion of cyclists and their causes and a regular volunteer helper at Hersham WI market on Fridays.

Our condolences are extended to his wife and family.