

# The Chertsey Society

Registered Charity No 235402

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## Newsletter: September 2019

Price: £1 (FREE to members)



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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### 2019 / 2020 SUBSCRIPTION:

**Families £10, Single £7**

**Subscriptions were due on 1st September 2019**

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.

Membership Secretary: Clive Osborne

e-mail : [membership@chertseysociety.org.uk](mailto:membership@chertseysociety.org.uk)

### PROGRAMME 2019/20

Last Monday of the month, 7.45pm, St. Peter's Church Hall, Windsor Street

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Punch & Judy: Experiences of a puppeteer** - Ken Dalston

#### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019

**Portmore Park Garden** – Michael Symes

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2019

**Made in Spelthorne & Runnymede** from the 1800's - Nick Pollard

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2020

**Town Forum** - an update on the Conservation Area & Listed Buildings (tbc)

#### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2020

**Museum Visit** at the Cedars, Windsor Street with The Curator  
**Recent Additions: Emma Warren & Reminiscences of the Early Days at Chertsey Museum** – Victor Spink & Jocelyn Barker

#### Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2020

**The AGM & Recycling in Runnymede** - Verity Parker, RBC Recycling Officer

#### Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**The role of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)**

Note: We are still seeking a volunteer to write brief meeting reports of between 200 – 400 words for inclusion in Newsletters.

## Planning Matters

### The Local Plan

Borough Councils are required by Central Government produce a Local Development Plan in conformance with National Planning Policy Framework which will form the basis for assessing planning applications for development in the local area. Without an approved plan RBC will not be in a position to refuse piecemeal planning applications from developers including building in the Green Belt. The Draft Plan is still being 'Examined in Public' by an appointed Inspector, with a final session due in November addressing some of the road infrastructure issues, in particularly improvements to the A320 between Chertsey and Woking and possible new slip roads at Junction 11 of the M25. The Society made representations about some aspects of the plan, the Conservation Area review and the list of Locally Listed buildings.

### Recent Planning Applications

The Chertsey Society committee meets every month and reviews the various planning applications submitted to RBC, usually we restrict comments to those applications which are in the Conservation Area or have a wider impact on the community at large rather than individual house extensions unless they affect Listed Buildings. Society members are welcome to contact the Committee if they are concerned about particular planning applications in the locality.

We have submitted representation to RBC on a number of applications including a) back-land development in Green Lane, b) proposed developments in the Green Belt and flood plain etc. Our letters may be seen on the RBC Planning website under the relevant application number.

- **Pizza Express (Signs) RU.19/0564: 1 London Street, Chertsey** - At the end of May 2019 The Society OBJECTED to the planning application for the changes to the signage outlined in the above planning application. The signs were actually installed before the before the application had been considered by RBC and some of the signs were subsequently removed. Whilst The Society did not have a problem with the modification/changing of signs but the size proposed was out of keeping with the guide lines for the Conservation Area. The projecting internally illuminated sign in Church Walk is larger than the previous sign and the illuminated sign on the front window facing Guildford Street is too large and totally out of keeping with the Conservation Area, this latter sign will undoubtedly be cited as a precedence for similar signs to spread in the Conservation Area and is contrary to the heritage objectives specified in the Local Plan and contrary to the RBC Guidelines for shopfronts in the Conservation Area. In addition there was no indication of the lumens and the brightness of the sign. The RBC Planning Committee approved the smaller signs but rejected the garish large sign, however an Appeal has now been submitted against RBC decision.
- **Laleham Golf Club RU.19/0447: Greenkeepers Shed Laleham Reach, KT16 8RP** - Although it is pleasing to note that the Golf Course has been fenced allowing cattle to safely graze on the site, in September The Society, continued to **OBJECT** to the amended proposal for 'Change of use of two existing golf course greenkeepers buildings to a mixed Class B2 and B8 use (to enable use for car repairs and car storage'. We had previously submitted an Objection in March 2019, stating that The Society understood that buildings were originally required activities for the Golf Course which was regarded as a permitted leisure development in the Green Belt. However, since the Golf Club has now closed there is no longer justification for such buildings and that Car Repairs and car storage cannot be justified as an appropriate leisure use in the Green Belt. If permission is granted it would form a precedent for further developments in similar Green Belt areas and it would be contrary to policies specified in the Runnymede Local Plan.

### Conservation Area Review

The review of the Conservation Area (CA) and the revision of Locally Listed building was considered at the RBC Planning Committee on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 [www.runnymede.gov.uk/media/21071/Planning-110919-Agenda/pdf/Planning\\_110919\\_Agenda.pdf?m=637031208385830000](http://www.runnymede.gov.uk/media/21071/Planning-110919-Agenda/pdf/Planning_110919_Agenda.pdf?m=637031208385830000). The consultants, Purcell, commissioned by RBC endorsed the majority of the views submitted on behalf of The Society however they did not support The Society's objections to the removal of the lower end of Guildford Street from the



Chertsey Town  
Conservation Area

## Planning Matters continued

Conservation Area, or to our requested that the CA should be extended to encompass the former free church burial ground in Alwyns Lane to offer some protection to the remaining grave stones arranged around the perimeter wall near the Alms Houses. However, we are pleased to report that at the Planning Committee a number of Councillors supported our views and amended Purcell's recommendations. Sadly, The Society's request that there should also be a Conservation Area around Chertsey Bridge across the River Thames was deemed to be beyond the scope of the present evaluation undertaken by the Purcell consultants.

### Population & Residential Matters

The population of Chertsey, approximately 16,000 (2011) and Runnymede, approximately 87,000 (2011) continues to grow but there has been considerable growth since then. A considerable number of new houses have been built, particularly in the Pretoria Road / Hanworth Lane area close to the station. In addition over two hundred new apartments have been built by the conversion of office blocks e.g a) 93 flats near Chertsey Bridge, b) the 'Four Corners' block at the junction of Abbey Road/ Bridge Road/ London Street & Pound Road, c) *The Old Town Hall*, d) several office conversions in Gogmore Lane, etc. The Mitsubishi garage near Chertsey Bridge has been demolished pending a planning application for a residential development.

Obviously, the increase in population and new dwellings brings a commensurate increase in traffic.

We will continue to monitor the development of *The Old Town Hall* which is being converted into four flats (with no parking!), see RU.17/0728. The public right of way through the under-croft should be re-instated when the building work is complete.



Old Town Hall, June 2018 after car accident

## CPRE: A New Focus

Refreshing the image of the CPRE to fit in with their new strategy to convey a more positive direction of new aims of i) Connect people and countryside, ii) Promote Rural Life and iii) Empower Communities. A new logo will indicate that the CRRE is 'The Countryside Charity' our meeting in April 2020 will focus on the CPRE and its new strategy. CPRE are stating that 'It's clear we need to make people more aware of our work, attract more support and volunteers – and increase our impact even further.'

The Chertsey Society has been affiliated to the CPRE since its formation. For more information visit: [www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/features/item/5165-our-new-brand](http://www.cpre.org.uk/magazine/features/item/5165-our-new-brand)



The  
countryside  
charity

new logo



old logo

## Black Cherry Fair & Agricultural Show 2019

The Society congratulate the organisers of the two premier summer social events which once again both maintained their high standards. At the BCF our new Town Crier, Steve Pile, proclaimed his presence with great gusto and the four racing camels were welcome newcomers to the Agricultural Show in August. For photographs see Alan Bostock's website at [www.photoeyes.biz/search/b.htm](http://www.photoeyes.biz/search/b.htm)



Photo: Alan Bostock  
Steven Pile, Town Crier at the BCF 2019



As usual members of the Committee staffed our display stands at the two events and it was good to speak to many members and visitors and discuss local matters of concern.

Photo by : Gerry Drake  
The Society stand at the Agricultural Show

## Flooding Issues

### Environment Agency try out flood defences in Chertsey

The temporary flood barrier was erected as a trial across the fields between Bridge Road, Chertsey and the M3 at the end of July 2019. It should provide flood protection to the dwellings in Bridge Road, Chaseside Gardens and the nearby area from flooding of the River Thames & Abbey River. Unfortunately, it will not help residents flooded by the River Bourne.

### River Thames Scheme (RTS)

The majority of the detailed design work for the major flood relief scheme for this area has now been completed but the total cost of the project comprising three new flood by-pass channels and improvements to a number of downstream weirs is now estimated to be approximately £600 million. Although the Government had pledged c.£360 million towards the project it is understood that as yet the funding to cover the shortfall has yet to be secured so the formal planning application process has not been started. However, it is believed that endeavours are being made to ensure the scheme progresses, particularly since it provides flood protection to 15,000 households in the Thames basin and thus constitutes the largest flood scheme in the country.



31st July 2019  
[www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/17806900.ea-test-flood-defences-chertsey-residents/](http://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/17806900.ea-test-flood-defences-chertsey-residents/)



It is hoped that more information will be available towards the end of the year including the details of the archaeological investigations that have been carried out along the channel routes. It will be a tragedy if we suffer another inundation before the flood protection scheme is implemented. To put the cost in perspective it is estimated that the total cost of the RTS is approximately equivalent to 2 miles of the cost to build the new HS2 Train route from London to Birmingham/Manchester & Leeds.

## Chertsey Meads

CHERTSEY MEADS is a wonderful nature reserve of about 71 hectares, which runs between the River Thames and the River Bourne. One of the only remaining wild-flower meadows on the Thames flood plain. Over 400 species of plants have been recorded here and a diverse range of birds. The Meads have produced the finest hay from the very early times. Barges of tons of hay were taken up to London and elsewhere carrying fine feed for the horses of history. Chertsey Meads was given to Chertsey by The London County Council in the 20th century.

On the 80 anniversary of the Second World War Two Chertsey Meads witnessed events of that time. Local people on Chertsey Meads and Chertsey Bridge in late May 1940 would have seen the 'little boats' being taken down river to take part in the 'Miracle of Dunkirk'. Some did not return.

The Supermarine Walrus amphibious aircraft was to be seen by anyone standing on the bank of Chertsey Meads and the bridge as it splashed up and down on test runs and where the makers at Addlestone



The Supermarine Walrus

had set up a building and a circular concrete installation on Chertsey Meads for the purpose of testing the eight Walruses month that were being produced. Sleeping people of Chertsey and district were rudely awoken when a German V2 rocket fell on a frozen Chertsey Meads on Sunday at 2am on the 14th February 1945 having been launched from Holland six minutes earlier. The loud double explosion left the V2 crater 40ft wide and 10ft deep near the convergence of the electric cable towers and the small bridge over the River Bourne.

The 'FIELDS IN TRUST' nominated CHERTSEY MEADS as one of the UKs BEST PARK for 2019. Voting took place in August and the winner of UKs best park 2019 will be announced in mid-September. The CHERTSEY SOCIETY committee keep an eagle eye out on all planning applications both Borough and County especially where the local Green Belt is concerned, and there is no more greener belt than Chertsey Meads.

*Victor Spink*

## Facebook

Thanks are expressed to Victor Spink for regularly adding new informative posting on The Society's Facebook page. 'Hits', i.e. the number of people who have viewed the pages vary from c.50 to over 1000!

Recent posting relate to the Black Cherry Fair, The Agricultural Show Chertsey Meads, The Lady Holland Chapel etc. In addition details of our forthcoming speaker meetings are publicised. Please keep in touch with the Society's activities by becoming a Facebook Friend using the following link: [www.facebook.com/chertseysociety/](http://www.facebook.com/chertseysociety/) Please pass on the information to all your Facebook friends and leave reviews or highlight local concerns.

The Chertsey Society  
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The Chertsey Society  
Chertsey Bridge 1978  
Chertsey's Amenity Society Since 1960

Write a post...  
5 out of 5 Based on the opinion of 4 people

Our Story  
The Chertsey Society was formed in Autumn 1960 by a group of like-minded local residents who were con...  
See more

THE FIELDS IN TRUST NOMINATED CHERTSEY MEADS AS ONE OF THE UKS BEST PARK FOR 2019.

## Abbey Walls

The Committee have been concerned that in the Freda Atkins Memorial Garden, on the east side of Abbey Field, an increasing number of stones on the surviving remains on one of Chertsey Abbey outbuildings have become dislodged. The wall is part of the scheduled ancient monument that RBC is responsible for maintaining.



We wrote to RBC in June 2019 asking that the stones should be reset using lime mortar (not cement) and that it would be worthwhile considering sympathetic repointing the crown of the wall to prevent water ingress and subsequent frost damage which is making the stones easier to dislodge. The wall is an important part of Chertsey's heritage and one of the few surviving parts of the Abbey above ground that can be viewed by the public and comprises part of the boundary wall of the outer court, next to the bread ovens.

Displaced stones in front of the Abbey Wall. (2019)



Matthew Godfrey, RBC Parks and Arboriculture Manager has responded to state that the displaced stones have been removed for safe keeping and will be replaced in due course noting that the work will be carried out sensitively and with consents if they are required.

The Society arranged for the area to be laid out as a Garden in 1986 in memory of Mrs Freda Atkins, actress and a former Chairman of *The Chertsey Society*.



Freda Atkins Memorial Stone unveiled by Sir Geoffrey Pattie, MP (1986)

## Archives

Steady progress is being made in indexing the Society's collection of archives. So far, Committees members have spent approximately 350 hours in sorting, cataloguing and indexing the collection. The majority of the documents are housed in cupboards on the landing at *The Orchard* with books stored on shelves in the first floor lounge. We have an almost complete run of the Surrey Archaeological Collections dating back to 1858 when the Surrey Archaeological Society held their first meeting at *The Old Town Hall*, Chertsey. Scrap books with press cuttings taken from *The Surrey Herald* the mid 1960's and subsequently from *The Surrey Advertiser* are also shelved in the lounge. The documents include a complete run of the Society's Committee Minutes, Accounts, Newsletter and letters written on behalf of the Society on a wide range of topics. So far, the archive has been subdivided into over forty categories covering topics such as Gravel Raising, Listed Buildings, the Conservation Area, Flooding issues, Planning matters, Chertsey Meads, the Bridge, the Museum, Wheelers Green, Abbey Barn, The Orchards, the Tom Banner collection of photos etc.



Margaret Nichols & Victor Spink working on the archives 14/10/2015



Stephanie Hunt & Thelma Lake sorting the archives 14/10/2015

The initial indexing is nearing completion and it is proposed to make the index available on our Website in due course. Members have been meeting approximately one or two mornings each month and we will shortly be seeking help in sifting the collection to weed out duplicate papers etc. and archive new additions.

Please let a member of the Committee if you would be interested in help with this task of helping to preserve a record of the social history of Chertsey spanning over the last 60 years.



The Orchard: the Boyce family built the house in 1893



Foundation stone: now partially hidden by the disabled access ramp

## Membership & Newsletters

The Chertsey Society undertakes a number of functions which we hope aligns us with the local community and what they would like to see happening, such as responding to planning applications, flooding issues and maintain the historical values of Chertsey. However, we would like some feedback from our members as to how they feel about how well such issues are handled and if there are others matters in which we should be involved. We ask these questions to ensure we are maximising what influence, if any, we have when lobbying on local issues.

We would also ask that if anyone feels they have time and/or specialist skills they can offer please advise us at the meeting.

Clive Osborne, *Membership Secretary*

### Date for Diaries

#### Chertsey Society Meeting

The first meeting of the Autumn season will take place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019, 7.45pm St. Peter's Church hall. Renowned puppeteer Ken Dalston will talk about his experiences with Punch & Judy!

#### Goose Fair

The Goose Fair will be held on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2019 between 10am and 2pm. Book the date in your diary and come and visit us at The Society's stall

### Concluding Remarks

The committee asked at the AGM in March 2019 for some additional members to consider helping to run The Society either by serving on the committee, reviewing planning applications, helping to run the raffle at Monday night meetings, or indexing our archives at The Orchard. We are currently operating without a Chairman. In addition, Margaret Nichols, who has written the Committee Meeting minutes for the last 10 years or so, wishes to retire so we are also looking for a volunteer to help with that task; please contact one of the Committee or Officers if you would be willing to help.

Please let us know if you are willing to contribute articles or write meeting reports for the Newsletter. Nevertheless, we have once again had a busy and active time trying to take a watching brief of our town's Conservation Area and other amenity matters. Numerous planning applications have been examined by the committee and in 2019 so far over 120 letters or e-mails have been dispatched on a wide variety of issues. Our letters file is available for inspection by members on request.

**Malcolm S Loveday**  
**President**  
**September 2019**

### OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE 2019 / 2020

*Chairman:* (vacant)\*

*Vice Chairman:* Mr Brian Hunt

*Treasurer:* Miss Valerie Lane

*Committee:* Gerry Drake, Margaret Nichols, Malcolm Loveday (*President*), Clive Osborne and Victor Spink

*Membership Secretary:* Clive Osborne    *Independent Examiner:* Richard Mason

*\*At present, the Committee meetings are being Chaired by various members of the committee on a rota basis*