

# FOCUS

Local news and action around and about Weybridge

Liberal  
Democrats

SUMMER 2023



## Large numbers enjoy expanded festival

2023 was the year of our new King and for Weybridge, a new festival. The week long programme started with a dinner catered and served by Brooklands College students and finished with the Community Fair. An exhibition by local artists, photographers & sculptors spanned the halls & walls of the library & Oatlands Park Hotel. Concerts & plays, restaurant and cafe lunches & dinners,

literary and art talks and a quiz, were enjoyed by many all over the town.

Over one hundred stalls, two stages hosting local choirs and

soloists, a beer tent run by Vandals and the best cream teas hosted by the Soroptimists and the local Ukrainian population, all came together on this one week and on Churchfields Recreation ground.

Councillor Judy Sarsby who worked with the Weybridge Society to create the events, said "an estimated 8000 attended these events and to see churches, schools, sports clubs and local organisations share, whilst supporting each other, was truly inspiring. We are very lucky to live in such a giving community."



## Lib Dem success in May local elections

**The latest local elections were a resounding success for the Lib Dem party in Elmbridge as Lib Dems gained six new council seats and held on to three.**

Of Elmbridge's total number of 48 councillors, the Lib Dems now count 19, whilst Conservatives have 12 and Residents associations in various groups have the remaining 17.

In a big win, Weybridge Riverside councillor Ashley Tilling was re-elected after serving four years and also elected to Surrey County Council, the first Lib Dem from Elmbridge! At Surrey, Ashley will represent the Walton South and Oatlands division.

Whilst the election was a boost for the Lib Dems, the turnout was disappointing at 39.6%, in part as the need for new photo identity proof led some people to turn back without voting. It was shocking to see a uniformed policeman turned away at St Mary's School Oatlands polling station, as his warrant card with photo was not considered by the presiding officer as proof enough to vote!

Since the May victories, our Lib Dem group in council has been very busy. The Local Plan, which shapes development in Elmbridge to meet the needs of our communities over the next fifteen years, goes to full council in July and, if approved, on to the Planning Inspectorate. The Plan determines how we should build sustainable communities through affordable housing, green spaces, transport networks, schools, medical practices and high streets. Our Council also continues to lobby the Mayor of London to delay the implementation of the ULEZ extension until we have better public transport and cycleways, and a fairer deal for businesses and residents with older vehicles.



## Your local Lib Dem councillors



Cllr Ashley Tilling



Cllr Judy Sarsby



Cllr Helgi Joensen



## Energising Elmbridge - caring for Weybridge

We believe in responsive and accountable local government. This can only be achieved when councillors work hand-in-hand with the people they represent. We value citizen participation. Our goal is a more open, personal and service-minded form of local government. We believe this is the key to enhancing the quality of life of all in Elmbridge.

# New constituency boundaries for the next General Election

**Across the UK, a redrawing of boundaries for parliamentary constituencies is under way, as the government attempts to make all constituencies similar in size by population.**

Surrey, for example, has seen a surge in population overall, and in some constituencies like Esher and Walton, there were too many voters whilst elsewhere there were too few.

New proposed boundaries were recently agreed by parliament after a consultation process, and changes become operational at the next general election, when our current MP Ben Spencer will be up for re-election.

The main proposed change for our area of Surrey has seen the reshaping of boundaries for the Esher and Walton constituency and adjacent Weybridge and Runnymede constituency, where our Riverside ward is located.

At the next election, our Weybridge and Runnymede constituency will include the Elmbridge wards of Cobham and Oxshott and all of Weybridge St Georges. The Oatlands area will now join the Esher and Walton constituency.

Effectively, the residents of Weybridge Riverside ward will not experience any change therefore, as they remain in the Weybridge and Runnymede constituency. However, our next MP will be representing a slightly different area, which now includes the Elmbridge wards identified above and excludes the Oatlands neighbourhood.

## Lib Dems helping clean our river - you can join too!

Councillor Judy Sarsby stepped up the litter picking efforts around Desborough Island this summer, having initiated the Monday morning litter pick 2 years ago. Together with rowers from the Weybridge Rowing Club, Judy



paddled around the River Thames and pulled out floating plastics from the banks – a big thank you to Judy, who works so tirelessly on so many issues!

Keeping our rivers and waterways clean is as important as removing the litter from the land, not only for pollution reduction to enhance life for humans, animals and plants, but also for climate resilience.

If you would like to make an immediate impact locally and help with our litter pick, please get in touch with us by emailing [JSarsby@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:JSarsby@elmbridge.gov.uk). Come and be part of a better river environment in our area!

## Keeping you informed

Email [weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk](mailto:weybridge@elmbridgelibdems.org.uk) to subscribe to our regular e-newsletters which give more frequent updates on developments in Weybridge and Elmbridge.

## Meet us at Cafe Enzo

Come and talk with your Lib Dem councillors - we hold a session on the first Sunday of the month at Cafe Enzo, Baker Street between 10.30 am and 11 am.



## Get in touch

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