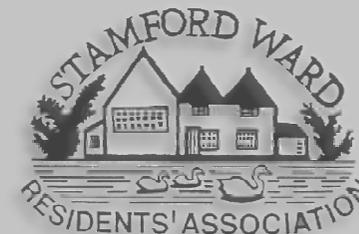




What would you like the SWRA to look into?  
Email any news or queries to [nk@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:nk@stamfordresidents.org)



# Spring 2015 NEWSLETTER



## LOCAL & GENERAL ELECTION

The country is busy gearing up for the forthcoming  
General Election on 7th May

Please remember that there is also a Borough Election to  
elect members to the Local Council on the same day.  
Whichever party you support nationally you can vote  
locally for the independent Residents Association.

Epsom is the **ONLY** Borough in England where the  
independents are in control of the Council and is rightly  
proud of its independence while being the envy of our  
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So please make sure that the tradition continues.  
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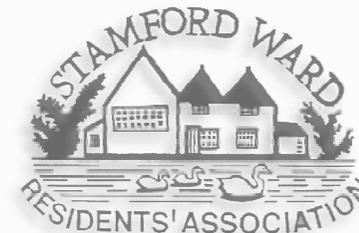
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Find us on Twitter @SWRAEPSOM and Facebook SWRAEpsom

### HORTON CHAPEL UPDATE



The Horton Chapel Steering Group has been working with the Council to develop a new community hall in the heart of our area. It is hoped

that this spectacular listed Victorian building can be brought back into use after many years of lying empty. The project is likely to take up to three years, so we would like to hear your views as to how this can be brought back to life. Current plans propose a hall of about 90 sq m (21 metres by 7 metres), a kitchen, a large storeroom and a separate smaller room (8

metres by 5 metres). There will be competitive hire costs and free parking for around 30 cars. The steering group are looking for individuals or groups who may be interested in using these spaces. Please email us if you would like to be kept informed, invited to the community meetings or would like to express an interest in using the facilities.

Please email [horton.chapel@mail.com](mailto:horton.chapel@mail.com) or find us on Facebook.

### VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you have a few hours to volunteer each month, the Friends of Bourne Hall Museum are looking for extra helpers in their shop. Interested? Drop in to the museum - they would love to talk to you.

### Join the SWRA:

The SWRA welcomes new members. If you would like to become a member, please contact our Membership Secretary Romy Rush by email on [rr@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:rr@stamfordresidents.org). You can get further involved by joining the SWRA committee, which meets 10 times a year to discuss our concerns and raise issues with our SWRA councillor.

### Subscriptions:

The annual subscription is £3 per household payable in January. Many thanks to all our members who already pay by Standing Order. This is the best way for us. If you bank online and would like to set up a Standing Order yourself please use your surname and first part of your address as the reference. Instructions can be found on our website. If you prefer to pay by cash, please contact our Membership Secretary Romy Rush ([rr@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:rr@stamfordresidents.org)).

### Contact the SWRA:

You will find our contact details on our website ([www.stamfordresidents.org](http://www.stamfordresidents.org)). If you wish to raise an issue for discussion or information at one of our committee meetings, please email Nina Kaye at [nk@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:nk@stamfordresidents.org). You can also register with us via the website, to receive minutes of the SWRA committee meetings. The website is for everyone in the ward so please give us suggestions as to what information you would like to see – *we are here to help you!*

### The SWRA Committee

**Chairman:** Timothy Nathan ([tn@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:tn@stamfordresidents.org)) **Secretary:** Nina Kaye 01372 812469 ([nk@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:nk@stamfordresidents.org)) **Vice Chairman:** Martin Olney ([mo@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:mo@stamfordresidents.org)) **Membership Secretary:** Romy Rush ([rr@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:rr@stamfordresidents.org)) **Treasurer:** Michael Ball ([mb@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:mb@stamfordresidents.org)) **Planning issues:** Philip Schumacher ([ps@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:ps@stamfordresidents.org)) **Noble Park:** Richard Baker ([rb@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:rb@stamfordresidents.org)) **The Wells:** Michael Barber **Social Secretary:** Jo Gray ([jg@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:jg@stamfordresidents.org)) **Website and Newsletter:** Steve Bridger ([sb@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:sb@stamfordresidents.org)) **Other:** Chris Turner ; Alan Wheatley ; Janet Wolfenden; Viv Lythgoe; Ravinder Lall

# Spring 2015 NEWSLETTER

[www.stamfordresidents.org](http://www.stamfordresidents.org)



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## SWRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Tuesday 17th March 2015 at 7:30pm**

Epsom Common Club, Stamford Green, Epsom

Everyone is welcome to attend, **meet our 3 prospective Councillors** and the SWRA committee. Members will also get the opportunity to ask questions and air their opinions

Nominations for any of the officer posts, or for the committee, seconded by a current member, should be submitted in writing to the Chair 14 days before the AGM. The present officers and committee are willing to stand again. If you are interested in standing for election, please contact

*Nina Kaye, Secretary of SWRA, [nk@stamfordresidents.org](mailto:nk@stamfordresidents.org)*

**There will also be a talk by Stewart Cocker ( E&E Ranger) on  
"The History of the Horton Light Railway"**



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## FOCUS on SWRA Committee

Jo Gray - *SWRA Social Secretary*





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## ASHLEY CENTRE SURGERY

As you may know, the Ashley Centre Surgery has been attempting to move to new premises on the Parade in Epsom town centre, aware that the building it currently occupies does not meet health and safety standards. It was recently visited by the CQC (Care Quality Commission - the NHS regulatory body) and failed, as expected. (e.g. limited access for wheel chair users). Fortunately the CQC was prepared to allow it to continue its excellent work for the time being and did not issue an improvement notice or threaten special measures. However, this may have had more to do with political expediency than any other factor.

The proposed new site remains available for rent but the local health authority is waiting for a review from the Department of Health. This will be available by end February and, hopefully, will allow the surgery to move. However, regrettably there is a high probability of either a negative outcome or more prevarication (the surgery has already waited 20 months for a decision). The CQC may not be so understanding when it next visits so, as local residents and patients, we need to be aware of the continuing threat. If the surgery has not relocated by then, we must be ready to move quickly to ensure that it can continue its vital work.

## NOTE FROM OUR COUNCILLOR

I was first elected to the Council as RA member for Stamford Ward in 1987. During this time I served as Mayor; chaired many of the council committees; was heavily involved in managing the Borough and planning its future; and even more involved in helping residents with their problems and concerns. Major projects that I am proud to have been closely associated with were: The Rainbow; The Odeon Cinema; The Ebbisham Centre; The Queen's Stand; The Mental Hospital Lands, where very careful and sensitive redevelopment was essential both to provide some affordable housing and also ensure protection of the Green Belt.

It has been a busy life: interesting, frustrating, rewarding and even sometimes enjoyable. But now the time has come for me to hand over to younger people with more up to date views and ideas. So I have decided not to stand at the forthcoming Borough Election in May (same day as the General Election) and urge you to support my RA successors as you have supported me. I know you will be in safe hands and they won't let you down. Very best wishes

**Paul Ardern-Jones**



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**Paul Ardern-Jones**

## WHEELERS LANE VANDALISM

Wheelers Lane has been suffering from vandalism to cars for several years. Our Vice Chairman, Martin Olney, wrote to the Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) asking why the perpetrators had not been caught and the reply was that it was not a priority. Totally inadequate especially as he has been elected on a zero tolerance ticket. His attitude prompted a letter to the local Guardian which was published next to a picture of the PCC.

The new Epsom & Ewell Neighbourhood Commander, Jackie Elkins, responded by sending a policeman to talk to the residents of



Wheelers Lane. There were no new initiatives or indications of how the vandals would be caught and we were simply asked to report any further incidents while this inaction allows the vandals to continue damaging our cars. As a consequence of this we are finding it difficult to get car insurance due to the level of car crime in the area. We will continue to exert pressure on the police and Council to catch these vandals.

## STAMFORD GREEN FOOTPATH PROBLEMS SOLVED

Since we reported in our Autumn newsletter that we were looking into the possibility of having the pathway next to the Stamford pond repaired, we are pleased to announce



that there has been a new pathway created around the roots of the trees that were causing the path to rise up dangerously.

This is a great result for the RA as the area is now safer and more disabled, cycle and child friendly.

## LOCAL BROADBAND SPEED



Our Chairman, Timothy Nathan, has been fighting a battle on behalf of subscribers to Virgin Media. The Virgin service

was becoming unuseable every evening and Timothy has gathered data and case studies to present to regulators and the Press. As a result of his pressure Virgin have caved in and have started work on extending their exchange and recabling. We are already seeing a huge improvement and the work should be completed by the end of March.

## NOBLE PARK CONCERNS ADDRESSED BY SWRA

The representatives of Noble Park residents, Richard Baker and Ravinder Lall, have raised concerns relating to safety issues at Noble Park, the quality of the homes built there and road adoption. Until the roads are fully adopted, the Council does not have responsibility for the provision of adequate signage, lighting and related issues. Many residents continue to be frustrated over the quality of their homes. A list of homes affected is being collated to raise the profile of the extent of the problems and present them to the construction companies, Linden Homes and Crest Nicholson. The SWRA will write to the executives of the two construction companies inviting them to meet with the SWRA and representatives of Noble Park to address these important issues. If you have any comments, please contact Richard Baker on [rb@stamfordresidents.org.uk](mailto:rb@stamfordresidents.org.uk)

## FOCUS on SWRA Committee

### Jo Gray - SWRA Social Secretary



Jo is a social worker who works for a National charity, working with visually impaired people.

Jo has lived in Epsom for 4 years, having been born and raised in Kingston. She has 2 adult daughters and a horse, called Cuba which all keep her occupied!

Jo loves Epsom because she has the best of both worlds, green spaces (she lives near the Common), decent shops and great transport links. Jo joined the SWRA to enable her to take an active part of the community in which she lives.