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

SUMMER 2019

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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Photo credit: May Hainault

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 Boots Pharmacy, 14 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.

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THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests 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' Association Councillors covering the two electoral wards we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Borough Council working with other Residents' Association 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
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Nigel Haig-Brown
53 Heathside, Esher 020 8398 4060

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Willow End, River Bank, Thames Ditton 07736 677671



THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

June 18, 8pm - All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green
September 24, 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

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News from the Residents' Association to end-May



Elmbridge Borough Council Elections

We are pleased that residents recognise all the work our EBC RA councillors do. This was demonstrated when Thames Ditton ward and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green ward RA councillors both strongly retained their seats in May's borough council elections.

For Thames Ditton, Cllr Karen Randolph polled 67.1% of the votes against three other candidates (Lib. Dem., Conservative & Labour).



RA Cllr Karen Randolph - Thames Ditton

In Hinchley Wood & Weston Green ward, Cllr Janet Turner polled 73.4% of the votes against two other candidates (Lib. Dem. & Conservative).

Our congratulations to them on their great success.

There were 16 seats up for election and the Residents' Association Group gained two new ones (Esher & Weybridge and

St Georges Hill). The Liberal Democrats gained one (Weybridge Riverside).

As a result, a Residents Association / Liberal Democrat coalition takes control of Elmbridge Borough Council with 27 seats (RA 17, Liberal Democrats 10) to the Conservatives 21.



RA Cllr Janet Turner – Hinchley Wood & Weston Green

RA County Councillor Nick Darby elected Opposition Leader at County Hall

There have been two Surrey County Council by-elections in recent months, both of which were won by Residents' Association (RA) candidates. This increases RA councillor numbers to 11, while the Liberal Democrats have 9. As the largest opposition party, the RA Group is now the official opposition in Surrey County Council, and Nick Darby, our Dittons County Councillor, has just been elected as Leader of that group.

Nick said, *"I am thrilled to have this opportunity to continue my work on behalf of all residents in Surrey, and to work with*

fellow councillors, both at Surrey and Elmbridge, to bring about much-needed improvements. And with the recent Elmbridge election result producing an RA-Lib Dem led Borough Council, this gives us a fantastic opportunity to show not just that we listen to local residents, but can deliver too! It is also worth noting that if the Borough election results are reflected at the Surrey County election in two years' time, the results will be very interesting!"

Surrey Police, Elmbridge Borough Commander at June 18 Open Meeting, All Saints Weston Church Hall



Borough Commander Dallas McDermott

We are delighted that Elmbridge Borough Commander, Dallas McDermott, will be presenting at our Open Meeting on Tuesday 18 June. There have been some worrying incidents of knife crime and other serious crimes locally and our Surrey County Councillor Nick Darby and our Elmbridge Borough Councillors have been working with Dallas to try and tackle it. He will talk to us about what action the police are taking and listen to our concerns.

You may recall we printed an open letter from Dallas McDermott to the Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in our Winter 2018 edition. This was the result of a vigorous campaign by RA Councillor Tricia Bland and NHW Group Chairman John Haberfield to reinstate the NHW links with the police.

The meeting will be at All Saints, Weston Church Hall at 8.00pm. Please do come along to meet Dallas McDermott and discuss local policing.

Local Plan Consultation – second round

The next public consultation on the Local Plan will take place from mid-August until the end of September 2019. The Local Plan webpage on the EBC website sets out key information on the new consultation www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/local-plan.

The Council will be arranging a series of ‘panel-style’ meetings to discuss the consultation in each settlement of Elmbridge which will allow people to ask questions about the consultation. These will take place during the consultation period so keep an eye on our website for details www.residents-association.com or follow us on *Twitter @TDresidents*.

Heathrow consultation

Heathrow has announced its statutory 12 and a half-week consultation on expansion plans will launch on 18 June and close on 13 September. They are undertaking to hold events locally as part of the exercise.

Information regarding consultations can be found on the Heathrow Consultation Hub www.heathrowconsultation.com

We will look to keep you up to date with what is happening via the website www.residents-association.com or follow us on *Twitter @TDresidents*.

RA Thank you party

Thames Ditton Today is an entirely voluntary effort, from the editing and writing to the extensive distribution network which delivers to around 5,000 households in Thames Ditton, Weston Green and parts of East Molesey. One of the highlights of the year is the 'thank you' party for all those involved. This year was no exception and a convivial evening was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks to Pat Cooke and RA Councillor Caroline James for organising a fun evening.



A great spread to say thank you

Thames Ditton in Bloom

The planting day on May 12 was a great success. See the article on page 23



Young planters at the station

The People's Path



The People's Path

Work is now complete on The People's Path in Weston Green. Nearly 200 bricks have been inscribed with names and messages from people within the community to form a path running along the pond side of All Saints Weston Green.

The opening of the Path took place in early April when a large crowd gathered to see their bricks in place for the first time as the Bishop of Dorking, The Rt Revd Jo Wells, blessed the pathway and declared it open.

A second phase of The People's Path is planned for Spring 2020. If you would be interested in having a brick engraved with a name or message, please email office@allsaintsweston.com to register your interest.

People power on Cow Common

On the weekend of May 11 and 12 a gang of about 50 volunteers undertook the daunting task of repairing the footpath joining Orchard Lane to the River Ember. The work involved removing the mud and puddles that had developed over the years and putting down a new Geotextile membrane beneath a 150 to 200mm compacted layer of hoggin.

The team used a twin drum vibrating roller and the result is a safe and level footpath suitable for both foot and cycle traffic. This will hopefully allow the grass verges to recover from the years of "alternative" routes that avoided the potholes and puddles.



Volunteers used wheelbarrows to move hoggin

Nearly 40 tonnes of hoggin were manually wheelbarrowed from the end of Orchard Lane to the repaired pathway as can be seen from the cheerful queue of volunteers waiting to load up. The materials used were partially funded by Surrey County Council and the team were most grateful to Premier Aggregates of Molesey, who offered a generous discount. The team of volunteers should be congratulated by all who use the Cow Common pathways for their wonderful efforts on behalf of all local residents



Completed path on Cow Common

New Vicar for All Saints Weston

In July the congregation of All Saints Weston will welcome their new Vicar.

Rev'd Shane Wood is currently Vicar of a parish near Reigate and has spent much time in the Diocese of Southwark working within communities and helping them to grow. His wife Michaela is also an ordained minister as well as being Deputy Head of a secondary academy school in Sunbury. Shane and Michaela are delighted to be joining the community of Weston Green and Shane's induction will take place at All Saints Weston on Monday July 1 at 7.30p.m. All are welcome.

Great day at the Dittons Fair



Just the day for an ice cream

The weather was kind for the Dittons Fair and it was lovely to see so many people enjoying the afternoon.



Crowds enjoyed an afternoon of entertainment

Planning

A planning application has been submitted for change of use from retail to residential for **16 High Street, Thames Ditton (2019/0240)**. A number of objections have already been submitted (the closing date is June 6). The RA submission highlights *'we strongly believe that an active High Street containing a varied mix of commercial units is essential to the vitality of Thames Ditton. Key to this is maintaining a critical mass of shops and restaurants that support each other in drawing in customers. The conversion of units to residential premises threatens the whole High Street as a shopping destination.'*

No date has been given for the planning committee to review the application for the development of the **Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site 2018/3810**.

The application for outline planning permission for pockets of development at **Sandown Park Racecourse 2019/0551** is due to go to a planning committee, no date has been set.

Application **2018/3840 – Land to the rear of 74 to 128 Speer Road** (Colets playing fields) to build two more two-storey office units has been withdrawn.

2017/4062 – Land to south of 5-9 Embercourt Road - the Planning Inspector dismissed the appeal against the refusal of planning permission. Amongst other points the inspector did not consider the appeal scheme would make an efficient and effective use of land in respect of its density or mix.

Residents are in discussion with the developers at **Taggs Boatyard (2018/1695)** following the refusal of retrospective planning permission.

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

George and Dragon
Car park 9.30am-1:30pm
Saturdays: June 22; July 27; August 24

Boomerang Bag Club

Thames Ditton Centre
Mondays 10am- 1.30pm.
All welcome, sewing skills not required

Weston Green Litter Pickers

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

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

Meet on the third Saturday of the
month at the George & Dragon at 11am

National Refill day

June 19

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday June 23, 1-5pm (£5)
See article on page 15 for details

Bereavement Cafés

St. Nicholas Church Hall
10:30-12 noon
3rd Wednesday of the month

All Saints, Weston Green
10:30-12 noon
1st Tuesday of the month

St. Mary's, Long Ditton,
Community Hall
7:30pm - 9pm
2nd Wednesday of the month



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Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



It is nearly impossible to decide where to start, but Highways are always high up my email list so here goes....

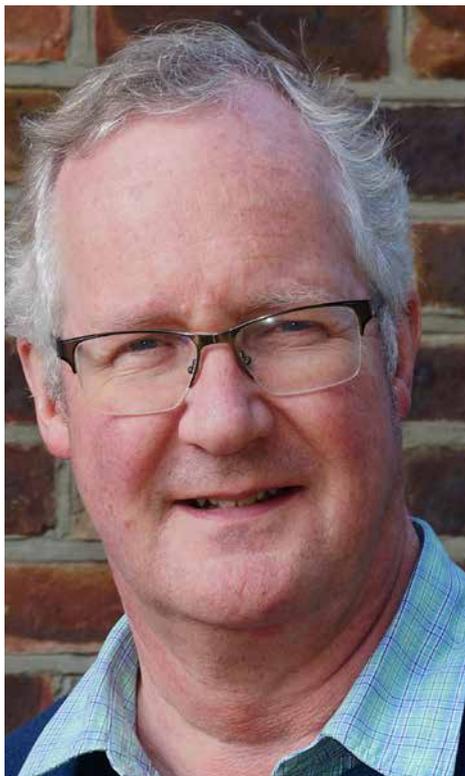
We still have a huge list of roads which need attending to but don't 'qualify'. That is unlikely to change without a massive increase in central government funding in my view best kicked off by postponement of HS2.

There have been three larger sections of road locally which have been resurfaced in the last 12 months: the Scilly Isles roundabout, Speer Road, and St Mary's Road. In each case the work has needed re-doing, at the cost of the contractor. It is so frustrating it wasn't done properly in the first place.

Of much greater significance is Hampton Court Way, a day and night issue for residents due to the uneven joints in this road. I am continuing to do what I can to get some improvement.

As everyone will have noticed, Thames Water closed Watts Road again, declaring an emergency to repair a small section for what is the third time in 12 months. We have seen no improvement in their customer relations over that period, so time to start again, as before working with our TD Elmbridge Councillors.

There are proposals for a national lane rental scheme whereby the utility companies pay a daily amount when digging up roads. It can't start soon enough, as long as it covers all roads, not just the main ones. There has been an even bigger issue over many months in Long Ditton.



Surrey County Councillor Nick Darby

Heathrow remains an important issue. Although Heathrow won the Judicial Review case in the High Court, the arguments don't end there. There is more consultation to come from Heathrow. It is important we all take part. Air quality and noise are unseen but critical - in effect, like the Green Belt, once conceded, gone forever

You may have noticed in the press that the mental health spend per head in Surrey is the lowest in the country, less than half that of the highest. I am part of a group at Surrey

looking into Adult Mental Health from the patient viewpoint.

The time taken to get a doctor's appointment is an increasing problem at some GP surgeries. I have taken that up directly with one, and at a more senior level, so as not to be ignored.

I could devote a whole article to local government funding (but promise not to!). It is not just a question of how the cake is sliced but the size of that cake e.g. by adding part of the HS2 money to the UK plc highways budget.

The allocation of school places is a highly emotive issue on which I have been working with our Borough Councillors for some months. I am hopeful that by continuing to work with everyone, we will together be able to achieve positive changes.

This covers parents, both current and prospective, Heads and Governors of the Elmbridge primary and secondary schools, and Surrey officers and Cabinet members, as well as a detailed understanding of how the system currently works. This includes the admissions criteria agreed by each secondary school as part of its Academy status. It is not easy for Hinchley Wood to satisfy everyone when there are 220 places with 350+ applications. This doesn't prevent us trying.

May I wish everyone a happy and warm summer. As always please get in touch with any queries.

Cllr Nick Darby

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23 June... a great day for secret gardens



In Weston Green there is a secret hive of industry going on. Some of your neighbours are spending hours in their gardens so that you can enjoy the fabulous Secret Gardens of Weston Green 2019 on 23 June.

This year there are ten gardens (and their gardeners) opening their gates, with seven of them opening for the first time this year. Among them the Memorial Garden at All Saints will be open and will have available a personal picture of all the people whose names are recorded on the war memorial there. All Saints Weston is also the hub for tea and cakes... an essential part of any garden visit!



Cake – an essential part of a garden visit!

We have some slightly nervous newcomers to the event this year. On Hampton Court way neighbours Tony and Margot Damon and Janet and Glen Ross have put their heads, and gardens, together to support us.

When we caught up with them in May they said *'having been to previous Secret Garden events and seeing what good community events they are we bit the bullet and said 'yes' to doing it in 2019. We are looking forward to meeting local neighbours and exchanging ideas.*



Their gardens are a real example of neighbourliness, a gap at the bottom connects them which they say *'allows easy access for watering if anyone is away, and provides a path through to join each other for an evening gin and tonic as the sun is going down!'*

Many thanks to Lisa Tolley who has once again done a marvellous job donating the artwork and map for the tickets – they are works of art in their own right!

Tickets for the Secret Gardens of Weston

Green are available from:

All Saints Weston, Weston Green
Marney's Village Inn, Weston Green

The Secret Garden,
Thames Ditton High Street

The George & Dragon,
Thames Ditton High Street
Crossy's, Hinchley Wood.

Cllr Tannia Shipley
(0208 398 2484)

Cllr Nigel Haig Brown
(0208 398 4060)

Cllr Janet Turner
(0208 398 1565).



What will you find hidden on your tour?

Over the years proceeds have gone towards Weston Green conservation projects, such as the restoration of Milbourne Pond.

It will be a great day for garden visiting as Weston Green will also have two gardens opening for the National Garden Scheme (see article on page 25)

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Farewell to a Local Hero – Jeremy Hamilton



Jeremy Hamilton and well wishers

On May 29 the Residents' Association (RA) hosted a farewell and thank-you reception in the George & Dragon for Jeremy Hamilton from the Stitchery in Thames Ditton's High Street, who is now looking forward to well-earned retirement.

Jeremy Hamilton and Stitchery have been at the heart of village life for the last twenty years, drawing customers to the village with their witty gifts and cards and welcoming ways.

Attractive shops that draw people to the village to explore other retail outlets are important to keeping the village centre alive, but it takes more than that - it takes a willingness to 'get involved and to make things happen'.

Jeremy did just that in 2005 when he had the idea for a Thames Ditton Christmas Fair that would draw people to the High Street and showcase local retailers. This would demonstrate to local people that their Christmas needs could be met right here in the village, with no need to brave the crowds.

Reflecting on that first Christmas Fair

Jeremy said 'we were absolutely staggered, it was a roaring success which took us all by surprise. Hundreds of locals were relishing walking on the High Street and chatting with their neighbours, as much as browsing for their Christmas needs and enjoying the entertainment.'

It is one thing to have an idea, another to make it happen. Did you know that you need an (expensive) licence from the council just to close the High Street for a few hours? Or that a closed road needs a small army of volunteer stewards to attend the roadblocks, manage the delicate task of reopening the road, and arrange litter clearance ready for the next day?

Once the road is shut a Fair needs stalls, attractions and retailers to be involved and publicity to draw locals to the scene of the action. Jeremy worked out how to make it happen under the auspices of the Residents' Association. When the rules on road closure changed he worked closely with the late RA County Councillor Peter Hickman, who covered the cost from his personal councillor's allowance.

A couple of years later RA Honorary Secretary (now local RA councillor) Tricia Bland was inspired to light up the iconic Lime tree in the heart of Thames Ditton. Jeremy and Caroline James (now EBC Councillor) joined her in a fund-raising committee to make it happen.

The first Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton was held to raise money for the lights (and still does). Stitchery has always been a key ticket seller for the popular bi-annual event.

Said Jeremy, *'Knowing your neighbours really helps make village life happen - you get to know people and retailers and it is really, really important. If you just climb into your car and go to a superstore you don't contribute to the village - and you don't get anything out of it.'*

For the five or six years following the first Christmas Fair Jeremy & Stitchery took on all the organisation of the Christmas Fair. Tracey Blatchford from Bradley and Brown (on the site of Organic Nest) then did a great job keeping the tradition going before passing it on to Tricia Bland and Mick Pearson from the George and Dragon. All through this time Jeremy, together with other retailers, continued to support the Fair.

In his 20th year in the village (Christmas 2018) Jeremy took back the reins again for what many people said was the best fair yet. He is clear that *'the aim of the Fair has always been to have a truly local event and highlight the special nature of Thames Ditton village and its community'*.

The RA took this opportunity to recognise all that Jeremy has done to put Thames Ditton High Street on the map and presented him with a new Local Hero award. His work has helped draw people in, to persuade them to do their shopping in our fantastic range of retail outlets and to keep a thriving Heart in the High Street. He also

commented that *'having a good partnership with a strong and supportive Residents' Association has been critical to helping us make the Christmas Fair happen. As much as the RA is saying thank you to me, I would like to thank them for their support over the years.'*



Jeremy and Lisa Tolley at the Farmer's Market

We wish Jeremy, Chris and Richard all the best in their retirement and any new adventures, although we will sorely miss them, and Stitchery.

The High Street Christmas Fair will also miss Jeremy, who has done so much over the years. Perhaps you can help to keep this great tradition going? The RA and the retailers' association would welcome volunteers to take on some tasks - many hands make light work! Please contact editor@residents-association.com and we will pass your details on.

For those wondering what Jeremy is going to do next, well, as well as enjoying a well-earned retirement from front line retail, he will continue to run his popular needlework tours for Americans to appreciate what we have here in the UK. He will also be presenting a craft show on TV!

Libby MacIntyre

Thames Ditton taking the lead on plastic pollution



Thames Ditton may be one of the smallest High Streets in Elmbridge but in terms of the environment it thinks global and is making a big difference in terms of one of the worst polluting man-made items: single-use plastic. Over 300 million tons of plastic is now being produced every year, 50% of which is for single-use purposes – including shopping bags in circulation for only around 15 minutes before being thrown away. But there is no land called ‘away’ - single-use plastic once discarded remains on the planet, decay resistant, pretty much forever, in landfill or the sea.

In this corner of Surrey we are determined to do something about it. Back in 2017 Thames Ditton High Street was the first in the UK to introduce Boomerang Bags designed to make single-use plastic bags a thing of the past. So far around 1500 Boomerang Bags have been made: It’s estimated that on average every Boomerang Bag replaces 700 single-use plastic bags which means they’ve already replaced around one million and fifty thousand bags. That’s a huge difference!

Now we are tackling the problem of single-use plastic water bottles. I recently signed up as a Local Champion for Refill, the campaign to eliminate single-use plastic bottles started by nationwide charity City to Sea. With nine Refill ‘Stations’ - eight in our High Street, plus another at our train station, passers-by can walk into any of the shops, cafés or pubs displaying the Refill sticker on their front window and ask for their refillable water bottle or cup to be topped up with tap water.



George & Dragon Landlord Duncan Townsend publicising refill with Tricia

There’s a Refill app too, free to download on your phone, to find Refill Stations nearby. It’s estimated that three bottles of water per adult are sold every week, so it’s another great way of significantly reducing single-use plastic and, like Boomerang Bags, it’s free. If just one in ten Brits refilled once a week, we’d have 340 million fewer plastic water bottles in circulation.



You can find your fill at all the following Thames Ditton shops and cafes: Costa Coffee, Cyclelink, George & Dragon, Lime Tree, Lunch, Nice Buns, Organic Nest and Red Lion in Thames Ditton High Street plus Café Noir on platform one at Thames Ditton Station. More and more residents and visitors are making use of the free service and every time someone fills their reusable container with tap water, instead of drinking from a pre-purchased plastic water bottle, it means one less single-use plastic water bottle in circulation.

And that's not all. Thames Ditton is leading the way with Refill throughout Elmbridge, working with councillors from all parties in other wards signing up as Refill Champions. Spearheaded by the Residents' Group, Elmbridge Borough

Council has committed to further help the Refill initiative by engaging and supporting businesses and volunteer groups keen to spread the word.

The Thames Ditton Boomerang Club has already shown the way forward with Boomerang Bags, helping to mentor sewing communities in other towns and villages in our Borough. There are now booming Boomerang Bag groups in Claygate, Molesey and Hersham with Weybridge and Walton soon to start up. If you'd like to get involved, with sewing, cutting, sticking, ironing and chatting! we'd love to hear from you. Contact me via email: tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk

If you know someone who'd like to be a Local Champion for Refill in their community, tell them to drop me a line. Individually and collectively, we can all make a big difference!

June 19 is National Refill Day, find out more at refill.org.uk

Councillor Tricia W. Bland



The role of chance in volunteering at the Farmers' Market



American citizen Tracy Truelove has lived in Thames Ditton since the end of 2014, after finding her true love - a London cabby - when visiting the UK on a business trip. As if one chance meeting wasn't enough, Bill, now her London cabby husband, ironically took a wrong turn when visiting Hampton Court, and ended up in the George and Dragon, when it started to rain. And that's where it all began.

Bill, who lived just down the road from Charles Darwin's house in Downe in Kent, instantly took a liking to Thames Ditton, seeing the parallel between the two villages (and its pubs!). He persuaded Tracy, who was living in Hoboken, New Jersey, (close to where Frank Sinatra was born and grew up), to set up home here.

Tracy's day job is in corporate communications and media relations but with a background of volunteering in the US she immediately recognised its power in helping her settle into her new community. Tracy said, *'We chose Thames Ditton because we liked the idea of living in a village so close to London and we haven't been disappointed. We feel Thames Ditton and Weston Green are very special with a caring community, and it has lots of assets such as the Vera Fletcher Hall which make the village unique. When I heard about the idea of a Farmers' Market, I knew this would be a great way to get to know local people as well as an initiative that would enrich our local community, and I could make use of my skills in bringing people together and helping with the marketing.'*

Established in 2015 and staged on the fourth



Tracy getting involved with stocks and shares at the Farmers' Market!

Saturday of every month in the amenity space of the George and Dragon pub in the High Street, there are now more than 20 high-quality stalls at the Farmers' Market which sell home grown produce as well as locally sourced products. Here you can shop, socialise and be entertained by a wide range of performers from soloists and choirs to bands. There are lots of activities for children too. Tracy said, *'We are always looking for volunteers across a range of activities, from door greeters to treasure hunt creators to day of operations support and more. We'd particularly love to hear from people who can help on the day of the market with skills in orchestrating the vehicles and stalls.'*

Tracy also minutes the Residents' Association meetings on a voluntary basis. *'I was really interested in local politics and wanted to be more immersed in the local community. Taking and drafting the minutes enables me to learn more about that and to feel part of what is going on locally.'*

With 14 Residents' Association meetings a year to cover and a monthly Farmers' Market to organise, as well as regularly helping to fundraise for the RNLI (a charity close to her heart owing to her experience of trying to get home from New York City after the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the role of the tugboats in getting people home), Tracy said, *'I wish I had more time and it can be a challenge to fit everything in, but people cover for each other so there is a great community spirit, and it's such a good way to meet people with similar*

interests. I have made some great friends through volunteering and feel I am well rewarded for the time I put in'.

To find out more about volunteering at the Farmers Market please email info@thamesdittonfarmersmarket.com



Tracy collecting for the RNLI

Julie Royce

Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare



NeighbourCare is a local, long established, registered charity run entirely by volunteer telephone operators and drivers.

It is endorsed by Elmbridge Borough Council.

Our drivers use their own cars to provide a door-to-door service for the less mobile residents of Thames Ditton, Weston Green, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood enabling them to get to medical appointments, Day Centres or hairdressers.

Can you spare a few hours a month during the week at times to suit you, to either work from home answering the telephone to fulfil our clients' requests, or carrying out local drives?

Training will be provided. Expenses are paid.

Please call Frankie Bell on 07790 472993 if you are interested.

Celebrating sustainability - Thames Ditton in Bloom 2019



A great turnout for planting at the station

The sun shone brightly throughout our summer planting event on Thames Ditton Station with volunteers of all ages arriving in force with their trowels to plant out the 23 wooden planters and 13 wheelbarrows with pink and purple geraniums and dahlias, orange begonias, yellow gazania, plus trailing cabaret rose callibrachoa and yellow bidens which will guarantee a riot of colour all summer long.

This year we also planted out a long flower bed, worked on a wildflower meadow area established last year, and unveiled a fabulous new art installation celebrating biodiversity in our quest to make Thames Ditton Station even more inviting to bees and other insects, creating a green corridor to enhance our environment, providing much

needed pollen and nectar, linking flowering habitats to urban areas and beyond. This was created by a group of talented local artists in collaboration with our Men In Sheds community wood-working group.

Volunteers also created a new compost area and added more bee friendly plants to the huge bee friendly planters provided in association with the Bee Friendly Trust in 2018.

And to frame our wonderful new planting, once again, our crafters from the Thames Ditton Boomerang Bag Club have been busy at sewing bees making new bunting from donated fabric, proclaiming our 'sustainable station' theme featuring flowers, insects and wildlife to festoon our ticket office and passenger shelter.



Getting the bunting up!

Huge thanks must go to all the Thames Ditton In Bloom volunteers who regularly tend and water the plantings, Men In Sheds for their carpentry skills and enthusiasm and countless man hours and smiles provided by our wonderful Station staff – Gary, Alan, Andrew and Scott plus Alaa in Café Noir. This initiative wouldn't be possible without them!

Thanks also for the support of the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association, Elmbridge Borough Council, the Bee Friendly Trust, the RHS (especially Elspeth Thompson), the Thames Ditton Farmers' Market for their community contribution and not forgetting our talented local artists Andrea Cunningham, Gill Hawthorne

and Charlotte Bramley.

If you would like to be involved with the Thames Ditton In Bloom project on Thames Ditton Station, helping with weeding, watering and planting (no previous gardening experience necessary, just enthusiasm!), please contact Tricia, the organiser, by email: tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk



Cllrs Karen Randolph (right) and Caroline James (second right) getting stuck in

Donations towards the array of plants and materials can be made in our Thames Ditton In Bloom collecting tin at Café Noir at the Ticket Office or why not buy a delicious home-made brownie? All profits to Thames Ditton In Bloom.

Thank you for your continued support!

Tricia W. Bland

National Garden Scheme - Weston Green gardens open for charity June 23



Jane & John McNicholas are opening their garden to the public for their fourth year as part of the NGS scheme and all funds raised are donated to a mix of national & local charities by the NGS. Their garden at 9 Imber Park Road is accessed by a short gravel path at the side of the house and is an established cottage style garden which is always evolving and has been designed and developed by Jane, who is passionate about gardening and collecting plants. The garden is well stocked with large colourful herbaceous borders containing a wide variety of perennials, evergreen and

deciduous shrubs and a winding lawn to a small garden retreat Opening for their first time as part of the NGS scheme are Sarah & Franck Corvi around the corner at 40 Ember Lane. Their garden is a contemporary family garden designed and maintained by Sarah & Franck with distinct areas for outdoor living. It is a 70-foot plot with some unusual planting and several ornamental trees including a Stewartia Rostrata and an experimental planting area of a new dry border.

John McNicholas



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Gardens Open For Charity

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Road**
Esher, KT10 8JB

Sunday 23 June
1 - 5pm
Adults £5 Children free
Combined with 40 Ember Lane

 
TEA PLANTS FOR SALE

More information at ngs.org.uk

Approved charity No. 113344



NATIONAL GARDEN SCHEME
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Golfing's winds of change – 1Putt



Have you noticed the new black and orange sign at the Scilly Isles roundabout and wondered what 1Putt is?

Created by brothers Harry and Ross McInley it is a new version of golf, hoping to revolutionise the experience of the game.

Golf participation in the UK is down by 40% during the last 12 years. Factors such as the time it takes to play a round, access to clubs and degree of difficulty have all been cited as barriers to people playing.

1Putt holes are bigger and designed to promote quicker golf and to take time and stress out of 'holing out' shorter putts. The bigger holes aren't the only difference. The focus is on fun and creating a sociable atmosphere where people can share the experience.

Harry and Ross said, *'The traditional golf hole hasn't changed for 500 years, and although we don't want to change traditional golf, we do want to offer an alternative for those looking to get into the game and have fun.'* When people pay to play 1Putt the price includes the use of clubs, tees and balls so there is no reason not to get involved.

Thames Ditton & Esher Golf club is the first to host the 1Putt concept. Nine new larger holes and Astroturf tees have been added to the course. These are only in use for the 1Putt sessions, at other times the standard holes and tees are in use.

Jeff Hammond (club Chairman) and Mark Rodbard (club professional) are excited by the concept saying *'We are keen to get as many people as possible out to enjoy golf. We hope that this will show people that it*

is a fun sport and if they are drawn to the traditional golf game, so much the better'



Brothers Ross and Harry with a 1Putt hole

The founders have invested around £10,000 to refurbish and modernise the club and Mark said, *'with the investment, we have been able to make changes to the club house to make it even more welcoming for our members and guests.'*

June 1 saw several locals trying out the 1Putt concept for the first time and a great day was had by all.

Check the 1Putt website to find selected dates when 1Putt golf will be on and available to play for all standards and age groups, www.1puttgolf.co.uk or follow the link from www.thamesdittonandeshergolfclub.com



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Thames Ditton Foundry's - 'Lost' War Memorial



Over the years there have been a number of articles in this magazine describing bronze statues cast at the former Fine Art Bronze Foundry in Summer Road. Originally established in 1874 it soon gained a world-wide reputation under the founder James Moore for the excellence of its castings, with examples around the world. His son-in-law, A.B. Burton, continued the good work in 1902 when Moore retired, and following Burton's death his son-in-law, Louis Tricker, ran the foundry until it closed in 1939-40.

It's doubtful if people know that the foundry had its own war memorial outside the building for many years. This memorial vanished sometime between 1940 and the demolition of the former foundry building in the 1960s and, if not melted down, its current location is unknown.

The work undertaken at the foundry during the First World War is unclear but would almost inevitably have been some form of munitions or similar work - only one 'art' casting is known to have been produced during that time. The staff were identified as being in a reserved occupation performing work necessary for the continuance of war supplies, at least until further staff could be trained. Despite this, eight workers volunteered to serve or were recalled to service by September 19, 1914 alone, of whom three were killed in action by 1916. Others subsequently volunteered or were conscripted for war service, of whom a further three died.

The memorial's sculptor was Richard Reginald Goulden, himself a former soldier. He used the foundry to cast a number of his



The Sphere, 3 May 1930, page 210

war memorials, and he sometimes re-used a number of basic designs which would then be customised for specific commissions. The foundry's memorial was very similar to that of the Speer Road Congregational Chapel's memorial, whilst a more complex memorial which used the same underlying motif was cast for St John's Church in Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Both of the latter memorials were unveiled in 1920, and both are still in place. A similar 'simple' panel was unveiled in the Surbiton Park Congregational Church in Maple Road in 1922, but that also vanished when the church was demolished in the 1960s. Although no evidence has been found yet that the Bromsgrove memorial was cast at the foundry, it is likely to have been the original on which the other memorials were based. There are possibly similar panels elsewhere which have not yet been identified.



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"Thames Design and Build were great to work with and they were ahead of schedule throughout the project. Their team was sympathetic to the impact of the works whilst we remained living in the house, and we were pleased with the quality of their workmanship. The team is well structured, and communication was good. We were always able to discuss issues either with Fred, the site manager, or Paul Merifield, and agree solutions quickly. The final results are fantastic and have delivered exactly the space that we were looking for." Robin, Kingston

Ditton Garages, Southville R30d, Thames Ditton, KT7 0UL

The foundry's bronze panel, on a background of grey granite, was unveiled by ex-Corporal A. Miles on Armistice Day in 1924 in front of the staff in a formal ceremony to commemorate the men of the firm who gave their lives in the war. The panel took the form of a cross (see picture), with the horizontal arms engraved 1914 and 1919. The vertical depicted a female, either 'Peace' or 'Victory' depending on the source, with a laurel wreath behind her head and carrying a palm frond, descending steps towards the base. This base was headed by the text 'In memory of those who laid down their lives in the Great War', followed by names of the six men who died.

A short biography of each individual follows – it must be noted that the ages supplied to the Army were sometimes inflated by the individual so they could sign up when under age.

Leopold Norman Bennett (c1895 - 1916)



Born in East Molesey, he was baptised at Long Ditton in January 1896 as Leopold Henry Loewenthal Bennett but the only birth registration found in the Kingston area at that time

is for a Henry Norman L. Bennett - his mother seemed uncertain when he was born and what to call him throughout his life – she had the same problem with his siblings. Leopold spent his school days in Long Ditton, where he enjoyed cricket and football. Whilst living with his mother in Surbiton, Leopold was an apprentice metal-worker at the foundry.

He enlisted, aged 19 years 7 months, on

September 7 1914. Serving in the 1/8th Battalion (Bn), Middlesex Regiment (Regt) as a Private, he was killed in action by a bomb (probably a hand grenade) on the Somme on September 11 1916 aged 21. He is remembered on the Thiepval Memorial, France; and on the Long Ditton war memorial.

Archibald Victor Duffell (c1897 - 1916)

Born in Thames Ditton, he was baptized there in May 1898, but his birth date is unknown. Living with his parents at Vine Cottages, Queen's road, Thames Ditton, he worked at the foundry as a moulder. Claiming he was aged 19 years 6 months, he enlisted on the same day as Leopold Bennett. As he was really only 17 at the time his parents complained and he was discharged. The following week he went up to London and re-enlisted there. Writing to his mother in Thames Ditton on February 23 1915 just before embarking for France he said "*I left it to now to tell you ... but I must do my duty*". Serving in the 2nd Bn., The Buffs (East Kent Regt) as a Private, he was killed in action on March 14 1915 still aged 17. He is buried in the Kimmel Chateau Military Cemetery, Belgium; and is remembered on the St. Nicholas and Giggs Hill Green war memorials.

Edgar Charles Herbert Horne (1890 - 1915)

Born in Plaistow, Essex, he moved to Egmont Road, Tolworth and joined the foundry as an apprentice. He worked there for eight years, when, although in a reserved occupation, he volunteered during the war for munitions work at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich. He was killed '*by the accidental bursting of a shell*' there whilst on war service on September 16 1915, aged 24.

Frank Godfrey Moore (1898 - 1918)

Born in Surbiton and living in 1911 in Cadogan Road, his foundry work details are unavailable. Originally recruited to the 1st Bn, London Regt (Royal Fusiliers), he was posted to the 17th Bn Royal Fusiliers. He died on March 25 1918 aged 19, and is buried in the Lebuquiere Communal Cemetery Extension in France.

Henry Frederick Russell (1886/7 – 1915)

Living in Thames Place, Thames Ditton, he worked at the foundry as a general labourer. He was on the Army Reserve and so was called up in August 1914. An Acting Bombardier in the 35th Battery Royal Field Artillery, he was killed in action at Neuve Chapelle on March 10 1915; and is buried in the Royal Irish Rifles Graveyard, Laventie, France. He is remembered on the St. Nicholas and Giggs Hill Green war memorials. A married man, he left a widow and two daughters.

Charles Sheppard (1897 - 1917)

He was born in Thames Ditton but his family moved around before returning to Alexandra Road, Thames Ditton. His foundry work details are unavailable. He served as a Private in the 1st/4th Bn, Northamptonshire Regt in Palestine; and was killed in action on November 28 1917 aged 20. He is buried in the Ramleh War Cemetery (now in Israel); and is remembered on the St. Nicholas and Giggs Hill Green war memorials.

The unveiling event was described in the Surrey Comet. Contemporary photographs of the current staff, fourteen of those who served and survived, and four mothers/widows/sisters and three children of those who died can be viewed by appointment at the Elmbridge Museum.

If anyone has any information or photographs of the above or of the foundry or its outputs they are willing to share with me I'd be delighted to speak to them. Please contact me c/o Dittons Library.

Jon Moore ©

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Sixty years of countryside volunteering



Conservation Volunteers - ready for action

It was late February 1959 on Box Hill, Surrey, when botanist David Bellamy was surprised to find a group of young people ripping up plants in a recently declared Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Discovering they were not vandals but volunteers clearing scrub with 'The Conservation Corps', he enthusiastically joined in.

Founded by the Council for Nature, it was designed to replace the newly abolished National Service in order to continue to give young people some of its perceived benefits such as a sense of purpose, personal achievement and fun.

Celebrating its sixtieth birthday this year, The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), (formerly known as the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers - BTCV) is the descendent independent charity of 'The Conservation Corps', still offering people

of all ages the opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy the very real benefits to wellbeing from conservation volunteering.

The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) continues to meet the challenges facing the natural world, involving local volunteers with programmes such as the Big Tree Plant for DEFRA and I Dig Trees with OVO, as well as the Green Gym®, a scheme focused on improving health and fitness while taking care of the environment. TCV continues to enjoy ongoing patronage from Britain's greatest conservationists such as Sir David Attenborough and Sir Jonathon Porritt. It also organises corporate conservation volunteering days for organisations that are looking for team building activity while showing commitment to their local communities.

Locally, TCV's Community Network supports about 1,000 local groups, with a dedicated website, competitively priced insurance, discounts on merchandise, funding information, newsletter and access to grants. The usual fee is £38 per year but to celebrate TCV's 60th anniversary, the People's Postcode Lottery is supporting free membership to community groups, clubs, schools or local organisations that share TCV's aims. For further information visit www.tcv.org.uk

The Lower Mole partnership is a member of TCV's community network. They carry out practical work in the countryside in north Surrey under the direction of Conor Morrow, the Senior Countryside Partnership Officer. Most of the practical management is carried out by a dedicated team of volunteers who work all year round in a variety of habitats and sites locally. They specialise in biodiversity and access improvements, with recent tasks including the improvement of footpaths on Molesey Heath; and in Stokes Field, a nature reserve in Long Ditton, where they carry out pond management, scrub clearance and way marking. Tasks are wide ranging such as wood coppicing, repairing signage and fencing, creating a new nature trail, and scrub clearance.

Conor said, *'There will always be a task that you can do. Volunteers just need to be enthusiastic and enjoy working with others outdoors. For example, the River Mole and the Hogsmill suffer from an invasive non-*

native plant and we've been clearing this in our 'Himalayan Balsam pulls' to let native species thrive. It's a satisfying task as it is easy to pull up, making it an ideal introduction for beginners.'



Volunteers laying a path at Stoke's Field

Volunteers regularly get the chance to learn new skills such as using power tools and first aid, and countryside crafts such as habitat management and wildlife surveys. Conor added, *'Volunteers tell me there is great camaraderie and they enjoy getting to spend the day in some of Surrey's most beautiful countryside areas.'* For further information about joining in visit www.lowermoleproject.org.uk

Julie Royce

The Conservation Volunteers are currently recruiting new Trustees. If you are interested in applying, please email information@tcv.org.uk for more details. The author Julie Royce has been a Trustee for the charity for the last six years and is happy to have an informal conversation about the role if you are interested in applying. Please contact her via editor@residents-association.com.

Young entrepreneur at the Dittons Fair



Nick Saunders (right) and his brother William at the Dittons Fair

Among the stalls at the Dittons Fair you may have come across one selling brightly coloured dog leads.

Nick Saunders (age 15) from Hinchley Wood school has started a little enterprise making and selling paracord dog leads in order to help fund his World Challenge trip to Uganda in 2020. World Challenge offers students the chance to travel and experience different cultures, but the journey starts with showing some enterprise to self-fund the trip, and each student has to raise over £3,000 to take part. Once in Uganda the students will take part in a community engagement project working with a local school, as well as facing personal physical and mental challenges, trekking and working together as part of a team.

Following a successful stint at the Fair, Nick is taking orders for leads. Each lead is hand-knotted and takes about an hour

to make. He uses strong, quality paracord and his customers can choose one or two colours, any length they like, and either a small or a large clip, depending on the breed and size of dog. Nick delivers the leads on his bike locally... for just £12 each. If you are interested, you can order one via email: jackie@just-brilliant.co.uk.



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STITCHERY

VIEW

we're delighted to announce that the Stitchery's famous luxury chocolates will be available at View from early June – and a really big **thank you Jeremy** for everything you've done for Thames Ditton!



we will continue to offer our large selection of special occasion greetings cards – including cards of previously exhibited work

VIEW

34 High Street, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0RY
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St Nicholas Church: the early years



St Nicholas Church, Thames Ditton

Last year's British Social Attitudes survey revealed that just fourteen percent of citizens identified themselves as Church of England (or Church of Scotland). Those professing no religion amounted to 52 percent. The sharpest decline in those saying they were Church of England was among 45 to 54-year-olds, while no less than seventy percent of those aged between 18 and 24 said they had no religion.

You may adduce cogent reasons for its waning appeal; but the Church is about far more than particular beliefs. It is embedded in our culture, and in our national and local history; embedded too – some would say, to the detriment of its appeal – in the institutions of government. It provides a place for reflection and for ceremonial ritual; and a focus for morality and charity independent (we hope) of secular politics.

Much has been written of the church of St Nicholas in Thames Ditton, the parish of which formerly included what are now separate parishes of Claygate, Weston Green, and Hinchley Wood. That it is a

homely and unpretentious church makes it all the more endearing, although those were not the words used by 19th century ecclesiologist Sir Stephen Glynne, who described it as “a mixture of patchwork and meanness.” He wasn't from around here.

Founding and location

We know from Domesday that as of 1086 there wasn't a church in the manorial parcel that became Thames Ditton, which comprised just four smallholders and their households, two slaves and part of a mill. There was a church in what became Long Ditton, the population of which was twice that of Thames Ditton at the time of Domesday (Kingston, for comparison, numbering about twenty times more). We know that Gilbert the Norman, Sheriff of Surrey and by all accounts a fine administrator, established Merton Priory in 1117 and held the advowson – the right of appointment to the church living – of Kingston, with which he endowed Merton Priory along with four chapelries then

attached to it, Thames Ditton, East Molesey, Sheen, and Petersham. Gilbert died in 1125, so we conclude that the chapel in Thames Ditton, which eventually became dedicated to St Nicholas, dates from after 1086, before 1125 and probably before Merton's foundation in 1117.

It is assumed that the present church is on the site of that chapel. There is no documentary evidence, but neither is there evidence of any subsequent move which would surely have been noted in the records of Merton Priory. There are few clues from architecture or contents. There are some Norman structures remaining. The Norman font with its cabalistic goat carving, which remains in the church, is dated around 1120-25 but that is perhaps a date based on the church rather than a date for the font from which we can date the church. In those times a new chapel or church would be established and funded by a local Lord as landowner, with an organ of the (Catholic) Church providing the religious administration, and current and capital expenditure thereafter met from tithes and charges. A Lord would regard the provision of a local place of worship as a sign of status as well as an act that would enhance his prospects in the hereafter. It would also be far more convenient than trekking to Long Ditton or Kingston for services. Such a small chapel would not automatically, or all at once, be granted rights to solemnize marriages, births, and deaths all of which incurred fees for the priest or the rector, but the local community (such as it was) would press for these local facilities.

One possibility is that Gilbert Norman himself funded the chapel at Thames Ditton. I am tempted also to consider Imber or Imworth (subsequently called Ember Court), because of its prominence even in mediaeval times, its connection with

Kingston and as the seat of the courts of Kingston Hundred outside the town, and of Elmbridge Hundred; and because of the ancient path now known as Church Walk which linked the chapel with Imber and its Lord. There is nothing in Domesday to suggest a significant house in 1086. But by 1223 the manor was clearly established, for there is a reference to the death of its owner Ralph de Imworth. For Imber to be a candidate in the context of St. Nicholas, the manor and seat would have had to be established within thirty years of Domesday, which is pushing things a bit. It might also be contended that a Lord at Imber would have had the chapel built there rather than on the site where the church now is.

A third possibility is that some house of substance connected with the then manor of Ditton – the site of which became Boyle Farm in later centuries – had the chapel built. The only argument in favour of that is location – I can find no surviving evidence of such a place so early. As to the site, the Environment Agency's fascinating map of the frequency of flooding in our area shows that St. Nicholas is situated in one of the very few areas of Thames Ditton that does not flood even once in a hundred years. That is with the Thames now tamed by locks and weirs.

Period under Merton Priory

For the four centuries of the chapel's existence under the auspices of Merton Priory, a researcher is fortunate in that Major Alfred Heales, a highly qualified architect and scholar, toiled through the transcription of Merton Priory's records and made extensive summaries which he published in 1898 in a book of some 580 pages. There's much of interest, in particular concerning disputes over finance and powers which preoccupied religious organisations as

much as any political institution.

Each of the four chapelries attached to the Church at Kingston, and administered under the auspices of Merton Priory, had an endowment, but only the chapel at Petersham had a separate endowment for a chaplain. Thames Ditton, East Molesey and Sheen were staffed and paid out of the endowments and emoluments of the Vicar at Kingston. This arrangement (and any housing for a locally-based priest or curate) was to be the cause of periodic contention for about six hundred years.

By way of illustration, we find in the Priory records an entry for 2 April 1352: *A readjustment of the emoluments and pervenients of the Parish of Kingston on Thames and its four chapelries of Ditton, Moulsey, Shene, and Petersham, was made by the Bishop (William Edyndon), at the application of Robert de Hynkelee, the Perpetual Vicar. The Bishop moreover willed and ordained that the said Religious (comment: Merton) should, at their own cost and charges, cause to be built within a year, in the Ville of Kingston, a competent manse for the habitation of the Vicar....And that the said place thus built, be assigned to the said Robert and the Vicars his successors, and given up empty to them.*

In March 1367 Robert de Bokenhulle was Vicar when cited before the Bishop on account of dilapidations of chancels of Ditton, Molesey and Shene.

And on 28 February 1375: *The Prior and Convent to receive (speaking generally) tithes of sheaves not grown in gardens, hay, living mortuaries, wool, lambs, and skins; and all other tithes, profits, and emoluments not before assigned to the Vicar: also the manse, which the Vicar permanently gave up to them. They assigned to his use the Preste's Hagh at Ditton, another at Shene, and one at Muleseye for manses and*

curtilages, and agreed to erect a manse for each, to be afterwards repaired or rebuilt by the Vicars. The Prior also undertook to repair or rebuild, when necessary, the chancels of the parish church and chapels, and their parcloes. The Vicar to provide fit Chaplains, and for the administration of sacraments, and to bear the charges for vestments, books, and other movable ornaments, which according to Provincial Constitutions, Rectors or Vicars were bound to provide, and all other ordinary charges of the church and chapels.

Priest's house; and an early occupant of Boyle Farm

From that last entry we know that at least by 1375 there was a priest's house in (Thames) Ditton, and therefore, presumably, the chaplain was resident locally and had a sufficient community to occupy him. A "hagh" was normally used to describe a town house, so we may assume it was a small affair with little or no land. Its location, or that of the manse presumed on the basis of the above to have been thereafter erected, is not known, but it was almost certainly contiguous with the chapel.

Another nugget to be dug out of the Priory records concerns John Lee, a Brother of the Black Friars of Ludgate. He is described in an indenture to his Will of 13 April 1524 as owning a messuage (substantial house) in "*Temmys Ditton, with a garden and three parcels of land, called respectively Charleton Haw, Stringhaw, and Collys Eite*". The land holdings identify this as the property that later became known as Forde's Farm then Boyle Farm. Lee's Will itself describes his property as "*my tenement... sett and lying in Temes Ditton aforesaid next unto the parishe Church*". John Lee is an earlier occupant than those recorded by previous local historians T S Mercer and

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Rowland Baker. Like other men of substance wishing to be granted preferential treatment in an afterlife, John Lee directed his body to be buried in the Lady chapel within the church of St. Nicholas, and a marble stone to be laid upon it. The closer to the church, the better the chances that one's soul would be saved at the day of Judgment. He left money towards repairs of the church and to other religious establishments, and intriguingly to *"the Brotherhood of St. James in Ditton,"* and directed that one "vertuous priest" should sing for his soul for a whole year with chalice, vestments and other ornaments provided by Lee. The costs were secured on his property.

Dissolution

By 1535 the living of the Vicarage at

Kingston was valued at £54 14s 0d per annum, to which receipts from Thames Ditton contributed £6 13s 4d.

Merton Priory was dissolved in 1538 under Henry VIII. Whatever the King's motives may have been, it was the case that the Catholic religious institutions had acquired disproportionate secular power and wealth. The priory was demolished, the stone used to build Henry's Nonsuch Palace at Cheam. Its dissolution sparked a somewhat chaotic privatisation of the rights and revenues of Kingston's church and its associated chapels, which was to cause a good deal of trouble, and which I'll pick up in the next article.

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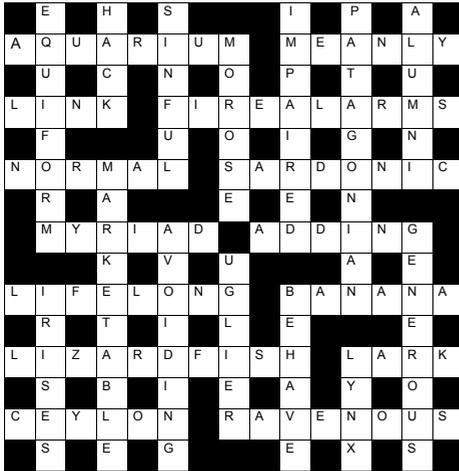
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Solution to the Spring Crossword



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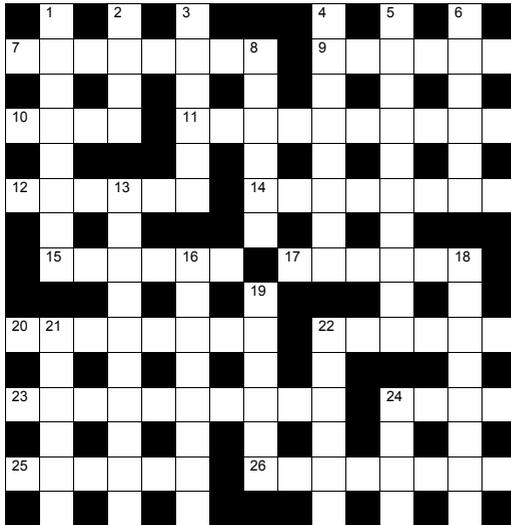
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Summer Crossword



by Howard and Bob Cruthers

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 5 August 2019 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
24 High Street
Thames Ditton
KT7 0RY

ACROSS CLUES

- 7 Takes the property of another (8)
- 9 Paid for (6)
- 10 Hence (4)
- 11 Radar, for example (10)
- 12 Minor eccentricity (6)
- 14 Western Russian site of WWII battle (8)
- 15 Of the spinal base (6)
- 17 Help (6)
- 20 Robust (8)
- 22 Important being, from Watership Down? (6)
- 23 Funereal look? (10)
- 24 Les Misérables author (4)
- 25 Oppose successfully (6)
- 26 Toy miner blown up to great size (anag) (8)

DOWN CLUES

- 1 Automobile apertures (8)
- 2 Additionally (4)
- 3 Nun's headgear (6)
- 4 Gives up (8)
- 5 Providing four lots of army housing? (10)
- 6 Digits need a lift? (6)
- 8 Front page aquatic story? (6)
- 13 Chaotic burial cult results in two nations' customs (anag) (10)
- 16 Cheerful readiness (8)
- 18 Drive dangerously close (8)
- 19 Futile (6)
- 21 "You make a very clever point" (6)
- 22 Arch- or Auxiliary? (6)
- 24 A song with no vowels? (4)

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Mark Michelmore	01372 879321
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for the community	Mon & Thurs	0208 3985921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	0208 3983772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Homesupport Elmbridge	Thomasina Breslin	01932 267128
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	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Heather Crowe	heathercrowe@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	07975 842423
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides	Helen Lawson	helenlawson287@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Kathy Williams	020 8398 1300
3rd Weston Green Brownies	Gillian Twomey	gtwomey@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Larisa Strickland	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Aileen Widdowson	07783 449666
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	0208 398 2932
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

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Val Atkinson	020 8398 1117
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Hon Secretary	07710 139417
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263
Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146

Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club (St Nicholas)	David Ford	020 8715 2148
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
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	020 8398 2463
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rotary Club, Esher	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	0208 398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449

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	Mrs. Julia Presland	01372 464203
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 International (Kingston District)	Secretary: Pat Harman	020 8390 3507
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

OTHER

Cancer Research UK	Mrs. Vivienne Harris	020 8398 6787
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Hon Sec Anne Brown	01932 881633
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Amelia Crafts	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

Chairman's address to the AGM 2019



This is a precis of the report given by Residents' Association Chairman, Graham Cooke, reporting on the previous year (2018). Graham started by thanking all residents for their support and reported that:

The year (2018) started with great election results in both Thames Ditton and Hinchley Wood & Weston Green, with Caroline James and Nigel Haig-Brown elected to Elmbridge Borough Council. However overall results meant the RA/Lib Dem Coalition ended and a Conservative Council took over.

Our Surrey County Councillor Nick Darby had another busy year, heavily involved in resisting proposed changes by Surrey in relation to childrens' centres, libraries and bus subsidies.

Parking is still an emotive issue. The majority agreed action was needed on St Leonards Road and restrictions are now in place. The limited free parking in Thames Ditton High Street continues to make the area more vibrant. Sadly, the Conservative administration substantially increased parking charges and scrapped annual residents' parking permits for Ashley Road Car Park.

Once again, we have supported a multitude of local projects including the Farmers Market, Christmas Fair, Christmas Trees and Christmas lights, Thames Ditton in Bloom and planting at the stations and the Co-op on Hampton Court Way. Millbourne Pond, Weston Green, is a pond once again. In September our new Village Sign went up on Giggs Hill Green, recognising the late Peter Hickman's long service to the area.

Planning applications continue to be important, in addition to those within our

boundaries, the developments proposed at Sandown Park and the 'Jolly Boatman' site at Hampton Court have raised concerns. The Sandown Park application is on Green Belt land and we continue to resist building on the Green Belt as well as inappropriate development and development not accompanied by the necessary infrastructure to maintain a sustainable community.

This year saw another successful Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton.

We have nearly 1,000 followers on Twitter –find us @TDResidents. We also monitor other forms of social media and have formed a team to get our message out on other platforms

Local councillors took a hands-on approach to illegal traveller encampments last summer and partly thanks to their efforts EBC obtained a High Court injunction making further encampments illegal for three years.

We continue to press SW Railway for improvements to their poor service. Representatives attended our open meeting earlier in the year. Fresh challenges lie ahead. We are expecting the consultation on the third runway at Heathrow to commence soon.

Thanks went to Councillors, officers, magazine editors and distributors, litter pickers, bulb planters, boomerang club supporters, Secret Gardeners and, finally, those who simply just vote for us.

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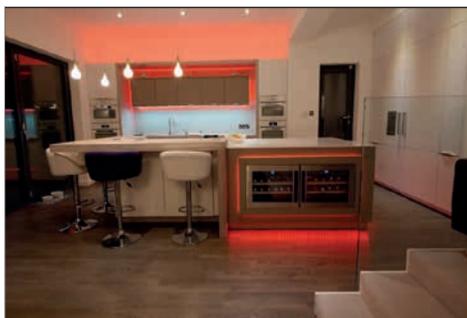
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