



CDRA Spring 2018 **NEWSLETTER**

RESIDENTS' MEETING

Thursday 19th April, 7.15pm at Cobham Village Hall
Drinks & nibbles will be followed by the meeting at 8pm.

**Guest speaker: Dominic Raab,
Minister of State for Housing**

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I am delighted that Dominic Raab, our MP, has kindly agreed to be our speaker at our AGM this year. As Housing Minister, we hope he will be able to give us information on the latest Government policy. We recognise that more houses are needed, particularly in the social housing sector. At the same time, we do need to protect our Green Belt and to ensure that the infrastructure is adequate to cope with the numbers of additional dwellings envisaged. Roads, traffic, schools, medical facilities of all kinds - to name but a few - are all under considerable strain as it is.

I presume it will not be too long before Elmbridge's draft new Local Plan is published for consideration. It is difficult to see how the aspirations of the electorate, and indeed those of the Council which represents us, can be met in the prolonged period of financial restraint. No doubt some very difficult choices will have to be made!

Another problem which will have to be faced is the latest proposal for the changes to the A3/M25 junction about which consultations are taking place as I write. Whatever is decided at the end of the day, the disruption in and around Cobham will be considerable and I hope you will have considered the proposals carefully. The preferred option, being put forward by Highways England would have a detrimental effect on Painshill Park, which is Grade 1 listed. We must do all we can to ensure that this wonderful asset is protected.

The Avenue of Remembrance on the Tilt has undergone a wonderful change. The cherry trees, which were beginning to die off, have been replaced by new young trees, which will bloom this year. Well done to Elmbridge Borough Council for undertaking, and financing this work. A Service of Dedication will take place at 12.30 p.m. on Sunday, 8th April, at the Tilt.

We continue to monitor planning applications and to object to those considered to be unacceptable. However, if we are to maintain our stance on the Green Belt, we have to accept, reluctantly, that new housing will be more dense and possibly taller. Sooner or later, hopefully later, it seems to me inevitable that small parcels of Green Belt will be built upon but we must do all we can to protect our green spaces for as long as possible.

Sue Kilpatrick ■

HELP FOR CARERS

Every 4th Friday in the month, from 1-3pm, there are walk-in sessions for Carers on the ground floor of the Cedar Centre, Cedar Road. Information and guidance is provided and possibly an offer of a Carer Needs Assessment which may lead later to providing help if necessary. Contact the Elmbridge Locality Team on 01372 832695 for more details. ■

THE CINNAMON TRUST

During my 9 years as a local volunteer dog walker for the Cinnamon Trust I have been able to help with a variety of dogs, each of them delightful and extremely appreciative, as are their owners. The rapturous welcome from the dogs when I

CDRA SUBSCRIPTION RENEWALS

If your membership is due for renewal we have included a separate reminder slip with this newsletter explaining how to renew.

Your membership number is printed on the envelope

arrive on their doorstep makes my day and I have the pleasure of their company whilst taking some much needed exercise.

The Cinnamon Trust is a national charity founded in 1985 especially to help with a wide range of needs, not only dog walking. From taking a sick animal to the vet if an owner is physically unable to do so themselves, to cleaning out a bird cage, the Trust can be there in case of need. They will also arrange short and long term fostering should the owner go into hospital or care, and ensure owner's wishes are carried out in the event of their death.

If you are a pet lover and are interested in giving up some of your time to help, no matter how little, the Trust would be pleased to hear from you.

If you are an elderly pet owner, or know of an owner experiencing problems the Trust can be there with advice and help.

The contact details are: Tel 01736 757900, email admin@cinnamon.org.uk

Mission statement: *Peace of mind and practical help for people – love, care and safety for pets* **Sue Battes** ■



DIABETES TALK

Diabetes is the fastest growing health crisis of our time. 12 million people in the UK are said to be at risk of Type 2 Diabetes. This is a condition everyone needs to know about. The Cobham Health Centre Patient Participation Group has arranged a talk about Diabetes on 18th April in the main hall at the Sacred Heart Church, Downside Bridge Road, Cobham KT11 1AA (on the corner opposite Waitrose). Doors open at

7:15 PM and the talk starts at 7:45 PM. There's free parking on site or in Hollyhedge Road car park. We are delighted to have as our speakers Helen Atkinson, Surrey County Council Director of Adult Social Care and Health and also Janet Spragg, Operations Lead for Ingeus National Diabetes Prevention Programme, so we can look forward to a very interesting and informative evening. This is a free event but please contact us to reserve your place by emailing PPG.CobhamHC@nhs.net or phoning me on 01932 868672. **Sandy Brook** ■

PRINCESS ALICE HOSPICE

A contribution by one of the many volunteers at the Princess Alice Hospice.

I have been a volunteer for the past twelve years, in various departments, but my most rewarding opportunity has been in the Day Hospice where we welcome patients who live at home but come to the Hospice, some all day, and some for a social morning.

Patients are welcomed with refreshments and they can then sit with fellow patients discussing what has been happening since they last met. If they attend all day they are served a three course meal with drinks.

One patient says he can't wait for his visit to come round, another looks upon the Group as his family. In the Social Group we talk about days gone by, life generally, what they have achieved in the past week and best of all what the future holds.

As a volunteer, the Hospice is the most rewarding opportunity I have had, not only to meet wonderful people but to be part of such a worthwhile organisation. The Hospice relies on the time and energies that volunteers give so generously.

Volunteers are the embodiment of the Hospice's core values of integrity, compassion, accountability, respect and excellence. With volunteers' help the Hospice is the local point of a huge network delivering free care and support to a population of more than a million people in the local community.

Volunteers run reception, the welcome team, coffee shop, a flower service and maintain the Hospice gardens. Some of our patients rely on our volunteer drivers. There is also a team of volunteer therapists. Volunteers serve teas and coffee on the wards every day. The chaplaincy and bereavement services could not provide the care they do without the highly trained volunteers. As well as all these roles,

volunteers provide administrative support to all departments across the Hospice.

The Hospice shops are supported by a huge number of volunteers whose support we could not do without. We could not run the shops and generate the considerable funds that retail contributes.

The Princess Alice Hospice couldn't deliver this vital compassionate care and support for patients, their families and carers without the volunteers.

Many of the patients say that being involved with the Hospice has put a completely different aspect on their illness, their lives, their future.

How rewarding is that? **Joy Gardner**

WHY I LOVE SINGING WITH OXSHOTT CHORAL SOCIETY!

I have sung with Oxshott Choral Society for nearly 25 years and the Wednesday evening rehearsals are one of the week's highlights which as well as singing, have introduced me to new local friends. There are a range of abilities within the choir; there is no audition to join and you don't need to be able to read music to be a member. The range of music we sing is varied from classical to contemporary and there are opportunities to sing with a full orchestra or smaller groups of musicians as well as work under the baton of well-known musicians and conductors.

Oxshott Choral society has around sixty members and occasions also arise to join other choirs, for example when we sing in the Leith Hill Musical Festival at the Dorking Halls or sing at the at the Royal Albert Hall when it is full with singers. We also go on tour abroad periodically.

The benefits of singing are now well-known and well documented. Sometimes it is a challenge, particularly on a winter's evening, to leave the warmth and comfort of one's home to go out for a rehearsal, but I always come home to discover I have received more than I've given! **Ruth ■**

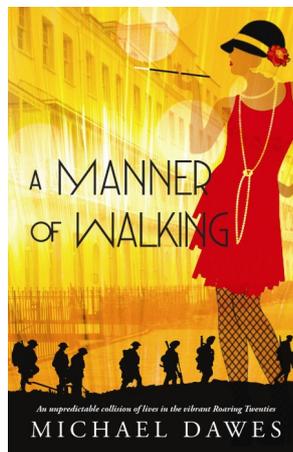
FINDING GOLDEN NUGGETS

CDRA committee member Mike Dawes writes below about his experiences in devising and writing a first novel. Further articles on this subject will appear in future issues of our newsletter. Mike's book, 'A Manner of Walking', was published in January 2018.

To start: I always thought I wanted to write a book. Perhaps you have too. The one thing I needed to work out is what to write about. That sounds obvious, but it is not easy. In my case I knew I wanted to write fiction, because I knew I would enjoy creating

characters and watch them have a life of their own on the page. Then there was the question of subject matter itself, the time and the location. And then the way in which I should write the book. And it all became terribly complicated.

I went to a writing class in London. I found that the tutor, probably quite rightly, spent a lot of her time encouraging us to think about our own experiences and jot down some 'golden nuggets', as she termed them, which could inspire us to go further and develop a story. My own golden nugget was the recollection of some wrinkled, faded, old black and white photographs of a blacksmith's shop in Bristol, taken in the early years of the last century. It was a business that had been in my father's family and I thought it would be an ideal springboard for a novel.



I started to think about setting my story in the Edwardian era, but quickly decided that the 1920s would be the perfect backdrop. And so 'A Manner of Walking' was born!

A Manner of Walking is available at Cobham Bookshop
Mike Dawes ■

A CAUSE FOR CONCERN

On a recent visit to Roatan, an island in the Caribbean Sea, part of Honduras, I took together, with my husband, Paul, an excursion in a semi-submersible boat. Whilst floating over a large, white beautiful coral reef with a variety of fish and turtles looking in at us, I saw something quite disturbing. Wrapped around the arm of one of the coral reefs was a plastic bag. From whence it came we do not know. Maybe the UK? The guide, a qualified Marine Biologist, said that the coral reef would die from a lack of oxygen.

For those of us who care about preserving the environment please continue to work towards finding a solution to using plastic bags. **Anne Bryant ■**

DATA PROTECTION

With new rules on Data Protection coming in we thought we'd make sure you know how we use the details you give us about yourself. We ask you for your name, address and email address which our Membership Secretary enters into our membership

spreadsheet. There is also space on our membership form for your phone number but we only use this if we have a query about the details you've provided on the form (some of the writing can be tricky) and we don't record it on the computer. The paper membership forms are kept by our Membership Secretary.

The membership list is used by our Membership Secretary and Treasurer for the administration of the subscriptions and by the Secretary and the committee member responsible for the newsletter, for addressing newsletters and sending renewal reminders. Email addresses, but no other details, are loaded into an on-line system, currently Mailchimp. We use this to address emails to members.

A printed list of members is produced by the Secretary for use on the membership desk at our AGM and Half-Yearly Meeting. If you don't wish us to have your details on our computer file, please write and let us know. We don't disclose membership details outside the CDRA.

KEN PURSSEY

We had the sad news in February that Ken Purssey had passed away. KP, as many of us knew him, worked tirelessly for our community over many years and was endlessly helpful to people. He was a member of the CDRA Committee, became our Chairman and was the CDRA Police Representative. He coordinated and

led the work of the volunteers based at Cobham Police Station and became Chairman of the Cobham, Oxshott, Downside and Stoke D'Abernon youth group (CODS). KP was the driving force behind Cobham Christmas Extravaganza, responsible for organising the fun side of the event, and help organise Cobham Village Day for several years and the Cobham Golden Jubilee Parade. He was involved in the fight for a skateboard park on the Leg O'Mutton Field and was on the committee raising funds for improvements to Downside Village Hall. He did an enormous amount for Cobham and Downside. Thank you KP. ■

CDRA ACCOUNTS

The accounts for 2017 will be presented by our Treasurer at the AGM. We are grateful to Mr. Alan Ward for again reviewing them without charge. ■

CDRA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

We will be electing the officers and committee of the CDRA for the coming year at our AGM. The current holders of office have agreed to stand for re-election for a further year. Please get in touch if you wish to put yourself forward for election at the meeting. We are always looking for new members who are prepared to take an active role in the Association. ■

HOW TO JOIN THE CDRA

If you're reading this and not already a member then we hope you will decide to join us. Send your name, address and a cheque, made out to CDRA for the £5 annual subscription, to CDRA Membership, 32 Freelands Road, Cobham KT11 2ND. You can also pay by online or telephone banking, our details are; account number 12422371, sort code 60 06 03; account name: CDRA. Please use your name and street name as reference so we know who you are. If you join in this way you will also need to email us your name and address. In both cases, let us know if you would like to be sent a receipt. Alert us if you don't want your details held on our computer files. ■



CDRA Committee Members

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Hon Secretary:	Sandy Brook	01932 868672
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Environment and Amenities:	Ian Clifford	
Newsletter:	Rosemary Bailey	
Transport:	Mike Dawes	

Anne Bryant, Jill Newman, Des Magill, Gerald Stanford

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