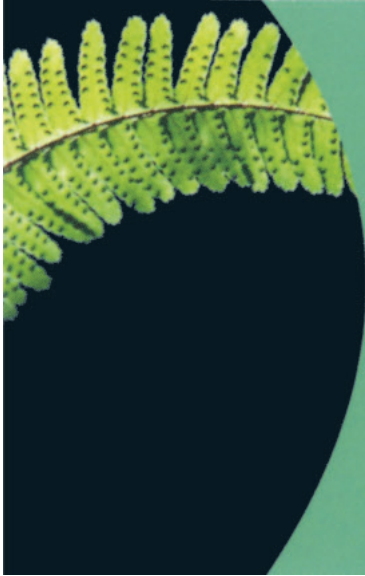




THAMES DITTON — TODAY —

AUTUMN 2012



M.P.B. Landscapes

All aspects of work undertaken:
hard and soft landscaping, patios,
fencing, decking, brickwork, turfing.

Mark Blunden

Landscaping since 1993
fully qualified, Merrist Wood trained
Tel: 020 8398 3509
Mobile: 07957 281 748
E-mail: markblunden@yahoo.co.uk

A centre dedicated to
holistic
& complementary
healthcare for all



**We offer a range of therapies that will effectively treat a variety of problems.
One of the many therapies we offer is counselling...**

Life is not always straight forward – sometimes events unsettle us and leave us facing difficult circumstances, sometimes we experience periods of depression, anxiety or grief and struggle with self doubt or low self esteem.

At times like these, counselling offers you the opportunity to talk in confidence to a trained professional who can help you to understand better the issues you are facing and provide support when difficult emotions are stirred up.

Counselling is about empowering you to improve your quality of life - whatever your circumstances.

To find out more, talk in confidence, or to book a taster session please contact Liz Chalmers at the Kent Clinic on 07896 498003 or take a look at her website www.lizcounselling.co.uk

Tel: **020 8941 2846** www.ClinicofNaturalMedicine.co.uk

Above Kent Chemist, on 2nd Floor, 104 Walton Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0DL



THAMES DITTON TODAY

The Magazine of the Thames Ditton and Weston Green
Residents' Association

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

Autumn 2012

Editor

Keith Evetts
6 Church Walk
Thames Ditton KT7 0NW
020 8398 7320
editor@residents-association.com

Magazine Design

Guy Holman
24 Angel Road,
Thames Ditton
020 8398 1770

Distribution Manager

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

Advertisement Manager

Verity Park
20 Portsmouth Avenue
Thames Ditton KT7 0RT
020 8398 5926

Contributors

You are welcome to submit articles or images. Please contact the Editor **well in advance** of the next deadline on 7 November.

Advertisers

Thames Ditton Today is delivered to an influential 4000 households throughout Thames Ditton and Weston Green. Contact Verity Park for rates for full page, half and quarter page advertising.

In this Issue:

News from the Residents' Association	7
Local Aviation Heritage	17
A Project for the Village (notice by Bob Huxster)	21
General Sir John Lambert GCB	23
State of Play	33
West End Theatre on Your Doorstep	35
Theatre in the Village (Noticeboard)	39
Autumn Crossword	41
Solution to Summer Crossword	43
Services, Groups, Clubs and Societies.....	44
By Hook or Crook	46

Cover photo: *autumnal crab apples in Thames Ditton.*
Photo by Keith

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 the village Christmas tree. The subscription is only £3 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Chemist, 14 High Street, or Thorkill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

29 High Street, Thames Ditton
Surrey KT7 0SD

T: 020 8398 2500

F: 020 8398 9990

E: thamesditton@hawesandco.co.uk



Just a click away



Buying or selling a home in South West London or Surrey?

Then what are you waiting for?

Not only does our constantly updated website feature media presentations of all our properties, including slide shows and floorplans, but so do **ALL** of these top property sites! This means that Hawes & Co really can boast more coverage than any other agent in the area.
remember – we really are just a click away.

www.hawesandco.co.uk

fish4homes
Your next home is under our roof

You'll find our properties on:
propertyfinder.com

MOVETO

rightmove.co.uk
The UK's number one property website



Find a Property
www.findaproperty.com

THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organization concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of the inhabitants of Thames Ditton and Weston Green. 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 five Residents' Councillors we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Council working with other residents' councillors to ensure that decisions are based on the needs of local communities and on good management rather than on party politics.

Our Residents' County Councillor Peter Hickman represents our views at Surrey County Council.

President: Maureen Sheldrick,
34 The Woodlands, Esher

Surrey County Councillor:
Peter Hickman, Little Lodge,
Watts Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0931

Thames Ditton Councillors

Sandra Dennis,
Little Bradley, Thames Ditton 020 8873 2936

Ruth Lyon,
11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3396

Karen Randolph,
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

Weston Green Councillors

Ruth Bruce,
15 Imber Grove, Esher, 020 8398 8324

Tannia Shipley, 'Clinton House'
27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

Officers:

Chairman: Libby MacIntyre,
24, High Street, Thames Ditton 020 8398 5534

Vice-Chairman: Martin Wilberforce,
7 River Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

Hon. Treasurer: Bob Huxster,
5 Station Rd, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3489

Hon. Secretary: Tricia Bland,
29 Station Rd., Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485

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

Conveners of Sub-Committees:

Health and Community:
Karen Randolph (see above for details)

Planning: Graham Cooke
23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509

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

**THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE
TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER AND TUESDAY 13 NOVEMBER AT 8.00PM**

**AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL, 4 EMBERCOURT ROAD, THAMES DITTON
ALL WHO LIVE OR WORK IN THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN ARE WELCOME**



BEEN INSPIRED?

**After watching
a summer full of
activity why not
take part yourself!**

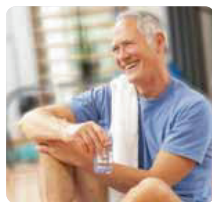
Come along and feel fitter, happier and healthier with Colets. We're here to give you the help and inspiration you need to see results.

Try a workout in our refurbished gym, take part in a studio, spin or aqua class or burn off some calories on the squash court. Feel re-energised after a refreshing swim in our 25-metre pool, and after relax and unwind in our sauna, steam or spa. The choice is yours.

Call now, or come in for a chat, to find out more.

Be inspired by our September offer...

**2 MONTHS FREE
& NO JOINING FEE!***



020 8398 7108

St Nicholas Road • Thames Ditton • KT7 0PW

Prices held - you'll love Colets!


COLETS
HEALTH & FITNESS
www.coletshealthclub.co.uk

*Terms & conditions apply. Peak and Day club memberships only. Offer ends 30.09.12.

News from the Residents' Association



20 May – 21 August 2012



Tricia and her Ambassadorial team

A summer dominated by the **Olympic Games**, for which the dreadful wet weather cleared up in the nick of time. It was a joy to see good-humoured and enthusiastic crowds along the routes for the torch-bearing down the river, and the routes for the cycle races.

Tricia Bland writes: *“I thought you might like a photo of some of the members of the Surrey Ambassadors volunteering team in Thames Ditton for the Olympic cycle races. Surrey County Council appointed two teams to work in Thames Ditton. I was lucky enough to be chosen as one of the Team Leaders, and with my*

team of Surrey Ambassadors welcomed visitors to our village, gave out programmes and directed people to the best vantage points along the route to see the races. It was fantastic to see so many from the community of Thames Ditton and Giggs Hill Green out in force. There was an amazing party atmosphere and cheering reached a crescendo on the final of the men’s Time Trial when we all saw Bradley Wiggins pedal to victory. It was fantastic to see Thames Ditton and Weston Green playing such an important part in hosting the Olympic Road Cycling. Such was the success, there are plans to make the Road Race an annual event in

Surrey, tying in with a cycle race in London, over a weekend every Summer.”

Jolly Boatman

The cycle route, in full view of the world’s cameras, passed over Hampton Court Bridge. Bowing to pressure, Gladedale, the owners of the Jolly Boatman site opposite Hampton Court Palace, allowed Palace authorities temporarily to landscape the area. It had been kept an eyesore by the developers for many years, ignoring offers from others to clean it up free. Thames Ditton resident Andrew Roberts and architect Keith Garner have lately submitted a new planning application to landscape the site permanently. This would improve the setting of the Palace and preserve views of the Palace from the south bank of the river, and make the space available for the enjoyment of the public. It has the support of Hampton Court Palace, the Hampton Court Rescue Campaign, Surrey, Richmond, and all who value aesthetics and our national heritage. Over 700 letters of support from residents and elsewhere, including from Surrey CC and Richmond, were filed with the Council, whose planning staff have just granted planning permission as we write.

The new plan is backed by an offer to buy the site from the developers at a reasonable commercial price. The development plans earlier approved now seem to be in difficulties. There are no signs that the developers are ready, or have the financing, to proceed with their overscale hotel on the river bank, and some ugly square accommodation blocks facing the magnificent Tudor palace. It is

unlikely that the conditions attached to the controversial permission granted by Elmbridge can be properly met, and in the current climate Gladedale will find it difficult to get buyers for the care home and hotel which are integral to their own plan. But Gladedale, in which state-owned Lloyds Bank has had to take a significant share, has so far refused to sell.



computed rendering of the ugly flats proposed by developers Gladedale and approved by the Elmbridge Administration, as seen from the palace



the Roberts/Garner proposal for buying the Boatman site and creating a public green place

The Harrow

Plans to demolish the Harrow and erect two 3-storey houses and a large chalet bungalow were approved by Bristol-based Planning Inspector Paul Dobsen on appeal. He judged that they fell within the new government planning guidelines for sustainable development. Admitting that



Brabant House

any judgment must be subjective, he concluded that the scheme would be acceptable and was “a significant and substantial improvement upon the previous refused schemes.” Although this will not please everybody, the fact is that, yet again, determined and reasoned resistance to the earlier schemes over several years has resulted in a development that is much better than what was originally proposed.

Brabant House

A new planning application seeks to demolish Brabant House, a substantial Victorian house on the Portsmouth Road. This house is not listed, so it is within the owner’s rights to demolish it. Brabant House embodies a significant part of local history. Brabant Villa, as it was known

towards the end of the 1800s, was formerly the headquarters of the Kingston Highway Board which managed our roads.

The Local Government Acts of 1888 and 1894 established elected county and district councils, to match local representation with local administration. When Esher and The Dittons Urban District Council was formed in 1895, Brabant House became the seat of our first local council and remained so until 1923, when the council moved to Sandown House. During those three decades, the sixteen elected councillors and a small handful of salaried professional officers made huge progress as water, lighting, public health and decent accommodation were brought to ordinary residents in the area. Water carts

Hand crafted silver and gold

by an acclaimed master silversmith

Stunning bespoke gold,
silverware and jewellery, by
acclaimed master silversmith
Bernard Leon.

Peerless, exquisite hand crafted
finery, individually created on the
premises and totally unique.

ASSIMI

54 High Street, Thames Ditton
Telephone: 020 8972 9500



PAINTERS & DECORATORS

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

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

Contact Clive Hogg
to discuss your
decorating needs

020 8339 0712

m: 07957 582296

e: clive.hogg@virgin.net



Painters and Decorators

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



020 8391 2662

The **only** number you'll ever need for all your cleaning and other domestic requirements – housework, ironing, carpets & upholstery, gardening, window cleaning, etc. Call us any time for details of our specially tailored packages.

INCORPORATING CHOSES (GURET)

were bought to lay the dust, gypsies were cleared from the roadsides, recreation grounds and allotments were acquired. Sanitation and piped water for poorer households sorted, hospitals supported. They also took the far-sighted decision to buy first, Giggs Hill Green and Esher Green, later the larger tracts of what had been the manorial commons, for the public benefit.

Those were good, efficient and effective years. But corporate pride is unlikely to stand in the way of demolition now. Another small piece of heritage and history will be swept away, with no more than a dusty record and a photograph or two remaining.

Ba Siam

The operators of Ba Siam, the former Crown Inn, have declined to remove the grim structure alongside the building, erected without permission and for which retrospective planning permission was turned down by the council, and have appealed the planning decision. The legal process will thus take a while to reach its natural and inevitable term. Many residents who feel strongly about the appearance of the conservation area continue to shun the restaurant until the matter is resolved.

Former Cottage Hospital

Here the story is better. The earlier, overly dense proposal to build was turned down, and the appeal confirmed that decision. The developers, Goldcrest, returned with a well-planned and well-presented new application which answered just about all the points of objection raised, and which therefore has

been approved by the council. Another constructive outcome from determined and reasoned engagement – and the developers deserve praise for responding well.

Milbourne Pond progress

The wettest summer on record until July conspicuously failed to refill the pond, underlining the points in the consultant hydrologists' report (see last issue). Elmbridge's officers approved that report and will back the proposals. The next step is to drill a short borehole to test the perched aquifer a few metres below the ground surface – the only other viable supply of water. The Association has arrangements in hand to raise funds for this. We'll keep you posted.

Street Lighting

The programme of works has gone very quiet and residents have been asking what's happening in the conservation areas. From the contractors' schedule, the better-quality lights are to be installed in early October. The colour selected is drab green.

“Love Where You Live” misfire

Several residents in Weston Green were antagonised by Elmbridge Council posting notices on lamp-posts in June, as part of a campaign under the wincing catchphrase “Love Where You Live.” The notices stated that *“people who love where they live cut the grass verge in front of their house, pull up the weeds, pick up any litter outside their house, tidy leaves in front of their house, and remove nearby graffiti...”* Angry residents pointed out that these are some of the very functions

fern
garden design



julia francis
07765 836341

We create beautiful gardens in both contemporary and traditional styles from concept to completion. We also sensitively remodel and maintain existing gardens

SCIENCE TUITION

A Level & GCSE Tuition

**Biology, Chemistry
& Physics**

Tel: 020 8398 7365

**Alan Tucker:
2 Gainsborough Close,
Esher KT10 8JR**

**alan@asbtucker.co.uk
Enhanced CRB**

JEWELLERY

**MADE REPAIRED DESIGNED
RE-MODELLED**

BARBARA WOLFF

**PLATINUM, GOLD AND SILVER
JEWELLERY REPAIRS**

**SPECIAL DESIGNS TO ORDER –
YOUR OWN STONES AND BROKEN
JEWELLERY RE-USED**

**STONES SUPPLIED AND SET –
RE-STRINGING
VALUATIONS**

**OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
by appointment only**

**TELEPHONE 01932 228274
OR 07976 233850**

www.barbarawolff.co.uk

Antique Clock Restoration & Repair

Specialising in Grandfather, Dial, Bracket and Carriage Clocks

Contact: Mark Rowe M.B.H.I

BADA Diploma. Member of the Watch & Clockmakers Guild
West Dean Diploma.

Tel: 020 8605 0331

www.theclockgallery.co.uk

Additional Restoration services available for Watches, Books,
Ceramics and Fine Furniture.

Antique Clocks also bought and sold.



the council is paid by taxpayers to perform. And that the notices were much the same as fly-posters, cluttering up the visual environment even more.

Our ward councillors had not been notified in advance, and when they investigated it was to learn that Surrey County Council had initiated a campaign some years ago under the same name. Elmbridge decided to take it forward. An effort in Hinchley Wood had gone well and it was decided to have further ‘trials’ in another couple of areas known for a strong community spirit. Councillors were assured that it was not the intention to get residents to do the work of the council: the wording of the posters gave out completely the wrong message. They were then removed.

Meanwhile, as we *do* love where we live without being nannied about it, many residents had as a matter of course been doing the very things asked. The episode prompts reflection that it is good for the council to support voluntary initiatives of this kind from residents, but that it should tread carefully when the initiative is its own. Some residents are sceptical of officers spending time on bureaucracy – meetings, notices and glossy pamphlets – which can supplant the real activities the council is supposed to perform. Others are concerned that, as with the Surrey Libraries, pressure is being exerted on residents to perform, unpaid, work that the paid council should be doing itself. Cameron’s Big Society must be carefully distinguished from Orwell’s Big Brother.

Recycling Centres

Leatherhead tip won’t reopen until some time during November. Charlton

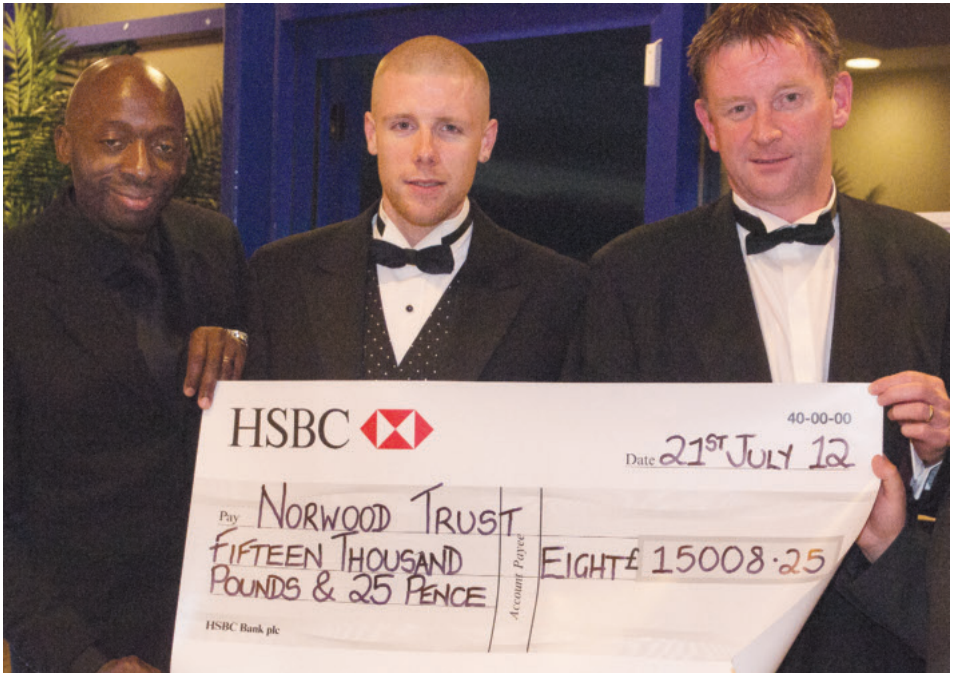
Lane at Sunbury is open as usual.

Doings and dates

The excellent **Secret Gardens** event, organised by Caroline James and Andy Anderson and friends, raised almost £1900 – split between the new organ in St Nicholas Church and funds for the High Street beautification appeal. This delightful and very sociable occasion is wildly successful. There are plans to organise similar events in other parts of Thames Ditton and Weston Green, and Caroline will be pleased to pass on hints and tips to those who would like to organise one in their area.

The annual **Queen’s Road hanging basket and window box** competition, impeccably organised by Pam Bannister, brings the street’s residents together, with just a dash of rivalry to salt the event. Judging took place on 4 July. This year, to go with the regular judges, Pam persuaded RHS Judge Jim Buttress VMH, vice-chairman of the RHS Herbaceous Plant Committee, to join the team before he went off to judge the Britain in Bloom competition. Despite a poor growing summer, Queen’s Road looked very pretty – as those who visited the Hampton Court Flower Show via the Albany that week will testify. Best Basket was awarded to Susan Driver at No. 65 for a splendid pair of hanging baskets. Best box was a simple, elegant and well-balanced planting of red, white and blue at No. 4 by Julie and Graham Dene.

Prizes were presented by Malcolm Coulter, Manager of **The Albany** which sponsored one of the first prizes, a meal for two worth £50, and champagne for the runner-up. **Squires** Garden Centre



Damien (centre) with the cheque

provided another first prize of equal value in garden supplies and plants, while **Class Comedy** donated tickets for the runner-up.

Fitness instructor **Damien Wood of Colets** organised a team some fifty strong for the Capital-to-Coast cycle race, to raise money for the Norwood charity which specialises in providing a supervised independent home and work for those with Down's syndrome. At a fine black-tie dinner at Colets on Saturday 21 July, unusually fit-looking revellers handed over a cheque for just over fifteen thousand pounds. Well done, Damien, and all who participated, sponsored and helped.

Continuing the theme of exercise: lobbying (including by the Association)

for the very popular bootcamp run on Giggs Hill Green by Liam Grimley succeeded in beating off a rival outfit from elsewhere in Elmbridge that threatened to disrupt the bootcampers' established schedule. This and some other instances in Elmbridge, however, highlight that as more pressure comes on the use of public land for what are basically commercial activities, the council may have to put in place some regulation to ensure fairness.

HomeSupport Elmbridge (formerly MDHS Household Services), a charity that offers cleaning, relief visiting, bathing, gardening, a laundry service and shopping assistance, enables people with disabilities and older people who cannot help themselves to stay in their own homes. It

used to be in Thames Ditton but relocated to Walton. The nominal fee charged to those needing such help does not cover all the charity's expenses, and they are grateful for the donations they receive towards their work. Contact Manager Pam Howard on 01932 267128 or visit www.homesupportelmbriage.co.uk

Christmas Fair and Party

The High Street Christmas Fair is always a merry occasion with lots of activities and open shops. To date it has been held on a weekday evening. Subject to confirmation by the retailers, we gather that this year it is likely to be on Sunday 2 December in the late afternoon (which will be before our next edition). The change should produce less traffic disruption than is the case on a workday, avoid conflicting with other evening events and make it easier for small children to attend.

The Residents' Christmas Party will be on Saturday 8 December at 7 for 7.30 pm, at the Vera Fletcher Hall. Great food, good wine and enthusiastic dancing to a local band. All are welcome. Tickets will be available from Fiona Elliot on 020 8398 1788 from Monday 5 November. At £32.50 they include a welcoming glass of fizz with canapés, three course dinner and dancing. Wine and other drinks at very reasonable prices on the night.

Subscription reminder

If you haven't got around to paying your subscription for 2012, now is the time! A minimum of just three pounds per household keeps the Association going and this magazine coming out. See the foot of page three for details of how to



*sporting moments – loose balls
in the Paulines' lineout*

Errata – regretted – in the Summer issue:

p.11: Shirley Davenport's **correct** telephone number is **0208 398 2904**.

p.23: George Cockburn became (more correctly) First Sea Lord.

www.residents-association.com

A friendly, local and professional service

- Mortgages
- Equity Release
- Pensions
- Investments
- Personal Insurance
- Commercial Insurance

www.knightjames.com

www.pension-review.com

(t) 0208 398 6677

knightjames

Independent Financial Advice

Concerned about the performance of your Personal Pension or Stocks & Shares ISA?

Ask about our **FREE** pension and fund review



6 Station Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0NR

MICHAEL MOULE ANTIQUES

CONSTANTLY REQUIRE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

All Furniture Pre 1920, Silver and Silver Plate, Brass and Copper, All Clocks, Porcelain, Bronze and Marble Statues, All Paintings, Gold Jewellery, Old Dolls, Books, Pewter, Swords, Curios.

ANYTHING OLD AND UNUSUAL

For a fast and friendly service do not hesitate to telephone any time, with absolutely no obligation.

IMMEDIATE CASH SETTLEMENT

020 8398 8072

26 Basing Way, Thames Ditton

Local Aviation Heritage

centred on Kingston



The Festival of Aviation held in Market Square, Kingston, over four days in early June was the first celebration of Kingston's leading role in UK aircraft design and manufacture, with Brooklands Museum providing full scale planes and other items. Large numbers attended on all four days, many being former Hawker personnel, keen to share their work experiences.

In 1912, Tommy Sopwith began a famous line of biplanes, including the Camel, the most successful allied fighter in WW1. After post war re-funding and a name change to Hawkers in 1920, Sopwith engaged Sydney Camm as senior designer in 1923 and he was promoted to chief designer two years later. Hawker specialised in biplanes until 1934 when Sydney Camm created the Hurricane monoplane with its high tolerance to battle damage, rapid repair rate and tight turn. 14,500 were made over 10 years, with 2,000 supplied to the RAF by the Battle of Britain, forming 60% of Fighter Command at that time.

Post war production slump met the jet age with Hawker's prototype Hunter under test in October, 1945. This model achieved export orders across Europe and India, with many continuing to be active as front line fighters. In total, close to 50,000 aircraft across many models and variants were built in, or

around Kingston, mostly to Sydney Camm's designs. Both Tommy Sopwith and Sydney Camm were knighted in 1953 for their magnificent aviation efforts. Later, successive Government defence changes caused major closures across the industry with only BAE surviving in Kingston until 1992. Kingston University now carries the torch with its School of Aerospace and Aircraft Engineering – the largest in the UK.



UNDERCOVER EVENT TENTS

WE SPECIALISE IN CREATING THE LARGE MARQUEE EXPERIENCE IN YOUR
BACK GARDEN HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL

WITH PRICES FROM AS LITTLE AS £49

CALL NOW AND LET US PUT YOU
UNDERCOVER

PHONE: 020 8398 7219

MOBILE: 07833462820

EMAIL: UNDERCOVER.EVENTS@YAHOO.CO.UK

HTTP://UNDERCOVER-MARQUEES.BLOGSPOT.COM

**GARDEN
MAINTENANCE,
CLEARANCE &
DESIGN AT
AFFORDABLE
RATES**



We can provide total garden clearances',
regular garden maintenance, garden
design, fencing & paving, to help create.....
(and keep) the garden you've always
wanted.

Why not give us a call or drop us an e-mail
to see what we can do for you?

Phone: 020-8398-7219

Mobile: 07867-590-450

E-mail:

downtoearth2008@live.co.uk



MOORE
By Design

PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGN

The Hershams Centre, **Hershams**

T: 01932 379076

34-42 The Crescent, **Leatherhead**

T: 01372 388389

New online gallery with 150 images...

www.maorebydesign.co.uk

Sir Sydney Camm lived with his family in Thames Ditton for 31 years while still at Hawkers – apart from the period 1940-1942 when the family and most of the Hawker design team occupied the basement of Claremont. His last project was the P1127, which became the Harrier jump jet. He died in 1966, aged 72.

Contacting both Festival coordinators recently, they would be pleased to address a local meeting as they realise how really significant aviation has been to the local area. It only remains to fix a date.

David Pascoe

Notes: Thomas Octave Murdoch Sopwith, 1888-1989, an affluent young fellow, set up an aircraft factory

in 1912, leasing a roller-skating rink near Kingston Station.

Harry Hawker lived in Long Ditton and began as Sopwith's test pilot. It's said that he lived for a few years on Thames Ditton island but I have no documented confirmation of that.

The P1127, forbear of the Harrier, made its first vertical take-off in 1960 at Dunsfold following development of VTOL jet aircraft by Short/Rolls Royce (the Flying Bedstead and the Short SC1), and Hawker/Bristol Engines.

Sydney Camm was born (in 1893) and grew up at Windsor. Later he lived at Carradale in Embercourt Road. He died on the golf course at Richmond and is buried at St Mary Long Ditton. – Ed.

DISCOVERING ANTIQUES

Now that Autumn is here why not come to the MOLESEY & DISTRICT ANTIQUES SOCIETY

The society meets in the Vera Fletcher Hall and has expert speakers presenting an interesting variety of subjects, and also organises social events and guided visits to interesting venues.

For further information ring 020 8398 1476 or just come along on the night – 7.30 for 8.00pm.

Tuesday October 2nd

Illustrated talk on the Scottish Colourists by Alan Hepburn- well-known Thames Ditton resident and painter. Alan took a degree in Fine Arts at Edinburgh University and his talk will highlight the Scottish painters of the 1920s and 1930s such as Peploe, Fergusson and Hunter who continued the work of the Glasgow Boys and had an influential role in the development of Scottish art.

Tuesday November 6th

19th Century Medicine

Illustrated talk by well-known medical scientist Colin Read. A talk which will make you glad we are in the 21st century and not living with Victorian medicine!

Later subjects include Antiques Road Show's **Eric Knowles on Lalique**, the **Romance of Steam** and the **History of Embroidery**. We have a licensed bar with wine, beer and coffee and tea.

L. SMEE PLUMBING

272 EASTCOTE AVENUE
WEST MOLESEY
SURREY KT8 2EZ



SPECIALIST IN COMPLETE BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS

- Tiling • General Plumbing • Maintenance • Repairs

For a friendly, reliable service

Call: 07989 303 808

THAMES DITTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Speer Road – close to Thames Ditton Station

Minister: The Rev'd Bruce Stuart, A.B., M.Div.

30 Charles Babbage Close, Chessington KT9 2SB

Tel: 020 8397 2745 Email: abc.stuart1@googlemail.com

Secretary: Mrs Linda Lambert

Tel: 020 8398 1476 Email: lindanmlambert@aol.com

Services: 10.45 on Sundays

Communion Service 1st Sunday of each month

WELCOME TO ALL

Hall Bookings telephone: 020 8224 3578



WESTON GREEN

020 8398 6027

24 Hour Answerphone

Orthodontics for Children & Adults

Jane Eden BDS(Lon), MSc(Lon), MOrth, RCS(Eng)

Fraser McDonald BDS(Lon), MSc(Lon), PhD, MOrth, RCS(Eng)

- Gentle and Caring Environment
- Private and NHS Practices
- Evening and Saturday Appointments

Available Privately

**PRIVATE and
NHS Practices:**

Yewhurst
Weston Green
Thames Ditton
Surrey
KT7 0JZ

NHS Practice:
Oak Lane
Twickenham
TW1 3PH



www.weston-green-orthodontics.co.uk E-mail: wgop@jeden.freereserve.co.uk

A Project for the Village



The newly refurbished Old Bakery is in a key position and we'd all like to keep it as a proper shop, selling things that villagers want to buy and fitting in with, rather than competing with, the remaining retailers. There is now a very good chance of achieving this.

You may have noticed that the boards have lately been taken off the windows. A group of villagers have taken a contract to buy the shop on a long leasehold, and seek more investors to put their plan into practice. At present, to keep the number of partners to a manageable number, the minimum figure is £25,000 for which you will acquire a share of the 999-year lease. Your participation will help shape the future of our village.

The plan is to let the shop at a low rent in the first two years to enable a new retail tenant to establish the business. After two years it is expected that the annual yield will be 6% per annum rising further in due course on rent reviews. In this project for the village it is important to get the right tenant – hence the low rental in the initial two years. In some ways it

the refurbished shop offers substantial retail space fore and aft

is a unique opportunity for residents to say what shop they would like to see. Ideally the tenant (or tenants) will look positively on ideas to house more than one sort of retail activity in the store, perhaps allotting shelf space to other local retail enterprises.

There have already been discussions with prospective tenants, one of whom plans to have a fresh meat and fresh fish facility.

The project must remain commercially viable. You can expect a return on your equity but should be prepared for your capital in the project to be tied up for the longer term.

If you'd like to do something positive to help your village, please call me on 0208 398 3489 to discuss this most interesting project.

Bob Huxster

Potential investors may wish to seek professional advice before taking decisions.

Holiday Inn London – Kingston South

Friday 28th September 2012



bublé comes
to town!

Michael Bublé Live is a mesmerising show for all ages in tribute to one of the best jazz, swing and pop artists, Michael Bublé.

Kriz K is the official No. 1 Michael Bublé tribute act offering authentic moves and a first-class performance. Singing all the hits including "Cry Me A River", "Home", "Hollywood", "Haven't Met You Yet" and many more ...

Kriz K as Michael Bublé is simply mind-blowing!

A fantastic evening is in store, starting from 6.30pm, so make sure you reserve your space for a night of dancing and fun!

Ticket price: **£21.95pp** – includes a 2 course buffet, tribute act plus disco
OR £14.95pp for tribute act and disco only.

Reserve your tickets today on **020 8786 6556** – spaces are limited, so please book early.

Holiday Inn London – Kingston South
Portsmouth Road, Surbiton,
Surrey KT6 5QQ
events@hikingston.co.uk
hikingston.co.uk



Holiday Inn

Lamberts of Weston Green

III – General Sir John Lambert



One Monday in July 1782, Catherine Lambert put her ten year old into the chaise outside their house in Brook Street, Westminster, and took him to boarding school: “*Carried poor Johnny to the Charterhouse,*” she wrote in her diary. From time to time she sent him partridges in season, or perhaps a hare, to eke out school dinners. Charterhouse, then in Smithfield, doesn’t seem to have done poor Johnny much harm. By the time he retired to Weston Green, where the family had its much-loved country house from 1798, General Sir John Lambert GCB had earned the respect of the nation and his soldiering peers in the thick of many an historic action, including the battle of Waterloo. He was no armchair general, nor creeping courtier. Twice thanked in Parliament, he knew defeats as well as victories during 34 active years in the field. Then age, honour and senior rank claimed him for home posting and ceremonial occasions. Throughout his most distinguished career he remained, like his brothers, a decent fellow.



General Sir John Lambert GCB, survivor of New Orleans, Waterloo, and Charterhouse. Painted by Salter in the Waterloo Banquet series and supplied by descendants of his brother George.

The second of Catherine’s five warrior sons, at 18 he was commissioned as an ensign in the First Regiment of Foot Guards in January 1791. In war against the expansion of revolutionary France, he served in the Duke of York’s forces at the siege of Valenciennes in 1793, and took part in a brilliant action at Lincelles where

a thousand Guardsmen defeated a much larger, well-positioned force. He fought at the siege of Dunkirk that August, which had to be abandoned with heavy casualties, the British positions rendered difficult when the enemy opened the town sluice gates and flooded the surrounding fields. Fever broke out. Eventually the British force on the Continent was beaten back and had to be evacuated.

John Lambert was promoted Lieutenant and Captain on 9 October 1793 and made Adjutant of the Guards' third battalion the following year. Home posting saw his début in cricket in July 1794, mainly for the M.C.C. when spared from military duties. It was an era of bumpy pitches. Alas his averages were not good – in eighteen first-class innings, batting at the tail (he does not seem to have been a bowler either), he averaged less than two and a half runs despite four not-outs. His last first class match, for Lord Beauclerk's XI, was against the XI of Edward 'Skirmish' Bligh, a great batsman who later retired to Ditton House and is buried at St. Nicholas. Lambert scored 0 and 9.

In 1798 troubles arose in Ireland when, after some years in which the United Irishmen had treacherously colluded with the enemy, France, martial law was imposed in much of the country and uprisings broke out. Thousands died in this most violent episode in Irish history. Catherine Lambert wrote on 11 June: *"Rec'd the unpleasant intelligence that John was ordered to Ireland."* One of the conspirators' leaders, since much romanticised, was Lord Edward Fitzgerald, brother of Lord Henry Fitzgerald at Boyle

Farm. That may be why, when the Lamberts bought Weston House a few weeks after Edward Fitzgerald was shot in Dublin resisting arrest for treason, Catherine omitted the Fitzgeralds from her introductory calls. It would be eighteen months before Lady Charlotte (Boyle) Fitzgerald, and Lady Sophia Fitzgerald who then lived at The Lodge in George Road – now called Watts Road – themselves took the initiative to establish social relations.

The following March, returned from the Emerald Isle, John Lambert paid his first visits to Weston House. A kind brother, he would arrive bearing dresses and other gifts for his young sisters. By the end of August he was with his battalion among British and allied Russian forces landing at Den Helder in Holland. After initial successes, they were beaten back and again John experienced evacuation, arriving at Yarmouth on 31 October 1799 to the relief of his mother, who had followed the action by letter. Ten days later he was reunited with the family in Weston Green. Commissioned Capt & Lt. Colonel in 1801, his prospects of further action dimmed for a while when the Peace of Amiens was signed in March 1802. It was to be short-lived. John spent much of the next few years at camp and on Guard duty in England, and deployed on the East Coast where Napoleon's invasion was anticipated. He considered exchanging his commission, but thought better of it. Meanwhile his younger brother Samuel Lambert, who as a teenager showed great prowess shooting game on the farmland around Weston House, had followed John into the First



Lt. John with the Guards 3rd Btn landing at Helder, 1799; by Langedijk

Foot. In 1806 he was deployed to Sicily, where John subsequently joined him, in what Sam described in his journal as “An Expedition to Annoy Napoleon.”

Things on the Continent were heating up. In 1808 both John and Sam were sent to Northern Spain to join the forces under Sir John Moore where again, after early progress, a determined French counter-attack drove them back. After a harrowing retreat, pretty close to a rout, across the wintry mountains, the remaining British were evacuated from Corunna. Sir John Moore was hit by a cannonball during the rearguard action, with time for some memorable last words as he lay dying. With relief, Catherine wrote in her diary on Tuesday 24 January 1809: “*Rec’d at two in the morning an express from Henry, acquainting me with the disasters at Corunna but that his dear brothers were safely embark’d.*” Captain Henry, the third

brother and the fiercest of the naval Lamberts, had just brought the new frigate *Iphigenia* back from escorting a convoy to Newfoundland, where (he wrote to his mother) he lost his foremast in a gale.

After a few months, John and Sam took part in yet another British invasion – the huge Secret Expedition to the island of Walcheren. The aim was to dominate the river Scheldt and the approaches to the naval harbour of Flushing. This time, Catherine had three sons in the thick of things, for the youngest, thirteen year old George, had joined the Navy at the start of the year. He was midshipman on the *Eagle*, 74 guns, under family friend Capt. Charles Rowley – one of over 500 ships in the invasion fleet. Meanwhile Henry was heading for the Indian Ocean and the Mauritius campaign, while the eldest son Robert was beached at Weston House desperate for a ship.

- * Residential Lettings
- * Management
- * Overseas Sales
- * Investments



- * Free Valuations
- * Honest & Professional Service
- * Competitive fees/ no hidden extras
- * Fully Licensed and accredited



Autumn is on the way

which seems strange since, as I write, Summer hasn't properly arrived and the Olympics are only just getting into their full stride.

You may have noticed that not much has been happening at our office (sandwiched between The Angel Inn and Guy Salmon) for quite some time. You could be forgiven for thinking we had disappeared altogether but in fact we have been operating in temporary offices in Esher while our home/office is put back together after a fire the week before Christmas.

We couldn't have imagined, back then, that it would be almost 7 months before we returned to Thames Ditton and I can certainly say that we are enormously happy to be back. Lovely though Esher is, Thames Ditton is just SO much better and in the immortal words of Dorothy from The Wizard of Oz "there's no place like home".

Dealing with the insurance claim has been a whole new learning experience—a very long and laborious one—and we would like to

pass on something that we were unaware of. It was a great surprise to us that the cost of the initial clean up after the fire was to be taken out of the house contents cover element, not mentioned in the small print but "implied in the terms" as I was informed by my broker after having complained to the loss adjustor. We had initial costs from two specialist recover companies which came in at around £12,500.

In the end our own team of trades people did it a lot cheaper but be aware, if you have a fire or suffer a flood, most insurance companies will seek to recover this essential expense from contents—we will be doubling ours just in case!

Edgars is registered with DPS (Deposit Protection Service), is a Licensed member of **NALS** and is a member of The Property Ombudsman: It is also a **SAFEagent**. "Safe Agent Fully Endorsed" – is a mark denoting firms that protect landlords and tenants money through a client money protection scheme.



Shellets House
51 Portsmouth Road
Thames Ditton KT7 0SY
020 8398 8088

info@edgarsproperty.com
www.edgarsproperty.com

After early gains the campaign went badly, and Lt. Col. John Lambert suffered his fourth evacuation. Many died from Walcheren Fever, including tall young Edward Morant, a close friend of the family in John's regiment. Sam also returned with the fever. Breaking off a visit to Warwickshire, his mother dashed to London to help him recover. In early 1810 Sam was fighting in Spain again. Catherine noted: "*On ye 5th of March he was engaged in a most glorious action under Genl. Graham on the Plains of Barrosa, where our Troops gained a Victory over the French.*" Young George on the Eagle was involved with naval support operations at nearby Cadiz. With Sam returned to England, it was John's turn to be deployed to Cadiz, in command of the Guards' third battalion, on 30 May 1811. Promoted Colonel in the Army, in January 1812 he commanded two battalions at Carthage before joining Wellington's forces at Salamanca for the significant victory there. The following June, John was promoted Major-General, and commanded the sixth Division at the battles of the Nivelle (10 November 1813), Nive (9-13 December), Orthes (27 February 1814), and Toulouse (10-12 April). Two days later, Lt. Col. Sir Henry Sullivan of Ditton House, second Baronet of Thames Ditton, was killed in action with the Coldstream Guards at Bayonne. John Lambert was twice mentioned in despatches, received the thanks of Parliament and was knighted.

The brief peace which followed these victories over the French, with Napoleon's exile to Elba, allowed more resources to be diverted to fight the Americans, who in mid 1812 had taken advantage of British preoccupation with Europe to declare war.

At the turn of that year John's brother Henry had lost his life in an aggressive but unsuccessful action as captain of HMS *Java* against the heavier and more powerful American frigate *Constitution*. In late 1814 Major-General John Lambert was sent across the Atlantic with reinforcements for the army. They arrived in time to constitute a reserve force for General Pakenham's disastrous attack on New Orleans on 8 January 1815, where a comparatively small force of American artillery in hastily-fortified defensive positions cut to ribbons a much larger, but over-confident and inefficient British force. With Pakenham killed and Major-General Keane wounded in the carnage, John Lambert took command and after brief further fighting, bowed to reality and ordered the retreat. He then took Fort Bowyer on 11 February – just before news arrived by messenger that a peace agreement had been signed at Ghent seven weeks before. The ignominy of New Orleans had been in vain.

The forces under John Lambert were ordered to sail from the States to Europe. There was not a moment to lose when Napoleon escaped from Elba on 26 February 1815. Now a very experienced soldier indeed, and well known to Wellington, John was appointed commander of the 10th Brigade. He marched them in haste from Ghent to Waterloo. A visitor today finds it hard to conjure up anything but restful charm from the gentle grassy fields and slopes at Waterloo. But as a guest of the Belgian military I once spent a day viewing a lively re-enactment of the whole battle. It left a deep impression.

On Sunday, 18 June 1815, the Tenth Brigade reached the battlefield in the nick

**FOR
EVERYTHING
IN
LUXURY
BATHROOMS
& SHOWERS**

- Full fitting service available
- All heating & plumbing requirements
- Full central heating systems
- Boiler services & repairs
- Burst pipes, washing machines & dishwashers

**FREE
DESIGN &
PLANNING
SERVICE**

**Open:
Monday to
Friday
8am to 5pm**

**Saturday
9.30am
to 3pm**

New Showroom
NOW OPEN

122 SUMMER ROAD
THAMES DITTON
SURREY
KT7 0QP
020 8398 4324

TJBathrooms



121 ANYARDS ROAD, COBHAM, SURREY KT11 2LJ
TEL: 01932 866471 / 868523

of time only that morning, and initially was kept in reserve. By mid-afternoon it was in the front line. In all, the Tenth suffered casualties of 39 officers and 795 men – nearly one third of its complement. Almost half of those were from the 27th Foot, part of the Tenth holding the road near the farm of La Haye Sainte – a heavier loss than any other regiment. The husband of John’s sister Maria, Major Henry Graham, a cavalryman, was killed in a desperate charge with the King’s Regiment of Dragoons. John Lambert was mentioned in Wellington’s despatches, and received the thanks of Parliament again as well as honours from Russia and Bavaria. His own regiment acquired the name Grenadier Guards in honour of their victory over the French Grenadiers.

Now John was given command of the 6th Infantry brigade in the army of occupation in France, headquartered at Cambrai – complete with eighteen couple of hounds. Their Master and owner, his secretary Capt. Smith, was summoned one night by Wellington, who spread out a map. On it were carefully marked all the local fox coverts, with the intelligence that there were too many foxes in all of them.

While there was plenty of sport, an active service life had left little time for John to go courting. In October 1816, aged 44, he married Jane Morant, 27, a close friend of his younger sisters and long a protégée of his mother. The Morants were a family from the Jamaican plantocracy, who in the 1700s had parlayed some of their money into a large chunk of Hampshire and a seat in parliament. In a letter to an old family friend, the admirably laconic Catherine described her second son as “*very well-*

looking, but not tall & in figure very like his father,” and Jane as “*a fine young woman, stouter than I ever expected her to be.*” He might have been a late starter, but the couple set about producing at least seven children at a brisk pace, five of whom survived.

To this point, John seems to have relied on army accommodation or lodgings and was a frequent visitor to Weston House, and to the family houses in London and Brighton. As far as I can discern, he had then no income but his officer’s pay. Distributions of the spoils of battle were generally less than the opportunities of prize-money in the Navy. Distinction, rank and marriage, and quite possibly Jane’s dowry, meant a household. To complement his foreign postings, from time to time he rented country places including the Elms (according to a previous occupant whose father researched the house), and now he rented a house off Portland Place and part of Beauport Park in Sussex, where his sister-in-law Charlotte, Robert Lambert’s wife, died in 1818. We read in the *Morning Post* of 5 January 1821 that two men robbed him of his wallet in the Strand. Being a General is no immunity. Shortly thereafter he was posted to Ireland to take command in Munster, headquartered at Cork. Jane went with him, adding more children to the family during their posting.

It was a time of the Troubles. The Irish Whiteboys stole weapons (and lead from roofs in order to make bullets), and organised a guerrilla campaign of murder and attrition, disrupting mail coaches and killing officials. From the extensive press coverage of the time, it is clear that John Lambert, with immense experience

Weston Green School is an independent co-educational school for 3 to 11 year old pupils

The school prides itself on providing:

- **A sound and balanced foundation to learning**
- **An education which is stimulating, challenging and fun**
- **Exceptional pastoral care and small class sizes**

The school is committed to ensuring that pupils achieve their full potential in a nurturing, challenging and innovative environment.



**Scholarships
now available!**
Please call the office
for full details



Weston Green
School

Tel: **020 8398 2778**

E-mail: info@westongreenschool.org.uk

Website: www.westongreenschool.org.uk

Weston Green School, Weston Green Road,
Thames Ditton, KT7 0JN

including his earlier tour to rebellious Ireland, handled things firmly, well and with sensitivity. He led from the front – on at least one occasion himself leading a smallish detachment of troops in combat with insurrectionists. In the archives there are also examples of his decency. For example, presiding over a court-martial in September 1821 he pardoned all six army prisoners convicted by the court, in consideration of their character.

A long tour in troubled Ireland ended in mid 1825 when he was promoted Lt. General and brought home. Cork's farewell to him was notably fulsome: *"...his conduct as an Officer has been uniformly marked by sound judgment and discretion; and as a Gentleman, by the most perfect urbanity and conciliatory deportment ...his kind and affable manners, and his unostentatious but munificent benevolence, have endeared him to all ranks of society."*

After a highly operational career spanning 34 years, many of them bloody, John Lambert was now doomed to professional life in his Number Ones. Royal Levees, Waterloo Banquets; ceremonial occasions like accompanying Wellington to lay the foundation stone of the new Waterloo Barracks at the Tower of London; and the coronation of Queen Victoria. His son's manuscript note records that he took command of the Household Division at that ceremony; brother Sam commanded the First Battalion of the Grenadiers for the occasion. John was very well connected. His widowed cousin Sophia had remarried, to Colonel Henry Greville. The Colonel's younger brother Algernon Greville had been John's aide-de-camp in

occupied France, then Wellington's ADC and in due course Private Secretary to the great man as Prime Minister. In his later years we find a peppery John writing to the papers to rebut scandalous American allegations about New Orleans. He was quoted as an authority in Parliamentary debate on the Irish question, affirming plainly what government hardly wanted to hear, that *"the great cause of the disturbances in Ireland was the system of ejections, and they again were caused by the want of a system of Poor Laws."* He did his bit for the local community on the Building Committee for the St Marylebone Parochial School for Girls.

Domestic life also bloomed. There were trips to fashionable Margate with the family; and John enthusiastically embraced technological advances. Newspapers reported him taking the new steam-packet for a family holiday on the Continent, and enjoying a ride of 21 miles from Hyde Park corner to Slough in an hour and twenty minutes, in the new steam carriages of the British and American Intercourse Company. At various periods he rented Stanmore House in North London, where his mother Catherine died in 1832, and houses at Baker Street and 2, Harley Street in London. He put his eldest son John Arthur, to whom Wellington had stood godfather at christening in Cambrai, into Harrow. It must be difficult growing up in the shadow of a distinguished father. The boy got a good leaving report, joined the Grenadier Guards like his father, was presented to His Majesty by General Sir John at a Levee in 1836, and became a Lt. General himself in due course. Like his father, he took up cricket for the MCC, but did rather worse. Although his battalion

(which he later commanded) fought at the battle of the Alma, when I consulted the Grenadiers they had no confirmation of his participation; and John Arthur Lambert's obituary in the Surrey Comet following his own eventual death at Weston House in 1887 states that he was never fortunate enough to see active service. He never married.

With the death of General Sir John's elder brother Admiral Robert Lambert in 1836, Weston House passed for a few years to the occupation of Robert's widow and the youngest brother George, by then a Captain with a young family. At the turn of 1840-41 Sir John, who had been made a full GCB in 1838, rented The Newlands on the other side of the Green, and when George got his next ship in 1845, John and family moved into Weston House. By the time John arrived in the parish for good, the vestry had ground to a halt, some key areas of local administration being taken up in Kingston. He did serve on the Thames Ditton School Committee of subscribing Governors. General Sir John Lambert died at Weston House on 14 September 1847, aged 75. He had served this country with honour, and was deservedly honoured in his lifetime. His Military Secretary at New Orleans and

Waterloo, who became General Sir Harry Smith, later wrote of John in his own autobiography: "*he was one of the most amiable and moral men in the world.*"

It was at the new church of Holy Trinity Claygate, and not St Nicholas, that his family chose to bury him. Readers of 'The Scandal' in this magazine last year will immediately deduce a likely reason for that. A substantial tomb, its inscription not yet eroded, is located to the immediate right of the church as viewed from the road. Jane, who lived on at Weston House with their family for another seventeen years, lies there with him.

While he was born into the gentry and was not poor, I cannot help but notice from his will that despite the significant services he rendered to this country for an officer's pay, John Lambert did not die rich. His share of Weston House, left to the surviving siblings by Robert; four thousand pounds or so; and the residue of interest owing on his share of his mother's former plantation in Jamaica, now much reduced in value. Not all that much to provide for his widow, two sons' commissions, and dowries for three daughters. But that's public service.

Keith Evetts

Sources on application

R P Brown

Est. 1968 – Traditional, reliable, and conscientious local **plumber**

Registered with the Institute of Plumbing and Heating Engineers

Approved member of Surrey C.C.Trading Standards 'Buy with Confidence' Scheme

*No call out charge and no minimum charge, free written estimates,
one year parts and labour guarantee, full public liability insurance.*

Tel: 020 8398 0207 Mobile: 07973 636672

56 Speer Road, Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 0PW

www.plumb-master.co.uk – e-mail info@plumb-master.co.uk

State of Play



“I’m uneasy about this,” said the new Foreign Minister as he perused the draft press release about his appointment. “*He combines the integrity of a banker, the honour of a politician and the scruples of a journalist...* Where’s Purvis?” “Arrested, Secretary of State, for tweeting that President Assad has let his father down. Looking at a year minimum. I’m Ena Goodplace, your new Director of Creative Corporate Communications.”

After Eton and the City, the Minister had spent a couple of years in a PR consultancy and knew all about reputation management. Then politics had beckoned in the shape of a superb lobster thermidor at the Carlton. A small man in his late fifties, prone to rudeness and fits of temper, no woman had ever fancied him. He was still single and with much to prove, especially after the photos of him partying naked in Swindon.

“Well, Goodplace, take out that bit about the banker. Add a couple of lines for the human touch: *‘He was devastated to be voted off Strictly Come Dancing. The show had changed his life. It meant everything to him and he had really, really wanted to make the second round for his old Gran’s sake.’* And tell them I’m passionate about... something. Now give me a SITREP.”

“Right, Secretary of State. Tehran: need to tread carefully. They are

threatening sanctions. Our main supply of pistachios would be cut off. But it was unhelpful to describe Iran as full of nuts. Europe: we’re totally bogged down over whether Her Majesty should shake hands with Merkel, who will visit to collect the Innovative Sausage Of The Year Award. And Scotland... Most of the green bits can be sold to developers before independence. The proceeds will fund the exciting new sports stadium in Kabul, and the replacement of Union Jacks worldwide by the new flag.

“However, the most important thing in your diary is the *‘Let’s Talk Foreign Office’* Roadshow. This inspirational event brings together citizens, service providers and ministers to collectively have a conversation about foreign affairs. Listening to what our citizens think is extremely important so that we can tick the consultation box.”

“Leaving aside the dreadful split infinitive in your penultimate sentence, I note you say *‘listening’*,” observed the Minister; “but I trust there is no chance of actually changing our policy because of what they say?” “Of course not. We’ve had to alter the format. A couple of years ago we held public meetings where they could question policy and debate with us. They were well attended. But the pestiferous public persistently put problematic posers. It was all far too embarrassing.

“Then we came up with the absolutely epic idea of marketing our Brand by, well, having *market stalls* with meme-themes and award-winning virtual mood boards, where people could ask questions out of earshot, if they really must. That way, we avoided debate in public. ‘*Minister’s Marketplace*,’ we called it. Sheer genius. Astonishingly, nobody came.

“So now, to ensure some passing audience in the background, we are holding a Roadshow at a busy shopping centre up the Thames. It will be geared towards families, with free face painting, giant Jenga and other big outside games to play with. There will be crafts activity and other fun and games. The new aircraft carrier, converted for the Olympic deck quoits event, is unavailable but the Navy has offered us HMS *Diversity*, the second largest of our three warships. It can be got up the river as far as the new bridge at Walton. There will be a competition for schools to design a new colour scheme for the ship – anything but pink, which is what it is currently painted.”

“Unbelievably exciting. I gather it’s just back from operations, with an impressively suntanned crew.” “Quite so, Secretary of State. Battle-hardened. A most successful campaign. They distributed millions of leaflets up the Orinoco urging the natives to take regular exercise for their health. On biodegradable paper, in sixty different languages including Urdu, I hasten to add. Children will be invited to try out the ship’s award-winning fully accessible fire control system, built by volunteers.

“We will also be giving out goodie bags and food and drink tasters. There’s an interactive game modelled on Big Brother where people can vote on which country to bomb next. All this will enhance our brand visibility, use up the huge budget underspend and enable us to say that we have bent over forwards to ensure consultation. Above all, it will distract them.

“And by the way, here’s our new award-winning notepaper. The lion and unicorn is completely *passé*. Now we’ll have David Beckham’s head in profile over the motto *Dum Defluet Pecunia**, with the logo ‘*FCO is Fantastic!*’ “

“Brilliant. Almost *iconic!* Where did you learn the business?” “In local government, Secretary of State.” And although his new D3C knew nothing of cricket, the Minister was sure the nation was safe in her hands.

Keralyn Cluck

NLP consultant to the award-winning Government programme “Everyone Can Win Gold”

**The motto may be rendered as ‘until the money runs out.’ It is uncannily similar to the Elbridge motto *Dum defluent amnes* – ‘while rivers run’. The author avers that this and the eerily familiar description of the Roadshow are no more than subconscious – and meritorious – inspiration.*

In our real world, state servants in both the FCO and Elbridge are very responsive to residents, and will not mind gentle ribbing. Indeed, they should win an award. – Ed

West End Theatre On Your Doorstep



Newcomers to Thames Ditton are amazed to discover the Theatre in Thames Ditton on their doorstep in Embercourt Road at the Vera Fletcher Hall. Not many small theatres, let alone village halls, have been able to attract stars such as Petula Clark, who is the Hall's Patron, Dorothy Tutin, John Julius Norwich, Virginia McKenna, Covent Garden opera star Donald Maxwell, Louis de Bernières of "Captain Corelli's Mandolin" fame, Rodney Bewes, the Royal Shakespeare Company with their "Shakespeare Review" and Hugh Bonneville of "Downton Abbey" fame.

This July Charles Court Opera's "La Boheme", sung in Italian with Welsh National Opera star Shaun Dixon, was sold out. A member of the audience congratulated us and said he had been to the ENO the previous evening to Porgy and Bess and "*wondered whether we could cope with the change of pace, but we needn't have feared: it was La Boheme which left the lasting impression*". Fans of Charles Court Opera will be happy that they return with "**Pirates of Penzance**" on Saturday 6 October.



19 October – Rodney Bewes: *A Boy Growing Up*

Local violinist **Amy Tress** has brought up-and-coming prize-winning musicians to the Hall and we have a treat on Friday 26th October with a concert by her **Mira Quartet** including Brahms, Dvorak and Frank Bridge. Our music theme continues, on a lighter note with the



Brighten up your Garden!

Is your garden in need of a makeover?

From planting plans to a simple injection of colour

Green Room Garden Designs can help

020 8398 5703

Anna 07801 921166 - Kate 07956 641881

shop **signs** van **signs** window **signs**
for sale **signs** sticker **signs** frosting
warning **signs** banner **signs** plaques
display **signs** posters **and** more...
flyingcolours call 020 8398 1770

RUSSELL-COOKE | SOLICITORS



Specialist services for companies & individuals
including wills & estate planning, conveyancing,
family law, criminal litigation, tax advice,
employment and personal injury

www.russell-cooke.co.uk

Bishop's Palace House
Kingston Bridge
Kingston-upon-Thames
Surrey KT1 1QN
T 020 8546 6111

Goldman Ensemble on Friday 12 October in **“Piano Recital – (Piano not included)”** based on a true story of exceptional musicians waiting in St. Martin in the Fields for their pianist to join them, and waiting... waiting... But the show must go on. Visit [youtube.com/Goldmanensemble](https://www.youtube.com/Goldmanensemble) and you will rush to buy your ticket!

Our successful Strictly Sunday shows welcome back Andrew Brewis on 30 September with his **“When Peggy met Ella”** – a celebration by top jazz singers **Sarah Moule** and **Shireen Francis** of the life and music of Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald in a wonderful programme of favourites. A new company to the Hall, Isosceles, brings us **“Probably the best comedy songs in the world ever, maybe”** on Sunday 25 November described by Time Out as “An evening of consistent laughter”.

Regulars will remember Michael Friend Productions’ splendid “Gaslight” and we welcome him back with **“Duet for Two Hands”** on Friday 28 September, a gripping thriller, first shown in 1945 and since then on Broadway and in television adaptations with Eric Portman and Denholm Elliot as the surgeon who replaces his patient’s hands with those from a convicted killer, which then seem to take over his personality.

Our theatre programme continues on Sunday 14 October with Tacit Theatre’s **“Canterbury Tales”** which has received rave reviews in Time Out and the Evening Standard: “Good bawdy fun”. In an explosion of live folk music, story-telling and general mischief, a collection of rogues, wenches and travellers tell their

stories to entertain each other on their pilgrimage to Canterbury. From the antics of adulterous lovers to the revenge of cuckolded husbands, the characters remain as recognisable today as they were in the 14th century.

Many will welcome **Rodney Bewes’** return on Friday 19 October in **“A Boy Growing Up”** direct from the Edinburgh Festival. Based on the broadcast stories of Dylan Thomas, this was a triumph in New York and London in the fifties with actor and playwright Emlyn Williams.

Our children’s programme sells out early so don’t delay booking. On Saturday 13 October Little Angel Theatre Company – described as “the UK’s National Theatre of Puppetry” – brings **“Handa’s Surprise”**, based on the well-known children’s book, with puppetry, dance and songs and Handa’s encounters with ostrich, zebra, elephant and giraffe. This is for very young children, 2½ to 5 years, as their first introduction to theatre. Image Musical Theatre are regular visitors and on Saturday 24 November they bring their family participation musical **“Pinocchio”**.

The Christmas season is celebrated on Friday January 11 with Charles Court Opera’s **“The Three Musketeers”** a swash-buckling and toe-tapping pantomime, full of fun and musical treats from pop to opera with some of the UK’s best young opera talent.

See page 39 for times and tickets. You can keep in touch with events on the website

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk



BIRCH RIDDLE & CO. LTD.

Chartered Accountants

A personal local practice in Weston Green offering friendly service at competitive rates

- * Tax Returns
- * Tax Advice
- * Executorship
- * VAT Returns
- * Accounts Preparation
- * Company Formations & Accounts
- * Payroll
- * Budgets & Cash Flow

Please call **Brian Riddle** or **Graham Birch** with no obligation for a free first interview on **020 8398 3122** or **020 8398 6303** or visit our website at **www.birchriddle.co.uk**

Regulated for a range of investment business activities by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.



TREE SURGERY

LOYNTON & CO
TREE SURGEONS

FULLY QUALIFIED
(Royal Forestry Society)

FULLY INSURED

ALL TREE WORK UNDERTAKEN INCLUDING:-

- STUMP GRINDING • FELLING • CROWN REDUCTION •
- THINNING • HEDGEROWS • PLANTING •

FOR A FREE QUOTE PLEASE CALL

Office: 01276 855211
Mobile: 07796 548 437

WE ALSO OFFER A GARDEN CLEARANCE SERVICE

THE THEATRE IN THAMES DITTON

AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL

Friday 28th September 7.30 pm

Michael Friend Productions presents
DUET FOR TWO HANDS

Classic 1945 thriller: a man receives new hands from a pioneering surgeon, seeks the identity of the donor and is mysteriously attracted to the surgeon's daughter. – TICKETS £12.50

Sunday 30th September 7.30 pm

WHEN PEGGY MET ELLA

*The music of Peggy Lee and Ella Fitzgerald
Sarah Moule, Shireen Francis with Andrew Brewis
– Two of the UK's top jazz singers plus piano
and double bass.
– TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)*

Saturday 6th October 7.30 pm

Charles Court Opera presents
THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

*Gilbert & Sullivan's ever popular opera of the
Pirate King, orphan Frederick, the policeman's
lot and the model major general. – TICKETS £15*

Friday 12th October 8.00 pm

The Goldman Ensemble in

PIANO RECITAL (PIANO NOT INCLUDED)

*Theatrical comedy – four musicians, violin, French
horn, tuba and percussion, explore backstage
disasters, joys and struggles of their profession.
High comedy, great music – Mozart, Beethoven,
Schubert... Toured internationally – Sydney Opera
House, Wigmore Hall, St. Martin-in-the-Fields.
– TICKETS £11*

Sunday 14th October 7.30 pm

Tacit Theatre present

THE CANTERBURY TALES

*At the Tabard Inn travellers tell stories from the
antics of adulterous lovers to the revenge of cuck-
olded husbands, still as recognisable today as in
Chaucer's time. With live folk music. "A big-hearted
boisterous evening" – Time Out. – TICKETS £12.50*

**Tickets for all shows from Joan Leifer
Tel: 0844 884 8832 and Bradley + Brown,
50 High Street, Thames Ditton**

Friday 19th October 8.00pm

RODNEY BEWES as Dylan Thomas in
A BOY GROWING UP

*The star of "The Likely Lads" in a new show from
the broadcast stories of Dylan Thomas, direct from
the Edinburgh Festival. – TICKETS £12.50*

Friday 26th October 8.00 pm

THE MIRA QUARTET

Amy Tress (violin), **Joseph Devaille** (violin),
Natasha Silver (viola), **Peteris Sokolovskis** (cello)
join **Jonathan Musgrave** (piano)
*Rising stars in the music world play works including
Beethoven's Sonata no 1 for violin and piano and
Dvorak's String Quartet no 10 in E flat major op.52.
– TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)*

Sunday 25th November 7.30 pm

Isosceles presents

PROBABLY THE BEST COMEDY SONGS IN
THE WORLD EVER, MAYBE

Pat Abernethy and Dave Marsden with comedy
songs and surprises from Tom Lehrer, the Pythons,
Noel Coward, George Formby, Flanders and Swann.
"An evening of consistent laughter" – Time Out
– TICKETS £11

YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Saturday 13th October 11.30 am, 2 & 3.30 pm

Little Angel Theatre presents

HANDA'S SURPRISE

*The much loved book of Handa's encounters with the
ostrich, zebra, giraffe, elephant and parrot is brought
to life through puppetry, dance and songs.*

For 2 1/2 – 5 years. – TICKETS £6

Saturday 24th November 2.30 pm

Image Musical Theatre presents PINOCCHIO

*A family participation musical. Gepetto's wooden
puppet Pinocchio comes to life as a mischievous
little boy who after amazing adventures becomes a
real boy. For 5-11 years. – TICKETS £6*

**To hire the Vera Fletcher Hall contact
Manager Helen Mason Tel: 08456 528 829**

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk



Claremont Fan Court School

An independent co-educational school for pupils aged 2½ to 18 years

School visits

Prospective families are welcome to visit the School.

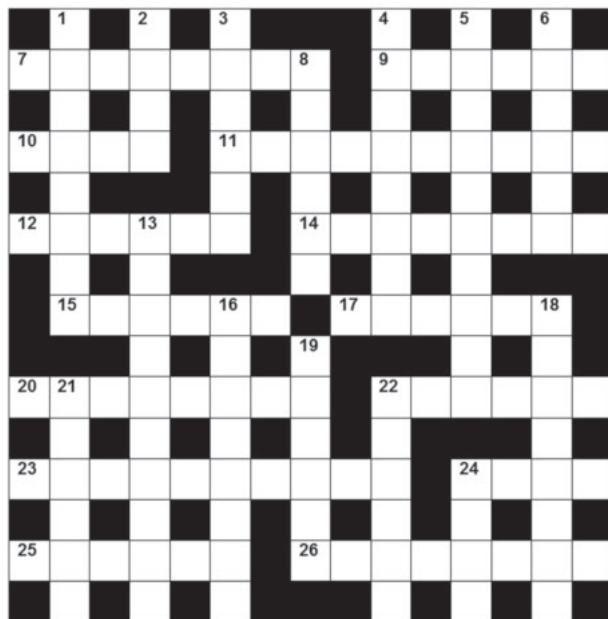
Pre-Prep and Nursery	2½ - 7 year olds
Prep	7 - 11 year olds
Senior	11 - 18 year olds

For further information about Open Mornings or to arrange an appointment please tel: **01372 473624** or email: **jtilson@claremont.surrey.sch.uk**



Autumn Crossword

By Maureen Willcox



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 7 November 2012 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
6 Church Walk
Thames Ditton
KT7 0NW

ACROSS

7. Strong climber needed to sit on a camel (8)
9. Dismisses from political life (6)
10. No veto needed in this college (4)
11. Though mature, this can turn to jelly! (10)
12. Where an amphibian hinders speech (6)
14. Abide with me, for this falls fast (8)
15. Sharp response from a rotter in a tizzy (6)
17. Somehow this strange sibling will avoid temptation (6)
20. Obvious – conclusion reached by guardians (8)
22. An Australian bowerbird with London street connection (6)
23. Shows heart's muscle activity (10)
24. A priest must manage his ceremonial attire (4)
25. Water scooter on a flat keel (6)
26. Essential to remove poor odd Giles from his position (8)

DOWN

1. Arrowmaker's namesake in breakfast cereal (8)
2. So be it (4)
3. Where a stray dog might run amok (6)
4. Stay of execution (8)
5. Dad's res. is moving to a different area (10)
6. Job hunter took close look at various trades (6)
8. Peculiar Les did walk suspiciously (6)
13. A bad lout and his gang behaved in an appalling way (10)
16. Exaggerated speech, used by M.P.s perhaps (8)
18. To an extent, they have a difficult job to hold down (4,4)
19. Placed in Dorset warehouse for safe keeping (6)
21. Long in the tooth? Find replacements here (6)
22. Refers to a thoughtless maiden (6)
24. Boast that this flies in a straight line (4)

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy



Simon Simpson

MSc MAREBT BABCP

Registered with Bupa
and all major insurance
companies

cbt-surrey

- Depression
- Anxiety
- Low Self Esteem
- Panic
- Phobias
- Stress
- OCD
- Insomnia



07801 450 477
www.cbt-surrey.co.uk



*the family you
can turn to*

Seven generations of our family have
been helping and advising local
families in their time of need.

For over 225 years we have provided
both modest and traditional funerals
with understanding and compassion,
when you need it most.



Ask about our
**Pre-Payment
Funeral Plans**
Custodian Trustee:
HSBC Trust Co. (UK) Ltd.

Lodge

BROTHERS 1780
Funeral Directors &
Memorial Stonemasons



Thames Ditton: 37 High Street (020) 8398 4586

Serving: The Dittons, Claygate, Esher, Molesey and Walton

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

Solution to the Summer Crossword

by Michael Jackson



R	E	G	A	T	T	A		T	H	U	N	D	E	R
E		O				H			A			E		A
A	L	L	E	G	R	O		I	M	P	E	T	U	S
S		D				E			P			A		C
O	V	E	R	S	E	E		S	T	A	M	I	N	A
N		N				D		S		O			N	L
	C		H			A		U		N		O		L
T	H	E	O	L	Y	M	P	I	C	G	A	M	E	S
	I		Y			E			O			R		T
S		P				V		R		U			A	E
P	I	O	N	E	E	R			T	R	I	P	L	E
A		L				N			T				U	P
R	O	Y	A	L	T	Y		S	W	I	M	M	E	R
T		P				E			A				N	I
A	U	S	T	E	R	E			C	Y	C	L	I	S

Mess-up. With humble apologies to crossword fanatics, the clue for the real 25 across was inadvertently omitted – aarrgh!

As it should have been practicable to complete the crossword minus the full word for 25 Across, the competition stood. Indeed, rather amazingly one reader did correctly guess that word (brilliant, Helen!), but had an error elsewhere – though an almost admissible one. There were no correct entries, leaving aside the clue snarlup.

Let’s hope the Autumn crossword is trouble-free...



General & Cosmetic Dentistry

Dr ENZO NIGRELLI B.D.S. Dr JENNIFER NIGRELLI B.D.S.

020 8398 2204

29 Ashley Road Thames Ditton Surrey KT7 0NH
www.westoncottagedental.co.uk

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Harry Livesey	01372 474555
Dittons and Weston Green Neighbourcare	Avril Ashworth	020 8398 7521
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for Retired People	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 5921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	020 8398 3772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride,	ask for service at	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers Scheme	central switchboard	01372 474474
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334
M.D.H.S. Household Services (& garden tidying)	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 248533

GROUPS

Girl Guiding in TD & WG	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Deborah Daoud	020 8398 5521
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Nicki Sutherland	020 8398 4202
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Alan Nolan-Davies	0844 414 2826
1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)	Mrs. Louise Lewis	020 8398 4843
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
2nd Weston Green Brownies	Mrs J Epps	020 8395 0595
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Mrs Helen Hill	020 8398 3135
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Laura Clarke	020 8398 3447
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mrs. Adrienne Mealing	020 8398 5582
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	020 8398 2932
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: Pat Farmiloe	020 8398 2787
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Nick Pattenden	Nick@FSLimited.com

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784 466651
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Claremont PROBUS Club	Mr. P. Collins	020 8398 3125
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	Anne Segall	020 8941 4528
Ember Sports Club	Mrs. Pauline Wareham	020 8979 8977

Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	020 8786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher Camera Club	Billy Buchanan	020 8398 3169
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club	Pam Phillips	01372 373745
Hinchley Wood / Dittons PROBUS Club	Geoff Francis	01932 867771
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Mrs. Ann Allen	020 8398 1718
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Mothers Union (All Saints)	Jill Cotter	020 8398 4598
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Eds Copleston (Men)	07775 940703
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
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	020 8398 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
Thames Ditton Marquetry Group	Jasmine Berry	020 8398 4358

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ember Choral Society	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher Recorded Music Society	Miss S. M. Garrat	020 8398 8541
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Chris Walker (Sec)	020 8398 6651
Esher and District Amnesty International	Secretary	gettle51@msn.com
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Louise Flaig	020 8398 7704
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
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
Elmbridge Fairtrade Network	Judy Porter	020 8398 6401
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Hon Sec Anne Brown	01932 881633
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Helen Mason	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings



By Hook or Crook



At an engagement party a few weeks back I found myself chatting to a fellow guest. You probably know how these conversations go – after we had covered how we knew the couple, we moved onto the ‘what do you do’ question. “I’m an estate agent” he told me, then paused for effect whilst he rolled his eyes. Before I could say anything the next statement completely threw me: “I know, everyone hates estate agents but at least I am not a banker!” he announced proudly.

Luckily for me he was too self-involved to reciprocate the question as I happen to work for an Investment Bank. I am a ‘business analyst’, which is a fancy way of saying I work in IT, i.e. configuring computer systems and such like.

This got me pondering though – where did it all go wrong? How did I end up in a profession that is now shunned? When I left university – banks attracted the cream of the crop. Personally, I lacked the interview nous to get into an investment bank and ended up at a management consultancy where I grafted for 5 years, often doing 70-80 hour weeks, before I managed to secure a role at an investment bank. And here I am, another 7 years later, and by implication I should be ashamed of my profession.

Well I am not. I fully acknowledge that the current economic mess we are in is due in no small part to greedy investment bankers. I further acknowledge that some of the scandals, such as the LIBOR fixing, are reprehensible.

But, as I said, I work in IT. If you would blame the person that provided the tabloid journalist with a pen and a notepad then you would also blame me as some of the systems I have worked on can be used to capture those crazy trades you hear about in the press. Then again those same systems are used to book the more normal trades that help the limited amount of money we have in the world circulate more freely.

So if you see me at the train station or in the village (we ‘bankers’ are easy to spot – we always wear a pin stripe suit and a bowler hat!) – then please don’t cross the road. I promise we are not all bad!

Rakesh Kotecha

A useful corrective from Rakesh, who gave me a £50 note for a bike lately, and nobody would change it except... a bank! And now, amusing rants about IT are encouraged, if readers care to submit them... <chuckle> – Ed

Village Voices:

“If you owe the bank £100, that’s your problem. If you owe the bank £100m, that’s their problem.”

“Old bankers never die. They just lose interest.”

“Two biggest problems with banker jokes: bankers don’t think they’re funny, normal people don’t think they’re jokes.”



Two ways to treat your Pet

To keep them healthy, pets should be seen at least once every 12-months by a vet. So why not bring them along to Beech House, Thames Ditton for their regular health checks. This way, we can detect potential illnesses early and nip them in the bud.

Our easy parking, fresh, modern & involving premises and professional engaging team will greet you each visit, making your whole experience more enjoyable.

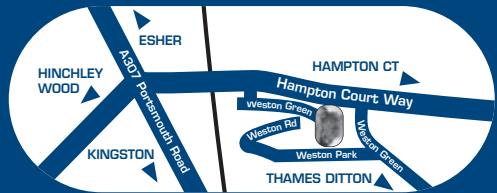
Prevention, we think, is better than Cure.

To keep them happy, play with them, exercise them, give them loads of praise and cuddles and spoil them with some special treats and toys. So pop into the "Beech House Pet Stop" for a wide selection of the very best.

(All the products and food we sell have been carefully chosen with your pet's best well-being in mind.)

**Beech House Veterinary Centre -
Passionate about Healthy, Happy Pets**

www.beechhousevets.com



Regular health checks will ensure a longer, healthier and happier life.

**Ring now to book
020 8398 4752**



**Beech House Veterinary Centre,
Milbourne Stores, Weston Green,
Thames Ditton, Surrey KT7 OJX**



Well-Pet Centres also at:

Hershams
01932 220768
Cobham
01932 868688
Shepperton
01932 222257

Consulting Hours
11am-1pm 4pm-6pm
Monday - Friday

ARIES CONSTRUCTION LLP

*GENERAL BUILDING
EXTENSIONS & LOFT CONVERSIONS
FULL PLANNING & DRAWING SERVICES
ROOFING : PLUMBING : ELECTRICAL
BATHROOM & KITCHEN REFURBISHMENT
CARPENTRY & JOINERY
INTERNAL & EXTERNAL REDECORATION
REPLACEMENT WINDOWS & DOORS
INSURANCE CLAIMS : FIRE, FLOOD, STORM DAMAGE
SUBSIDENCE AND UNDERPINNING
PLASTERING & RENDERING
GROUNDWORKS & DRAINAGE
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE*



*13 Thames Court, Victoria Avenue
West Molesey, Surrey KT8 1TP*



*Free Estimates – Fast, Efficient, Friendly Service
Local References Available*

**Tel: 020 8941 9191
Mobile: 07836 608086
www.ariesconstruction.co.uk
Email: aries.construct@hotmail.co.uk**