

# THAMES DITTON TODAY

THAMES DITTON • WESTON GREEN • EAST MOLESEY

SPECIAL ISSUE

## NATURE & CLIMATE FESTIVAL

Pull-out programme inside



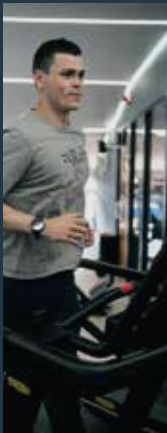
THE MAGAZINE OF THE  
THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A U T U M N 2 0 2 5



# Your Colets, Your Way.

**Fitness. Family. Flexibility.**



25M POOL & SPA  
2-STOREY GYM  
160+ STUDIO CLASSES  
6 SQUASH COURTS



**BECOME A MEMBER. JOIN TODAY**

020 8398 7108 | [colets.co.uk/join-now](https://colets.co.uk/join-now)

St Nicholas Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0PW



Thames Ditton  
& Weston Green  
Residents' Association

# THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

## In this Issue:

### Editor

Paul Ovington  
editor@residents-association.com  
07889874889

### Magazine Design

Guy Holman  
14 Hayward Road, KT7 0BE  
020 8398 1770

### Distribution

David Youd  
6 Riversdale Road  
Thames Ditton KT7 0QL  
020 8398 3216

### Advertisement Manager

Verity Park  
07989896844

### Contributors

You are welcome to submit articles or images. Please contact the Editorial Team at [editor@residents-association.com](mailto:editor@residents-association.com)

### Advertisers

Thames Ditton Today is delivered to an influential 5000 households throughout Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey. Contact Verity Park for rates for full page, half and quarter page advertising.

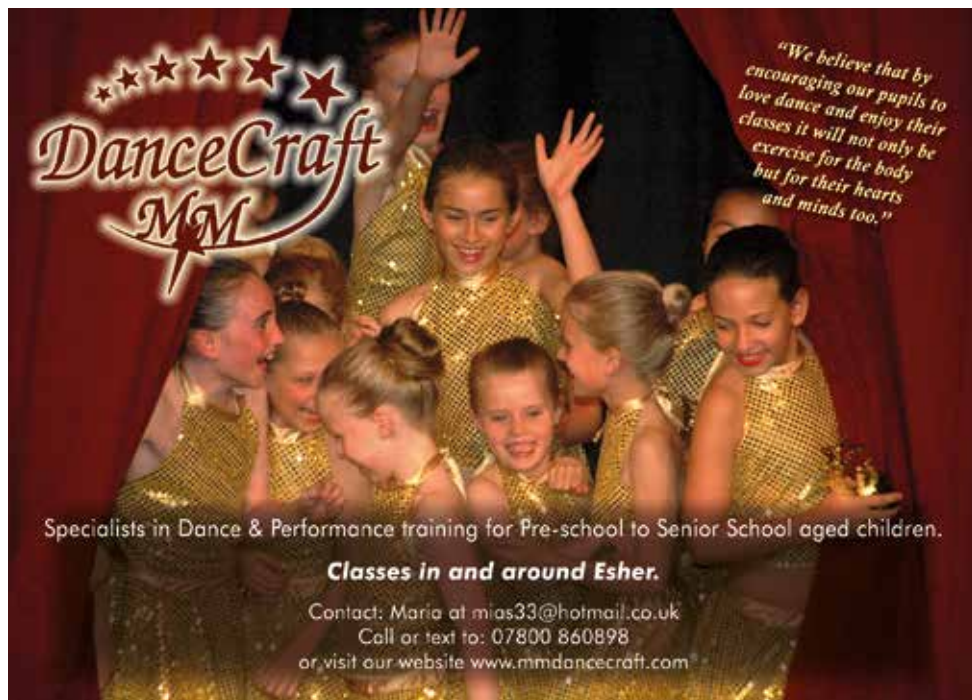
News from the Residents Association .....	7
Update from your Residents' Association Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council .....	12
Flood barriers installed .....	15
Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Council .....	17
Paddington Bear artist comes to Vital Village .....	19
Dates for your diary .....	21
Recycle your unwanted mobiles and PCs .....	22
Nature & Climate Festival pull-out programme .....	23
White Church appeal hits target .....	30
Scout leader David Cooper retires .....	35
Summer Crossword Solution .....	42
Autumn crossword .....	43
Services, Clubs, Societies and Groups .....	44
Vera Fletcher Hall autumn theatre productions .....	46

**Cover:** *Apple Pie Order, Pat Cooke's entry in one of the Nature & Climate Festival photography competitions*

[www.residents-association.com](http://www.residents-association.com)

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website [www.residents-association.com](http://www.residents-association.com); subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at View, 34 High Street, Thames Ditton or Thorkhill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

Published by the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association  
Printed by Impress Print Services Ltd., Unit 10, 19 Lyon Road, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 3PU



*"We believe that by encouraging our pupils to love dance and enjoy their classes it will not only be exercise for the body but for their hearts and minds too."*

**DanceCraft M&M**

Specialists in Dance & Performance training for Pre-school to Senior School aged children.

**Classes in and around Esher.**

Contact: Maria at [mias33@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mias33@hotmail.co.uk)  
 Call or text to: 07800 860898  
 or visit our website [www.mmdancecraft.com](http://www.mmdancecraft.com)

## PAINTERS & DECORATORS

We are residential painters and decorators with 20 years experience, we offer wallpapering, painting and paint effects for internal and external decorating

We work in a clean and efficient manner, causing minimal disruption in your home and come highly recommended



Contact Clive Hogg  
to discuss your  
decorating needs

**020 8339 0712**

m: 07957 582296  
e: [clive.hogg.ch@gmail.com](mailto:clive.hogg.ch@gmail.com)

15 Hampton Court Avenue, East Molesey, Surrey, KT8 0BG



**THE Green OUTDOORS**

TREE CUTTING / PRUNING  
 HEDGE CUTTING  
 GARDEN SERVICES & CLEARANCE  
 TREE PLANTING / STUMP REMOVAL  
 PRESSURE WASHING  
 & MORE

**CALL 07745145433**  
 ---Free Quote & Advice---



# THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## About the Association

Founded in 1934, the Residents' Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation, concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interest of residents.

We work to preserve and enhance the best in our attractive environment and the quality of life of everyone in our community.

Through regular meetings, social activities, our magazine and website we keep in touch with residents' views and we raise and spend funds for the benefit of the community, from tree and bulb planting to contesting unacceptable development projects.

With six Residents' Councillors we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Council, working with other residents' councillors to ensure that decisions are based on the needs of local communities and on good management, rather than on party politics. Our Residents' County Councillor, Nick Darby, represents our views at Surrey County Council.

### **President: Martin Wilberforce**

7 River Avenue,  
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

### **Vice President: Ruth Lyon,**

11 Riversdale Road,  
Thames Ditton 0208 398 3396

### **Vice President: Tannia Shipley,**

27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

### **Surrey County Councillor: Nick Darby,**

12 Basing Close, Thames Ditton 020 8398 2382

### **Thames Ditton Borough Councillors**

Alex Batchelor,  
12 Hayward Road,  
Thames Ditton 07710 943140

Caroline James,  
Laurel Cottage, 20 High Street,  
Thames Ditton 07970 672723

Elaine Sesemann 07801 943392

### **Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Borough Councillors**

Gill Coates,  
The Oaks, Orchard Gate,  
Esher 020 8873 3040

Janet Turner, 2 Montgomery Ave,  
Hinchley Wood 020 8398 1565

James Crawshaw 07500 688632

### **Officers**

Chair: Alex Batchelor

Hon. Treasurer: Christa Silverthorne  
62 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 7101

Hon. Secretary: Florian Traub,  
33 Portsmouth Avenue, Thames Ditton 07917 643 224

Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes  
6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

### **Conveners of Sub-Committees**

Health and Community: Karen Randolph  
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,  
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

Planning: Rhodri Richards,  
Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road,  
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4962

Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,  
1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton 020 8786 6882

Flooding: Tony Thompson,  
Willow End, River Bank, Thames Ditton 07736 677671



## THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

Tuesday 30 September 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday 25 November 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

**ALL WHO LIVE AND WORK LOCALLY ARE WELCOME**



**Craft my Day**

*Sewing, Sculpting, Mosaic, Macrame,  
Painting and more!*

**Thames Ditton  
Worcester Park**

**Adult Craft Workshops  
Short Courses  
Kids Clubs  
Parties  
Holiday Clubs**



[www.craftmyday.com](http://www.craftmyday.com)

## Antique Clock Restoration & Repair

Specialising in Grandfather, Dial,  
Bracket and Carriage Clocks

**Contact: Mark Rowe M.B.H.I**  
BADA Diploma. Member of the Watch &  
Clockmakers Guild. West Dean Diploma.



**Tel: 020 8605 0331**

[www.theclockgallery.co.uk](http://www.theclockgallery.co.uk)

Additional Restoration services available  
for Watches, Books, Ceramics and Fine Furniture.  
Antique Clocks also bought and sold.

**back to school...**



**...and off to uni!**

love thames ditton  
**shoplocal**

**view**  
thames ditton

34 High Street Thames Ditton KT7 0RY 020 8972 9706

  @ViewGifts

[www.view-gifts.com](http://www.view-gifts.com)



Resident Gisella Stapleton, who created the Paddington Bear mural outside Waterloo Station, brings her work to Thames Ditton. See page 19

# News from the Residents' Association to end – August



## Parking in Thames Ditton

A reminder, that the first 30 minutes of parking in Ashley Road car park is now FREE! This is an initiative from Elmbridge Borough Council to encourage us to shop local and support our High Street. Please use it!

## New business owners in the High Street

**The Coffee Pot:** Owners Simon Spencer and Kim Tiddy opened earlier this year. Apart from lots of yummy pastries, cakes and coffee, they also provide lots of delicious lunchtime food. Speciality is the New York style bagels.

**Nice Buns:** Ahmad Tabedanjoos took over this popular cafe in the spring. There is always a lovely welcome from Ahmad and his team serving delicious pastries, cakes and coffee as well as offering a lunchtime menu.

**Birchgrove Estates:** Next to Craft My Day, Gary Lochowitz and Ruth Wilson represent the retirement living Hampton Court Estate development off Summer Road.

**William Evans Wines:** Discover an exceptional selection of handpicked wines from across Europe at Will's newly opened fine wine shop in the High Street. Fully licensed so drop in for tastings and you can also join his Wine Club.

**The Greyhound:** People of Weston Green are delighted to see the reopening of - and restoration to its original name - The Greyhound pub. Part of Weston Green's history, the pub was reputed to have been converted from two cottages in c1834 and

was once the clubhouse of Thames Ditton and Esher Golf Club. After changing hands several times in recent years, the pub is now under private ownership, under manager Mark Daniels, and has undergone a significant refurbishment.

## Thames Ditton Post Office receives Community Award



*Kuki with the Post Office Community Award*

Thames Ditton Post Office has been awarded the Post Office Community Award, in recognition of the ten years of good service provided by local Budgens and Post Office manager, Gurjeet Grewal, better known as Kuki. Previously the winner of the 2021 Thames Ditton Gin community award for his services and support during the COVID epidemic, Kuki has made a habit of providing not only an excellent local shopping and post office experience, but also winning the trust of his customers – some of whom even leave their lottery tickets with

him so he can let them know if they are the lucky winners! In response to his award he said: 'I'd like to thank everyone for giving feedback or leaving a positive review that has led to this award – which is good for us but also the whole community.' Kuki likes being part of a vibrant village where people help each other. He added: "I've been here so long now that when I see children who used to have a weekend job with me turn up to buy their alcohol – I can't help but give them a protective 'once-over' when I check their IDs".

## Queens Road in bloom



*Jacki Burns and John Hawes*

Jacki Burns and John Hawes were winners of the Queens Road Blooms - Best Front Garden - medal held at the prize giving at Ye Olde Swan. The judges - Jane Lindsay a ten-times gold medal winner at Chelsea Flower Show and Mark Wasilewski, an RHS judge at Hampton Court Flower Show, unanimously agreed that John and Jacki were worthy winners and presented them with a £50 Squires voucher given by HJC Estate Agents. Other winners were Sandra Clarke and Ben and Beth Hickling. Huge thanks goes to Ye Olde Swan, The Secret Garden, Squires and VGS Convenience Stores, for their generous support.

**Birchgrove**, which is offering retirement living at its Hampton Court Estate development off Summer Road, held

a Garden Party fundraiser for St Nicholas Church in early August with villagers enjoying Pimms and strawberries in the beautiful gardens of St Nicholas Church. Together with a previous donation, the company has raised almost £1k for the church.



*Pictured are Gary Lochowitz and Ruth Wilson from Birchgrove, with the Rev Andrew Cowie*

**Aria Care's** Thames View in Thames Ditton, has been included as one of the UK's top 100 care homes for 2025 in the first ever Lottie Awards. The Online Care Finder's Awards recognise care homes across the UK that demonstrate exceptional commitment to residents, families, and staff. Thames View stood out for Care Quality, Digitisation, Operational Efficiency, and Workplace Culture. In addition, Thames View was recognised in the Top 10 for Outdoor Spaces, reflecting its setting on the River Thames.

## Ember Bowls Club celebrates 75 Years

To celebrate its 75th birthday, Ember Bowls Club has held a series of events and matches throughout the summer, including a visit from a team from South Africa.



*The new trophy was won by Roy Barton, Helen Hill (centre) and Gill Ovington (right) who are pictured with Sally Owen of Leightons Cobham, who presented the cup.*

The highlight was a new competition for teams of three, sponsored by Leightons Opticians and Opticians and Hearing Care, which has 35 practices across Surrey and the south of England.

Ember Croquet Club is also enjoying success as more people discover the fascinating game. Club members have enjoyed a range of activities across the summer, which have brought together local people of all ages and all abilities. Novice

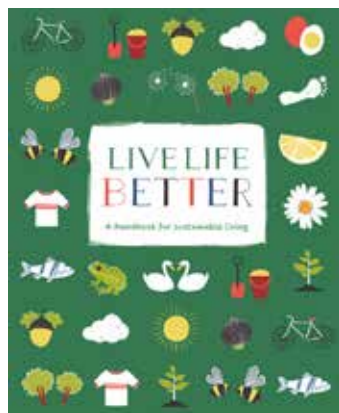


*Sam Russell and Pauline Bramworth*

Sam Russell and partner Pauline Bramworth (pictured), in a partnership spanning the generations, triumphed at the monthly club knockout tournament. Sam (29) says 'it is like playing snooker on grass'.

## Top nature and climate tips now in Book Form

When the Nature & Climate Festival was set up in 2022 its aim was to encourage Thames Ditton and Weston Green residents to lead more sustainable lives and answer that thorny question about what it means to 'make a difference'. Over three Festivals and more than 80 events and activities, a huge amount of advice, tips and tricks have been shared. Now, Festival founder Gill Coates has collected the best advice from previous Festival contributors and compiled it into a handbook



- Live Life Better - for sustainable living, written specifically for a local audience.

Printed in full colour with illustrations by local artist Lisa Tolley and photographs from the Nature & Climate Photography Competition, the book also contains 'How to' guides, recipes, interviews and inspirational songs and poetry from Festival performers. It is being launched at the Festival (10-12 October) with details of how to access a FREE virtual copy, or buy a print-to-order copy from Amazon.



# THE HAMILTON GOLD COMPANY

SURREY'S PREMIER JEWELLERS AND GOLD BUYERS

We specialise in

- ❖ Scrap gold & silver
- ❖ Investment gold & silver
- ❖ Probate valuations
- ❖ Jewellery alterations
- ❖ Vintage jewellery
- ❖ Swiss watches
- ❖ Engagement & wedding rings
- ❖ Signet rings



Jordan Hamilton

07354 783207

Info@HamiltonGoldCompany.com

www.HamiltonGoldCompany.com

16A High Street, Thames Ditton, KT7 0RY



# Update from your Residents' Association

## Thames Ditton Ward



Elaine Sesemann  
TDWGRA



Caroline James  
TDWGRA



Alex Batchelor  
TDWGRA

### Planning Update

**Aldi:** The new planning application for an Aldi supermarket on Portsmouth Road has recently been validated by the Planning department at Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC). You can view the application on the EBC website under reference 2025/1182. The Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association is reviewing the application and will be making appropriate representations to the council in due course. Your councillors will be involved in deciding on the application when it comes to the Planning Committee.

**Hill Park Roses site:** A new planning application is expected soon for up to 150 dwellings (with 50 per cent of the accommodation being affordable housing) on the Hill Park Roses site and surrounding areas on the land west of Woodstock Lane North in Long Ditton. This follows a public exhibition earlier in the year by the developers at Surbiton Hockey Club. The Residents Associations for Hinchley Wood and Thames Ditton and Weston Green (the site is in Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward) will review the application when it is registered. The RAs will be considering appropriate representations to the council on

the proposals in due course. Your councillors will be involved in deciding on the application when it comes to the Planning Committee.

### Community services transformation

*Connected Communities - EBC re-imagines its support for vulnerable residents*

For over 30 years EBC has supported elderly residents with services including day centres, meals on wheels, transport, and dementia services. These are all discretionary services (i.e. not statutory), and they are very costly. EBC currently spends 20 per cent of its entire budget (over £4 million) on these services, but they only reach less than one per cent of our residents and user data suggests the majority of people using the centres are actually 'affluent achievers'. Meanwhile the level of real need in Elmbridge has risen to nearly 12 per cent of residents across all demographics, not just the elderly. So EBC is pioneering a new 'Connected Communities' approach, moving away from direct delivery of day centres and meals on wheels, and replacing a fixed 'one size fits all' model based in day centres with targeted, bespoke support services delivered through a team of Local Area Coordinators, working in the community. The existing six centres will stay, but instead of being

# Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

## Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates  
TDWGRA



Janet Turner  
HWRA



James Crawshaw  
HWRA

day centres they are being offered to local community groups and charities to take them on and run them for all the community, not just elderly residents. The Council will give them a support package of £130k to help them set up and they are commissioning a Local Infrastructure Organisation who will act as a resource to help with things like payroll, training, and fund-raising.

Cllr Gill Coates, who has led on this project says “We’ve looked at best practice from around the country and we are confident this new Connected Communities approach will enable EBC to reach out to over ten times more of the most vulnerable people in Elmbridge. We will be able to give more support to the community groups and charities working on the front line, we will help to create a network of thriving community centres run by the community for the entire community and we will ensure that anyone with complex needs gets support tailored to their individual circumstances. The new model will cost £1m less than the current day centre model, so it will be a far more efficient and effective way of using money, which will hopefully make these discretionary services more sustainable when we hand over to a new Unitary in 2027.”

## Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) Update

Surrey County Council (SCC) sent its LGR proposal to central Government in May. SCC and two of the 11 Districts and Boroughs, (Elmbridge and Mole Valley) proposed that Surrey should be split into two unitary authorities with Elmbridge being in the East Surrey area with Reigate and Banstead, Mole Valley, Tandridge and Epsom and Ewell. Elmbridge supports this proposal as do your Elmbridge councillors. The remaining Districts and Boroughs want Surrey to be split three ways, which would put Elmbridge in a Northern area, with Spelthorne and Runnymede. We are awaiting a decision from central government this autumn as to the number of unitary authorities Surrey will have from May 2026. Elections will be held on 7 May 2026 to vote for Councillors for the new unitary authorities. Then the new authority and Elmbridge will work alongside each other until 31 March 2027 when Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council will be dissolved.

## Pharmacy campaign update

It is with incredible disappointment and frustration to have to report that Surrey Heartlands ICB - our regional NHS body

# HJC

## We value you

Contact us on 020 8398 3707

Considering moving or simply curious, we offer a free no obligation valuation service.

### INDEPENDENT, TRUSTED FINANCIAL ADVICE IN THE HEART OF THAMES DITTON

**Knight James' are a friendly, local business offering trusted, impartial financial advice.**

Our experienced team are able to offer advice in the following areas:-

- Mortgage & Lending Services
- Investment & Pension Advice
- Portfolio Management
- Retirement & Tax Planning
- Corporate & Employee Benefits
- Commercial Insurance

*Contact us today to find out how we can help to put you on the right financial path.*



MORTGAGE  
SERVICES



COMMERCIAL  
INSURANCE



WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT



INVESTMENT  
& PENSION  
ADVICE



**Call 020 8398 6677**  
**[www.knightjames.com](http://www.knightjames.com)**

6 Station Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0NR

**knightjames**  
Wealth Management

which controls Primary Care, including the licensing of local pharmacies - has refused the application to reopen the pharmacy in the village. The exact wording of the decision is: 'The (Pharmaceutical Services Regulations) Committee determined that the application should be refused on the following basis: The PNA (Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment) has not identified an (sic) improvements or better access as required by Regulation 17 which this application could meet.' We are considering the decision report very carefully before deciding on what we do now. We have been led to believe from several authoritative sources that an Appeal is unlikely to succeed but as yet do not know what action the applicant will take. In the unlikely event that an appeal will be made, it is likely that it will be a very costly exercise probably requiring the services of a barrister.

### **Flooding Resilience and Prevention**

The first of Thames Ditton's temporary flood barriers has been delivered and the installation tested. These are now stored ready for use in case of flood. The remaining

barriers are expected in the next quarter. We have been successful in obtaining Community Infrastructure Levy funding to pay for Property Flood Resilience surveys for those residents with houses in areas at higher risk of flooding. We are liaising with the survey company and hope these will be conducted later in the autumn. We also met with Monica Harding, MP for Esher & Walton, who expressed her support for the Thames Ditton Flood Group. She is in talks with the Environment Agency (EA) and other MPs to further our efforts to protect Thames Ditton from flooding. In addition, we had a meeting with the EA who provided us with an update on their modelling (visit <https://check-long-term-flood-risk.service.gov.uk/rivers-and-sea>). EA is also reviewing and simplifying their approach to flood resilience. TD will continue to be under consideration for potential protection schemes but as other areas of the country may have stronger cost versus benefit cases, we are continuing to focus on property flood resilience.



*Monica Harding MP and Tony Thompson of the Thames Ditton Flood Group, pictured in front of one of the new barriers.*

# **SPRINT MARTIAL ARTS:** **YOUR PATH TO** **EMPOWERMENT**

Since 2009, **Sprint Martial Arts** has offered age-specific courses for individuals from children to those aged 65 and beyond. We excel in welcoming beginners with our successful classes, where experienced instructors help you build skills, confidence, and fitness in a supportive environment.

## **PROGRAMS:**

- ✓ **LITTLE DRAGONS 4-6 YEARS**
- ✓ **JUNIORS 7-13 YEARS**
- ✓ **ADULTS** ✓ **WOMEN'S ONLY**

**JOIN US TODAY AND EXPERIENCE THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF MARTIAL ARTS!**

**Hollyfield school**

📍 Surbiton Hill Rd, Surbiton KT6 4TU

**Alcheme wellbeing**

📍 23-25 Brighton Rd, Surbiton KT6 5LR

☎ **07801 852012**

☎ **07739 638209**



# Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



Residents and drivers will be pleased to know that several highways projects which promote road safety, are coming to fruition.

I am delighted to confirm – and as most readers will be aware – that white lining of the approaches to the Scilly Isles, has now been completed. Hopefully this will help avoid any confusion as to which lane you should be driving in. You should also have noticed that the Thames Ditton 20mph scheme has been extended to cover the section between the mini roundabout at the end of Watts Road, past the Cricket Club and up to the Portsmouth Road crossing. I am particularly pleased with the new signage.

White lining has also been carried out - as well as markings to the road humps - between Embercourt roundabout and the railway bridge. I am hopeful that further 20mph roundels will be installed beyond the railway bridge up to the junction with Watts Road. Finally and in relation to 20mph zones, you may have noticed that the 30mph sign outside the entrance to Colets and the Infants School, has been removed making the whole of Speer Road 20mph.

Without any guarantee with regard to exact timing, I have persuaded - after eight years of trying - Surrey Highways to resurface the entire length of St Leonards Road - from the fountain roundabout up to the Portsmouth Road. This is long overdue. This follows the resurfacing of Weston Green (by the Greyhound pub)

Finally, we all know of the need to repair the Heritage light on the Fountain roundabout. I have been in touch with what



*Surrey County Councillor,  
(The Dittons) Nick Darby*

seems like a cast of thousands for many months but I am delighted to report that the light has now been removed for repair and will be reinstalled, along with new electrics, hopefully soon.

## Local Government Reorganisation

The Government Minister will be making a decision in the coming months as to whether Surrey is split into two or three unitary authorities. In the meantime various Surrey by-elections have taken place which has resulted in the Conservatives losing overall control of the County Council, the first time this has happened for many generations.

Separately and in any event, Surrey is likely to lose significant funding from central government, which may lead to cuts in services provided to council taxpayers. And as I warned in the last edition, ratepayers are already likely to face bigger council taxes due to having to pay off debts incurred by Woking Council. Worrying times.

**Nick Darby**

Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons

020 8398 2382



*Bee Inspired*  
natural honey beeswax skincare

Multi award winning natural skincare handmade in Thames Ditton  
Embracing the benefits of beeswax and honey from our bees, together with  
carefully selected plant + essential oils we have created a comprehensive  
range for all age and skin types  
See website for full details or arrange to pop in [www.beeinspiredcreams.buzz](http://www.beeinspiredcreams.buzz)

## FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

### OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years, eight generations of the Lodge Family have been privileged to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

**THAMES DITTON**  
37 High Street 020 8398 4586  
Branches also in Esher, Molesey & Surbiton  
[www.lodgebrothers.co.uk](http://www.lodgebrothers.co.uk)



Robert, Chris & Andrew Lodge

 **Trustpilot**   
5.0 Excellent as of 01/25

*"An excellent service providing a compassionate funeral for our father. Lodge Brothers exceeded our expectations and demonstrated a depth of care that one would show to their own family."*  
- J. Luxton

 **Lodge**  
BROTHERS 1780  
the family you can turn to

ASK ABOUT OUR  
PRE-PAYMENT  
FUNERAL PLANS

**FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE**

# Paddington Bear artist comes to Vital Village



*Gisella Stapleton with her new work for Vital Village*

A beautiful new work of art has come to Thames Ditton. The mural at the ice cream kiosk at the Vital Village Community Hub, has been generously donated by artist and local resident Gisella Stapleton, best known for her impressive mural of Paddington Bear outside Waterloo Station.

Her inspiration for the new mural at the Vital Village entrance was all things quintessentially English in the natural world: robins, roses and bumble bees. It brings vibrant colour and certainly makes the entrance more attractive.

Gisella came to national prominence when she was commissioned by Studio Canal to advertise the 'Paddington in Peru' movie at Waterloo and to celebrate Paddington Bear becoming London's first ever Welcome Ambassador. This mural recently won first place in the 'Best Use of Out of Home' at the Travel Marketing Awards 2025.

Gisella, originally from Lima in Peru, first inspiration to start painting was her mother who was also an artist. She was later influenced by the work of Guayasamin, Frida Kahlo and Matisse as well as the vibrant colours of Latin American folklore. She was recently the first ever Artist in Residence at Kew Gardens for its Orchid Festival, where she created art works to accompany and complement the plant displays and reflect the flora of the Peruvian rain forest.

Gisella's work can currently be seen in an exhibition at the Limping Fox in Rushett Road in Long Ditton, while she has also painted a new mural on the hoardings near John Lewis for the Kingston Street Art Festival, which took place at the end of August. For more information, visit [www.gisellastapleton.com](http://www.gisellastapleton.com) her Instagram [@gisella\\_stapleton](https://www.instagram.com/gisella_stapleton)

## **Hampton Court Flower Festival plants move to Vital Village**

On the final Sunday of the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival, the intrepid Vital Village community garden team collected all the beautiful plants from the 'Woman to Woman' Show Garden. Led by Beth Rochford, a team of volunteers then started planting and transformed the community garden. There were also enough plants to create a herb garden just outside the 'Waste to Plate' community shop. The plants are particularly suited to the community garden as they are drought resistant and are thought to have medicinal and healing properties. This transformation of the



**VISIT** our  
showroom  
or **CALL**  
to arrange  
a visit to  
your  
home



SCAN ME

**...FOR THE LATEST**

**Casement Windows,  
Sliding Sash Windows,  
Composite Entrance Doors,  
Bi-Fold Doors, Sliding Patio Doors  
& Lantern Roofs**

6-7 Grand Parade  
Ewell Road,  
Tolworth, Surbiton  
Surrey KT6 7BE

**WARMLITE**  
*Clearly Quality*

[www.warmlite.co.uk](http://www.warmlite.co.uk) Tel: 020 8399 3377



*Valentine Feldberg and Beth Rochford*

community garden has been made possible by one of the ‘Woman to Woman’ garden’s designers, Gill Hall, whose company, Gill Hall Gardens is based at Vital Village. Gill, in association with Squires Garden Centres, will be talking about the ‘Woman to Woman’ garden at the Nature & Climate Festival at Vital Village on Saturday 11 October. She will speak about healing with plants, past and present, including how the ancients used plants for health and well being and how we can use plants for our wellbeing in our urban gardens today.

## Summer Fun

Vital Village has also been encouraging residents to use the centre with the introduction of Friday evening soirées – a chance to meet, make new friends and enjoy some free entertainment. Acts included singer Alice Williams, Graham Cooke on his saxophone and an evening of comic songs and poems with Tom Rees followed by a performance from a local belly dancing group whose infectious enthusiasm got everyone up and joining in. There was some animal fun too when a mobile farm came to the village on 12 August. More than

120 people from babies to elderly residents of Emberbrook Care Home, had a chance to get up close to some well-behaved farm animals including a goat, sheep and pony and learn more about them.

## Dates for your diary

### Farmers’ Market

Mercer Close Car Park (by the library)  
fourth Saturday of the month

### Weston Green Litter Pickers

Meet at Marneys pub on the first  
Saturday in the month at 10.30am

### Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

Meet at Thames Ditton Tennis Club  
car park on third Saturday of the  
month at 10.45am

### Seniors Coffee Morning

Every Wednesday from 10.30am at  
Vital Village, Mercer Close

### Paint All Saints Appeal

Saturday 20 September Community  
Quiz night

### Thames Ditton & Weston Green Nature and Climate Festival

10-12 October. See centre pages

### St Nicholas Church Quiz Night

Friday 10 October in aid of St Nicholas  
Community Hub.

### Thames Ditton Christmas Fair

The High Street, Sunday 30 November

### Vital Village Christmas Fair

Saturday 7 December

# Recycle unwanted technology



Relove Technology is teaming up with the Nature & Climate Festival to help residents declutter, do something brilliant for the planet and help our chosen charities. Over the Festival weekend (10-12 October), a pop-up mobile tech recycling station at Vital Village will accept old phones and small devices such as gaming consoles, iPods, iPads, tablets, laptops and MacBooks, for responsible reuse and recycling. As part of the service, Relove will carry out secure, certified data-wiping live on site, so you can donate with confidence.

Electronic waste is a growing environmental issue and keeping devices in use for longer is one of the most impactful ways to cut their carbon footprint. Relove's approach prioritises re-use over raw-material recycling. Suitable devices are refurbished and found new homes, often in third world countries. Items that can't be restored are harvested for parts and processed at Relove's accredited facilities where their mantra is "100 per cent reuse and zero landfill." Their award-winning processes ensure every device is fully tested, graded and securely cleared of data to the highest industry standards. Combined with

a strict chain of custody from collection to resale, you can be assured that every device is handled with absolute security and care.

How will it work at the Festival? Start gathering your old tech now and if you can, back up any data, sign out of iCloud/Google accounts and remove SIMs. Relove shares simple steps on its website [www.relovetechology.com](http://www.relovetechology.com) but if you cannot do this, the team will help on the day. So bring your unwanted mobile tech to Vital Village, where it will be assessed and wiped: Relove technicians will triage donations and where feasible, erase all data using industry-approved Blackbelt data-removal software. Devices that can't be wiped on site will be securely processed back at Relove's accredited recycling facility.

In joining forces, Relove Technology and the Nature & Climate Festival, are making it easy -and safe - for our community to keep valuable tech in circulation and out of landfill. We will also be raising money for charity - Relove will donate all the value from your donated tech (after operational costs) to the Mayor of Elmbridge's charity (Community Fund for Elmbridge) and the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation.



# Programme

A pull out and keep programme  
to plan your visit

All events will take place in Vital Village in Mercer Close, Thames Ditton. Most events and activities are free and there is no need to book ahead unless specified



KILLIK & Co

Save | Plan | Invest

## FRIDAY 10th OCTOBER

**It's Festival opening day! Drop into Vital Village to say hello, drop off some recycling and find out how to get your hands on our new sustainable living handbook 'Live Life Better', full of hints and tips!**

### **RIVER THAMES LITTER CLEAN UP in association with the Dittons Skiff and Punting Club (time t.b.c.)**



We are partnering again with the Dittons Skiff and Punting Club to organise a water-bound river plastic clean up, subject to tides and water safety concerns. Please check the RA and DSPC websites for updates near the time. ( Boarding at the DSPC clubhouse in Queen's Rd. Take part at your own risk.) Register your interest on the Vital Village 'What's On' page on their website.

### **9.30am - 2.30pm: RECYCLE YOUR MOBILE TECH FOR CHARITY**



We have joined forces with Relove Technology to repurpose and recycle old mobile technology to raise funds for charity. Drop off your old and unwanted mobile tech (phones, laptops and tablets etc), watch your data wiped live and know that by doing so you will be helping us raise funds for the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation and the Mayors' Charity, The Community Fund for Elmbridge.

### **9.30am - 2.30pm: LAUNCH OF OUR 'BIG COMMUNITY RECYCLE' RECYCLING STATION FOR HARD TO RECYCLE ITEMS**



There are some everyday items that don't go in our Council recycling bins, but they CAN be recycled with a little effort. In this case the effort is: simply collect them at home in one of our bags (limited supply) and drop them off at our new permanent Recycling Station in Vital Village. The items we're collecting are: dental care waste (toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss etc); foil pet food pouches; eye care waste (disposable contact lenses, solution bottles etc); medicine blister packs and coffee pods. Come along and find out more about how you can join in with this recycling project and cut down our community carbon footprint.

## SATURDAY 11th OCTOBER

**Come and celebrate our natural surroundings with inspirational talks and nature-inspired music, plus more recycling and the official launch of our Festival handbook for sustainable living, Live Life Better....**



### **10.00am-4.00pm: THE BIG COMMUNITY RECYCLE CONTINUES....**

Recycle your mobile tech with Relove Technology and bring your items to our new Recycling Station (see Friday entry for details)

### **10.00am-4.00pm: LIVE LIFE BETTER - THE LAUNCH OF OUR FESTIVAL HANDBOOK FOR SUSTAINABLE LIVING**



When we set up the Festival in 2022 the aim was to encourage people to live more sustainably by offering educational, inspirational and fun activities to spread the word. So far we have hosted over 80 different events and activities including some fantastic speakers. Now the best advice, hints and tips from previous Festival contributors have been collected into a beautifully illustrated handbook, so you don't have to spend hours trying to figure out what it means to 'make a difference'. Come and chat to Gill the author (here all day if you can pin her down), to find out more and collect the QR code for a FREE online copy.



### **10.00am-4.00pm: KNOW YOUR FLOOD RISK – DROP-IN SESSION**

Living by the Thames is not without its risks. Drop in any time today to meet experts and discuss the issues that are causing you concern. From flood protection schemes to flood forecasting, they have the answers so you can understand the risks and be prepared.



### **10.30am-12.00 noon: CHILDREN'S LITTER PICK & CRAFT FUN WITH THE TAP DANCING PIGEON OF COVENT GARDEN. (Tickets available via Dittons Library)**

Meet at Vital Village to join in a family litter pick led by none other than the Tap Dancing Pigeon of Covent Garden! (Kids-sized litter pickers, hoops and tabards provided). Help your little ones understand how litter can be a danger to wildlife and why it's important not to drop it. Afterwards go to Dittons Library for some craft fun with Pigeon and a reading and book signing with author Serena Hassan.



### **11.00am-12.00 noon: PLANTING FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING (Free but please book via the Vital Village What's On page)**

Local garden designer Gill Hall, who kindly donated plants from her Hampton Court Garden Festival 2025 show garden to Vital Village, joins us for an illustrated talk on 'Planting for Health and Wellbeing'. We all hear about the health benefits of gardening, but what about the plants themselves? Which are the ones that hide their own health-giving secrets? Gill will share her extensive knowledge about the plants we can grow and how to use them in natural remedies. The talk will include a display of plants loaned by Squires Garden Centre and (weather permitting) a walk round the Vital Village garden.



### **12.30pm: 'IN THE MOOD – MUSIC FOR THE ENVIRONMENT' (Free)**

Graham Cooke, a familiar face at the Farmer's Market, entertains us on his saxophone with a selection of music specially chosen for the event. Grab a coffee or a snack, sit back and see how many tunes you can recognise and spot the nature and climate connection.



### **2.30pm-3.30pm: THE NATURAL HISTORY OF ELMBRIDGE AND ITS COMMONS (Free but please book via the Vital Village What's On page)**

Claygate resident Dave Page worked with Elmbridge Borough Council's countryside team for 33 years before retiring earlier this year. In a fascinating illustrated talk, Dave will take us on a visual tour of the wildlife to be found in our 625 ha of woodlands and commons and reveal some of his stories from restoring precious Surrey heath habitats, managing SSSIs, re-introducing rare species and tackling OPM. If you want to know more about the beautiful landscapes on our doorstep, this is a talk not to be missed.

## **SUNDAY 12th OCTOBER**

**It's time to go wild! Let your kids 'create a creature', join a foraging walk, enjoy more Earth-inspired music and keep on recycling....**

### **11.00am – 12.30pm: FORAGING WALK ON LITTLEWORTH COMMON (£12 per person. Limited to 20 people. Book via Vital Village What's On page. Meeting place t.b.c.)**



Julie Hancox (One Life Nutrition) is a professional nutritionist specialising in flowers, nature and foraging. In this very special event you can join Julie as she leads a walk round Littleworth Common and listen as she shares the secrets of the surprising food for free under our noses.

**11.00am-12.00 noon: KIDS' CRAFT ACTIVITY - CREATE A CREATURE WORKSHOP WITH THE DAVID SHEPHERD WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (Free but please book via the Vital Village What's On page. Limited to 20 children. Best for under 12s.)**



The late wildlife artist David Shepherd was an outspoken conservationist. The wildlife foundation that bears his name today funds key conservation projects in Africa and Asia. We're delighted to welcome them back today with their fun children's workshop that helps our younger generation to learn about endangered species and how we can help them.

**11.00am-1.00pm: WALTON REPAIR CAFE POP-UP SESSION**



The Repair Cafe movement is a community-led initiative to reduce waste by repairing household items and keeping them going for longer (this can reduce the carbon footprint of an item by over one third.) The team from the monthly Repair Cafe in Walton join us for a pop-up session where they will triage your items and advise on whether or not they can be repaired. Bring your items or photos (but don't expect on-the-spot repairs) and find out why repairing is better than replacing.

**12.30pm-1.15pm: WE ARE THE VOICE CHILDREN'S CHOIR CONCERT (Free)**



Yes, they're back - the amazing We Are the Voice choir, this time fresh from sharing the stage with Dame Jane Goodall (world-leading primatologist) at the World Design Congress, held in London for the first time since 1969 and whose theme was 'Design for Planet'. We can't tell you how much we love this choir and are looking forward to their return. Don't miss them.

**2.00pm-3.00pm: FAMILY FUN 'BINTERROGATION' GAME**



Can you recycle old toothpaste tubes? Where do you take juice cartons? What can you do with holey old tights? There's lots of fun to be had when you Binterrogate your waste. Join us for some good clean family fun as we rifle through our bins and race to be the first to come up with an inventive use for the most bizarre items. Prizes to be won! Top tip - bring your grandparents who know a thing or two about avoiding waste. Phones and iPads allowed for research.

**3.30pm: Presentation of the Nature & Climate Photography Competition prize winners**

**3.45pm: Grand Raffle Draw**

The Nature & Climate Festival reserves the right to change or cancel events altogether in unavoidable circumstances. We would like to thank Festival organisers Cllr Gill Coates, Cllr Caroline James and Laura Pring (Vital Village). Thanks to Lisa Tolley (lovely logos and tea towels). Special thanks to all of our wonderful Festival partners, contributors, speakers and performers. The Nature & Climate Festival would not be possible without the generous support of HJC Estate Agents and Killik & Co financial advisors and we are very grateful to Alex Langdon and Lucy Roshier respectively. Finally, a thank you to Festival co-founder, journalist and environmental campaigner Lucy Siegle, who sadly could not join us this year but who remains our biggest supporter.

**Book events on the Vital Village What's On page: [www.vitalvillage.org.uk](http://www.vitalvillage.org.uk).**

**Follow the Nature & Climate Festival on Instagram @TDClimatenaturefest and X @TDNature and use the QR code to check latest programme updates on the RA website**





# Law for life's big moments

**From buying your dream home to securing your family's future, life's most important decisions deserve the support of dedicated, experienced solicitors.**

At Owen White Catlin, we provide expert legal advice with clarity, compassion and care. Our team is here to guide you through whatever life brings.

**Speak to one of our trusted solicitors today.**

**[owenwhitecatlin.co.uk](https://owenwhitecatlin.co.uk)**

01372 469 100  
[contact@owc.co.uk](mailto:contact@owc.co.uk)

Addlestone. Ashford.  
Chiswick & Hammersmith.  
Esher. Feltham. Shepperton.



# Discover Thames View

## CARE FROM THE HEART IN THAMES DITTON

---

**Providing residential, nursing and dementia care on a permanent and short stay basis.**

Thames View Care Home is a Grade II listed mansion in Thames Ditton, Surrey. An outstanding place of beauty that offers residential, nursing and specialist dementia care for elderly residents within a restored and extended 18th Century Grade II listed mansion. Our luxurious living environment is home for up to 78 residents in a unique setting of approximately 2.5 acres on the bank of the River Thames, overlooking the grounds of Hampton Court.

### **Comfort and wellbeing of residents**

The main house boasts grand reception rooms including the magnificent first floor library and ground floor cinema room, private dining room, lounge lounge, hair salon, and nail clinic. There

is a dedicated activities room with an extensive programme of events for residents' health and wellbeing. We are dedicated to creating a home away from home where all residents are cared for with true enthusiasm and love.

Our main priority is to continue to provide eventful days, to fulfil dreams in a kind and giving way, and to make sure all our residents get to embrace their personalities. Our friendly team are focused on ensuring everyone's wishes and own individual needs are met. Our passion is to provide expert care with a personal touch and to create the safest environment possible for the people living in our community.

### **Pastimes and mealtimes**

At Thames View there is a range of pastimes whether that's social, creative or physical to encourage good mental health. We help to ensure everyone has a purpose to their day, it's their life and they choose the way they want to live it.

We understand the importance of good nutrition and hydration. Of course, dining experiences are not only generated by the food eaten, the company and atmosphere can completely define our enjoyment. This is why we tailor the experience for everyone and welcome families and visitors to dine with us too.





## Choice and independence

When it comes to individual bedrooms, we help our residents to put their unique stamp on their room and keep things just how they like them. All bedrooms are ensuite and have delightful furniture and furnishings. Our home is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens with several rooms having access to the gardens directly from their room.

Our bistro is perfect for socialising with family and friends and has a kitchen area for making drinks. For alone time there are quiet nooks with comfy armchairs, classic novels and books on the shelves.

Our ground floor cinema room is just the ticket for the weekly film club and our private dining

room gives the space for friends and families to come together to celebrate key milestones.

## Local community events

We host a range of regular events that the local community are welcome to join including our weekly coffee morning and monthly dementia friendly music session.

Whether you're looking for permanent or respite care, or would like more information about our events, please get in touch. We would be happy to give you a tour of our home and meet our team. Whatever your needs there is a place for you at Thames View.

**0808 281 5107 | [ariacare.co.uk](http://ariacare.co.uk)**  
**58 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0TT**



**SCAN HERE**  
TO FIND OUT MORE



# White Church hits £100k fund raising target



*Louise Russell gives an update on the appeal for All Saints Church*



The Appeal to raise £100,000 to Paint All Saints Weston Green - better known as the White Church - reached its target at the end of July. A big boost was given by a grant of £20,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund in addition to significant funding from the Elmbridge Community Infrastructure (CIL).

The project to repair and repaint the church is well ahead of schedule and although further costs have emerged as additional repairs have been identified, a resplendent white church should emerge from behind the scaffolding by the middle of September.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to everyone in the community who has supported this project. The response has been tremendous with countless generous donations, without which this work would not have been possible. And of course our thanks to the many, many people who have come along to

support the fundraising events which have been happening every month since January and will continue into 2026.

To date these local events have included some memorable performances. Including the Twelfth Night Choral Concert by Ripieno Choir, Organ Recital by organ scholar Barnaby Silverstone, 'Back to Broadway' by Hinchley Wood School and 'Ember Big Band Remembers Weston's War', which alone raised £6,500. Other events have included an Ugly Bug Easter Trail, Weston Green Archive display and the stunning 'White Flower Festival, More recently a sponsored Weston Green history walk and Summer Recital have raised further funds,

There is a definite plan to keep this momentum going with further fundraising events planned to ensure that any additional costs beyond the £100,000 target can be met. Once that is achieved, funds will be



*On one of the few days of summer rain, this group of intrepid residents are getting ready to take part in a collective 100 kilometre sponsored historic walk around Weston Green in support of the White Church Appeal.*

used to build a reserve to maintain the building into the future. This is particularly important now as listed places of worship of all denominations face the Government's planned withdrawal of VAT exemption from spring next year. So please do continue to come along to one of the events, donate via the website or use the QR code shown below.



With the amazing support of this community our beautiful and iconic building will once again be 'the White Church by the Pond' and we remain extremely grateful to the hundreds of people who have supported this project and made it happen.

As part of a site inspection, members of the Paint All Saints Team climbed to the very top of the scaffolding. Despite the

pond being dry, the photos from this unique vantage point capture what a beautiful place Weston Green is.



*Churchwarden Alison Cruthers and archivist Pam Tiller pictured at the top of All Saints Church*

# HAMPTON HILL WINDOWS

ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT SPECIALISTS  
FOR OVER 25 YEARS



- uPVC Windows, Doors and Porches
- Composite Doors
- Friendly Service
- References on request
- 10 year Insurance Backed Guarantee
- No deposit required



2 New Broadway, Hampton Road, Hampton Hill.

Tel 020 8977 1822

email: [rsupvc@gmail.com](mailto:rsupvc@gmail.com)

[www.hamptonhillwindows.com](http://www.hamptonhillwindows.com)



*Singers Graham Renwick, Tarcy Renwick, Jo Hamon and Nicholas Yates, who performed in the Elmbridge Big Band concert.*



*Pictured at the Flower Festival are (from left), Amanda Hillman, Jackie Williams, organiser Kate Ellis and Liz Ridler*

## Events coming up

For ticketed events and for more information please see the website: [allsaintsweston.com](http://allsaintsweston.com)

- **Saturday 20 September 7pm:**  
Community Quiz Night. £10pp
- **Saturday 11 October 12-3pm:** Display of Weston Green Archive Photographic Collection
- **Sunday 2 November 10 -11am:**  
Thanksgiving Service for completion of the work
- **Saturday 15 November 2.30pm:**  
Gerald Smith, Retired Hampton Court Gardener – Life in Weston Green 1940 -1970
- **Friday 21 November 7 30 pm:** Weston Super Mares Autumn Concert. Tickets £25 to include light supper
- **Saturday 6 December 7pm:** The Whyte Effect Christmas Choral Concert

# LKA CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

## AWARD WINNING ACCOUNTANTS IN THE HEART OF THAMES DITTON

Winners of the *Small Firm of the Year (South of England)* category at the 2023 Accounting Excellence Awards, LKA's expert team of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors have been supporting local residents with their accountancy and tax needs for over 10 years.

Renowned for our focus on client care, our multi-award winning team provides professional, proactive, tailored support to private individuals and small to medium-sized businesses with all aspects of accounting and tax, from advice and planning to tax returns.

If you are looking for a friendly team of Chartered Accountants and Chartered Tax Advisors, why not pop in and see us, or call us on **020 3915 8585** to book in for a FREE 15 minute discovery call.



**Thames Ditton Office**  
2A High Street  
Thames Ditton  
Surrey, KT7 0RY

**Teddington Office**  
Unit 8 Engine Shed Yard  
23 Waldegrave Road  
Teddington, TW11 8LA

**0203 915 8585**  
[www.lkassociates.co.uk](http://www.lkassociates.co.uk)

**MOORE**  
*By Design*  
professional kitchen design since 1997



Your local independent kitchen specialist offering inspiration, a truly personal service, and value for money.

Scan the QR code for our website or call 01932 379076 to start your kitchen journey

[www.moorebydesign.co.uk](http://www.moorebydesign.co.uk)

**JET-WASH**  
**JEFF**  
RESIDENTIAL  
DOMESTIC  
COMMERCIAL

- PATIOS  
- PATHS  
- STEPS  
- DRIVEWAYS  
- WALLS  
...and more

Call us and we'll pop around to give you a quote - no obligation



CALL 07905556706  
[jr48@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jr48@hotmail.co.uk)

# David Cooper retires from Ditton Scout Group



*Dittons Chair of Trustees – Netty Williams, David Cooper and Suzan Baker Dittons Group Scout Lead Volunteer*

The Dittons Scout Group came together in July to honour one of its longest-serving leaders, David Cooper, as he retired after an incredible 35 years at the helm of their Beaver colonies. The celebration brought members old and new to the group's shack, along with special guests Monica Harding, MP for Esher and Walton, and the Mayor of Elmbridge, Councillor Steve Bax.

The afternoon was filled with joyful tributes and activities for all ages. Highlights included a special performance by the Cat's Grin Theatre Company, who wrote and performed a play to celebrate David's times as leader. Guests also enjoyed an afternoon tea, rides on the Malden DSME Miniature Railway, and lively fun on inflatable rides. The event concluded with a nostalgic campfire singalong, led by David himself.

It was a fitting send-off for a leader whose commitment over three and a half decades allowed over 800 children to discover the absolute joy of Scouting. He will be missed greatly.

Afterwards David said: "It was certainly a day to remember. We were overwhelmed by the thought and care that had gone into the signage, the bunting, the fairy lights, the big 3 and 5 numbers, the VIP shelter and the amazing display of presents for my 'Beaver Back Yard' at home. I really enjoyed leading the singing around my last official camp fire. I am not often surprised but I have to admit that I was gobsmacked when the Cat's Grin Theatre Company performed. I love Don Brown and his team - they always make me laugh out loud at their performances at the Esher District Beaver Parties. I was thrilled they performed *Wind in the Willows* just for me. Unbelievable!"



*Suzan Baker, David Cooper and Steve Bax, Elmbridge Mayor with Orson Skittle. Orson, aged 18, was presented with the Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. He was originally a Beaver with David and is still a Dittons Scout.*

Find their  
happy place...

And see  
them flourish...

The perfect  
balance of smiles  
and success.



Visit us at our next Open Events  
Whole School Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 9.15am  
Discovery Day Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 9.30am



**TPS is an Independent Co-ed Day School  
in Hampton for Pupils aged 4-13**

[www.twickenhamprep.org.uk](http://www.twickenhamprep.org.uk)  
020 8979 6216



***Music Lessons Esher and Thames Ditton  
Based in Weston Green/Lower Green.***



***Would you like to play piano?  
Write your own songs? - or play flute?***

**Perhaps you want to learn some music with  
your friends - or on your own.**

***Why not give it a try?***

**07722574625  
[colleenmuriel@hotmail.com](mailto:colleenmuriel@hotmail.com).**

**[elflauto.ca](http://elflauto.ca)**

## Karen's Angels

The All Needs Carers



Karen's Angels is a friendly local care company, operating in Surrey.

We provide professional 24 hour care, social and personal care services.

We are very proud of the excellent reputation we continue to achieve with our customers, their families, local authorities, GP's and DN's.

For further information please contact

Karen/Andrea  
02082247848  
07760220604



*The Dittons Scout Group come together to celebrate David's 35 year contribution*



*Cub Scouts who earned the highest award in Cubs - The Chief Scout Silver Award*

# B Birchgrove Hampton Hampton Court Estate

Modern retirement apartments  
for the independently minded

Request an  
**Info  
Pack**

## Independence + *Community*

### Upsize your life. Downsize hassle.

As we age, our priorities naturally shift – we want less stress and more time for what truly brings us joy.

At Birchgrove, you can rent a modern, easy-to-manage apartment and let go of the upkeep, the chores, and the costs of running a big home.

Instead, you'll find a sociable community, support when needed, and the freedom to focus on what matters most to you.

## That's the *joy* of Birchgrove.



**B** Maybe it's time to explore Birchgrove...  
[www.birchgrove.life](http://www.birchgrove.life) / 020 3929 5599



Locations in Surrey, Kent & London:

Banstead | Chiswick | Ewell | Godalming | Hampton  
Leatherhead | Mill Hill | Sidcup | Woking

HealthInvestor  
Seniors Housing  
Awards  
**WINNER**



PropertyWeek  
**RESI**  
AWARDS  
Later Living Operator  
of the Year

## Retirement living redefined.

# Why renting could be your best move yet.

As we approach later life, many face a crossroads: how do we maintain independence while ensuring we have the support and community we need? For a growing number of people, the answer lies in discovering the flexibility and freedom that rental retirement communities offer.

The rental model also provides unparalleled flexibility. Life circumstances can change, and the ability to move without property sale complexities offers invaluable peace of mind.

## What makes Birchgrove different

**At each community, residents enjoy restaurant-quality dining, comprehensive communal facilities, rich social activities, and 24/7 support – all within beautifully designed environments.**



From book clubs and fitness classes to gardening clubs and cultural outings, there's something for every interest and energy level.

The Birchgrove difference lies in our understanding that retirement isn't about slowing down; it's about living life on your own terms. The rental retirement model offers you access to a lifestyle that many believed was beyond reach.

Birchgrove, the UK's leading rental retirement operator, has been pioneering this approach across six premium locations in London, Kent, and Surrey, with three more under construction.

Unlike traditional retirement housing that requires significant upfront investments, **Birchgrove's inclusive rental model offers a distinctly different proposition – one that prioritises choice, flexibility, and peace of mind.**

The traditional path of buying into retirement accommodation often requires releasing significant equity from the family home, creating financial constraints and limiting future options. Birchgrove's rental approach removes these barriers, allowing residents to preserve their capital while accessing high-quality retirement living. This means families can maintain their inheritance plans while still enjoying premium facilities in a supportive environment.



To explore Birchgrove's rental retirement communities across London, Kent, and Surrey, visit: [www.birchgrove.life](http://www.birchgrove.life) or call: 020 3929 5599

# CHAIR YOGA

Gentle Movement • Friendly Faces • A Welcoming Space

Vital Village Hub, Thames Ditton, KT7 OBS



**MONDAY 1.30 – 2.30 : £10**

45 mins of gentle, seated + supported yoga  
Plus 15 mins optional social time after class

- ✓ Ideal for older adults, beginners & anyone with limited mobility
- ✓ Boost strength, balance & wellbeing in a relaxed space

Book Now:  
07867 516517

[carrieodriscoll@me.com](mailto:carrieodriscoll@me.com)



Hands On Health

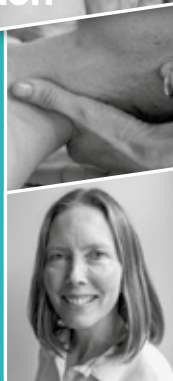
## Sports Massage & Soft Tissue Therapy in Thames Ditton

Helping you to feel better, move better and keep doing the things you love!

To book, please contact  
**Vicky Bulkley**

M: 07989 431796

W: [www.handsonhealth.uk](http://www.handsonhealth.uk)



## TEEN COACHING & NLP

**EXAM pressure?**  
**Let's help your Teen!**

Self-Confidence  
Mental Preparation  
Stress Management  
Revision Strategies  
Motivation

I am Magali Bechade, your local Coach and NLP Practitioner.  
Please email me to set-up your  
**FREE INITIAL APPOINTMENT.**



[hello@myspacehappy.com](mailto:hello@myspacehappy.com)  
[www.myspacehappy.com](http://www.myspacehappy.com)

## Ember Big Band Salutes the Rat Pack



**Norman Pace, half of the famous comedy duo Hale and Pace, hosts a glittering concert on Saturday 27 September.**

Join us at the Leatherhead Theatre to hear the story of the Rat Pack – Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr., Joey Bishop and Peter Lawford – a legendary brotherhood of swaddled, lovable rogues who took Las Vegas, and the rest of the world, by storm.

Tickets are £25 per person and are available online at [puk.org.uk/bigband](http://puk.org.uk/bigband).

[puk.org.uk](http://puk.org.uk)



Princess Alice Hospice

For Concessions, See Us Here



## ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN EXTENSION, LOFT CONVERSION, OUTBUILDING, OR ANY OTHER ALTERATION OR ADDITION TO YOUR PROPERTY?

**Thames Design and Build** provides architectural design and/or construction services to clients across Surrey, with over 80% of our projects being Elmbridge based.

We offer:

- A free consultation to discuss your ideas and advise you on the possibilities and permissions
- A fixed quote for all stages of architectural work
- A fixed quote for your build – we are equally happy to provide a build quote in respect of your existing designs

We have a large portfolio of clients within Elmbridge, so whatever your plans are, we should be able to show you a comparable completed project.



Please email us at [info@thamesdesignandbuild.com](mailto:info@thamesdesignandbuild.com)  
or visit the website [www.thamesdesignandbuild.com](http://www.thamesdesignandbuild.com)



# Solution to the Summer Crossword



1	G	E	2	O	R	3	E					4	B	5	A	6	Z	7	A	A	R
	O		L		E										Z		D			E	
8	A	N	D	D	R	A	9	G	10	O	N			11	A	W	A	R	D		
	T		M		M			W		E				L			M			L	
12	I	N	A	R	A	G	E			13	A	B	E	L						I	
	S		S		N		N			N		A			14	Y				O	
15	H	A	T	T	E	R	S			16	D	I	S	C	E	R	N				
			E					17	T	H	E				O						
18	S	T	R	A	S	S	E			20	R	A	B	B	L	E	S			22	
	I		S		W		F			T		O		D			A				
	L			23	B	A	J	A		24	H	O	T	H	E	A	D				
	E		25	B		N		N		A		T		S			E				
26	S	C	A	B	S		27	I	L	L	B	E	A	W	A	Y					
	I		R		O							G		A			E				
28	A	L	B	A	N	Y					29	S	A	U	N	A	S				

Congratulations to the senders of the correct entries opened in the shuffle who win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Graeme Edwards  
G P Clarke  
Cumi Mahadeva



**Men's Pit Stop**  
SURREY

*Don't carry the weight of whats keeping you down.Come and have a chat about it at Men's Pit Stop. Peer to peer support.*

**Confidential group support every Tuesday  
7pm to 8pm**

*Please call or text Blair for further  
information 0781 5556320  
blair.parrott@surreycc.gov.uk*

**Vital Village Community Hub  
Mercer Close, Thames Ditton  
Surrey KT7 OBS**



**VITAL VILLAGE**  
COMMUNITY HUB

**Vital Village**

Join us for  
**TEA & TOGETHERNESS**

Every first Sunday of the month  
3pm 5pm  
Vital Village Hub  
Mercer Close KT7 OBS

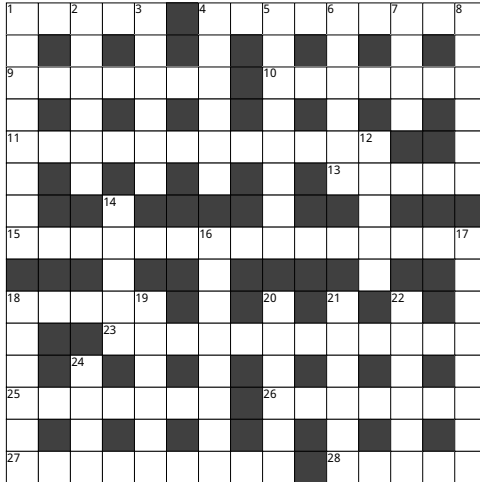
**RSVP**  
07911 924 982



# Autumn Crossword



By Andy Howarth



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 1 November 2025 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops. Please send the completed puzzle (or photocopy) enclosing your name and address with the envelope clearly marked 'Crossword Competition' to:

Thames Ditton Today  
Crossword Competition  
60 Basingfield Road, Thames Ditton KT7 0PB

Names of the winners will be published in the Autumn edition, unless otherwise requested

## ACROSS

- 1 513, 514, 515 (5)
- 4 Genus of aromatic tree in the Laurel family (9)
- 9 Italian liqueur (7)
- 10 Boy aged 13 and three quarters and a girl (7)
- 11 Polygraphs need change of electrodes and information technology (3,9)
- 13 Fires the tackled quarterback? (5)
- 15 Part-time, remunerated sports people (4-3,8)
- 18 Bank vaults (5)
- 23 What he does to avoid a road block? (5,1,6)
- 25 Greed for chopped up caviare (7)
- 26 Gundogs mess up streets (7)
- 27 Golfer deserves to live on Thames Ditton road? (9)
- 28 Lumps tear gas around messy pig pen (5)

## DOWN

- 1 A dress to impress? (8)
- 2 And 7D This TD thoroughfare used to be flooded in winter (6,4)
- 3 Declared it tasted bad (6)
- 4 French evening reception (7)
- 5 Begin a journey (5,3)
- 6 Clothes driers from jagged sierra (6)
- 7 See 2D
- 8 Paroxysms (6)
- 12 Witch trials city (5)
- 14 Bad debit found in the bathroom (5)
- 16 Spotify playlist you like (2,6)
- 17 Happens every day at dawn (3,5)
- 18 Teased badly about being seated (6)
- 19 What's expected of the bride and groom (3,1,2)
- 20 Visit briefly (4,2)
- 21 BR Class 55 locomotive (6)
- 22 Tarot card is confusing solver (6)
- 24 Grabs luggage? (4)

# SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

## SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	General Enquiries:	07895 762100 (Mon-Wed) www.cheer-elmbridge.org.uk
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993
<b>Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services</b>		
Thames Ditton Dementia Centre	Nikki Harding	01372 474526
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	0208398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

## GROUPS

1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Vanessa Corby	1stThamesDittonBrownies@gmail.com
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Emily Wattret	3rdthamesdittonbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group		membership@westongreenscouts.org.uk
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides		2wgguides@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Vanessa Corby	2ndThamesDittonGuides@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)		1wgbrownies@gmail.com
3rd Weston Green Brownies		3wgbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Lizzie Owen	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Chris West	chris.west@ajax.org.uk
Dittons Scout Group	Stuart Jack	07971 479740
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Girlguiding in Thames Ditton and Weston Green		dittonsdistrict.hjh@gmail.com
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Giles Andre	020 8979 1994
Bereavement Café	St Nicholas Church Hall	020 8398 9641
Thames Tots (Kings Church, Speer Road)	Abby Kelly	Office@Kingschurch.com

## CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Alison Cruthers	07957 347170
Archery: Rivernook Bowmen	Nigel Harris	secretary@rivernookbowmen.co.uk
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Cercle Francais d'Esher	Brigitte Tiller	01932 860842 brigitte@ptiller.com
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	info@colets.co.uk	020 8398 7108
Ditton Bridge Club	John Dagnall	02083984463
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Secretary	enquiries@dittons.org.uk
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263
Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Anne Segal	07712 778357
Ember Sports Club	Caroline Anderson	secretary@embersportsclub.org.uk

Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Simon Charrington	07917 017453
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
English Folk Dancing Club ( Thames Ditton )	Jane Ford	07857 826668
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Sarah Cobb	07766 742370
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Piers Cushing	07790 003731
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus Club, Hinchley Wood & the Dittons	Edmund Woolley	020 8398 3581
Probus Club, Sandown	Julian Rye	01932 976994
Probus Club of Molesey	Martin Gibson	moleprobus@gmail.com
Probus Club of Claremont	George Cameron	020 8224 1392
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Stragglers Running Club	Andy Howarth	07941 242348
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	0208 398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Steve Aukett	secretary@tdltc.com
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Neal Brooker	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Geoff Dryden	07813 805 645
	Geoff.Dryden@hotmail.com	
Thames Sailing Club	Mark Laity	07515 101056

## SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance	Mrs Brenda Denby	0208 398 6054
Ember Choral	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Jean Billett	01372 465961
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	0208 398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Gill Vickers	020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Oxshott & Cobham Music Society	Cherry Eddy (Membership)	0208 398 4377
	cherryeddy102@gmail.com	
Soroptimist Women	Jean Smith	07770 417814
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

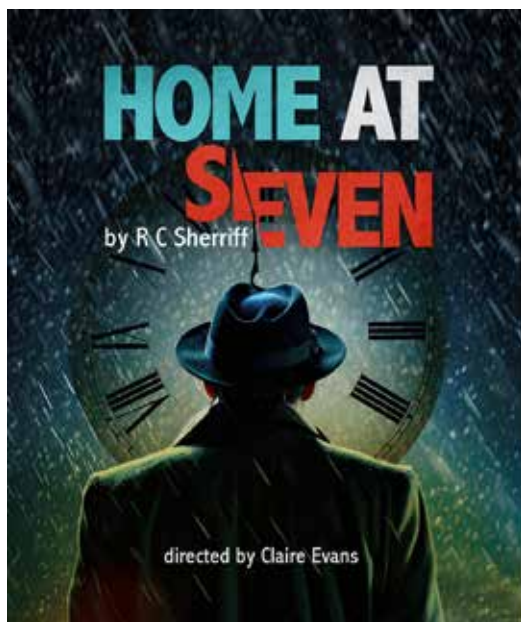
## OTHER

Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Alison Black	08456 528 529
Vital Village	Lettings: Laura Pring	07511 524982
Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee		wgcaac@outlook.com

**Please contact the Editor to amend these listings**



# AUTUMN PLAYS AND FILMS



The Vera Fletcher Hall is delighted to be the opening venue for the Sherriff50 Elmbridge Tour of a professional production of R C Sherriff's *Home at Seven*. The production arrives directly from a three-week run at the Tabard Theatre in Chiswick and will play the Vera Fletcher Hall in Thames Ditton (Saturday 27 September), the Barn Theatre, Molesey (29 September), the Riverhouse Barn in Walton (1 and 2 October) and the Michael Frayn Theatre in Kingston (3 October). The revival of the mystery drama is part of the commemoration of the 50 years since the death of local literary titan R C Sherriff and the production is supported by the R C Sherriff Trust.

Following *Home at Seven* the Vera Fletcher Hall is offering an exciting Season of entertainment. There are two Film Nights, starting with *Polite Society*, a British martial arts action comedy on Friday 17 October and later our Christmas Film Night presentation will be the atmospheric ghost story, *The Amazing Mr Blunden*, directed by Lionel Jeffries, on Friday 5 December. Elsa McTaggart is making a welcome return to the VFH with her new show *Great Women of Folk* on Saturday 1 November, and actor and writer, Claire Louise Amias, is performing her award winning play, *Haunted Shadows: The Gothic Tales of Edith Nesbit* on Saturday 15 November. Tickets for all of these shows and films are available via the Vera Fletcher Hall website, including links to box office for all of the venues involved in the Sherriff50 Tour of *Home at Seven*. [www.verafletcherhall.co.uk](http://www.verafletcherhall.co.uk)

# CARPETS4U

NUMBER 1 MOBILE CARPET SHOWROOM



Epsom based, friendly, Father & Daughter family run business, established for over 25 years.

We bring 100's of carpet samples to your home with no obligation all at competitive prices.

**Call us today  
to arrange a  
completely  
FREE estimate**



CALL  
*Holly*

# 01372 632 118

[www.carpets4u.co.uk](http://www.carpets4u.co.uk)

**10% DISCOUNT**  
ON PRESENTATION  
OF THIS ADVERT

**SPECIAL RATES**  
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS T&Cs APPLY



Over 1,800 Customer Reviews

Proud members of  
**Checkatrade.com**  
Where reputation matters



**FREE FITTING & FURNITURE MOVING - ESTIMATES AND ADVICE**



Only £5  
per week

# Memory Club

**Tuesdays, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm**

Worcester Park Baptist Church

The Avenue, Worcester Park, KT4 7EW



Welcome to the Memory Club, a warm & welcoming place for people and families experiencing a condition that affects their memory, or for those who are worried about their memory.

We understand how isolating this can sometimes feel.

The focus of our Memory Club is around stimulating the brain, making meaningful connections, sparking memories and sharing stories through engaging activities.

**We have tea, coffee and cake with ample parking spaces!**

**No Need to Book, Simply Drop in  
or call 07923 157 010 for further  
information.**

VisitingAngels®   
QUALITY AT HOME CARE