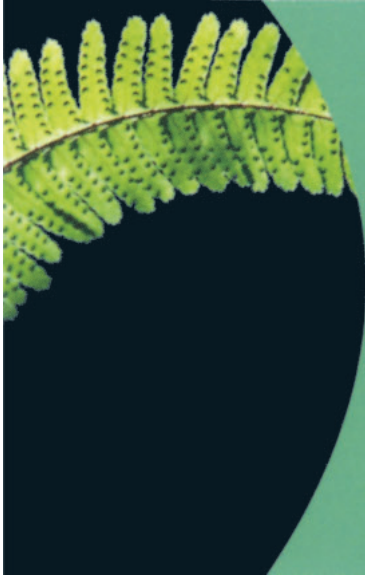


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SUMMER 2013





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# THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

Summer 2013

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You are welcome to submit articles  
or images. Please contact the  
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[www.residents-association.com](http://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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# THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



## About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organization concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of the inhabitants of Thames Ditton and Weston Green. We work to preserve and enhance the best in our attractive environment and the quality of life of everyone in our community.

Through regular meetings, social activities, our magazine and website we keep in touch with residents' views and we raise and spend funds for the benefit of the community, from tree and bulb planting to contesting unacceptable development projects.

With five Residents' Councillors we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Council working with other residents' councillors to ensure that decisions are based on the needs of local communities and on good management rather than on party politics.

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

**President:** Maureen Sheldrick,  
34 The Woodlands, Esher

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

## Thames Ditton Councillors

Sandra Dennis,  
Little Bradley, Thames Ditton 020 8873 2936  
Ruth Lyon,  
11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3396  
Karen Randolph,  
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,  
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

## Weston Green Councillors

Ruth Bruce,  
15 Imber Grove, Esher, 020 8398 8324  
Tannia Shipley, 'Clinton House'  
27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

## Officers:

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Vice-Chairman: Martin Wilberforce,  
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29 Station Rd., Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485  
Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes  
6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

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Planning: Graham Cooke  
23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509  
Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,  
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## THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

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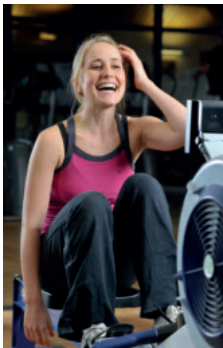
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# News from the Residents' Association



to 20 May

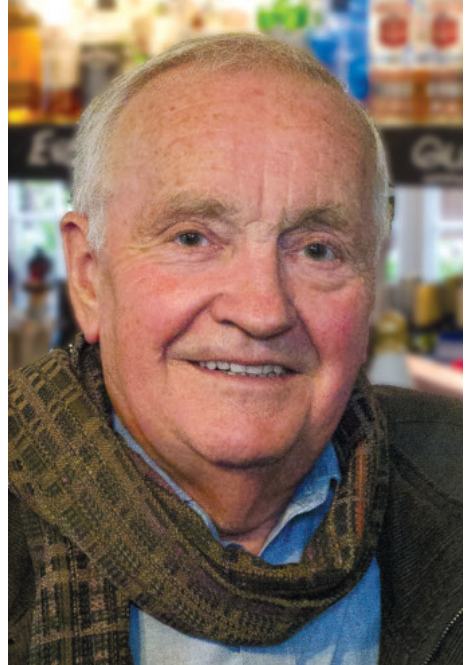
## County Elections

Thank you to all who helped in administering the campaign and who turned out to vote for your Residents' candidate, Peter Hickman. He was re-elected with 55% of the vote against the Conservative candidate with 18% and that of UKIP with 14%. In neighbouring East Molesey and Esher, Residents' candidate, Stuart Selleck, was elected with 41% of the vote, narrowly defeating the Conservative candidate, who despite waging an expert PR campaign was hampered by his party's long-standing approval of the unpopular Jolly Boatman overdevelopment.

UKIP was an interesting factor. Overall in the county UKIP, from almost a standing start, collected 22% of votes against the Conservatives' 40% but won only 3 seats. Residents and Independents stood in a small number of divisions and won 9 seats; the Liberals stood more widely and also won 9, with the Greens and Labour winning one each. Of the 81 councillors elected in Surrey, 58 are Conservatives which political party continues to rule the council as it has done since 1889.

## Secondary schools crisis gathers momentum

Peter might have been forgiven for celebrating his re-election that night but he was in action straight away



*Peter Hickman thanks all who supported*

participating, along with your Editor, in a large meeting of parents very concerned about the worsening situation for state secondary school admissions. We have long flagged up the inadequate county forecasting of, and catering for, the bulge which is now going up through primary and junior schools, and which will reach secondary schools in coming years. Children in the heart of Thames Ditton are now being offered secondary places at Rydens in Hersham, and even at Epsom. It seems that the Surrey

---

bureaucracy considers its statutory obligations met if secondary pupils here are offered places somewhere in or near the general borough whether or not these are practical, realistic solutions for hard-pressed families, particularly those with children of different ages at several schools. The problem is made worse with the current Government's focus on Academies and Free Schools, which set their own catchment, at the expense of our good state schools in the area which are overseen by the county authorities. Hinchley Wood School is already an Academy, and Esher High is in the process of becoming one.

While for many families the problem occurs only at the time when their child is making the transition to secondary school, others should think ahead and band together to lobby effectively for better solutions in coming years. This requires a good deal of work to understand the system and persuade county officials that there is a better way. That way might involve the expansion of existing secondary schools or the establishment of new ones (even conceivably a Free School). Residents around here are always a formidable force when they decide to take up an issue, and what looks like a very capable group was set up at the meeting on 3 May directed by several parents. Supported and facilitated by the Association and our councillors, they will be gathering facts and seeking solutions. To add your effort and expertise, contact Andrea Grasby, one of the co-ordinators, on 07960 499249 or email [agrasby@gmail.com](mailto:agrasby@gmail.com).

## **Planning consultation**

Inadequate provision for future schooling is one of several infrastructure problems, along with provision of drains, sewers, and adequate parking, which are exacerbated by the constant building of more houses. Elmbridge Borough Council is responsible for planning consents, while the provision of infrastructure seems to be regarded as "Surrey's problem" or that of providers such as Thames Water. Planning is not closely enough connected with firm conditions for the infrastructure that will be demanded.

Association officers and councillors put in a great deal of work in April analysing the 150 dense and arcane pages of Elmbridge's public consultation on plans for local development now until 2026. These documents contain much that is good: we are not NIMBYs and want to see sensible development in keeping with the area. However, as Elmbridge planners acknowledged themselves, our part of Elmbridge has already been developed more densely than most other parts of the Borough. The prospect of another 450 or so houses is not an attractive one, particularly if some of them are to be built on green spaces such as Colets playing fields.

The matter was well publicised in the last two issues of Thames Ditton Today. In addition, we emailed over 1100 members to single out the salient points on which they might wish to respond to the consultation, put briefing on our website, and organised a talk by Elmbridge planner Mark Behrendt, the documents' co-ordinator, at our Open



---

Meeting of 30 April which was attended by over 75 residents. We also publicised a morning's presentation by the planners in the Library. Member Simon Munro coordinated a list of green spaces which the community was invited to put forward for protection under the new Local Plan. The Association's formal response to the council, compiled by our Planning Convenor Graham Cooke, may be read on our website. It included the following:

*“Whilst recognising the need for development in the area, this cannot be acceptable without the services and infrastructure required to support our community. The consultation document contains no proposals for any increase in the number of schools in our area, focusing instead on increasing the size of existing schools. There is however an admission that there is very little scope for an increase in the size of our local schools and a suggestion that our children will need to be accommodated elsewhere in the Borough. In particular, insufficient secondary school provision is already a looming problem. We object to the lack of provision for additional school places and urge the Council to limit future development that cannot be sustained without adequate infrastructure.”*

Also in the planning news over the past few months was Elmbridge councillor **David Archer** (Conservative, Esher), filmed by undercover Daily Telegraph reporters who were ostensibly seeking help in securing planning permissions from the council. The interesting video may be viewed online (see the Telegraph of 10 March or search

for “They Call Me Mr. Esher”). Cllr. Archer was then subjected to a formal investigation by an Audit and Standards panel with an external investigator, which accepted his apology, censured him for his conduct and recommended that he be removed from the Planning Committees, although it did not find that he had used his position improperly to seek advantage.

## **New Association Officers**

The Residents' Association continues to regenerate, as it should. After four years as a very effective Chairman, **Libby MacIntyre** stepped down at the March AGM and **Rhodri Richards** was elected unanimously as our new Chairman. Rhodri attended St. Paul's School then studied maths and Physics at Durham. He now works for a large asset management firm in the City. He lives in Ditton Cottage with wife Hannah, a GP, and their two young children. Rhodri, in his thirties, has been an active and constructive member of our web forum and latterly has served on the Conservation Area Advisory Committee.

**Bob Huxster** stood down after several years as Treasurer. Elected in his place is **Christa Silverthorne**, a qualified accountant who studied in Canada. Also in her thirties, Christa lives with her partner in Weston Road, Weston Green.

Many thanks are due to Libby, Bob and others who have volunteered their time to the Association and continue to do so. A recent email to members seeking fresh volunteers met with a positive response from several.

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*'Freddie' – the fox of terror in Church Walk*

However, **we need a volunteer to take on the role of Editor** of Thames Ditton Today. Unless somebody is willing to do so, the future of this magazine will be in jeopardy. Its advertising remains sought-after and there is an excellent team: the present editor stands by to help a replacement settle in. Please get in touch. Meanwhile, the next issue will be produced *ad hoc*.

## **Snippets**

There have been further **thefts of paving slabs** including red tiles from pavements in Parkwood Avenue. These

antique tiles are difficult to find, but Cllrs. Tannia Shipley, Ruth Bruce and Peter Hickman have managed to source replacements from Wales (a sample arrived by post!) and hope to secure funding for this job.

**Foxes** continue to cause local concern. The one in the photo has been stalking the area of Church Walk and Ashley Road, where he has pursued residents aggressively on occasion, trying to nip at least two of them. This behaviour may ensue when residents feed foxes, who thereby lose their fear of humans and become over-emboldened.

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## Dog scatology

Several residents have written to draw attention to worsening dog crap in public areas, notably those around Giggs Hill Green. **Please clean up after your dog** – it's an offence against both the by-laws and civil decency not to do so, yet there are clearly some heinous foul irresponsible antisocial dog-walkers in the vicinity, and others who let their dogs roam loose, unsupervised, to defaecate.

## Doings and dates

The new echocardiograph service at Emberbrook Health Centre was formally launched on 1 May. The **Friends of Thames Ditton Hospital** raised £40,000 for this purpose, on top of some £60,000 previously raised locally for other vital equipment at Emberbrook. These services are available to patients from all the GP practices in Esher, Claygate, Hinchley Wood, the Dittons, Weston Green and Molesey who form the GP organisation MEDICS (Molesey, Esher and the Dittons Incorporated Care Services) working within the NHS to provide care closer to home. Karen Randolph, Chairman of the Friends, thanked all those who had helped raise funds and in particular Dairy Crest, the sponsors of the annual Friends Christmas Supper and Pantomime at the Vera Fletcher Hall, which events have raised the bulk of the money in recent years.



*clean up after your dog – please!*

Thanks to resident **Philip Allen** for reporting that a distinguished son of Thames Ditton died in Belgium on 4 May. **Christian René, Viscount de Duve**, was born here on 2 October 1917. His parents were Belgian nationals who had taken refuge in England during the war. They returned to Belgium in 1920 and he was raised in Antwerp. In 1974, de Duve with others was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine for research in cytology. Aged 95, he chose to end his life by legal euthanasia, being afflicted by cancer and atrial fibrillation.

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A local **Food Bank Distribution Centre** has been set up recently, centring on All Saints Weston. This seeks non-perishable food from donors and channels it to authenticated deserving cases within the Borough. Operating on Tuesdays, volunteers to help staff the operation would be welcome. If interested either as volunteer or donor of your spare tins and packets, please get in touch with Ruth Bruce in the first instance (see page 5 for contact details)

By the time this issue is published we will have enjoyed the second **High Street Summer Fair**, to follow the perennial Dittons Scout Fair on the Green. This year a **Secret Gardens** event is being held in Weston Green, on 30 June. Ten gardens from the home of Weston Green's very own Garden Gnome (Gerald Smith) in The Woodlands to The Newlands bordering Thames Ditton. Refreshments available at All Saints. Proceeds will help fund Christmas lights for Weston Green, and perhaps one or two other worthy ends. Tickets in advance, £5 (adults) from All Saints' Church, The Ewe, Stitchery – contact Ruth Bruce for further details.

Regular Bushy Park runners **Emily Nourse** of Speer Road and **Charlotte Horler** of Basingfield Road, ran three-legged for five kilometres to raise money for Red Nose Day in mid March. They organised everything themselves including permission from the Bushy park team and the printing of sponsorship forms. In pouring rain they ran the race in 42 mins and raised nearly £300 as well as a big smile from the 500 runners who took part.



*Emily and Charlotte*

After setting up and running the outstanding Good-as-New sales twice yearly for 37 years, **Pat Farmiloe**, of Chestnut Avenue, Weston Green, passed the baton on to others at the sale held at Esher College on 4 May, where a celebration was held in her honour. These sales not only help to recycle invaluable children's clothing, toys and equipment for local parents, but have raised over £100,000 for Cancer Research UK. Well done, Pat & co.

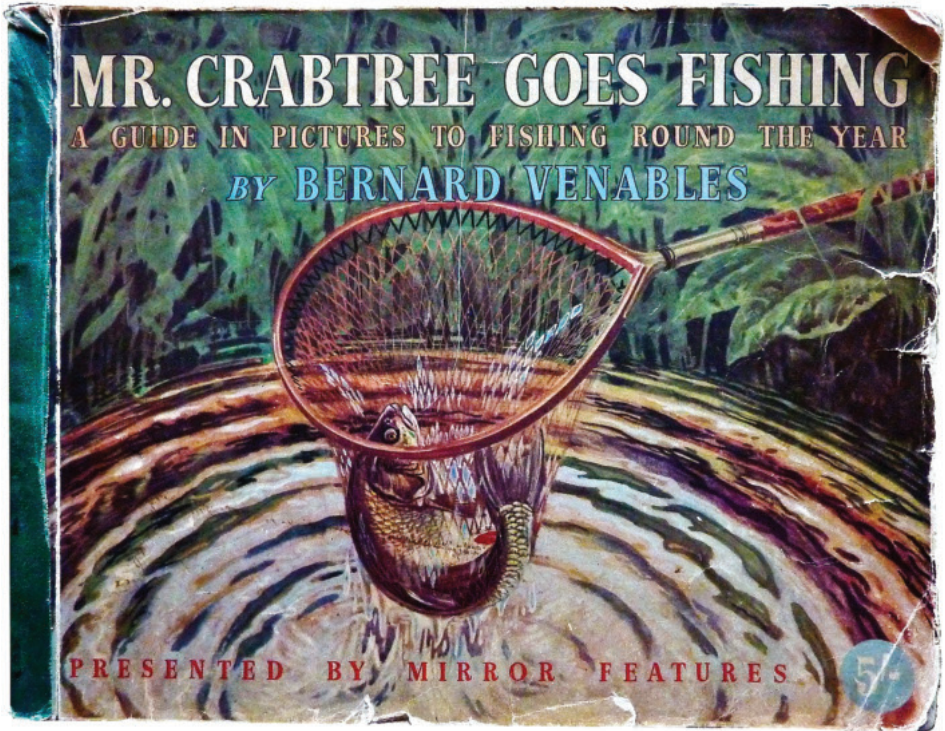
## **Reminder!**

The next Residents' Association Open Meeting will be held in **Weston Green** (All Saints' Church Hall) on 25 June at 8pm. A good attendance will increase the likelihood that a Weston Green venue will be included in future years' Open Meetings.

**residents-association.com**

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# Mr Crabtree's Resurrection



*the original masterpiece: a fearless Chub is outwitted*

It's half-past three on a June morning when the alarm clock goes off. A small boy and his father steal away to a beguiling lake coiffed with reeds and willow, where a slight mist caresses the lily pads. The day will be fine. They creep softly to the water's edge, to cast their end tackle where Peter's father has pre-baited the swim these past few days. Early skylarks soar above. The float quivers – young Peter reacts on the instant, striking a lusty Tench. The

beauty, first of several that morning, is landed with reverence and delight.

In the grey post-war years a simple book, luminously illustrated and wisely written by angling enthusiast Bernard Venables, inspired a generation of anglers to take up the sport in the way it should be taken up: the tradition of Izaak Walton and John Dennys, at one with nature; art, watercraft, occasional excitement, and primaeval satisfactions. We loved it – the

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quest for bucolic perfection in fishing, a dream of angling that was actually, occasionally, attainable among other days water-whacked, wet, miserable, the bacon sandwich eaten far too early and nothing else all day, the spade thrust into the wasps' nest a serious mistake (*"wasp grubs are an excellent bait for a greedy Chub, Peter"*); slipping down mud into nettles; straddling a fence that turned out to be electrified, a shocking lesson for a teenage boy; and after all that, the anticipated *"fine bold Perch, I should think he weighs about three pounds, Peter"* more likely a feeble small gudgeon of barely an ounce. But sometimes, sometimes...

With a colleague, Venables, a journalist and cartoonist on the Daily Mirror, had produced a gardening 'how-to' strip called "Mr. Digwell", those being the days of food rationing. Wondering what to do when it came to winter, Venables conceived "Mr. Crabtree". The cartoon led to the book's publication in 1949 and thence to the establishment of the Daily Mirror Angling Club with a million members. The Mirror owned the copyright while Venables, who left to found the Angling Times, made no money from two million copies of the most popular fishing book ever written.

And then it sank from view, a lost leger. Mr. Crabtree mouldered among murky Mirror muniments; the generation of Peters that he hooked grew gnarled through marriage and mortgage. Venables died in 2001, his widow Eileen living on in a council house.

Then, by chance on a flight to India a few years ago, Andy Anderson of Thames

Ditton's High Street, erstwhile Production Editor of the Financial Times, met James Arnold-Baker, a former BBC executive. A fishing friendship grew. Both of them angling enthusiasts who grew up with Mr. Crabtree – James had been acquainted with Venables himself – they were determined to resurrect him. They tried but failed to get the copyright for Mr. Crabtree off the Mirror, in the process discovering that the paper had neglected to register any trademarks, all but one of which they managed to register themselves. The Mirror was now awakened to the potential. Piqued by missing the trademarks, they agreed to work with James and Andy to bring Mr. Crabtree back to life. *"It was,"* says Andy with sacerdotal awe, *"the piscatorial equivalent of finding a Rembrandt in the attic."*

They decided to stick absolutely to Bernard Venables' ethos and style while updating the content to fit with modern angling techniques and equipment, barbless hooks and conservation; now dressing Mr. Crabtree more casually than the trilby, tweeds, tie and pipe of the original. A book, "Fishing in the Footsteps of Mr. Crabtree," written by all-round angler John Bailey and beautifully illustrated by Robert Olsen, was published in 2012. The team then touted the idea of producing a TV series. *"There was little interest as we were not proposing sexy 'celebrities' or exotic foreign parts,"* Andy confesses, *"but eventually Quest, part of the Discovery Channel, agreed. We had to finance much of the series ourselves."*

With the aid of the Angler's Mail they ran a competition for suitable "Peters and

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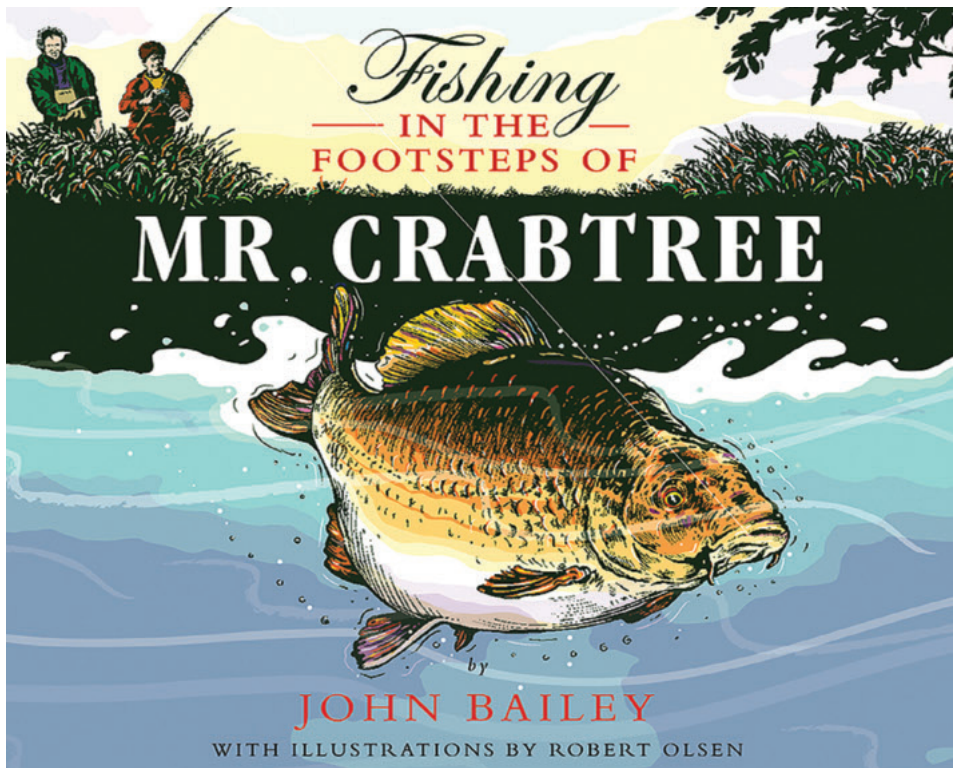
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Petronellas,” girls now being at par with boys in fishing. It attracted over 3,500 entries. The worthiest and most telegenic were picked for the six trial episodes with Bailey. With faithful affection these re-create instructive fishing days very much in the Crabtree tradition, featuring the capture of the lusty Tench, the wily Carp, the fierce Pike, and the shy mysterious Barbel (Venables particularly relished his piscine adjectives, which we teenagers parodied with hilarity as we chased the dream on our comparatively fruitless days fishing for a baffled Perch, an absent-minded Dace, or just a dutiful Bream).

The series was broadcast on Quest earlier this year. Viewing figures for a small channel were good, at around 150,000 – 200,000, and the public feedback was wonderful. The team is even now filming Series 2, which is likely to air on Quest before the year is out. If there are any profits from the enterprise as a whole, ten percent will go to Eileen Venables, Bernard’s widow. The venture is much more about the love of angling itself. Andy: *“If we can get just one young boy or girl off their X-box and out along the river at dawn, I will be happy!”*

**Keith Evetts**



*a mighty Carp graces the new book's cover*

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# Age Concern Kingston



Our voluntary organisation can make the difference between dignified independence and less dignified care by helping in small but vital ways. A case history from near the village well illustrates this (the name has been changed).

Last year, Mr Meadows' neighbour contacted us because he was no longer able to help get Mr Meadows' shopping for him. Our Help at Home service contacted Mr Meadows and our Coordinator visited to assess his needs. Severe arthritis caused him mobility problems. Living in a 1st floor maisonette with many stairs to the front door, he could not leave home unassisted. Since

his wife died fifteen years previously the house had not been cleaned.

Mr Meadows didn't want to have an Occupational Therapy assessment but, as he had some financial means, the Help at Home worker found him an approved contractor to install a level access shower. He also arranged to have a care alarm installed. Our Handyperson service installed a handrail along the internal staircase to allow Mr Meadows to get to his bedroom and bathroom, and we installed an internal washing line.

Mr Meadows can now live healthily and independently. Seven months on, his Help at Home worker assists him weekly. Apart from shopping, cleaning and going out with him for coffee, she has taken him to get his eyes tested, collect his new glasses, and purchase a raised chair. He values this assistance and his house is now clean. The Help at Home worker found out that Mr Meadows had an interest in stamp collecting, particularly first day issues, so she arranged for the local Post Office to hold these for him and she takes him there to collect them, and continue to pursue a lifelong interest which stimulates him.

For further information about any Age Concern Kingston service please call 020 9942 8256 or visit [ageconcernkingston.org](http://ageconcernkingston.org).

**Debbie Cottrell**

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# Quintessentially English

## 125th Regatta at the Skiffers



The one hundred and twenty fifth anniversary of the Hampton Court and Dittons Amateur Regatta will be held at Dittons Skiff and Punting Club on Saturday 20th July – open to all. Come along!

In its heyday the Hampton Court and Dittons Regatta was the event of the year in Thames Ditton. Originally hosted by the Albany Hotel (built 1887), the course ran from there to Hammertons boat yard at the end of Ferry Road. Races took place in skiffs, punts, dinghies and gondolas and the competitors came from the village and local clubs. There were two tug-of-war competitions, a scratch and a challenge event, and these took place in punts!

In those halcyon days it was known as the Hampton Court and Dittons Amateur Regatta and Venetian Fête. The Fête was a great spectacle, candlelit at night to provide a beautiful climax. The village and local river craft were decorated with bunting and banners and there were prizes for each of the best illuminated houseboat, bungalow, boat, punt or canoe “to pass the Committee Boat at 8.45 p.m.”, although I understand that houseboats and bungalows were allowed to remain stationary and the Committee Boat passed them! The Regatta Programme for 1912 tells us that “...the Committee have arranged (through the kindness of the occupiers), that a Lantern Light and Pole can be obtained at *La*



*the Eton Boating Song and the limpid blue waters of the Thames – quintessentially English*

*Boheme* Houseboat for the sum of One Shilling.”

Looking at our beautiful riverside, it is easy to close one’s eyes and imagine the noise and colour of the occasion, everyone in their Sunday best packing the subscribers’ lawn and the towpath or on pleasure craft moored up along the course. Some jostling for the best vantage point to view the racing, others buying commemorative flags and button badges, crowding around the bandstand to hear the music or queuing for a thrilling fairground ride. Although a jolly day out, propriety was maintained with an official caution in the programme that “Vendors of Confetti, squirts and any other nuisances will not be allowed past the Albany Hotel and any person found using



*the replica original Oxbridge racing gigs*

the same will be removed by the police.” Can anyone tell the current regatta organisers what a “squirt” was?

Times changed, the Venetian Fête was no more; the event became solely a regatta hosted by the Dittons Skiff and Punting Club and the course was brought upstream to start just above the junction of the rivers Mole and Thames and finish at Albany Cottage, the current club house. This year a souvenir programme celebrating the history of the Regatta and giving admission on the day to the enclosure will be available for purchase from mid June at the Albany. Some special events are planned including

cutter racing (4-oared boats) in full livery dress, and a glorious recreation of the first ever Oxford and Cambridge Boat Race held in 1829 using the replicas of the original racing craft built and raced in 2004 on the 150th Boat Race day.

Refreshments will be available throughout, and a jazz band will play in the afternoon. The regatta will start at around 10am and the cutter racing and Oxford and Cambridge Boat race will take place around 3-4pm. The last race will be at 5.30pm, when prizes will be presented by the Mayor of Elmbridge.

**Simon Leifer**



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# Hooray for the Hut

– Thank You to you all!



*Girls In The Lead – Friends Rachel, Lesley, Justine, Bronach, Lucy celebrate and thank you*

Just in case you have not noticed, the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are now back in their refurbished Hut. We started out trying to raise £15,000 for a new roof and ended up needing over £120,00 for a total refurbishment. Work eventually started in September and we finally moved back in to the Hut this March. A few more ‘finishing touches’ and the inside will be sorted.

This has been a very long fund raising project. Along the way we have had such a lot of help from this wonderful community. With so many *Thankyous* to make, I apologise if I miss anyone out of this very long list.

Thank you to the shoppers who have put their small change into the collecting tin in Paull’s, who took on this task from Nick and Marlene. And to all the local Businesses who have donated prizes for our raffles, and Hawes and Co and Aldous Craig who sponsored them; The George and Dragon for the Race Night, raffles and mulled wine!; Guy Salmon who helped by making the Guide Hut Appeal their charity for two years and let the girls use their car wash facilities. And a special mention to Jeremy and Christopher from *Stitchery* who donated the superb windows.

Thank you to the Project Team; Simon Foster, (Mr. *Urban Matrix*) whose



## Landlords Beware!

In a difficult sales market people who find it difficult to purchase their home turn to renting as a viable option and demand for rental properties inevitably leads to Letting Agents sprouting up all over the place— often without pedigree, expertise or understanding of what is really quite a complex business. The recent boom in lettings agents has seen a rise in complaints. There were a total of 7,641 enquiries to the Ombudsman about letting agents last year alone, which equated to 26% more than in 2010.

### Questions you should consider asking before instructing a Letting Agent

**1) Are they licensed or part of an accredited scheme** like NALS (National Approved Lettings Scheme) or ARLA (Association of Residential Lettings Agents). Membership is achieved only by agents who can demonstrate they have a thorough knowledge of their profession and that they conduct their business according to current best management practice. Importantly for clients, members are required to have professional indemnity insurance cover and are covered by a bonding scheme which provides financial protection for client monies which have been misappropriated

### 2) How often does the Lettings Agent pay the owners?

Be sure you fully understand the terms of when rent is collected and forwarded on to you. We've heard many a tale of unregulated agents holding onto rent collected for far too long and tenants – check if the agent is a member of the TDS (Tenancy Deposit Scheme).

### 3) Can I see some Client Testimonials

You want to view case studies and see positive testimonials from satisfied clients. Any successful Lettings Agent should be confident to provide feedback from happy clients.

### 4) What is the true quality and expertise of the Property Management Team

Lettings Agents should be happy to share case studies and examples of the work they have done. You are looking for established long term partnerships and a portfolio that shows their depth of expertise

Happy tenants make for happy landlords. It's important that, as a Landlord, you are secure in the knowledge that your property and tenants are being managed very effectively. As a Tenant you need to feel secure in the knowledge that there will be no short cuts to providing an excellent management service no matter what problems might occur with the property. What happens if the boiler stops working or the washing machine fails to start?

As with most service industries, you get what you pay for. Cheaper is generally never better. In our experience, going for a cheaper option works out more expensive in the long run as Landlords run into challenges that their agents aren't geared up to handle resulting in more expense for the Landlord and very unhappy Tenants. Doing a bit of homework to start with and asking the right questions will pay dividends. If it doesn't feel right and you are not convinced of the agent's credentials – **leave well alone!**



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daughters are Brownies/Guides, Andrew Pratt, Alice Weir, Brownie Leader and architect, who drew up plans and helped us through the maze of paperwork, planning permissions, building regs, conservation area rules etc.; Barry Knowler who sorted out the building team and kept everything in-budget (almost), and found the nice Mr Laney, from *Longcross*, who relaid the collapsed drainage pipes for us – fabulous!!; Dave Vousden who chivvied the builders, sent loads of e-mails, and did try to keep to the ‘plan’. All done way above and beyond the call of duty.

We made applications to several kind Foundations and Charitable Trusts, some wish to remain anonymous – Thank You to those – and also to Bernard Sunley, Rowan Bentall Trust, Coutts Bank, Garfield Weston, The Hedley Foundation, The Fitton Trust, and The Mayor’s fund. And the Community Hall Fund – Surrey and Elmbridge contributed £30,000 – and certainly without that donation we would not have been able to start any of the works. Other donations have come from the Waitrose Community fund scheme, Proctor and Gamble, Dairy Crest, Thames Scout Cruiser Club, St Nicholas’ Church, the WI, and Thames Ditton Ember Centre. The Ripieno Choir have undertaken a pub crawl (or two) and sung Xmas carols to raise funds for the Guide Hut Appeal. Gail Deal made a fabulous quilt, which was raffled. Brewers donated the paints (painting was undertaken by a few volunteers – just a few more doors left to do.) And a big thank you to those who have made

individual donations too numerous to list here!

The girls were busy raising funds too. They organised two ‘Show Time’ extravaganzas; appeared in a musical at the Vera Fletcher Hall; sold cakes, raffle tickets and ‘roof tiles’; had sponsored bike rides, fun runs; organised discos; made scarecrows; waitressed at dinners, and loads more. They manned stalls at all the Junior School fairs, the Scout Fair, the Village Summer and Xmas Fairs – a huge Thank You to the James family for letting us use their frontage. And of course to the parents who have had endless pleas for help, or arms twisted to take part in a fund raising event.

We also have to thank our long-suffering neighbours on Church Walk and Ashley Road, who have had to put up with scaffolding in their gardens, noisy builders, vans and skips; our councillors – Ruth Lyon who started us on the trail of funding and help; the late David Lowe who steered us through the Conservation Area meetings; and Peter Hickman for a very timely contribution which enabled us to repair the flat roof sections.

The Hut is now warm (underfloor heating) and dry (no more leaks) – we have a fabulous kitchen, store rooms, office space – and spider free toilets. Come and see.

Just the outside to sort out now!

**Lesley Evetts**  
*for the Friends of  
The Guides Association*

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# On the Ball

## Cricket Club news



The men in white of Thames Ditton Cricket Club on Giggs Hill Green belong to one of the oldest clubs in Surrey. They play in Fuller's Surrey County Premiership League and this year will be helped by six feet seven inches of West Indian manhood in the shape of Rakheem "Jumbo" Cornwall, an under 21 international. The future of any club is its youth and Thames Ditton is no exception. Rakheem will coach the colts – from all age groups up to 14.

Bowl at him in the nets and the ball is likely to be returned ramrod-straight at the speed of a tracer bullet, at a height somewhere between ankle and groin. Hence the need for appropriate protection when playing cricket! Unwary colts at the back of the net, in earnest conversation about their Facebook pages or whether the British Lions have enough cover at fly half to take to Australia, will find out very suddenly why cricket practice requires their full attention.

Joining Rakheem from Antigua will be TDCC's new Head Coach, Abdiel Hughes, who has coached Montserrat and Antigua to multiple titles and now brings Calypso Cricket back to KT7 for the first time since West Indies legend Richie Richardson played for TDCC in 2011. Their brief is quite straightforward, they been told: "We want all our colts to bat like Viv Richards and bowl like Curtly Ambrose." No pressure! Not that they'll



*Oliver tries an unconventional stroke*

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be working with a group that lacks confidence – the team of 2013 goes into the new season on the back of the silverware they won last year – and Thames Ditton, small club that it is, punches above its weight.

Abdiel and Rakheem will be working with all our age-groups – Under-14,12,11,10, two teams at Under-9 and our Sunday morning beginners sessions on the green for kids as young as six. Like other clubs with Clubmark accreditation – the English Cricket Board’s stamp of approval – TDCC has

improved standards of junior coaching, child protection and welfare. All age groups are very welcome, particularly new Colts at Under-10 upwards.

The Cricket Club also enjoys a good social life. This year there will be a grand Summer Ball to be held in a marquee on the green on Saturday June 15th.

Visit the web site [www.tdcc.org.uk](http://www.tdcc.org.uk) for details of all the above.

**Chris Herring**  
*Colts Co-ordinator  
and Club Welfare Officer*



The non-profit **Homesupport Elmbridge** (formerly MDHS – household services) has moved to new premises within the offices of Walton on Thames Charity at 74 Hershaw Road, Walton.

Offering cleaning, relief visiting, bathing, gardening, a laundry service and shopping assistance to those need help, the charity enables people with disabilities

and older people who cannot help themselves to stay in their own homes. Homesupport Elmbridge has over 100 self-employed helpers providing a service to approximately 600 clients. “We are only too aware that there are many more people in the community who could benefit from our help”, says Carolyn Smart, Chairman of Trustees. “We need to find them and at the same time recruit more self-employed helpers to deliver our services”.

The nominal fee charged does not cover all the charity’s expenses, and they are grateful for donations towards their work.

For more information please contact Manager Pam Howard on 01932 267128, or email [pam.hse@btinternet.com](mailto:pam.hse@btinternet.com).

**[www.homesupportelmbridge.co.uk](http://www.homesupportelmbridge.co.uk)**

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# The Rowley Lamberts



On the wall immediately behind the pulpit in St. Nicholas' Church there is a sculpted hanging. Its central cameo portrays a fine fellow with enormous mutton chop side-whiskers. This is Rowley Lambert, fifth son of Admiral George Lambert, who became a Vice-Admiral himself. Born in Bredwardine on 22 April 1828, he was almost certainly named after George's first captain in the Navy, Charles Rowley – the Rowley naval dynasty were close friends of the Lambert naval and military family. His eldest brother joined the Navy, later emigrating to Australia, while two other brothers joined the Army and another became a vicar.

From the age of one, when not at sea Rowley spent his years in Thames Ditton where the Lambert family, including his uncle Admiral Robert Lambert, his parents and later his uncle General Sir John Lambert, lived in succession at Weston House. At 35 he married Helen Elizabeth Campbell, of the numerous and well-connected Campbells living in the Dittons and Hampton Court, who later came to play a notable part in our community herself. It has to be said that despite modest wealth and high social standing, an aura of misfortune seems to have hung over the Rowley Lamberts and more particularly, those in their proximity! However, things started well enough.



*Vice-Admiral Rowley Lambert CB*

With a leg-up from his father, Rowley joined the Navy in 1844 as midshipman in HMS Collingwood, 80 guns, under Capt. Robert Smart. In 1847 he passed in seamanship and a year later in navigation, being promoted from Mate to Lieutenant. Via HMS Powerful, 84, and the steam-sloop Salamander, Rowley was then assigned to his father George's squadron in the East Indies where he commanded the Sphinx, being promoted Commander in 1853, and then captained HMS Fox in the second Burmese war which George, the "Combustible Commodore," had

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started. He did well enough to be mentioned in despatches by Commander Shadwell, his senior in the expedition to Pogu that year.

Rowley was given command of a screw steam-sloop, the *Curlew*, in August 1854, one of a new class carrying a brand new gun, a ten foot long 65-pounder. The squadron assembled off the Needles at the end of that month to demonstrate the weapon to Admiralty bigwigs in the presence of HM *The Queen*. The lead boat, *Arrow*, duly fired at a cliff on the Isle of Wight designated as target for the experiment. Heads were craned, but no impact was visible. Adjustments were made, the gun fired again, with the same absence of discernible result. On the fourth attempt a party of spectators near the lighthouse was observed vacating the spot in haste, and after the fifth abortive shot the lighthouse conspicuously lowered its flag, and a rowing boat was seen rounding the headland with the lighthouse men flying a white flag. The trial suspended, it was learned that the last two shells had narrowly missed the lighthouse. The Navy attributed this to a heavy swell and a bias in the shells... whether *Victoria* was amused is not recorded.

The guns were improved and Rowley went off to take, burn or destroy crops around the Baltic during the Crimean war, being among those officers awarded the Legion d'Honneur by our French allies and the Order of the Mejdidié by our Ottoman allies. Made post-Captain in 1855, after four years ashore he was given the newly-commissioned *HMS Scylla*, 21 guns, in the Mediterranean, among other duties rescuing 350 Jews threatened by

the Berbers in Tangier, 1859, and evacuating King Otho of Greece, deposed in a coup, in 1862. Rowley Lambert married Helen Campbell at St. Mary's Hampton on 5 February 1863. A couple of months later saw him captain of *HMS Liverpool*, a new wooden, screw-propelled frigate of 36 guns – a privileged command. Descriptions of a sumptuous *dejeuner* for 300 guests on board in the Mersey that September were followed by ominous reports from Devonport, two months later, of disaffection among the crew, who refused to load coal, alleging they had not been given their due leave. Five of the ringleaders were court-martialled. The *Liverpool* was then deployed to the West Indies. The following March, 1864, a marine was lost overboard and in July the *Liverpool* ran aground off the coast of St Domingo with considerable damage to her keel. She had to return to dock in England.

Ill fortune continued that December with the court martial of the *Liverpool's* Lieutenant of Marines on a charge of drunkenness. Rowley had refused him shore leave until he settled his mess account, and an altercation ensued. The Court debated at some length as to "*the difference between a man not sober and a man not drunk*," drunkenness was not proven, and the case dismissed. After repairs, *Liverpool* was not returned to her mission in the West Indies but reassigned to the Channel Fleet.

In April 1865 *Liverpool* spent a few days anchored in the Solent off Osborne House on guard duty while Queen Victoria sojourned on the Isle of Wight, then escorted the Prince of Wales (on the

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Royal Yacht) to Ireland. Patrolling off Donegal in late 1865, Rowley fell ill. Helen referred to 'these recurring attacks' in correspondence: their nature is not clear. She also wrote: "*I do not think that Rowley has much influence in that ship of his although he is a very good kind man (pray never say this perhaps I ought not to have said so).*"

Further repairs to the Liverpool were needed in March 1866, when Rowley left the command, illness being cited. One speculates that a likely cause may have been stress, perhaps aggravated by recourse to the bottle (Rowley eventually died of liver disease). Later press reports referred to the number of desertions from the frigate as "*somewhat alarming, and up to the time of Captain Rowley Lambert's departure she was called 'the unhappy Liverpool'.*" However, I note that the crew continued morose and insubordinate under his successor Captain Secombe too – "*one of the most popular officers in the service*".

Well-connected Rowley was soon found another command – his father was at this stage C-in-C the Nore, his brother-in-law Capt. Hugh Campbell was shortly to command the Royal Yacht. He was made Commodore in the summer of 1867 and given HMS Challenger, a 21-gun screw corvette, to head the Australia squadron. Helen travelled with him via P & O (the couple remained childless). By now, Rowley's eldest brother George had left the Navy and for the past fifteen years had taken up their father's land grant north of Sydney.

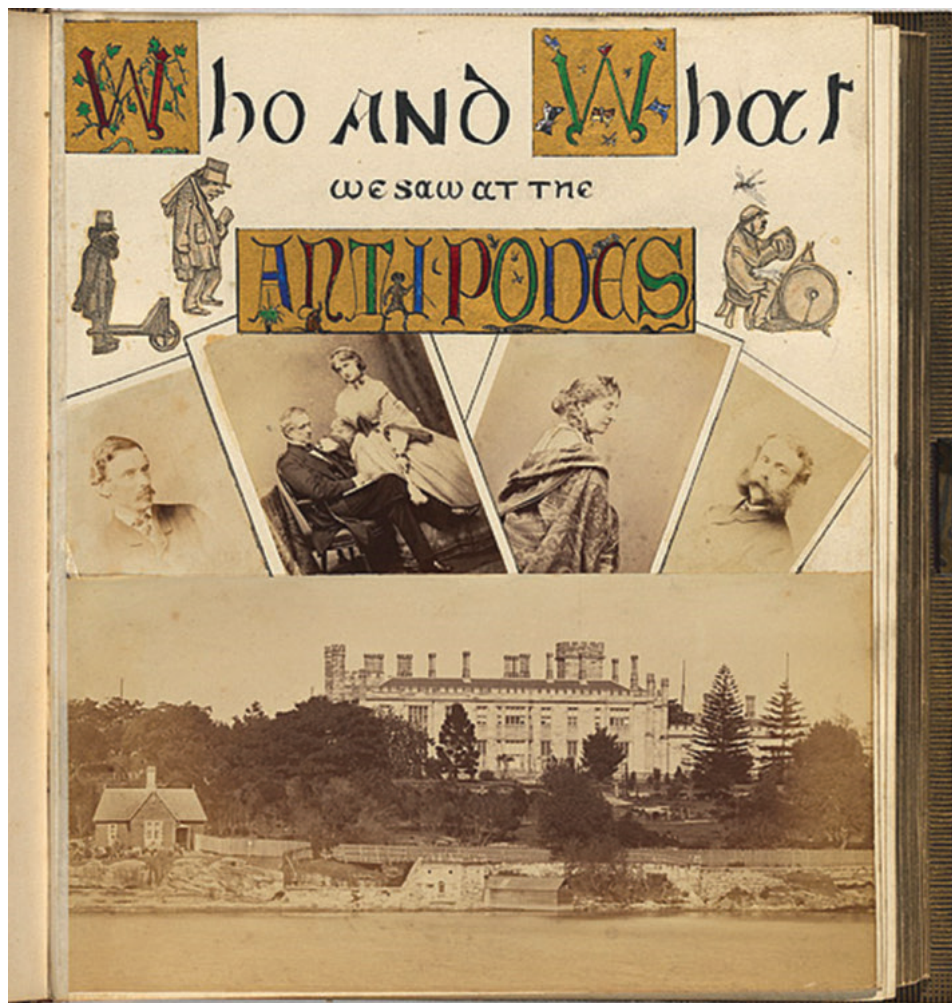
In an extraordinary gesture, "*as a proof of goodwill, and a desire that the naval*

*officer in command of Her Majesty's ships on the Australia station should be better enabled to maintain the dignity of his position*", the Legislature of New South Wales awarded Rowley £500 per annum – the equivalent of around £35,000 pa entertainment expenses today. But the posting was 'not without incident' (as one has come to expect). On 12 March 1868 Rowley was accompanying Prince Alfred, Duke of Edinburgh to a charity fête at the Sailors' Home near Sydney when Henry O'Farrell, a disgruntled Fenian, came up and shot the Duke in the back. The Duke survived, O'Farrell was hanged.

The squadron, which was stretched and unable to respond to all the authorities' requests for help, engaged in various enforcement and punitive missions against recalcitrant islanders. In August 1868 the Challenger sent boats up a river in Fiji to reinstate a planter. Things did not go well: through "bad but well-meant instructions", the expedition was defeated and forced to retreat, to the islanders' delight and the shame of the Navy.

Meanwhile Helen, an early photographer, produced some albumen prints on their travels. These were bound by a friend into a scrapbook entitled "Who and What We saw at the Antipodes," which is in the Australian National Gallery as a rare document of record. Unfortunately, most of the photos are available in sizes too small to print here, including one of Rowley with trilby and side-whiskers, and another of Helen in her study.

In 1870 the Rowley Lamberts returned to Britain, where soon afterwards they



occupied Grubbe's House (from at least 1872 – 1880), believed to have been near Winterdown House on the site of the present-day St Helens homes on Weston Green Road / Longmead. In those times Rowley's cousin Maj-Genl. John Arthur Lambert was at Weston House, and John's younger brother Capt. Robert Lambert of the 43rd Light Infantry at some point rented Blandford Cottage nearby on

Weston Green Road. In April 1873 Rowley was appointed naval aide-de-camp to Queen Victoria. To 1875 we find traces of the Rowley Lamberts at several royal levees, Helen at the Queen's Drawing Room; dinners at the Navy Club, and sundry Balls. Rowley was also a patron of the Southsea Floral Hall and Aquarium Company Ltd., formed to establish a Floral Hall or winter garden



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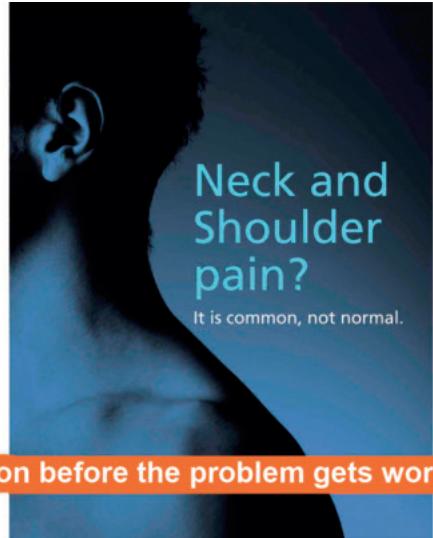
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with a marine aquarium by the pier at Southsea.

On August 30, 1873 Rowley Lambert was promoted Rear Admiral. Two years later he got a final seagoing post in command of the detached or 'Flying Squadron,' his first task being to escort the Prince of Wales to India via the Cape with his freshly-painted ships. With trouble in China, the Flying Squadron was then deployed to the Treaty Ports centred on Hong Kong. On the return journey at the end of 1877 the 'Curse of the Rowley Lamberts' struck again: Midshipman Wingfield, eldest son of Major Walter Wingfield of the Royal Body Guard and described in the press as a general favourite, jumped in to save a man overboard. By the time a boat was lowered they had both disappeared. Two more jumped in from the stern and drowned immediately.

In the couple of years left to him before he succumbed to his liver, Rowley returned to Weston Green. We find him in May 1879 at the Jubilee festival of the Sailors' Orphan Girls' School and Home, with the Duke of Edinburgh in the Chair, *"to maintain, clothe and educate as domestic servants the fatherless daughters of sailors of the Royal Navy and to provide a home, free of expense, for former pupils during the intervals of their being out of work, thus shielding them from the temptations to which they might otherwise be exposed."*

Vice-Admiral Rowley Lambert CB died on Thursday 22 July 1880 at the Grosvenor Hotel, aged 52. And then, Helen came into her own. Although she

retained a house on Weston Green Road called Great Gates, she was granted a grace-and-favour apartment at Hampton Court Palace where she lived with her sister Bella, two nieces and a nephew, and a number of servants. Almost needless to say, this was 'not without incident': A fire broke out in 1886 in a neighbouring apartment, destroying many of them – hers being damaged by water.



*Helen, Mrs. Rowley Lambert*

Childless, widowed, Helen threw herself into community work. We find her as a member of the Thames Ditton School Board, *"presenting scarves to the thirty most regular and punctual attenders"*; a member of the Kingston Board of Guardians (of the poor), the Tolworth Joint Hospital Board, and the Committee of Thames Ditton Cottage Hospital; and participating in charitable events, e.g. as a stallholder at an *"exhibition of Indian arts and handicrafts in aid of the famine stricken weavers in India,"* and organising a local savings union for working people. Her committee work brought various legal *contretemps*.

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These activities were at the forefront of the rise of women to administrative parity, driven by the Liberals. The Municipal Franchise Act 1869 under Gladstone's first government extended the vote in local elections to women who had the necessary property qualification and who were ratepayers. Women were eligible for election to various local Boards from the 1870s, as in Helen's case. From 1894 they could be elected to the new urban and rural district councils, but few women were prepared to face the campaign ordeal. The swivel-eyed Tories fought their rise to office, tooth and nail. Of two women elected to the new London County Council in 1889, while Salisbury was Conservative Prime Minister, one's candidacy was ruled invalid and the Conservative she had defeated was declared elected, while the other faced a writ from a Conservative declaring that every time she voted on the council she acted illegally: a woman had the right to be elected, but nowhere was it stated that she could vote on the council once elected! "*Women*", said the Earl of Halsbury, a Tory Chancellor, "*are too hysterical ... guided by feeling and not cold reason.*" It was not until 1907, again under a Liberal government, that victory in this regard was unequivocally achieved with the Qualification of Women (County and Borough Councils Act).

Nevertheless, in this climate Helen, who did not ally herself with any political party, stood for Esher and the Dittons Urban District Council when in 1896 the first leader of the Council, Thames Ditton councillor Gerald Shoppee, shot himself after a year in office. She was deservedly elected Thames Ditton's first woman councillor.

Alas Helen was afflicted with cancer and served for scarcely three years more. The Surrey Comet wrote in February 1900: "*While many gifted ladies have been eloquently advocating the rights of their sex by voice and pen, others have been quietly, but none the less effectively demonstrating the great value of women's work in various public capacities. Among the latter Mrs. Rowley Lambert stands out as an ideal example*". The following month, the Duchess of Albany headed the list of subscribers to a public testimonial to Helen on her retirement from the Council. Helen desired the testimonial to "*take the form of something of permanent benefit to Thames Ditton,*" and the result was the Rowley Lambert Scholarships that are administered to this day by the Trustees under Revd. John Silk, and which support students in their endeavours by modest grants.

That March the Curse of the Rowley Lamberts struck one last time – Helen's cabman, William Flanmore of East Molesey, fell and broke his neck while carrying bags down the steep turret staircase from her Palace apartment.

Helen Elizabeth, Mrs. Rowley Lambert née Campbell, died on 25 April 1900 at Hampton Court Palace, aged 64, joining her husband in his grave in our churchyard. She brings to an end the hundred years in which the fascinating and honourable Lamberts were a notable feature of this community and in the public service of the nation, since to lie ignored, if not quite forgotten, by local historians. I have enjoyed reviving them and thank you for your forbearance.

**Keith Evetts**



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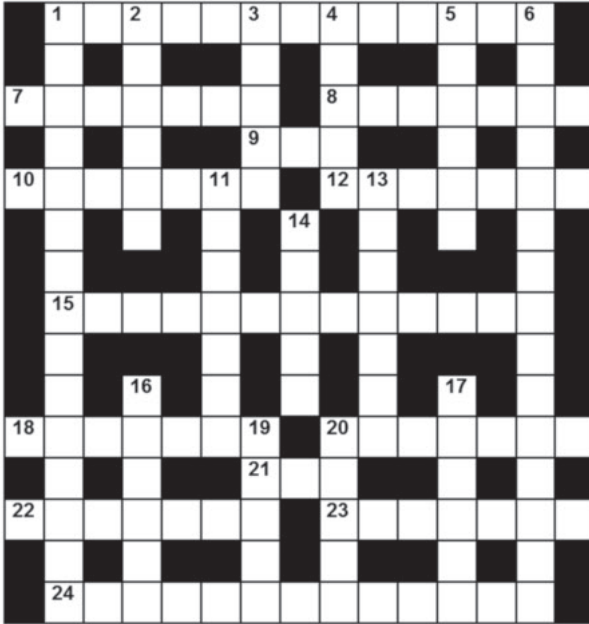




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# Summer Crossword

By Michael Jackson



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 7 August 2013 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

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

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

## ACROSS

1. Time when lie detector sounded (6,2,5)
7. Large rock in dam when 'Hoovered' (7)
8. Scholarship granted by a college (7)
9. Centre of embroilment is about it! (3)
10. Eponym of Gray, Milton or Shelley (7)
12. To confer a title (7)
15. Showing a level on harbours, rivers (4,5,4)
18. Name of old Italian city, sculptor and sausage (7)
20. Lose oar dispensed in a gas by this (7)
21. With stick measure the 9 level (3)
22. Sunshade used after taking a 21 (7)
23. ...on peaceful island beach in this (7)
24. I base my illness through working on these (8,5)

## DOWN

1. I'm on loan at ghost gathering playing this (9,6)
2. Where to bake in bad French cooker in Spain (6)
3. A game played with 78 cards (5)
4. A short tale teaching 16 (5)
5. Push to close the argument (6)
6. When sparkling lustre 'rocks' I had bought were "worthless," listen to these (4,4,7)
11. Lord of the mountain taking snaps (7)
13. A nerve cell (7)
14. Finding right proportion was partly inspirational (5)
16. Like ethics, standards of conduct (6)
17. A vague idea of something (6)
19. ...so improvise at your discretion (2,3)
20. Put on a soft thickness of wood (5)

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# Solution to the Spring Crossword

by Maureen Willcox



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# SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

## 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	020 8398 3772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride,	ask for service at	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	central switchboard	01372 474474
Homesupport Elmbridge	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 252204
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	Nicki Sutherland	020 8398 4202
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Alan Nolan-Davies	0844 414 2826
1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)	Mrs. Louise Lewis	020 8398 4843
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
2nd Weston Green Brownies	Mrs J Epps	020 8395 0595
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Mrs Helen Hill	020 8398 3135
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Laura Clarke	0208 398 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	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	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)	Jill Cotter	020 8398 4598
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Eds Copleston (Men)	07775 940703
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rotary Club, Esher	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	020 8398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449
Thames Ditton Marquetry Group	Jasmine Berry	020 8398 4358

## SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ember Choral Society	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher Recorded Music Society	Miss S. M. Garrat	020 8398 8541
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Chris Walker (Sec)	020 8398 6651
Esher and District Amnesty International	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	Louise Flaig	020 8398 7704
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Soroptimist International (Kingston District)	Secretary: Pat Harman	020 8390 3507
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

## OTHER

Cancer Research UK	Mrs. Vivienne Harris	020 8398 6787
Elmbridge Fairtrade Network	Judy Porter	020 8398 6401
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Hon Sec Anne Brown	01932 881633
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Helen Mason	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

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

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# Chairman's Address to the AGM



Chairman **Libby McIntyre's** final report to the 2013 AGM, delivered in her absence by Vice-Chairman **Martin Wilberforce**, highlighted the following:

- The efforts of Tricia Bland and helpers to extend Christmas lights and add Union Jacks, enlivening the High Street for the Jubilee and the two Fairs organised by the retailers and supported by the Association
  - The Association supported an application to create a cut-through from the car park direct to the High Street, and secured an agreement that there will be no change to parking charges for 6 months after the pathway is in place. As with the shops, we must use the car park or it will be lost.
  - Action to protect key amenities for example Milborne Pond on Weston Green. Andrew Roberts and our Weston Green Councillors secured Council backing for the recommendations in the hydrology report we commissioned. The next step is a bore hole.
  - The Association funded the planting of bulbs and bedding plants in public areas to brighten up the villages.
  - We responded to the government consultation to streamline the planning process, and the Association continues to monitor planning applications in our area. Whilst we accept the need for development we want to ensure it is in keeping with the area in size, scale and design.
  - We supported the Hampton Court Rescue campaign and backed the alternative proposal which would see the site landscaped and made available as a public space.
  - Potholes remain an issue. Our Highways Officer and our County Councillor focused effort on getting Surrey to deal with the worst roads.
  - The Snowman programme continues to grow and more people are clearing snow and making pavements safe to walk on.
  - Local people continue to support a strong Residents Association which can make a positive difference; around 30% of households are subscribing members. This year we used our e-mail list to ask people if they would get more involved in running the Association or managing activities. We had a good response.
  - Successful election of RA candidates to the councils.
  - We continue to have a strong network of people volunteering their time, from the distributors, collectors and event organisers to the Executive and Councillors.
- Thanks to all for the effort they put in; and to members for their continuing support.



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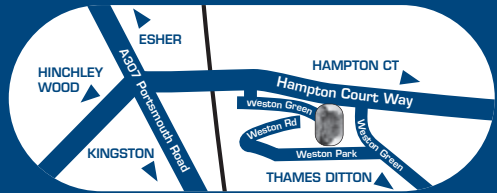
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