

THAMES DITTON TODAY

The Magazine of the



Thames Ditton
& Weston Green
Residents' Association



AUTUMN 2015

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

Editorial Team

Libby MacIntyre & Sandra Dennis
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 Editorial Team well in advance of the next deadline 9th October.

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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 Autumn 2015 issue:

| | |
|--|----|
| News from the Residents' Association | 7 |
| Farmers' Market gets the go ahead | 11 |
| Giggs Hill Surgery – changes and plans | 13 |
| Local Artist Ella Fielding (chainsaw sculptor) | 17 |
| Home grown talent – Megan Taylor | 21 |
| The world's finest musicians on our doorstep | 24 |
| The legacy of R C Sherriff | 27 |
| The West End on your doorstep | 31 |
| Imber Court: Shem Bridges and family | 35 |
| Solution to Summer Crossword | 42 |
| Autumn Crossword | 43 |
| Services, Groups, Clubs and Societies | 44 |
| Thames Ditton Villagers | 46 |

Cover illustration: *Wood sculpture at Weston Green School*
by Ella Fielding (see article page 17)

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 can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com. Subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 14 High Street, Thames Ditton or 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.

A stylized tree with a black silhouette and a canopy of overlapping circles in shades of yellow, orange, and red, representing autumn foliage. The circles vary in size and opacity, creating a layered effect.

autumn *MOVES?*

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation 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

Tricia Bland,
29 Station Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485

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

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Chairman: Rhodri Richards,
Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8224 5181

Vice-Chairman: Libby MacIntyre,
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Hon. Treasurer: Christa Silverthorne,
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Hon. Secretary: Florian Traub,
85 Longmead Road, 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 (see above)

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 29 September and Tuesday 10 November at 8.00 pm,
Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

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News from the Residents' Association

to end-August



Boundary Commission changes to Weston Green and Thames Ditton wards

The Government's Boundary Commission published its recommendations to re-draw Elmbridge Borough Council's ward boundaries on June 30. This is as a result of the decision by the Council's Conservative administration to reduce the number of Borough Councillors from 60 to 48.

The proposals have a significant impact on both Weston Green ward and Thames Ditton ward. As all comments were required by August 24 we advertised the proposed changes across the wards and e-mailed all residents for whom we have email addresses to update them on the proposals. We highlighted the changes for each ward, and encouraged everyone to respond to the Boundary Commission's consultation.

Full details of the proposed changes and our response to them can be found on our website, residents-association.com.

We expect a final decision from the Boundary Commission once all representations have been considered and we will update you on the final outcome.

Environment Agency and flood risk reduction

The Environment Agency, councils and other partners are working together to reduce flood risk, secure the local

economy and enhance the River Thames through a proposed programme of projects and investment known as the River Thames Scheme.

A number of public drop-in events have been held to publicise the scheme. The remaining ones in this series will be held on:

- September 8 YMCA, Hawker Centre
Kingston, KT2 5BH
- September 9 Molesey Boat Club
Molesey, KT8 9AJ
- September 11 Riverside Arts Centre
Sunbury, TW16 5QF
- September 15 Datchet Village Hall
SL3 9HR

Further drop-in events are planned as the scheme develops. In the meantime more information can be found at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/river-thames-flood-risk-management-scheme

Community recycling – consultation to September 30

Surrey County Council is consulting on possible changes to Community Recycling Centres (CRCs), aiming to reduce costs. Views are being sought on a number of options including charging for non-household waste (such as DIY waste), reducing opening hours and closure of sites. Businesses are being asked about trade waste services.

To take part in the consultation complete an online survey by visiting www.surreycc.gov.uk/recyclingcentres.

by September 30. A hard-copy of the survey will also be available from CRCs, council buildings or by calling 03456 009 009.

Ember River Bridge Project

We reported in our last issue that Thames Ditton resident Howard Baker and his team (local resident Andrew Roberts and local architect/resident Andy von Bradsky) were leading an initiative to link Albany Reach to Cigarette Island Park by installing a new pedestrian bridge over the River Ember.

Good progress has been made and bridge engineering expertise has been identified. Howard and Andrew had the opportunity to attend a Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding meeting at Elmbridge Borough Council and discuss a potential application for funds. The idea of a bridge was received positively and the main concerns discussed were 'delivery organisation' and long term maintenance. Work on the project continues.



Men in Sheds Project

The Men in Sheds project is being launched in Elmbridge at the Thames Ditton Centre on 21 September. The Shed (a real one!) provides opportunities to participate in practical activities such as

woodwork or gardening. Men can meet up to use their existing skills, learn new skills or just have a cuppa and put the world to rights. It's all about friendship, fun and getting out.

If you are interested in joining the Men in Sheds, or if you have woodworking skills and are interested in leading a project, please call 01372 474552 or email commservices@elmbridge.gov.uk

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

The Secret Gardens of Weston Green on June 21 was a great success. Large numbers of people enjoyed the sunshine, the scenic gardens and super afternoon teas. Thank you to the organisers and all the gardeners. As well as a super day out it raised around £2,000 for the Weston Green conservation projects fund.

Next year is Thames Ditton's turn to host the Secret Gardens. Do you have a garden that you would like to include, or know someone who has a special garden? If you have any suggestions for gardens to include please contact editor@residents-association.com.

Planning

We supported residents in objecting to a proposed development on valued woodland behind the east side of Speer Road (2015/2004). The proposal was rejected.

The application at 29 Embercourt Road (2014/3610) – following the sad demolition of Sir Sydney Camm's old house – has gone to appeal. A subsequent application (2015/1910) is under consideration.

We await the Planning Inspector's decision on the Taggs Boatyard appeal (2014/1600).

The Co-operative/The Ewe Public House (2015/2729) various conditions are in the process of being discharged; the Council's Heritage Officer has expressed concern over the discharge of the landscaping condition. There is an application in for Advertising Consent (2015/2325).

Esher Tyre and Exhaust (2015/1257). An application for four two-storey houses with rooms in the roof space and dormer windows was refused for three reasons: design, garden depths and pedestrian safety issues.

Milbourne Pond

Work continues on how to restore Milbourne Pond. The council will cut the perimeter growth at the end of August so it will at least look more like a pond!

High Street shops scoop two awards

Congratulations to Paull's and to the Lime Tree who both scooped first prize in their category in the Elmbridge Independent Retailer of the Year Awards. This was the second year that Paull's has won for best deli/grocer and the Lime Tree was voted best restaurant/café.



Lime Tree scoops award

Thames Ditton boys win local football tournament

Congratulations to the local boys who play for the U14 Claygate Royals Swans. The team came top against ten other clubs in a six-a-side tournament in June.



Surrey Ride 100 Cycle Event

Congratulations to everyone who took part in the Surrey Ride 100. Many residents turned out to support the riders and cheer on their valiant efforts! Our RA Chairman Rhodri Richards completed the 100 miles in 4 hours 20 minutes and raised over £1,500 for the Princess Alice Hospice.

Next year the Surrey Ride 100 will take place on Sunday July 31 2016.

Dates for your diary

Farmers Market George & Dragon Car Park Saturday 24 October 9-1 pm

Open Day at the Thames Ditton Centre 21 September 10.30-2.30 pm (Men in Sheds launch at 11am)

Christmas Fair in the High Street Sunday 29 November 3-6 pm

Carols and Fun on Weston Green Common Saturday 5 December

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Farmers' Market gets the go-ahead



At last, after years of debate amongst residents, retailers and businesses the Thames Ditton Farmers' Market has been given the green light by Elmbridge Borough Council. Back in 2012 a comprehensive survey showed over 90% of the community welcomed the idea. However the High Street proved impractical due to the narrowness of its road and pavements. It seemed a non-starter until Mick Pearson, landlord of the George & Dragon announced he'd gladly give over his spacious pub car park for a once a month event. Given its prime location in the High Street, the team behind the Farmers' Market (now with Mick and his partner Megan on board) knew they were back in the race.

At the time of writing it is hoped that the first Thames Ditton Farmers' Market will take place on Saturday October 24 and thereafter every 4th Saturday in the month from 9am-1pm. There are plans for up to 26 stalls selling a fantastic range of fresh, local produce including meat, fish, dairy products, bread, cakes, biscuits, preserves, sauces, artisan products, etc etc.

Run by volunteers along not-for-profit lines, the market will be guided by three key principles: to help boost local businesses, to create a community event to bring people together and to raise money for local charities and causes.

Above all it aims to support the shops and businesses in the High Street. We've

looked at the award-winning Surbiton Farmers' Market in Maple Road and seen how this fantastic venture does just that.

On market days, Sarah Taylor, of Shoes At Last, 81 Maple Road confirms her takings shoot up 10% while the atmosphere in the area, now known as Maple village, is "much more vibrant."

"The cafes, pubs and restaurants do even better", says David Jacobson, the current chairman of Surbiton Farmers' Market. *"These are comfortably packed out on market days, often doubling their usual customer numbers."*

In Thames Ditton local businesses will be encouraged to take stalls at the market or do special promotions on their premises encouraging market-goers to visit the rest of the High Street. In addition it is hoped that the market will represent an opportunity for people to meet up with friends and enjoy some quality time out from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. Now that's got to be something worth cheering about.



Want more information, interested in volunteering? Please email: info@thamesdittonfarmersmarket.com

Tricia W. Bland

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Giggs Hill Surgery

– changes and plans



We all know that the health service has had to cope with massive challenges in recent years: restructuring, restricted funding, shortages of GP's and other clinical staff, an ageing population helped by medical advances placing pressure on limited NHS and Social Services resources to mention but a few. At the same time other circumstances – long standing inefficient work practices, the slow take up of new technologies, and many others – have made it difficult for the NHS to change and keep up with the demands placed upon it. Now it is obliged to play 'catch-up' and this is problematic for patients and for those who work in the NHS.

The financial pressures have had a particularly significant impact on local GP surgeries. In today's financial and economic landscape it is questionable whether small independent businesses offering GP services can be viable. They each carry their own overheads such as buildings, insurance, rent/mortgage, and maintenance. They manage their own IT systems, recruitment, training and retention of staff, administration of patient records, overall compliance requirements (including Department of Health/NHS England requirements, instructions, and protocols). It is indeed doubtful whether such surgeries are still an appropriate 'model' to meet today's demands. Further down the road there is the prospect of 7 day working, GP's being required to provide more preventative medical care (to keep people out of hospital), and

patients remaining at home under the care of the GP rather than in hospital.

All these point to the need for some form of collaboration between GP practices in order to remain viable. Merger, partnership or other form of relationship might be an increasingly appropriate option, meeting the needs of the local community and minimising the costs to the taxpayer of hospital admission and hospital services.



Giggs Hill Surgery

So... what is happening at Giggs Hill Surgery, Thames Ditton and Glenlyn Surgery, Molesey?

As many are aware, Giggs Hill Surgery and Glenlyn Surgery have started collaborating on additional services. The two senior partners at Glenlyn (Dr Ash Kapoor and Dr Richard Strickland) are now the signatories to the contract with NHS England to provide GP services at Giggs Hill Surgery. In addition Dr Kapoor and Dr Strickland have taken on responsibility for the lease of Giggs Hill

Recipe of the month



We love this dish because it is swift and simple from start to finish and leaves very little mess in the process. Much like the service from HJC!

Jay

Jay Chitnis
Director

Recipe of the month

Ingredients

- * 200g raw tiger prawns
- * 250g chorizo sausage
- * Garlic
- * Small bunch spring onions
- * 1 x green chilli
- * 1 x red chilli
- * Finely grated ginger
- * 1 lime
- * 270g cherry vine tomatoes
- * 500g linguine
- * 50g parsley

Ingredients Feeds 4
Cooking time 20 minutes
Preparation time 10 minutes

Prawn and Chorizo Linguine



1. Large saucepan of boiling water for pasta. Add whole packet to salted boiling water after chorizo stage below.
2. Slice the chorizo and fry for a few minutes in a heated frying pan with NO oil until starting to darken (the chorizo generates a lovely smoky oil when fried).
3. Add roughly chopped spring onions, couple of cloves of garlic and ginger, thinly sliced green & red chilli with seeds for extra heat! Cook for couple of minutes.
4. Half the cherry tomatoes and add. These will break down and provide a sauce. Season well.
5. Allow to cook for a few minutes
6. Add the prawns and stir through until colour changes. should take a couple of minutes
7. Squeeze juice of lime (tip – easier to get juice out of lime if you ¼ it first)
8. Finally add chopped parsley and stir
9. Leave for a couple of minutes to cook through
10. Drain pasta when al dente and serve well mixed together. I suggest a chilled Picpoul de Pinet to accompany. Enjoy!



Surgery. They would like both practices to merge and are currently in discussions with NHS England.

How will patients benefit?

Reducing administration and IT overheads and being able to make better use of space within the two sites will help to improve the financial viability of both practices. In the longer term this should benefit patients, who will also benefit more directly from improved staffing, as the joint management of both sites will provide more flexibility in times of staff shortages. It is not only patients who dislike the lack of continuity and disruption created by high staff turnover: it also has a negative impact on staff morale and the ability to recruit and retain staff. In this currently challenging GP recruitment climate, Dr Kapoor maintains that the recent introduction of a career development programme at Glenlyn has made a positive difference. The intention is to extend this to Giggs Hill Surgery and thereby reduce staff turnover and improve continuity, both of which would be much appreciated by patients.

A number of services will become available to Giggs Hill Surgery patients through the collaboration between both surgeries. Unfortunately patients may have to go to Glenlyn Surgery in Molesey but this will be more accessible than, in some cases, having to go to hospital. Proposed additional services that will be available include:

- Saturday morning surgeries
- Joint injection clinics
- Minor operation clinics
- INR near patient testing
- Evening surgeries after 6.30pm
- NHS Health checks
- Family Planning services.

More appointments for ‘on the day’ appointments have also been introduced. This should also reduce the need for patients to go to A&E or a walk-in clinic in Weybridge or Teddington Hospital.

Which doctors now work at Giggs Hill Surgery?

Clearly the departure of Dr David Matthews has upset many patients, particularly as Dr Michael Crow retired less than a year ago. Early retirement of GP’s has been taking place across the country but this does not make it any easier for the patients who are affected. However, Dr. Phi Vo, an experienced associate from Glenlyn, has now replaced Dr Matthews as the Giggs Hill medical lead and is full time from Monday to Thursday. Other GP’s currently working out of Giggs Hill Surgery include Dr Kenyon, Dr Brodie, Dr Gupta, Dr Alibade; another doctor is expected to join the practice shortly.

Will Giggs Hill Surgery patients now have to travel to Molesey to see a GP?

Assurances have been given to us that all the ‘core’ GP services will remain at Giggs Hill Surgery and where possible specialist clinics will be offered at each site, with the doctor moving to each site rather than patients being expected to do so. However this is not the case with the INR Clinic (anticoagulation clinic): one of the main reasons that Giggs Hill Surgery could not offer this service was that it could not be justified on cost and safety grounds. There is now a daily INR clinic at Glenlyn where patients can receive an immediate result. If numbers increase this service may also be offered at Giggs Hill Surgery.

Some patients have expressed serious concerns about the difficulty they anticipate travelling to Molesey to the specialist clinics. There are some services that may be able to help with transport – Neighbourcare for example. Hopefully the surgery will take on board these concerns and advice on how to contact these services will be made available at Giggs Hill Surgery.

Patient Participation Group


A new group has been set up with the first meeting due to be held on August 25. The plan is to hold regular monthly meetings, alternating between the two sites at Thames Ditton and Molesey. Some other practices in the area have active patients groups; it would be good to see such a group developing here.

When run effectively and independently of the practice such a group can make a positive contribution to the development of the practice to everybody's benefit.

Clearly the intention and expectation is that Giggs Hill Surgery's problems are now behind them. We can expect the inevitable teething problems but many of the issues that have caused real concern to patients, such as the lack of continuity due to staff changes, difficulties getting appointments, problems with contacting the surgery and so on, have now been recognised and are being addressed.

For more information on Thames Ditton and Weston Green Neighbourcare email avrilashworth@btinternet.com.

Karen Randolph



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The advertisement features a large, elegant silver bowl as the central focus. Below the bowl, there are two smaller images: one showing several pieces of silver jewelry including rings and pendants, and another showing a pair of heart-shaped earrings. The background is dark, making the silver pieces stand out.

Local Artist – Ella Fielding (chainsaw sculptor)



Ella at the 'office', with a woodpecker

Ella Fielding knew that her boyfriend was a keeper when he bought her a chainsaw for her birthday.

Not everyone's idea of a romantic birthday present? Well, not all chainsaws are equal. Wood carvers need light, agile machines with low vibration and kickback. And if you are a chainsaw-sculptor the right one is a really thoughtful gift.

I came across Ella when I heard about the wonderful 'story-telling tree' that had been created at Weston Green School, a triumph born out of a tragedy.

For many years a much-loved Holm Oak stood in the playground. But in January a large branch gave way and, with a heavy heart, the school decided for

safety's sake that the tree would have to go.

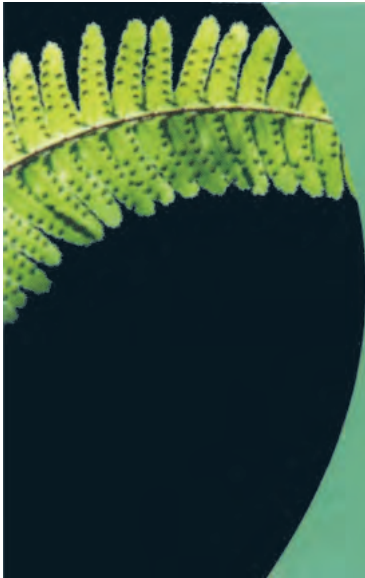
That might have been the end of the story but for a member of staff who knew Ella and had seen her transform tree stumps to works of art.

Ella was called in to take a look at the trunk that remained and set about creating a carving that would celebrate the tree and its position at the heart of the school.

The result is a magical seat in the heart of the tree, set upon books and surrounded by animals that play an important role in the children's learning: a woodpecker symbolising persistence, or a badger demonstrating independence.



Badger at the foot of the story tree



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Glastonbury – Fire Breathing Dragon

Ella, 30, grew up locally and attended Esher Green and Hinchley Wood schools, but did not find her niche until at 14 she went to Kingston College of Further Education. She felt at home there. *“I have always been able to see in 3-D and the college really encouraged me to explore art and particularly sculpture.”*

That set the scene and Ella went on to do a BA in sculpture at Camberwell College, London. Following work experience at the Glastonbury Festival with chainsaw wood carvers the Tree Pirates her path in life was set. Her graduation show was chainsaw sculptures, created in the college car park!

After a variety of jobs and sculpting in her spare time she followed her heart to become (probably!) the only full-time, female chainsaw-sculptor in the UK. She works both on her own and in collaboration with the Tree Pirates – this year they created a huge fire-breathing dragon for Glastonbury.

She is often called in when people lose a beloved tree and want to make the most of a remaining stump, and she also creates free-standing carvings. Friendly local tree surgeons are a key source of material.

She has certainly created a talking point as well as a story tree for Weston Green School. To see more of her work take a look at www.ellatreepirate.co.uk



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Home Grown Talent – Megan Taylor



First in an occasional series...

Do *you* remember your dreams when you were younger? Megan Taylor from Thames Ditton has made her dreams come true. Megan is a busy actress and commercial model playing roles ranging from an air stewardess for Virgin Atlantic through to playing a zombie in the E4 programme Cardinal Burns.

Your job sounds so glamorous – what’s it really like?

It’s hard work, but it’s exciting and I love the variety. As a commercial model doing clothes fittings for Victoria Beckham, or being the face of Headmasters, I’ve earned my independence to take on a mortgage, buying my own flat when I was 23 – in Thames Ditton of course! I’ve had some acting roles but would really like a big break in TV – I got down to the last few in a well-known TV show recently.

Are you famous?

I am more likely to have a recognisable face than a famous name. If you regularly travel into London you may recognise me as the face on the ‘Love Struck’ tube campaign, or for the Charlie Brooker TV programme, ‘Black Mirror’, a futuristic drama about an obsession with phones and the internet. I was in a moving advertisement on Kings Cross, Waterloo and Liverpool Street stations and my face gradually becomes broken up and horrifying – so you can’t be precious!! My Nan cuts out all my adverts from the



magazines and likes to brag about me to her friends.

How do you get work?

I have an agent and carry a model card with my ‘statistics’. I do up to 5 casting interviews a day when I’m not on set. At the beginning, I had to do promotional work to earn a living. Nowadays I have a steady flow of work on 3 or 4 days a week.

Is there a downside?

The amount of make-up I have to wear on a job is not great for my skin. Also I have to plan my holidays carefully so that I don’t miss out on work – I only take a week off at any one time. And you never know what footage will be used from a shoot and this can sometimes be disappointing. For

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instance, when I played the part of one of James Hunt's mistresses in the film, 'Rush', about his Formula 1 career, I felt very aggrieved that they decided to cut my one line wishing him 'Good Luck'!

What has been your best job so far?

My favourite one has got to be the BBC show, 'Live at the Electric'. I was the girl, 'Jackie the equestrian' as part of Naz Osmanoglu's sketch. If you get anything wrong when filming for TV it doesn't really matter because they do another take, but this was live so I felt the adrenaline racing and I loved it!

How has living in Thames Ditton influenced you?

We moved here when I was a toddler. Our roots in Thames Ditton go back a long way – my grandmother was a seamstress in the village in the 60s and my parents ran a shop selling their organic aromatherapy products in the early 90s. I went to the local schools, and lived at home while getting my BA in Dance Studies at Roehampton University, so no student debts hanging over me! I love living here – it's easy to get into the city for my work and I feel supported by a strong local community – we look after each other. My husband Liam runs the

Bootcamp on Giggs Hill Green and we feel we belong here.

What are your plans for the future?

Commercial modelling is a long term career – you simply age with it. I do my own book keeping and control my own social media so I am my own boss. You never know what you are going to do next which is exhilarating but also worrying! I feel I am getting paid to wear nice clothes or pretend to be someone else for a day – so like Peter Pan I never have to grow up!

What would your advice be to other young people who aspire to be successful?

Do what you love. Follow your dreams. If your family are supportive, live at home as long as you can. Some of my friends had to quit because they couldn't afford to live away from home in London but if you live at home you can take more risks. Good luck!

Julia Royce

Do you want to nominate a local young person who you feel has a story that will interest our readers?

We are looking to showcase some of the amazing young people who live locally. If you're proud of some home grown talent let us know who and why at editor@residents-association.com

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The world's finest musicians on our doorstep



The Ram Club at the Old Cranleighan Club

Every week, some of the world's finest musicians beat a path to Thames Ditton, wrestling with satnavs and the Friday afternoon jams on the M25, to perform at the Ram Club in the intimate surroundings of the Old Cranleighan Club.

The Ram Club, which features a renowned and respected guest star on its stage every Friday evening, moved into the Old Cranleighan Club, off the Portsmouth Road, in January 2009, after spending more than 20 years based at the Foley Arms in Claygate.

When the Young's beer group, owner of the Foley, expanded the pub that year

into a hotel the Ram Club had to find another new home – and eagerly accepted an invitation from the Thames Ditton sports venue. This renewed the Ram's links with the area as the club, founded in 1983, had previously been based in Weston Green and Weybridge.

Its new home is ideal and for nearly seven years the Ram Club's team of volunteers has been transforming the Old Cranleighans' large function room into a concert venue each week, setting out a stage, full PA system, seating and lighting.

The room's acoustics are excellent and the sound quality faultless. By

midnight, it is restored to an empty sports club room.

In between, an audience of about 100 people – sometimes more, sometimes fewer – will have been enthralled by the thrilling virtuosity and engaging charm and wit of a world-class performer. The Ram Club boasts excellent relationships with top musicians, mainly in the fields of folk, roots, blues, bluegrass, country and acoustic music, which ensures a ready supply of established names and rising stars of the future.

It has played host to June Tabor, The Oyster Band, Kate Rusby, Martin Simpson, Martin Carthy, Kathryn Tickell, Michelle Shocked, John Renbourn, Jake Thackray, Peter Sarstedt, Seth Lakeman, Show of Hands, and countless more in previous venues. Guest stars to visit the Old Cranleigh venue include the great blues man Wizz Jones, country legend Hank Wangford, TV celebrity Richard Digance, Martha Tilston, and hit-maker Benny Gallagher, of Gallagher and Lyle fame.

The Ram Club calls itself a folk club, but as demonstrated by its range of guest artists it is much more than that. And while it's called a club everyone, whether a member or not, is made more than welcome – anyone can just turn up and pay at the door, as tickets are rarely sold in advance. Many Thames Ditton



Megson – a traditional band with a modern twist

and Weston Green residents are regular or occasional Ram Club concert-goers.

The Old Cranleigh facilities are perfect for the Ram Club, providing ample parking space, a well-stocked bar that opens from 7.30 pm and a comfortable indoor queueing space. Entry prices are kept low, usually around £10, with a small discount for members – and membership costs only £4 a year. For more information see www.theramclub.co.uk

Peter Whitehead

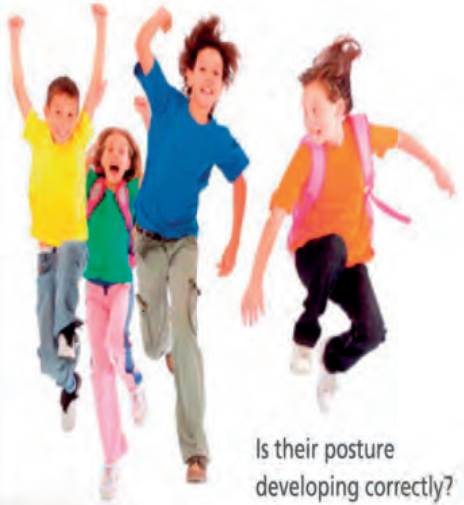
Peter Whitehead is publicity officer for The Ram Club, and a performer of acoustic music Visit peterwhitehead.yolasite.com

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The legacy of R C Sherriff



Few people will have heard of R C Sherriff, who was born in Hampton Wick in 1896, until you mention the deeply moving, ultimately tragic World War One play *Journey's End*. At which point there is usually instant recognition – followed by surprise when you go on to mention *The Dam Busters!*

Many people will have heard of, and perhaps seen, the play which made Sherriff famous, based as it was on his own experiences in the trenches when serving as a Captain with the 9th East Surrey (Infantry) Regiment in what became known as the Great War. He was severely wounded at Passchendaele near Ypres in 1917 and won the Military Cross during the war.

However, very few realise that he went on to become one of the highest-paid screenwriters in Hollywood during the 1930s to 1950s. Indeed, he was nominated for an Oscar for Best Screenplay for *Goodbye Mr Chips* (1939) and a BAFTA for the screenplay of *The Dam Busters* (1955). In Hollywood, he worked with such respected cinematic figures as James Whale and Alexander Korda.

Even fewer will know that he also wrote several West End hits, plays for radio and television and a series of successful novels. Persephone Books have now re-issued three of these: *The Fortnight in September* (1931); *Greengates* (1936), being published in October; and *The Hopkins*

Manuscript (1939), a forerunner of the current vogue for disaster movies. As a writer he was a true all-rounder, with a light comic touch and a gift for naturalistic dialogue and perceptive observations on everyday life, making even the seemingly mundane interesting.

You can now find out far more about the life and achievements of R C Sherriff than ever before, thanks to a two-year project at the Woking-based Surrey History Centre, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to catalogue their extensive Sherriff Archive and make it available to everyone online.



R C Sherriff

Our Trust, the Elmbridge Museum and Kingston Grammar School (where Sherriff was educated from 1905-1913) have all donated their individual archives to create this one central resource for research, which is due to go live this autumn. This will be marked by a Sherriff



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Study Day on Saturday October 24. Further details can be found on the Surrey History website – hosted at www.surreycc.gov.uk or just Google “Surrey History Centre”.

Despite his glittering, four-decade career on both sides of the Atlantic and the considerable wealth which he amassed, enabling him to buy several properties and to indulge his passion for Roll-Royces, Sherriff remained a shy, modest man. He always eventually returned home to his beloved “Rosebriars”, the beautiful Victorian house in Esher Park Avenue, Esher, which he shared with his mother, Constance.

He bought the house in the 1930s and planted specimens of trees which he had collected during his travels around the world. Many of the older generation in Esher still remember visiting the beautiful, extensive gardens on the annual Open Days.

Always a keen oarsman, he wrote his first play *A Hitch in the Proceedings* to help Kingston Rowing Club raise money to buy a new boat. He was also a notable benefactor to his old school, Kingston Grammar, until his death, paying particular attention to the school rowing club which now bears his name. He financed a number of boats named after his plays and also purchased a piece of land at the end of Aragon Avenue in Thames Ditton for the purpose of building a school boathouse, which was completed in 1980.

When Robert Cedric Sherriff (he preferred “Bob”) died in 1975 he left his house to Esher District Council to be used as a cultural centre. This proved impractical and so, with the approval of the Charity Commission, the Council sold the property and invested the proceeds to

create, in 1993, the R C Sherriff Rosebriars Trust to promote and develop the arts for the whole of Elmbridge.

Some 22 years later the Trust, now a charity independent of the Council, is well-known in Elmbridge for its support of and grants to artists and local arts organisations such as the Vera Fletcher Hall in Thames Ditton and the Esher & Dittons Youth Orchestra.

We are also well-known for producing the popular listings magazine “Arts Focus” three times per year and for running our own high-profile arts projects around the borough. Examples include Schools Music Proms, the Elders Arts Project, the annual Literary Competition, community lantern processions and so on.

We often work in partnership with other bodies to put on these events, including Elmbridge Borough Council, Riverhouse Arts Centre in Walton-on-Thames, Walton Charity and a network of smaller stakeholders and collaborators.

One exciting new initiative in 2015 is our first-ever R C Sherriff Trust Young Musician of the Year Competition to find the classical stars of the future and provide them with a substantial financial prize to help further their musical education. You can find all the details of this competition, including how to enter, on our website www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk or by telephoning our office on 01932 229996.

The whole borough has a lot to thank R C Sherriff for. Our staff and our Trustees feel privileged to be the stewards of the lasting legacy of this modest yet remarkable man.

Loretta Howells
Director – The R C Sherriff Trust



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The West End on your doorstep



One of the great benefits (and dare I say joys?!) of living in and around Thames Ditton is the Vera Fletcher Hall and the wealth of programmes and activities that are held in it. There is something for everyone – young and old and all in between. Whether you are interested in music, theatre, opera, films or antiques, all areas of the arts are catered for – and often with big name stars and musicians gracing its stage. And all of this is available without having to pay West End prices or struggle to catch your train home from Waterloo.

Since the Hall was refurbished in 1992 it has seen some wonderful productions and this Autumn's programme promises to maintain that high standard. The season

kicks off in October with *the Lipatti Piano Quartet* who will be playing Beethoven's Piano Quartet in E Flat major opus 16 and Faure's Piano Quartet No. 2 in G minor.

This concert is quickly followed up by a lecture on Martinware ceramics and the surprisingly large collection of it held at the Kingston Museum. This talk is the first in the *Molesey and District Antiques Society's* (MADAS) 2015-2016 programme. The Society meets on the first Tuesday of each month in the Hall and upcoming talks will be on a wide range of subjects from Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital to writing instruments, the Great Fire of London and the artist and designer Rex Whistler. All are welcome. Just show up on the night.

Next comes something special for all the children of the area – the Booster Cushion Theatre's production of *Hansel, Gretel and You ... Who?*

Will the audience and the Gingerbread Man be able to save Hansel and Gretel who are trapped in the Witch's Cottage? Come along and find out. It should be great fun!

Also for the children this autumn will be *Old Mother Hubbard and her Cupboard* – a lively tale presented by the Garlic Theatre company in early November. Later in the month the Image Musical Theatre will present a production of *The Selfish Giant*. The children's



The Lipatti Piano Quartet



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season will round off with the very welcome return of the Charles Court Opera troupe who will be presenting another of their irrepressible pantomimes, *Mirror, Mirror*, with hilarious parodies from opera, musicals and pop music. Audience participation is expected and a riotous evening can be expected for all!

Along with all of these children's programmes, the adults of the area have not been forgotten. Aside from the Lipatti Piano Quartet, the Linden Wind Orchestra will be presenting an *American Festival Concert* on October 18 which will feature music such as John Williams' Star Wars themes and Gershwin's An American in Paris. And in keeping with the light-hearted American music theme, there will also be an evening of *Swing 'n' Sinatra* with the Five Star Swing Band. They are one of the top jazz and swing bands in the UK and the evening will resound with the music of the Big Band era and hits by Glenn Miller, Ella Fitzgerald and Frank Sinatra.

On a more serious note, Commedia Productions will be celebrating *an evening of opera from Monteverdi to Bernstein* with extracts from The Marriage of Figaro, the Barber of Seville and many classics from Verdi and Puccini operas. The singers are drawn from major opera companies and accompanied by a harpsichord and Commedia's pioneering 'virtual' orchestra. It will be an evening of old favourites with perhaps some unexpected 'new' additions to this songfest. This is definitely an evening for all classical music lovers.

Aside from children's programmes and musical evenings, the Vera Fletcher Hall



hosts many other activities. Each season there is a classic film which is presented in conjunction with the United Reformed Church. This Autumn the film is Carol Reed's *The Third Man*. Starring Orson Welles and Trevor Howard and featuring the mesmerising zither music of Anton Karas and a taut and gripping script by Graham Greene, this film has been rightly called a classic. The film will be preceded by a talk which discusses the film and helps explain why the British Film Institute calls it 'the best British film of all time'.

Finally, there will be a Royston Pike Lecture on '*The making of Gloriana*', the barge that set sail from Hampton Court Bridge to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. All in all, there is something for everyone at the Vera Fletcher Hall so do come along and join in the fun.

Find out more details at
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Imber Court: Shem Bridges and family



If you wish to be remembered then leave your name carved in stone. Of the Bridges family at Imber Court it is Henry that is remembered in Thames Ditton, for his gift to the parish of six almshouses that bear his name, on what before the railway came was called Hoe Lane – likely evolved from the “Hole Lane” of Edward Longshanks’ times. Yet the wherewithal came from his cousin Shem Bridges who owned Imber Court, but was childless and although a lawyer, omitted to make a Will. His substantial estates here and elsewhere passed to Henry as heir-at-law a few years before Henry died also childless, leaving Shem’s estates to the two daughters

of his brother John Bridges, and income to John and John’s son. Henry and John both lived for a short while at Imber Court. Alas Shem, who owned Imber Court for 45 years, held Court as Lord of the Manor, was a churchwarden at St. Nicholas and a JP and tax Commissioner for the area, and built up the estate, is barely mentioned by local historians.

This article will set that right, and correct a couple of errors stemming from Manning and Bray’s History and



Noah Bridges, royalist and cryptographer, 1653 (National Portrait Gallery /Creative Commons)

Antiquities of Surrey (1804-1814), and repeated ever since. Henry Bridges was Shem Bridges’ first cousin, not his nephew, according to Henry’s own Will of 1719 and to legal papers in the National Archives. And Shem died around 1715-16, not 1711. Earlier authors may have relied on the part of Henry’s Will referring to the almshouses, copied to parish records. But seemingly they did not consult his full Will and codicils to 1726, the year Henry died, which I have now transcribed.

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Noah Bridges and sons

Shem Bridges was baptised at St. Dunstan's in the West (Fleet Street) on 2 January 1640, the first son of Noah Bridges and his wife

Katherine Mason who were married at St. Giles Cripplegate on 7 January 1639. And what better name for the first son of Noah? They went on to have a daughter, Katherine, and in 1647 in Putney, another son Japhet, who died there in 1661. There was no middle son Ham (who, in the Bible, was cursed by Noah after some alleged behavioural defilement).

Now Noah Bridges, whose brother Henry was the father of our almshouse donor, was an interesting fellow! His definite dates are missing; I estimate that Noah was born before 1618 and died probably between 1665 and 1670.

A mathematician, educated at Balliol College, Oxford, Noah was "*esteemed a most faithful subject to his majesty*" King Charles I. Yet he survived the Civil Wars. From rooms at Balliol, Noah acted as Clerk to the rival Parliament that Charles set up in Oxford after losing the battle of Edge Hill in October 1642. Apparently Charles also promised him the post of comptroller, teller, and weigher of the Mint. These posts were not formally substantiated before the Royalist parliament collapsed after the Siege of Oxford. Noah frequently attended the King during Charles' subsequent imprisonment at Newcastle and later the Isle of Wight before the Rump Parliament's Court had his royal head chopped off.

Charles used cyphers for secret communications. I've found no docu-

mentation to link Noah specifically to the royal cyphers but, a mathematician and intimate royalist clerk, he was also a rare expert in cryptography and secret writing, as well as shorthand. After Charles I's downfall Noah published two books on arithmetic and, in 1659, "*Stenographie and Cryptographie, or, The Arts of Short and Secret Writing*". This followed a period of "*13 yeares squandered in the Valley of Fortune*" as Noah wrote in the foreword; the said Valley being mostly in Putney where Noah ran a school.

East India Company

There was not much that Noah could do for his son Shem while the royalists were out of office. In 1658 we find the young man aged 18 well away from home intrigues, as an unpaid assistant at Fort St. George, the East India Company's headquarters for the Bay of Bengal. This was situated a short distance up the treacherous Hooghly River, a tributary of the Ganges. The surroundings were dangerous, the post unhealthy, medical and surgical facilities almost non-existent.

Shem was a capable young man. By 1660 he was engaged formally by the Company at a salary of £20 pa. and by the age of 22 rose to be the third in seniority at Fort St. George. Over the next few years he served under three difficult chiefs, each suspected of corrupt practices by the Company and eventually found unsatisfactory. Unlike the adventurous merchant Edward Knipe, who earlier had bought Imber Court with wealth amassed by trading on the side while on East India Company business, Shem Bridges seems to have been straightforward. He kept the books and administered well, and put

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effort into establishing a pilot service to persuade reluctant ships' captains to ascend the Hooghly to supply and take goods from the Fort.

Meanwhile back home, with the Restoration of Charles II in the offing, his father Noah wrote to Shem in early 1660 to say that he was to be reinstated as a Clerk to Parliament. The family fortunes were recovering.

Competent Shem was made Chief of the Bay area in 1669. Later that year, however, he asked to return to England and some time after 1670 his employment with the East India Company appears to have ended. I surmise that his prospects at home had improved – perhaps a function of his father's restored connections; or that his father had lately died; or that he was eager to find a wife. Or all three. On August 16 1672, aged 32, Shem Bridges of Putney, bachelor, married Isabella Blackett, 24, the second daughter of a rich Tyneside merchant, coal and lead mine owner, William Blackett, who was elected MP for Newcastle the following year and made a Baronet.

Shem in Thames Ditton

In 1672, the year of his marriage, Shem bought Imber Court, its lands and mills together with the Lordship of the Manor of Imber, from Edward Knipe. Shem was made one of the Six Clerks to the Court of Chancery, rising to be one of the two senior Clerks, with his own Division. Under the Master of the Rolls, the Clerks administered proceedings in the Court, whose jurisdiction included trusts, estates, provision for infants and lunatics, and charities. It was a lucrative position: litigants notoriously complained

about extortionate fees and restrictive practices. Shem was well positioned for intelligence on gainful opportunities. He also acted as trustee for a number of estates. Shem was one of the founding subscribers to the Bank of England in 1694, putting down £800.

As owner of Imber Court and Lord of the Manor of Imber (and of Weston), Shem held court, was a JP and the leading figure in local administration in Thames Ditton and Weston Green. He was one of the Surrey Commissioners for collecting taxes for King William III. He was a churchwarden at St. Nicholas early in his tenure (1676), occasionally participated in Vestry meetings, and in 1712 laid down regulations "*For the preventing disorders & the mis-application of the money raised for the Relief of the poor of this parish*".

Legal papers prove that Shem Bridges died later than 1711. In 1712 we find him leasing his rabbit warren at Imber to two local yeomen. His "Bridges Division" of Chancery oversaw cases until 1714. In that year he was pursuing suits against the lessees of his mills on the Ember who, he alleged, had not performed the conditions of their lease and moreover had raised the water level putting Imber Court at risk of flood damage.

The case went to Parliament in May 1715. He lost, appealed, and on June 10 petitioned the House of Lords to postpone a hearing, "*he being very ill*". Only in 1717 and 1718 do we find papers concerning his cousins Henry and John Bridges ("of Ember Court") referring to Shem as deceased or lately deceased.

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Contact: **Steve Clarke** MSc, MBACP, FDAP

tel: **07523 905 370** email: steve@steveclarketherapy.co.uk

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

Shem accumulated and developed a great deal of property locally and in London, and owned the rights of several manors in Lincolnshire. In partnership with Jane Halsall of Esher he had sixteen houses built at St Martin in the Fields in 1696. In 1701 he received compensation when some houses were demolished to make room for a new Way between Lincolns Inn Fields and Chancery Lane including part of the delightfully-named Jackanapes Alley.

Henry Bridges' Will refers to many properties "*lately purchased by Shem Bridges*" including houses and a tavern in the area of Covent Garden; lands at Esher and Cobham as well as in Thames Ditton and Weston Green, where Shem bought among other lands the Manor Farm, Couchmore Farm and some eighteen acres of land formerly of "*Great Newlands*." There is also the "*mansion house lately erected and built and in the room of which one or more old Tenem. formerly stood situate and being at Weston Green*". This was the house on the Green known as the Mansion House, later Weston House. It was bequeathed to Rose Bridges along with the London properties while her elder sister Anne Bridges inherited Ember Court with the manor. John Bridges and his son Noah got the Lincolnshire manorial revenues and



Rose Bridges at 21 on marriage to Richard Onslow, 1726. She inherited the Mansion House on Weston Green, but died 1728 (original at National Trust Clandon Park)

the George Inn at Buckingham, in which town Henry was born.

In 1707, church records at St. Nicholas noted that "*Sept 8th Mr. Bridges began to make a large vault in ye Chancel, ye entrance into it is at ye foot of ye S. Door*". That must be Shem. In common with earlier writers I have not found burial records for Shem, or his cousin Henry whose Will specified that he should be buried "*in the Chancel of the parish Church of Thames Ditton*". Henry died between June 10 1726 (last codicil) and November 3 1726 (probate). It is highly likely that the bones of both lie within the church.

Keith Evetts

Solution to the Summer Crossword

by Michael Jackson



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | P | P | I | N | E | S | S | | P | R | A | D | O |
| I | | I | | C | | P | | T | | L | | R | | D |
| A | M | A | Z | E | | I | V | Y | L | E | A | G | U | E |
| W | | N | | H | | T | | M | | A | | E | | S |
| A | M | O | R | O | S | O | | I | N | T | O | N | E | S |
| T | | | | U | | M | | E | | | | T | | A |
| H | I | G | H | S | P | E | E | D | T | R | A | I | N | |
| A | | A | | E | | | | | | E | | N | | S |
| | P | R | E | S | I | D | E | N | T | E | L | E | C | T |
| S | | D | | | | O | | O | | F | | | | A |
| P | R | E | M | I | U | M | | D | U | K | E | D | O | M |
| A | | N | | N | | I | | U | | N | | E | | P |
| S | H | I | P | C | A | N | A | L | | O | L | L | I | E |
| M | | A | | A | | G | | E | | T | | H | | D |
| S | U | S | A | N | | O | B | S | E | S | S | I | V | E |

Congratulations to the senders of the first three correct entries opened in the shuffle. Each wins a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Josephine Simeone
19 Portsmouth Avenue
KT7 0RU

Lesley Haynes
6 Onslow Gardens
KT7 0JJ

Mrs E M Jones
23 Riversdale Road
KT7 0QN

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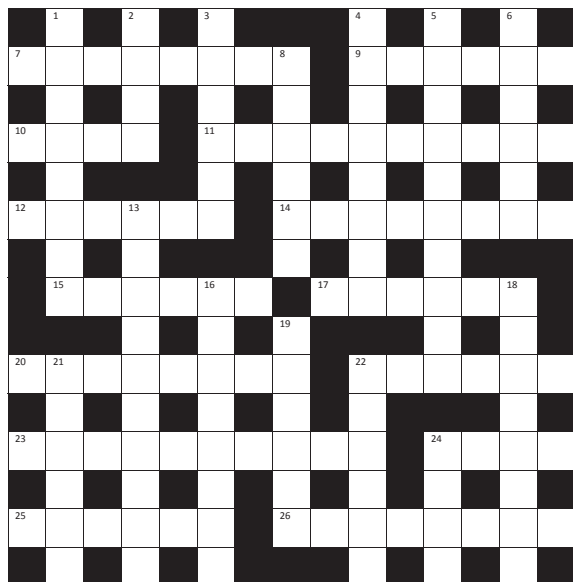


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Autumn Crossword

by Maureen Willcox



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

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

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

ACROSS

7. The slurs are revealed when one shows no mercy (8)
9. Free view 17 (6)
10. A difficult vow for some! (4)
11. Nasty! (10)
12. Trait needed from the start – stern teachers reprimand idle children toughly – (6)
14. Summoned for a formal meeting... (8)
15. ...To make a subtle point (6)
17. Relating to the stars (6)
20. Icy extremities denote trepidation (4,4)
22. Sung inside and out. (6)
23. Jazz – neither traditional nor modern (10)
24. One of three in a fountain (4)
25. Vicar calls a truce when he needs assistance (6)
26. Superficially plausible – but isn't!! (8)

DOWN

1. One used to enjoy the good life here (8)
2. Eaten on a tuffet (4)
3. Allowable authorisation (6)
4. Obviates (8)
5. A dead end job (10)
6. A surreptitious gander! (6)
8. Refer to a close friend for comfort (6)
13. Background music (10)
16. Where stars shine (8)
18. Island inhabited by swift people (8)
19. The Acropolis is the citadel of this city (6)
21. Bet you don't see through this clue (6)
22. One takes a break with intent ! (6)
24. Adam's murderous offspring (4)

SERVICES, GROUPS, CLUBS, AND SOCIETIES

SERVICES

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|
| Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired) | Harry Livesey | 01372 879321 |
| 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 | 0208 3983772 |
| Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, | ask for service at central | |
| Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers | switchboard | 01372 474474 |
| Homesupport Elmbridge | Pam Howard (Manager) | 01932 267128 |
| 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 |

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 | Alexandra Lyall | 07779 616463 |
| 1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group | Carole Needham | 07975 842423 |
| 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 Nealing | 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: 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 | Nick Pattenden | Nick.Pattenden@cassiopae.com |
| Thames Ditton Villagers | Mark Badcock | 07941 948177 |

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 | Zenda Hedges | 020 8398 7038 |
| 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 | Heather Harvey | 020 8398 2642 |
| Model Railway Society (Hampton Court) | Secretary | 01932 241224 |
| Mothers Union (All Saints) | Mary Redington | 020 8398 1189 |
| Old Cranleigh Rugby Club | Tony Price | 07801 837129 |
| Old Cranleigh Hockey Club | Simon Marshall (Men) | 07801 737695 |
| | 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 |

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 | Cherry Eddy (Campaigns) | 020 8398 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 |
| 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

Thames Ditton Villagers

– new in 2015



Thames Ditton Villagers was founded in January 2015 and now has over 160 members, most of whom including myself live in the Thames Ditton area. The group is part of the worldwide Meetup organisation and holds regular events in and around Thames Ditton including meets at local pubs and restaurants, walks in the locality and visits to places of interest and local events (including the recent Secret Gardens of Weston Green). The group also has a monthly club night at the George and Dragon in Thames Ditton on the first Thursday of each month. Events are organised by members and for members, bringing people together and supporting local pubs and

other venues. Membership is free and new members are always welcome. The group is looking for sponsorship and fundraising ideas to meet operating costs although these are kept as low as possible. For more information contact Mark on 07941 948177 or look for Thames Ditton Villagers on the Meetup website.

www.meetup.com/Thames-Ditton-Villagers-new-social-group



Mark Badcock

DISCOVERING ANTIQUES

Now that Autumn is here why not come along to the meetings of

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 6th

Illustrated talk by Dr. Chris Jordan on **The Lure of Martinware**, the famous Victorian and Edwardian pottery produced by the Martin brothers and best known for their bird sculptures and bowls with sea creatures. These feature in many museum collections, including Kingston Museum.

Tuesday November 3rd

The Foundling Hospital – the legacy of Coram, Hogarth and Handel

A fascinating talk, by Jane King, patron of the Foundling Hospital in London, telling the moving story of the 18th century hospital founded by sea captain Thomas Coram for abandoned babies. It was supported by famous artists like Hogarth, Gainsborough and Reynolds who gave paintings to the Hospital, and by Handel who gave concerts to raise money and donated his manuscript score of “The Messiah”.

Later subjects include “Russell Flint and Arthur Melville – A Scottish Watercolour Experience” by well-known local artist **Alan Hepburn** and speakers on writing instruments, the painter Lawrence Whistler and the Great Fire of London. We have a licensed bar with wine, beer and coffee and tea.



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.

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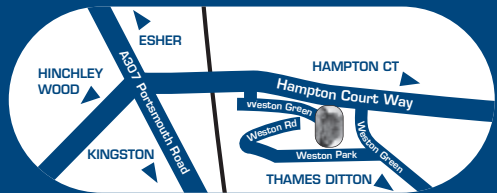
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