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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

SPRING 2010

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In this Issue:

News from the Residents' Association	7
Are You Married, or	13
Return of the Phantom Sniper	15
The Tower at Boyle Farm	19
Community	23
This Is Your Life, Eddie May	27
Chairman's Report to the AGM	33
Summer Crossword	41
Solution to Spring Crossword	43
Services, Groups, Clubs and Societies	44
By Hook or Crook	46

Cover photo: *Thames Ditton Regatta, as old as ...
...the Editor (who took the photo).*

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.

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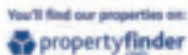
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THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of 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:
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Andrew Roberts, 1 Boyle Farm Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8786 6882

THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

TUESDAY 29 JUNE AND TUESDAY 28 SEPTEMBER, AT 8.00PM

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News From the Residents' Association



18 February – 20 May

Thanks to all those who helped in the campaign and voted for your Association's candidate, resident Sandra Dennis was elected to Elmbridge Borough Council with 2414 votes – over 71% of votes cast, and the second highest number of votes polled by any candidate in the borough elections. The young Conservative candidate from Hinchley Wood polled 711 votes and the Labour candidate, who lives in Thames Ditton and was also standing in the parliamentary election, polled 423 votes. Turnout was high at 72.9%.

Elsewhere in Elmbridge the Conservatives rode the national tide in their favour to take a seat in Weybridge and preserve their absolute majority. A new Council Administration will now be formed. Under the previous council leader, now retired, the last Cabinet often chose confrontation and coercion rather than consultation and consensus. The new Leader was the sole member of that Cabinet to have rebelled over the issue of further increases in councillors' allowances and two years ago joined with backbenchers, Residents and LibDems to vote against. He has indicated that his new administration will seek to keep Council Tax down, preserve services, and be inclusive. The Elmbridge Residents' Group shares those aims and will work with the new Administration impartially and constructively in the hope that it will prove more responsive to local representation from ward councillors.



new Residents' councillor Sandra Dennis

Congratulations to Dominic Raab on his election to Parliament as our new MP after an energetic and well-judged campaign in which he cultivated all sectors of the constituency, including residents' groups, increasing the majority. His first act as MP was to open the village Fair organised by Dittons Scouts (pp 23-25). He's already lent support to our efforts to lobby against further cuts by South West Trains in manning hours at Thames Ditton station, and we look forward to an effective working relationship with him as our MP in Westminster.

Parking

One early test of the new administration will be a more responsive and pragmatic approach to the issue of car park charges in Thames Ditton. Elsewhere in Elmbridge it has been the council's aim to discourage all-day parkers from using car parks, in favour of short-term parkers. There's no doubt this has been effective in almost emptying several car parks in the borough, including the one in Ashley Road. Thames Ditton differs from some other places in that it has always been the aim – shared by Surrey's traffic experts – to get all-day parkers *into* the car park so that the overparked High Street can offer some free parking spaces for 'passing trade' to support our shops.

The Association will be pursuing the car park issue also with Surrey during the public consultation concerning parking controls in the High Street area (and that of the station), which is now due from June onwards, having been deferred because of elections. Surrey's proposals have been available to view on our web site since late February. Most feedback suggests that they are regarded as generally reasonable. The main area of doubt is SCC's wish to exact metered charges from brief stays in the eight bays reserved for passing trade (shoppers and deliveries) in the High Street. However, posts and machines are undesirable on the narrow pavements, their appearance would not be welcome in the conservation area, and they are unnecessary. The aim is that short-term parkers should have no inconveniences or inhibitions about using the spaces, and the 'honour system' in the new short-stay bays at Winter's Bridge has worked very well without charging and ticket machines.

It appears to be the intention of both Elmbridge and Surrey to raise general council revenue from both on-street and off-street parking wherever they can impose a system of charging. Unlike council tax, parking charges are not capped. While the new national government is pledged to freeze council tax there is no commitment to cap alternative ways for councils to increase their take from the citizen.

SCC's consultation will be as prescribed by regulation but we will try to ensure that more than just the residents of the roads concerned have a chance to feed in their views. Keep an eye on our website for details.

Cycle path

On 10 February Surrey's contractors broadening a cycle lane cut down 17 flowering cherry trees lining Hampton Court way without prior notification of residents or apparent intention to replace them with other trees. As Council officers declined to answer repeated requests to explain this action or to offer assurances of any kind, our county Councillor, Peter Hickman tabled a formal question to the Cabinet member responsible, Cllr. Ian Lake (Conservative, Weybridge), in full council asking whether the council would replace the trees. The reply was that the trees were diseased and their felling would "*allow an opening up of highway verge environment framed by mature trees.*" There was no money for replacements.

There are further problems with the new cycle path route where it abuts house frontages directly: see page 46. It seems clear that these problems stem from

council officials not thinking things through, not consulting locally before acting and probably not visiting the site before decisions were taken. The proposals were put through the local area committee without any of these issues being flagged up.

Planning

The Newlands: the internal refurbishment that is being carried out to the newer wing does not require planning permission. There is no planning application for the main, listed building at present nor indication of the developers' intentions. The council is making every endeavour to get the portacabins removed.

The Harrow: we await the outcome of the appeal having made strong representations.

Boyle Farm: concerned about continuing inactivity and risk of interior degradation, our planning convenor Graham Cooke wrote to owners Caring Homes reminding them of their legal responsibilities to keep this listed building in good repair.

Davis Estate: some owners have been approached by developers. We will support residents in resisting planning applications that seek to alter the character of the area which, while not a conservation area, has a distinct, harmonious and spacious aspect, valued by local residents and the wider community. There are covenants that may protect it. Anyone who is approached is encouraged to take proper legal advice before taking any decision.

Conservation areas: EBC's Head of Planning was invited by the Thames Ditton Area Advisory Committee to visit

the High Street and see the effects of inadequate specification of materials and enforcement of planning conditions. Committee Chairman Peter Hickman reports that the message seems to have gone home. Officers need to be more proactive in ensuring that more detail is given, especially with regard to materials and design features. It seems that the high turnover of staff of recent years has dropped and the department is more stable.

The two Thames Ditton conservation areas were reappraised by EBC's Heritage team last year, working with residents, although the final document is still not published. Currently, Walton and Cobham conservation areas are next on the list before we get to Weston Green. Time and budget constraints imply that Weston Green's turn is unlikely to come much before 2013/2014.

Daytona (Sandown Park): Cllr. Tannia Shipley reports that residents would be very welcome in the Civic Centre at the Public Inquiry 9th and 10th June into the noise and lighting nuisances caused by extended hours. Daytona maintain that they have been using floodlights, PA system, varying kart types and extended hours of operation for the last ten years and are therefore eligible for a Lawful Development Certificate. The Council disagree and refused one. One of the consequences of granting a LDC would be that Daytona would no longer have to comply with a previous condition that stated that 'the kart circuit shall not be used otherwise than between the hours of 10.00 and 20.30 on Mondays to Saturdays and 10.00 and 18.00 on Sundays' (or dusk



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whichever is sooner). This condition was imposed to safeguard the amenities and character of the locality. The issues are very complex and residents can look at the very detailed officer report on the EBC website – application 2009/0326.

Thames Ditton Infant School: Surrey’s shortcomings in forward planning resulted in a temporary four-form entry at the school, with temporary Portacabin accommodation. In early May they proposed to consolidate the expanded entry and build a permanent structure, which would have various regulatory consequences including changing the playing-field from natural grass to an all-weather surface. Parents and residents were concerned. Governors and our councillors considered that more research needed to be done, and asked SCC to look into alternative plans. SCC decided to abandon the proposal. It is understood that without expansion there should be sufficient places at the school for local admissions.

It is expected that the current temporary arrangement will not continue indefinitely.

Milbourne Pond

Our Weston Green councillors Tannia Shipley and Lorraine Sharp are maintaining a close eye on the pond. An old ditch was re-dug to encourage as much drainage water as possible to enter the pond. The contractor who carries out the spraying will be dealing with the reed mace after it has flowered in midsummer July. Meanwhile water levels are being monitored and an ‘information board’ should be reinstated in the near future.



making and flying kites at this fine Infant School

Doings

The **Malden and District Society of Model Engineers** at Willowbank have built a special carriage for disabled passengers on the model railway. With a track gauge of only 7.25 inches the safe handling of wheelchairs and passengers with posture / motor control disabilities was a challenge. Funding was secured from the Gannet Foundation. The operating experience and designs will be made available to other miniature railways who may apply to borrow the carriage for their special events.

Weston Green resident **Ray Le Mesurier-Foster** was on the BBC “One Show” marking 100 years of buses. A qualified bus driver, he heads a charitable organisation which provides a home and

care for old buses, and in the finest British tradition he's an expert on this arcane but important area of Britain's transport history. The charity owns three double deck buses and five single deckers.

Local artists **Suzy Abrahams and Phillippa Egerton** will be opening their painting studios to the public at Willowbank (by the model railway) as part of a county-wide programme. Meet the artists, discuss their work and how they do it. You will be sure of a warm welcome on these open days: 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20 June 11-5pm, and one evening on 10 June at 6-8.30pm.

Esher College Principal Keith Blackwell OBE will retire at the end of August to be replaced by his current Deputy, Dan Dean. Kingston-born Dan is a History graduate from UCL and began his career as a teacher of History at St Vincent College in Gosport. Via Itchen College in Southampton he joined Esher College in 2001 and was promoted to Deputy Principal in 2004. He currently lives in Surbiton. Congratulations to Dan, and bouquets to Keith under whose



Keith Blackwell and Dan Dean

leadership the College has been outstanding: OFSTED reports note that it provides measurable added value in that students' grades at A-level are higher than predicted by their GCSE results on entry. Admirable.

The Chairman's Annual Report to the AGM is on pages 33-39. Enjoy your summer. For current events and news keep an eye on:

residents-association.com

Village voices...

"He who laughs last thinks slowest."

"A consultant is someone who takes a subject you understand and makes it sound confusing."

"It matters not whether you win or lose. What matters is whether I win or lose."

Are You Married or...



We landmen and women of the village know that there must be riotous orgies on mysterious Thames Ditton Island. Why else would they keep the portcullis locked? Gill Frances and Martin Steel infiltrated the Island community and report...

Long term residents tell us that in the 1950s they were asked ‘*Are you married or do you live on the Island?*’ Comments on the cleanliness of householder’s net curtains were made in the Island newsletter!!

Nowadays there is still curiosity about us and we are asked, ‘*What is it like on the Island, do you know everybody, do you get on with each other?*’

We see ourselves as a street of 48 houses in the middle of the river which is very much part of the Thames Ditton community. Many of the houses are different from their original ‘holiday home’ construction but the general quirkiness still remains.

We’re an eclectic mix of ages and professions who rub along and help each



portal to a far exotic shore

other; carrying shopping across the bridge, helping to lift baby buggies. When the central path is flooded we put on wellies or chest waders to assist the children, elderly and dogs who get towed in small boats up the central path to get to the bridge.

Fortunately hardly any of the houses flood because they are built on stilts. It’s

quite a comical sight to see the wellies and waders hanging from the bridge awaiting their owners to return home from shopping, school or commuting

We deal with the everyday inconvenience of not being able to drive up to the front door.

One year old twin residents could tell you how hard it is for their parents to drag their pram over the bridge with a week's shopping! But all the islanders and people in the village know them and stop for a chat. Their exhausted parents rely on the helpfulness of the village shopkeepers and bacon 'sarnis' and lattés in the cafés.

Teenagers complain about the poor bus service, infrequency of trains especially at night or wheeling bikes over the bridge but their friends are always keen to visit, muck about on boats or just 'chill out' in this 'cool' place. It's amazing how adaptable they become and one group of children cleaned and polished their old pedal cars to sell them to buy canoes when realising they needed a different mode of transport.

Until the 1960s there was a very narrow turnstile on the bridge with an old penny entrance fee so prams, bikes, wheel chairs and shopping had to taken across on Mr Painter's ferry costing 6d. There was no chance of being taken across the bridge on a stretcher in an emergency!

The local traders have always been helpful. The milkman, newsagent and postman deliver daily often borrowing waders in the floods to ensure deliveries. We use the village shops as much as possible and wish that the village still had a butcher and a grocer. The Island retains its own post box. Our bridge is our life

line – electricity, gas, water and sewage are piped across it. We love the bridge and look after it. All residents pay an annual fee to cover the maintenance of bridge, pump house and communal garden. Moving in or off the island is different, we hire the ferry from Taggs Boatyard and 'ship everything across' from the slipway or towpath. Builders have to make special arrangements to get their materials on-site.

Fire is a worry, many of the houses are wooden, so regular fire drills are organised by the Island's 'chief' fire officer. The local fire service advises on how to manage an emergency.

The Island was known for its parties in the fifties so we work hard to maintain tradition. The annual duck and raft race in August provides lots of fun and entertains Ye Olde Swan customers. Father Christmas laden with presents comes across the bridge in December for our hog roast and carol party. We plan to revive the Island Cruising Club where days out are organised for all.

Why do we live here? For many of us it's the tranquillity and knowing that you're only a 'bridge' walk away from our lovely village. Some of our newer residents want to get away from the noise, hustle and bustle of London and to bring their children up in a safer environment. 'As you walk across the bridge and the gate clangs shut behind any worries and stresses quickly fade to a distant memory. It's truly like being on holiday all the time and we feel very privileged to live in such a unique place'.

Gill Frances and Martin Steel

Return of the Phantom Sniper



On 16 March this year, drivers on the A309 link road reported that their cars were hit by objects. One of them, Terry Strutt of Epsom, told a local Guardian reporter that an air rifle was used: “There’s a .22 pellet mark on my truck, and the police told me one of the other victims had seen someone with a rifle where it occurred.”

This can mean only one thing. After sixty years, the *Phantom Sniper Of Esher* has returned to haunt us.

Over three years from December 1950, more than fifty people seasoned by the War reported that their car windscreens were hit by bullets or airgun pellets along the Portsmouth Road. It began when BBC eminence Richard Dimbleby told police that his car windscreen was struck by a bullet from a .22. This made the media. A week later, Mr. H. Tickner of Esher said that as he drove towards Cobham there was a flash followed by a loud noise before his screen was smashed. The same morning Reginald Kingshott of Belham

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reported his screen hit by “a missile.” After seven incidents there was a lull in the activities of what residents were beginning to call: The Sniper. They resumed towards the end of 1951. A master of Milbourne Lodge School was driving south when he “heard a crack like a pistol shot” before his windscreen went. Cobham police investigated the possibility that the projectile was from a .22 rifle or an air gun.

By March 1952, the press had reported 14 sniper attacks along the Portsmouth Road and demanded to know when the authorities would take action to end this menace. Journalists were more than ever convinced that a sniper was behind it when on 20 March 1952 Frank Smith of Thames Ditton, driving along Portsmouth Road, “felt the car rock.” He stopped to investigate. There was a 9mm hole in the driver’s door. It looked like someone had taken a pot-shot at him. A ballistics expert was called – no bullet found.

But now local police and the Esher Urban District Council took the concerns of the press and the local community seriously. Police patrolled Portsmouth Road and searched the commons. The wily sniper continued to elude them. By mid May incidents totalled twenty, the Portsmouth Road was nicknamed “Hellfire Pass” and the case began to attract national media attention. The shattered windscreen of Eric Sykes on 9 May 1952 made the pages of the London Evening Standard, which averred that police were “looking for someone with a gun.” The Esher News, determined that a lone gunman was responsible, was in full cry:

“When we started to report it, we were alone. Then, via the county and evening Press, the affair reached the nationals. Last month, over 15 months after the first incident, Esher Council took official notice of the matter. We are now waiting with bated breath for a question to be asked in Parliament. That, our readers will be interested to learn, is how the machinery of democracy creaks to an ultimate solution.”

Between May and September 1952 things peaked as reports of more incidents flooded in. The sniper was now held responsible for other crimes like smashing a shop and a pub window in Esher and shooting out ambulance headlights. His (or her) roadside activity spread from Portsmouth Road to Copsem Lane and through Thames Ditton, Hinchley Wood and East Molesey. The Ministry of Transport was invoked. Police searched woods and mounted special patrols.

The police kept their heads. In reply to an angry Council, they concluded that there was “no evidence to support the theory that the damage to cars was being caused maliciously.” They thought loose stones were responsible. Councillors disagreed. But there was nary a trace of a bullet, airgun pellet, or other missile to be found to support that theory.

Over the following year sniper activity declined. Sporadic episodes left journalists wondering whether “a new phase of shootings” was beginning. Meanwhile, alternative theories were advanced. It was supersonic booms. It

was a youthful and inexperienced spiritual medium emitting chunks of hard ectoplasm, asserted a Surrey expert: perhaps “the spirit of a dastardly highwayman.” He warned “This is what happens with poltergeist phenomena in the presence of adolescents,” and called for the Institute of Psychological Research to be brought in.

The media moved on to other things, and reports died away to nothing. Much later, the sober conclusion was that the Portsmouth Road carried so much traffic that the incidents were statistically normal for damage caused by loose stones kicked up by car tyres, in the days before properly laminated glass. The press stories had resulted in a state of “mass delusion” whereby any such incident was firmly attributed to a sniper in the minds of the victims,

and they had freely added detail to that pre-supposition.

The Phantom Sniper of Esher did not exist, said the authorities.

But now... he’s BACK!

Keith Evetts

Sources:

– *archives of the Esher News (available in Esher Library) and other newspapers*

– *Little Green Men, Meowing Nuns and Head-Hunting Panics*
by Robert E. Bartholomew
ISBN 0-7864-0997-5
(treatise on phenomena of mass social hysteria)

Signs of the times...

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AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD**

Wildlife park:

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

The Tower at Boyle Farm



At the sharp bend where Thames Ditton High Street meets Summer Road, by the Swan slipway, is a nearly square, short brick tower with a tiled ridged roof, which projects through the red brick boundary wall around Boyle Farm. When and why was such an unusual structure erected?

T. S. Mercer's historical collection at Thames Ditton library has no reference to this Tower, but Beavis in the 1976 edition of Thames Ditton Today, says that Mercer regarded this as an Ice Tower but also adds that Mercer had a great sense of humour! English Ice Houses from 1660-1830 were nearly all underground with double walls and very thick mounded straw or earth covering, usually incorporating bottom drainage. If built as an ice tower, it would be only one of its kind, as the Ice Tower reported in Follies [Ref 1] is in fact an observation tower with an ice cellar below. In the Boyle Farm Tower there is no way underneath. There is however garden access from the slipway to the garden via a gate in the old wall where ice could be taken into the grounds.

Considering the build date, the Tower's pale bricks, bonding and lime mortar, plus period detailing point to a Georgian date circa 1760-1830. Bricks match those used in the Boyle Farm stables, both buildings showing Flemish bond and straight headings over



detail from 1820 watercolour showing waterman and skiff in front of tower

openings with fan cut bricks on edge, string courses and recessed brick panels on otherwise relatively plain fronts, all typically late 18th C features.

Mrs Charlotte Digby who owned the property from 1763-78 is renowned for greatly extending the grounds and altering local roads. Her son Stephen sold to Mrs Charlotte Boyle Walsingham in 1783 when exchange details [Ref 2] described "A Mansion with 14 acres, farm, stables, coach house, ice house, etc." Mrs Walsingham had the central section of the main house rebuilt in 1786 and the whole building decorated in Strawberry Hill castellation. This strongly suggests that the stables and tower were untouched as previously built by Mrs Digby.

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The Tower's structural integrity is good with only minor fracturing to exterior brickwork. Interior features include a tamped floor with brick hearth connected to the short external stack and joists & boards for five platforms, some partly missing. Platforms extend about half way from the west wall to allow ladder access to all levels.

As to original use, the Tower was not an observatory, which would require easy access to a flat roof with parapet. Likewise, the narrow platforms have very poor ice storage potential. The Tower may have been used later, as often suggested, as a punishment for recalcitrant (naughty!) nuns but not until the religious order acquired the property in 1905 when the mansion was named the Home of Compassion...



These days pigeons keep an eye open from the tower

Key clues as to original use of the Tower are found in the round, river facing openings. These lack any window framing and the only weather protection is possible shuttering suggested by remains of metal brackets on the outside wall. Although acting as lookout ports these would also be sound amplifiers to attract attention from the far Thames bank for those needing a river crossing, as marked on many old maps from Tudor times.

The ice house documented above may be somewhere in the grounds even close to the tower, and perhaps is hinted at by the broken 6" diameter cast iron pipe bracketed to the north west corner of the tower. This may well be a vent from a disused water main run but also could be part of an ice house drainage system.

The only way to confirm an ice cellar would be excavation, sonic or resistivity surveys, more document research, or simply by walking over a possible site and falling through the roof as a friend of the writer once did elsewhere...!!!!

If any readers have any further information please advise the editor or the author:

David Pascoe

Sources:

Ref 1: Follies, Grottos & Garden Buildings by Headley & Meulenkemp, 1999

Ref 2: The History of Boyle Farm by Aldred 1891



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Community



The season's always full of fêtes and fairs and other activities that raise funds for worthwhile causes. They also give villagers occasion to come together, socialise and have fun. They take a good deal of voluntary work, and it's great to see so many people pitching in. Quality is high and even within the well-worn genre of the English Summer Fête, there is much to amuse the connoisseur of human behaviour.

Of late we've had the sellout 'La Primavera' fashion show organised by Adiva boutique and NV Hair Co. in aid of the St. Nicholas restoration fund. Bold ladies of the village took to the catwalk in front of ninety spectators loving every minute of it. It raised almost £1200. The six-monthly Good As New Sales have raised nearly £80,000 for Cancer Research, all told, and the next one is at Esher College on Saturday 2 October.

The Ajax Sea Scouts' Plant sale is well timed for summer bedding. They get plants from nurseries at wholesale prices, and cherry-pick the best specimens when they collect them. So why spend your money at Garson's Farm when you can get better plants, cheaper, and support the Sea Scouts at the same time? Dittons Scout Group run what has become the annual village Fair on Giggs Hill Green. It was attended by thousands despite icy grey weather and raised over £10,500 to keep the Scouts going another year. About



HonSec Tricia Bland models at the fashion show

100 families are whipped-in to organise and staff this high quality occasion which is always enormous fun – particularly the daffy dog show. Some photos overleaf.

Coming up are the school fetes and, on Sunday 12 September, the Harry Hawkes Eight. Not to mention the second year of the Queens Road Hanging Basket competition where residents compete to brighten their road, on the way to the Albany and the ferry to the Hampton Court Flower Show in early July.

You can list your community events free on our website 'what's on' page where they'll be seen by several thousand site visitors in the course of a month. Just email:

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This is Your Life, Eddie May



It's been a while since an actress telephoned out of the blue and invited me to call, but I'd underestimated the pulling power of a local editor. At a quiet address in Thames Ditton she handed me an envelope entitled "The Life of a Supporting Background Actress," wondering shyly whether I might be interested. I was!

Edna 'Eddie' May Scandrett neé Booth is 89, looks thirty years younger and is a delight. A Geordie and the eldest of four children, she was named after American actress Edna May Oliver by her stagestruck mother in South Shields. From the age of four she acted in all her school and church plays and entered seaside talent shows. Always reading and reciting poetry, she lost her local accent without elocution lessons. At 18, just before the War, she was modelling for a photographer, painting, drawing, dancing and playing badminton.

Wartime found her doing technical drawing in a steel mill and, naturally, fending off suitors. Her boyfriends would call to take her out, but stay in to hear her father's sea stories: Mr. Booth was a Chief Engineer who had met an iceberg or two. Eddie's first love was an RAF fighter pilot, killed in 1942 when his plane was shot down over Littlehampton, and later an American bomb-aimer suffered the same fate over Frankfurt. She married Michael, from the RAF Regiment, in



Eddie May today

1945 ("six feet four and very handsome!") as the first 'white bride' in Darlington. Not what you might be thinking! Wartime shortages made it hard to dress well on coupons; Eddie's grandfather was a tailor and she'd learned to make her own dresses.

Eddie and Michael had two sons. Acting had to take a back seat, although she managed to do some at the Arts Theatre in provincial Solihull. She also worked at various times as a receptionist, barmaid and manicurist – and some all-important work as a photographers' model. The marriage came to an end

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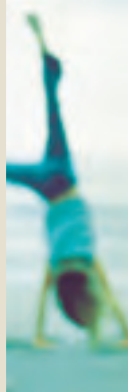
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Eddie at 40

fifteen years later, and it was a photographer from *Country Life* who introduced her to theatrical agents, the BBC, and to a film screen test at Elstree studios. In the early 1960s, Elstree decided to move away from gritty dramas in favour of musicals and comedies. So they were signing up talent.

Eddie went there to see MGM on 18 October 1965: “This is the most exciting day of my life” – she wrote in the diary that she started that day and continued throughout her career. It was not a bad day, at that. She was an extra in four scenes of ‘*The Eye of the Devil*’ with David Niven, and on another set with Kim Novak.

Eddie got supporting roles in ‘*Hugh and I*’, a BBC sitcom, and later ‘*The Avengers*’, the ‘*Troubleshooters*’, ‘*General Hospital*’ and three episodes of the early Monty Pythons including the role of glamorous research assistant in ‘*The Killer Sheep*’ and the Mayoress at the ‘*School Prize-Giving*’. She also made the first Daz commercial in UK – the advertising standards authorities did not then allow stars to make commercials. They wanted her to use her Geordie accent, and moreover, says Eddie: “in those days a commercial had to be shown at least ten times on the telly before they’d pay you!”

Monty Python was marvellous fun: “Cleese and the others were easy to work with and we’d all go to the pub after we finished. It was done out of Ealing studios plus a van stuffed with assorted costumes. Driving around on location, we’d all change in the van.” She went on to play in many other TV series from *Minder* to *The Sweeney*.

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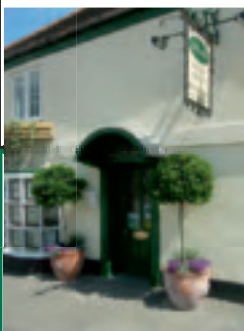
Summer is on the way and as we observe many “amateur” landlords putting their properties on the market to sell—often because their experience as a landlord has not been a good one - we ask.....

Are you using a fully licensed agent?

Being a landlord isn't just about collecting rent every month. There are lots of things to consider before you take the leap as a landlord. For example landlords who fail to comply with the tenancy deposit protection law face considerable risks. They could be forced to pay a fine of three times the deposit amount and limits will be placed on their ability to seek possession for as long as the deposit remains unprotected. It's worth knowing your responsibilities before you set out to avoid any problems in the future.

For more helpful tips visit www.mydeposits.co.uk

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reputation and protect them. Make sure you avoid the pitfalls by using a fully licensed agent.



Detached house in Albany reach **THAMES DITTON** recently Let - More properties urgently required for fully referenced and recommended tenants.

Top Tips for Landlords

- * Choose your tenants very, very, carefully. Once they are in possession of the property it will take time and possibly a court action to get them out again, if they prove unsatisfactory.
- * Before letting, make sure that the property is in good repair and that the furniture and other contents comply with the various product safety legislation

Top Tips for Tenants

- * Be very careful who you share the property with, particularly if you are all signing the same tenancy agreement - by doing this you are making yourself liable for their share of the rent as well as your own, and also for the cost of any damage which they may do to the property. You should only sign a tenancy agreement with people you can trust.
- * Don't sign the tenancy agreement unless you are absolutely certain you want to rent the property. Don't allow yourself to be hustled into signing against your better judgement, and before you have fully thought it through.

and finally...

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For a number of years, Eddie lived with a film producer. Her career may not often have been marked in the screen credits, but she was much in demand for cameo roles with a hatful of great names: Oliver Reed (“a gentleman, intellectual, always sober on set”), Dennis Waterman, Ursula Andress, Tony Curtis, Deborah Kerr, Robert Mitchum, Michael Caine, Anthony Andrews, James Garner, Julie Andrews, James Mason, Susannah Yorke, Richard Burton, Tom Selleck, Patrick Mower, and Charlie Chaplin whose whole family met Eddie when filming ‘The Countess of Hong Kong’. Yul Brynner attended her 50th birthday party in Spain. Some gave her gifts and books or cards, and from backstage there were sometimes propositions, for as you can see from the photos Eddie was a cracker even in early middle age. “I could have gone via the ‘casting couch’, “she says, “but I didn’t like that sort of thing.”

In a career spanning over 36 years on screen Eddie, who had to join the actors’ union Equity – “a very closed shop” – was finally honoured with life membership. At the age of 68 she met – and four years later, married – husband Ray Hake, a senior cabin director with British Airways at the time. They moved to Thames Ditton in the early 1990s, where Eddie paints, writes, and enjoys the exercise that older joints allow, while Ray plays golf.

Would she do it all again? Would she advise Mrs Worthington to put her daughter on the stage? Oh yes!” says Eddie. “I can’t say enough about these very talented, famous, lovely warm people, who make you feel important too, even though you are just another ‘film



Eddie at 18

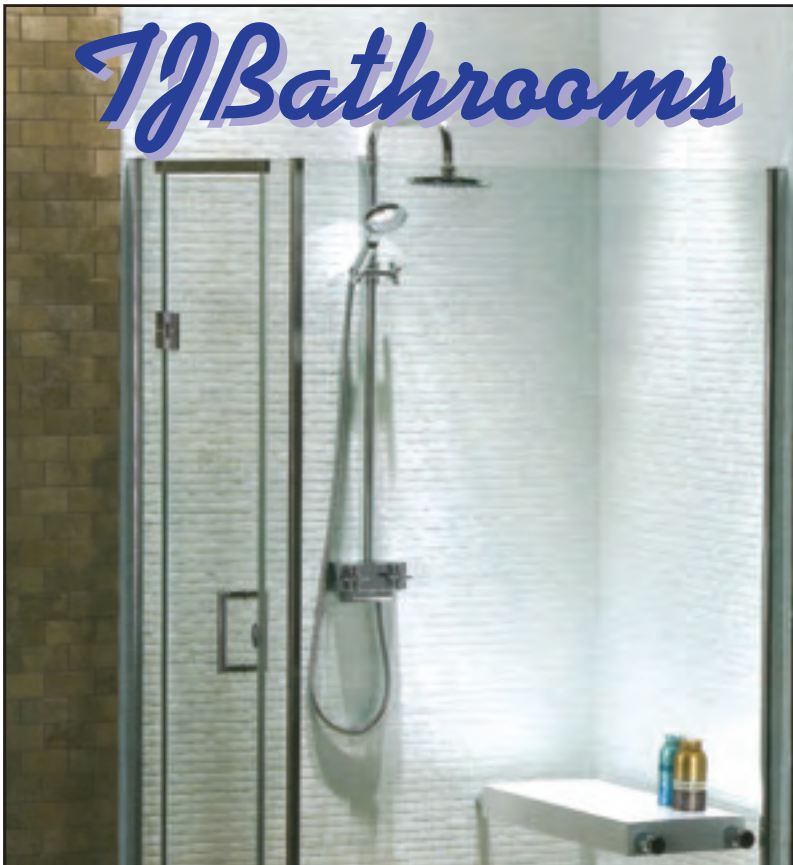
extra.’ When I look back I feel that I am very privileged. And I loved the props, the locations, the fabulous dresses, the hairdressers... DO put your daughter on the stage – if she wants to do it badly enough. But if she wants to get on, it’s all a matter of who you know, and who you get to know.”

“If I’d been born in the South I might have been a dress designer. Perhaps have gone to RADA. But in the 1930s there were no opportunities in the North. To think that as a schoolgirl I had on my bedroom wall a picture of David Niven and others. Never in my wildest dreams did I ever imagine that I’d enter the world of film and television and meet them all. So, how lucky can a girl get?”

“Goodbye, darling,” she calls as I amble away, thinking that it might be *because* she did not get embroiled in the vanities of stardom, that Eddie May is so very nice.

Editor

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Chairman's Report to the AGM



When thinking about the key themes of the last year a few key words came to mind: people, perseverance, parking, petitioning, persistence, presentations, potholes, puddles, planning, parties, preparation and progression.

People: 1158 households (around 30% of the households in the area) are members of the association. I would like to thank Peter Haynes, our membership secretary, for all his hard work in this area. We also still have 5 RA Borough Councillors, and Peter Hickman was returned to serve a second term as the Dittons representation on Surrey County Council. We are fortunate that we have committed people in place to represent us, not tied by a national political agenda; and so many people willing to give some time to distribute magazines, collect subs. or help in other ways.

Perseverance: a word I could use to describe the councillors, and while considering the subject of perseverance the next subject to come to mind was:

Parking: You will remember that on street parking is controlled by Surrey County Council, and off-street Parking by



Libby cuts the 75th anniversary cake

EBC. Progress with on street parking has been slow. However, I can say now that proposals for a relatively minimal parking control scheme have been passed by the local area committee and consultation will start shortly. We have advance copies up on the website for people to look at before consultation starts.

Turning now to off street parking, last year the we raised a petition asking EBC to reverse the parking charge increases of

Well, fancy that...

In February this year a German robbed an amusement arcade by threatening the attendant with a cup of hot coffee he'd just ordered.

She gave him the money from the till.

"We don't want to encourage others to try this" said a police spokesman.

So – how long before the sale of hot beverages is banned here under Health'n'Safety legislation?

Signs of the times...

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January 09 in the Ashley Road car park. Through the summer the RA executive and RA councillors attended Elmbridge council meetings where the point was discussed. Councillors were then asked to seek feedback on a proposal for a separate annual season ticket for businesses. Tricia Bland, our Hon. secretary, talked with every business in the village, and a letter was put together from them all rejecting that proposal as unworkable and to request that the council re-consider its hike in charges. As revenue from the car park has fallen sharply since the price rise it seems only sensible for it to be reconsidered.

Petitions: We did have success with the petition I reported on last year in response to a proposal by Elmbridge council to close the Ember Centre. It was reprieved and is now going to move to Thames Ditton Hall which has received a grant from central government to develop an ‘Intergenerational Centre’ for children and retired. We hope that will help assure a long term future for the hall which was itself saved from being sold for housing development as a result of long and successful campaigning by residents.

Planning: a perennial subject when you live in an area as desirable as ours, with constant pressure on green spaces, back gardens and businesses being turned into housing. The association is not anti-development, all communities need to change and grow. However, we are keen that any development is appropriate to and in keeping with the villages and their Conservation status. For example, we have made positive comments in relation to the developments currently underway

in Ashley Road. From the remainder of the planning portfolio, I will pick out the High Street in Thames Ditton and the Harrow at Weston Green.

On the new development next to and behind Hawes estate agents, including the former Old Bakery and the new office fronting the High Street, we have been badly let down by Elmbridge Borough Council whose own leaflet regarding Conservation areas states that “the design of any new development that does go ahead should make a positive contribution to such areas.” From the moment that it became apparent that the development in the High St did not match the plans submitted there have been constant efforts by the association, the Conservation Area Advisory Committee and hundreds of local residents to get the council to take the problem seriously and to enforce conditions. Whilst some conditions have been met, on many others the council have acquiesced to the developer. The buildings have yet to be signed off by the Council, and the CAAC which includes our planning convener Graham Cooke, have requested a formal meeting with the head of town planning to see the reality on the ground and discuss how to take this forward.

The former Harrow public house is a very prominent site in Weston Green which required sympathetic development with regards to its position. Following much work by local residents supported by the Association’s planning convener Initial applications were rejected by the Elmbridge Planners and on appeal by the planning inspector, who said that the unsympathetic nature of the frontage would harm the adjacent Green Belt.

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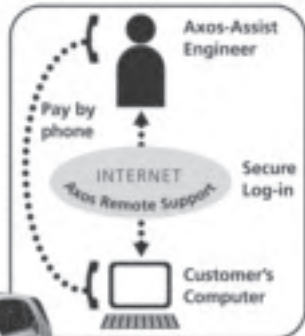
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Another application has been lodged which does not appear to have taken into account the inspector's comments. Local residents and your association remain vigilant. We are not anti the development of the Harrow site, but we do want it to be the right application in keeping with the environment.

We are also closely monitoring activity and applications at the nearby Newlands.

Graham Cooke does a great job on behalf of all of us preparing responses to planning applications and supporting local residents in all planning matters.

Potholes, Puddles and Planting: The winter has taken a particular toll on the roads and Andrew Roberts (our Highways and Drainage convener) has been out compiling lists of priority roads in the area to submit to Surrey County Council. He has also been working hard to make the village more attractive, undertaking a great deal of planting at the Fountain Roundabout and the tree in the centre of TD village. He persuaded Network Rail to take down the large and unsightly station sign which did nothing to enhance the area. Tannia and Peter continue to pursue Network Rail, highways, private landlords and others to take required action to prevent the near constant flooding at Esher station. This has been sorted out more than once in the past but as different parties fail to carry out the maintenance work required it takes more action by the councillors to get it sorted out. I think we are back here to my theme of perseverance

Moving from puddles to ponds, Tannia and Lorraine are putting a lot of effort into securing the future of Milbourne Pond which is dear to the hearts of many.

Policing: We have an excellent relationship with our neighbourhood police team who regularly hold their police panel meeting before one of the RA Open Meetings. The website has a crimewatch page to let people know what has been going on when there have been significant developments and to request information. It is in all our interests to use this facility.

Presentations: We have twice had EBC speakers in the past year, once to talk to us about the Council's plans regarding the implementation of Dog Control Orders and once to present information about plans to control litter on Albany Reach and along the Thames walk. I think it was an eye opener for all of us how many dog owners there are in Thames Ditton who feel very passionately on the subject of dog control in recreational areas. It was one of the biggest and most vocal turnouts we have had for the past two or three years. The council decided to go ahead and implement some Dog Control Orders, although the final proposals were considerably diluted. At the second presentation staff talked through a trial that had been conducted in Sept – Nov 09 to help control litter on Albany reach through the removal of all litter bins. This presentation came about because residents at one of our Open Meetings raised concerns that all the litter bins on Albany Reach had been removed. It transpired that this was a trial, however locals felt that a trial at this time of year would not be fully representative. They asked for the bins to be re-instated and for someone from the council to explain the thinking behind the move.

Staff explained the intention and presented the initial results, they listened to residents' concerns that any effective trial

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would have to be at the right time of year and proposed to run a second trial this summer. After their explanations attendees felt more reassured and will support a second trial in the summer. The fact that we could request and host both of these presentations demonstrates the benefit of a having a strong Residents Association and local councillors.

Plaques: As we considered how to mark the 75th anniversary of the RA we thought about how to celebrate the history of our area through a local blue plaque scheme. Having publicised it in our magazine and website we received a number of nominations and I have just heard that SCC has agreed an allocation of £1000 towards the cost of the first 7 plaques, so we are now able to get moving.

Parties: One of the specific objectives of the RA is to encourage a community spirit and that could take me loosely to parties. I am not sure that the Christmas Fair held in the High Street could be truly defined as a party – but it seems a lot like one. We had a very successful Christmas party; and as it was a very special 75th Anniversary year we held a garden party for distributors, collectors and past members of the executive to celebrate.

Progress: That celebration of longevity led me to think how we as a Residents Association are going to progress and continue to be relevant and serve the community. I think that brings us full circle to people. The RA is made up of people and to continue to realise our objectives we need new and – dare I say it – younger people to get more actively involved. Gill Frances, who with one hat on represents Thames Ditton island on the committee, is also working very hard to get young people locally more engaged and has some plans in that area. I would also ask all of you to think how we continue to attract people to get involved in the RA and help us protect our amenities and further the interests of people in the area and encourage a community spirit.

And that little treatise on the letter ‘P’ leads me to say that our Association can only **prosper** with the **participation** and support of its members, and on behalf of the Officers and Committee I would like to thank you all.

*Libby MacIntyre
Chairman
Thames Ditton and Weston Green
Residents’ Association*

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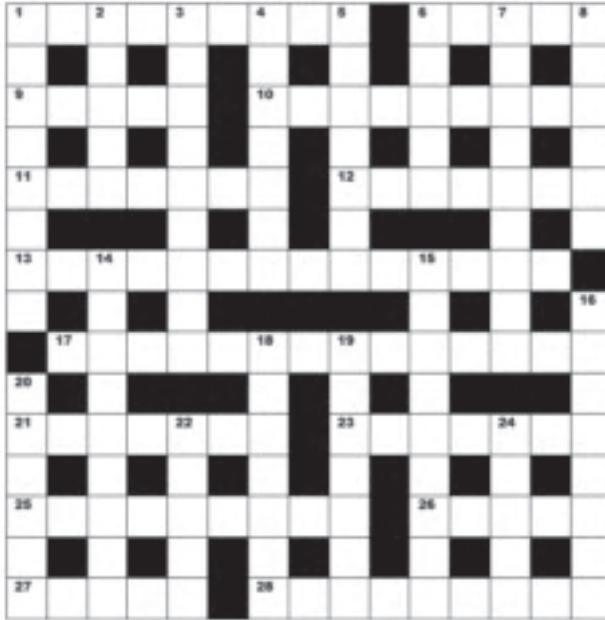
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Summer Crossword

By Michael Jackson



A £5 Voucher for spending in any Thames Ditton or Weston Green shop will be awarded to each of the first three correct entries opened after the closing date of 7 August 2010

The completed puzzle (or photocopy) enclosing your name and address, with the envelope clearly marked 'Crossword Competition,' should be sent to:

Thames Ditton Today
Crossword Competition
6 Church Walk
Thames Ditton
KT7 0NW

ACROSS

1. Sure of oneself (9)
6. Prophet was human but erratic (5)
9. Proportional relation (5)
10. An ox in Aspen is getting bigger (9)
11. See it as not the hardest (7)
12. Back to greet the Moor (7)
13. Part I enter into needs an explanation (14)
17. Knife cuts leek in thin slices (7,7)
21. River; valley; with Green is village in SW Cumbria (7)
23. Bear up and keep going (7)
25. On the rail hangs a picture of paradise (7-2)
26. They can be halves of a diameter (5)
27. Many leaks make these (5)
28. A sale of lace with nacre colouring (9)

DOWN

1. She had a monster whale cooked by Smith (8)
2. Various tones are heard when played (5)
3. Is crime to punishment equal measure? (9)
4. Chooser loses head to become another (7)
5. Does a painter put it on in cold weather? (7)
6. Ludwig's Choral was in order (5)
7. Family possessions to hand down (9)
8. Favourite I'm on in big race (6)
14. In which boffins are immersed in thoughts? (5,4)
15. He receives your subscriptions (9)
16. ...and was kept busy here in the Gold Rush (8)
18. Poetically expressing sorrow (7)
19. In the theatre steal attention from another (7)
20. Pottery ship? (6)
22. Greek city store (5)
24. Forest in 'As You Like It' (5)

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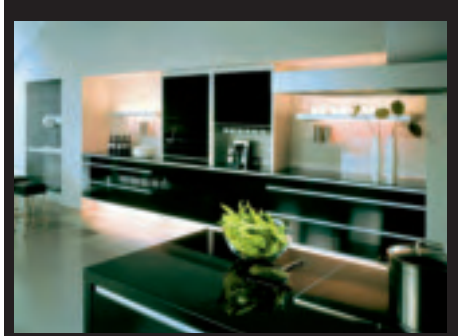
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Solution to the Spring Crossword

by Michael Jackson



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

Congratulations to the first three contestants whose correct entries were opened after the deadline. Each wins a £5 Voucher for spending in any Thames Ditton or Weston Green shop.

Mrs. Maureen Willcox
 Clematis Cottage
 Church Walk
 Thames Ditton KT7 0NN

Mrs. E. M. Jones
 23 Riversdale Road
 Thames Ditton KT7 0QN

John Bridges
 42 Warwick Gardens
 Thames Ditton KT7 0RB



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SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

Services

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Trudy O Keefe	01372 474555
Dittons and Weston Green Neighbourcare	Sue Mayes	020 8398 6714

Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services

Information, Meals Services, Community Transport, Bus Permits		01372 474552/4
Elmbridge Community Alarm Service		01372 474560
Elmbridge Relief Carers Scheme		01372 474547
Ember Centre for the Retired	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 9870
	At other times	01372 474553
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Mrs Carole Roycroft	01372 463587
M.D.H.S. Household Services (& garden tidying)	Carolyn Smart (Manager)	01932 248533
Surrey Mobile Library Service		01483 517402
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	Mrs Heather Horler	020 8398 0364
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	Keith Berry	0208 398 3447
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mrs. Adrienne Nealing	020 8398 5582
Esher Floral Art Group	Mrs. M. Dingle	020 8398 3943
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Mrs. Julie Cohen	020 8943 2017
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	0208 398 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	Margaret Robinson	01372 842401
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)	Val Lomax	01932 860344
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Eds Copleston (Men)	07771 557900
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07775 940703
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rotary Club, Esher	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	0208 398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449
Thames Ditton Marquetry Group	Jasmine Berry	020 8398 4358
Yoga for Health Club	Mrs. Celia Rowe	020 8398 2700

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	Julia Presland (Sec)	julia@mulcott.fsnet.co.uk
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: John Morgan	020 8398 3049
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
National Trust: Richmond Association	Membership Secretary	020 8894 2972
Soroptimist International (Kingston District)	Secretary: Pat Harman	020 8390 3507
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615
Thames Valley Amateur Radio Transmitters Society	Chairman	01483 284279

OTHER

Cancer Research UK	Mrs. Vivienne Harris	020 8398 6787
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Ken Kingham	0208 979 8053
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Helen Mason	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 2536

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings



HAMPTON COURT WAY CYCLE PATH

– but not this way

Surrey County Council (SCC)'s revamped Cycle Path on Hampton Court Way cost us taxpayers £76,000. On the west side of the Way there are 15 houses with direct car access across the pavement to the highway. SCC chose to impose a shared pedestrian/cycle path on this 200m of narrow and irregular pavement while the remaining 2,800m is more sensibly sited.

This shared cycle path is also used by parents and children to get to and from St Pauls School, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, and – by the physically disadvantaged – Ashley House. I and other residents contend that the public safety of pedestrians using this pavement has now been severely endangered and that there is added an acute danger to, as well as from, cyclists. The sightline between residents' driveways and the pavement is poor, impaired by hedges and other obstacles. Cyclists may legally travel at up to 20 mph but their braking distance of 15 meters would be insufficient to prevent a collision with a person or car. Child cyclists are especially at risk.

The Department of Transport produce guidelines in the form of Local Transport Notes for the guidance of Councils on how the process should be considered for the safety of the public. SCC chose to ignore them, as a result of which no users of this pavement, nor residents, nor local police were consulted beforehand.

To put this right I wrote to the SCC Highways Engineer who responded that the

Local Transport Notes were 'only' a guide and they did not choose to use them. Residents were entirely responsible for ensuring an adequate sightline. Cyclists were responsible for going slow to avoid hitting a pedestrian, an emerging car, running child or dog on lead. One infers that he, himself, would not be responsible. When I asked for a copy of his Valuation/Assessment Report, he appeared to say that he did not do one.

The police told me that they had not been consulted but on investigation informed me that a representative of the Chief Constable had approved the Cycle Path. I asked for a copy of his report only to find out that he had not made one. I have written to the Chief Constable, who has replied that he has the matter in hand.

Residents presented a petition to the Councils' Local Committee and were granted a mere 3 minutes to state objections at the subsequent meeting (in Walton). The Chair decided to do an onsite visit to see for herself along with our Councillor Peter Hickman. We are grateful for their involvement. On the ground they were impressed with our objections. We must now await the result of the next Local Committee meeting.

If officials responsible had chosen to follow the guidelines, and consulted those affected beforehand, all the above hassle would have been avoided. There are too many bureaucrats who believe they 'know best,' when there are proven ways of how things should be done which we can all understand and usually accept.

Gus Bainger



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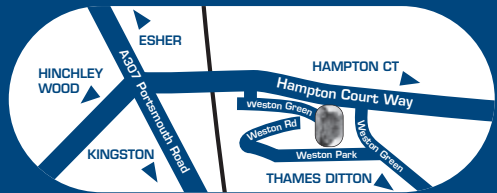
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