

NEWSLETTER No - 175 – AUTUMN 2023

www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

CHAIR'S COMMENTARY

Dear Members,

Autumn's arrival enables the Society to feature more fully in this edition of the newsletter a topic that we know members enjoy, namely local history and heritage, featuring two well-known locations associated with Lord Rosebery (1847-1929), namely 'Durdans', his Epsom home for over 50 years, and Rosebery Park.

With the pausing of the draft Local Plan pending, among other things, clarification and updates from central government on revised and updated national planning policy, we anticipate resuming our detailed reporting on local plan-making towards the end of this year or early in 2024. A short summary to bring members up to date on plan-making is on page 2.



Aerial photograph of 'Durdans' from the East (Photo reproduced from Epsom and Ewell History Explorer (Andreas Von Einsiedel 2023))

First then, to 'The Durdans' or simply 'Durdans' as it is known by its new owners, Andreas von Einsiedel and Johanna Thornycroft.

On a sunny and warm June afternoon, your Society's committee members and their partners visited Durdans at Woodcote End, the Grade II* Listed Building and former home of Lord Rosebery, at the kind invitation of Andreas

and Johanna. After many years (and for some of us, decades) gazing at the house in the middle distance from the ‘Chandos Gates’ in Chalk Lane, it was something of a revelation to discover the full extent of the beauty of the house’s setting, gain an understanding of its more recent history and appreciate how the house has changed over time. The responsibilities of custodianship of a historic property featured large in our conversation. Readers with experience and skills in the maintenance and management of historic houses, or readers who know suitably qualified individuals, are requested to get in touch with the Society, and we will pass those details on. Warmest thanks to Johanna and Andreas for their generous hospitality and for hosting a most interesting and enjoyable afternoon. We’re delighted they have joined the Society.

The history of ‘Durdans’ is extensively documented in the excellent Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website [here](#) with a recently (2023) enriched portfolio of aerial photographs by renowned photographer Andreas. Its Grade II* listing indicates Durdans’ importance in terms of national, as well as local, heritage. Buildings and structures are listed by Historic England where they are of historic or architectural importance. There are three categories of listed



Epsom Civic Society Committee members and partners visited ‘Durdans’ in June. Back row (left to right): Linda Bristow, Johanna Thornycroft, Mark Bristow, Bob Hollis, John Mumford, Anne Lock, Ann Arthur. Front row: Janet Hollis, Hazel Mumford, Margaret Hollins, Nick Lock, Sheila Wadsworth, Michael Arthur. (Photo: Andreas von Einsiedel)

buildings: Grade I, buildings of exceptional interest (2.5% of listed buildings), Grade II*, particularly important buildings of more than special interest (5.8% of listed buildings) and Grade II, buildings of special interest (91.7% of all listed buildings) (Source: Historic England: <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/listed-buildings/>).

More on ‘Durdans’ from our Events Secretary, Eleanor Bland, in her report on Ian West’s 9 July walk on page 11.

I’m delighted that Civic Society member Tricia Ladd accepted our invitation to submit an article on local history for this edition of the newsletter. Tricia’s choice of Rosebery Park could not be more apt and starts on page 4. Readers may be surprised to learn how a much-loved park came into being for the benefit of us all. Thanks to Tricia for revealing Lord Rosebery’s motivation for his generosity towards the people of Epsom, an interesting - and unexpected – perspective on one of our cherished green spaces. Our thanks also to Bourne Hall Museum for allowing us to reproduce the featured images.

LOCAL PLAN UPDATE

In the Society’s last newsletter, I reported that the Council had voted to pause the draft Local Plan. Our present understanding is that the draft Plan may be ‘un-paused’ later this year, if councillors vote to resume the process and agree a revised Local Development Scheme setting out a new timetable for the draft Plan’s adoption. Pending publication of our next

newsletter, we'll keep members updated via our website and Twitter ('X') account. Meanwhile, responses to the Regulation 18 public consultation have been published on the Council's website [here](#). The Society's response is also available on our own website [here](#).

IN OTHER PLANNING NEWS

We anticipate that it will be September at the earliest before anything more is heard about the Minister's decision regarding the Council's response to the 'special measures' letter from Secretary of State Michael Gove, reported in our last newsletter. There is no further news about the date of publication of the revised National Planning Policy Framework, referred to in our last newsletter.

Meanwhile the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) published (25 July) yet another round of consultations on planning reform, including a consultation on implementing Local Plan-making reforms as per the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (closes 18 October 2023), consultation(s) on new permitted development rights, and another consultation on speeding up infrastructure delivery (closes 19 September). The Society's planning sub-committee is currently considering which elements of these consultations to respond to. We are considering particularly how this latest consultation on the local plan process will impact on progress with the draft Local Plan here.

EPSOM COMMON GREEN FLAG AWARD



including outside Epsom station, adjacent to PureGym and in Rosebery Park.

We are pleased that Epsom Common Local Nature Reserve has received a well-deserved Green Flag award this year and send congratulations to the Countryside Team. More on this year's award [here](#).

We are also very pleased to see the colourful planting in the town,



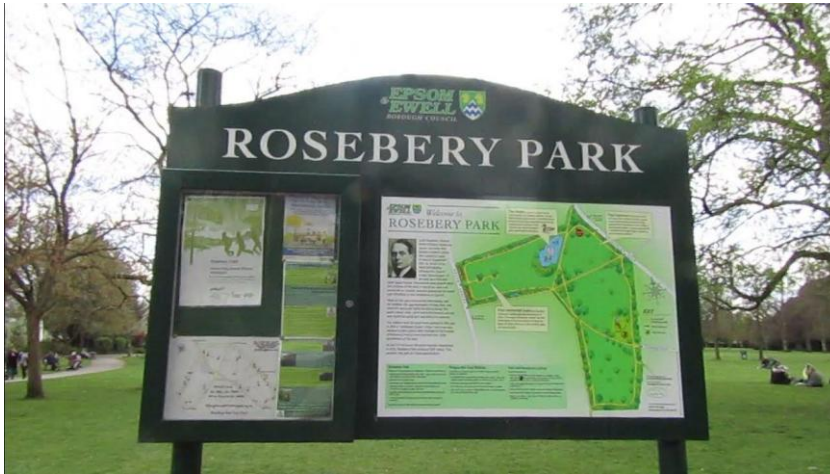
REIGATE AND REDHILL SOCIETY

I was pleased to be invited to address Reigate and Redhill Society at their AGM on 26 June. They are currently seeking a new Chair, failing which there is a very real risk that the Society will be wound up. If anyone knows of a Redhill and Reigate resident who would be interested in taking on the role, please contact them via their website: <https://www.reigatesociety.org.uk/>

Margaret Hollins

LOCAL HISTORY – ROSEBERY PARK, EPSOM

Rosebery Park was gifted by Lord Rosebery for the people of Epsom and Ewell, but was this gift as altruistic as we are led to believe?



The colourful information board in the centre of the park, close to the pond, honours the generosity of this illustrious Epsom resident who gifted the land as ‘proof of his deep and abiding affection for Epsom’; and the stone plaque erected near to the Ashley Road entrance opposite Swail House is a

commemoration of the Centenary of Lord Rosebery’s gift in 1913. However there is more to the story than the board and plaque would have you believe. Here’s the full story!

Lord Rosebery, former prime minister, socialite and racehorse owner, chose Epsom as his long-time home because of his fondness for horse racing. He married Hannah de Rothschild of the banking family, “the richest woman in England” at the time, and they lived at the Durdans with their four children. Rosebery Park’s story begins with the 1899 marriage of their 18 year old daughter Margaret, known as Peggy, to Lord Rosebery’s close political colleague, the widowed 41 year old Marquis of Crewe. Lord Rosebery wanted Peggy to have a base in Epsom and it was for this purpose that at auction on 11th June 1913, he purchased Woodcote Hall and its estate. The hall still stands today at the junction of South Street and Woodcote Road opposite the BP garage and is now split into residential flats.

But let’s go back more than 100 years to 1913. The property had been advertised in *The Times* as: “an old-fashioned residence standing in beautifully matured grounds of about 8½ Acres with an additional 11¼ Acres, being absolutely RIPE FOR IMMEDIATE DEVELOPMENT by the erection of Attractive Villa Residences.” The 11 ¼ acres, today’s Rosebery Park, were the last part of Epsom’s medieval Common Fields, known as “Glebe” land, which means the land supported the parish priest of St Martin’s Church. Far from



Lord Rosebery’s concept for a layout with connecting footpaths around a wide public amenity green space has endured. (Photo: Margaret Hollins)

taking up the vendor's suggestion of developing Woodcote Hall's outer grounds for Attractive Villa Residences, Lord Rosebery offered this land to Epsom Council for use as a public park.

Lord Rosebery's reasons for his generous gift were, however, more than he stated in his offer. A new road had been proposed to bypass Epsom Market Place, to avoid the bottleneck at the South Street/High Street junction, which was becoming congested as far back as 1913. The proposed new road would have run across today's Rosebery Park very close to the gardens of Woodcote Hall, disrupting the owners' peace and seclusion. The Council's acceptance of Lord Rosebery's gift would, of course, block the new road proposal.

The town council had, prior to the auction of land, been offered the last remnants of the medieval Common Fields for use as permanent open land but they had rejected the offer of £8000 as being too expensive. In addition, Lord Rosebery had suffered some fallings out locally following his opposition to the earlier development of the "Epsom Cluster" of mental hospitals. So the deal was done - the council achieved what they needed for their local plan; Lord Rosebery had won back favour with local officialdom; and the people of Epsom got their park; so it was a win-win for everyone involved.

Lord Rosebery did however impose conditions on the gift, stipulating that it was to be used as a public pleasure ground by the people of Epsom, but with no organised games or entertainment which might be an annoyance to the present or future occupiers of Woodcote Hall.



A late 1920s postcard, looking east across the pond to the new bandstand (Image with thanks to Bourne Hall Museum)

Work on the park commenced immediately and advice on laying out the ground was sought from an aptly named Mr Gardiner who was the Superintendent of Hyde Park, Buckingham Palace and other royal parks, no less. The footpath layout on the common field before it became Rosebery Park was retained; entrance gates were erected in the centre of the South Street boundary; the long-standing small pond was enlarged and stocked with fish from

Woodcote Park; and trees and shrubs were planted including the willows around the pond. In May 1914, the park was formally named “Rosebery Park”.

The stipulation about no organised games was not observed for long. Soon after the Park’s opening, goalposts were set up for local football teams – and stayed up despite Lord Rosebery’s objections. A bandstand was erected near the entrance of the park and military bands played regular concerts there. After the outbreak of WW1 in August 1914, the park was used by many soldiers from Woodcote Park Camp and, by 1916, so many of them had taken to meeting their girlfriends there that the Police were requested to secure decency and order. More prosaically, part of the unused ground within the park was ploughed up and planted with potatoes.



Postcard of soldiers convalescing in Rosebery Park during WW1 (Image with thanks to Bourne Hall Museum)

When the war was over, the allotments were filled in and replanted and the Park began to mature. In the late 1930s, at the onset of WW2, air raid trenches were dug in Rosebery Park which could take as many as 1,440 persons. An anti-aircraft company came in from London to use the area for training and once again part of the park was turned into allotments. By July

1940, the park gates had gone for much-needed scrap, along with three tons of other railings apparently “serving no useful purpose”. After WW2, Rosebery (like the Borough’s other parks) was fully restored for peacetime use.

Today the park’s layout is very much the same as when it was first established and it remains as Lord Rosebery intended - the absence of pitches or courts for organised games means that the whole of the grassed area – around which there are many benches – is available for people’s general enjoyment and informal games. So in spite of your ulterior motives, we thank you Lord Rosebery for this wonderful park.

Acknowledgements go to the Epsom and Ewell History Explorer website (eehe.org.uk) which has a wealth of other items) and in particular to Roger Morgan for the background material for this article. Roger Morgan’s more extensive article on Rosebery Park can be found [here](#).

Tricia Ladd (By invitation)

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

There are a number of updates following on from the last (No.174) newsletter.

31-37 East Street (22/01518/FUL): Demolition of the former Office World and current Majestic Wine warehouse with self-storage at ground floor and flexible offices above was **refused** by the Planning committee because of its excessive bulk and mass and failure to provide housing units. We are not surprised about this decision. Additionally, the site intrudes into the large opportunity site SA1 of the paused Local Plan (the old gas works and utilities site) and we feel a more comprehensive design for the site as a whole will be a better eventual development.



107-111 East Street (23/00110/FUL):

After a series of applications for this site (pictured), sited at the corner of Kiln Lane and East Street, **approval** was granted for 16 flats. One Councillor's comment was: "This was the least worst of the applications we have had and the rear access road has been sorted and (I) consider it best that it should now be supported."

157 High Street (22/01335/FUL): **Approval granted** for conversion of the first floor, currently used as storage for the ground floor hardware shop (now closed), into a separate flat (pictured right). The Society did object to the application in that we considered the use of the existing small first floor balcony as a proposed open amenity space and overlooking the High Street and Weatherspoons pub to be unsatisfactory. However, this was overruled.



Visual representation of the proposed multi-storey block on West Street in Epsom Town Centre

24/28 West Street (22/01294/FUL):

The 8th June Planning Committee meeting resolved to **grant planning permission** for demolition of the existing Furniss building and erection of a 5-6 storey building with 20 residential units. It marks the end of an era for this distinctive building in the Town Centre Conservation Area. We still do not know the outcome of our nomination for local listing of the Furniss building on site.

The former Police and Ambulance Station site (22/00923/FUL): We suggested in our Summer 2023 newsletter that this application might come to the 8th June planning committee, following cancellation of the April 2023 meeting. However, it **still awaits a decision**. The proposal is for a 96-bed residential, nursing and dementia care home for the frail elderly within a 3 to 5 storey development together with a basement parking level.

The **proposals have been revised** and there has been a further opportunity for members of the public to submit comments on the revisions. The latest drawings and documentation now take into account the Design Review Team's concerns and also the planner's notes. The building has been lowered by 1 floor on the Church Street elevation. Previously we stated that we broadly supported the proposal except for concerns relating to the basement works, demolition activities etc. We are pleased that the building height has now been reduced and a more thorough design investigation has been undertaken. There are, however, remaining concerns regarding the risk of displacement groundwater flooding to neighbouring properties which we have raised directly with the Head of Place Development.



12-16 High Street (22/01537/FUL): This application is for the conversion of empty space above the shops (four units from the East Street bridge end) into residential accommodation for four flats. **We wrote in support** of the proposals as this followed our concerns about the very poor state of the windows and front facade generally in a conspicuous position seen especially from Church Street/Upper High Street junction. The conversion work would see the renewal of the windows to a modern and efficient standard but also compliant for a conservation area. The application has been **approved** and we look forward to its implementation.



The Chalk Pit: A continuing long saga about this site is that a **new application** for a materials recycling facility with its expected intensification of use and lorry movements etc. has been **submitted**. It is unclear if this is any different to that approved by Surrey earlier this year. The company obtaining the approval sold the operational business to the new applicant. Concerns remain about this intensive noise and dust-making operation close to residential areas.

Dairy Crest

(23/00402/FUL): This application which we first wrote about in our Summer 2023 newsletter is currently **awaiting a decision**. The Society lodged an objection letter for this



new proposal for an Aldi supermarket on the former Dairy Crest site

The Dairy Crest site showing the unsafe vehicle access. The location, in the College Road CA is more suited to residential development.

on the grounds that the location is wrong and would create difficult and unsafe vehicle access conditions. We suggested that the site is better suited for residential dwellings. The site works necessitate the reduction of ground level which could affect the rear of the houses in Wyeth's Road.

39 Manor Green Road (22/00695/FUL): A **decision is awaited** from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the appeal against the refusal to grant a change of use from a garden building housing a gym into a separate dwelling fronting Hamilton Close.

Hollycroft, Epsom Road Ewell (21/01254/FLH, 21/01255/LBA and 21/01167/FUL): The planning inspector has **dismissed all three appeals against refusals** for a house being built in the back garden and major conversion works to a Grade 2 listed building.

2 Pine Hill (23/00290/RES): We previously referred to this **application to modify conditions** granted to the original approval. This has been **granted** and we are pleased to note that hedging planted outside the site boundary on the verge was removed before the approval. If the hedging had remained it could set a precedent for maintaining the open verges to this estate, as well as causing traffic sightline obscurity close to a junction when the planting matures.

'Brackenlee', Woodcote Side (23/00457/FLH): We previously reported that this application for a large detached (three floors) 'granny annexe' at the end of the garden constituted significant backland development and was out of keeping with the locality and plan policies. This application has been **refused**.

124 Hook Road (22/00817/FLH): This property does not have parking conventionally to the front of the house but to the rear via a long access track entering/exiting near Longmead Road. The rear parking section has been fenced off away from the house removing that facility and considerably shortening the back garden. **Two applications**, a few weeks apart, were submitted for (i) parking access to the front with a new footpath crossing (ii) building a new house in the rear garden (where the parking was) with its access via the long track. We lodged objections to both applications in that the drive crossover was not possible without the removal of at least one fine lime tree and the rear house was unsatisfactory on a number of counts - the long access track, closeness to other buildings and likely removal of fine trees. Also, that the two applications were interlinked and dependent upon each other and should have been treated as one. **The first** for the cross-over was **refused** by the Council and **then dismissed on appeal** which quoted that "the loss of fine trees cannot be afforded". The

second for the house to the rear was **removed from the planning website, seemingly withdrawn**, although not officially stated as such.

84 Hookfield (23/00568/FLH): This is a second application to replace a low hedge with a six foot high fence on land to the side and towards the footpath of Lindsay Close. It follows a 2022 refusal for a similar proposal to erect a 1.83m (6 feet) high close boarded fence. In both cases the open aspect to the entrance to Lindsay Close and the maintenance of the unfenced open front gardens would be lost. The application has been **refused**.

6a Bucknills Close (23/00577/FUL): This application is for the demolition of a bungalow fronting Bucknills Close with a 1.83m close boarded fence already having been erected closing off this access. The redevelopment is for six houses on the site, basically turned around the other way and accessed via an existing driveway from White Horse Drive. There are many unsatisfactory aspects about which **we wrote in objection**, particularly that the driveway is of insufficient width to accommodate the existing and proposed houses (would be 10) and its junction with White Horse Drive a heavily trafficked area close to Rosebery School. Surrey Highways has lodged objections to the proposals. We **do not anticipate approval** of this application.

Wells Social Centre (19/00929/FUL): This application is for the demolition of the centre and redevelopment into 23 housing units incorporating a small community hall. The application number's first two digits are an indication of the **age of this application (2019)**. It has now **been withdrawn**. There were 468 representations, including from the Society, about this unsatisfactory and strongly opposed scheme. The centre closed in 2015/16. During this time the community of The Wells mounted a huge campaign to save the Centre, culminating in success in February 2023 in receiving the keys to the building. A charitable trust - The Epsom Wells Community Association, a registered charity - has secured a 125-year lease from Epsom & Ewell Borough Council. **Appeal is now made for skilled and unskilled volunteers to get the centre running again**. There is information [here](#).



Marsden Nursery/Ashtead Park (MO/2022/0474): Amended designs and layouts have been submitted for the erection of 23 dwellings including four affordable units with associated access/garages, parking etc.

The Society has forwarded an updated objection letter, again showing our concerns at the proposal to build new houses in primary Green Belt land and also

significant border between Ashtead and Epsom. A **decision is still awaited**.

1 Talbot Row Chalk Lane (23/00615/TPO): This application to fell a yew tree, referred to in our previous newsletter, has been **refused**.

Briavels Court, Downs Hill Road (23/00795/PDE): This **Prior Approval** application under the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 Schedule 2, Part 20, Class A for the installation of one additional storey comprising 4 flats immediately above the existing topmost residential storey at 26-37 Briavels Court has been **refused**. Members of the Society's committee met residents of Briavels Court in early July to listen to their concerns. It was



Plans to erect another storey to Briavels Court have been refused.

It was evident that if prior approval were granted for construction of an additional storey on this one block, it could 'open the floodgates' for similar additional storeys on the other blocks in the estate. The Society submitted a letter of objection - there were 53 in total.

The **reasons for refusal** included: the creation of hardstanding to create a new access road fell outside General Permitted Development Order 2015; the design and appearance of the building, including its incongruous form and height, would cause harm to the character and appearance of both the existing building and the wider area; failure to demonstrate that the proposal would not have a harmful effect upon neighbouring amenity in terms of loss of daylight and sunlight; and lack of an ecology survey - consequently it had not been demonstrated that the proposal would not cause harm to European Protected Species, leaving the Council unable to secure compliance with the nature conservation requirements of the Habitats Directive. This is a **major victory**, as it proves that a Permitted Development application can be refused based on existing directives and local issues.



Langley Bottom Farm (23/00743/NMA): This latest application for Non-Material Amendments to the previously approved application (20/00475/FUL) has been **refused**. Many of the key alterations to the approved scheme were judged to be 'material' and significantly lowered the quality of the design.

The Society is concerned that had the latest design and material specifications been part of the original application, then quite possibly the entire scheme to build 20 residential dwellings on this Green Belt land would have been refused. Full details for the refusal of this application and related information, including proposed drawings by Fairfax (pictured left) for the approved housing development, can be found [here](#).



View across the fields to Langley Vale village and the racecourse grandstand showing the open land used for sheep grazing above Langley Bottom Farm. The proposed new development at Langley Bottom Farm involves demolition of the barns and haymaking infrastructure (pictured right) and will significantly alter the rural nature of the area, surrounding Epsom Downs and path to the Gallops and World War One Memorial Walk area within the Green Belt.

Full planning permission was granted on appeal in July 2022 for the scheme to go ahead, and that appeal decision was reported in our Autumn 2022 newsletter.

Michael Arthur, Bob Hollis and John Mumford

CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABILITY

The concept of ‘Shifting Baseline Syndrome’ and its application to urban areas

Simply put, ‘Shifting Baseline Syndrome’ is a gradual change in the accepted norms for the condition of the natural environment due to a lack of experience, memory and/or knowledge of its past condition. This term is relatively recent and was coined in 1995 by a fisheries

scientist called David Pauly. This followed his observations of how individual reference points of what “normal” fish stock levels should be generally base-lined at the start of individual’s careers. Hence, each new generation of fisheries scientists had increasingly worse conditions to dictate their perceptions of what is normal. In this sense, what we consider to be a healthy environment now, past generations would consider to be degraded, and what we judge to be degraded now, the next generation will consider to be healthy or ‘normal’.

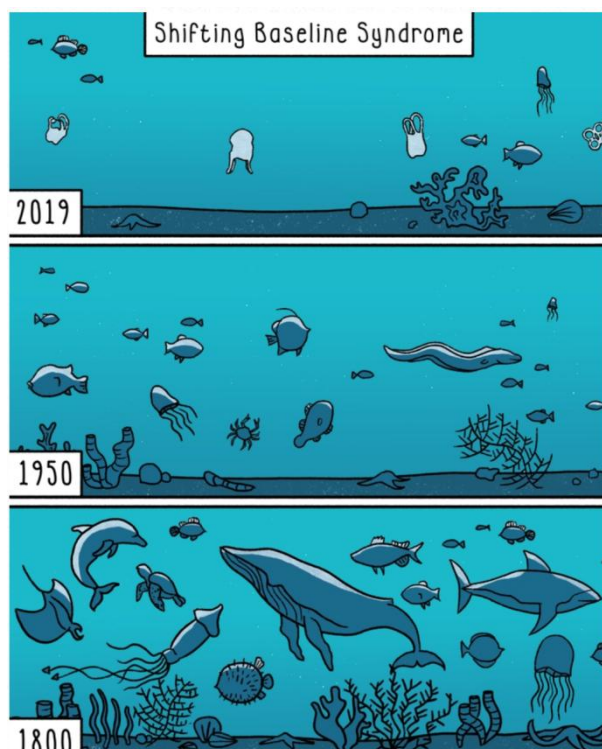


Image: Cameron Shepherd.

Whilst this syndrome is generally used in ecological terms, its application could also be used to define how standards change within our urban environments.

Changes that may be relevant to Epsom and Ewell in particular are the perceived acceptable norms for front gardens and general amenity space and to a certain extent building standards or aesthetics. Impermeabilisation of front gardens (with paving, gravel or plastic grass) and, to a certain extent, back gardens, the loss of street trees, replacement of hedges with fencing or perhaps the design standards for new builds, have all experienced rapid changes in recent years.

The RHS commissioned a report in 2015 Greening Great Britain (<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/greening-great-britain>) and their observations are sobering; almost one in three front gardens in the UK (2015) have no plants and three and a half times as many front gardens have no plants compared to ten years ago (2015-2005). Planting has decreased by 15% overall.



The loss of an individual garden may not be overly concerning, but multiplied by many households, the effects can be extremely detrimental. Front gardens and greenery reduces urban heat islands (keeping homes cooler in the summer), providing biodiversity benefits, and playing an important role in controlling flooding through the ability for trees and permeable surfaces to absorb and retain water.

Some recent significant changes to the streetscape are shown here. There are many examples within our Borough.



We should all be vigilant to these changes so that the loss of green spaces does not become the norm and new baseline.

Top photo: Google Earth, October 2022, Bottom Photo: Aurélie Paoli August 2023

Aurélie Paoli

THE DOWNS

This year's Derby meeting thankfully passed without major incident, but did require significant additional security measures because of the threat posed by animal rights protesters. The miles of extra security fencing did not prevent one protester from getting on to the course during the race itself, but he was removed before the horses had got to that part of the course. Unfortunately it seems likely that we can expect similar restrictions on access to some footpaths on the Downs in future years.

We are still waiting for the printed content for all the new notice boards that have been installed across the Downs: the space is currently mainly blank or being filled with graffiti. Meanwhile, a second set of notice boards has been installed by the Jockey Club, emphasising that the space is used for horse training purposes. Some of these boards seem to be placed out of context, and the content on dog walking times seems to be inconsistent with other safety notices. We plan to raise this with the Downs Conservators.

On a happier note, the car park for the Woodland Trust's Langley Vale Centenary Wood has finally opened, providing level access to parts of the woodland including the Regiment of Trees sculpture installation and Jutland Wood (commemorating the major sea battle in 1916).

If you have not been before, the wood is well worth a visit. Parking charges are £2 for 2 hours, £4 for 4 hours and £5 all day. For those with electric cars, there are a large number of parking spaces with chargers, so topping up the car while you walk is an option.

There are also a range of guided tours by volunteers - see the Woodland Trust website for details (<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/woods/langley-vale-wood/>)



Nick Lock

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The majority of our members have paid their Subscriptions for this year. However, there are a very few who have not yet paid. If you are one of those, either your Rep will have called when delivering this Newsletter or will have attached a slip to remind you. If you have any queries feel free to check with me. If you wish to pay online go to our website www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk, follow the link 'Join us' and select the PayPal option at the bottom of that page. Select individual (£3) or household (£5) membership as appropriate or pay a different amount if you wish to make a donation. When you select the yellow 'Pay Now' button, you will be taken to the PayPal website. If you have a PayPal account, you can sign in; if not, you can make the payment by credit or debit card without signing in. Please give your name and postcode as reference. Please do get in touch if you need help.

Tel: 01372 438361 Email: membership@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

Ishbel Kenward

EVENTS

Ian West's Walk on Sunday 9th July 2023



Photo: Ishbel Kenward

Chalk Lane. We stopped outside the former Chalk Lane Hotel. It is so sad to see it still a building site after nearly five years of redevelopment and with no sign of nearing completion. Finally, we arrived at 'Durdans' and Ian explained its history. In our party, we met the owners of 'Durdans' – Andreas von Einsiedel and Johanna Thornycroft - and we look forward to their kind offer to give members of the Epsom Civic Society a tour of the grounds next year.

The weather was kind and we met up where the Ladas Pub used to be at the crossroads between Madans Walk, Woodcote Lane and Chalk Lane. I have lived in Epsom for many years and yet know very little about the history of many of the buildings in it and found Ian's talk fascinating. We started outside Westgate House before then walking up

Eleanor Bland

NEW ART CINEMA FOR EPSOM

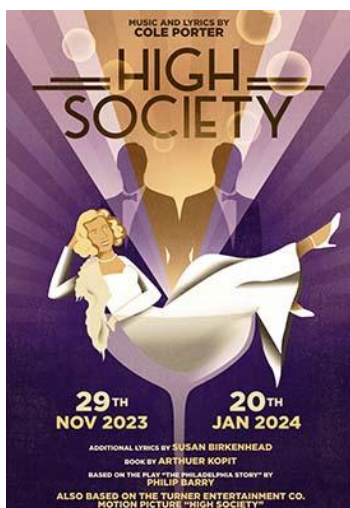


Watch out for Epsom Picturehouse in Epsom Square which plans to open its doors in 2024. The new six-screen cinema will have a bar and restaurant and will screen a range of 'arthouse' films and blockbusters, opera, ballet and theatre. Details can be found at www.picturehouses.com

Margaret Hollins

DINNER THEATRE AT THE MILL AT SONNING SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Seats are still available for the performance of Cole Porter's 'High Society' at The Mill in Sonning. The cost includes the performance following a delicious two-course Christmas lunch, including coffee, coach and driver tip plus the programme. Initially a £50.00 fee is charged per person to reserve a place.



The overall cost is £94.00 per person. Please forward your booking to me using the form below by 31st October. Please cut off the coupon and return the reservation form with a stamped addressed envelope with payment either by:

1. Sending a cheque made out to Epsom Civic Society direct to me with the completed form, or
2. Paying direct into our Barclays account (Sort Code: 20.29.90 Account No: 20353078)

You can also email me at: social@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

Eleanor Bland

DINNER THEATRE AT THE MILL AT SONNING SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

Eleanor Bland, 15 Sheraton Drive, Epsom KT19 8JL (01372 722558)

APPLICATION FOR DINNER THEATRE – SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER

The final cost will cover a two-course lunch, coffee/tea, performance, a programme, coach travel and the driver's tip. To reserve a place the initial charge is £50.00. The total charge per person is £94.00.

Member Name/s

.....

Address

Tel. No:

Epsom Civic Society Members: Yes/No

Emergency Contact Number

.....

No of tickets: **Initial Cost at £50.00 pp**

Any dietary requirements? Yes/No Please list.....

Coach Collection. Please indicate.

(A) 10.20am Epsom Downs car park behind the tea hut by Tattenham Corner

(B) 10.30am The Methodist Church, Epsom

(C) 10.40am The Street, Ashted

Please send any letters or comments for consideration to: Newsletter Editor: publicity@epsomcivicsociety.org.uk
All of our newsletters are available in colour on our website: www.epsomcivicsociety.org.uk

Printed by: Pixel Digital Printing, Unit 6 Epsom Downs Metro Centre, Waterfield, Tadworth, KT20 5LR Tel: 01372 740 113