



Weybridge Memories: *Peter's* Café

By Louise Johncox

Growing up in a tea shop means cakes hold memories for me. Some of these memories are happy, some sad, all are a reflection of my family life.

My parents ran *Peter's* in Weybridge from 1958 to 2000, where I grew up alongside my two older brothers and younger sister. All our lives were shaped by the traditional cakes our father made.

It is one thing having a lot of cake memories, but when I decided to write a book, *The Baker's Daughter*, what would be the best way to unlock all these memories?

At first, I examined the old tea shop menu and drew up a list of the cakes and savouries, jotting down stories and anecdotes. I recalled certain customers by the name of their favourite pastries such as Mrs Meringue and Mrs Millefeuille. I visited my retired parents at the family home in Weybridge and asked them for any stories linked to the cakes and savouries. I also probed my siblings for their cake memories. My Mum, Frankie, a former nurse, married Dad in 1960, and they held their wedding reception in the tea room. At first, Mum was the most forthcoming with her recollections. The fact she was the welcoming face of the tea shop meant she had the most detailed knowledge of the customers who came in for their morning coffee, light lunch or afternoon tea (as the menu stated). Dad came from a long line of pastry chefs – his grandparents ran *Beti's* in Ryde, Isle of Wight, and he grew up in his parents' tea shop, *Lane's* in Westcliff. My father had the most practical knowledge of all these family tea rooms. My biggest challenge was: how to unlock all these baking stories? The moment of truth came when I asked Dad for the recipes. "They're all in my head, what do you want to know?" he said.

My heart sank – like a very sad sponge.

One day, my wise father came up with a solution when he said: "It's time to get your hands messy."

We moved from the comfortable living room to the kitchen and suddenly the tea shop stories came vividly alive for me as we set about baking.

Luckily Dad had kept the majority of his old baking equipment which included family baking artefacts handed down to him from his parents. In fact, Dad had amassed so much baking paraphernalia that when he retired in 2000 we built a shed for him in the garden to store everything and to provide a space for him to prepare his pastries. The larger equipment was placed in the garage much to my mother's relief.

So, when it came to baking our first loaf of bread, we used one of the same loaf tins Dad had used when in the bakehouse. I had a vivid memory of Dad kneading the dough then placing it in these loaf tins. After baking, Dad always used his ancient oven paddle to lift the metal tray from the oven. I found the paddle and repaired the handle. Although we had no practical use for this paddle it helped transport me to Dad baking in his prime.



Louise Johncox – whose parents ran Peter's in Weybridge from 1958-2000. She has published her father's book of recipes.

When we made the meringues, Dad used one of his white piping bags to pipe the mixture. That white piping bag brought back memories for me of squeezing fresh cream in between the meringue shells sitting on a flour tin in the bakehouse when I was a young girl.

For the doughnut making session we found the jam machine which we used to squeeze jam into the doughnuts as children. This was one of our favourite jobs along with rolling the doughnuts in sugar.

The animal biscuit baking session required the patterned rolling pin and cutters used in the shop. My sister, who inherited these cutters after the shop closed, helped to recreate the family favourites in all the different shapes (rabbit, penguin, cat) with her daughter and my children.

As we made them I was suddenly in the bakehouse with my little sister dipping the biscuits into chocolate.

The animal biscuits wouldn't have been the same if we had bought new cutters and used a plain rolling pin. The cream horns were naturally made using Dad's old cornet moulds. As I held these I pictured Dad wrapping pastry around them. The English madeleines were recreated with the same Dariole moulds Dad used. Holding the moulds, baking and then tasting the cake of my childhood gave me a 'remembrance of things past' as French writer Marcel Proust discovered when he tasted the French madeleines served at tea by his aunt.

Dad was also a chocolatier and one of his favourite pastimes in his retirement was making the chocolates, using the same chocolate machine (to melt the chocolate). The day he showed me how to make chocolate peppermint creams we used this chocolate machine and the moulds Dad had used. The scent and taste of the chocolate and the peppermint transported us back to 1958 when he told me that the first thing he made in the shop was chocolate peppermint creams.

After making these chocolates Johnny found a box containing all the Easter egg moulds including a fish. As Dad showed me how to make my first chocolate fish he shared the story of the customer who ordered 300 chocolate fish. Dad only had this one mould so it took him over two weeks to complete the order.

Dad was right when he suggested I get 'my hands messy' and come into the kitchen. Little did he know that using all the ancient baking equipment to recreate the cakes and chocolates was natural for him and proved to be an invaluable memory tool for me.

From kitchen to tea shop in an instant.

The Baker's Daughter – Timeless Recipes from Four Generations of Bakers is published by Pan Macmillan
www.louisejohncox.com

'The Islands in the Thames between Weybridge and Shepperton'

By Richard Marshall

On 8th October we were treated to a well-illustrated talk by Nick Pollard, who is Chairman of Sunbury and Shepperton Local History Society. Starting with a map from 1732 we were shown how the river has changed, particularly after 1812 when the City of London Corporation (owner of the Thames from London to Staines) began to build locks and weirs to keep the flow steady and navigable. Shepperton lock and the upper and lower weirs were built and enlarged and the islands affected by these works can now be identified as Pharoah's, Hamhaugh and Weir Islands. As the towpath changed sides, towing horses had to be ferried across the river from North to South bank. Next down the river was D'Oyly Carte Island which was originally just a small eyot, whereas the much larger Desborough Island was created when the river was shortened with a straight cut in the 1930's.

After the railway reached Shepperton in 1864, many visitors came from London for boating and one photo showed the lock crammed full of punts and skiffs in about 1900. In those days Weybridge had a regatta and a sloping beach, now replaced by moorings. Pharoah's Island was so named because the first house built there was for an Egyptologist whose house was called The Sphinx. It remains the one island accessible only by boat. Habitations on Hamhaugh and Weir Islands adjacent to the lock were at first just camping, then huts and then the present small houses, but water supply and services came very slowly. D'Oyly Carte Island was built up from dredging and became large enough for the present house to be built in 1889 for Richard D'Oyly Carte. He intended to make it an island annex for London's Savoy Hotel, but having failed to get a drinks licence for residents, he used it for rehearsals of Gilbert and Sullivan operas which were about to be performed at the Savoy Theatre in London. In the 1960's it obtained its present steel bridge.

The Desborough Cut project in the 1930's created a large new island and a faster and more direct channel with an improved flow. Despite that intention, recent aerial photos showed us various serious floods from 1947 up to 2014. Also shown was the most unusual scene of women making picnic tea on the frozen Thames in 1962/3.

Altogether we gained a fine appreciation of the changes over 280 years to Weybridge's riverside at the most southerly point of this great river. It is perhaps fitting that Weybridge Riverside is to be the new name of the Council's Ward which will replace Weybridge North Ward.

'Our Waigebrugge'

By Haley Jenkins

Recently, the historic Hamm Court Farm has been put on the market by Savills, with a guide price of £5,250,000, containing nine acres. Part of the estate agent's profile reads:

Hamm Court Farm is an historic house and buildings with origins dating from 1100. The various properties total 26,835 sq. ft and include a two storey Brewery, Grade II listed two storey Dove House, Barns, Outhouses and Workshops as well as a further detached building currently used as office space.

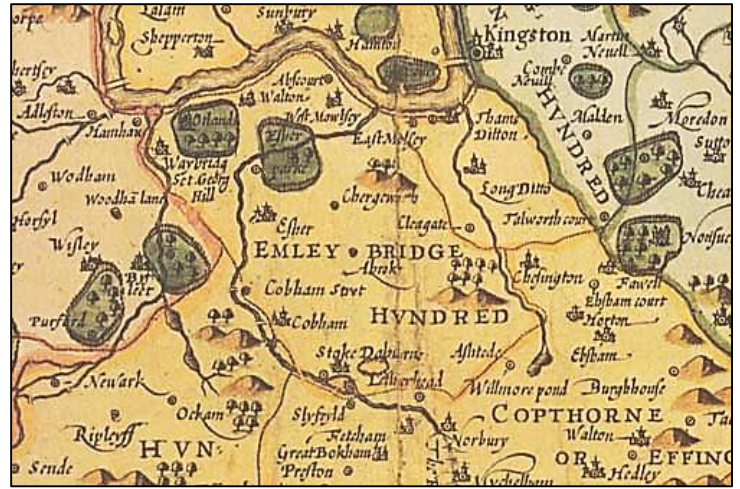
The main house is set in the South Eastern corner of the most picturesque courtyard and was built in 1530. This characterful home is surrounded by beautiful mature gardens and looks on to the lake which feeds into the substantial medieval moat. This unique property has only had 35 owners since 1100 A.D. when Henry, Son of William the Conqueror, constructed the original house for himself on the site of an old Roman Village.

We hoping to include a regular historical piece in the newsletter, so we thought it would be interesting to delve a little deeper into the Anglo-Saxon and Norman history surrounding Weybridge.

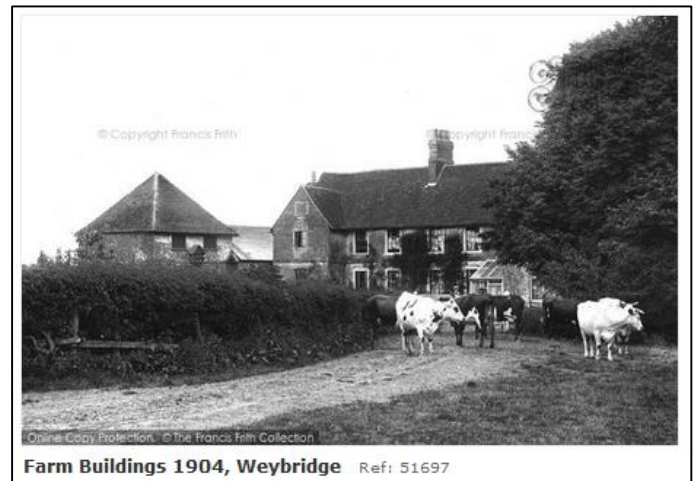
The earliest document concerning Weybridge was from A.D. 675 called *Waigebrugge*, meaning 'bridge over the river Wey'. This was written due to the growth of Christianity in the area, such as monks occupying the Benedictine Chertsey Abbey, founded by St Erkenwald in A.D. 666 and dedicated to the apostle St Peter. In A.D. 673 Frithwald of Surrey gave Weybridge as a gift to the Abbey and this was only confirmed in A.D. 933 by King Athelstan.

In A.D. 871, King Olaf and a fleet of over ninety Danes travelled by boat up the Thames, leaving only destruction and ruin behind them. They were eventually defeated in a battle at Ashdown, but not until they had utterly destroyed Chertsey Abbey and killed all the monks. The Abbey was reinstated many years later in A.D. 964. Many turbulent years had passed, with Vikings and Danes fighting across the land, but Alfred the Great eventually restored peace. Archaeological artefacts remain, a Danish battle axe – found in a ford near Wey Bridge - that was in the care of Elmbridge Museum (presumably still the case, though they have now moved to the Esher Civic Centre); and other such items like an Anglo-Saxon iron spear head were also found in the River Wey.

In the 10th century, Weybridge was part of the district called 'Elmbridge Hundred', one of fourteen administrative districts that cover what is now the whole of Surrey. The name 'Elmbridge' comes from the word 'Amelebridge', meaning the bridge over the River Mole or Amele, or to use the Old English words: Emlyn or Emley Bridge. Then in the aftermath of the famous battle of 1066 between King Harold and William the Conqueror, a feudal system was imposed by the victorious Norman invaders. The whole country was divided into 'manors', which were governed by lords on the King's behalf - also known as 'fiefs' or 'fiefdoms' – and they would have to pay tribute in order to continue their hold. In the Domesday Book of 1086, the Weybridge - or 'Webrugge' as the original manuscript stated - entry read as follows:



Above: The Elmbridge Hundred. In the Old English 'Elmbridge' was called 'Emley bridge'. Original: Surrey, Joan Blaeu, 1648. Below: 1904 photograph of the Hamm Court farm buildings © The Francis Frith Collection



Farm Buildings 1904, Weybridge Ref: 51697

Herfid holds WEYBRIDGE from the Bishop. Two sisters held it before 1066; they could turn where they would with their land. Then it answered for 4 hides, now for 2 hides. 1 villager and 1 smallholder. Meadow, 16 acres; woodland at 5 pigs. The value is and was 40s. When the Bishop took possession of this land, they did not have a deliverer or the King's whit for it; so the Hundred testifies. In WEYBRIDGE the Abbey [Chertsey Abbey] has hitherto held 2 hides itself. Alfred held them before 1066 and later. He could turn wherever he would. Then and now 2 hides. 3 villagers. Meadow, 8 acres; woodland, 2 pigs. (Value) always 20s. In the same village an Englishman has 2 hides from the Abbey itself. He held them himself before 1066 and could turn with the (land) where he would. 1 plough there. 2 villagers with ½ plough. Meadow, 8 acres; woodland 2 pigs. The value is and was 20s. In the whole of the Elmbridge Hundred area there was probably no more than 133 villagers who held strips of land, 11 smallholders, 25 serfs (slaves) and 47 cottagers. In a land covering 20 acres, there could not have been more than 1,000 people total. Considering the 2011 census by Elmbridge Borough Council estimates 130,900 people now live in Weybridge (52,000 households), we can see how much Weybridge has grown since 1086!

I would like to thank Steve McCarthy for pointing out the Savills article about the piece. I would also like to reference a vital book in the writing of this article: *Weybridge Past* by Neil White, published in 1999 by Phillimore & Co. LTD. Copies are available in the Local History section of Weybridge Library and further resources can be found in Elmbridge Museum and the Surrey History Centre in Woking.

'New Director of Clinical Services at Sam Beare'

Press release by Dorte Johansen, Marketing Officer, Woking & Sam Beare Hospices

Woking & Sam Beare Hospices are delighted to announce the appointment of Jayne Cooper as Director of Clinical Services.

Jayne joins the Hospices from the Buckinghamshire NHS Trust where she was Associate Chief Nurse for Integrated Medicine and a member of the Executive team responsible for the operational, financial and quality delivery of services and strategic objectives, overseeing over 800 nursing staff.

A Registered Nurse (Child), in 2011 Jayne was a recipient of the prestigious Florence Nightingale Foundation Children and Young People Leadership Scholarship which allowed her to develop her strategic thinking, management and leadership skills and to optimise her professional impact.

Jayne brings to the Hospices a wealth of practical nursing and senior management experience and expertise including in the acute, community and palliative care environments.

Speaking of her new role Jayne Cooper said: "Woking & Sam Beare Hospices have a great reputation and I'm thrilled to be joining them as they implement plans for the future which I'm sure will help to transform the provision of palliative care in North West Surrey.

I'm incredibly impressed by the commitment, care and compassion of my colleagues and I look forward to playing my role in leading in the development of our services in the community, in our day care and in-patient units and of course in planning for the opening of our new Hospice in Woking."

Hospices Chief Executive, Nigel Harding said: "It's a real coup for us to have appointed Jayne. I know her combined nursing experience and senior organisational management skills will make a very significant contribution to our work. We all look forward to working with her."



Jane Cooper, new Director of Clinical Services

'Sam Beare and Weybridge Hospital'

By Steve McCarthy

Last Winter we reported on the plans Woking and Sam Beare Hospices had for the existing Sam Beare facility within Weybridge Hospital. This was to turn it into their Community Day Care Centre when the existing inpatient bed facilities are transferred to their new hospice building in Goldsworth Park, which is expected to open in early 2017.

The latest news is that it is still anticipated the Day Care Centre will go ahead under a new 10 year lease from the NHS Property Services. The details are still being worked on in conjunction with North West Surrey Clinical Commissioning Group who plan and buy local NHS services. They are looking at having one of their three 'Locality Hubs' open in Weybridge Hospital sometime in 2016.

The new Locality Hub will be a new GP led integrated frailty service for older people and their carers. It will provide assessment, treatment, advice and activities, all in one place, for appropriate patients across the area locality of Addlestone, Chertsey, Weybridge, Walton and Hersham.

'Care navigators', in conjunction with a range of other professionals, will assist patients to access a range of health, social care and community services all based in the Hub. It is expected that this will lead to better health outcomes for patients and a lessening of emergency hospital admissions.

'The Weybridge Society Award Winner, Heathside: Olivia Watts'

*Information provided by Claire Patterson, Examinations & Admissions Administrator –
Text written by Alex Clark, Curriculum Area Manager for History.*

It has been an absolute pleasure to have taught Olivia in history over the past two years. She is an incredibly bright and talented historian highlighted by the fact she achieved 100% in two of her exams. She always showed a keen interest reading outside the subject and has a very bright future ahead of her. I wish her all success in her A-Levels. Well done Olivia. Olivia is now studying for her A levels.



'A Letter to the Community: The Proposed Merger of Hospitals'

Sent to the Society – Letter by Aileen McLeish (Chairman of Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals) and Peter Dunt (Chairman of The Royal Surrey County Hospital)

As you may be aware, Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust are proposing to merge. We have recently received final clearance on our proposed merger from the Competitions and Markets Authority which means we can now proceed with the next stage in our planning.

Our proposal to merge is based around securing a stronger future for our two organisations which will allow us to deliver a number of important patient benefits, including more consultant care at weekends and increased investment in facilities and technology. This was recognised by the CMA during their investigation which highlighted the commitment and professional pride in the provision of high quality care by the staff of our organisations.

The next stage in the process will be for both Boards from both Trusts to consider the full business case and detailed financial plans for the proposed merger and to make their decision on the next step forward. Subject to their approval the process will then include an assessment by Monitor, the health sector regulator, and at a later stage, final approvals from Boards and Councils of Governors.

Subject to full regulatory, Board and Governor approvals, the earliest start date for the proposed new organisation would be Summer 2016.

In the meantime, we would like to talk to as many local stakeholders and residents about our plans and answer any questions that you may have. We are really interested to hear your views and any concerns you may have. We welcome any invitations to attend your group meetings. Please contact comms@asph.nhs.uk or rsc-tr.membership@nhs.net or telephone 01932 723800 to arrange a meeting.

'Panther Cars'

By Steve McCarthy

Earlier in 2015 local company Jankel celebrated the 60th anniversary of the first vehicle built by their founder Robert Jankel, who was a local Weybridge resident. Sadly Robert died ten years ago.

He was best known for starting Panther West Winds Limited which rose to public prominence by hand building expensive, high quality, retro-styled luxury sports cars using modern components.

The first car to hit the motoring headlines was the **Panther J72**, launched in 1972. Its design replicated the beautiful pre-war SS 100 Jaguar and it was built using Jaguar mechanicals. The body was hand built from aluminium and the interior trimmed in the best Connolly hides.

Such was the superb quality of its construction that the J72 won the Silver Medal for coachwork at the 1973 London Motor Show, beating the likes of Rolls-Royce. Approximately 376 J72's were built from 1972 to 1986.

Panther was based in Canada Road, Byfleet close to the Brooklands track. It used various other local companies with a heritage of specialist skills to provide the chassis, bodywork, painting and interior trimming.

The next big sensation to come from Panther was the **De Ville** model launched at the London Motor Show in 1974. It was based on the incredible Bugatti Royale of the 1930s and at the time was Britain's most expensive car at £17,650, more expensive than a Rolls Royce. Elton John and Oliver Reed were famous De Ville owners as well as numerous Middle Eastern sheikhs. A convertible version was also introduced and overall 46 saloons and 11 convertibles were built, from 1976 to 1982.

Panther cars were initially only built in small numbers to each owner's personal specification. By the mid 70's Robert Jankel wanted to grow the company but retain its independence. This could only happen with a relatively cheap, relatively high-volume model, that retained the marque's familiar virtues. This was to be the fibre-glass bodied **Panther Lima** using major components from Vauxhall, and with the appointment of key Vauxhall Dealers to sell the car.

Development of the Lima was rapid and the prototype was unveiled at the 1976 Earls Court Motor Show to a very positive reception. In total around 900 Limas were built over the following four years, however in late 1979 the company developed cash flow problems and went into liquidation.

The assets were bought from the receivers in 1980 by Jindo Industries, a Korean company, who set up the Panther Car Company to continue the marque. Work was started on developing an updated Lima to be called the **Kallista** also with assistance from Robert Jankel. This model based a new chassis with an aluminium body and Ford engines and running gear. It was introduced to the public at the 1982 London Motor Show.

The Panther Westwinds original factory had built all the models being produced in the 70's and Kallista production also started there. In late 1983, with the success of Kallista sales, the new company needed larger premises and moved its production facilities to one of the old aircraft buildings inside the Brooklands circuit (approximately where Tesco is today) and retained the Canada Road site for its service department. A regular sight in Brooklands for the next four years was Kallistas being test driven up and down the Brooklands runway adjacent to the factory.

In the late 1980's Panther decided to develop a modern supercar which would be a big change from the previous models. It was called the **Solo** and would be mid-engined with a carbon fibre body and four wheel drive, which at the time was very advanced. In 1988 the company had to move from Brooklands because of the re-development of the site. It re-located to Harlow and continued making the Kallista and then the Solo.



*Top to Bottom: Robert Jankel, Panther Lima, Panther J72, Panther Solo.
Photographs provided by Steve McCarthy.*

Unfortunately the re-location, plus high development costs for the Solo and the slowing Kallista sales resulted in the company eventually folding around 1991. In total over 1700 Kallistas were built and about 22 Solos.

It is believed today's Jankel company again owns the Panther name but has no plans to introduce new cars.

'Taking the mystery out of writing: How one local author makes time and gets the words out'

By Lesia Daria

A common wisdom about writing is that it's critical to write every day, even if only a little. A corollary seems to be that you must establish a set routine. But as anyone can attest, there's not much spare time or routine in real life, whether you're working at home or office or dealing with family demands. Even if your schedule does run like a well-oiled machine, inevitably a work or health emergency explodes, a friend comes around in need, or the boiler blows. There go the peace and quiet and best-laid plans, not to mention the heating.

For me, completing a novel was never about writing daily or finding a perfect time to produce a set amount of words. I simply tried to do my best to work towards my long-term goal. I often can and do write copiously (sounds great though it generates more work in re-writing) but there are also times when words don't come. When the outlook for creativity is bleak, no good can come from beating yourself up. So I take breaks: they are necessary in any case for the brain to solve problems.

Too often, life is simply in the way so I don't fight it. Weeks pass (school holidays come to mind) when too many people and pressing matters take priority – though one's writing is also pressing and ought to be top of the list! But I try to be realistic and give myself a broad remit and plenty of caveats. When I'm writing and editing on a specific project (as opposed to marketing, emailing or doing other book-related admin work), I try to work every day while the kids are in school. I try to start first thing, after drop-off around 9 am, tackling the most difficult tasks or passages first. I try to make time for food or fitness, but when things are going really well, I can equally miss both and work straight through until it's time for unassailable duties like school pick-ups and dinner. In other words, no two days are ever the same.

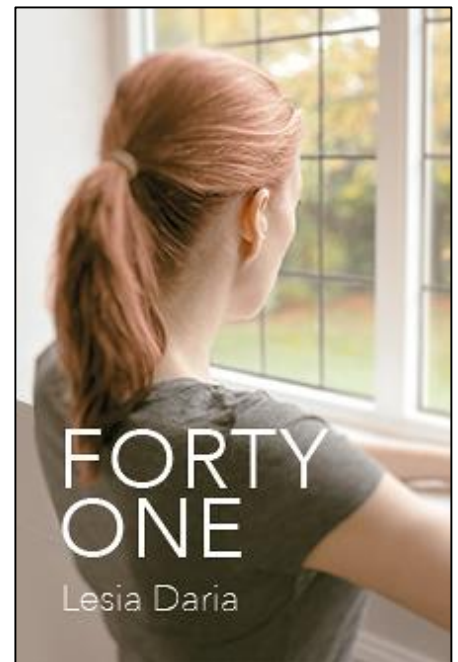
I know I'm lucky because I don't have a day or evening job eating into my writing hours. When I worked full time as a journalist, I would set aside time on weekends or early mornings or late evenings for creative writing. But of course, I didn't have a family then and I wasn't working on a novel, and admittedly I still found it hard to write! In my case, journalism was obviously a kind of writing too, so I found I needed a break from the computer.

I think it's important to be honest about whether you can write in your spare time or devote yourself to a big project. There's no point in setting yourself up for disappointment – writing is hard and takes a lot of time and perseverance. In truth I only tackled a book when I felt I had the necessary peace and quiet. I wrote my first novel when I was pregnant with my first child, though the story was shelved immediately because the baby wasn't patient about editing. When my youngest child finally went off to school for his first full day, I thought, that's it, now! I felt the conditions – empty house, at least three hours, uninterrupted – were conducive enough for me to embark on the kind of big work I wanted to write. It took six years from start to finish, so even with time, the key element is the ability to persevere!

To expect good writing to emerge, I think each writer needs to identify the conditions that will work best for him or her. It's undoubtedly different for all writers, but I was influenced heavily by the Virginia Woolf ideal of 'time, money and a room of one's own.' I do need silence and solitude in extended periods to produce really good work. Though I can make



Lesia Daria (image sourced from her website: www.lesiadaria.com with permission)



'Forty One' – Lesia Daria's debut novel, launched on 28 September by Matador. £9.99. It is available as an e-book and can be ordered from any UK bookstore. A copy is now available at Weybridge Library.

inspired notes and bits of poetry in crowded cafes, parks and trains, I then must retreat to my office and shut out the world, even if it's still racing up and down the stairs!

It isn't hopeless if you find you're too busy or overwhelmed or crowded, however. I still often simply sneak off to read or write when everyone else is on the telly. So if this urge or idea is pressing you enough, you can always find a way to insure a bit of privacy!

Lesia Daria is a local novelist and poet based in Weybridge. Her debut novel 'Forty-One' has already received critical acclaim and her reputation as an excellent writer continues to grow. Lesia studied for her undergraduate degree at the University of Virginia, Sorbonne Paris IV and Institut d'Etudes Politiques, earning her master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Before embarking on her journey of becoming a full-time novelist, Lesia worked as a journalist in Washington, Kiev, London and New York. She has travelled widely and speaks several languages. Her book 'Forty-One' focuses on the life and trials of forty-one year old, Polish-born Eva, whose husband Harry is abroad while she raises the children in London. The story begs the questions: Can the right words put a situation straight? How do you come to terms with a vast absence in the middle of life? Eva searches for what life is about and struggles to find her place in it.

'Introducing Weybridge Beekeepers' by Susan Lawes of Weybridge Beekeepers

Weybridge Beekeepers are a friendly division of over 100 local beekeepers resident in the area south of the Thames from Egham to Molesey, and down to the outskirts of Woking and Cobham, with Weybridge itself more or less central.

We are a division of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association, a charitable organisation which exists to promote all aspects of beekeeping. We are also affiliated to the British Beekeepers' Association which represents the interest of beekeepers nationally.

We exist to provide support and information on beekeeping throughout the area, and to further that we have a teaching apiary in Weybridge, and association apiaries in Rowtown and Burhill Allotments where members may keep their bees. Monthly news letters, regular meetings, demonstrations and lectures are organized with the aim of bringing beekeepers in the district together and to promote understanding of honey bees, caring for bees, producing high quality honey and beeswax products.

Bees are fascinating creatures and it makes for an addictive hobby! Due to diseases, the parasitic mite Varroa, loss of foraging habitat and use of pesticides, honeybees are however declining and beekeepers are needed to help in turning the tables in favour of our bees and hence our environment.

If you are interested in becoming a beekeeper, we run beginners course every year. We also have a website: www.weybridgebeekeepers.weebly.com.

The course is intended for those with very little or no beekeeping knowledge or experience. It will provide the necessary theoretical knowledge for the setting up, handling and management of a bee colony, and will prepare students for the practical part of the course (working with hives of bees) that will take place in the summer. Following these two courses, suitable students will be ready to take the Basic Assessment of the British Beekeepers' Association (BBKA) the next year. (It is a requirement for this qualification that candidates have kept bees for at least a year.) The theory course is held at Ashley C of E Primary School, Ashley Road, Walton on Thames, KT12 1HX, and consists of 10 two-hour sessions on consecutive weeks starting on Monday 18th January. The theory sessions start promptly at 7.30 pm. The practical sessions are held at the Weybridge division's teaching apiary at St Georges Junior School, Weybridge on consecutive Saturday mornings from 10 am to about 12 noon (beginning late April or May, according to the weather). The practical course consists of ten sessions.

The outline syllabus for the theory sessions is as follows

Week No	Topic
1.	Introduction to beekeeping: why, how, when, where, etc?
2.	Honeybee colonies in the wild. Natural history of the honey bee; castes of bees
3.	Types of beehives and beekeeping equipment



Trainees at the apiary. Photograph provided by Susan Lawes.

4. Honey bee anatomy. Bees and plants
5. Seasonal Colony management (1)
6. Seasonal Colony management (2).
7. Swarming and its control
8. Bee diseases and their control
9. Manipulations (comb change, etc.). Queen raising and introduction
10. Honey - process from hive to jar. Bee stings

The total fee is £125 (£115 for a second person at the same address). This covers the tuition for both parts of the course (theory and practical) and gives free membership of the Weybridge Division for six months. Membership includes a copy of the monthly beekeeping journal *Becraft*, the monthly newsletter of the Weybridge Division of the Surrey Beekeepers' Association, and participation in all other activities, as arranged.

In the past there has been a heavy demand for this course, and as the number of places is limited, early enrolment is recommended. If you would like to reserve a place, please complete and return the enclosed Application Form, together with your payment as detailed on the form. These should be sent as soon as possible, and not later than 1 December 2015 to: Sue Lawes, 29 Sayes Court, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 1NA, or via email slawes@hotmail.co.uk. Confirmation and further details will be sent to you on receipt of these. Any administrative questions should be directed to Sue: 01932 843209, slawes@hotmail.co.uk or beekeeping questions to the principal tutor, Andrew Halstead: 01483 489581 or ahalstead44@btinternet.com

‘Join Weybridge Society? Why would I want to do that?! Well, why *wouldn't* you?’

Sue Ells, our new committee member, finds out why people join WEYSOC.

As a new committee member, I've been very keen to find out why people join, or don't join. So I've been asking around.

Isn't it interesting? When I talk with people about Weybridge Society and what it does, everyone agrees. Weybridge Society is a fabulous idea. People like having a not-for-profit organisation whose sole purpose is to make Weybridge a great place to live. It sort of answers that "what's in it for me?" question right away, doesn't it?

Weybridge Society connects people. It encourages our vibrant and growing local community. That means young people in our schools being recognised by WEYSOC for making a contribution to their local area, working to see that mums get safe pavement space for pushchairs, making the case for commuters to be able to travel to where they need to be (and home again) more easily, for older people to access the amenities they want and for all of us to encourage good building design and planning around the place we live and work.

All of this helps to make Weybridge a great place to live, visit, and do business in.

Then when I ask these enthusiastic people if they are a member of Weybridge Society it seems that far too many are not, so I always want to know why. I'm keen that our Weybridge Society serves local people well, and if people don't want to join, we can't quite be getting it quite right. We need to do something about that. The Society needs a growing membership.

Here's what people say when I ask why they aren't a member: "well I haven't really got the time". It's OK, you don't have to give any time at all, but if you want to get involved, we will welcome you with open arms.

Then there's "I wasn't really sure how to join..." Or "I thought I was a member?" and "oh person X in our house is a member, so that covers us all doesn't it?" We know we need to do better with our membership process and information. With the help of some willing volunteers, we're working on that right now so we can be clearer and make it easier to join and renew. It's still only £5 per person per year, which we think is a bargain for 4 newsletters a year, regular updates on planning and development in your area - maybe even in your back yard. It's the opportunity to have a bigger say about what happens in your town. Every member means an extra voice, and we know that helps us - and you - to be heard.

The other comment was that a few people thought Weybridge Society was run by a bunch of well-meaning people....Yes! We do all mean well, and that's a good thing. We don't always get it right though (yet), and we're not perfect, but we are working hard to do a good job for our members, and moving in the right direction I think. Our application for charitable status is just one part of that progress. If anyone wants to come and help us, please step forward, we'd love to hear from you. Whatever your age, location, passion, skills or background, we want more members so we can be sure we are representing the views of everyone with an interest in Weybridge.

As one long standing member with a passion for the built environment told me "...I believe they [the society's committee members] do the best they can under sometimes trying circumstances, and if they don't, who will?". We want our members to support us (and join us) so that we can be the best we can be.

I joined Weybridge Society because I wanted to get engaged with my town. If you do too, and you want to make a difference, please join or continue renewing your membership. Weybridge needs you!

Planning News

Disclaimer: The following information is summarised from the Weybridge Society's Planning Panel's records; it is up to date at the time of writing and we hope that it is a true representation of the panel's opinion. **Note from the Editor:** Readers will find some of the 'decision dates' have now passed since the publication of this newsletter. They have been kept in so that readers are aware of future changes and can object accordingly should they wish to.

Planning for Weybridge North

Locke King House 2 Balfour Road – (2015/2684) - The proposal is to demolish the building and to replace it with 18 retirement flats. This was reported in the last newsletter and still has to be resolved. There now are 16 letters of objection and 6 of support. Our planning panel has supported the objectors as we consider it to be an over development of the site with problems of bulk, massing, loss of light etc. as well as the unnecessary removal of a locally significant building.

47 Thames St. (2014/0884) and (2015/3644) - In previous newsletters we have reported applications for the conversion of this redundant warehouse into residential use. This application is unusual, as it is based on a Government initiative for change of use of small redundant storage or distribution warehouses into dwelling houses. For planning to be permitted it is only necessary to establish that this building was actually small enough, i.e. less than 500 square metres, at the time that it was in use as a warehouse. Weybridge Society will be objecting to this application on the grounds that, at the time of sale, this building was quoted as being 630 square meters. This application has unfortunately been permitted, the local residents and ourselves have written a formal complaint with regards to the decision as we consider that it has not been made correctly. The second application is for a means of ventilation for the previous application using extractor fans. Our Planning Panel believe that this application is at least invalid as it refers to a 3 story layout when permission is granted only for one story. Also it does not define where the air outlets would be positioned, this being critical as the building is very close to a number of houses.

2015/3204 - 154 Oatlands Drive Weybridge Surrey KT13 9EZ - First floor extension and 0.5-metre high increase in the ridge height to convert existing single storey house into a two storey house including a single storey rear extension, alterations to existing front porch and new access following partial demolition of existing house – **REFUSED 23/10/15** following 6 objections as being out of character and overbearing impact on no 152.

2015/3571 - Land north of Grove House Devonshire Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 8HB - Detached two storey house following demolition of existing garages at Grove House. Previous application although objected to by our Planning Panel, in support of a large number of residents, and then refused by West Area Committee was permitted on appeal. There are now no significant undecided issues in this application and we expect this to be permitted.

2015/3207 - St Georges College Junior School 74 Thames Street Weybridge KT13 8NL - Non Material Amendments to planning permission 2013/1170 for a covered canopy above walkway & cycle parking and external store. **PERMITTED.**

2015/2967 - 42 Church Street Weybridge Surrey KT13 8DP - Listed Building Consent: Alterations to shopfront, reinstatement of side window, removal of non-original features, air conditioning units and internal alterations. – **CONSENT GRANTED.**

2015/2796 - Land rear of 14 - 16 High Street Weybridge Surrey KT13 8AB - Three storey building and external staircase to provide 3 flats – 15 objections from residents of Holstein Avenue. The main consideration is the lack of parking provision. **UNDER CONSIDERATION**

Planning for Weybridge South

2015/3358 - St Georges House 24 Queens Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 9UX - Three storey side/rear extension (700.8 sqm), external alterations to building and alterations to car park and landscaping. – **UNDER CONSIDERATION**

2015/2357 - 43-45 Church Street, Weybridge, Change use Nos 43 & 45 from A1 (Retail) to 1 restaurant - This proposal is to combine 2 shops in the conservation area into a large restaurant. - The Weybridge Society Planning Panel supported the 23 local objectors to this application, the objection by the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and Elmbridge Planning Conservation officer. The main consideration for the Conservation area was the value of maintaining the continuity of the individual shop fronts. The objection letters from the majority of the local residents, show that they are concerned about the detrimental effect of the development on the living conditions in the area. This application was permitted after a long debate by the Councillors on the West Area Committee who strengthened the conditions to protect the local residents and demanded that the siting of the bin store came back to the Committee.

2015/2042 – Grotto Pub to Be Replaced by 9 Flats (2015/2042 and 3099) - Although we lodged objections to this proposal, as did many others, Elmbridge Council permitted the outline application in July. We further objected to the application for the 'reserved matters' of landscaping because we considered the existing poor sightlines for pedestrians would be worsened by a new wall alongside the pavement. We also voiced publicly this objection at the November Council Committee meeting on safety grounds, whereupon the developer claimed that the wall would be low enough for traffic and pedestrians to see over. All the Councillors felt they were legally obliged to approve the landscaping application. Quite unusually, however, one Councillor, who is also our Surrey Councillor and Chair of Governors of Manby Lodge School, spoke in support of our objection and undertook to press Surrey Highways to provide a remedy for the hazard for pedestrians crossing the top of Baker Street. The lack of any car-parking or stop-off point for the flats remains an unresolved defect of this approved scheme, although a cycle-store is included.

2014/3423 Honda Garage Development - This application for 52 residential flats and 2 retail units on 30 Queens Road was rejected by the West Area Planning Sub Committee (WAPS) on 4/3/15. Late last summer the developer organised a public exhibition where it displayed its new concepts for the development of the site which it claimed took account of the objections raised by the public and the Borough Councillors. It indicated that it was preparing a new planning application based on these revised concepts. In early September the developer lodged an Appeal against the March 4th decision on 2014/3423; comments from the public were required to be submitted to the Planning Inspector by October 27th. The Society has submitted its comments basically re-affirming its previous reasons for rejection and supporting the 4/3/15 decision by WAPS. The main reason given by the Society for upholding the rejection was that the mass of the proposed development was not sympathetic to its location and would significantly affect the local environment which in a prior appeal the Planning Inspector had entitled "Queens Road Village". The Planning Inspector will be holding an informal hearing after it has received further information from the Appellant and the Elmbridge Council; it is thought likely that this hearing will not take place until the new year. A new planning application 2015/3604 for 46 residential flats and 2 retail units has just been received. Our Planning Panel needs to evaluate, in detail, firstly to see if it is the same or similar to that presented recently to the public (see above) and then to decide if it is now acceptable or not.

Planning for Oatlands Park

2015/3650 - 37 The Paddocks Weybridge Surrey KT13 9RL - Part two/part single storey side extension, single storey rear extension, single storey front extension, front porch, first floor front/side extension, roof extension incorporating front dormer windows and side and rear rooflights

2015/3451 - 4 Cricket Way Weybridge Surrey KT13 9LP - Part single/part two storey front, side and rear extensions, front porch and increase in ridge height by 0.7-metres to allow accommodation in the roof space following demolition of existing garage and carport – **UNDER CONSIDERATION**

Planning for St George's Hill

2015/3384 - April Cottage Queens Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 0AU - Outline application for 1 detached two storey house with room in the roof space, 1 pair of semi-detached two storey houses with rooms in the roof space, 1 detached three storey block comprising 6 flats and 2 other detached buildings comprising garage and bin store following demolition of existing house (for access and layout) – **Comments by 11/11/2015**

2015/3339 - Site of 287 and 289 Brooklands Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 0QZ - 1 detached two storey house, 1 pair of semi-detached two storey houses with rooms in the roof space, dormer windows and basement, and 1 detached two storey block with rooms in the roof space, dormer windows and basement parking, comprising 16 apartments, with associated access and landscaping following demolition of existing pair of semi-detached houses

2015/3110 - Crickets Hill & Single Oak Golf Club Road Weybridge Surrey KT13 0NJ - Detached two storey house with basement and detached two storey pool house with basement following demolition of existing houses and outbuildings – **Decision date: 23/10/15**

2015/3037 - Harwood South Ridge Weybridge Surrey KT13 0NF - Detached two storey house with a rear balcony and basement following demolition of existing house, garage and outbuildings – **Decision date: 01/10/2015**

Dates For Your Diary

3rd December 2015 7.30pm – St James Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge, starting at 8pm, a lecture on Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals Trust presented by Valerie Bartlett Deputy Chief Executive of the Trust.



12th December 2015 3.00pm – Coffee Lounge, Hersham Village Hall, a lecture on “Bells and the Eldridge Bell Founders of Chertsey”, presented by Malcolm S. Loveday, Chairman of the Chertsey Society. Followed by seasonal refreshments.

9th January 2016 3.00pm - St James’ Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge, a lecture on “The Thames Bridges from Staines to Kingston” presented by Nick Pollard.

13th February 2016 3.00pm - Coffee Lounge, Hersham Village Hall, a lecture on “Arts & Crafts Gardens in the South East” presented by Cherrill Sands (Garden Historian).

17th February 2016 7.00pm-10.00pm – St James Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge. Allan Winn, the Director of Brooklands Museum, will be lecturing on the museum’s major redevelopment programme for the Finishing Straight and the relocation of the hangar it currently resides in.

12th March 2016 3.00pm - St James Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge – a lecture on “A Tudor Gentleman in Surrey – Sir William More of Loseley” presented by Mike Page (Surrey History Centre).

6th April 2016 8.00pm – St James Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge – Annual General Meeting of Weybridge Society.

9th April 2016 3.00pm - Coffee Lounge, Hersham Village Hall, a lecture on “John Evekyn in Surrey” by Isabel Sullivan (Surrey History Centre).

7th May 2016 3.00pm - St James’ Parish Centre, Church Street, Weybridge, Annual General Meeting of the Walton and Weybridge Local History Society, followed by a talk, speaker to be arranged.

*Would you like to join the
Weybridge Society?
Please contact any Committee
member- see Page 8*

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