

The Chertsey Society

Registered Charity No 235402

www.chertseysociety.org.uk

Newsletter: March 2016



The Society's Aims
The Chertsey Society is a non-political organisation dedicated to enhancing and preserving the town's heritage and amenities.

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2015/2016 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION :

Families £10

Single £7

**Subscriptions were due on
1st September 2015**

Payment by Standing Order minimises administration and guarantees the Society's cash flow.

Please sign the gift aid declaration if you are a tax payer and the Society can then benefit by approximately a 30% increase in the value of your subscription with no additional cost to yourself.

Bretlands House, Chertsey

We recently received an enquiry via our website from Greg Page-Turner who was seeking information about a painting that was for sale at an auction. It was inscribed on the back 'Bretlands Chertsey/Property of Sir John Blunt'. The name is perpetuated in Bretlands Road, Chertsey.



Googling subsequently revealed that the painting was offered at Eastbourne Auctions being described as '*After John Constable - Bretlands, Chertsey - Oil onto canvas view with cattle and horses to the foreground, unsigned, gilt framed, inscribed to the reverse, 23cm x 34cm, together with printed ephemera*' with a hammer price of £280. It is not known who purchased the item. A photograph (below) of the house was included in Max Stratton's 1980 book 'Chertsey & Addlestone in the Past' where it was captioned '*Bretlands: for long the home of the Blunt family, the name was changed to St Anns Mede latterly, demolished c.1960 to build Sandalwood Avenue.*' Further investigation by Margaret Nichols at Chertsey Museum revealed the following references :



BLUNT Esq	of Bretlands, from list of gentry & clergy mentioned in Pigots Directory of Surrey, 1839 & 1845
BLUNT Richard	(owner & occupier, Bretlands) Green Lane Meadow/part of Barn Fields/Garden (Bretlands; 1844 Tythe Award (SR) x4
Mrs Blunt	Bretlands, 1855, 1867 Kelly's Post Office Directory
Misses Blunt	Bretlands, 1882, 1887, 1890 & 1895

Interestingly no references to were found to Sir John Blunt.

A B & W photo (not shown) may be viewed on Museum website : www.chertseymuseum.org.uk.

Search for CHYMS.0440 with caption '*Bretlands later renamed St Ann's Mede, corner of Little Green Lane/Guildford Road where Sandalwood Avenue is now situated.*'

Town Forum

The Town Forum was well attended on Monday 25th January 2016 and included reports on SCC & RBC matters including The Borough Plan, road repairs, flooding issues, housing targets etc. It was also the opportunity to raise issues with Councillors and RBC Officials. Thanks are expressed to Cllrs Chris Norman, John Furey & David Munroe for covering SCC matters, to Paul Turrell, CEO & Peter Sims, Deputy CEO for covering RBC matters and to David Murphy & Sarah Bouët from the Environment Agency who gave an update on progress on the River Thames Scheme (RTS) for flood relief. In addition thanks are expressed to Cllrs Dolsie Clarke, Derek Cotty, Richard Edis and Mark Nuti for supporting the meeting and contributing to the discussion.

SCC Matters

Cllrs Chris Norman & John Furey updated the audience with information relating to recent SCC Matters. The following paragraphs are based on their notes:

Financial Headlines (i) The current Surrey County Council Budget is £1.7 billion pounds p.a. The annual spend on Adult Social Care is £428 million or just over £1.3 million per day! There are forty SCC staff working in the Addlestone offices dealing with Adult Social Care for Runnymede. Highways spend per annum is £52 million revenue, which covers upkeep and £30 million on capital works. The increase in Council Tax of 1.99% rather than taking the Government freeze grant has been worth £33 million over 5 years. Drive for savings continues – Surrey County Council achieved nearly £74 million of savings for Surrey council taxpayers in 2014-15 – the equivalent of about £190,000 a day. It's the fifth successive year annual savings have exceeded £60m, bringing total savings for the period to £330m.

Financial Headlines (ii) Much of the savings have been through joint working with other councils. A business services partnership between East Sussex and Surrey, called Orbis, was signed in October 2015. This sets out the strategy to redesign and enhance its range of services and achieve financial efficiencies of around £30m over five years. More than 1,400 staff from Surrey and East Sussex make up the Orbis workforce, providing a range of business support services, including finance, human resources, IT and digital services, property procurement and business operations. A shared Trading Standards has also been formed with Buckinghamshire. The new organisation is based in both Redhill and Aylesbury. Twenty three staff transferred from Bucks to Surrey in April.

Devolution for Surrey ? As one of 38 bids submitted to Government nationally, the bid from Surrey, East Sussex and West Sussex confirms the Three Southern Counties (3SC) interest in developing devolution for Surrey and Sussex. This would enable the area to unlock more brownfield sites to build affordable homes and to deliver 34,000 new homes, supporting 58,000 new jobs. Roll out world class digital infrastructure – bringing superfast broadband to every urban and rural community and the prospect of ultrafast connectivity to all key businesses. Ensure the 3SC has an agreed programme of investment to tackle notorious road congestion across the counties, with the 3SC applying for development funding to implement the work. Co-ordinate work to improve rail capacity between London and the south coast to enable access to high speed rail and establish an integrated bus network across the 3SC and Greater Brighton areas.

New School for Chertsey Chertsey is to get a new Secondary School on the site of the old Meads School in Chertsey Road. 'Chertsey High School' is due to open in September 2017 with up to 120 pupils. The School will have an admissions policy aimed at providing a school for local children. Over the years it is expected that the school will increase to over 600 pupils. It will be a free school and will operate with a Christian ethos, but it will not be a faith school and will admit local pupils of all faiths or none. The sports field at the rear will be shared with the existing tenants– Abbey Rangers FC.

Youth Services Following a transformation of Youth Services over the past year, the centre at Gogmore Park is running well. Drop in sessions for years 7 - 9 and 9 -11 groups are in place on a regular basis. Young people have been involved in developing the centre through a decorating and planning projects. Other activities include cooking, sports, sexual health and bullying workshops. An exciting new targeted sports project is about to start at the Riverbourne health club through a special funding scheme focussed on healthy living.

Tulk Field The terms for a 99 year lease of the rear half of the field to Runnymede BC are agreed, and solicitors instructed to draft the documentation. RBC will pay a premium which will be used to fence the retained land. The remainder of the field will be used as a playing field for Stepgates School. In the meantime we are still waiting for the site to be registered by the Land Registry, which must be done before a lease can be granted. We anticipate that this will be completed this month.

The field was left to the people of Chertsey for the 'esprit -de-corps' of boys. Charity scheme needs to be changed. RBC have allocated money to purchase half the field . SCC legal department are on the case.

SCC Members Allocation Cllr Norman reported that as a Member (Councillor), he is currently allocated £12k per annum which, on an application basis, this year he was able to contribute to funding the following local good causes.

- Rotary Club - Black Cherry Fair road closure
- Sight for Surrey – purchase of braille machine for Runnymede Communications class
- Royal Holloway – Magna Carta Garden at Abraham Cowley Unit
- Highways – traffic survey in Windsor Street/London Street, Chertsey
- Runnymede Borough Council – leaflet for wellbeing of young people in Runnymede
- Youth Service – contribution for trip abroad by young people
- Dementia Carers Support Club – contribution for carers trip to the New Forest
- Chertsey Cricket Club – purchase of fireworks for community fund raising event
- Gogmore Youth Club – purchase of pool table
- Eikon – lunch clubs for youth programme

RBC Matters

Paul Turrell & Peter Sims spoke about various RBC matters including progress on the local plan

The Local Plan will eventually replace the current 2001 Local Plan as the principal guide to future development in Runnymede up until 2035. The following information has been extracted from a briefing note issued in February 2016.

Officers in the Council's Policy and Strategy team are currently producing the necessary evidence to underpin the Runnymede 2035 Local Plan, in particular:

- Officers are currently producing the Council's 2016 interim Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) which will be published to support the Council's Issues and Options consultation. The SLAA will then be revised as necessary to underpin the consultation on the pre submission version of the Plan which is anticipated to take place in Winter 2017. The Council has

Town Forum

now adopted a joint methodology with Spelthorne Borough Council. The methodology, which will help officers to assess sites, can be viewed on the [Strategic Land Availability Assessment \(SLAA\) \(previously known as the SHLAA\)](#) page on the RBC website.

- The Council is currently updating its Open Space Study and it is hoped that this updated study will be published by the end of February 2016.
- Officers are currently considering all of the submissions received during its Local Green Space consultation and the recommendations for designations will be published in due course (as an addendum to the Open Space Study). More information will be added onto this page when a publication date for the recommendations are known. There will be further opportunities to submit sites for consideration for LGS designation during the consultation events on the Runnymede 2035 Local Plan. It should be noted that officers are currently undertaking detailed timetabling work and an update on the anticipated start date for the Issues and Options consultation will be published in the coming weeks.
- The Council's Annual Monitoring Report is currently being produced. It is envisaged that the document will be published by the end of February 2016.
- Officers are currently working with Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners to update the Council's 2010 Employment Land Review. It is envisaged that this document will be published in February/March 2016.
- Officers are currently producing the necessary documentation to accompany the Technical Review of the Green Belt boundary in Runnymede. It is anticipated that the results of this review will be published in the early part of 2016.
- Work continues on the production of the Council's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). More information will be available in due course.
- Officers at Runnymede Borough Council have been attending meetings of the Heathrow Strategic Planning Group over recent months. This group aims to ensure that the Local Authorities most impacted by Heathrow, together with Heathrow Airport Ltd., work together to consider and understand the sub-regional impact of the airport so that all parties can better plan, mitigate and manage the impacts, and maximise the potential benefits, for local communities, businesses and other stakeholders. This group is programmed to meet monthly for the foreseeable future.
- Officers are currently reviewing the Green Belt villages in Runnymede in terms of whether they should remain in the Green Belt during the Plan period or be returned to the Urban Area (when assessed against paragraph 86 of the NPPF). It is anticipated that this report will be published by the end of February 2016.
- The Council's Policy and Strategy team has sought to widen the opportunities available to engage with both the local communities in the Borough of Runnymede and the development community as the Runnymede 2035 Local Plan is developed. As such a Community Planning Panel and Development Market Panel have been established. Further information on both panels can be found on the Statement [of Community Involvement \(SCI\)](#) page of the RBC website.

Local Green Spaces In November 2015 Runnymede Borough Council issued a document inviting residents and other interested parties their views on whether there are any green areas in Runnymede that the Council should consider designating as Local Green Spaces (LGS). The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out that the role and purposes of LGSs stating that: 'Local communities through local and neighbourhood plans should be able to identify for special protection green areas of particular importance to them. By designating land as Local Green Space local communities will be able to rule out new development other than in very special circumstances'.

In March 2012 the Coalition Government, through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), introduced a new LGS designation. This designation allows local communities, through the Local Plan process, to identify areas of LGS which are important to them and which should be given special protection. Subsequently the National Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) was launched by the Government in its final form on 6th March 2014 and supports and provides further guidance on the policies contained within the NPPF. Because it is new legislation there are currently no LGS designations within Runnymede, For all green area submissions the Council required evidence as to why a site and/or area is of particular significance to the local community and why it should be given additional protection compared to other areas of open space across the Borough. Requested for LGS designation had to be submitted by 18th December 2015, after that time, all responses would be assessed by the Policy and Strategy team using the criteria explained in the LGS methodology. On behalf of *The Chertsey Society* proposals for the following areas to be considered for LGS status were submitted: a) Abbey Green, b) Abbey Field, c) Paternoster Row, d) *The Orchard* gardens, e) The Hollows, f) St Ann's Hill, g) Monk's Grove, h) Staines Lane, i) Gogmoor Park, j) Bourneside Meadows, k) Chertsey Meads, l) Tulk Field, m) Laleham Golf Course, n) St Peter's Churchyard, o) Library Grounds, p) Chertsey Recreational Ground & q) Chertsey Cricket Club. We are now awaiting to hear the outcome of our request.

Corporate Business Plan 2016-2020 On 9th February 2016 we were notified that the Council is in the process of developing its *Corporate Business Plan 2016-2020*. RBC believe it is very important to seek the views of local residents in developing such a plan. To consult with our residents RBC have established a number of focus groups and have also designed a questionnaire. Residents have the opportunity to potentially win £100 in a prize draw if you complete the questionnaire **by 31 March 2016**. The questionnaire can be found in the online format by clicking the link at: <https://www.runnymede.gov.uk/article/11210/Corporate-Business-Plan-2016-2020-Questionnaire> Alternatively, should you prefer to receive a paper copy of the questionnaire, please email communications@runnymede.gov.uk or telephone 01932 425504 and a paper copy will be sent to you.

For more information please look at the RBC Website or contact Sarah Walsh | Head of Strategy | Runnymede Borough Council sarah.walsh@runnymede.gov.uk phone 01932 425693

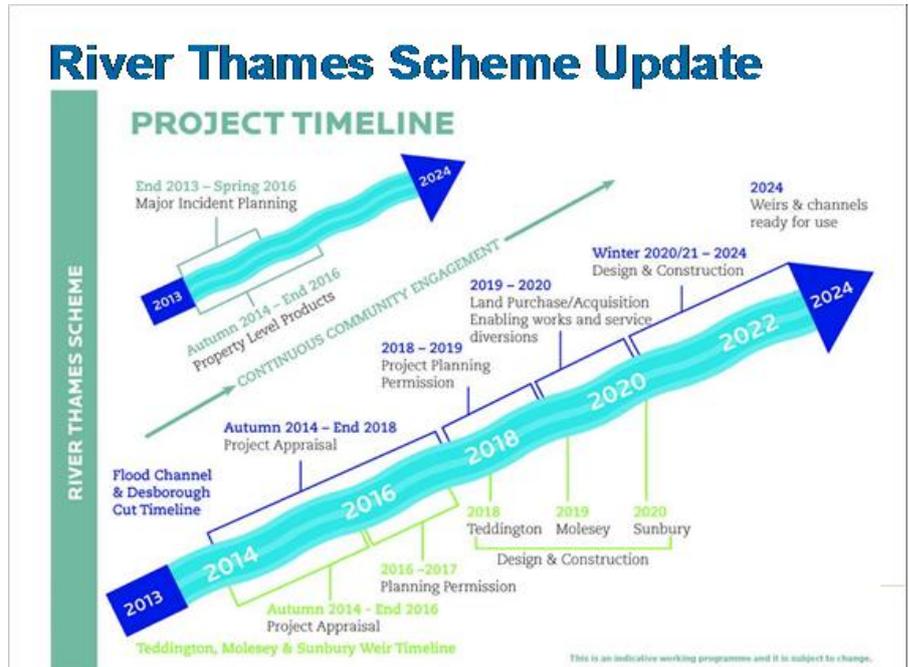
Runnymede Housing Issues Housing Need Survey indicated ~ 550 houses pa are needed. Over 1000 families on the housing list, about 100 families are homeless, about 60 families in bed & breakfast, about 2800 homes are owned by RBC, about 5 – 10 per year are sold under the 'right to buy', well below the replacement cost.

Government Consultation closed in January 2016 on changes to National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) expanding the definition of 'affordable housing to include 'starter homes

Flooding Matters

The EA Representatives reported at the Town Forum that work was progressing on the River Thames Scheme (RTS) flood alleviation project between Datchet and Teddington which comprised three new bypass channels and down stream improvements to Teddington, Molesey and Sunbury locks.

Preliminary survey work along the routes of the channels is nearly complete and hydrodynamic modelling of flood water flows should be finished during the summer. The project should cost approximately £300 million and it is understood that at present there is still a projected shortfall of about £43 million, nevertheless it is anticipated that the project will go forward since it potentially protects the greatest number of houses in any flood scheme in the country. The time schedule for various aspects of the work is shown in the Figure.



Chertsey War Memorial Wreath Laying Ceremony, Wednesday 11th November, 2015

The Wreath Laying Ceremony at Chertsey War Memorial was led by Rev'd Christine Pattinson supported by Rev Eils Shipton. The names of men recorded on the Memorial who lost their lives in 1915 were read out by Major Robert Marshall.

*'They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them'.*

About 150 people attended the ceremony and 16 wreaths were laid. Wreaths were laid on behalf of a number of organisations and families including :

SCC, RBC, Surrey Police, Surrey Fire Services, Chertsey Rotary Club, Chertsey Chamber of Commerce, Chertsey Guides, Chertsey Scouts, The Chertsey Society, Chertsey Agricultural Assn, The WI, Runnymede St John's Ambulance, Pycroft Grange School, Chertsey Social Club, SSRN, the Saise-Marshall family.

In addition the two Poppy Crosses and a small wreath were still in place from the August Ceremony commemorating the start of WWI. Also approximately 20 individual small wooden crosses had been placed in the grass box on the steps of the memorial.



Meeting Reports

The monthly speaker meetings are held on the last Monday of the month and usually start with a report by the Chairman of activities that have been undertaken since the previous meeting including recent significant planning applications, updates on progress of the Runnymede Local Plan, progress on fundraising for the Christmas lights etc. Stephanie Hunt is thanked for preparing detailed meeting reports which may be seen on The Society's website, an abbreviated version is given below:

The following Autumn meetings were well attended and were greatly appreciated by all present.

Monday 28th September 2015 Victoria & George Crosses- Facts, Frauds & Funnies, Major Rob Marshall, RLC

Major Rob Marshall from the Royal Logistics Corp gave an interesting and entertaining talk about Victoria & George Crosses. The VC's were instigated and designed by Queen Victoria with the inscription 'For Valour' and were all cast from cannons captured during the Crimean War. Victoria Crosses are only awarded to service personnel whereas the George Crosses, with the inscription 'For Gallantry', may be awarded to civilians and to members of the armed services. Recently The Queen has introduced The Elizabeth Cross which is awarded to war widows. 634 VC's were awarded in WWI and 182 in WWII. Several frauds were mentioned including a person who paraded wearing medals bought on e-bay, and Idi Amin awarded himself a VC!



Monday 26th October 2015 All About Deer- Windsor Great Park, Andrew Fielder Windsor Local History Group

The interesting talk covered the history of Windsor Great Park (WGP) from 1066 to date. The Royal hunting park stretched from Chertsey down to Guildford and across to Hungerford. In William the Conqueror's days deer hunting was the sport of Kings and at that time there were Red Deer and Fallow Deer together with wolves, wild boar, rabbits and foxes. There were two packs of hounds, one for hunting red deer and the second pack for other animals. The hounds were terriers or lurchers all of which had their claws removed, and commoners living in the area were not allowed to own dogs. Falconry was also popular particularly by the ladies of the Court. Shooting still takes place and the Duke of Edinburgh still hosts a shoot where up to 40,000 Pheasant birds are fired at and many are given to local people after the shoot. Copies of Andrew's excellent book 'Windsor Great Park: A Visitor's Guide' were available at a reduced rate.

Monday 30th November 2015 Henry VI, Richard III & Chertsey Abbey, Mike Page Surrey History Centre

The November talk was connected to the Royal burial that took place at Chertsey Abbey in 1471 and the background



13 years later of Richard III moving King Henry VI's body to St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle. Henry VI was a complete disaster as a Monarch, with money lost fighting the Wars of the Roses and poor advice from his evil Councillors. He was first deposed in 1461 when Edward IV seized the throne briefly, and again briefly as a 'puppet' King by Warwick in 1470. He was paraded through London, he appeared pathetic to the onlookers who thought it was more like a play. Once more King Edward IV took the Throne after the defeat of the Lancastrian House at the Battle of Tewkesbury in May 1471. King Henry VI was imprisoned in the Tower of London, in Wakefield Tower and King Edward IV was suspected to have murdered him, though Richard was also staying in the Tower at the same time and he might have been guilty, though it was undoubtedly on King Edward's order. The expected date of his death was around 21-22 May 1471.

The Abbot of Westminster had previously demanded that Henry should be interned in Westminster Abbey. He stated that King Henry VI would have preferred to be interned in Westminster Abbey and near the tomb of St Edward the Confessor and that of his father King Henry V. But whoever it was someone chose that he should be buried in the Lady Chapel of Chertsey Abbey, and his final journey was by boat on the River Thames to Chertsey Abbey for the next 13 years. Eventually his body was reburied at Windsor where of course he had been born. Miracles occurred after his death, he was always considered to be a Holy Man and his subjects thought his death to be cruel. There was a dispute between Chertsey, Windsor and Westminster Abbey, as to where he rightfully belonged and although there had been much discussion into his burial site, Windsor is now his resting place - convenient with the Abbey at Chertsey later being destroyed. In 1482, Edward V was also imprisoned in the Tower with his brother but they disappeared, never to be seen again and thought to be murdered but not proven. King Richard III died in the Battle of Bosworth Field fighting Henry of Richmond on 22 August 1485.

All the speaker meetings were followed by discussion and thanks were conveyed to the presenters.
Longer reports of the meetings be seen on The Society's website: www.chertseysociety.org.uk

Recent Planning Applications

The Chertsey Society committee meets every month and reviews the various planning applications submitted to RBC. We usually restrict comments to those application that are in the Town Centre Conservation Area or have a wider impact on the community at large rather than individual house extensions, unless they affect Listed Buildings. In general we have supported the conversion of empty office blocks to residential accommodation, In some cases we have Objected to the applications due to over development or lack of parking or developments in the flood plain.

The following are some notable planning applications that merited comment:

i) **RU.15/1663 (Revised Feb 2016) Quantum House, 59 Guildford Street, Chertsey** at the junction with Riversdell Close for the *'Proposed erection of a three storey building comprising 3 No. 2 bedroom flats and 5 No. 1 bedroom flats with associated parking, following the demolition of the existing building.*

We recognise that there has been some marginal improvement to the proposal and since we think that the existing building is not particularly attractive, we would not be disappointed to see it replaced, nevertheless we objected to the revised proposal for the following reasons:

- there is insufficient parking for 8 dwellings
- building is out of character with the conservation area
- the building is too large and overshadows the adjacent property
- the rectangular box roof line is unattractive and out of keeping with neighbouring property; the proposed building remains unsympathetic with the adjacent buildings.
- it is over development of the site

ii) **RU.15/1797 Aldi Store, Chertsey Business Centre, Gogmore Lane, Chertsey, Surrey**



Aldi site as seen from Guildford Street



Aldi site as seen from Gogmore Lane.

The Committee of *The Chertsey Society*, **OBJECTED** to the *'Proposed demolition of the existing building and the erection of a retail food store (Use Class A1) with associated car parking and landscaping.'* We

supported the establishment of an Aldi store in the Chertsey area provided it would be at an appropriate location away from residential properties and we recognised that an Aldi Store in the Chertsey area would be welcome by many of the local inhabitants.

It is desirable to increase the footfall in Guildford Street to ensure the continued viability of local shops, nevertheless we take the view that the proposed location in Riversdell Close \ Gogmore Lane for a high volume turnover supermarket was inappropriate.

Our main reasons for **Objecting** were as follows:

- **Car movements** : Bearing in mind that any vehicle that visits the car park will also leave, we estimate that there will be approximately more than 1500 additional car movements per day
- **Lorry movements**. In addition we estimate that there will be approximately 20 lorry movements per day many of which are likely to be at anti-social hours. We asked that it should be a condition of planning consent that deliveries must not start before 7.00am and must finish by 8.00pm. Consideration should also be given to restricting the size of delivery vehicles.
- **Noise**. We are concerned about the continuous sound from air-conditioning and refrigeration plant. Should planning permission be given it should be on the proviso that the noise level must be limited to less than 60dB in the gardens of the adjacent properties

Recent Planning Applications

- **Building design.** The proposed building is similar in design to many other Aldi buildings elsewhere in the country thus it does not compliment the existing historic nature of the building in Guildford Street or enhance the Conservation Area.
- **Roof.** The building appears to have a large almost flat roof which will look unsightly from the many residential properties that overlook the site. We asked if the roof intended to be an ecological feature e.g. a sedum roof.
- **Archaeology:** We considered it important that an Archaeological watching brief is maintained whilst the foundations are dug and any interesting artifacts that are uncovered are offered to Chertsey Museum.
- **Landscaping :** We asked that consideration should be given to planting some trees in the car park to provide shade and soften the urban impact of the scheme. Likewise we saw no justification for the removal of the two yew trees on the southern side of the site.
- **Air Pollution:** We are concerned about an increase in air pollution due to the increased vehicle movements. We ask that an air quality survey is undertaken in the surrounding area before any development takes place and that remedial action be taken if the pollution is found to subsequently increase above EU safety levels if the development is given permission.

iii) RU.15/1942 : 6 & 6A Windsor Street Chertsey KT16 8AS

The Committee of The Chertsey Society, commented on the Proposed conversion of the existing first floor flat at no. 6 to provide additional storage for the museum and conversion of the coach house at no. 6A to provide 2 no. flats with associated amenity space following the demolition of a single storey rear ancillary unit.

We **DID NOT OBJECT** in principle to the proposal but asked that if any new foundations were dug then an archaeological watching brief should be maintained and that any finds are offered to Chertsey Museum. It is unfortunate that the group of artists who currently use the building will be displaced and that sadly, despite having been notified of the proposed developments about a year ago, they have not found alternative accommodation. However The Olive Matthews Trust (OMT) does an outstanding job is helping to underpin the museum which has over 20,000 visitors each year and thus makes an enormous contribution to the residents of Runnymede. It is now understood that the artist group have requested that they are registered as an "asset of community value" (ACV). It remains to be seen what this action will have on the OMT plans.

Society members are welcome to contact the Committee if they are concerned about particular planning applications.

Some Dates For 2016 Diaries

Tuesday 26th April
Thorpe Village Hall
8.00pm
Runnymede Association of Arts (RAA)
AGM

Weekend 10-12th June
The Queen's 90th Birthday celebrations

Saturday 9th July
Abbeyfields. Chertsey
Black Cherry Fair

Saturday 13th & Sunday 14th August
Chertsey Meads
Chertsey Agricultural
see <http://www.chertseyshow.co.uk/#/about-us/4518329483>

Monday 29th August
Wey Manor Farm, New Haw, KT15 3JQ
Ploughing Match

Christmas Lights 2015-2016

Despite the very cold evening The Rotary Club's Father Christmas led a large group of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts, in a countdown to switch on the final group of Chertsey Christmas lights on Friday 4th December 2015 at 8.00pm at St Peter's Church. The Scouts also kindly provided mulled wine and refreshments. *The Chertsey Society* co-ordinate the Christmas lights and pay RBC DSO to erect the lights on the lamp posts which have to be switched on individually inside the base of the posts so it is not possible to switch all of them at the same time. At the time of the countdown I plug the two power cables into 13A sockets while leaning out of the east louvre of the



bell tower to light up the Angels and Star on the church parapet together with the coloured rope lights on the yew trees at the west end of the church; simultaneously the rope lights power from the light near the War Memorial was switched on. Thanks are also expressed to Dorian Mead, Michael Hopkins & Brian Perry from The Agricultural Assn / Rotary Club together with the bell ringers (Bob Hudson, Peter Whisker & Malcolm Loveday) who put up the lights on the yew trees and church parapet. Thanks are to Dave Stedman & Tony from RBC DSO at the Fordwater Depot who put the lights on the lamp posts.

Some of the spiral lights fail and a few have to be replaced each year, however some malfunctioned because the connections inside the lamp posts are defective and unfortunately the RBC DSO are not allowed by Skanska to undertake the repairs since SCC handed them over on a 25 year contract. Discussions are being held with Skanska to resolve the matter and clarify the situation regarding payment for the electricity used for the Christmas decorations which in the past has been provided by SCC.

We pay RBC several hundred pounds to erect the white rope lights on the lamp posts and each year we undertake fundraising for the Christmas lights fund to cover the cost of replacement lights and towards the running costs. See www.chertseysociety.org.uk for further information. *Malcolm S Loveday*

Concluding Remarks

Society Archives

The majority of The Society's archives are now housed on the first floor at The Orchard. The press cuttings scrap books dating back to the



1970's are shelved in the lounge whilst the remaining archives are in a large cupboard on the landing. Good progress is being made with the sorting and indexing and it is hoped that the catalogue of items will be available on the website. Thanks are expressed to all involved.

Other News.

As usual the Committee have been busy reviewing Planning Applications and planning our future Programme etc. and numerous letters & e-mails have been sent on your behalf. Full details are available on request.

PROGRAMME 2016 Monday evenings 7.45pm

Monday 21st March Chertsey Combined Charity: Past & Present - Trustees + The AGM

Monday 25th April Chobham Common - Largest National Nature Reserve in the South East, Vicky Russell Surrey Wildlife Trust

Please book the last Monday on the months in the Autumn in your diaries for the Chertsey Society meetings, i.e. **26th September, 24th October & 28th November 2016**. The topic for talks are still being planned by the Committee. To contribute towards the costs of hiring the Hall and Speakers expenses Members are asked to contribute £1

Visitors / Guests are Welcome - £2

Please note the meetings will be held in St Peter's Church Hall, Windsor Street, unless otherwise indicated.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2015/16

Chairman	Mr Malcolm S. Loveday Phone 01932 561576
Vice-Chairman	Mr Brian Hunt
Treasurer	Miss Valerie Lane
Committee:	Stephanie Hunt, Thelma Lake, Sue Lambert, Margaret Nichols, Gerry Drake, Victor Spink
Membership Secretary:	Clive Osborne
Independent Examiner:	Richard Mason