

The May Election

Waugh goes back

The Esher Ward result in the Borough Council elections on 23rd May was:-

Simon Waugh (Con), 941
David Bassett (ERA), 907

The Association congratulates David, as a newcomer, on an excellent and close fought campaign against a well established opponent. Only 35 votes separated the candidates and we are very hopeful that next year will see a break through!



Dr David Bassett

The three Esher ward Councillors are all Conservatives. Elmbridge Borough Council currently has 60 Councillors. 32 Conservatives, 21 Residents 6 Liberal Democrats and 1 Other.

ERA QUIZ NIGHT

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER
7.15PM
KING GEORGE'S HALL - ESHER

TICKETS £12.50
FROM SUE CITRON - suecitron@btinternet.com

FISH & CHIP SUPPER
BRING YOUR OWN WINE AND NIBBLES

COME WITH A GROUP OR JOIN OTHERS
TO MAKE UP A TEAM

ERA Committee Officers

Chair: Gary Lay 460753
Vice Chair & Planning: Michael Phillips 467720
Hon Treasurer: Chris Davison 462673
Hon Secretary: Sue Citron 464696

ERA Committee Members

Paul Fielding
Clare Hall
Wilf Hashimi
Peter Heaney
Susan Johnson-Newell



esher matters

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A New Expanded Waitrose for Esher?

Whether you use Waitrose in Esher or not you are probably aware that there are design proposals for an extended store. On balance we view this as a positive step. In addition to extending the store the scheme addresses the difficult servicing arrangements and provides new residential accommodation on the old police station site.

The expanded store has additional parking and improved access and parking arrangements for those with disabilities. Being 'in town' the store location is inherently sustainable. Our only concerns are about the rather arbitrary use of flint panels on the main facade and that more residential accommodation hasn't been provided. On the latter point we are all aware of the increased threat to the green belt and the consequent need to make best use of previously

Continued over

developed land. In the circumstances 5 flats seems a somewhat meagre provision given the size of the site.

We believe Waitrose makes a valuable contribution to the town and look forward to an expanded store which will help reinforce retail provision within the town.



Lakeside Drive - Esher's newest conservation area

For those who are not familiar with its location, it lies to the east of Copsem Lane, just south of Princess Square, the former Milbourne House.



Lakeside Drive would, at first sight, seem an unusual choice for conservation status since we tend to think of conservation as applying to older buildings of a more traditional style. Modernist houses are rarely interesting or of sufficient architectural merit to become conservation areas, but other notable examples are the Parkleys Estate of Span Houses in Ham and Manygate Lane in Shepperton.

English Heritage has described Lakeside Drive as 'an exceptional and probably unique, post-war development of executive houses in an exclusive landscape setting. There are very few developments of this scale and ambition at the upper end of the housing market in England'.

The estate comprises 16 houses, built in the early 1970s in the former grounds of Milbourne House, which was once part of the 18thC Claremont estate. They were constructed around a man made ornamental lake, first noted in 1847, on land that was once owned by Sir Robert Gardiner, Principal Royal Equerry and former Governor of Gibraltar. It is said that Queen Victoria, in her youth, played amongst the trees that are still a fundamental part of life in Lakeside Drive.



Plans were submitted for the creation of Lakeside Drive, in 1968, by Royston Summers (the architect of Truro New County Hall, Grade 2 listed in 1997) and the houses were built sporadically over early 1970s. Summers' involvement waned and the detailed design was carried out by Michael Wilson and landscape architect, Frank Clark. Summers had previously been involved, with playwright Michael Frayn in the creation and building of North Several, a development of seven town houses in Blackheath, which is similar in style to Lakeside Drive. He received a Commendation from the RIBA for Lakeside Drive in 1976.

The completed Lakeside Drive estate is made up of 10 houses on and 6 off the lake. The houses are modular, each utilizing the same 'kit of parts', but carefully positioned to offer privacy in a reasonably open environment. The backdrop of mature trees is the perfect foil for these quite brutal houses.



Conservation is hugely important to Lakeside Drive to maintain the integrity of the estate and preserve the individual details of the houses and vistas. Glazed front doors reveal an intriguing view through the houses to back gardens and, in some cases, the lake itself. Large ceiling-to-floor windows offer the prospect of outdoor living from inside. From the colour palette to the mortar between the bricks, the homogeneity of the houses is what makes the estate so special. The successful integration of these modern 20thC houses into an 18thC historic landscape and the retention of the existing mature trees is what make Lakeside Drive so special.



Conservation Area status was championed by the Lakeside Drive Residents Association and supported by Heritage officers at Elmbridge Council, the Surrey Gardens Trust, Esher Conservation Area Advisory Committee, English Heritage and the 20th Century Society.

King George's Hall - Current situation

Following the AGM earlier this year, the four existing Trustees appointed a further seven trustees in line with the current Charity Commission Scheme for the hall.

The scheme allows for two types of Trustee, Custodian Trustees and Managing Trustees.

Custodian Trustee. The body corporate, Elmbridge Borough Council, is the Custodian Trustee of the Charity and the land and buildings of King George's Hall are vested in that body to be held in trust for the Charity.

Managing Trustees. There are three legitimate groups make up the Managing Trustees. 'User Trustees', 'Co-opted Trustees' and 'Council Representative Trustees'. The current Managing Trustees who were appointed are:-

'User Trustees' Alastair Paterson, Gordon Curry, Barry Judd, Chris Davison, Michael Phillips.

'Co-opted Trustees' Robin Crane, David Moore.

'Council Representative Trustees' David Archer (Chairman), Tim Oliver, Simon Waugh.

The Esher Residents Association believe that King George's Hall is an essential local facility which must continue on its present site and that it must be made sustainable by improving the management and eventually the facilities.



The last Esher High Street Fair held in Victorian times.

Esher May Fair

The modern day Esher Fair was inaugurated on Esher Green by the Esher Round Table in 1955 on behalf of local charities and the community.

In 1995, with dwindling membership, they announced that they could no longer organize this event and the Fair was at serious risk of fading away. However, salvation came in the form of the Ajax Sea Scouts who stepped into the breach and have been running the Fair very successfully ever since.



This year, in May, the sun shone to order and the fair was an even greater success. The arena events were better than ever, varying from the traditional May Pole dancing (Claremont Fan Court School) to KulSool Martial Arts, circus acts, Falconry displays and music and display by the 1st Hook Scout & Guide Band and Elmbridge Young Musicians and much more.

The Esher Residents Association had its usual stall. And held a “Know Your Esher” photograph Quiz. This proved very popular but was perhaps a tad difficult and the actual winner for the second year running was a Claygate resident. However, they graciously passed the Champagne prize on to the runners up who live in Waynefleete Avenue.

Many residents took the opportunity to express their concerns about local issues. The Park Square residents concerned about the development in Park Road which will “seal in” Park Square. The Wolsey road residents concerned with the redevelopment of flats behind the High Street the design of which will “channel overlooking of our rear gardens”. The Moore Lane and Waynefleete Tower Avenue residents angry about the Aerial mast which appeared in Sandown overnight... “without planning permission”.

Esher’s Blue Plaques

There was a further display featuring the progress being made with the Esher Blue Plaque Scheme. Two new plaques are to be erected this year. One honouring Countess Lovelace for Sandown House and one the Porter Sisters for ABC Music.



(Left) The Major, Cllr. Mike Bennison, presenting the Countess Lovelace plaque to Ken Citron who was receiving the plaque on behalf of the residents of Sandown House. (Right) Chris Davison received the Porter Sisters plaque on behalf of ABC Music.

Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace (1815- 1852)



Augusta Ada Byron

Augusta Ada King, Countess Lovelace, was born Augusta Ada Byron (daughter of the famous poet) and now commonly known as Ada Lovelace. She was a mathematician and writer chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage’s early mechanical general-purpose computer, the analytical Engine. Her notes on the engine include what is recognized as the first algorithm intended to be carried out by a machine. Because of this, she is often described as the world’s first computer programmer. Ada Lovelace lived at Sandown House, Esher High Street from 1841 until her death in 1852.

Jane Porter (1776- 1850) & Anna Maria Porter (1780- 1832)



Jane Porter

Jane and Anna Porter were popular writers in the early nineteenth century and sold many books of a romantic nature. One of the most famous being “The Scottish Chiefs” a romantic novel in five parts. Jane appears to have been the more popular although Anna was far more prolific. They moved from Thames Ditton in 1822 to “Alderlands” in Esher High Street (Now ABC Music). The sisters lived here with their mother for 10 years and wrote many novels and plays. Anna died in 1832.



Anna Porter

See our website for more details.

CONTRIBUTIONS 2014/15

Keep us fighting for quality of life in Esher @ £5 a go.

In order to continue our important work of monitoring planning applications in Esher, fighting against unsuitable ones, and maintaining a critical involvement with borough and county council initiatives on parking, parking charges and traffic control, road maintenance and protection of our commons, open spaces and public halls, we need to be represented by independent ERA councillors (on the inside of the Council) and to maintain regular communication with Esher people through this newsletter and our website.

Please help to keep us going on your (and Esher’s) behalf by using the enclosed envelope and returning it to your road rep. or to our hon. Treasurer, Chris Davison 7 Littlemead, Esher KT10 9PE. Cheques to Esher Residents Association. Thank you for your support.

If you would like to help us, in your road or on the committee, please contact Sue Citron on 464696 or any other member of the committee.