

# THAMES DITTON TODAY

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Sunday 1st December 3pm - 6pm



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

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Thames Ditton  
& Weston Green  
Residents' Association

# THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

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**editor@residents-association.com**

Join the editorial team, new members needed. Please contact email above

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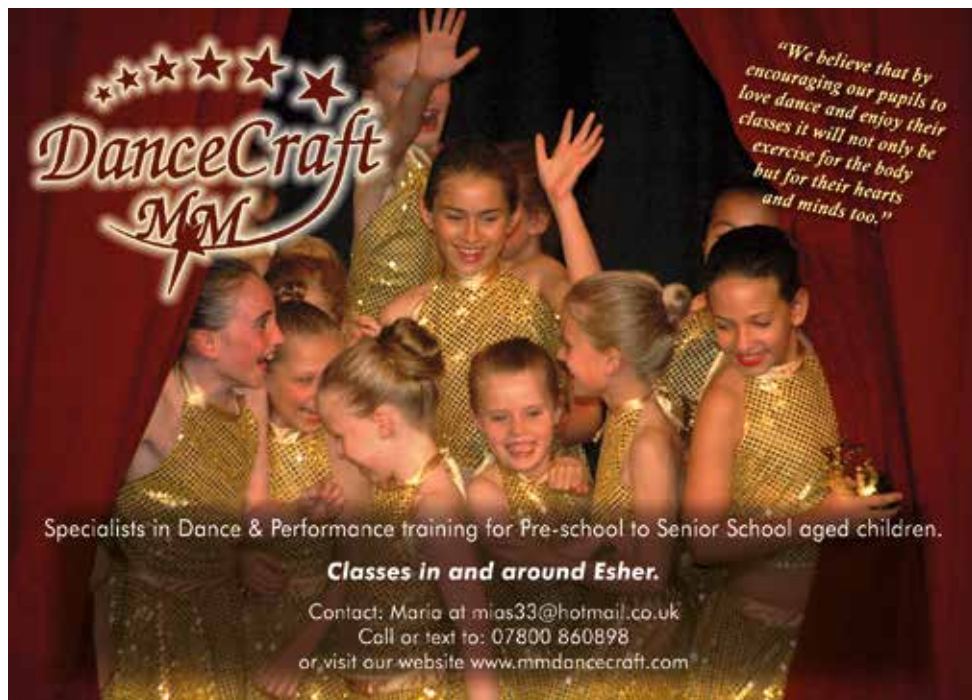
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Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household.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

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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 four Residents' Councillors covering the two electoral wards we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Council working with other Residents' Councillors to ensure that decisions are based on the needs of local communities and on good management rather than on party politics.

Our Residents' County Councillor, Nick Darby, represents our views at Surrey County Council.

### President: Martin Wilberforce

7 River Avenue,  
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

### Vice President: Ruth Lyon,

11 Riversdale Road,  
Thames Ditton 0208 398 3396

### Vice President Tannia Shipley,

27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

### Surrey County Councillor: Nick Darby,

12 Basing Close, Thames Ditton 020 8398 2382

### Thames Ditton Borough Councillors

Alex Batchelor,  
12 Hayward Road,  
Thames Ditton 07710 943140

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

Elaine Sesemann,  
14 Ennismore Gardens  
Thames Ditton 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: TBC

Vice-Chair: Currently vacant

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

Hon. Secretary: Florian Traub,  
33 Portsmouth Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8224 2880

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

### Conveners of Sub-Committees

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

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

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

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



## THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

Tuesday November 26, 8pm – Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday January 28, 8pm – Vera Fletcher Hall

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# News from the Residents' Association to end-October



## Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair Sunday 1 December 3pm – 6 pm

Please put the date in your diary and come along and join friends and neighbours at the Christmas Fair. The centre spread has a pull-out programme. Looking forward to seeing you there!



Tannia Shipley with Lucy Roshier of Killik & Co, sponsors of the photography competition

## Nature & Climate Photography Competition 2024 - Results

The winners of the RA's Nature & Climate Photography Competition 2024 sponsored by Killik & Co were announced at the Nature & Climate Festival.

### The winning photographs were:

#### Local Plant Life

*Winner:* 'Wine o'clock' - Tannia Shipley

#### Local Animal Life

*Winner:* 'Spider Man' - Tannia Shipley

#### Local Surroundings

*Winner:* 'Clouds forming over Giggs Hill Green' - Mike Woodman

*Highly Commended:* 'Misty morning at Albany Reach' - Christina Sage

#### Open Category

*Winner:* 'After the floods, West Bengal' - Raju Das

*Highly Commended:* 'Toadstool on Esher Common' - Nigel Coates

#### Best Photo by Someone Under 18

*Winner:* 'Autumn in Bushy Park' - Amelie Turner (14)

## A 'Durga Puja' message from West Bengal



Raju Das

Little did we think when we launched the first Nature & Climate photography competition in 2022 that word would spread across the globe and we would receive entries from West Bengal. Raju Das somehow found out about our local competition and won a Highly Commended in the Open category in that first year.





*After the floods, West Bengal - Raju Das*

This year his powerful image 'After the floods' impressed the judge with its striking depiction of the devastating global impacts of climate change. Raju sent us a photo of himself so we could share it.

He received his £50 prize money during one of the major Hindu festivals, Durga Puja, which is celebrated particularly in West Bengal. He wrote back saying: *'I have no words to express my happiness. Thank you to all of you. It's a Durga Puja gift for me. Happy Durga Puja to all.'*



*Wine o'clock -Tannia Shipley*



*Clouds forming over Giggs Hill Green - Mike Woodman*

## Thames Ditton Flood Group

The Flood Group secured funding of £25,000 from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund at the meeting at Elmbridge Borough Council in July 2024. The Group has now applied to the Environment Agency for a Flood Risk Activity Permit (FRAP). When the FRAP is granted, the orders can be placed for the temporary barriers which will be deployed in the high-risk areas of Thames Ditton when flood warnings are notified.

The funding is for four temporary barriers, two across gates at the river end of Alexandra Road and two further barriers which will be deployed at the river end of Queens Road adjacent to the Albany Reach apartments, and across River Bank at the rear of the Summer Road Recreation Ground.

The Flood Group will be holding an Exhibition on 'Reducing Our Risk of Flooding in Thames Ditton' at the Vera Fletcher Hall, Embercourt Road on Saturday 16th November, from 11am to 4pm, with talks by experts at 12noon and 2pm.

## Have yourself a sustainable Christmas....

Seven million Christmas trees go into landfill every year. As they rot down they create around 100,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas.

Chipping or incinerating your tree lessens the impact and fake trees can be a more sustainable option if you keep them long enough to offset the embedded carbon in their manufacture, but there is an even more sustainable solution and this year it is available at Vital Village in Thames Ditton. Vital Village has teamed up with London Christmas Tree Rental to act as depot for their pot-grown Norway Spruce trees (the traditional tree seen in Trafalgar Square every year). The trees, which range in height from 3ft to 7ft, are available for rent over the Christmas period. You collect your tree

from Vital Village at their Christmas Fair on 8th December, decorate it as you wish for Christmas (some products eg. spray artificial snow, are not suitable for living trees), give it a pint of water every day, then return it to Vital Village on the 4/5 January. On a per foot basis the costs are not dissimilar to a bought Christmas tree, but you don't have to dispose of it or worry about the carbon footprint as the tree is taken away by LCTR and looked after on a farm until next year.

Laura Pring of Vital Village CIC says: *'Sustainability is one of our core values so when Jonathan from LCTR got in touch and asked if Vital Village would be a depot I immediately said yes. I think it's a great idea and we're going to rent a couple of trees in VV for everyone to enjoy.'*

If you want to reduce the carbon footprint of your Christmas, reserve your tree now at: [www.londonchristmastreerental.com](http://www.londonchristmastreerental.com) Please read the full terms and conditions. Vital Village is acting as a depot only and is not making any money from this project.

## Sustainable wrapping.

Furoshiki is the Japanese art of wrapping gifts in reusable fabric squares. The RA and Vital Village have teamed up with The Japan House in Kensington to offer an evening workshop on 2 December with one of their demonstrators to learn the art from an expert. Places limited so please book on [www.vitalvillage.co.uk](http://www.vitalvillage.co.uk).

## Could you help keep our community magazine going?

The TD & WG Residents' Association has been producing Thames Ditton Today for the past 54 years. Now distributed to over 5000 addresses in our area by a dedicated band of volunteers, this much-loved magazine allows residents to keep in touch with

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matters of interest in their community - from Council issues, events, people, history and more. And it's an invaluable means for the Association to keep in contact with residents, and let you know what it is doing. To keep this long-standing community magazine going we need to find a new editorial team. We realise that being editor of a quarterly 48-page magazine might sound daunting - which is why we're looking for the role to be filled by a team, to keep the workload for each member at a comfortable level. One of our past editors will be on hand to help you settle in to the role.

The next magazine issue - Spring - will be coming out in March. However if we can't find volunteers to take up the new editorial roles then the magazine's future is in doubt.

If you are able to contribute some of your time (four times each year) towards the production of Thames Ditton Today, we'd love to hear from you. Some editorial experience would be useful, but as you'd be part of a team it's not essential. You'll find the work very satisfying, helping produce an informative and much-appreciated magazine - a real benefit to our community.

Much of the editorial work relates to commissioning potential content and images, supplying that to the printers (in Word documents and as JPEGs), editing copy and liaising with the excellent team at the printers. One (or more) of the editorial team would join the RA Executive - to help keep you informed of news and topics etc. relevant for the magazine.

To find out more about the position, please email us at: [editor@residents-association.com](mailto:editor@residents-association.com)

## Dates for your diary

### **Flood Risk Drop-in**

Saturday 16 November, 11am-4pm  
in Vera Fletcher Hall, Embercourt Road

### **Farmers' Market**

Mercer Close car park (by the library)  
Next one - 23 November

### **High Street Christmas Fair**

Sunday 1 December 3-6pm, includes  
Christmas lights switch on at 4.45pm

### **Weston Green Litter Pickers**

Meet at Marney's pub on the first  
Saturday of the month at 10.30am

### **Thames Ditton Litter Pickers**

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

### **Bereavement Café (open to all)**

Third Tuesday of the month, 10.30am-  
12noon. St Nicholas Church Hall. Call  
020 8398 9641 for more information

### **'Knit and Natter'**

Tuesdays 10.30am-12noon. Talbot  
House Café, St Nicholas Church Hall

### **Tiny Saints Bumps and Babies Café**

Fridays term time 11.00am-12.30pm  
at All Saints Church, Weston Green

### **Seniors Coffee Morning**

Every Wednesday from 10.30am at  
Vital Village, Mercer Close



# Update from your Residents' Association

## Thames Ditton Ward



Elaine Sesemann  
TDWGRA



Caroline James  
TDWGRA



Alex Batchelor  
TDWGRA

### Shaping a better future for Elmbridge

We want to hear residents' ideas about how your council can support more people in need in Elmbridge. Currently our Community Services (community centres, meals on wheels, community transport, social prescribing and grants to charities) help just 2% of Elmbridge's population, mainly older people. However, independent research shows that over 9% of residents need help. They include children living in poverty (13%), carers (there are over 330 young carers in Elmbridge), working families having to choose between heating and eating, refugees settling in the borough, disaffected young and others who feel forgotten.

We want to extend our support services to reach the 'missing 7%' in the most effective and sustainable way. But to do that we have to find out who needs support and what services would best help? We want to hear about your experience of life in Elmbridge today and your ideas on how we can shape a brighter future for everyone.

You can find out more by talking to one of

us, or visiting:

[www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2024/shaping-better-future](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/2024/shaping-better-future) and completing the survey.

### Elmbridge Community Climate Action Fund

EBC recently opened up a £100,000 fund to support local initiatives aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Several local projects were successful in attracting small grants including All Saints Church, Weston Green (to increase the biodiversity of the Memorial Garden); RootZup (for year-round planting for pollinators in the Vital Village community garden and equipment for volunteer gardeners); Vital Village (to set up a 'library of things') and the Nature & Climate Festival (to produce a Sustainable Living e-book sharing the hints and tips collected from three Festivals).

### Thames Ditton Summer Road Play Area

The consultation on the play ground, took place in August with 163 respondents. Work is currently underway to install the new play area in Spring 2025. New signage is also due to be installed at the Recreation Ground in the winter of 2024/25. The

# Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

## Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates  
TDWGRA



Janet Turner  
HWRA



James Crawshaw  
HWRA

consultation can be found at

***[www.elmbridge.gov.uk/your-council/communications/consultations-surveys-and-notice](http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/your-council/communications/consultations-surveys-and-notice)***

### Local Plan

As many of you will be aware the draft local plan examination was paused after the planning inspector wrote to EBC stating that given the lack of affordable housing in Elmbridge exceptional circumstances did exist to warrant some green belt release and further work needed to be undertaken.

EBC took these comments seriously and proposed a realistic 12-15 month timetable. This period would allow us to adequately address the needs of the Elmbridge community while also meeting the requirements set by the Planning Inspectorate. However, our request to extend the timetable to an achievable 12 month and ideally 15 months (allowing for community engagement) has been denied.

**In her letter the Inspector says:** *“Whilst I acknowledge that you have specifically requested that I take a pragmatic approach, the Minister’s letter is clear that pragmatism should not be used where*

*it would be likely to require pausing or delaying the examination process for more than 6 months overall, as would be the case here.”*

It is in the best interest of Elmbridge to have a Local Plan. A plan-led approach allows us to manage the scale of development likely to occur over the next 15 plus years and the infrastructure that is required to support it.

Therefore, Elmbridge Cabinet wrote to both the Minister of State and the Planning Inspectorate, strongly urging them to reconsider their decision as a 6 month timetable is entirely arbitrary and anyone familiar with the complexities of creating a Local Plan will understand that this is an unrealistic target. At the time of going to press we have not received a reply.

If you would like further information please get in touch with Caroline James, our local Councillor who is portfolio holder for planning via [cjames@elmbridge.gov.uk](mailto:cjames@elmbridge.gov.uk)

### Residents’ Association

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

or follow us on [X@TDresidents](#)



# Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



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

This time some Highway matters.

First, in my last article, I mentioned the parking problem on Station Road, opposite the new nursery, and beneath the raised footpath. Following this I received a call from a resident who had only that morning been shunted down the pavement next to the nursery by a driver illegally pavement driving. I am delighted to report that the parking enforcement team has been on site and I hope they were issuing parking fines to those who were parking illegally and will continue to do so.

My second point is an issue which residents have raised with me in relation to the straight and potentially higher speed roads, Sugden Road and Ember Lane. In both cases the residents were concerned that additional traffic calming measures might usefully be imposed. While this may take time, having spoken to the Surrey Highways contact I usually use, there were two items which were worthy of early consideration.

In the first case, it might be possible without any significant works, to have 20 mph zones in the various roads e.g. Lime Tree Avenue, and Elm Tree Avenue, namely the roads between Ember Lane and Hampton Court Way. This should prevent those roads becoming rat runs.

The next possibility, both for Ember Lane and Sugden Road, would be to paint white lines on part of the road next to the footway, on both sides of the road. By doing this, it would encourage drivers firstly to drive more slowly on these roads, and secondly also persuade them to drive slightly further into the road, thus making it safer for pedestrians.

I will stop there, give you all best wishes, and for a Happy Christmas!

**Nick Darby**  
**Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons**  
**0208 398 2382**  
**07719 728725**

## Local Warm Welcome Venues

SCC works with partners to run a Warm Welcome scheme – local venues, where people can come to warm up, get a hot drink for free and socialise. Local venues are:

Dittons Library, Mercer Close  
Tuesday to Saturday 09:30 – 17:00  
Vital Village, Mercer Close  
Mondays 09:00 – 12:00  
St Nicholas Church Hall  
Tuesdays 9.30 – 12.00  
St Mary's Church, East Molesey  
Monday to Friday 9.00 to 15.30

# Nature and Climate Festival

## 2024 round-up



The third Thames Ditton & Weston Green Nature & Climate Festival, sponsored by HJC Estate Agents, took place on 4-6 October 2024.

The weekend of activities, designed to highlight the impacts of climate change and encourage us all to live more sustainably, began with a talk on **How to Save Energy and Save Money**. Cat Reeby from Surrey Climate Commission offered a wealth of energy-saving tips which together could save £500 a year - more than enough to compensate for the loss of the Winter Fuel Payment.

The **Big Green Quiz Night** was a popular attraction. Libby MacIntyre and Caroline James from the TD&WGRA tested our general knowledge with challenging and fun questions, with the promised 'green twist' manifesting itself in one round on nature & climate and another on all things green. Twelve teams battled to avoid the wooden spoons and the title (plus bottles of wine) went to 'Ditton Von Tease' in a closely fought contest.



Quiz Night winners 'Ditton Von Tease'



*The Squires team and Beth Rochford from RootZup*

Saturday offered two thought-provoking panel discussions, one chaired by Rupert Sleight of Squires Long Ditton on **'How to Dig the Earth'** and the other chaired by Richard Essex of the Surrey Climate Commission on **'Just One Green Thing'**, discussing the steps we can individually take to reduce our carbon emissions. They were punctuated by a **visit from the Mayor of Elmbridge**, who officially opened the new Vital Village hub, and a wonderful performance from **We Are the Voice** children's environmental choir. We were also delighted to welcome **Monica Harding MP**, who dropped in to support the festival and enjoy the choir.



*The Champness family enjoying the Build a Bug Hotel activity*

If Saturday was about knowledge-sharing, Sunday was about relaxation and fun. Visitors had a chance to do some **forest bathing** with Elevate Sport, **build a bug hotel** with the Wildlife Aid Foundation and **upcycle pre-loved clothes** or buy from the **sample sale** of sustainable fashion brands, organised by Jo Ingham and Jo Ward of Our Fashion Fix.

The takings from the pre-loved clothing sale (£160) were topped up to £250 with some generous donations and presented to Walton Charity which is Squires' 'Charity of the Year'. The remaining proceeds from the **raffle** and the **festival cafe**, (ably run by volunteers Tannia Shipley and Loraine Hecquet) were split between Waste to Plate (the community fridge in Vital Village) and the Wildlife Aid Foundation in Leatherhead- each receiving £150.

For those who couldn't make it to the Festival weekend, we are pleased to announce that we have secured some funding from Elmbridge Borough Council to compile the advice and tips from this year's festival into a Sustainable Living

e-book, which we hope to produce over the next few months. Keep an eye out for updates.

Thank you to all the speakers and panellists who took part and special thanks to: HJC and the TD&WGRA (Festival sponsors); Killik & Co (photography competition sponsors); Laura Pring (Vital Village/co-organiser/Instagram); Libby MacIntyre and Caroline James (quiz night and raffle); Lisa Tolley (artwork and tea towels); Tannia Shipley and Loraine Hecquet (cafe); Gavin & Bede at Thames Ditton Gin (quiz night bar); Kell's Kitchen (quiz night food); Chris Greatorex (sound tech); Jo Ingham, Jo Ward and Sophie (pre-loved and sample sale); Squires Garden Centre; Peter Haynes (TD&WGRA website); Nigel Coates (community bug hotel/general help); Christa and Toby Mayers, Florian Traub, Karen Randolph, Tom Coates and Pip Petty (volunteers).





*Monica Harding MP and The Mayor of Elmbridge with RA Cllrs Gill Coates and Caroline James*



*Litter pickers from Dittons Skiff & Punting Club*



*Winston Holland from the Wildlife Aid Foundation*



*Some of the panellists from 'Just One Green Thing'*



*Tannia Shipley and Loraine Hecquet in the cafe*



*We Are the Voice*



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# Waste to Plate: transforming surplus food to benefit the community



*Some of our volunteers at Waste to Plate*

The cost-of-living crisis has hit many of us, prompting a much-needed reflection on how we value and use our resources—especially food. It's a shocking truth that **9.5 million tonnes** of food are wasted each year in the UK, much of it perfectly edible. This is not just an economic scandal, it is an environmental one too, contributing to the strain on our planet at a time when sustainability has never been more urgent.

That is why I founded *Waste to Plate* - to be part of a movement that tackles food waste head-on, builds stronger community ties and creates sustainable solutions for future generations.

## From a Simple Idea to a Bigger Vision

*Waste to Plate* started as a small personal mission. During the pandemic I noticed how many people around me were struggling. Lost jobs, salary cuts and rising costs left families facing tough choices. I wanted to help, so I began delivering food boxes to

some local families in need. But soon the demand outgrew my ability to keep up, and I realised I needed a sustainable solution.

That's when I learned about the staggering levels of surplus food in our food supply chain; much of which was going to landfill. It was a turning point. This surplus could feed people, but more importantly, it could reduce unnecessary waste. So in 2024, after years of running my small operation, *Waste to Plate* was officially born. What started with just a few food boxes has grown into a community-wide initiative.

Since April we have expanded from a handful of helpers to a WhatsApp group of 200 members, supported by five local hubs, and culminating in our flagship Community Shop at Vital Village Community Hub. There we have nearly 1,000 households signed up and an average of 100 people visiting each day. We distribute over five tonnes of food every month, and we're still growing.



## The Community Shop: The Heart of *Waste to Plate*

In partnership with Vital Village, the Community Shop has become the beating heart of *Waste to Plate*. We collect surplus food from local supermarkets, restaurants, bakeries and individuals and make it available free of charge to everyone. Our mission is simple: reduce landfill, support local sustainability, and create a positive impact by redistributing good, fresh food to anyone who can use it.

The Community Shop's shelves and fridge are kept stocked through the generosity of our partners. Our team of dedicated volunteers plays a crucial role in the day-to-day operations. They collect, sort, and distribute food, ensuring everything runs smoothly. But as demand continues to rise, so does our need for more hands on deck. **We're always looking for more volunteers - whether you can help with food collection, sorting donations, serving in the shop or helping us spread the word, we'd love for you to join us!**

## Making an Impact-And Looking Ahead

Since we launched *Waste to Plate* and the Community Shop in Vital Village, we have rescued tons of food from being wasted. Our amazing volunteers have put in countless hours to make this vision a reality, and together we have shown that when a community comes together, incredible things can happen.

But this is just the beginning. We have big ideas for what's next. From scaling up our operations to launching new sustainability projects and helping people facing food poverty, we're committed to continuing our mission to reduce waste and support local communities.

Whether you are a local business that wants



*Vicky Zadeh, Founder Waste to Plate*

to donate surplus food or offer financial support, or you are someone looking to get more involved in our community, there are so many ways you can help *Waste to Plate* grow and continue making an impact.

Individuals can help by donating time as a volunteer or making small financial contributions to help keep the Community Shop going. Every bit counts and helps us build a better, more sustainable future.

A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported us. Your generosity and dedication have been the foundation of our success. And we're not done yet - there are exciting things on the horizon, so watch this space for updates!

For more information, to donate, or to get involved, contact [hello@wastetoplate.co.uk](mailto:hello@wastetoplate.co.uk) or visit our website [www.wastetoplate.co.uk](http://www.wastetoplate.co.uk)



**Vicky Zadeh**

Founder *Waste to Plate*

# Candles for Ukraine



*Share light this Christmas*

The Swindon Humanitarian Aid Partnership (SHAP) is an NGO founded by British and Ukrainian expats who came together after the Russian invasion of Ukraine to co-ordinate aid to the country.

Last year they started collecting candles to send to parts of Ukraine struggling without power. The media got behind the initiative and the idea spread. Since then thousands of candles, some new, some partly used, have been sent to the team in Swindon from all

over the UK. SHAP describes the response as 'overwhelming and magnificent'. So far they have sent over 30 tonnes of candles to the worst hit areas of Ukraine.

Winter temperatures in Ukraine can drop to -30 C and the infrastructure is under immense pressure. Vast swathes of the country are regularly without electricity. Imagine trying to survive in sub-zero temperatures - perhaps with small children or older family members - while Russian missiles obliterate nearby buildings. This is the terrifying and desperate reality of daily life for many people in Eastern Ukraine and it is what drives SHAP to action. From a shed near Swindon station they re-use the donated wax to make trench candles which can be used as a heat source. They also form large blocks of wax from melted odd ends which they send to volunteers in Ukraine who make huge numbers of candles for the local population.

Here in Thames Ditton and Weston Green two local churches, All Saints in Weston Green and St Nicholas Church in Thames Ditton, have responded to the Candles for Ukraine campaign and are acting as collection depots where you can drop off new and used candles for SHAP.

Candles are taken for granted in this season, whether we are celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali or simply enjoying the glow of a flickering flame and the aroma of a scented candle. But for many people in Ukraine they are a life-saver. Please remember them and put your candle ends to good use.



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# Christmas Fair

Sunday 1st December  
3-6pm

Thames Ditton High Street

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The Magazine of our  
Residents' Association

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\* pull-out guide \*



## All the Fun of the Christmas 2024 Fair!

**Aldous Craig** – Receive a warm welcome, delicious mulled wine and festive nibbles with donations given to local charities

**No30 Antiques** – Looking fabulously festive, find Cancer Research UK Christmas cards.

**The Code Design Studio** – Sit down and warm up at The Code Design Studio to discuss getting your home ready to host the 2024 holidays!

**Cyclelink** – Bring the whole family and play our novel twist on 'hook the duck' with proceeds going to a local charity. We will also have an exciting range of gift ideas for both the avid and leisure cyclist.

**Denny's Books** – Stocked with a great range of greetings cards and books, find the perfect book to read this Christmas.

**The Foundry Bar & Kitchen** – Join us throughout the day for a great choice of beers, wine, Sunday Roast and bar bites. Come and say hi and warm yourself by our fires!

**George & Dragon** – Welcome to The G&D where you can sample our special recipe mulled wine.

**HJC** – HJC will be informally opening and, unless our children have eaten them all, we'll have a table with various festive offerings. We will also be running a competition for the kids.

**La Fontana** – Come and try our festive delights including Italian Hot Chocolate and Fried Panzerotti.

**Lime Tree** – Find a fabulous Italian Christmas experience with sparkling Prosecco and delicious panettone.

**Nice Buns Café** – We will be serving our classic Christmas Cookies, Mince Pies and Rum Hot Chocolate and our Warm Mulled Wine. Jackie and the team are ready for some fun with the Nice Buns Christmas DISCO – see you there!

**Craft My Day** – Discover our full range of craft workshops while browsing artisan gifts created by our fabulous tutors. Find unique gifts for loved ones, handmade ornaments, crafts, jewellery and more!

**Paul's** – Considering what to have with your Christmas meal? Come and have a drink with Katie and the team whilst placing your Christmas order. We will also have a good selection of real Christmas trees for sale.

**Thames Ditton Gin** – Come and see us for all your Xmas gin gifting and to have a TD G'n'T or hot ginger gin!

**Thames Ditton Bakery** – Visit our wonderful bakery for all your sweet and savoury favourites! We'll have mince pies, hot sausage rolls, pasties, doughnuts, chocolate chip cookies and more.

**The Rose** – The place for delicious lamb and vegetable samosas; vegetable pakoras, chicken, lamb and vegetable biryani. Yum!

**The Secret Garden** – Discover beautiful and bespoke Christmas wreaths, festive floral arrangements, unique gifts, candles and decorations.

**Sharm Hairdressing** – Receive a warm welcome with a glass of bubbly. We will be styling hair and offering Xmas nail designs. Amazing vouchers to be won and all proceeds going to the Little Princess Trust charity.

**View Gifts** – come and see one of the biggest selections of jellycats for any store in the entire country. Browse our superb new range of gifts for all the family, luxury chocolates, Christmas decorations, seasonal greetings cards and new designs by ViewByRufus. Plus our almost famous Malbec mulled wine – fundraising for the Princess Alice Hospice.

## Also on the High Street

The local retailers will be joined by a High Street full of stalls offering Christmas gifts, food, drinks and more... **The French Comte** will be providing their high class cheeses from around the world, perfect for the Christmas dinner table. **Sassy Apron** have a selection of quality cakes and sweet treats. **Paul Foster** will be bringing his famous local BBQ and **Sweet Amy's** provide kid heaven with bubble tea, speciality waffles and chocolate treats. Local chef Kelly Payne brings **Kell's** travel-inspired street food which is not to be missed.

For those grown ups fancying a cup of christmas cheer, **Thames Ditton Gin** will be serving their seasonal hot ginger gin and sloe gins along with Xmas gifts, whilst Paul from **Thames Ditton Brewers** is providing his local ales and lagers.

We also have artisan gifts galore from a range of great stallholders and a brilliant community section from local groups such as **Brownies, Planet Warrior Kids Club** and **Probus**.

**For the kids**, head through Pip's Path to the Ashley Road car park and into **Ivy House Nursery** for **Santa's Grotto, Face Painting, Xmas games** and more...

## That's entertainment!

We are delighted to welcome for the first time this year, the exceptional **Ember Big Band** who will be playing a selection of christmas songs and big band favourites. It wouldn't be a festive event without local choirs and we are grateful to all those performing including **Thames Ditton Infant School, Weston Green School** and **Rowan Preparatory Schools** for bringing their brilliant choirs to perform **Christmas carols** for you.



## Let there be lights!

The lime tree, in the centre of the High Street, will be the main focus at **4.45pm, when the Christmas lights around it will be switched on** along with the trees on the High Street.

## XMAS RAFFLE: OVER 20 FABULOUS PRIZES TO BE WON!

This year's festive raffle is spectacular, with an amazing array of prizes up for grabs so don't forget to purchase your Christmas Fair raffle tickets. Available from November, look out for posters in participating High Street outlets including **Cyclelink, Sharm, Ironing Board, Thames Ditton Gin, HJC, Little Foray** and **View Gifts (both accepting card payments)** amongst others. Just **£1** per ticket. Proceeds to **The Grace Dear Trust** and other local charities.



# Thanks to Ember Big Band and all of our wonderful Entertainers

... and everyone else who takes to the stage and the street, showcasing  
their fantastic talent, free for the benefit of the community.

## Thanks to all our Fair sponsors/supporters – we couldn't do it without you!

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The Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair 2024 is organised  
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# Paint All Saints - fundraising appeal



*All Saints Weston*

Known locally as ‘the white church by the pond’, All Saints Weston, on its current site, has been at the heart of our local community for over 85 years. It has provided a home for weddings, baptisms, funerals, regular church services, toddler groups, plays, film nights, concerts, rehearsals, school outings and so many other occasions that build a community. Through good years and difficult ones, the building’s tall white walls and tower have stood as a symbol of the identity of Weston Green.

All Saints Church was built in 1939 before the start of World War 2. It was originally a creamy block brick building and there was concern it would be visible to German Bombers. It was fully whitened, as we know it today, in 1953 as a contribution to the Queen's Coronation. It has been painted several times since then but not since 2007.

The fabric of the building is now in urgent need of both repair and painting and those

once immaculate white walls are starting to look more like a dirty grey.

**In 2025 an Appeal will be launched** to begin raising the funds required, to ensure All Saints can once again become the iconic ‘white church by the pond’ which is so treasured as a local beauty spot.

Across the whole of next year a wide range of fundraising events will be taking place which we hope will help bring the Appeal to life within our local community. On the whole these will be non -ticketed events but we would be grateful for donations.

## **2025 Events Planned:**

**Sunday 5 January 7pm:** Ripieno Choir – Twelfth Night Choral Concert.

**Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 January:** Helping with Weston Green Scouts Annual Christmas Tree Collection:  
[www.collectmytree.co.uk](http://www.collectmytree.co.uk)

**Saturday 25 January 6.30 pm:** Burns Night Celebration

**Saturday 8 February 7-8 pm:** Organ Recital by Barnaby Silverstone – Organ Scholar at Chapel Royal, Hampton Court

**Friday 28 March 7pm:** Hinchley Wood School perform an abridged musical West Side Story

**April 7 - 21:** Easter Trail for Children around All Saints Church

**Saturday & Sunday 17/ 18 May: 2025** Flower Festival

**Saturday 7th June:** EMBER BIG BAND Celebrates WESTON'S WAR.

Please do come along to these if you can and for more information email [office@allsaintsweston.com](mailto:office@allsaintsweston.com)



*Fabric in need of repair*



**Please support the Appeal**

In January, there will be more information about these and other events on the website and on social media but you can also visit the Just Giving Page to make a donation now which will really help to get the Appeal up and running. Visit Just Giving page ‘Paint All Saints’ via the website at [www.allsaintsweston.com](http://www.allsaintsweston.com).

If you believe it is important to help preserve and repaint this magnificent Grade II Listed building at the heart of our neighbourhood then please do look out for updates in 2025 and support the Appeal however you can.

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# **Reducing Our Risk of Flooding in Thames Ditton**

## **An Exhibition on Saturday 16 November**

**At Vera Fletcher Hall, Embercourt Road,  
From 11.00 am to 4.00 pm with talks  
by experts at 12pm and 2 pm.**

In January this year, there was a Flood Warning and the River Thames rose to within 25cm of the flood level reached in 2014. The main high-risk area of Thames Ditton was protected by previous activities of the Residents' Association Flood Group.

The Flood Group has now obtained funding to purchase some Temporary Flood Barriers to protect us more in the future. If you would like to find out about this barrier scheme and what it aims to do and discuss other flooding issues, please attend the Exhibition and listen to the talks.

Apart from the Residents' Association, there will be representatives of the Environment Agency, Surrey County Council, Elmbridge Borough Council and the supplier of the equipment - Lakeside Flood Solutions.

Come along, look at the exhibition, listen to and talk to the experts and sign up for a free initial, no obligation, survey of your property to see what can be done to improve its Flood Resilience and give you peace of mind the next time there is a Flood Alert.



# Discover Thames View

## Care from the heart in Thames Ditton.



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

**T**hames 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 and hair salon. 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.

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# A Chairman's Reflections



At our AGM in April this year I announced that I would be standing down as Chair of Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association after seven years in that position. All organisations need new blood and during my time as Chair it has been very pleasing to welcome new individuals to our Executive Committee, including a number of new Councillors for both Surrey and Elmbridge.

By the time this is published we hope to have our new Chair in place and I would like to offer him/her my thanks and full support in the future.

A great deal has happened within our Association over the last 7 years but, rather than catalogue events, I would like to reflect on some of the wider issues which affect local communities and some thoughts as to what the future holds.

Firstly, the Thames Ditton and the Hinchley Wood & Weston Green wards in Elmbridge have some of the strongest Residents' Association representation in the country. Both wards have three Borough Councillors and these are all RA representatives. This did not happen overnight and if it is to continue, we need to recruit those in our community who share our view that local affairs are best handled by local representatives rather than the big political parties.

We are represented on Surrey County Council by Nick Darby who, sadly, will be standing down at the 2025 election. Nick has, as many know, developed a condition which severely limits his eyesight and despite this, he has valiantly continued to

undertake his duties with the support of his wife Annie – our best wishes for the future, Nick.

The Boundary Commission has, very much against the wishes of many in our local communities, decided to impose changes to the Surrey County Council divisions (details can be found on page 17 of the Summer 2024 Thames Ditton Today). If we are to continue to be represented on Surrey County Council we need someone to step forward, otherwise, you can be sure that after May 2025, we will be in the hands of one of the main political parties and, whoever represents us will, at least partly, have to act in accordance with the 'party line'.

## A Changing Society

When I took up the position of Chair of TDWGRA, the acronym COVID didn't exist, or, if it did, none of us had heard of it. A great deal has changed in our society in terms of working practices and the way we communicate – many of these changes were already happening but COVID accelerated them.

Very few changes are all good or all bad. Our High Street in Thames Ditton seems more vibrant post COVID possibly due to more local residents working from home for at least part of the week.

Widespread use of social media has enabled information to be broadcast more speedily however its use has also allowed misinformation to be spread. It is not only our children who need to be better educated to live in a world where it is less clear what to believe, and what not to believe.



Sadly, despite all recent government pronouncements about ‘devolving authority to local people’, the track record shows the opposite. Both Surrey and Elmbridge Councils face monumental tasks in discharging their obligations as finances are squeezed.

Whilst we all know and understand the need to build more houses, and especially ones that are anywhere near affordable for young people, 99% of construction is in the hands of private developers who have obligations to their owners and shareholders. Simply imposing impossible targets on areas where land is most expensive will not work. Most of our green belt is owned by developers and much of it was acquired at a low price governed by its status, no wonder it is much more attractive to develop there rather than on brownfield sites.

There is much that a local organisation can do little about. What is heartening are those things that endure and do so thanks to the

large number of volunteers in the community.

So long live our High Street Christmas Fair, and our Nature & Climate Festival, our Secret Gardens events, and our litter picking groups. Success to our many sports clubs, our Vital Village centre and all our charities and voluntary organisations.

## Long Live Thames Ditton Today

And finally, the magazine you are reading – if it is to continue being published we need help from some new people out there prepared to devote some of their time to pulling together the various articles and news items written by local people, and ‘putting the magazine to bed’ for the printer. Please, if you think you could assist in this, see the news section page 11.

Graham Cooke

*We would all like to extend our sincere thanks to Graham for the many years of devoted service he has given the RA and the community as our Chairman. (Ed)*

*Some of what the RA and its volunteers do so well*



*High Street Christmas lights*



*Secret Gardens events*



*Milbourne pond restoration & maintenance*



*Litter picking every month*

# Where the wild things are - winter wildlife



*November brings late season mushrooms*

Winter is often regarded as a barren period in terms of wildlife interest but there is much to see in the months of November, December, January and February. As temperatures drop off in November, late season mushrooms start to emerge. With over ten thousand species on the British list the world of fungi can be rather daunting for the uninitiated. However, there are a number of commonly occurring species which are fairly easy to recognise once you get your eye in. Perhaps the most iconic of all British mushrooms is the Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*). This is the classic red-capped toadstool with white spots. It can be found locally in Birch woodland. The *Amanita* family also has a couple of well-known deadly species such as the Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*) and the Deathcap (*Amanita phalloides*). All species

emerge from an 'egg-sac' which often leaves tell-tale 'warts' on the cap surface.

*Boletus* mushrooms have pores rather than gills on the underside of their caps and include some of the most prized edible species such as the Penny Bun (*Boletus edulis*) known in France as *Cep* and in Italy as *Porcino*. *Boletus* mushrooms are typically found in woodland environments. Another highly regarded culinary mushroom family are the *Cantharellus* or 'Chanterelles'. The most famous British member is the Chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*) which has an egg-yolk yellow cap and loose folds rather than gills. Gills are substituted for 'spines' in the Wood Hedgehog (*Hydum repandum*), which has a pale buff-coloured cap and a short, solid stem. This common mushroom is a great one for beginner foragers to learn as the spines make it easy to identify. It is most readily found in Beech woods.



*Penny Bun (Boletus edulis)*

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Beech woodlands are also a good place to look for Hawfinches in Winter. These elusive birds can be very difficult to find in the breeding season but flock together from November to March and can be located by listening out for their calls which are very similar to the alarm 'ticks' of the much more familiar Robin.



*Hawfinch from RSPB*

Birds in general can be much easier to see when the trees are leaf-less. Some species which breed in more Northerly climes move South and West to spend the Winter months in Britain. Another finch, the Brambling and a couple of thrush species, Redwing and Fieldfare start to arrive in October from Scandinavia and North-East Europe and will stick around until mid-Spring. All three can be found locally in woods, parks, gardens and scrubby grassland areas along with a more erratic visitor, the Waxwing. An encounter with these attractive and charismatic birds stays long in the memory, not only because of their striking plumage and confiding manner but also because their presence is much less predictable from year to year.

If you want to learn more about mushrooms, I'll be making visits to a local woodland in November to explore and share the wonderful world of fungi. I'll also be leading two 'wildlife and wild food' walks on Molesey Heath local nature reserve. In

January and February, I'll be taking groups of birdwatchers out on the North Downs in search of Goshawk, Hawfinch, Brambling, Crossbill, Marsh Tit, Firecrest and a host of other species.

You can find all the details and book your place by visiting my website at [www.wherethewildthingsare.co.uk](http://www.wherethewildthingsare.co.uk) or drop me a line at [ben@wherethewildthingsare.co.uk](mailto:ben@wherethewildthingsare.co.uk)

**Ben West**

If you can't make it to my wildlife walks you can see what's happening locally by following me on social media where I post regularly on the subjects of plants, wild food, medicinal recipes, birds, butterflies and all things wildlife related.

You can find me here:

Instagram: ***wearewherethewildthingsare***

Facebook: **Ben West: Where the wild things are**



*Beware of the Deathcap mushroom!*



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

# Ever thought of becoming a Councillor?



Here in Surrey we have a two-tier system of local government, with Surrey County Council (SCC) responsible for county-wide strategic services such as children's services, highways, adult social care, libraries, waste disposal and the fire service, while Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC, one of 11 boroughs and districts in Surrey) is responsible for local services like waste collection, planning, housing, environmental health and leisure centres.

Council tax collection and electoral services are also the responsibility of EBC, although they only keep 10% of our Council Tax and the rest goes to SCC (75%), Surrey Police (14%) and Claygate Parish Council (1%).

SCC Councillors are elected en masse every four years. The next SCC election will be in May 2025, but for Thames Ditton and Weston Green residents things are going to be a little different next time around.

The Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC), which is the independent body that draws electoral boundaries, has recently reviewed Surrey to ensure that all Councillors represent a similar number of electors and the division arrangements will help SCC to work more effectively. We are currently in the The Dittons division (along with Long Ditton) and our Councillor for the last eight years has been Nick Darby, representing Residents.. However, as a result of the new changes, Thames Ditton and Weston Green are being split and there are changes afoot for our Molesey residents as well.

The existing divisions covering the

majority of our residents in TD&WGRA postcodes are: The Dittons (Nick Darby, Residents) and East Molesey & Esher (Steve Bax, Cons). However, from 2025 Thames Ditton and East Molesey postcodes will be amalgamated into a new division called Thames Ditton & East Molesey, while Weston Green will move into a separate new division called Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood and Weston Green.

Prof Colin Mellors, Chair of the LGBC, believes the new divisions deliver '*fairness and maintain local ties*'. We're not sure how splitting Thames Ditton & Weston Green, which is a parish mentioned in the Domesday Book, maintains local ties but the decision has been made so we have to live with it, although on the face of it this feels like change for change's sake - the numbers in the new divisions are hardly any different.

However, it opens up an opportunity to increase residents' voices on SCC, since there will be two divisions we could contest in 2025, not just one. Sadly, after eight years of excellent service, Nick Darby will be standing down as our County Councillor next year due to a serious eye condition, so we will be looking for two candidates.

If you're interested in finding out what being an SCC councillor involves, and share our view that local politics is best in the hands of local residents not political parties, contact Nick Darby (see page 5) for an initial chat, and then perhaps meet with some of our Exec. members. We'd love to hear from you

# VITAL VILLAGE

## Advent Calendar

Thames Ditton Village Christmas Fair

5

VV Arts Class; Re-stretch with Elevate Sport



Enchanted Child; Senior Coffee Morning; breathe birth bond



Stay & Play; Thank U Pilates; Disco Inferno; babyballet



2

VV Bridge Group; VV Warm Hub; Baby & Me yoga; The Secret Garden Wreath making workshop

6

Enchanted Child; Soft Play



Saturday Village Play Café



Vital Village Festive Fair; Santa Grotto, and much more!



VV Bridge Group; VV Warm Hub; Baby & Me yoga



Stay & Play Thank U Pilates; Disco Inferno; babyballet



15

Thames Ditton Farmer's Market

Saturday Village Play Café



Enchanted Child; Soft Play



13

VV Arts Class; Re-stretch with Elevate Sport Planet of Wonder



12

Enchanted Child; Senior Coffee Morning; breathe birth bond



VV Bridge Group; VV Warm Hub; Monkey Music Christmas Workshop

16

Stay & Play; Thank U Pilates; Disco Inferno; babyballet



Enchanted Child; Senior Coffee Morning; breathe birth bond



14

VV Arts Class; Re-stretch with Elevate Sport



Enchanted Child; Christmas Play Café

20



CLOSED

24

CLOSED

25

CLOSED

22

CLOSED

21

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# Solution to the Autumn Crossword



O		T	R	I	B	E		V	A	C	A	N	C	Y
F			E		A		B		M		D		R	
F			I		S	P	A	C	E	C	A	D	E	T
T	H	A	M	E	S		D		N		P		D	
H			P		E		G		D	I	T	T	O	N
E	F	F	O	R	T	L	E	S	S				H	E
R			S				I		C				U	A
A		R	E	P	L	E	T	E	N	E	S	S		R
I		H					G		N				E	E
L		E				D	E	S	E	C	R	A	T	E
S	T	A	B	L	E		A		E		P			T
	E		H				L		R	E	L	A	T	E
P	A	R	A	M	E	T	E	R	S		A			X
	S		J		T		M		E		N			I
D	E	V	I	Z	E	S		B	I	D	E	N		T

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

Jamie Cooper

And special congratulations for being able to complete it with two missing clues!!

Peace

Hope

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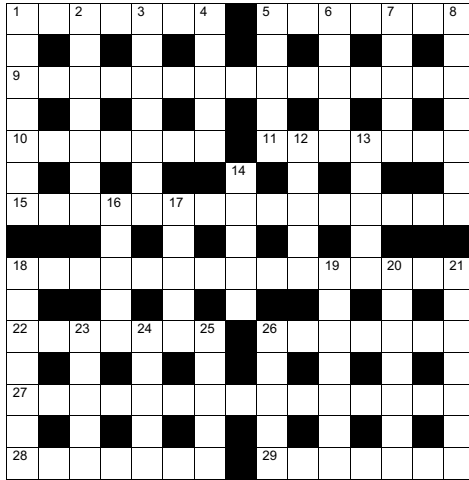
jhmcreative.com



# Winter Crossword



by Andy Howarth



## ACROSS

- 1 Herald a win? (7)
- 5 Small groups of musicians (7)
- 9 What's happened to British agriculture? (15)
- 10 Surname of a Maple Road bar owner? (7)
- 11 Having a will (7)
- 15 55 year anniversary present (7,8)
- 18 Broken hopes (9,6)
- 22 Cranberries lead singer (7)
- 26 We all we want to be beside here (7)
- 27 Home of the Tuareg (3,6,6)
- 28 Squirrels away (7)
- 29 Red dogs (7)

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 15 January 2025 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Please send the completed puzzle (or photocopy) enclosing your name and address, with the envelope clearly marked 'Crossword Competition' to:

Thames Ditton Today  
Crossword Competition  
24 High Street, Thames Ditton, KT7 0RY

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

## DOWN

- 1 NI politician (7)
- 2 Extreme camping? (7)
- 3 SA President (7)
- 4 What your own petard does (5)
- 5 Speedy bird that's colonised Summer Road (5)
- 6 Form of radiation (1-4)
- 7 Musical (5)
- 8 They are fourteen lines of poetry (7)
- 12 Dog-\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 13 Northern speciality (5)
- 14 SAS one is beige (5)
- 16 Manchester band, A Certain \_\_\_\_\_ (5)
- 17 Belgian city (5)
- 18 Puts to sleep (7)
- 19 Causes a chemical reaction (7)
- 20 Texas city (7)
- 21 Holiday naps? (7)
- 23 One-eyed Futurama character (5)
- 24 Stretch of river (5)
- 25 See them in a daze? (5)
- 26 Diddles (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
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993
<b>Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services</b>		
Thames Ditton Centre for the community	Mon & Thurs	0208 3985921
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
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	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 Thames Green Rainbows	Lizzie Owen	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Chris West	chris.west@ajax.org.uk
Dittons Scout Group	Stuart Jack	07971 479740
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Girlguiding in Thames Ditton and Weston Green		dittonsdistrict.hjh@gmail.com
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Giles Andre	020 8979 1994
Bereavement Café	St Nicholas Church Hall	020 8398 9641
Thames Tots (Kings Church, Speer Road)	Abby Kelly	Office@Kingschurch.com

## CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Alison Cruthers	07957 347170
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	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146
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	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleigham Rugby Club	Piers Cushing	07790 003731
Old Cranleigham 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	

## SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

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

## OTHER

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

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

## CHRISTMAS 2024 STARTS AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL

During the Summer months, the Vera Fletcher Hall has been refurbished and people visiting the Hall for classes and events will see brighter looking walls and other upgrades.

The all-singing, all-dancing *Scrooge* will be our Christmas event, and tickets include a mince pie and a Prosecco or a soft drink. Some of you might recall being taken to see this musical version of Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* as a Christmas treat in 1970, starring Albert Finney as Ebenezer Scrooge and with a lively and engaging score by Leslie Bricusse. The film was made on the successful coat tails of *Oliver!* Both films were shot at Shepperton Film Studios and many of the film sets used for *Oliver!* were re-used for *Scrooge*. We are all looking forward to this festive film for all the family to get the Christmas season off to a convivial start.

*Scrooge* will be screened on Friday 6 December and tickets are available along with full details of other events on the website [www.verafletcherhall.co.uk](http://www.verafletcherhall.co.uk). Please come and support your local theatre.

We are working on our programme for the Spring Season starting after Christmas and hope to have the flyers for that in time for the screening of *Scrooge*.





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