

THAMES DITTON TODAY

THAMES DITTON • WESTON GREEN • EAST MOLESEY

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
VOTE



THE MAGAZINE OF THE
THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2026

Where little learners take big steps every day.

At Colets Nursery, we provide high-quality, affordable childcare in a nurturing, community-focused setting. From babies to preschoolers, every child is supported to grow with confidence, curiosity and joy.

Why parents love Colets Nursery:

- Newly refurbished, purpose-built facilities
- Dedicated garden for daily outdoor play
- Private Soft Play area
- Funded places available
- Highly qualified, caring team
- Enriching extra-curricular activities



BOOK A TOUR AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELF

We'd love to welcome you and your little one.





THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY SINCE 1970

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

Editorial

Contributors

Julie Royce, Louise Russell

Readers are welcome to submit articles or images. Please contact the Editorial Team at **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.

In this Issue:

News from the Residents' Association	7
Update from your Residents' Association Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council.....	12
Update from Nick Darby, your Surrey County Councillor	15
Why vote for the Residents' Association.....	17
Can Marneys Pond be saved?	19
Your Residents' Association in action.....	24
Three local authors publish books.....	30
Farmers Market celebrates 10 years	33
Meet your magazine distributors	37
Winter Crossword Solution.....	42
Spring crossword	43
Services, Clubs, Societies and Groups	44
Vera Fletcher Hall spring theatre productions	46
Cover: Springtime in Thames Ditton. Photo by Andy Anderson.	

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; 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



DanceCraft M&M

"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."

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
Call or text to: 07800 860898
or visit our website 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

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



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

Annual General Meeting

8pm on Tuesday 17 March 2026
at Vera Fletcher Hall

Agenda:

1. Minutes of the 2025 AGM meeting and matters arising
2. Chairman's Annual Report: Receive, discuss and adopt the Annual Report for 2025
3. Accounts: To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2025
4. Appointments: To receive nominations and appoint officers and an auditor: President; Chairman; Vice Chairman; Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer; Hon Auditor
5. Elections to the new East Surrey Council
6. Resolutions: To consider any resolutions submitted in writing to the Secretary by 3 March 2026
7. Guest speaker

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 07719 728725

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
07947 571019

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

Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,
1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton
andrew.roberts9919@gmail.com

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



THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

Tuesday 17 March RA AGM 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday 28 April 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday 23 June 8pm - Imber Court

ALL WHO LIVE AND WORK LOCALLY ARE WELCOME

www.craftmyday.com



Craft my Day

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

Thames Ditton
Worcester Park

Adult Craft Workshops
Weekly Adult Classes
Private Events
Kids Clubs
Parties
Holiday Clubs

Info@craftmyday.com
07566225843

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

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

cards + gifts + chocolates...

...for mother's day + easter

love thames ditton
shoplocal

design: www.thecreepdesign.com thames ditton

VIEW
thames ditton

34 High Street Thames Ditton KT7 0RY 020 8972 9706

  @ViewGifts

www.view-gifts.com

The latest news from the Residents' Association



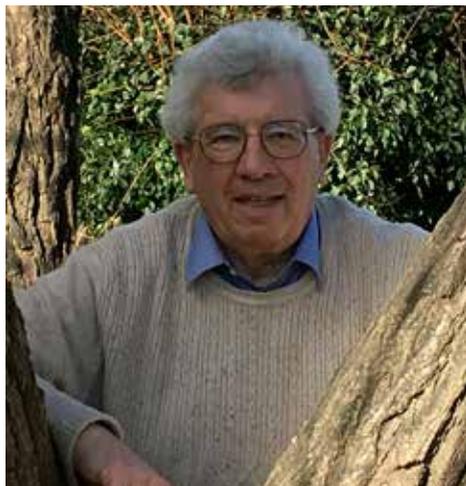
East Surrey Elections, 7 May

We are delighted to announce that Simon Crome is standing for the Residents' Association in the May elections for the new Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green division. Simon is keen to maintain an RA presence on the new East Surrey Unitary Authority and believes local councils should be governed not by political parties beholden to Westminster, but those elected by local residents to serve the interests of local communities.

He is particularly concerned at the threat of large scale development in the area. He said: "We will have to struggle hard to retain our Green Belt that sits at the boundary between London and Surrey. I have objected strongly to the proposed developments at the Rose Nursery and also to the monstrous development just the Kingston side of the boundary, at Hook Park, which would loom over us and severely affect our roads, schools, health services and the quality of life in Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Claygate too."

Simon, a retired lawyer, IT analyst and specialist in business recovery, has lived with his wife Nicky and family in Hinchley Wood for more than 20 years. He is involved with St. Christopher's Church and has been helping to catalogue the Weston Green Community Archive at All Saints Church.

Additional candidates will be standing for the Residents' Association in the East Surrey elections, including the new Thames



Simon Crome

Ditton and East Molesey division. We will be giving their details on the RA website soon.

Support your RA

Included with this issue of the magazine is our 2026 Residents' Association Subscription slip, requesting payment of just £5 to support and help the RA in the year ahead. While officers and supporters are all volunteers, the subscription fee covers basic admin and election costs - needed for the RA to function. We also ask subscribers to make an additional contribution: this can go towards publishing this magazine (our advertising income doesn't fully cover it) or to a contingency fund which supports community enhancement projects. The Residents' Association and RA Councillors are here to help everyone in the community - your continued support is much appreciated.

Thames Ditton Today



Michael and Lisa Metcalfe

We are indebted to Michael Metcalfe who has just completed the mammoth task of digitising all 222 editions of Thames Ditton Today magazine, from its launch in Spring 1970 to Winter 2025. He has also collated every original printed edition which are now held at Thames Ditton library along with 158 editions (Spring 1970-Winter 2009) which are bound into 12 hardback books. With the support of the RA, his next task is to preserve editions from 2010 to 2025 in more hardback books.

Michael became aware of the need to document the history of Thames Ditton when two years ago he was forced to cut down the majestic 250-year-old Cypress tree in the gardens of the Old Manor House in Station Road. He and his wife Lisa have lived in a cottage in the grounds since the mid 80s and having to cut down the badly diseased tree made him realise the need to do more to chart the history of the village for posterity.

He found the early editions of Thames Ditton Today to be an invaluable local history resource. "They are a fascinating window into our past, but they are fragile. I realised that digitising them would not

only preserve them for future generations but make them accessible to the entire community. I'm delighted to have played a small part in ensuring the collection is complete, consistent, and well-preserved."

2026 Dittons Fair

The fun-packed Dittons Fair on Giggs Hill Green, the biggest annual community event in Thames Ditton, is this year being held on Sunday 10 May (from 1pm). Organised by the Dittons Scout Group, there will be something to enjoy for all ages with a Funfair, games, Pig Racing(!), a Dotty Dog Show and more than 30 craft and charity stalls run by local traders. Amazing displays in the main Arena will be presented by local sporting clubs, performing arts and dance studios, as well as the Scouts.

Golden Monday

Burns Night was celebrated in traditional style by more than 40 tartan-clad residents at a lunch at Vital Village in conjunction with Birchgrove Retirement. Part of Birchgrove's Golden Monday series the event featured bagpipes and a ceremonial 'stabbing' of the haggis. Golden Mondays featuring coffee, chat and lunch, run every week from 9.30am through termtime at Vital Village.

Ember Sports Club

Allcomers are warmly invited to free informal taster sessions offered by both the Bowls and Croquet sections. Ember Bowls Club starts on Sunday 3 May with tuition by qualified coaches and loan of a set of bowls. Contact Pat Cooke on 07984714061 for more details. Separately, Ember Croquet Club will be running four taster sessions on 7, 11, 16 and 19 April. To find out more email croquet@embersportsclub.org.uk or book your free place on www.eventbrite.co.uk - search Ember Croquet.



Pictured (from left to right) are Bee Cassidy, Jo Hamon, Pam Tiller, Tilly Speirs, Caroline Hall, Emma Francis, Jenny Smallman, Kate Pinhey.

Weston Green Cappella singers

Many people will know the Weston Super Mares – a local female a cappella group, started in 2016, under the leadership of professional singer and teacher Bee Cassidy and her husband Nigel, who accompanies the group. These amazing local ladies have now been singing and performing together for ten years, and their anniversary concert will take place in All Saints Weston on 16 May at 7.30. Tickets will be in high demand and are £25 including a light supper. Booking at allsaintsweston.com

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Its Weston Green's turn to host this very popular annual community event in 2026, taking place on Sunday 14 June. If you would like to be among those who share their garden - it does not have to be picture perfect - please contact Gill Coates at gcoates@residents-association/07908922263. Afternoon Tea and Cakes will be served at All Saints Church, Weston Green where on the day you can also buy your tickets and gardens map.

A Repair Cafe is coming to Thames Ditton

Keeping older items going instead of buying new makes a lot of sense. You save money, save on CO2 emissions and you keep items out of landfill. Now we are bringing a Repair Cafe to Thames Ditton.

Our volunteer repairers will have a go at fixing your broken items and if we can't mend something we might know someone who can. The aim is to take a stand against planned obsolescence and reduce over-consumption.

We ran a small pilot in February and will be back in Vital Village on Sunday 22 March for our first session. Repairs must be pre-booked (please visit www.TDnature.org for info) but do drop in to meet us and find out more. You can find us in the Craft Cabin at Vital Village from 9.30-midday, and if you'd like to learn how to repair and join our team we'd love to meet you.

Calling all budding wildlife photographers!

As part of the fifth Nature & Climate Festival being held in October, Killik & Co are generously sponsoring the annual photography competition. Open to adults and children, photos should reflect the best of local wildlife or scenery whether it's in your garden, by the river or in one of our wonderful woodlands. It could be a tiny insect or a massive oak tree. Winners win cash prizes! Closing date for entries is not until 11 September. Entry is free. Full details are available at www.tdnature.org

Alan Hepburn

It is with sadness that we learnt that Alan Hepburn, a stalwart of Thames Ditton High Street, died in February after a short illness. Alan ran the Village Bakery with his wife Hilary in the 1990s. He also taught art at Thames Ditton Junior school and was a councillor for TDWGRA. We pass on our condolences to Hilary, his two daughters, Fiona and Caroline, and the rest of the family.



Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

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

Singing it Back - Choral Concert at

All Saints Weston Saturday 21 March
7.30: Free entry. Donations welcome

Weston Super Mares 10th anniversary concert

Saturday 16 May at 7.30pm: Tickets
£25 to include a light supper.
Booking at allsaintsweston.com

2026 Dittons' Fair

Giggs Hill Green Sunday 10 May
from 1pm

2026 Esher May Fair

Esher Green Saturday 16 May

2026 Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday 14 June. Tickets and starting
point at All Saints Church

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

Small Saints Baby and Toddler Group

For carers and toddlers. Monday
mornings. All Saints Church Hall For
information, email
cathy@allsaintsweston.com

Golden Mondays at Vital Village

Tea, lunch and entertainment for
retired residents 9.30-2.15



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: Application for an Aldi supermarket on Portsmouth Road, Thames Ditton. This application will be determined by the Planning Committee on 10 March; **Bransby Lodge:** Development at Bransby Lodge, St Leonards Road, Thames Ditton. This application was withdrawn in January; **Hill Park Roses:** Housing development on the site of **Hill Park Roses**, Woodstock Lane South, Long Ditton. The reference for this application is 2025/2018 and it is likely to be considered at the Planning Committee in the next couple of months. **Mill Road Depot:** The proposal (application number 2025/3216) to extend the opening hours of the Mill Road waste depot in Esher will impact Weston Green residents and schools. This application will be considered by the Planning Committee in March.

Connected Communities

Elmbridge Borough Council have confirmed that the six community centres have been awarded to the following community partners. Leases are being agreed with the groups, and we expect the first handover to be in late April/early May, with a

phased programme for the others over the summer. The aim is to transform the centres into vibrant hubs at the heart of their communities, open to everyone and shaped by local involvement.

The Hersham centre will be run by the 'Voices of Hope' charity; The Claygate centre will be run by the 'Claygate Community Alliance'; The Weybridge centre will be run by 'Elevate Elmbridge'; The Molesey centre will be run by 'St Peter's Molesey and the Friends of Molesey Centre'; The Cobham and Walton centres have both been awarded to local charities. Full details will be announced shortly.

Pharmacy update

We were all shocked at the local NHS's (Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board) decision to refuse a licence for a replacement pharmacy in the High Street. Fortunately, the applicant (a locally based pharmacist), is still keen to open in the village and has agreed to make another application on a different basis. We know the loss of the pharmacy has hit local residents and the village hard (as shown by the 1200 signature petition and us

Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates
TDWGRA



Janet Turner
HWRA



James Crawshaw
HWRA

receiving nearly 100 individual emails), which illustrated the problems the loss of the pharmacy has caused to individuals and families. The Residents' Association and the Thames Ditton Foundation are funding the significant costs involved in making this new application which we expect to be ready to submit in the next few weeks.

All change in Surrey Councils

Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) – East Surrey Unitary Authority

There will be elections for councillors for East Surrey on Thursday 7 May 2026. From May 2026 until March 2027, East Surrey will run alongside the existing councils. From May 2026, the East Surrey unitary authority will be putting in place the necessary staff, buildings, and structures to start delivering all council services from April 2027. Your current SCC and EBC councillors will continue to serve our community until March 2027. Residents in Thames Ditton will be voting for two councillors, for the Thames Ditton and East Molesey Division, and residents in Weston Green will be voting for two councillors in the Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and

Long Ditton division. SCC has launched an information hub for residents to keep updated. Go to www.surreylgrhub.gov.uk

Ashley Road Car Park, Thames Ditton: We are delighted to confirm that EV charging points are currently being installed in Ashley Road car park. Additional cycle racks for Thames Ditton village have already been installed in Ashley Road car park, both initiatives are supporting the drive to sustainability.

Christmas Lights in Thames Ditton High Street: Surrey County Council will shortly be installing commando sockets on the lampposts in the High Street so that Thames Ditton will be included in the Elmbridge Christmas Lights contract from 2026 until 2029.

Thames Ditton station Bike Shelter: We are continuing to apply for funding to reinstate the rain shelter roof. If you know of any funding streams that we could apply to, please contact us.

Last but not least, a reminder that the first 30 minutes of parking in Ashley Road car park is FREE! Do use this facility to shop locally and support our High Street.

We are the one & only

(nowhere we'd rather be)

As the only agent based in the village,
we know the buyers who are waiting for a home like yours.



BOOK YOUR FREE
VALUATION TODAY

HJC
ESTATE AGENCY

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

6 Station Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0NR

 knightjames
Wealth Management

Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



I am sorry to say the Surrey County Council tax for the coming financial year will be increased by 4.99 per cent. Due to Government requirements this increase is likely to be repeated in the following two years. However, I am thrilled to report that all six of the changes to the budget proposed by the RA and Independent Councillors group were approved. These included improvements to foster care and special needs for children, improvements to youth services, home to school transport and a review of Surrey bus services. This contrasted with the failure of other political groups to propose anything, apart from The Greens who made a single amendment.

Highways

I am pleased to see that the resurfacing of St Leonard's Road has now been completed. To achieve this, I allocated almost the full amount of my annual highways allowance for local projects of £120k to the overall cost of £400k. But after pressing to get this work done for more than five years, I think it has been well worthwhile.

My concern relating to dangerous and inconsiderate driving in Station Road

continues. Surrey officers are now looking at how to improve road safety and car parking in the village, especially in Station Road and for Church Walk. I believe several changes to improve road safety have been given the go ahead by highways officers, including extra 20mph roundels being painted near the Station bridge at the junctions of Basingfield Road and Speer Road. A detailed review of parking in the village is also going ahead to cover Station Road, Weston Green Road and Speer Road and probably, Watts Road, Ashey Road and the High Street too.

For the next financial year - the last for Surrey County Council - the Highways department has agreed to my request to resurface Church Walk, as well as the footpath along Lower Green Road.

Planning

I am continuing to support objections to the development for 150 houses proposed by Taylor Wimpey on Green Belt land at the Rose Hill Nursery, next to Squires. Taylor Wimpey has put forward plans to make changes to the highways part of the application, which are now being considered by Surrey transport officers. I have provided my own views on this matter which I hope will ensure Surrey's own significant highways objections to this planning application remain.

With best wishes

Nick Darby

Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons

07719 728725

At any age,
at every stage,
we help you
save, plan and
invest for the
future.

Email esher@killik.com
to find out more.

KILLIK & Co



*The value of your investments may go down
as well as up.*

Why vote for the Residents' Association?



When talking to newcomers to Thames Ditton and Weston Green I am often asked “What are Residents’ Association councillors and how do they differ from those in the political parties?” People moving here from outside, and particularly from London with its strongly party-political councils, find it strange that Residents’ Associations should put up candidates for the local council and, moreover, get them regularly elected! When I tell them that of the 48 Elmbridge councillors 17 are Residents and Independents with 21 Liberal Democrats and 10 Conservatives, they realise the RA is not just a fringe group

What makes us different? Our approach is based on our local community and its needs and NOT on the wishes of a party political organisation looking to Westminster. Local councillors should represent local interests and not have to vote according to a party “whip”.

Over the years RA Councillors representing us on Surrey County Council and Elmbridge Council have achieved many successes, without any support from the political parties. These include helping to save the Vera Fletcher Hall, now a thriving community centre and theatre. Likewise RA councillors ensured the survival of the Dittons Skiff and Punting Club when Conservative councillors proposed to sell the entire Albany Works site to developers. And Ajax Sea Scouts where RA councillors negotiated the re-siting and rebuilding of its headquarters, when their old site was sold for development. The RA restored the parking lay-by for the shops at Winters Bridge, which the previous LibDem County

Councillor had taken out. RA councillors led the successful campaign to save the Youth and Community Centre and Car Park at Giggs Hill Green when Surrey County Council planned to sell the site to developers. There was no help from the local Conservative or Liberal Democrat Associations.

Another area in which we are distinctive is in our consistent support for the countryside and our open spaces. It is unfortunate that for all the protestations of support from the political parties, when it comes to the crunch they have all too often found excuses for voting for developments which would irretrievably change the character of our borough. Defending our environment means constant vigilance. It was RA councillors who voted against the Aldi application for development at Giggs Hill Green and previously, the housing development on the Tennis Club site and backland development between Station Road and Ashley Road.

We do not work in a vacuum. As well as our Thames Ditton Today magazine and our website, we hold regular open meetings where everyone can air their views on current planning proposals and other matters of concern. The political parties hold no open meetings.

At a time when trust in the national political parties has reached a new low, we firmly believe the way forward is through community policies not national politics, and through local solutions to local problems.

Ruth Lyon
Vice President & past Elmbridge Councillor

BeeInspired

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

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



Robert, Chris & Andrew Lodge



"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



ASK ABOUT OUR
PRE-PAYMENT
FUNERAL PLANS

Lodge
BROTHERS 1780
the family you can turn to

FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE

Can Marney's Pond be saved?



RA Councillor Gill Coates outlines what the future holds



Local residents helping to save Marney's Pond

Last year broke records for the hottest, driest summer. Over the last 12 years the average temperature in the UK has risen by 1.3 degrees. Climate change is disrupting weather patterns and having a serious impact on our environment. One local victim is the landmark Marney's Pond on Ditton Common.

Originally one of 16 ponds in the area, Marney's is now one of only two (Milbourne Pond is the other). Last year Marney's Pond was totally dry before the end of June. The problem is complex. Marney's Pond is naturally very shallow with a large surface area, so it is prone to evaporation. Its only sources of water are the Slade, a 'wet ditch' along the back of Orchard Gate that is fed by other, smaller, drainage ditches along Ember Lane, and rainwater run-off from All Saints Church. The surrounding area is flat so in a dry summer, virtually no water reaches the pond.

Residents are keen to see action to overcome the problem but there are limits to what

can be done. In the short term we need to improve the Slade and local drainage ditches to maximise water flow. When they get overgrown the vegetation slows the flow of water and any rainwater evaporates before it can reach the pond. Careful clearing of the vegetation and removing the silt deposits could be very helpful in improving water flow.

The RA is setting up working parties to clear the ditches ready for summer 2026 and we hope it will make a difference. (To help, contact me gcoates@residents-association.com). Meanwhile All Saints Church has cleared one of its drains to improve surface run-off.

Longer term we need to better understand the local groundwater hydrology before knowing if it is possible to restore the pond. Digging out and re-profiling (as we did with Milbourne Pond) needs careful consideration. The aim would be to dig down to a natural aquifer but we do not know if there is a reliable one and digging deeper could irreparably damage the remaining clay seal and make things worse. Another option is to dig a bore hole into the groundwater and install a pump to top up the water level. This could work but we need to understand the groundwater situation first.

If we do nothing and let nature take its course, then in ten years Marney's Pond, may disappear. We therefore propose to sink a monitoring hole to get a better understanding of the water table under the pond, so we can decide whether either of these longer-term options are feasible.



Looking to make your garden glorious?

When it comes to your garden, it can be hard to know where to invest and what will work best in the long term.

We help take the uncertainty out of the process, creating beautiful, biodiverse gardens that are practical, calming, and enjoyable all year round. We prioritise longevity, value for money, and designs that grow better with time.

We are an award-winning local garden design studio. In 2025 and 2023, we designed People's Choice Award winning gardens at RHS Chelsea and RHS Hampton Court for The Wildlife Trusts'.

If you are considering changes to your garden, and want inspiration or help with your plans, get in touch today.

enquiries@zoeclaymore.com

07742291348

www.zoeclaymore.com

We offer a range of services, depending on your aspirations and budget:

- Full service garden design and project management
- Planting design and installation
- A DIY garden consultation service



ZOE CLAYMORE
GARDEN DESIGN

It takes a village...
...to arrange and enjoy a celebration

thank you

to everyone who helped make the 2025 Thames Ditton Christmas Fair such a success – from stallholders and entertainers to volunteer stewards and those who helped fund the village extravaganza.

With special thanks to Councillor Nick Darby, local businesses, Elmbridge Borough Council, our wonderful school choirs, the Ember Big Band, the Residents' Association, and the residents whose roads were closed to make the day possible.

Thank you too to everyone who came along to support the fair. Together, our local businesses also raised several thousand pounds for local charities.

This year's Christmas Fair promises to be even bigger and better!



Design: www.thesetupdesign.com Thames Ditton

Save the date:
Sunday 29th November 2026

Supported by:
**THAMES DITTON
TODAY**

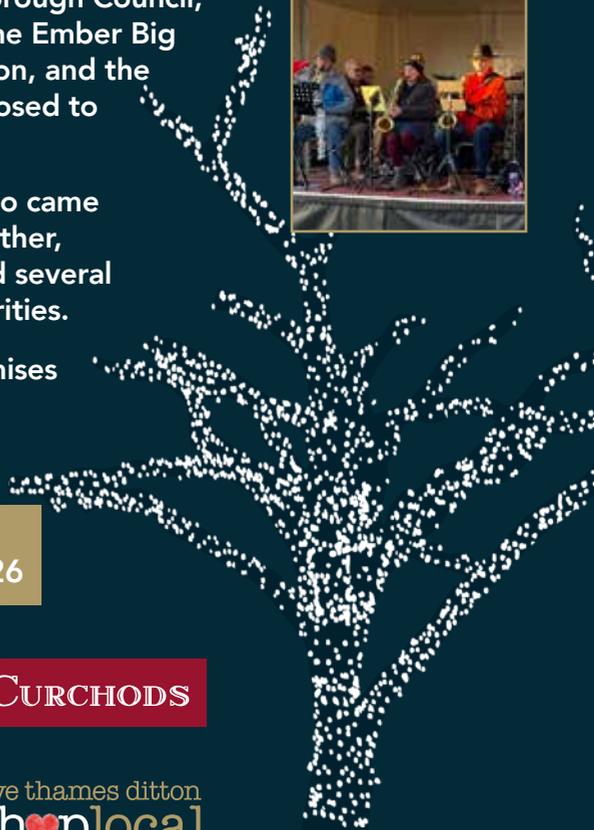


CURCHODS



Organised by the
Thames Ditton
& Weston Green
Residents' Association

love thames ditton
shoplocal





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
or visit the website www.thamesdesignandbuild.com



Discover amazing experiences

at Busy Bees in Thames Ditton



"Children are happy, settled and secure. It is evident staff care for each individual child. All children including those with SEND make good progress and children demonstrate positive attitudes to learning."



Large outdoor garden offers shaded outdoor space for each age group

Our long-standing team has welcomed and nurtured many children

Our staff have passion for the job and care for each individual child who joins us

Excellent links with the local community

Fantastic parent partnerships

NEW REFURB



Enquire today, call 0330 333 8133 or email enrolments@busybees.com

EXPERT TAX ADVICE WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

LKA's award-winning team of Chartered Tax Advisors and Chartered Accountants have been supporting local residents with their tax and accountancy needs for over 10 years.

Our trusted team of tax advisors can help with complex tax planning and compliance issues including:

- Inheritance tax
- Capital gains tax
- Trusts
- Exit planning
- UK self-assessment



Renowned for our focus on client care, our multi-award winning team provides **professional, specialist** advice that's simple to understand.

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



Anney Court, Ferry Works,
Summer Road, Thames
Ditton, KT7 0QJ

0203 915 8585
www.lkassociates.co.uk



Your Residents' Association



Nature and Climate festival weekend. Enabling people to help the planet

Organised clearance of vegetation overgrowth around Milbourne Pond

Website maintained as resource for all residents

High Street Christmas trees & lights

Supported residents' objections to inappropriate development

Road resurfacing in Thames Ditton and Weston Green

Secured inclusion of TD High St lampposts into the Elmbridge funded Christmas lights contract from 2026-2029

Advised residents about Local Government Reorganisation

Secured funding for free 'Property Flood Resilience' surveys for homes at high risk of flooding in TD

Supported the TD Flood Group's open day

Regular Open Meetings to engage with the community on important topics

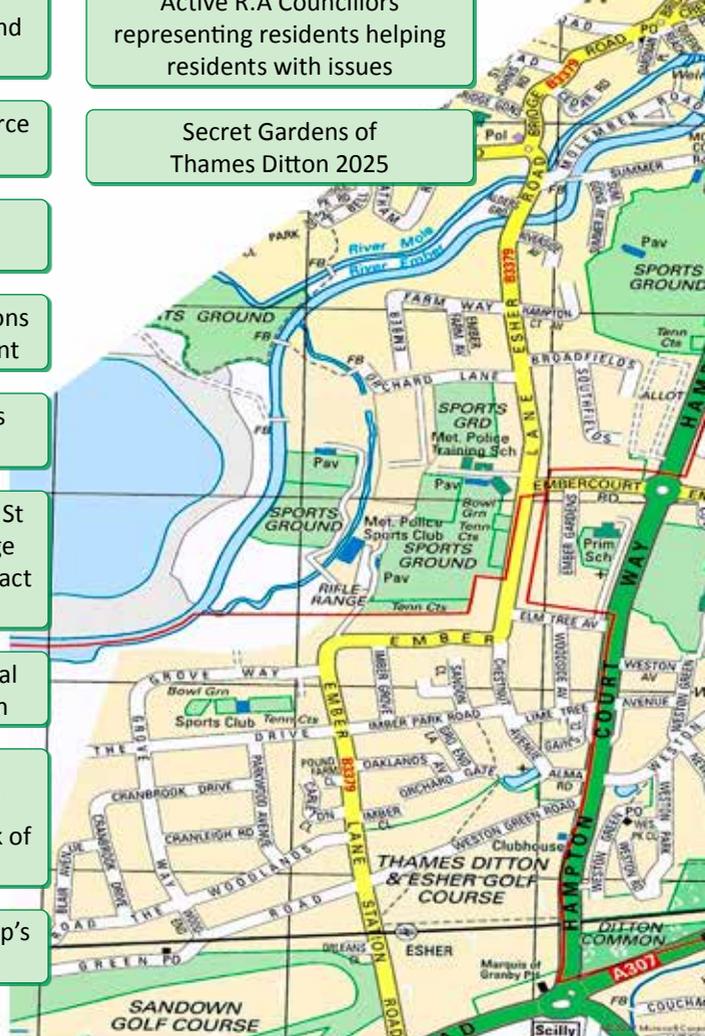
Notified residents of key planning applications

Active R.A Councillors representing residents helping residents with issues

Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton 2025

Constant vigilance Conservation Area and our Thank

Lobbied for an refurbishment a Fountain lamp



ion in Action 2025-2026



nce to protect
reas, Green Belt
nes Riverside

Keeping pressure on Thames
Water to replace the broken
sewer in the High Street

5000 copies of Thames Ditton
Today distributed quarterly in
Thames Ditton, Weston Green
and Molesey

and ensured the
and repair of the
p roundabout

Applying for funding to replace
the cover of the bike rack at
Thames Ditton station

Running the campaign to
reinstate a pharmacy in Thames
Ditton village

Leading the campaign to save
Marney's pond

Secured the installation of
new cycle racks in Ashley Road
car park

Planted spring bulbs, maintained
flower beds at Fountain
roundabout

Monthly Litter Picking

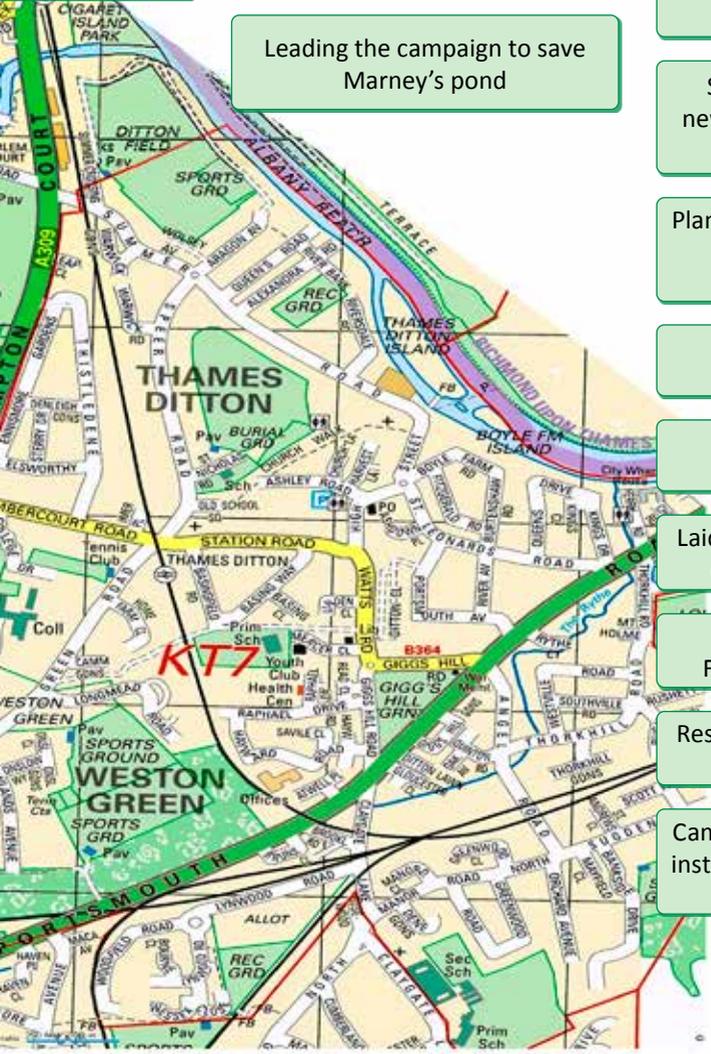
Supports monthly
Farmers' Markets

Laid wreaths on War Memorials
on Remembrance Sunday

Continued support to
Foodbank collection points

Responded to local government
consultations

Campaigned for and secured the
installation of EV charging points
in Ashley Road car park





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 Tel: 020 8399 3377

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.

Our legal services include:

- Buying & selling property
- Family law
- Wills, trusts & probate
- Employment law
- Dispute resolution

Speak to one of our trusted solicitors today.

owenwhitecatlin.co.uk

01372 469 100
contact@owc.co.uk

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



ARIA CARE

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.

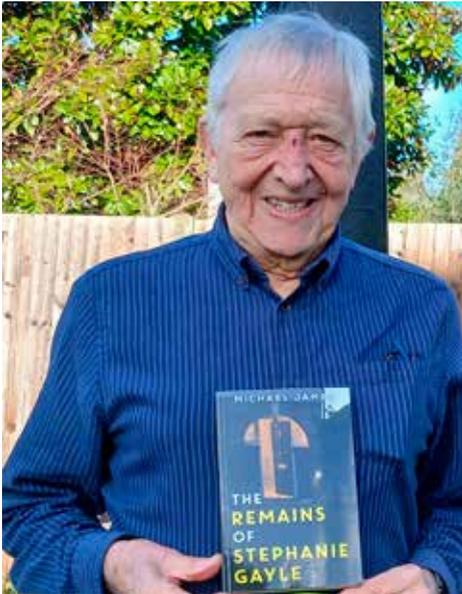
0808 281 5107 | ariacare.co.uk
58 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0TT



SCAN HERE
TO FIND OUT MORE



Crime mystery, inside the EU and local nostalgia - 3 new books by local authors



'The Remains of Stephanie Gayle'

The mystery surrounding the unexplained disappearance of a 42-year-old Thames Ditton woman more than 25 years ago forms the background to a crime fiction by local author, Michael James. His novel, 'The Remains of Stephanie Gayle', looks at what might have happened when the mother of five children vanished without taking any possessions and on the eve of planning a birthday celebration for her daughter.

Michael, AKA children's author Mike Simpson, got the idea for the book when having a chat with friends at Thames Ditton Tennis Club. He then got in touch with DCI Colin Sutton, one of the Met's

most successful former crime busters, who led the fruitless investigation into her disappearance and who helped with background ideas.

His story features a pair of detectives brought in by the Met to conduct a cold case review under pressure from Stephanie's best friend and neighbour, Kirsty Foster, who believes her disappearance is very suspicious. "I hope readers enjoy my whodunnit and its local connections," said Mike, a retired English teacher who lives near Imber Court. "The BBC has asked me to write a script so I hope the book may be adapted for TV too."

To get a copy of the book (price £8.99), go to www.olympiapublishers.com and also at Amazon.

What do you really understand about the European Union?

Ian Bond and his family moved to Thames Ditton in 2020. A former British diplomat, Ian dealt with Russia and the former Soviet Union for over 28 years (witnessing the 1993 shelling of the Russian Parliament and hosting Queen Elizabeth II's visit to Latvia in 2006). Ian now uses his experience in his role as deputy director of the Centre for European Reform (an independent think tank), and as author of his recently published book, 'The Routledge Guide to the European Union' (second edition).

Ian's involvement in the Guide began in 2017 when he became the co-author and then its sole author. Despite the previous author's forecast that 'there will probably



‘A Slice of Life’

Born in 1943, Gerald Smith grew up in Weston Green with his publican parents, promiscuous terrier Patch, a love of the outdoors and relish for the childhood freedom of his local area. Gerald was and still is part of the fabric of Weston Green and today is known as a renowned raconteur of stories of a very different time. These colourful accounts have been beautifully brought together by Julia Jones in a book about the world Gerald grew up in.

not be a vast amount of updating’, the new edition took almost eight years to complete, largely owing to a series of events such as Brexit, Covid-19 and Putin invading Ukraine, prompting responses from the EU previously unseen. So, is it worth the wait?

Ian said: “You may not be interested in the EU, but despite Brexit, the EU will certainly affect you. This is not a book to read like a novel – unless you are studying European politics – but dipping in will help you understand what lies behind what you read in the news. And if that’s not enough – even the EU has its funny moments, such as the time when the Finns wanted to host the European Food Safety Authority, and the Italian PM, Silvio Berlusconi, told them they didn’t deserve to because they didn’t even know what prosciutto was.”

Informed by experts, the book contains over 600 pages including illustrations and references and is in four parts: history, EU bodies and how decisions are taken, competences such as health, trade and defence, and finally, the challenges ahead. Get your copy from routledge.com or Amazon.

Ian was interviewed by Julie Royce

‘A Slice of Life’ captures a rural childhood in Weston Green during the 1940s and 50s and continues with the subsequent years dedicated to the perfection of gardening at Hampton Court where Gerald served his apprenticeship. ‘A Slice of Life’ will be of interest to anyone who knows and loves Weston Green and its surroundings. A reading and book launch took place at the end of 2025 and copies sold out within a week. More are on the way. To reserve a copy (price £9.99) or be notified of future talks by Gerald, email office@allsaintsweston.com

Author Julia has lived in Hinchley Wood for nearly 30 years where she has taught locally, led the Girl Guides and continues to arrange garden days out for members of Esher Molesey Garden Society. She met Gerald when attending various All Saints fundraising events last year and got the idea to write his book.



Gerald Smith and Julia Jones

HAMPTON HILL WINDOWS

**ESTABLISHED INDEPENDENT
SPECIALISTS FOR 35 YEARS**



- Hundreds of different styles, shapes, features, colours and glazing options
- uPVC Windows and Doors
- Composite Doors
- Friendly Service
- References on Request
- 10 Year Insurance Backed Guarantee



**Tel 020 8977 1822 • email rsupvc@gmail.com
www.hamptonhillwindows.co.uk**

2 New Broadway, Hampton Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1JG

Thames Ditton Farmers Market



The Past and present organising teams celebrating the 10th anniversary

Thames Ditton Farmers Market has recently celebrated its 10th anniversary. From small beginnings in the car park of the George & Dragon pub, it is now very much part of the fabric of the village attracting hundreds of people to its monthly market.

Now held on the fourth Saturday in the month at the Mercer Close car park, it features a regular group of more than 20 stallholders offering everything from local foods, produce and drinks to local arts, crafts and fashion.

The idea behind the original initiative for a Farmers Market was to complement and support the High Street, encouraging local residents - but also those from nearby areas - to visit the village and enjoy a community offering. Started by

Tricia Bland (trustee of the Thames Ditton Foundation), Tracy Truelove, Jack and Jenny Avon and the then landlords of the pub, Mick and Megan Pearson. Of the original team, Tricia and Tracy continued at the helm until 2023 when with the Farmers Market re-established at Mercer Close and following Covid, they handed over to the organisers of Molesey Farmers' Market and publishers of the Court Circular Magazine, comprising Janine Macqueen, Kim Craig and Alex Riley.

Also part of the original volunteers and still contributing today, is local artist Andrea Cunningham who each month creates the themed Treasure Hunt clues, a free market activity (with sweets/ pencils etc as prizes) which is hugely popular with the children of families who attend.

MAKE A DATE
TO SHOP SMALL
& LOCAL IN
2026



28
FEB

28
MAR

25
APR

23
MAY

BANK
HOLIDAY

27
JUN

25
JUL

BANK
HOLIDAY

22
AUG

26
SEP

24
OCT

28
NOV

SUNDAY

13
DEC

SATURDAYS* 10am – 2pm (*exc DECEMBER)

MERCER CLOSE CAR PARK, THAMES DITTON KT7 0BS

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

@thamesdittonfarmersmarket

www.thamesdittonfarmersmarket.co.uk

ORGANISED BY



Stallholders

Food/drink: Stears Greengrocers: Fresh fruit and veg, along with seasonal bedding and potted plants. Fruit juices and jams; **The Giggly Pig:** Bacon and pork products, and hot cooked bacon and sausage breakfast rolls; **The Salsa King:** Tex-Mex salsa in jars; tortilla chips; **Hilton Charcuterie:** Locally produced British charcuterie; **Isle of Wight Tomatoes:** Fresh tomatoes, sauces and vinegars; **The French Comte:** Wide selection of French cheeses; **The Sassy Apron:** Cakes, savouries and bread; **Bee Friends:** Local, raw honey; honeycomb sections; natural skincare products; pure beeswax products; **The Real Focaccia:** Toasted focaccia and hot drinks; **VJ Game:** Raw meats and meat products: game, sausages, smoked and cured meats; fish; poultry; **CulyArt:** Homemade Spanish food; croquetas and Galician pies; **Thames Ditton Gin:** Local small-batch gin; **Thames Ditton Brewers:** Craft beers; **The Bread Lady:** French pastries and breads; savoury lunches and cakes

Designers, makers and other independent businesses: Rosella Style: Ladies European-brand clothing; **Soaps by Aga:** Handmade soaps and candles; **Lisa Tolley Artist:** Local artwork, prints and cards; **Sarah Simmonds-Gooding:** Greetings cards and original art; **Handmade by Chloe:** Gift items; acrylic products and personalized gift items; **The Silver Sprite:** Jewellery and crystals; **Belle and Mack:** Fashion jewellery, bags, scarves and accessories; **Andrea Cunningham Artist:** Original art; paintings and cards; **Thames Ditton Pottery Shed:** Ceramics and glass; gifts and homeware; **Noteorious:** Funky notebooks

The Farmers Market charity is Surrey Wildlife Trust



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

Electrician

Are you struggling to find someone to do a small job?

- ◆ Extra Lights and Sockets
- ◆ New Fuseboards
- ◆ Rewires
- ◆ New installations
- ◆ Smoke Alarms

- ◆ Electrical Installation
- ◆ Condition Reports
- ◆ Security Lights
- ◆ Fault Finding
- ◆ Garden Lights

- ✓ Fully Qualified, Insured and Registered
- ✓ Reliable and Friendly Service
- ✓ Flexible Hours
- ✓ Satisfaction Guaranteed
- ✓ Proud to be Local

Call Daniel on

01932 977226

www.peselec.co.uk









S T HOME
& GARDEN SERVICES

07395495171



SERVICES



LANDSCAPING

TURFING

FENCING

DECKING

DRIVEWAYS

PATIOS

PRESSURE WASHING

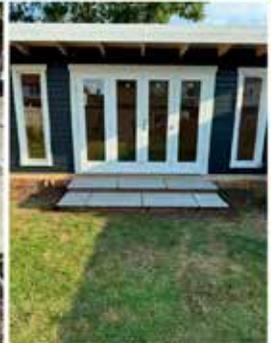
GARDEN MAINTENANCE

GUTTER

ROOF CLEANS

ROOFING

BRICKWORK



CONTACT US



07395 495171

Meet your Distributors Dee and David Youd



Your copy of Thames Ditton Today was put through your letterbox by someone from our team of loyal distributors. But the key to getting the magazine out is through Dee and Dave Youd who have been our 'Super Distributors' for 15 years. *Pat Cooke finds out more about them.*

What part do you play in getting Thames Ditton Today through our letterboxes?

The printers deliver all 5,500 copies to us in 30 to 40 boxes. We count out the numbers needed for each road, label them and bundle them up before delivering to 12 'depots' where the depot managers take them to each road distributor. It takes us most of a weekend to do this.

'Potted biographies? Dave:

I was born in Yorkshire. My dad was in the RAF until I was 5. We then settled in Sussex

where after school I did an engineering degree at Oxford University. I worked as an electronics engineer in Hampshire before moving to Kingston for a job at what became British Aerospace. During this time I joined Walbrook Rowing Club in Teddington having learnt to row at college.

Dee: I was brought up in Hertfordshire and did a maths degree at Reading University followed by teacher training at Bristol. I then went to Tanzania for two years with Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) teaching maths, after which I taught maths at Esher College for 10 years. While at Esher, I was lucky enough to spend a year in Australia on exchange and also had a trip back to Tanzania to deliver books to my old school and visit Water Aid projects. Subsequently, I completed a Master's degree in IT, focusing on software development before joining a weather data company where I stayed for 25 years! I learnt to cox at Reading and later joined Walbrook where I met Dave. We married in 2001 in Ireland where Dee has family. The move to Thames Ditton was in 2002, shortly before our daughter was born.

What hobbies and activities do you enjoy?

Dave: I still row at Walbrook a couple of times a week. I enjoy making things - I spent seven years building a kit car - and I love working with wood. I'm building a shed and have lots of projects on the go. I do a lot of cycling and I'm walking the Thames Path. Dee: I've just done my 250th Parkrun in Bushy Park. I sing with Kingston

Continued on page 39

HALF PRICE OVER 50'S PILATES CLASS

with Ikigai Pilates

Join Master Trainer Chloe Morant, specialising in orthopaedic & special conditions, for a half price, introductory mat Pilates class suitable for all levels, including beginners!

"What is Ikigai Pilates? 'Ikigai' is the Japanese term for living a long & happy life through purpose. My aim is to help you find yours through Pilates flow & mindfulness."

Tuesdays: 10.00 - 10.50am - Mixed Abilities, (inc beginners)!

First class is £7 (£14 thereafter, discount on black bookings)

St Nicholas' Church,
Summer Rd, Thames Ditton, KT7 0QQ (free street parking).

Limited spaces!
Book your spot now by scanning the QR code or emailing ikigaipilatesuk@gmail.com



www.ikigaipilates.co.uk



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





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
www.myspacehappy.com



Golden Mondays at Vital Village

in partnership with Birchgrove and Walsingham Care

☕ Tea • 🍴 Lunch • 🎵 Entertainment

A warm welcome for retired residents of Thames Ditton and beyond

Where: Vital Village, Mercer Close KT7 0BS
When: Every Monday (term time)
Time: 9:30am – 2:15pm
Cost: Tea, coffee & biscuits £2 • 3-course lunch £7



 **WALSINGHAM CARE**
HELPING THE OLDER GENERATION



B
Birchgrove
Retirement Living in
Thames Ditton

Dee and David Youd

Choral Society for which I'm publicity officer (see www.kingstonchoralsociety.org.uk for upcoming performances). I recently retired so I now do lots of different classes as well as walking and theatre trips. I volunteer as a driver for NeighbourCare.

Recent Holidays? Last summer we went to Vancouver for a wedding. We love train journeys so when our daughter (an U23 world champion rower) was rowing in Germany, we went by train to Duisburg to support her.
Dave: I go for a week's sailing every year with a large group of friends, mainly in Scotland.
Dee: I went to Gran Canaria and Cornwall with my walking group and Pittsburgh and Edinburgh to see family.

Is there one thing that perhaps people don't know about you? Dave: My mother

studied at RADA with Joan Collins and was in panto with Stanley Baxter. Dee: I speak Swahili and while at Esher College I taught Swahili within the extracurricular programme.

Favourite entertainment? We love the theatre and, as well as London shows, we try to support the productions at the Vera Fletcher Hall and The Rose Theatre in Kingston.

Favourite place to eat? Maisie Thai, Han Fu, the Rose, and Christy's for fish and chips. Also, almost all the pubs in the area!

Favourite drink? Dave: Beer; Dee: My family are Irish so I drink Guinness. And we both like a nice Merlot.

*Music Lessons Esher and Thames Ditton
Based in Weston 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.

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

02082247848
07760220604



Freedom...
without the fuss.



There comes a moment when managing your house starts to feel like more effort than ease. At Birchgrove, you rent your own apartment and live entirely on your terms, with support on hand if you want it. No exit fees, no pressure to buy, no hidden charges. Just a calm, flexible way to move forward – where life feels lighter, and you feel more like yourself again.

Hampton Court Estate

Retirement apartments to rent in Hampton



Computer generated image.

Birchgrove *You're home.*
www.birchgrove.life | 020 3929 5599

Find out what all the fuss is about.
Book a tour:

Locations in Surrey, Kent & London:
Banstead | Chiswick | Ewell | Godalming | Hampton
Leatherhead | Mill Hill | Sidcup | Woking



Freedom without the Fuss

There comes a moment in later life when managing a house begins to feel like more effort than ease. It rarely arrives with drama. It arrives quietly. A winter that feels a little longer. A staircase that feels a little steeper. A garden that becomes more obligation than joy. Days that once felt full now feel more solitary, and even the simplest tasks take more energy than they used to.

Many people tell themselves they are managing. Just. But the effort of managing becomes its own kind of weight. Families notice it too. Adult children spot the small signs and begin to worry. Conversations start. Options are explored. The question shifts from whether to move to when the time might feel right.

What sits beneath all of this is something deeper. The decision is rarely about property. It is about identity, independence and the quiet fear of losing control. People want life to feel easier, but they do not want to feel pushed. They want support, but not intrusion. They want company, but not obligation. And they want a way forward that feels dignified and calm.



This is where Birchgrove can make a difference. Our rental model is designed to remove the pressure from the very first day. You have your own apartment and your own front door. You live entirely on your terms, with support on hand if you ever want it. Utilities, broadband, housekeeping, facilities and 24/7 staff presence are all included, so the everyday worries simply fall away. There are no exit fees, no hidden charges and no pressure to buy. Just genuine flexibility built around your needs.

What our residents tell us is remarkably consistent. “There was nothing to worry about.” “It all fell into place.” “I wish I had done it sooner.” One resident put it simply: “I did not lose my independence. I got more of it back.” These are not marketing lines. They are lived experiences, and they speak to the emotional truth of the move.



What people find at Birchgrove is not just a new home, but a gentler rhythm to life. Days unfold at your own pace. Quieter when you want them. More connected when you do not. There are neighbours to chat to, shared spaces to enjoy and a team who know you by name. Life feels lighter because the weight of managing everything alone has been lifted.

Solution to the Winter Crossword



1	S	E	3	A	M	E	5	E	4	D	5	B	6	A	7	S	7	S				
2	Y	P														B		L				
8	S	P	9	O	9	S	E	S	10	M	E	11	R	C	U	R	Y					
11	T	N		P		P						E	A		S		N					
12	E		12	S	T	A	M	E	N	S		13	S	E	I	N	E					
13	M	O		C		N				H	T				V		S					
14	14	S	T	R	E	E	T	S				15	E	A	S	E	L	S				
15																						
16												16	E	F								
17	17	S	T	18	A	T	E	S				19	N	U	A	N	20	C	21	E	S	
21	T	R										22	R		T		R		A		A	
22	23	A	W	A	R	D						24	A	I	R	K	I	S	S		I	
23	M	B																			L	
24	25	I	C	I	N	E	S	S				26	M	A	N	K	I	N	I			
25	N																				N	N
26	27	A	H	A	B							28	D	N	A	T	E	S	T	I	N	G

Congratulations to the senders of the correct entries opened in the shuffle who win a £10 voucher to spend in local shops.

Catherine E. Dunne

Antony Morrey

Rod Horler

EMBER BOWLING CLUB

COME & TRY BOWLS, THE SPORT FOR ALL



2026 Beginners' Classes (Free!) - Start 10am Sunday 3rd May
Sessions with qualified coaches

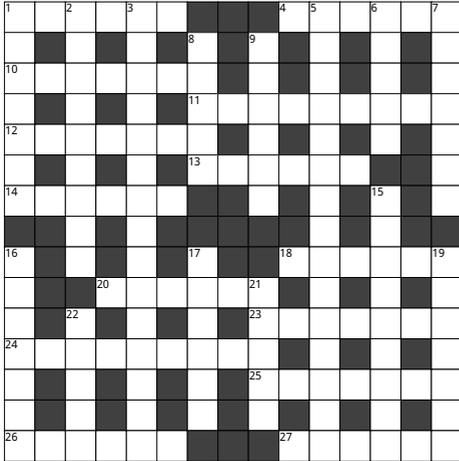
For details contact-Pat 07984 714061 patatashley@aol.com

Main entrance and car park adjacent to
2 Grove Way, off Ember Lane, Esher KT10 8HL
Ember Bowling Club is a part of Ember Sports Club
www.embersportsclub.org.uk

Spring Crossword



By Andy Howarth



ACROSS

- 1 Finch family follows half sister (6)
- 4 It all adds up (6)
- 10 Pirate's call around York river wakes you up (7)
- 11 Al Capone's nemesis (5,4)
- 12 Flags E-doctor with some Lemsip (7)
- 13 Being naturally bright dispels insult (6)
- 14 A card suit passed badly (6)
- 18 Deserted ships? (6)
- 20 Mire created by Read-Only Memory backed by a fool (6)
- 23 Art product maker has osteoarthritis initially in kinky lycra (7)
- 24 Kill Robert say for winter sport? (9)
- 25 Snag in a plan indicates age? (7)
- 26 Where the fish sleep? (6)
- 27 Gemstones belong to a woman? (6)

Win a £10 voucher

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 30 April 2026 will win a £10 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 Summer edition, unless otherwise requested

DOWN

- 1 Fancy streaks found on an ice rink (7)
- 2 Hunts now boar dinner, in part a sport (9)
- 3 In old age, there's no deadline! (3,5,3,4)
- 5 Step by step! (3,5,2,1,4)
- 6 Half a Beatles album that sounds like a buzzer? (5)
- 7 Espy tools going up and down? (7)
- 8 Hidden padres sort military uniform (5)
- 9 Chemmy is good at this (6)
- 15 Ernst and Young have cold German wine for sport (3,6)
- 16 5,318,008 beghilos seabirds (7)
- 17 Translate Thai, it becomes a tropical paradise (6)
- 19 Simple living sect (7)
- 21 Uh sound? (5)
- 22 Hawaiian born President (5)

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
Ditton & Weston Green Neighbourhood Care	Lesley Haynes	07791 483445
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
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
Small Saints Baby and Toddler Group	Cathy Wise	cathy@allsaintsweston.com
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

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

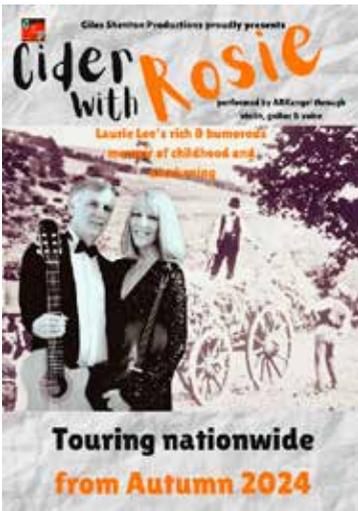
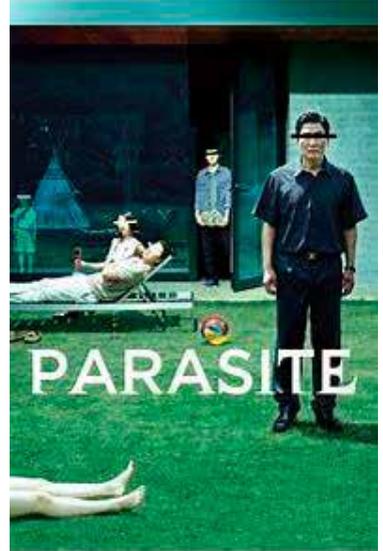
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Alison Black	08456 528 529
Vital Village	Lettings: Laura Pring	07511 524982
Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee		wgcaac@outlook.com

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

UPCOMING EVENTS

AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL

The Vera Fletcher Hall will be continuing its Spring 2026 season with its popular foreign language Film Nights. Following the screening the duet of French film, *Jean De Florette* and *Manon des Sources* in February, on **Friday 20 March**, we will be showing the commercial and critical success, the 2019 South Korean film, **Parasite**. The film won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival and four Oscars including for Best Film, which was the first time that accolade had been awarded to a foreign language film. It is a dark comedy thriller about a poor family who infiltrate the home and life of a wealthy family. In 2025, The New York Times ranked it as the best film of the 21st Century so far in a list based on a vote by readers, actors, and directors.



On Sunday 17 May we are delighted to be welcoming **ARKangel's Cider with Rosie**, Laurie Lee's rich memoir of childhood and awakening. Capturing Laurie Lee's richly descriptive language in a powerful narrative, coloured with a feast of music, ARKangel's 'Cider with Rosie' explores Laurie's much-loved memoir of childhood in an age of dramatic social change. Through Spoken Word, Violin, Guitar and Song, ARKangel's recent programmes have been described as 'Spellbinding', 'Utterly Sublime', 'Thought Provoking', with 'Mesmerizing Storytelling'.

Tickets for all films and shows can be booked via the website. Doors open 7.00pm for a 7.30 pm start.

CARPETS **4** U

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.



Checkatrade Awards

WE'RE NATIONAL WINNERS



Call us today to arrange a completely FREE estimate

Listen to our advert 

CALL
Holly **01372 632 118**
[www.carpets**4**u.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

A Little Help, A Lot of Heart!

Live your life your own way.

Same carers.

Same familiar faces.

Every time.

VisitingAngels 
QUALITY AT HOME CARE

Find out more about how we can help.
Call: 0203 143 4007
www.visiting-angels.co.uk/northsurrey
northsurrey@visiting-angels.co.uk