

## **CDRA Bulletin, September 2017**

Dear CDRA Member,

I hope you will be with us at our Half-Yearly Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October. Meantime, we thought you would be interested in the following.

### **Avenue of Remembrance**

The beautiful Avenue of Remembrance on The Tilt is in decline as the flowering cherry trees reach the end of their natural lifespan. This memorial to Cobham's war-dead was planted in 1946 under the auspices of the Women's Institute but many of the original trees are now gone. Replacements haven't thrived and there are gaps in the Avenue. The soil is compacted through mowing and walking, and the trees are hungry and need better/newer soil.

Elmbridge Borough Council is considering the best course of action for this important landmark and has put forward a proposal which should ensure there will be a flourishing Avenue of Remembrance in 2045 for the centenary of the end of World War II. The plan would be to remove all the trees, replace the soil, and plant new semi-mature trees. Advice has been sought on the most suitable species of cherry tree which should be resistant to disease. There would be an area of uncut grass to deter walkers and mowers so as to avoid compacting the new soil. The work would be done soon after Remembrance Sunday as this is the best time of year for planting the new trees. The Council has set aside funds for this work.

The Council has discussed these proposals with our local Councillors and with representatives of local community groups: the CDRA, WI, Royal British Legion, CCHT, Stoke D'Abernon RA and St. Andrew's Church.

The Council now wants to hear your views and are asking for feedback by 30<sup>th</sup> September. Their full report and a form to respond on are at [www.elmbridge.gov.uk/council/consultations/cobham-remembrance-avenue/](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/council/consultations/cobham-remembrance-avenue/). No decision has been taken yet. This is a chance to ensure the future of this important local memorial and landmark.

### **Cobham Community Garden**

The garden, which is next to the Leg O'Mutton Field, was vandalised during the recent incursion of Travellers. The volunteers who run the Community Garden need your help. Go to [www.transitioncobham.org.uk/community-garden](http://www.transitioncobham.org.uk/community-garden) to find out about the Garden and how to become a member and also about how to help them recover from the damage and loss. The CDRA is donating £50 in support of the Community Garden.

### **Epsom & St Helier Hospitals**

The Trust that runs Epsom, St Helier and Sutton Hospitals is putting together a case to try and secure £300 to £400 million pounds of investment. This would fund improvements including building a specialist facility for acutely unwell patients on one of the existing sites, location to be decided. This is at an early stage and any changes would not happen for a number of years. They're currently gathering initial thoughts from local people, looking for comments and support by the end of

September. More information, including a video, is at [www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk](http://www.epsom-sthelier.nhs.uk) and you can pick up a leaflet with a feedback form at the Welcome Desk in the Cedar Centre.

### **CDRA Website**

Our website, [www.cdra.co.uk](http://www.cdra.co.uk), has had a long-overdue upgrade to a more modern style, improving the display for the variety of technology that people use to view it. At the same time we've reviewed the content and tidied up the structure. The site holds details about the CDRA and the matters it addresses. It also offers a pool of local information with lists of clubs, societies, halls for hire, children's activities etc. Let us know if you have any ideas for improving our site or any corrections or additions to the local information.

Kind regards

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