

THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

AUTUMN 2019

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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Photo credit: Julie Royce

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 village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com; subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 14 High Street, Thames Ditton or Thorkhill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

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THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

About the Association

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

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

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

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

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THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

September 24, 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

November 5, 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

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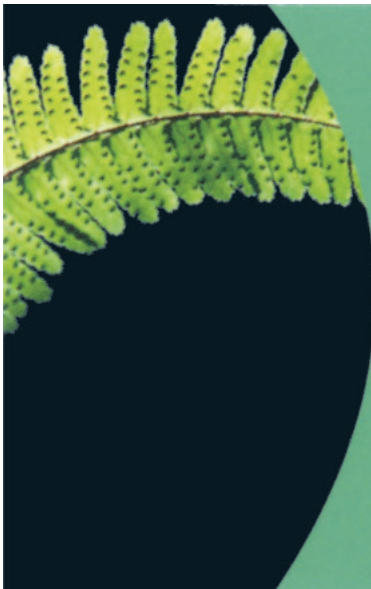
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News from the Residents' Association to end-August



Local Plan Consultation – second consultation period

Following the new Local Plan Strategic Options Consultation in 2016, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) has compiled a second draft options consultation document with additional options.

It is available for review and comment until 30 September 2019 (see centre spread article on page 23).

The draft options consultation document can be downloaded at www.consult.elmbridge.gov.uk

It is available in hard copy at local libraries and the Civic Centre in Esher.

The Residents' Association (RA) has already looked to publicise the consultation, sending emails to members for whom we have addresses and covering it in our Twitter feed and on the website. To make sure you are up to date with local matters follow us on Twitter [@TDResidents](https://twitter.com/TDResidents), on our website www.residents-association.com and / or give us your email address when you renew your subscription. We undertake to use email sparingly and for key matters only.

Six public meetings have been held about the Local Plan (up to September 7) and you can see these on the webcast replay service at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/news/local-plan-consultation-meetings

The final document requires evidence to support the proposed Local Plan, and an important part of that evidence is local opinion. We strongly encourage all residents to submit their views on the current draft options. Please bear in

mind that views carry more weight if they are accompanied by reasoning. Your views on the draft options can be submitted via the online questionnaire at www.consult.elmbridge.gov.uk

To help the Residents' Association gauge our members' views, we would greatly appreciate it if, after submitting your comments to EBC, you could email a summary to chairman@residents-association.com

These will be reviewed at our Open Meeting on Tuesday September 24, 8pm at the Vera Fletcher Hall, which you are welcome to attend.

Elmbridge Climate Emergency

On July 17, at Full Council, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) announced a Climate Emergency, pledging to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Motion was presented by Cllr Mary Marshall (Lib-Dem) Portfolio Holder for the Environment and seconded by Tricia Bland (Residents Group) Chairman of the Energy & Sustainability Working Group. The commitment to cut carbon will be central to the council's strategies, plans and actions.

As featured in our summer edition EBC has already started to act, committing to the Refill initiative designed to let people fill up reusable water bottles free at local shops, businesses and transport hubs. However, a wide-ranging set of initiatives will be required to involve local residents and meet the challenge.

Local policing

We were pleased to welcome Borough Commander Dallas McDermott accompanied by Phil Jebb (Under 18 Crime Prevention Officer) to our June Open Meeting. Dallas talked to residents about policing priorities and the effort that has been put into extra patrolling.

Phil talked about his early intervention work aiming to divert individuals from crime. The youth services team works with the local schools on initiatives such as:

1. Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: working with parents and children.
2. Sporting chance: funding sports and activities for youngsters who cannot afford them
3. Police cadets: at 3 Rivers School (13+)
4. Fearless: anonymous reporting of concerns
5. Junior citizen events: pupils take part in a range of activities aimed at keeping them safe, with agencies ranging from the RNLI to the Fire Brigade
6. Sexting and staying safe on the internet

Dallas commended the work of Neighbourhood Watch and the increased community engagement with patrol officers at community events and on social media. He encouraged everyone to follow the Elmbridge Beat page on Twitter and Facebook

Heathrow consultation

We have encouraged residents (in this magazine, on the website and via Twitter) to review the latest consultation on the future of Heathrow Airport. The Residents' Association has responded with numerous objections and concerns over transport and infrastructure issues. Elmbridge Borough Council and Surrey County Council (along

with other bordering Local Authorities) have also submitted responses. The consultation opened on June 18 and finishes 13 September 2019.

High Street Hanging Baskets

We are pleased to report that the Hanging Baskets in Thames Ditton High Street have been a colourful success this summer. Many thanks to RA Cllr Tricia Bland for organising them and to local householders and shops for hosting them.



Cheerful welcome in the High Street

Thames Ditton Station in Bloom

Penny Snell, Vice President of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) Open Gardens, presented Thames Ditton In Bloom (TDIB) with a plaque supporting its work at Thames Ditton Station. The NGS has contributed towards the bee friendly planting and the bug hotels.

Penny Snell presented the plaque to Tricia Bland, organiser of Thames Ditton In Bloom, and Scott Cooper from South Western Railway, Manager of Thames Ditton Station



Penny Snell (centre) presenting a plaque to Station Manager, Scott Cooper and TDIB Organiser, Tricia Bland

Planning

Hampton Court Trading Estate, Summer Road (2019/2005) is a large application for 78 flats, plus offices, to replace the current industrial units on much of the site. The replacement buildings are 4 storey blocks, with associated parking. Objections to date primarily relate to concerns about traffic safety, particularly in light of the proposed development at the Jolly Boatman.

Land to east of 74-128 Speer Road (2019/1721), Old Paulines' playing fields.

Yet another application for this site, this time for a single 3-bedroom house, on the site where planning permission was granted at appeal for an office block last year. We continue to believe that this is not a suitable site for residential development. A previous application for a residential development on the site was refused in 2015, with this refusal upheld at appeal.

Taggs Boatyard (2019/0738) The latest application for retrospective permission to change some aspects of this development was approved at committee on July 15 despite concerns being raised by a number of local residents, and a great deal of work by our councillors.

16 High Street, Thames Ditton (2019/0240) – former Italian restaurant. The RA wrote to object to the application to convert this property to residential use, and we are pleased that it was refused. We will always oppose such development, where it would result in the loss of retail units in the High Street.

Currently there are no updates for the application for the development of the **Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site 2018/3810** or the application for pockets of development at **Sandown Park Racecourse 2019/0551.**

Elmbridge Volunteers

On July 31 Elmbridge Countryside Volunteers gathered to clear scrub around the Slade (the historical name for the ditch that runs from Ember Lane up to Marney's Pond). This paves the way to clearing the ditch itself with an excavator.



The common looking tidy thanks to countryside volunteers

Elmbridge Independent Retailer of the Year Awards

Great news for Thames Ditton High Street scooping four Awards AGAIN in the Elmbridge Independent Retailer of the Year Awards.

There are three Thames Ditton winners across four of the six categories:

Best restaurant or café: Café Noir.
Best deli or grocer: Paull's Fruit & Veg.
Best for speciality products: Cyclelink.
Green business of the year: Cyclelink.

Lime Tree Christmas Lights

The iconic Lime Tree lights which brighten up Thames Ditton High Street in the run up to Christmas were put up in 2012 and need replacing. The Residents' Association

has paid for new christmas lights for 2019. These should be in place for the 'switch-on' which will be on December 1 at 4.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there.



Thames Ditton winners and awards

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

George and Dragon
Car park 9.30am-1:30pm
Saturdays; September 28,
October 26, November 23.

Christmas Lights Switch On

Thames Ditton High Street
Sunday, December 1 at 4.30pm

Boomerang Bag Club

Thames Ditton Centre
Mondays 10am- 1.30pm.
All welcome, sewing skills not required

Weston Green Litter Pickers

Meet at Marneys pub on the first
Saturday in the month at 10.30am

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

Meet on the third Saturday of the month
at the George & Dragon at 11am

Bereavement Cafés

St. Nicholas Church Hall
10:30am-12 noon
3rd Wednesday of the month

All Saints, Weston Green

10:30am-12 noon
1st Tuesday of the month

St. Mary's, Long Ditton, Community Hall

7:30pm - 9pm
2nd Wednesday of the month

Residents' Association

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Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Councillor



As Climate Change rises ever higher up the agenda, I make no apology for mentioning the current Heathrow consultation, the latest of which finishes on 13 September. The overall proposals cover a massive increase in the number of flights, major changes to the M25 layout around Heathrow, significantly increased car parking, and changes to flightpaths, all of which will involve huge changes to our area.

Whatever one's view on Heathrow expansion, we need to protect our environment, whether from noise or emissions, to ensure air quality is not just left at current levels but improved. There are issues of trust here, hardly a strongpoint for the aviation industry. The failure to provide much needed rail links to the south, at the time of T5 only highlights the need to get it right this time. Whatever decisions are made, the consequences of non-compliance with regulations e.g. noise and pollution must be severe. I would not rule out a complete rethink of the whole enterprise.

Even closer to home, I have spent much time looking at the issue of secondary school places in Elmbridge, It is all very well for Surrey to say there are enough places in Elmbridge, but not much use if children who didn't get at place at Hinchley Wood, then face a long or difficult journey to a school miles away. However, having worked closely with local parents, I am hopeful that as you read this, one of the bus routes will have been changed to start at Thames Ditton station, instead of Hampton Court, almost halving the journey time to Three Rivers. There are other issues, but this is a good start.



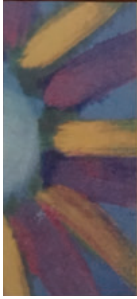
Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby

Last month, I did a tour of the Dittons with the Surrey Cabinet member for Highways. We visited those local roads and footways which I felt were particularly bad. Two of these have since been patched, with some repair work to several of the "humps" on Hampton Court Way - small beginnings ...

Parking - further changes are due soon, largely more double yellow lines at junctions with side roads to improve safety, for instance on Weston Green Road and Giggs Hill Road.

Moving on to Thames Water, they have, sadly, again been prominent in the centre of Thames Ditton with noisy works overnight on several occasions, seeking to clean out foul and surface water drains. I am following up various requests to see plans showing the drainage system.

Nick Darby



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Residents on the water to 'Save our River'



Residents' armada in action (photo Tony Nockles)

Over the early months of 2019 there was speculation locally that the Environment Agency (EA) had plans to work on the Ember Channel of the River Mole between the Esher Sewage Treatment works and the Molemer Sluice near Hampton Court Station.

The EA made these plans known in early June, when they held two information events for local residents on the first and seventh day of the month at Imber Court in East Molesey. The first event was not particularly well attended but a week later word had spread about the major changes planned and many local river-dwellers and others descended upon the EA staff. They were bombarded with questions and complaints from residents justifiably worried about the amenity they had grown to love that was under threat.

The EA described the Lower Mole Flood Alleviation Scheme as *'reaching the end of*

its designed life and needs refurbishing to maintain its standard of flood protection for 3000 homes and businesses'

Three possible scenarios were presented by the EA on the basis that significant expenditure might be required to maintain the water levels on the Rivers Mole and Ember, the latter being the main flood management channel of the River Mole.

In summary the three schemes were:

- A) Keep the present river levels and replace the worn-out gates at the Molemer and Zenith Sluices
- B) Lower the river level by 0.6 metres (2ft) to reduce the loading on the weirs and remove the barriers to fish passage
- C) Lower the river level by 1.6 metres (5¼ ft) and install in-channel "berms" to form a "low-flow channel and improve biodiversity".

Neither options B) nor C) were acceptable to local river dwellers as these would make access to the river difficult for children and the elderly. More important it would be difficult to rescue anyone who might fall into the river because of the drop from the towpath to the water of between 0.9 metres (3ft) and 1.9 metres (6¼ ft).

A further problem with lowering the river level, to allow for “berms” to appear, would be an inevitable deterioration of the visual appeal of the river, and the opportunities for general dumping of unwanted materials and fly-tipping.

On Sunday 7 July local people expressed their united disapproval of the EA’s plans by forming an ‘armada’ of floating craft on the

River Ember upstream from the Summer Road footbridge.

There are various estimates of the number of people involved, but it seems there were more than 100 people both on boats and on the towpath, including Thames Ditton RA Councillor Karen Randolph and Molesey RA Councillor Lesley Yauner.

The river-dwellers of Molesey have spoken and it seems that the EA has listened, because plans for the changes to the river have now been postponed for several years. It is very likely that the EA can expect some vigorous response should they attempt to revisit these proposals.

Tony Nockles

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Secret Gardens of Weston Green 2019



Secret Garden ready to be discovered

We did it! After a shaky start, nine intrepid gardeners agreed to open their gardens on the 23 June. Why shaky? Because I had approached countless residents and asked if they would be happy to open their gardens and time and again I would be told, *'my garden isn't good enough – nobody will want to see it'*. On visiting I would find a beautiful garden that people would love to see! Understandably, however, people are often reluctant. It is a big commitment and I thank those gardeners who *'bit the bullet'*.

There had been a lot of rain prior to the 23rd. Lawns were lush and green (unlike the brown variety of 2017) but the weeds enjoyed the huge tonic and grew like triflids! Gardeners often get obsessed with weeds, but they are merely plants that are *'out of place'* and gardens are not expected to be of Chelsea standard. However, every gardener wants their garden to look its best

and many hours were spent manicuring lawns, pruning, removing dead heads and weeds and one gardener re-painted a shed.

The end result was a perfect afternoon – the whole area was buzzing with local residents, many with young families and grandparents in tow. They were chatting about each garden as they went and making contact with other visitors.

The afternoon teas provided by a team of volunteers at All Saints were a special treat – as was the visit to the Memorial Garden at the Church. Visitors were intrigued and impressed by the information provided about every name found on the memorial.

One gardener was concerned that she had no idea of the names of the plants in her garden – she merely *'liked them'* and bought what she liked. Another gardener – who shall remain nameless but whom

many of you will know – would give you the common name of the plant followed by the Latin, and then inform you that the name had been changed by the RHS a year or so ago! This encapsulates the diversity of our gardeners...and of our community. We are all different, we all have different skills and interests and we have so much to give to each other. It is what a caring, thriving community is all about, and I would like to think that the Secret Garden initiative helps to retain and build a sense of community where everyone looks out and cares for each other.

The gardeners who did take part reported enjoying the experience. Rachel Purcell said *'We loved meeting all the super people who came to visit our garden. We enjoyed the exchange of gardening wisdom and experience... receiving more than we provided!'* Marian Pesket perhaps summed up the thoughts of many gardeners when she said *'initially I thought what we have signed up for? But at the end of the event I thought, what a wonderful experience.'*

For those people who told me that their garden wasn't ready this year but they would open their garden in 2021 – be warned...I have a list!



Window onto secret scents

The Secret Gardens of Weston Green would not have happened but for the input of Cllr Nigel Haig-Brown and his wife. Huge thanks must also go to our local Thames Ditton artist Lisa Tolley who, yet again, produced the beautiful artwork for the publicity and tickets.

All the proceeds from the event (£1,335) will benefit Weston Green Conservation projects.

RA Cllr Tannia Shipley

 **Secret
Gardens**

**7 June
2020**

**THAMES
DITTON**

We are looking for Secret Gardeners for 2020 ...

There is plenty of time to prepare!

If you and your garden would like to take part

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Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) explained



Astroturf and fencing provided by CIL funding at Old Cranleighans Rugby Club

Background

The Community Infrastructure Levy (or CIL as it is more commonly known) is a charge levied by local authorities on most development which creates net additional floor space of 100 sq. metres or more in their area (there are some types of development which are exempt from the charge). It was introduced by national legislation in 2010 but it was up to individual local authorities whether to introduce it – Elmbridge was one of the first councils in Surrey to raise funds this way.

CIL is one of several ways in which local authorities obtain funds from development; others include the New Homes Bonus grant, which is paid by central government to local councils for increasing the number of homes and Affordable Housing

Contributions which are normally applied to larger developments (10 or more). However, because of the lack of affordable housing in Elmbridge, contributions are often required from developers of smaller developments.

Who pays CIL?

Most new development which creates net additional floor space of 100 square metres or more, or creates a new dwelling, is potentially liable for the levy.

The level of the tariff is set by the local authority based on the need for infrastructure as identified through the planning process and the potential effects (taken as a whole) that imposing CIL rates may have on the economic viability of development across our area.

The local levy rate(s) are set out in a CIL Charging Schedule.

How is CIL different to Section 106 planning obligations?

S106 planning obligations existed before CIL was introduced. S106 agreements are legal agreements between the developer, the local council and sometimes the County Council. The agreement is drawn up before granting planning permission (observers at the Drake Park Planning Appeal Inquiry in 2017 may recall that a significant amount of time was taken discussing these). Once signed and planning permission has been granted, the developer is legally bound to deliver the specific infrastructure or funding for what has been identified with their proposals.

CIL is an alternative means of securing infrastructure funding. S106 funds are usually spent in the immediate vicinity of the development; CIL funds are collected into a central ‘pot’ held by the council and then allocated either by the council’s Strategic Spending Board or the local spending boards. 5% goes towards administrative costs, with 80% going towards major infrastructure projects and 15% being allocated to local projects in the area in which the development has taken place. So those parts of Elmbridge (‘settlement areas’) which have seen less development get a smaller pot to spend on local projects.

CIL and S106 obligations cover different things; developments will not be charged for the same items of infrastructure through both S106 obligations and CIL.

What are CIL funds used for?

CIL revenue has to be spent on the infrastructure that is needed to support the development in the council’s area. The assessment of ‘need’ will largely be informed by the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) which is associated with the

Local Plan. The council publishes a list of infrastructure types and projects that it intends to be wholly, or partly, funded by CIL (the ‘Regulation 123 list’).

The levy is intended to focus on the provision of new or improved infrastructure and should not be used to remedy pre-existing deficiencies, unless those deficiencies will be made more severe by new development.



CIL funds provided bike racks at Esher College and Hinchley Wood School

Infrastructure that the levy can help fund includes schools, transport, flood defences, hospitals, community facilities and other health and social care facilities. This definition allows the levy to be used to fund a very broad range of facilities such as play areas, parks and cultural and sports facilities.

In our immediate area recent projects to which CIL funds have, or will be, contributed include part funding the restoration of the pond at Weston Green, bicycle racks (for Esher College and Hinchley Wood School), creation of Ditton Common footpath along Station Road to Esher Station, an outdoor canopy and seating at Hinchley Wood School for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) students, astroturf,

fencing, car parking and bicycle racks at the Old Cranleighans Rugby Club, artificial pitch and play area at Thames Ditton Infant School, resurfacing and marking of playground at Long Ditton Infant and Nursery School – amongst others.



CIL money helped restore Milbourne Pond

Recent major strategic projects include: additional facilities at Waterside Drive Sports Hub, replacement of retractable seating at Walton Playhouse, pedestrian facilities at various locations across the borough, funding towards an artificial pitch at Cobham Rugby & Sports Association for use by the local school, funds to the police for additional number plate recognition camera provision etc.

So, if you know of a project which might merit CIL funding, please check the Elmbridge Borough Council web site for details. Although it is too late for this year's round – applications close in the middle of June – you could be well prepared for next year's round. Applications are invited in early summer with decisions made in the Autumn.

RA Cllr Karen Randolph



NeighbourCare is a local, long established, registered charity run entirely by volunteer telephone operators and drivers.

It is endorsed by Elmbridge Borough Council.

Our drivers use their own cars to provide a door-to-door service for the less mobile residents of Thames Ditton, Weston Green, Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood enabling them to get to medical appointments, Day Centres or hairdressers.

Can you spare a few hours a month during the week at times to suit you, to either work from home answering the telephone to fulfil our clients' requests, or carrying out local drives?

Training will be provided. Expenses are paid.

Please call Frankie Bell on 07790 472993 if you are interested.

The Thames Path and people who look after it



A view of the Thames Path

The Thames Path is a long-distance walking trail, following England's best-known river for 184 miles (294 km) as it meanders from its source in the Cotswolds through several rural counties and on into the heart of London. On its way the Trail passes peaceful water meadows rich in wildlife, historic towns and cities and many lovely villages, finishing at the Thames Barrier in Woolwich just a few miles from the sea.

The Thames Path is unique as it is the only long-distance path to follow a river for most of its length. And, of course, it's the river that gives the Thames Path its character and fashions its countryside and local activities.

It's one of our good fortunes to have local access to the Thames Path so easily where we can join it from Hampton Court or Kingston, and this includes walkers, cyclists and those who need to use a wheelchair. It's a gentle trail and can be enjoyed in many ways, whether for an afternoon stroll, a weekend's break or a full scale, but relatively gentle, trek of its whole length.

Local volunteers registered with the National Trails office help look after the Thames path and they perform a vital role in helping maintain it. Practical volunteers are people who book on to the weekly rights of way maintenance tasks run by the National Trails Volunteer Coordinator, Andy Mawer. The work is varied, but involves lots of vegetation management (grass cutting in summer, woody vegetation/tree clearance in winter), along with installing gates and signs, small surfacing works etc. Practical volunteers need to be physically fit, comfortable working outdoors and happy to work with machinery, such as mowers, and power tools, hedge cutters and strimmers. Andy said, *'All tools and training are provided and the tasks are a good way to get outdoors, meet people and work with them as part of a team'*.

Alternatively, volunteers can become 'Monitors' by adopting a 2-3 mile section of a Trail, walking it once a month and reporting back any problems. The National



The Thames Path at East Molesey

Trails team relies on its Monitors to report on problems which inform its work programme and it's a job which can be shared if you have limited time.

Local residents Julie Royce and Paul Gossage share the monitoring of the local section of the Thames path between Hampton Court and Sunbury Lock. They enjoy sharing the role as it makes it easy to fit in with other commitments and they both take pride in their bit of the path. Paul said, *'We work together to report on or deal with any problems affecting the use of the path such as vegetation overgrowth which may get in someone's way, or a fallen tree obstructing the path, significant litter, or graffiti and so on'*. Julie added, *'I like to cycle along the Thames Path and enjoy its scenery, so it feels very natural to want to look after it and the National Trails staff provide you with any support you need*

to sort out problems. Even if you're not a volunteer, the Trails Office encourages users of the path to report any problems that need dealing with via their website'.

If you are interested in volunteering to help protect this local natural asset you can download a volunteering information pack from www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thames-path/leaflets



Volunteers keep the Thames Path accessible

People who volunteer – where are you?

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations estimate that 15.2 million people volunteer at least once a month in the UK, and 23.1 million volunteer at least once a year. Some of you must reside in Thames Ditton, Weston Green or Molesey and I would like to interview you to share your experience with others. So please get in touch with editor@residents-association.com so that we can get the story of our unsung heroes and the organisations or groups you work with out there.

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The Local Plan – second consultation, Please get involved



Following the strategic options consultation on a new Local Plan in 2016, Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) has compiled a **second** draft options consultation document with additional options. The Consultation Period opened on August 19 and will run until September 30, 2019.

Background

The Council is preparing a new Local Plan to decide how the communities and places in Elmbridge will develop over the next 15 years. It will allocate land for development and guide decisions on whether or not planning applications should be granted permission. This is a statutory requirement and the Government has made it clear that all local authorities must have an up-to-date Local Plan.

The Government has stated its objective to significantly boost the supply of homes in England and for that growth to be genuinely plan-led. It requires that, as a minimum, Local Plans should provide for an area's housing and other development needs, as well as any that cannot be met within neighbouring areas, where it is practical to do so and is consistent with sustainable development.

The number of new homes the Council is expected to plan for is set by the Government's standard methodology, introduced in 2018. The calculation for Elmbridge is 623 new homes per year for the next fifteen years 9345 in total. This is three times higher than the previous plan. Currently, on average, 282 new homes are built in Elmbridge each year.

The Local Plan will be examined by an independent Local Plans Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State who will assess the process used and the Plan's soundness.

How the consultation works

The Council has prepared a detailed consultation document which sets out the background to the Local Plan process, the evidence that informs it, the housing needs for Elmbridge and five options for fulfilling those needs.

You can access this along with the consultation questionnaire and any supporting information via the consultation portal at www.consult.elmbridge.gov.uk

You will need to register on the portal to answer the online questionnaire.

Copies of the consultation document are available at the Civic Centre in Esher and in local libraries.

We recommend that residents take the time to read the consultation document, it includes a great deal of information about the background, process and evidence available to inform the planning process.

The document describes each option, what housing it would deliver and how, along with a summary of its benefits and disadvantages. It also provides maps to illustrate the areas described. The online version provides links to more detailed maps as well as additional documents and information.

Then, please take the time to respond to the consultation.

To give you a sense of what is covered in the consultation we have reproduced the summaries of the five options, as outlined in the consultation document, below.

Option 1 - intensify urban area

Option 1 would deliver all the new homes needed in our borough over the next 15 years by:

- Significantly increasing densities on all sites across the urban area; and
- Identifying open spaces, such as allotments and playing fields for redevelopment and relocating these uses within the existing Green Belt.

This option would deliver all development of 9,345 new homes but would require all housing sites in the future to be delivered at very high densities of over 85 dwellings per hectare. This would be over double the current density average and would lead to taller buildings than currently in the urban area.

Option 2 - optimise urban area and 3 areas of Green Belt release

Option 2 would not meet housing need in full but would deliver new homes over the next 15 years by:

- Optimising densities and ensuring effective use of land across the urban area and that new homes are of the right type to meet local needs.
- Create areas for new homes by removing land from the Green Belt where;
 - It is weakly performing the purpose(s) of Green Belt policy;
 - It is in a sustainable location for new homes; and

- It is not, or only partially, affected by absolute constraints which prevent development coming forward

- Using the Duty to Co-operate to see if other authorities' can meet some of our need.

This option would deliver approximately 6,800 new homes across the existing urban area and within three Key Strategic Areas. Not all of the land contained within the key strategic areas is suitable or available for development. The part which could be suitable has been highlighted on the mapping (shown in the consultation document on page 15). In total the three sites could deliver approximately 1,400 homes. The council would need to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances to alter the Green Belt boundary.

Option 3 - optimise urban area and large Green Belt release

Option 3 would deliver all the new homes needed in our borough over the next 15 years and would be able to help other boroughs and districts meet their housing need by:

- Optimising densities and ensuring effective use of land across the urban area and that new homes are of the right type to meet local needs.
- Creating areas for new homes by removing land from the Green Belt where:
 - It is weakly performing, or it is not essential for the Green Belt policy to work properly,
 - It is being put forward for development by the landowner regardless of strength or importance;

and

- It is not, or only partially, affected by absolute constraints which prevent development coming forward.

This option could deliver approximately 16,300 new homes across the existing urban area and 618 hectares of land removed from the Green Belt. The council would need to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances to alter the Green Belt boundary.

Option 4 - optimise urban land (new option)

Option 4 would not meet housing need but would deliver new homes over the next 15 years by:

- Optimising densities and ensuring effective use of land across the urban area and that new homes are of the right type to meet local needs.
- Using the Duty to Co-operate to see if other authorities' can meet some of our need.

This option would deliver approximately 5,300 new homes over the next 15 years. We would continue to promote the use of good design to ensure the most effective use of all brownfield and urban land.

Option 5 - optimise urban area and small areas of Green Belt release (new option)

Option 5 would deliver all the new homes needed in our borough over the next 15 years by:

- Optimising densities and ensuring

effective use of land across the urban area and that new homes are of the right type to meet local needs.

- Creating areas for new homes by removing smaller sub-divided parcels of land from the Green Belt where:

- It is weakly performing, or it is not essential for the Green Belt policy to work properly; and

- It is not, or only partially, affected by absolute constraints which prevent development coming forward

If all 33 small areas of Green Belt were included in the final plan, this option could deliver approximately 9,400 new homes across the existing urban area and within 338 hectares of land removed from the Green Belt. The council would need to decide whether or not there are exceptional circumstances to alter the Green Belt boundary.

This is only a summary of the options in the consultation document. Please take the time to review the documentation and respond.

Bear in mind that views carry more weight if they are accompanied by reasoning.

Your views on the draft options can be submitted via the online questionnaire at www.consult.elmbridge.gov.uk

To help the Residents' Association gauge our members' views, we would greatly appreciate it if, after submitting your comments to EBC, you could email a summary to the chairman@residents-association.com



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The Lamb and Star - Anyone seen our sign?



View of the Lamb and Star across Milbourne Pond in the 1960s

The building on the Hampton Court Way which is now occupied by the Co-op was once the Lamb and Star, one of Weston Green's pubs. In Spring 2008 Bob Fisk wrote an article for the magazine about growing up at the Lamb and Star. He recently contacted us with some more insight into its history.

The Lamb and Star was named after the insignia of the West and East Surrey Regiments in which men of Weston Green served and died. I didn't live in the original Lamb and Star, which was demolished when the Hampton Court Way was built in 1932. Originally the pub stood next door to Alice Haywood's Haberdashery and formed a continuation of the buildings that still exist in Weston Green Road.

It was 1969 just after the floods when my parents, Ron and Pat Fisk, took over the Lamb and Star. As a labourer, he helped

build All Saints Church and never dreamed he'd one day run the pub just around the corner. When we first arrived, the Lamb seemed tiny. It hadn't had a facelift for many years and was dark and dismal inside. It didn't have many customers either! We rebuilt the bars and named them the Weston Bar and Ditton Bar.

The garage next door to the pub used to be a petrol station in 1969 and my father allowed them to use our car park to repair vehicles, and in return they serviced our cars, which was very handy for me when I got my first car and didn't have any money! In the latter years the garage stopped supplying petrol and became a luxury car showroom selling Italian De Tomaso sports cars, finally ending up as Esher Tyres and is of course now closed awaiting re-development.

When my parents took over the pub my mother used to regularly use the Co-Op



Originally the Lamb and Star stood next door to Alice Haywood's Haberdashery in the row of buildings that still exist in Weston Green Road

which in those days was situated the other side of the Hampton Court Way, where the electrical shop is now. It's quite ironic that the pub would eventually become the Co-Op all these years later. Further along the parade of shops there used to be a laundrette and as we didn't have a washing machine in the early days there were regular trips across the road, and, as kids, we were volunteered by Mum to get our clothes washed and dried.

It was very much a family pub and Grandma Muriel, would cycle over to help in the kitchen. My parents did a lot of catering so our kitchen fridge was a sight to behold. Joints of beef, pork, gammon and lamb, whole chickens and turkeys leaving us kids tough decisions when we fancied a sandwich! My girlfriend Mandy, who was 15 at the time and later to become my wife, was amazed when she saw it but to me it was just 'normal'.

Mandy's uncle Alf Cotton ran the dry cleaners in the parade across the road. He was very well known in Esher and Thames

Ditton. When he passed away in 1984, and the funeral cortège left All Saints Church, the local police stopped all the traffic on the Hampton Court Way for the hearse, I'd never seen that happen before or since.

During the power cuts of the 1970's most of the local pubs were pitched into darkness when the power went off in the evenings. At the Lamb & Star it was different! My hobby was electronics, so my Dad asked if I could rig up some sort of emergency lighting. With a couple of car batteries, which I used to keep in my bedroom much to my Mum's disgust, and strings of car bulbs set up behind the counter, ample lighting was provided so the bar staff could see what they were doing. I remember what a cosy atmosphere it created and how stark everything became when the power was restored. I'm sure we were the only local pub to have electric lighting.

We got to know many of the local characters. Bert the barman ran the Ditton Bar from the 70's until 1980. New Year's Eve was always a special event, and fancy

dress was the order of the day. Ron, Pat and Bert always joined in the fun with the customers. Frequent local visitors included Ralph the postman who always used to call everyone “*old chappie*”; Cyril the butcher, whose premises were opposite the pub in Alma Road; Ted the grocer, whose little shop was opposite All Saints Church; and Eddie Parrot whose mother ran the greengrocers in Alma Road, all these shops are now private residences. Kate Marney was another habitu , whose wood yard was in the beer garden of the Alma, now Marney’s Village Inn. The Marneys also used to keep a cow behind the rear of the Thames Ditton Telephone exchange!

Other visitors to the pub included Pattie Boyd (Beatle George Harrison’s wife at the time), Linda Lewis, a popstar in the 1970’s, Blakey from “On the Buses” and Annie from Emmerdale.

My parents ran the Lamb and Star until they retired in 1982. Since then the premises have seen several different guises. It almost became an Indian takeaway at one point,

and in recent years its car park became a car wash. When its name changed to the Ewe, it marked the end of a piece of pub history.

One strange fact was the position of the old pub sign, which was on the opposite side of the Hampton Court Way. This happened because the Hampton Court Way was built. Now the sign itself has been removed, and another part of our quirky local history has been lost. After the publication of the original article some 11 years ago, I received a phone call from a chap who asked me what had happened to the old pub sign. I didn’t know but asked him why? He told me he lived in the old Lamb & Star in the 1930’s and his bedroom was above the large doors at the front left-hand side of the building. From his window he could see the sign and would have loved to have bought it as a memento. I wonder what did happen to it, is there anyone who knows?

If you can help Bob find the sign or would like to contribute a historical piece on your memories of the area, please contact us. editor@residents-association.com

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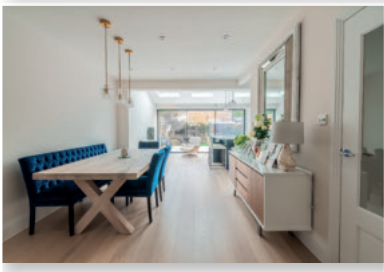

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"Thames Design and Build were great to work with and they were ahead of schedule throughout the project. Their team was sympathetic to the impact of the works whilst we remained living in the house, and we were pleased with the quality of their workmanship. The team is well structured, and communication was good. We were always able to discuss issues either with Fred, the site manager, or Paul Merifield, and agree solutions quickly. The final results are fantastic and have delivered exactly the space that we were looking for." Robin, Kingston

Ditton Garages, Southville Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0UL

Swimming for World Gold Medals – what it takes!



As far as inspirational talks about beating the odds are concerned, you can't get more off the scale than young Will Reed. Will was kind enough to come into Thames Ditton's Home of Compassion to tell the residents all about his training, nutrition, travel and winning World Gold Medals for DSS (Downs Syndrome Swimming) Team GB.

This charming 25-year-old young man has Down's Syndrome, but he hasn't let that hinder his dreams. This is a man who swims 200 lengths before breakfast, which goes a long way to explaining his 5-a-day Weetabix habit!

Although Will bakes cake regularly, you will not see a crumb pass his lips - his nutrition is too important to him. All his meals are made from scratch and he brought in a nutrition board to show us what a strict diet he maintains to enable him to continue swimming at world-class level. Will only drinks milk or water – no other beverages, ever!

Apart from baking, his other hobbies in his very limited time off include the all-important football, bowling, movies and attending his brother's gigs; afterwards quite a few residents duly checked out "Rex Orange County" on YouTube.

Will holds down a couple of jobs: one is voluntary, teaching adults to swim and the other is paid, working for the local Lensbury Club, where one of our residents also used to work – and yes, they did exchange gossip.

Will trains at different local pools with his swimming club the Hounslow Hurricanes, as well as the Stratford Olympic Pool. He



Will Reed – DSS Team GB medal winner at the Home of Compassion

told us that each pool provides a different environment with varying lengths and water temperatures, so getting practice in as many pools as possible is advantageous when it comes to competing around the world. That's just as well as Will has attended championships in Italy, Mexico, and Canada (where DSS Team GB came first in the medals table.) He will be competing at the European championships in September.

Will's sporting endeavours don't stop at swimming. He is involved in fund raising for training, including a sponsored 10k run. The team has also secured sponsorships from Sky Sports.

Will networks with teammates round the country via his weekly blog and social media; this bonds them all with a strong team spirit and helps more geographically isolated swimmers feel included.

Whilst we were all impressed by Will getting up at 5am to swim 6 days a week, his biggest challenge is his goal of living independently. Will currently lives in a house with five others who are all learning the art of looking after themselves. There are rotas for cooking, cleaning and washing and everyone helps each other as much as possible so that they can eventually attain and, most important, maintain living on their own, financed by their own wages.

Bronze, Silver and Gold medals were handed round for the residents to try for size and Will had a quite a task getting one of them back! We then ended this fascinating talk with a Q&A session. When one of the residents enquired how Will started swimming and he casually explained it was because his Dad had pushed him into the water; we heard a resident mumble something along the lines of "new definition of pushy parent".

Will kept everyone engaged and interested at all times and it was a pleasure to have

such a charming and approachable speaker entertain us for the afternoon.

To find out more about the DSS team please visit the website

www.dss-gb.org



The Home of Compassion runs an occasional series of talks and local people are welcome to join residents at these events for no charge.

Nancy Kirk
Customer Relationship Advisor
Home of Compassion

The Home of Compassion is a beautiful Care Home on the banks of the Thames in the heart of Thames Ditton. To find out more about the home and forthcoming events call: 0808 223 5406 www.caringhomes.org/home-of-compassion



The Home of Compassion Care Home

Changing Times on the Thames



2019 is a time of change to say the least, but Thames Ditton is no stranger to change. The seemingly permanent River Thames, which remains such a major feature of our local landscape, once flowed via St Albans reaching the North Sea near Ipswich until the ice age diverted its course to the valleys of the Wey and the Mole.

In the 16th century the river Thames here was still tidal. When Henry VIII rebuilt Hampton Court Palace (after wresting it from Thomas Wolsey in 1529), he included a pre-Copernican astronomical clock that still remains on the gatehouse. Amongst other things it shows high water at London Bridge. This was essential information as the monarch was often rowed from Westminster and the Thames in this stretch was a narrow twisting creek.



Tidal Clock at Hampton Court Palace

In fact, early maps show the confluence of the Mole and Embur to be in effect tidal creeks. Parts of the river (now controlled by locks and weirs), were difficult and often

dangerous to navigate and in dry weather too shallow with sand and gravel deposits. To assist the royal barges and alleviate the flooding of Thames Ditton village, the Thames was dug out and straightened. It is possible some of the dredged material raised the height of the Aits at Thames Ditton as has happened at Ravens Ait downstream.

There are three islands or Aits forming a linear group just downstream from the Albany. The effect of the river dredging was to separate the islands from Hampton Court on the Middlesex side. In past times these Aits were not much more than muddy humps. A survey of the manor of Imworth (Imber) in 1608 refers to the island as Colley's Eite with 2 acres of pasture.

As the nearest bridges were at Kingston and Chertsey passengers and goods traffic travelling to Hampton Court came via Summer Road to the slipway by the Swan Inn, where the river could be forded at low tide, or at high tide the ferry taken for a groat or two. Summer Road in Thames Ditton flooded at most high tides.

The wharf near the Swan Inn and the slipway attracted sailing barges from the Port of London and trade. In 1733 there was a well-established Ferry Works boat yard which in 1880 became a marine engineers developing dynamos to generate electricity. The adjacent 19th bronze foundry in Summer Road cast statues including Wellington in Hyde Park and Robert Peel in Parliament Square, the Thames facilitating their transport.

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Molesey Lock 1896 'Coming over the Rollers' copyright The Francis Frith Collection

River control and management was always problematic. The first wooden bridge at Hampton Court opened in 1753 but its toll was more expensive than the ferry at the Swan Inn which remained until at least 1911. There was even a proposal, never implemented, by the City Corporation in 1807 to build a cut from Platts Ait upstream, to avoid places where navigation is most obstructed by bisecting the Hurst running by Hurst Road in Molesey across Bridge Road to Cigarette Island to re-join the Thames again at Hampton Court.

Thames locks began to appear in the late 18th century and Molesey lock was built in 1815. As leisure time on the river increased during the 19th century, slide rollers were incorporated into Molesey lock to accommodate the vast numbers of skiffs, punts and rowing boats.

In the 1850s in anticipation of river level changes due the construction of the waterworks at Long Ditton, the river was further dredged, and the level of Molesey Lock lowered. The ford at the Swan Inn disappeared.

Thames Ditton Island became a summer venue for skiffs and picnics and by the 20th century people built holiday chalets. The island was opened for permanent occupation by the construction of the suspension bridge in 1939 and the provision of electricity and water. Still prone to flooding, Thames Ditton Island has 47 homes, gardens and moorings.

Boyle Farm Island has a single house and in the middle of the two Aits is Swan Island which had the ferryman's hut. Silting has almost diminished its status as a separate Ait.

Thames Ditton Island remained part of Middlesex until 1970 but Boyle Farm Island was owned by the Boyle Farm estate so was part of Surrey. Boyle Farm itself became the Home of Compassion and more recently a state-of-the-art care home, and the river still floods in Thames Ditton reminding us of times gone by. Just like our predecessors we are still trying to find ways to change this.

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St. Nicholas Church: after the Dissolution



Very soon after moving to Thames Ditton in the early 1990s a lady well known to me attended St. Nicholas for the first time. On leaving, the first and only thing the then Vicar said to his new parishioner was: *“I trust you will support me in the vote on the new Vicarage.”*

That it should be uppermost in the Vicar’s mind was nothing new. In the last article I outlined the periodic battles between Vicars at Kingston and Merton Priory over maintenance of their accommodation, and their own defaults in keeping up the houses for the chapelries of Kingston, including St. Nicholas, for which they were responsible. Happy to take the tithes but dodging the expenses. The situation became even more turbid following the Dissolution, which saw Merton demolished altogether. Rights were transferred by the Crown as favours to what we’d now call the private sector. Doubtless responsibilities were less welcome.

Henry VIII granted the Rectory at Kingston (complete with the chapelries at Thames Ditton, Molesey, Petersham and Sheen) to Sir Nicholas Carew, courtier, diplomat and a favourite of Henry’s. Thomas Cromwell did for Carew, beheaded in March 1539. The Rectory was assigned to the gift of the Bishop of Winchester. Elizabeth I, Queen from 1558 to 1603, leased it to Edward Lord Clinton. King James, in about 1611, granted it to Francis Morris and John Philips, and afterwards to John Earl of Holderness. After the Earl’s death it reverted to the crown, then was granted to William Murray (of Ham House) who became Earl of Dysart.

Cromwell’s Inquiry

In the late 1650s Oliver Cromwell set up a commission to inquire into the state of ecclesiastical benefices. Its inquiry into Kingston in 1658 found that the Rectory was in the gift of Sir Lionel Tollemache. Tollemache had married Elizabeth Murray, the daughter of the aforesaid William Murray; Tollemache and his wife moved to Ham. The Tollemaches were royalists and associated with the secret conspiracy to restore the monarchy. Dangerous: but Elizabeth was reportedly also on very good terms with Cromwell, giving rise to unsubstantiated rumours that earlier she had been his mistress.

We also know from this inquiry that the great tithes of Kingston Rectory overall amounted to some 500 pounds per annum in at the time - quite a hefty sum; and *“That Thames Ditton belongs to Kingston, and is worth about 25l per annum, and is without a settled Minister at present. But, in regard the Parish Church of Long Ditton is down, Mr. Richard Byfield, Rector of Long Ditton, supplies the Cure thereof by preaching there.”* The roof of the church at Long Ditton had collapsed in 1650. There was a protracted dispute between Rev. Byfield and its patron, Thomas Evelyn. Byfield transferred his ministry to Thames Ditton and is listed as Minister at St. Nicholas from 1650-1662.

The Commissioners also decided that along with the other chapelries, Thames Ditton was in effect a fully functioning parish distinct from Kingston. They recommended that it be amalgamated

with the parish of Long Ditton, but their judgment came two months after Cromwell died, and in the confusion of the times it was not implemented.

The vicarage in Thames Ditton was also in disrepair and probably that had been the case during many years of private patronage. About this time, records of the Vestry - the committee of parishioners of substance who handled administration of rates, poor relief, roads and other parish matters - began to be kept.

In those records we find a significant entry a few years later, 10 June 1668, which I have transcribed:

“Whereas the Vicars or ministers of this parish of Thames Ditton did ever in former times repaire and uphold the vicarage house of the same parish at their proper costs and charges, which through the late troublesome times wherein this parish was many times without a minister was become very ruinous and unfitt to be inhabited the repaires whereof the present minister Mr. Phineas Harrison finding would cost more than could be well spared out of the proffitts of soe small a living did sollicite the parishioners that for this once they would put the same into repaire for him and that hereafter he would take care to uphold the same as his predecessors had done; The parish being willing to gratifie him did the last yeare repaire the same, but thought fitt to make this entry and publick remembrance thereof in their Church books that the same might not be urged as a precedent nor any advantage taken hereafter of this their free and voluntary act to the prejudice of the said parish.”

The ‘troublesome times’ being the Civil Wars 1642–1651, in which Kingston was a focal point of royalist opposition, and occupied by parliamentary forces, with several battles fought in the locality.

Charles I was executed in January 1649.

After the Civil War

The Rectory, still undivided, came into the gift of the Hardinge family, seated at Canbury/Canonbury Manor, Kingston. Getting vicars to live in the parish rather than commute from Kingston remained a problem for the Thames Ditton community even after they restored the vicarage (the successors of Rev Phineas Harrison let it fall again into decay). There was no vicarage provided again until 1858. Vicars found their own accommodation. The income from the living was small. In 1703, William Hatton left £20 a year secured on lands in Claygate, to be given to each Thames Ditton incumbent elected with the consent of the majority of parishioners and residing in the parish; otherwise to the poor of the parish. If a vicar satisfied those two conditions then the £20 would significantly increase his income.

From 1717 – 1743 St Nicholas had a very hot vicar: Rev Dr. Arthur Young, Prebendary of Canterbury Cathedral, who became chaplain to Sir Arthur Onslow, the ‘Great Speaker’ of the House of Commons, Lord of the Manor of Imber at Ember Court. Onslow was also High Steward of Kingston. The patron of the living was Nicholas Hardinge, of Kingston, who became clerk to the House of Commons 1731 - 1752 and then Secretary to the Treasury; he would have known Onslow well. Reportedly an extremely handsome man six feet tall, and the author of a learned work commended by Voltaire, Rev Arthur Young married Lucretia de Coussmaker, a Dutch woman, whose family accompanied William III to England. It is not clear that Young ever lived in the parish of Thames Ditton; but when officiating here he is believed to have stayed at Ember Court.

Young was succeeded by Rev George Harvest, incumbent 1744 - 1780, who was also associated with the Onslows. His father William Harvest lived in Thames Ditton and was a brewer, though William was more associated with Kingston where he was churchwarden for four years. Rev George Harvest, whom local historian T S Mercer has well characterized in "Tales and Scandals of Old Thames Ditton," was a popular minister whose oratorical talents were offset by forgetfulness, probably under the influence of alcohol. He lived at what became Picton House, and later stayed in apartments at Ember Court.

Dealing in divinity

From 1768 - 1781 we enter more obscure territory as far as the advowson and right of presentation (patronage) are concerned. Their owner George Hardinge of Kingston first secured an Act of Parliament in 1769 which split the subordinate chapels from Kingston and made St. Nicholas a distinct perpetual curacy. Hardinge then in effect made three kinds of sale of his advowsons. As far as St Nicholas was concerned, he sold the absolute right – think of it as the freehold of the advowson – to the Provost and Fellows of King's College Cambridge, but this was subject to a leasehold for sixty years which he sold to Edmund Escourt. That in turn was subject to the right of presentation (nomination of the next vicar) which Hardinge exercised in 1781, giving Rev Henry Hardinge the living before granting the right of presentation - during the term of the leasehold of the advowson - to a Mrs Legh. She sold it on to William Attwick, a businessman.

It was this confusing set of nested contracts which the acute William Speer was to spot nearly sixty years on, to install his son Rev Wilfred Speer.

Meanwhile, Rev Henry Hardinge was not a success in Thames Ditton. He was not resident in the parish and would officiate in Thames Ditton only on Sunday mornings. After a year and a half, the protesting parish petitioned the Bishop of Winchester seeking relief. In the petition the income of the parish is stated as upwards of £80 per annum not counting surplice fees – Hardinge was not eligible for the Hatton supplement of £20. The Bishop agreed; in 1782 Rev Daniel Chandler was appointed, almost certainly on William Attwick's presentation, for Chandler was from Alverstoke, Attwick from nearby Gosport. Attwick had inherited his father's ironmongery works and contracts with the naval dockyard.

In 1791 Chandler was moved to be Rector at Hascombe and Rev William Ellis was appointed to Thames Ditton. Ellis was married to Caroline Attwick, William Attwick's third child in his second marriage (she later died and in 1823 Rev William Ellis remarried, to Sarah Walter). An Attwick relative (his sister?) had married into the Hamer family, who had slave plantations in Demarara, British Guyana. Our vicar William Ellis with his wife Caroline and others had a large interest amounting to £75,000 in slave plantations there. Ellis, who also held the curacy of East Molesey on Attwick's presentation, would remain the incumbent at St. Nicholas for 42 years. This was generally a successful appointment.

Ellis came to live in the parish (the Hatton bequest!), taking a medium sized house in Claygate where the church glebe lands were. However, the wrangles over a vicarage resurfaced. On 5 January 1802 he requested a Vestry meeting "*to take into consideration the providing a House for the constant residence of the Minister of the parish.*" The Vestry concluded that "*considering the increased produce of the*



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St Nicholas Church from Church walk

Living this Meeting doth not think that any additional Burthen should be laid upon the Inhabitants on account of such residence and that the living is sufficient for the residence and maintenance of the Clergyman in the Parish.”

Ellis died in November 1834. His brother George Ellis and brother-in-law John Kempson, who with the latter's son George Streater Kempson were William Speer's attorneys, were almost certainly the connection that led to Speer acquiring the right of presentation from William Attwick's estate. It had just three years to run before it expired in 1838. Speer exercised it to install his son Rev Wilfred Speer at St. Nicholas in March 1835. This was not universally welcomed by the parish, but a majority in a split vote awarded the Hatton bequest to Wilfred. Wilfred lived first in Claygate, later at West End Lodge which we now know as the Old Manor House in Thames Ditton. I have covered extensively the scandal that led to Wilfred's suspension for habitual drunkenness in June 1841. He never sought rehabilitation but neither did he give up the perpetual curacy. The Court of Arches had ruled that he was not, while suspended, entitled to the proceeds of the living.

Healing

The parish engaged two temporary curates in succession: Henry Smith Pollard 1841-1855, and Nathaniel Proctor 1855 - 1857. Wilfred Speer died in 1856 and William Talman was appointed 1857 - 1860, presumably at the presentation of King's College, Cambridge. His short incumbency saw a vicarage built in 1858 after mortgaging some of the church lands. Rev. Edward H Rogers, a Fellow of King's, took office and residence in 1860 - a very successful appointment that endured for 37 years.

The Benefices Act of 1898 prevented dealing with the right of presentation as a thing apart from the advowson itself; increased the power of the bishops to refuse the presentation of unfit persons and removed several abuses which had arisen in the transfer of patronage.

After that, things went more smoothly... And at the end of the twentieth century the new vicarage was eventually approved and the old one sold.

Keith Evetts

Solution to the Summer Crossword



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

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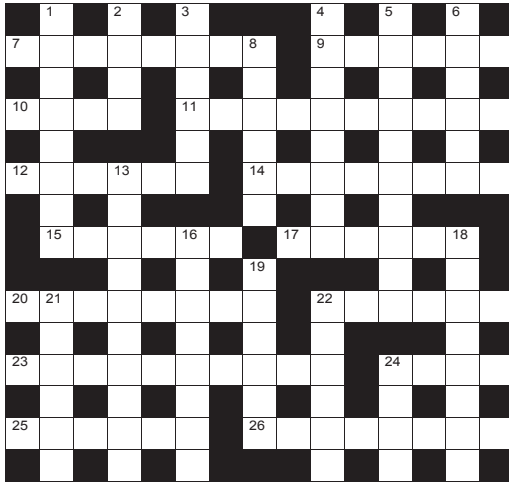
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Autumn Crossword



by **Howard and Bob Cruthers**

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 11 October 2019 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

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

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

ACROSS CLUES

- 7 Upsided cricketer? (5, 3)
- 9 King of the fairies (6)
- 10 Chop small cubes for a game? (4)
- 11 Kidnappings (10)
- 12 Torment (6)
- 14 At times I scramble mimics (anag) (8)
- 15 Restaurant (6)
- 17 In the air (6)
- 20 Inactive weather? (8)
- 22 Officers in charge of rigging, anchors etc (6)
- 23 Buzz bombs (10)
- 24 Cosy (corner) (4)
- 25 Mother Courage and Her Children author (6)
- 26 Swop (8)

DOWN CLUES

- 1 Asian mushroom (8)
- 2 French cheese (4)
- 3 Evermore (6)
- 4 Come up with idea for pregnancy? (8)
- 5 Mashed acidic eels make pleasing food (anag) (10)
- 6 Harry Potter author's first name (6)
- 8 Long-billed migratory bird (6)
- 13 Self-taught person (10)
- 16 This game's most dangerous form is Russian (8)
- 18 A means of communication (8)
- 19 Take for granted (6)
- 21 Scents (6)
- 22 Fundamentals (6)
- 24 Break card game? (4)

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Mark Michelmore	01372 879321
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for the community	Mon & Thurs	0208 3985921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	0208 3983772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Homesupport Elmbridge	Thomasina Breslin	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	0208398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Heather Crowe	heathercrowe@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	07975 842423
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides	Helen Lawson	helenlawson287@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Kathy Williams	020 8398 1300
3rd Weston Green Brownies	Gillian Twomey	gtwomey@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Larisa Strickland	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Aileen Widdowson	07783 449666
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
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: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Giles Andre	020 8979 1994

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Val Atkinson	020 8398 1117
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
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	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146

Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club (St Nicholas)	David Ford	020 8715 2148
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus club, Hinchley Wood & the Dittons	Edmund Woolley	020 8398 3581
Probus Club, Sandown	Julian Rye	020 8398 2463
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

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance	Mrs Brenda Denby	0208 398 6054
Ember Choral	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Mrs. Julia Presland	01372 464203
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	0208 398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Gill Vickers	020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Oxshott & Cobham Music Society	Cherry Eddy (Membership)	0208 398 4377 cherryeddy102@gmail.com
Soroptimist 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
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Hon Sec Anne Brown	01932 881633
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Amelia Crafts	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings



We have a busy season coming up at the Vera Fletcher Hall, kicking off with the return by popular demand of the **New Jersey Boys** on **Sunday 15 September**, followed by an entertaining evening with **Sunny Ormonde**, better known to Archers fans as Lilian Bellamy, on **Saturday 21 September**. We are going to be reprising our fish and chips night with **Julie Ross** and her brand new cabaret **Don't Ask The Lady ...!** on **Saturday 28 September**.



In October we are delighted to be welcoming **Opera Holloway** with **La Boheme** for their debut performance at the VFH on **Saturday 5 October**. **Kick in the Head** who entertained us last season with the wonderful **Three Men in a Boat**, return with **Choice Grenfell** on **Friday 11 October** which is currently enjoying a sell-out UK tour, featuring **Suzanna Walters**, accompanied by **Andrew Brewis**. For music lovers, we welcome **Miss Irenie Rose** with her tribute to **Joan Baez**, on **Friday 18 October**, which is currently running at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. More music from the fabulous **Abbagirls**, from the same management as the **New Jersey Boys**, who join us on **Saturday 9 November**. For families we have the **Cat's Grin Theatre Company** and **Goldilocks and Friends** on **Saturday 26 October** and outstanding comic duo **Mad Etiquette** and their hilarious show **Captain Cauliflower and Marvin the Mischievous Moose** on **Saturday 30 November**. All tickets and further details online or postal reservations on 08456 528 529.



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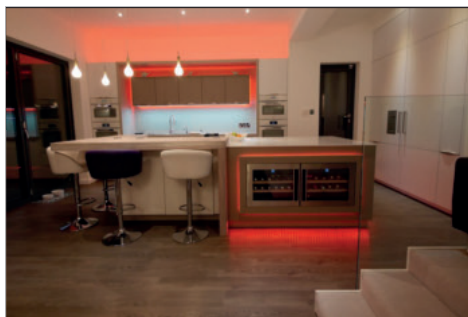
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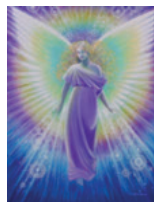
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