



Leatherhead
Residents Association

Bulletin for April 2025

Dear Members

I do hope that you have now all recovered from the shock of having a Mediterranean spring and have remembered to keep all your plants well-watered! Even today, the sun has not forgotten us here in Mole Valley. You will be glad to know that last month's litter pick, based in the Red House Gardens, was a great success. We, who had done our stints earlier in the week, were able to sit on deckchairs in the sun and chat to our wonderful Pickers as they turned up with their collected rubbish bags and so it was more of a social occasion. But it will have earned nearly £30 for our coffers which is a great relief.

Another local initiative is the "Be Proud of" campaign. We are being encouraged to

1. Report Fly Tipping and, for ourselves, use responsible contractors
2. Be grateful for our parks and countryside – don't drop litter
3. Report overflowing bins.
4. Be imaginative: Re-cycle, re-use what could have been thrown away.
5. Find and follow the Countryside Code.
6. Report problems with playgrounds, parks and open spaces.
7. Improve your Community and apply for available grants.
8. Try to fit in Community Volunteering.
- 9.(Very Important!) Clean up after your dog.

Our next event is the talk by Mr. Nigel Bond on **the state of our much-loved River Mole on 28th April at 7.30pm**. Mr Bond lives in Ashted and is a retired chemical engineer and the Chairman and Trustee of River Mole Watch. I am sure we have all heard devastating stories of dead fish in the river and the lack of other wildlife which should be there. He will bring his PowerPoint slides and is prepared to talk for about 45 minutes, which will allow time for questions etc. He will probably have comments on the state of The Splash which we can pass on to our Councillors. I do hope that as many of you as possible will make it your business to come and listen!

Email via www.leatherheadresidents.org.uk/contact

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Apart from the above, there is another event to be enjoyed a week later, on VE day, (on Monday 5th May) in the grounds of (and inside) the Parish Church Hall. It is going to be run on the lines of a traditional village fête and will include: Live War Era music, a Centre Stage dance show, WW2 vehicles and displays, kids craft activities, film and newsreel footage of post war Leatherhead, a tour of the Church Tower and even War Grave tours. There is also a vintage bus trip sponsored by the LRA so do come and join us! (keep an eye open for the times of the bus, no information on that, so far.)

I am reluctant to mention the topic, but the plans for Transform Leatherhead are going to be presented to the full Council at a date yet to be confirmed. **If you still have unvoiced (or unwritten!) comments or suggestions, please do get them into our Council in Mole Valley.** I am sure you are all aware that the number of new dwellings required by the Government, is, in fact, far greater than that proposed for the Red House Gardens (aka "Bull Hill). Also, do not imagine that any development elsewhere in Leatherhead will automatically count towards a reduction in the total destined for Bull Hill, unfortunately, it will not.

Another subject which is taking up time in our Councils is that of Governance. I am sure you have all heard that Surrey itself would favour a division into two, whereas MV and several other areas favour a tripartite division. An online, questionnaire which you may like to study is called <Have your say: the future of local services in Surrey> which is being sent out by < **Matt.Blake@molevalley.gov.uk** >. This "have your say "... document is quite short, but there is a link in it to the <Interim Plan for Surrey@molevalley.gov.uk> which contains an enormous amount of detail. It is also accessible by simply typing in <Have your say: the future of local services in Surrey> There is also a questionnaire of 5 well-spaced out pages and you just click to send back your answers.

As part of our being solidly in the Community of Leatherhead, I would like to recommend to everyone that the Planning Applications are studied (albeit briefly!) each week. We, at the LRA, are noticing that there is a slight lean to developers requesting the use of ground floors, currently office space, being re-designated as "residential." Too many changes like this will change our High Street forever. A short note to the Planning Dept. would show that you care and would prefer something more useful to the town as a whole. I have just had an "official" answer to this worry, but continual watching does no harm.

Finally, earlier this month we received a request from the Trustees of the Leatherhead Institute to support their Application for a grant to cover the cost of repairing the stone mullions around their rotted single glazed windows, and also to replace all their windows on the south facing wall, the one facing the High Street. The benefits from that will reduce heating costs, carbon emissions and improve the appearance of the building for all who use it and even for those who just look as they walk past! The LRA was very happy to endorse the Trustees' request.

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I will now wish you all a Happy (and warm!) Easter, plus do not forget our meeting on 28th April in the Leatherhead Methodist Church at 7.30pm, nor the VE celebrations on the following Monday, 5th May.

Don't forget: our next meeting is on Monday, 28th April at the LMC. Polluted water was again a subject on the News this evening (16th April) so it is definitely a local problem.

Also, don't forget the VE celebrations at the Parish Church Hall (The Lighthouse) on Monday, 5th May. Films, music, dancing, vehicles all from the late 30s and early 40s. Entry: Free

With very best wishes,

Caroline Brown (Chairman)

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