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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Spring 2015

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

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Cover illustration: *Spring bulbs – Garden of Remembrance*
Libby MacIntyre

www.residents-association.com

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and the village Christmas tree. The subscription is only £3 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com. Subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 14 High Street, 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



Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm on 24 March 2015
at the Vera Fletcher Hall

Agenda:

- 1. Minutes of the 2014 AGM:**
and matters arising there from
- 2. Chairman's Annual Report:**
To receive, discuss and adopt the
Annual Report for 2014-2015
- 3. Accounts:** To receive the accounts for
the year ended 31 December 2014
- 4. Appointments:** To receive nominations
and appoint Officers and an Auditor:
President, Chairman, Vice Chairman,
Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer
- 5. Elections:** To adopt candidates at the
Elmbridge Borough Council Elections
7 May 2015
- 6. Resolutions:** To consider any
resolutions submitted in writing to the
Secretary by 10 March 2015
- 7. Guest Speaker:** Julian Temple –
Estates & Heritage Manager,
Brooklands Museum. *Sir Sydney
Camm, the Hawker Hurricane and
Brooklands*

President: Maureen Sheldrick,
34 The Woodlands, Esher

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

Thames Ditton Councillors

Tricia Bland,
29 Station Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485
Ruth Lyon,
11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3396
Karen Randolph,
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

Weston Green Councillors

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

Officers

Chairman: Rhodri Richards,
Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road,
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Vice-Chairman: Martin Wilberforce,
7 River Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732
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Hon. Secretary: Florian Traub,
85 Longmead Road, Thames Ditton 020 8224 2880
Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes,
6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

Conveners of Sub-Committees

Health and Community:
Karen Randolph (see above)
Planning: Graham Cooke,
23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509
Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,
1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton 020 8786 6882

THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

TUESDAY 24 MARCH AGM AND TUESDAY 28 APRIL AT 8.00PM,
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News from the Residents' Association



To 22 February

The spring bulbs, resplendent across our greens and commons have been planted over the years by Residents' Association volunteers led by John Lyon. We have much to thank them for as the carpets of flowers herald springtime.

The RA website has had a facelift under the careful hands of Mark Charlesworth and Damian Kingsford. The new site is a great source of news, planning information, groups, help and an updated version of the "Forum" allowing us to comment on local issues. More information is included on pages 13-15 or visit www.residents-association.com Our thanks go to Keith Evetts who managed the former site so well for many years.

You are now able to pay your subscription to the Residents' Association on line via the website. Just go to the homepage and click Subscribe. Please take a little time to subscribe. It's just £3 a year (though donations are very welcome!). Subscription income is vital to keep the Residents' Association running, allowing us to protect and enhance the lovely character of the area we live in.

The Elmbridge Conservative administration has decided to reduce from 60 to 48 the number of our Borough Councillors on the specious grounds of efficiency and cost saving. Their "savings" amount to about 38 pence a year per head of population. The down side is that as a result there will have to be major changes to ward boundaries, breaking up long standing community borders, costing a great deal of money and wasting time, all

to no good purpose. Elmbridge is not over-represented in Councillor numbers, compared with other Surrey boroughs – we are about in the middle. The draft proposals on redrawing ward boundaries would not work and would mean the break-up of wards like Thames Ditton, Weston Green and Hinchley Wood with their longstanding community identities.

The decision to reduce Councillor numbers is born of ideology but we have a chance to make our views known through the public consultation process required by the Local Government Boundary Commission where we can show how we identify with our local community. Go to www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk and send your views to the Review Officer (Elmbridge), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG. Your local Councillors will be pleased to help with any information you need. The consultation closes on March 31.

After a delay the new Post Office is now open at Simply Fresh in Thames Ditton High Street. Although there were mixed feelings in the community about the move, we have retained a Post Office with extended opening hours. Our thanks go to Avni and Harish our former Sub Postmasters at 42 High Street.

The results of the recent parking consultation are being analysed with implementation due to start in April. Negotiations are ongoing regarding a new cycle rack on the plot of land by the

electricity substation at Thames Ditton station.

The **Secret Gardens of Weston Green** will take place on Sunday June 21 (Father's Day). Details will appear on our website nearer the time www.residents-association.com

A resolution to the flooding in Chestnut Avenue is still "work in progress." Weston Green Councillors are pressing Thames Water and Surrey County Council. Work has already been undertaken but only time will tell if this has resolved it.

In January the magnificent Holm Oak at Weston Green School partially collapsed on the early years building. Fortunately no one was hurt. The tree was subject to a Tree Preservation Order. After much consultation it was decided that the remainder was a serious safety risk and, in the interests of the public, felling was the only responsible course of action. A suitable replacement will be planted in due course.

Councillor Tannia Shipley has contacted Network Rail regarding the poor appearance of Esher Station Bridge (peeling paint, damaged height chevrons and weeds growing out of the pointing). She was told the bridge is not due for repainting until 2018/19 so she spoke to a contact at South West Trains. He will try to bring the repainting forward, if possible.

Applications are invited by March 31 for community projects which will be funded by CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). Application forms and information can be found at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning with decisions made in June 2015.

Planning

Negotiations continue to find agreeable solutions to development at **55b High**

Street (2012/4026). In addition to the refuse bins, disturbance and pavement area, concerns have been raised regarding damage to the fountain roundabout by construction traffic attending this site and the Home of Compassion. The latest application for redevelopment of **Taggs Boatyard (2014/1600)** in Summer Road has been refused. Reasons include the impact on the residents of Thames Ditton Island, its dominance and visibility on views of the river frontage, loss of light to 29 Riversdale Road and 46 Summer Road and the failure to prove wider sustainability benefits to the community that would outweigh flood risk.

Planning permission was granted to convert **The Ewe Public House (2014/2729)** to a Co-Op. Concerns about traffic issues were addressed and Surrey County Council raised no objection to this. In response to residents' requests, Councillors Ruth Bruce and Tannia Shipley mounted a spirited defence at both the Elmbridge Area-Sub Committee and Planning Committee for shorter hours resulting in conditions being imposed by majority vote: Mon-Sat 07:00-22:00 hours and Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00-19:00. (The Co-Op had originally applied to open from 7am until 11pm – 365 days a year). A condition was also imposed regarding hard and soft landscaping and waste storage and removal. At **87/89 Grove Way (2014/1132)** an application to demolish 2 houses and erect 4 houses was refused by Elmbridge Borough Council and by the Planning Inspectorate.

Lastly, we mark the very sad passing of Maureen Wilberforce. Maureen and her husband Martin have been tireless supporters of the RA in Thames Ditton for many years. She will be greatly missed.

Residents-association.com

Know your local Councillor

Karen Randolph



Giggs Hill Green is one of our best-loved assets, a pastoral backdrop to an attractive and vibrant mix of homes, offices and recreation areas. It could all have been so different: in 1995 a bombshell planning proposal for a giant Tesco superstore, garage and mega car park opposite the Green threatened the village we love.

It was that threat that first galvanised our Thames Ditton Ward Councillor Karen Randolph to get involved in the Residents' Association and fight on behalf of the local community.

"We were living on the Green with two young children when the plans were submitted," said Karen. "Alarmed by the potential impact I got involved with the Residents' Association (RA) campaign which saw those plans shelved and led to the existing more sympathetic development of housing and green space. I realised then that people have to get involved if we want a say in how our communities are shaped."

Karen has been involved in our community ever since. She served on the Executive Committee of the Residents' Association, including a spell as Chairman, and was elected to Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) in 2007. She continues to push for a vibrant village centre with a strong local retail presence. *"We actively discourage the loss of retail and business units."*

Keeping the Ashley Road car park open and affordable is crucial to support local trade. Karen feels strongly that it would be more effective and efficient if car parking charges were adjusted on an individual basis according to demand, rather than, as now, having a uniform charge for all village car parks across Elmbridge.

Whenever the ruling Conservative cabinet at EBC eyes up the car park as a juicy asset to sell off Karen reminds them that a number of new planning applications have been permitted in the expectation that this local asset would remain a public car park. *"Part of my role is to counter short-term thinking and to help people see the bigger picture."*

Karen is Vice-Chair of the East Area Planning Sub-Committee and sits on the full Elmbridge Planning Committee, which reviews significant developments and planning policy across our area. *"Planning is complex. Over the years I have learned a lot about the processes and policies that must be considered when applications are*

made. Much of my time is spent helping residents to understand the planning process and how it affects them.”

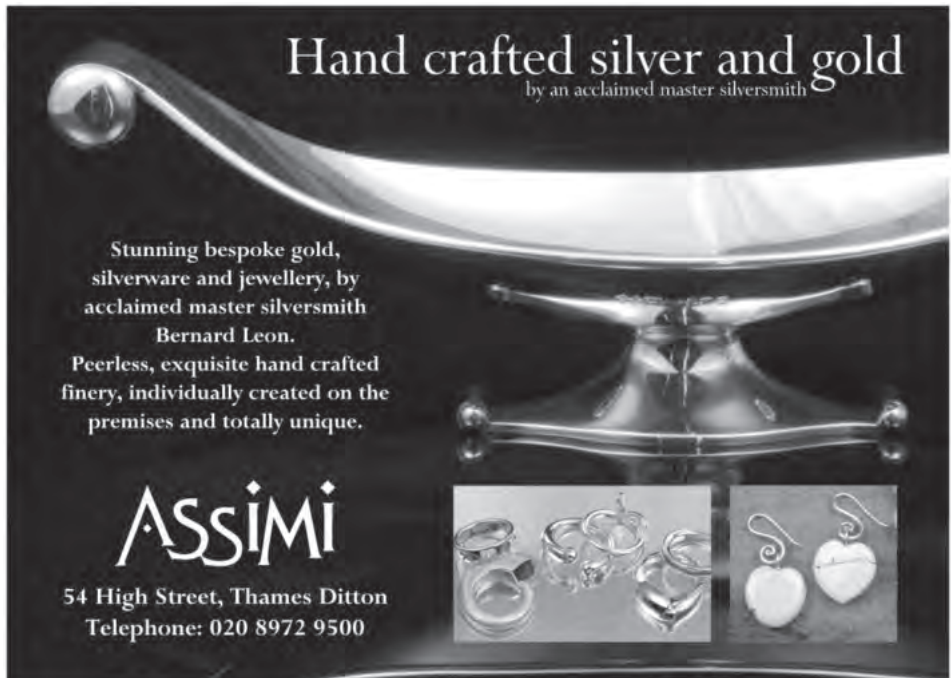
Karen has also been involved for many years in local health services. She is Chair of the Friends of Thames Ditton Hospital and Chair of Save our Surrey Community Hospitals.

The understanding she has gained about the health service she puts to good use as one of three Borough Councillors (from the 11 Surrey Borough and District councils) who sit on Surrey County Council’s Health and Scrutiny Committee. Its main aim is to strengthen the voice of local people, ensuring that their needs and experiences form an integral part of the delivery and development of health services.

Although there is a lot of work involved in being a Councillor there are rewards. *“The role is a tremendous privilege. It is also stimulating and challenging and certainly keeps the grey cells working! I meet lots of different people and it is satisfying when I can help them negotiate council bureaucracy or interpret some of the jargon.”*

Alongside her community work Karen runs her own market research business and is an accredited Mediator. Although she doesn't get the opportunity to horse-ride much nowadays she remains fascinated by all things equine and maintains a keen interest in the eventing world. Any spare moment she relaxes walking her dogs.

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Calling young cricketers to Thames Ditton Cricket Club



For the past 10 years Thames Ditton Cricket Club has been steadily growing our Colts section. We now have six age groups ranging from beginners through to U14s with a number of very promising young District and Surrey County players.

The club has established a reputation for good quality coaching and helping to develop youngsters on and off the pitch. The club has always played the game in the right spirit. We understand that it is not all about winning but learning the important life skills of playing the game win or lose, team work and most importantly enjoyment of the great game of cricket.

This season the club has employed an external coaching company which offers our Colts additional qualified coaching, to supplement the existing club coaches. The club realises that it must continue to

invest and develop our Colts section responding to the growing number of young families moving into the area and the demands of young cricketers.

Unlike some other cricket clubs all our Colts get selected to play matches regularly and they have a strong track record of competing successfully in the leagues and cup matches.

If you would like your son or daughter to join one of our Sunday coaching sessions held at Giggs Hill Green at the start of the season, please contact us to register your interest. Your child (and we welcome both boys and girls) can attend two sessions before deciding whether to sign up for the season.

We also like parents to be involved with the training, as this helps the coaches and your child. We are a very friendly club both for children and parents. We have an excellent social reputation and the clubhouse is open on Sunday mornings for coffee throughout the season. We also have outstanding BBQ's on Friday nights and our bar is open at the weekends for members.

If you are interested in joining the club this season please contact Pat Kennedy – Head of Colts cricket at Thames Ditton Cricket Club at Pat.Kennedy@hp.com We look forward to welcoming you.

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Our new website



The Residents' Association has an updated website and new webmasters, so we went to meet Mark Charlesworth and Damian Kingsford.

How long have you lived in TD?

We moved here from Teddington in 2010. We hadn't meant to leave Teddington but fell in love with the unique villagey but eclectic feel that Thames Ditton has, plus we're still in zone 6 and don't feel isolated from Central London – which was really important to us. Five years later we never expected to live in and be part of such an amazing community which we think must be almost unique in 2015 UK! All our friends are very envious!

So did you volunteer for this role?

Yes – kind of, with some encouragement from Trica Bland! There was concern that with Keith Evetts due to stand down that there would be no-one to take up the mantle, especially on a non-charge basis. The development of sites like this cost thousands. Damian and I had worked on and created the Thames Ditton High Street website and thought there were natural synergies with the admin of the RA website.

Why the RA and why the new webmaster role?

A healthy, vibrant and well run local community is really important when you live in a close knit community like ours. We both believe at a local level that it's important to rise above national party

politics to focus on local needs and issues that are important to the place that you live. The RA does an amazing job of doing just that and we wanted to give something back to the community where we could add some value.

Keith Evetts managed the website for many years, what's new about it?

Essentially, the old site was personally coded (very cleverly) by Keith some ten years ago and with him standing down the knowledge and coding was retiring too, so we needed to bring the site up-to-date by using a website content management system. This would allow for more dynamic functions and ultimately be easier to manage and administer in the future. However, it's still taken quite some time to get to the launched site you see now but the great thing is it can easily be updated. The new site has many familiar features of the old site but has a brighter look and feel. It's also better for archiving content such as back copies of the Thames Ditton Today magazines – which are easily accessible to view.

Were there any major glitches?

Yes – a couple. Firstly we couldn't transfer over the existing usernames and logins for the Forum, so to post on the Forum people must register again as a new member. People are doing this but we'd urge more people to do it as we're not yet up to the numbers on the old site – which is important for lively debate on local issues. It is very easy and simple and only takes a minute.

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Secondly, we couldn't transition the many years of the Forum posts as the format was incompatible with the new software we're using. We got around this by some manual copy and pasting – the downside being that these conversations are resigned to history. The good thing is that they can still be viewed – and if anyone wants to resurrect any, they can by starting a thread on the new Forum.

How do you see the website evolving?

Websites are as dynamic and evolving as the people that build and use them, and the organisations they reflect and convey. At the moment the focus is to continue the great work that's been done previously, adding some tweaks and simplifications. We've also invested time making sure the administration is easier so that more

content can be contributed. You'll see more graphical links to the Vera Fletcher Hall and High Street websites and we're introducing electronic payment for Residents' Association subscription payments in March. People will be able to go to the homepage at www.residents-association.com and click on Subscribe. (Details are also on the subscription form)

We're constantly monitoring how people get to the website from search engines as well as how they use the site so that we can optimise how people get the information they need and we get the great message of Thames Ditton to as many people as possible!

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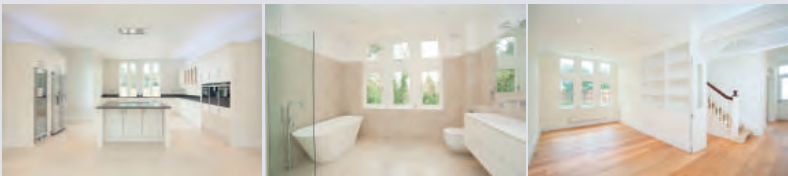
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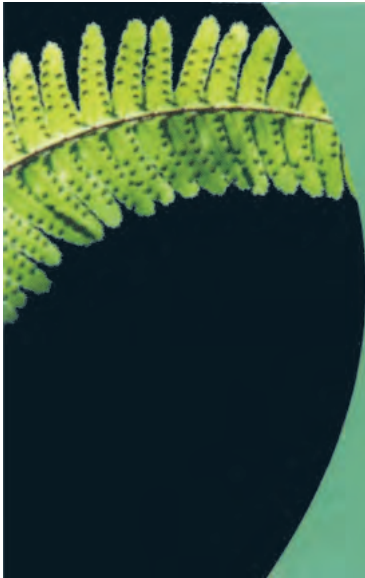
Nurturing the sports stars of tomorrow Kingston Grammar School in Thames Ditton



Since the 1960's Kingston Grammar School (KGS) have had their playing fields in Thames Ditton. The site, known as "Ditton Field", is opposite Hampton Court Palace and sits between the railway line from Hampton Court and Albany Reach. Sport plays an important part in the life of the 800 or so students in the school, with hockey, football, netball, rowing, cricket, tennis and athletics being just a handful of the sports on offer, and the school minibuses heading along Summer Road to Ditton Field for an afternoon of games will be a familiar sight to Thames Ditton residents.

However, were you aware of the quality of sportsmen and women that may

be in the minibuses as they pass by? The coaching staff alone boasts an Olympic hockey player, an Olympic rower, a county level cricketer, a coach with rugby union team Harlequins, a Peruvian International rugby player, and a number of coaches in the 'focus' sports of hockey and rowing have coached junior and senior international teams and crews. Sport at the school has recently been independently reviewed and was deemed "industry leading". With recent redevelopments of the school's hockey pitches and tennis courts and the redevelopment of the old boathouse at the bottom of Aragon Avenue, sport at KGS plays a central role in the life of the students at the school



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Lydia Cozens, Flo Blake-Parsons and coach Cled Ellison win gold at National Schools' Regatta

KGS has some outstanding sporting students in the school as well as alumni and current coaches. The most famous sporting alumnus is perhaps double Olympic rowing champion James Cracknell, but the school can also boast of the captain of the GB Olympic gold medal hockey team in 1988, Richard Dodds, and a number of other Olympians in hockey and rowing. Most recently Old Kingstonian Sophie Hosking won Gold in the Women's Lightweight double sculls at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Indeed, a recent report ranked KGS third in the country for schools producing Olympic athletes in the four Games since 2000, and 5th = for full sporting internationals in all sports.

In the last three years alone KGS has produced more than 10 students for England, Scotland or Wales hockey teams and almost too many to count playing hockey for clubs in the National League alongside their school hockey. The boys' and girls' hockey teams regularly reach National Finals and are often ranked in the

top 2-3 teams in the country at U18 level. Not to be outdone, the school's rowers regularly provide students for the GB junior rowing teams, with 5 students having achieved this in the last 3 years alone.

As well as the international athletes KGS regularly produces medal winning crews at the annual National Schools Regatta in Nottingham and with opportunities in all sports available for both boys and girls KGS has also produced a handful of female cricketers that

have played for England national sides. The rowers have produced athletes who have competed in the Boat Race either in the blue boat or reserve crews, proving that sporting excellence can and does go hand in hand with academic excellence, on which the school also prides itself.

As well as catering for those at the top end of sport, KGS ensures that there are opportunities for all students who want to play school sport to take part as members of a team or crew.

So, next time you see a minibus with Kingston Grammar School emblazoned on the side driving through Thames Ditton, take a closer look: you might just catch a glimpse of a sporting star from the past, present or future!

Note: The Kingston Grammar School playing fields are available for hire for private functions or for community use at special community rates. Please contact the Lettings Manager on 020 8546 5875.

Phil Simmons – KGS Head of Rowing

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Why Residents' Association Councillors



When talking to newcomers in Thames Ditton and Weston Green I am often asked “*What are Residents’ Association Councillors and how do they differ from those in the national political parties?*” People moving here from elsewhere, and particularly from London, with its strong party political councils, find it strange that Residents’ Associations should put up candidates for the Borough and County councils and, moreover, get them regularly elected! When I tell them that of the 60 Elmbridge Councillors 21 are from the Residents’ Group, they realise that we are not just a fringe group. In fact for 14 years from 1992 until May 2006 they very successfully led Elmbridge Council which under Residents’ leadership was awarded “*Excellent*” status, putting it in the top 10% of all councils in England. During this time we built the Excel Leisure Centre, introduced recycling, enhanced older people’s services, the children’s Shout scheme and our arts programme.

As a Councillor of many years I can take for granted the value of having Residents’ Councillors on Elmbridge Council compared with national political party ones. The main difference is independence and accountability. Residents’ Councillors are not attached to a national political party, which has a whip which can override local concerns and whose ideology comes from Westminster.

The Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents’ Association was set up in 1934 and put up candidates for Esher Council in order to have a voice on the decision making body – on issues such as the route of the Esher Bypass, which at that time was proposed to go through the commons of Weston Green. Today our Residents’ Councillors have seats and votes on the Council committees and can influence decisions. When the present Conservative Administration proposed to close the Ember Centre for the Retired, our Residents’ Association led the successful campaign to save this vital facility for older residents but they were only able to do this because we had RA Councillors on the committee who saw the document which alerted us in time to the proposals to close the centre.

The lesson from this is that, without Councillors on the Council committees where decisions are made, a Residents’ Association is toothless.

We are distinctive in our consistent support for the Green Belt, open spaces and heritage. It is unfortunate that for all the protestations of support from the political parties, they have all too often found excuses for voting for developments which would irretrievably change the character of our Borough. The Conservatives voted en-bloc for the massive development on the Jolly Boatman site opposite Hampton Court

Palace over the heads of Ward Councillors and disregarding 3,000 local petitioners. They also all voted en-bloc to build two hotels on green belt land at Sandown Park and Moore Place, Esher, and to sell to developers precious green space land at Stompond Lane football ground in Walton.

Defending our environment means constant vigilance. The Residents' Association, through its planning committee, vets planning applications, makes representations to the Council's Planning Department and gives evidence at appeals. It was Residents' Association Councillors who led the successful battle against the housing development on the Tennis Club site, the over-development on the sites of the Olde Harrow and the former Cottage Hospital and the proposed flats at 29 High Street, Thames Ditton, which would have harmed the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and meant loss of employment.

We do not work in a vacuum. As well as our Thames Ditton Today magazine and excellent website we hold regular Open Meetings where everyone can air their views on current planning proposals and other matters of concern to residents, from major traffic proposals to dog dirt and litter on the riverbank. The political parties hold no open meetings and so their Councillors are not as well informed on local needs.

The varied experience of RA committee members such as surveyors, architects, lawyers and business people, provide a backing for our Councillors not found in the political parties so that RA

Councillors are the best briefed in the Council.

I often meet the argument that "*consultation is fine but don't you need party politics to get things actually done?*" My own experience is that the opposite is true. Party politics are largely irrelevant for the issues we face at the local level. We take a practical approach to local issues and never forget that we are spending public money on public services and our aim is to deliver value for money.

RA Councillors are not a "*front*" for any other group but have always stood on their own merits and policies, believing that at the local level Councillors should be accountable first and foremost to their electorate and not to a party political grouping. RA Councillors exist to give expression to this belief.

Councillor Ruth Lyon



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How you can help protect Weston Green



As you may know, Weston Green is a Conservation Area, which was designated in 1977 by Elmbridge Borough Council to recognise its historic and environmental importance and to protect its character. In addition to a number of Listed Buildings (which have legal protection), the Council works in conjunction with the local community to protect the appearance of buildings, trees, open space and other important elements of the area.

In order to involve local residents in the protection of Conservation Areas, Conservation Area Advisory Committees were set up, and the volunteers on the Committees are asked by Elmbridge to give their views on planning applications (and other issues such as street lighting) within their Conservation Area.

The Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee consists of local residents with varied backgrounds, such as architecture, teaching, surveying, inventing, building, etc., all of whom are committed to the preservation of their

neighbourhood. We are currently six members strong but need to increase our strength by two or three new members to replace those who have moved away from the area. So we are very keen for other people interested in preserving their local environment to join us: it only involves an hour or so of your time around once a month on average, as the applications are passed round for your comments. We have an annual AGM when we discuss matters in a local pub, and, obviously, we have personal contact when we pass the applications round.

If you would like to help protect this special area please contact the current Chairman of the Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee Alan Oakley Tel: 020 8398 3168; E-mail: **oakley1@which.net**. Or you might like to speak to our local Elmbridge Councillors for Weston Green, Ruth Bruce and Tannia Shipley, for their views on the importance of the Committee.

Alan Oakley



Your Residents' Association

web site and forum renewed as resource for all residents

active support for community events in TD and WG, including supporting and participating in Fairs

removal of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping; action to alleviate other rubbish issues

supported residents' objections to inappropriate development

action to remove graffiti

maintenance of Marney's and Milbourne Ponds, installed borehole at Milbourne

supported parents seeking long-term solution to secondary schools crisis

worked with Council officers and police to resolve traveller incursions

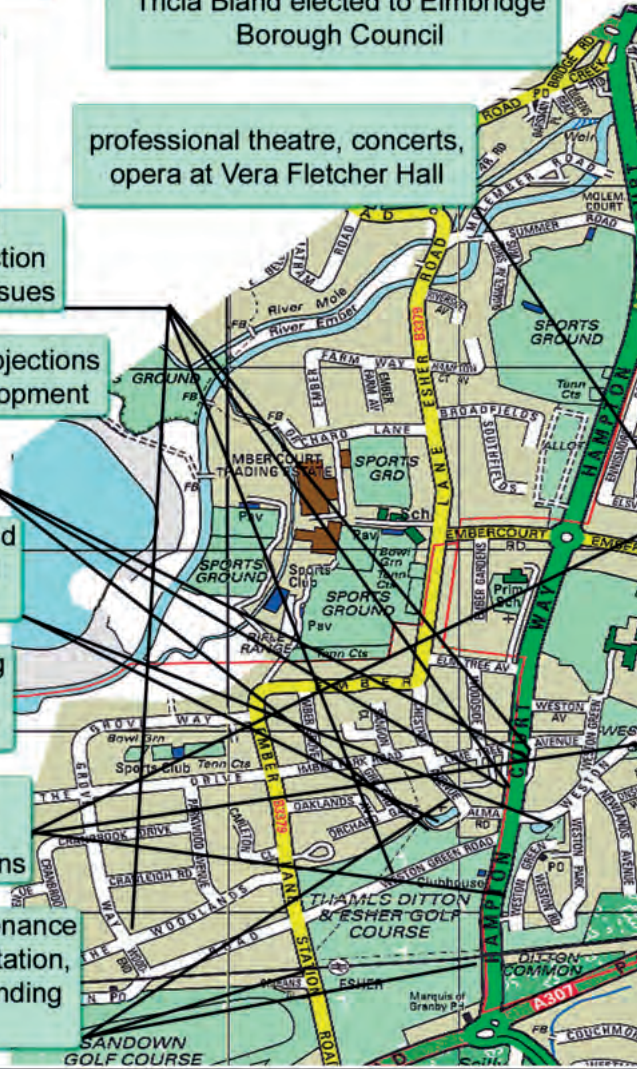
continuing pressure for maintenance to prevent flooding at Esher station, and to resolve other long-standing flooding problems

notification to residents of key planning applications

regular
co

Tricia Bland elected to Elmbridge Borough Council

professional theatre, concerts, opera at Vera Fletcher Hall



ion in Action 2014-2015



Open Meetings to engage with the community on important topics

constant vigilance to protect Conservation Areas of Thames Ditton and Weston Green

liaison between contractors at Home of Compassion and neighbours

4,000 copies of Thames Ditton Today distributed quarterly

successful pressure for conservation quality street lamps installed in Conservation Areas

maintenance of flower beds, Fountain Christmas tree, planted 500 more spring bulbs

fund raising for Christmas lights

parking consultation re introduction of short term parking in the High St to support local shops

successful pressure for resurfacing of High Street, Station Road and some other roads.

maintained residents' snow-clearing scheme

continuing support and fund raising for services for NHS patients at Emberbrook



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Ajax – from the river to the sea



The winning Ajax Team at the National Sea Scouts Regatta

Tucked away in a quiet residential riverside road between Thames Ditton and Surbiton is an area of outstanding physical and mental recreation. There, it is rumoured that Ajax Sea Scouts (named after the battleship HMS Ajax) offer local boys and girls a wide range of activities aimed at strengthening minds and bodies whilst enjoying a satisfying, and above all, a fun experience.

I had been despatched to find out how this could be possible in such austere and cynical times. Group Scout Leader Mark Marriott was on hand to provide the answers.

The first thing to hit the visitor on entering The Ajax Water Activities Centre is a cabinet bursting at the seams

with awards. Obviously this is a successfully competitive enterprise.

You then pass through swing doors into a large sociable room with a Galley at the far end, which leads to the larger Maindeck looking out on to the grey expanse of the Thames. My host explained that the young people and adult leaders were in the middle of a Royal Yachting Association First Aid course.

He went on to outline the structure of Scouting, which involves dividing the scouts (girls and boys) by age into four groups:- Beavers aged 6-8 years, Cubs aged 8-11, Sea Scouts aged 11-15 and Explorer Sea Scouts aged 15-18. At the moment there is a total of 120 boys and

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girls in membership. An essential element of the operation is parental support.

Last year Ajax received a £10,000 grant from Sport England to expand their fleet with the purchase of two RS Vision sailing dinghies. All the equipment (boats, gear and other items) is owned by the Group and they enjoy a long lease on the buildings. The annual subscriptions pay for all regular expenses involved in their wide schedule of activities. Three local fund-raising events, the Esher May Fair, the Ajax Plant Sale and the Claygate Flower Show, provide a major contribution towards future capital projects.

Ajax has to offer a range of activities appealing to kids just out of pre-school to teenagers considering a gap year. Last year, the Beavers enjoyed learning about locks at Teddington, climbing at White Spider in Kingston, local politics with the Mayor of Elmbridge, and camping at Cobham. The Cubs learned about Buddhism at Long Ditton, skiing at Sandown Park as well as some taster sessions on the water preparing them for progression to the Sea Scouts Troop.

Inevitably, the older kids are encouraged to spread their wings and last year Sea Scouts and Explorers travelled to Holland for the Dutch National Water Activity Camp. Other activities included camping at the home of Scouting, Gilwell Park, and coastal sailing weekends on Chichester Harbour, where the group's three Wayfarer sailing dinghies are kept. The Explorers also competed in the Great River Race from Docklands to Richmond, winter camped in Ashdown Forest, and won the Cock of the River award at the National Sea Scout Regatta for the second year running.

A wide range of activities but a consistent theme of excellence. The youngsters can learn skills, take responsibility and experience adventure afloat and ashore without the need for undue adult supervision.

Ajax is one of only 100 Sea Scout Groups to be officially recognised by the Royal Navy. Every 18 months the Group is formally inspected by the Navy and last year their inspection report noted that *'Ajax is a very strong Sea Scout Group performing at an exemplary level.'*

So everything appears ship-shape and Ditton fashion – but not quite!

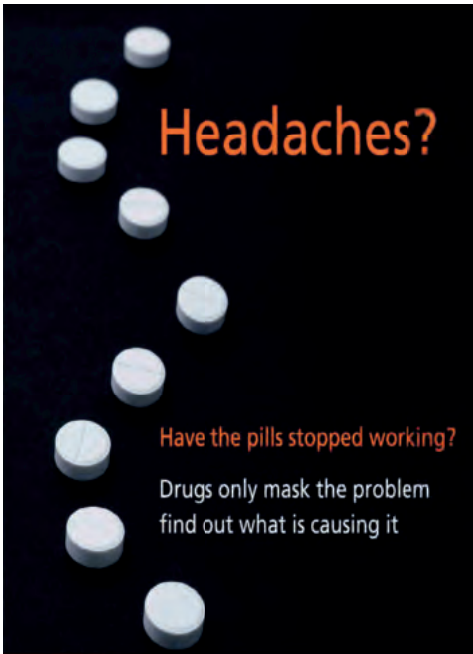
In order for their Vision for the Future to become a reality and as well as constantly investing in their fleet, Ajax will need to raise funds for a new additional building to provide 21st century changing facilities. Large sums of money will be required.

Ajax offers a unique mix of learning and personal development, edged with excitement and thrills. Demand for Ajax places wildly exceeds availability, although more volunteer leaders might enable extra places to be made available.

The message therefore is that to preserve and enhance such an exciting and worthwhile organisation, more is required; more human resources to sustain this invaluable enterprise and more finance to secure its base. Thames Ditton residents interested in helping out in any way will be warmly welcomed.

Please note the following dates: Ajax Plant Sale... weekend of May 2nd/3rd. Esher May Fair... Saturday 16th. Claygate Flower Show... Saturday July 11th.

Terry Bygraves



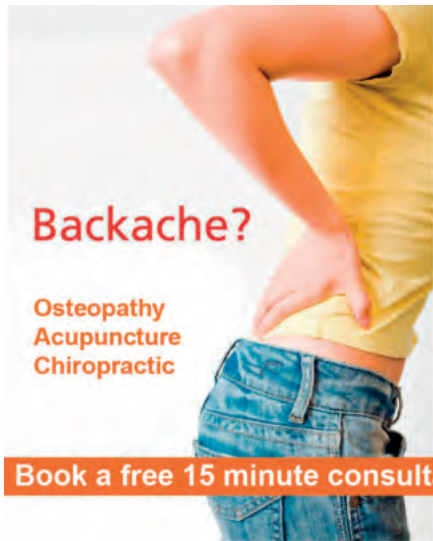
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Children should not get back or neck pains

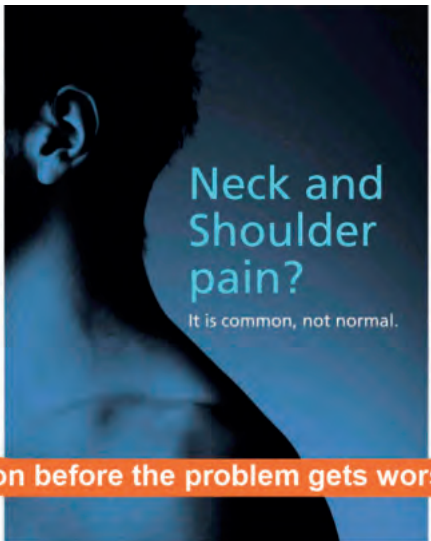


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The Battle of Waterloo by William Sadler II

When you alight at Waterloo station, spare a thought for the bitter wars, with action from the Americas to Asia, which culminated in that famous victory two hundred years ago come June. We can follow the wars through the involvement of Thames Ditton residents – several fought long and hard, some died or were wounded on the battlefield or at sea, while others prospered in civilian life.

Ditton casualties, and non-combatants

All five of Catherine and Robert Lambert's sons associated with Weston House fought with distinction. Captain Henry Lambert died through his action in command of the frigate HMS Java against the heavier frigate USS Constitution at the end of 1812 – the year in which the

Americans declared war on Britain ostensibly for stopping American ships and searching them to press defecting British seamen. General Sir John Lambert and his brother Samuel went through the wars on the Continent, sometimes in horrendous conditions.

Samuel almost died from fever contracted in the Walcheren landings. John fought in the ill-fated campaign on the US mainland and played a distinguished role at Waterloo.

Two of the sons of Sir Richard Sullivan, first Baronet of Thames Ditton, who lived at Ditton House, fought in the war. Charles, who eventually became an Admiral, served as a junior officer in the Far East, with one mention in dispatches. He survived. His elder brother Sir Henry Sullivan did not. Commissioned



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Lieutenant in the Second Foot Guards (Coldstream Guards) in 1803 at the age of 18, he served for much of the campaign in the Iberian Peninsula where John and Samuel Lambert of the First Foot Guards were not far away. Both units were present at the siege of Bayonne on 14 April 1814 when the French Governor of the town tried to break out from the encirclement on a pitch-black night. The French were forced back at the cost of 900 French casualties and 840 British, one of whom was Lt. Colonel Sir Henry Sullivan. He's buried out there and has a memorial plaque to the immediate left of St Nicholas' Church door.

One of the sons of Jacob Hansler, of the Red House by Marney's Pond in Weston Green, Edward Hansler, seems also to have been a casualty. There's no trace after he was listed as Lieutenant in the King's Royal Rifle Corps in 1810, when at least part of the regiment was fighting in the Peninsular War.

Sir Guy Campbell, first Baronet, came from the military Campbells many of whom lived in parishes adjoining Thames Ditton. In 1795 he joined his father's 6th Regiment as an ensign, and his active campaigning included countering the 1798 Irish Rising, Canada in 1803, and the Peninsular campaign where along with the two Lamberts in the First Foot he was evacuated on Sir John Moore's retreat to Corunna. On 1 April 1813 Campbell was promoted Major, and again deployed to the Peninsula where after the battle of Vitoria, when his colonel was severely wounded, he took command. He was seriously wounded in the victory over Clausel's division at Echalar on August

1813. He rejoined his regiment in 1815, and was attached to the staff at the battle of Waterloo. Locally, Sir Guy is better known for marrying his second wife Pamela Fitzgerald, daughter of "La Belle Pamela" – this led to the Campbells occupying The Lodge in what is now Watts Road, the gift of Pamela's maiden aunt Lady Sophia Fitzgerald.

The Fitzgeralds of Boyle Farm were in an invidious position following the Irish Rising of 1798, allied with a failed French attempt to invade Ireland. Lord Edward Fitzgerald played a leading role in the uprising and died, a traitor to the Crown. Charlotte Boyle, who had married the actor Lord Henry Fitzgerald, refused to have her brother-in-law's widow Pamela in the house, and Charlotte redoubled her efforts to claim the ancient barony of de Ros. Thus she and her son Henry, a friend of Wellington's but a dandy and cheat at cards who never went near the war (he was 22 by the time of Waterloo), would not have to be known primarily by the name of Fitzgerald.

Meanwhile at Imber Court, Robert Taylor, a former merchant captain for the East India Company, was now a merchant businessman in his late forties to early fifties, and his two sons Robert and Simon were too young for military service. Robert Taylor continued his business activities, including slave trading, from Imber Court during this period.

Militia

The wars also saw the embodiment of the Militia. Lists of men liable to be balloted had to be affixed to the church door. There were many exemptions, and balloted persons could find substitutes –

for a substantial fine or fee. The Militia was to be used for home defence, although men in it could join volunteer regiments deployed overseas. Surrey was required to raise 953 men.

There are a couple of mentions of the militia in the Vestry records of St. Nicholas Thames Ditton. A meeting of 4 April 1805 considered *“the best way to raise the money for defraying the Expenses which this Parish is obliged to pay, for Men that have been wanted to fill up the Militia and Army of Reserve. It is unanimously agreed upon, not to have a Rate for that purpose.”* How the funds were collected is not recorded, but the Overseers’ accounts for 2 January 1807 give an idea of the scale of payments: *“pd for the militia 19.13.0”* (£19.65 in today’s decimal notation).

Lt. Colonel Sir Edward Baynes, who had married the Lamberts’ eldest daughter Anne, and rented a large house next to The Newlands which is no longer in existence, subsequently renting Ember Cottage in Orchard Road, was made an inspector of volunteer units. We find him in 1803 deployed to Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon inspecting trainees.

Income Tax

The “tax to beat Napoleon” was introduced in 1799. From Catherine Lambert’s diaries: Tue 19 Aug 1799 *“wrote to the Commissioner for the Income Tax”* and on Thurs 28 Aug *“went to Mr Crawters at Cobham about the Income Tax.”* Crawters were the local official Surveyors with offices in Cobham and in Chancery Lane. In following decades they were to arbitrate between William Speer and Robert Taylor about

the division of lands and rights between the manors of Weston and of Imber; and to prepare the tithe apportionment for this parish.

Land taxes were also raised, and some lands were sold off from Crown holdings. During the wars William Speer, already a large landowner in our parish, remained as a senior tax clerk in the Treasury. So he was well placed at the turn of the century to buy valuable land and manorial rights for Weston and other manors nearby, from his colleagues the Commissioners of the Treasury, acting for the Crown. In 1808 he was made one of the five chief clerks and we find him in Parliamentary records making occasional Treasury payments to the Home Secret Service, receiving other expenses himself and in 1815: *“to pay Bills drawn by the Duke of Wellington, towards the purchase of a House at Paris, for the residence of His Majesty’s Ambassador Matthew Martin, Esq. & towards the Expense of carrying into effect a plan for enquiring into the state of the Mendicity of the Metropolis.”*

Waterloo

The decisive battle between the French, and a coalition of European forces under the overall command of Wellington together with the Prussian army under Blucher, was fought amid the gentle rolling fields at Waterloo on 18 June 1815. The battle cost around 22,000 casualties for Wellington and Blucher, and over 24,000 French. General Sir John Lambert had returned from the battle of New Orleans in time to command the tenth brigade and march it to the battlefield where it arrived on the morning of the battle. The brigade was deployed in



The Quadriga

the front line during the afternoon. One of its regiments, the 27th, formed the square near the pivotal French-held farm at La Haye Sainte, where it lost two-thirds of its men, a heavier loss than that of any other regiment. In all, Lambert's 10th Brigade suffered casualties of 34 officers and 650 men, almost one third of those who had started out that morning.

John Lambert and his aide-de-camp, Lt. Tom Baynes, a relative of John's brother-in-law Sir Edward Baynes, survived unscathed. Another brother-in-law, Major Henry Graham was not so lucky. On the night of Boxing Day 1806, John's younger sister Maria Lambert, then 17, had written in her diary at Brighton: "*Mrs Dawkins gave us a charming Ball. I danced every dance, the second from last with Captain Graham.*" She married the dashing young King's Dragoon in August 1812. Now he lay dead on the field of Waterloo after a gallant charge in

the midst of the action. In the carnage his body was never identified. Maria was awarded a pension of £100.

Aftermath

General Sir John Lambert, mentioned in Wellington's despatches, received for a second time the thanks of parliament. He commanded the eighth infantry brigade in the army of occupation in France, and remained a close friend of Wellington (who was godfather to his son John Arthur Lambert) until the Duke's death in 1852.

As Vice Admiral, John's elder brother Robert Stuart Lambert's last post would be as commander of the fleet guarding the prisoner Napoleon on St. Helena, at the time of the former Emperor's death there. Accompanying him as Flag Lt. was their youngest brother George Lambert.

In 1827 the Wellington Arch was erected to honour the man whose military skill and tenacity won the day and ended the threat of French military dominance on land as Nelson had ended it by sea. Penny-pinching meant that its designer's plan to top it with a Quadriga was dropped. Eventually in 1912, the huge Quadriga, held by many to be the most magnificent product of Thames Ditton's former Foundry in Summer Road, was placed on top of it.

And now, the new Quadriga Gallery at the Arch is staging an exhibition about the Battle of Waterloo, open to the public from 18 April 2015.

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Music for Spring at the Vera Fletcher Hall



From Mozart's and Rachmaninov's classic piano trios through Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta and Simon and Garfunkel to English Touring Opera's welcome return with their new children's opera "Shackleton's Cat", the Vera Fletcher Hall will be alive with music this spring in a packed programme.

Gilbert & Sullivan lovers have a treat when Charles Court Opera return with their "**Ruddigore or the Witches' Curse**" on Saturday 16 May. This delicious gothic send-up of Victorian melodrama with bad baronet, and beautiful village maid Mad Margaret is a deliciously wicked opera, given a dose of electricity and punch in the only way Charles Court Opera can. Opera Now called it "*a sparkling fresh package of pathos, foolery and high-class music making*". In more classical mode Charles Court Opera reminds us that they are a true opera company when they return with "**Tosca**" on 12 June, sung in Italian with English surtitles. Anyone who saw their "La Boheme" at the Hall will know what a treat is in store for us with this tragic tale of love, murder and deception featuring some of Puccini's finest music and sung by some of England's best young opera talent.

It is a real coup getting the prestigious **London Mozart Trio** again to the Hall on the 1st May following concerts in Shanghai and at the Krakow Festival.



London Mozart Trio

Three outstanding world class musicians, Colin Stone (piano), Krzysztof Smietana (violin) and Sagi Hartov (cello) play works including Mozart's E major trio and Rachmaninov's Trio Elegiaque.

The Esher and Dittons Youth Orchestra goes from strength to strength, with a very successful concert in February and another coming up on Sunday 17 May. This young orchestra starts its next 5 week course on Sunday afternoons, starting 19 April, under its conductor Michal Kaznowski – cellist with the famous Maggini Quartet and formerly with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He has a fantastic rapport with the children and this is a great opportunity for children of grade 4 or above to learn to play in an orchestra. Contact Megan Tress on 07932 717 582. No audition is required.



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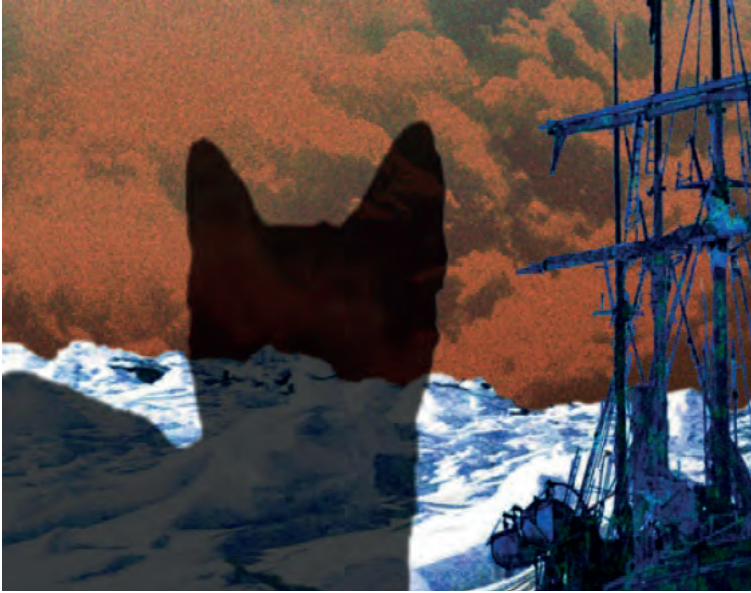
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English Touring Opera – ‘Shackleton’s cat’

On Saturday 7 March the award winning Rosemary Branch Theatre bring us **“Pride & Prejudice”**, Jane Austen’s classic of the five Bennet sisters and their admirers, proud Mr. Darcy, affable Mr. Bingley, rakish Mr. Wickham complete with period music and on 24 April we move on to the 20th century and World War 11 with Dad’s Army vicar, Frank Williams, in **“Well, Really, Captain Mainwaring”**.

For the older generation the names of Simon and Garfunkel will bring back a wave of nostalgia. You can indulge this on Sunday 31 May when, following their sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Bookends presents **“Simon and Garfunkel: Through the Years”** – a live performance and multi-media show with hits such as “The Sound of Silence”, “Mrs. Robinson” and “Bridge over Troubled

Water”. With a mutual passion for the music and a natural gift for close harmonies this is a show that celebrates the lives and music of these two great artists.

We have always had splendid shows for children and this spring English Touring Opera, recognised as the country’s leading touring

opera company, presents **“Shackleton’s Cat”** on 27 March when eight singers, musicians and puppeteers tell the story of Ernest Shackleton’s voyage to Antarctica 100 years ago, with an ingenious set, interactive songs (and a puppet cat!). Image Musical Theatre are old favourites and they return on 21 March with **“Merlin, the Sword in the Stone”** a family participation musical on the legend of the young king Arthur and Merlin the wizard. **“Little Red Riding Hood and Friends”** on Saturday 2 May, bring us Red Riding Hood, a vegetarian wolf and Cinderella.

See page 40 for times and tickets for these shows. You can keep in touch with events at the Hall on the website www.verafletcherhall.co.uk.

Ruth Lyon

THE THEATRE IN THAMES DITTON

AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL

Saturday 7 March 7.30pm
Rosemary Branch Theatre presents

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE

Jane Austen's classic of the five Bennet sisters and their admirers, proud Mr. Darcy, affable Mr Bingley, rakish Mr. Wickham.
TICKETS £12.50

Friday 24 April 8.00pm

WELL REALLY, CAPTAIN MAINWARING!

Join Frank Williams, the Dad's Army vicar for a unique and hilarious glimpse behind the scenes, with stories of the cast and of other classics such as Morecambe & Wise and The Two Ronnies.
TICKETS £12.50

Friday 1 May 8.00pm

THE LONDON MOZART TRIO

Colin Stone (piano) Krzysztof Smetiana (violin) Sagi Hartov (cello) Three outstanding world class musicians play works including Mozart's E major Trio and Rachmaninov's Trio Elegiaque.
TICKETS £14 (under 16 years free)

Saturday 16 May 7.30pm
Charles Court Opera presents

RUDDIGORE or THE WITCHES' CURSE

Gilbert & Sullivan's gothic send-up of Victorian melodrama – bad baronet, beautiful village maid, Mad Margaret. "A ghoulish comic opera" with glorious tunes, witty Lyrics "the matter patter trio" and "Sing hey, lack a day" with some of the UK's best young operatic talent. "Wickedly funny"
The Guardian.
TICKETS £16

Friday 12 June 7.30pm
Charles Court Opera presents

PUCCINI'S TOSCA

Sung in Italian with English sub-titles, an exciting new full-scale production from one of the UK's most innovative young opera companies.
TICKETS £16

YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Please note: Children under 4 years will NOT be admitted to any theatre performance

Saturday 21 March 2.30pm
Image Musical Theatre presents

MERLIN, THE SWORD IN THE STONE

A family participation musical based on the legend of the young knight Arthur, who, guided by Merlin the Wizard, draws the sword from the stone to become king.
For 5 – 11 years. TICKETS £7

Friday 27 March 10.45 am
English Touring Opera presents

SHACKLETON'S CAT

A new opera. 8 singers, musicians and puppeteers tell the story of Ernest Shackleton's voyage to Antarctica 100 years ago and how the crew struggled to survive when the ship got destroyed by ice.
For 7 – 11 years. TICKETS £7

Saturday 2 May 3.30pm
Booster Cushion Theatre presents

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD & FRIENDS

Meet Red Riding Hood, the vegetarian wolf, Cinderella, and dance the conga and rock to Jack's beans.
For 4 – 8 years TICKETS £7

Tickets for all shows from Joan Leifer Tel: 0844 994 8832

Email: tickets@verafletcherhall and Bradley + Brown, 50 High Street. Thames Ditton

To hire the Vera Fletcher Hall contact Helen Mason Tel: 08456 528 529

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk

Walsingham Care



Most of you will have heard of the Home of Compassion, the former nursing home in Thames Ditton. It was set up in the early years of the twentieth century by the Anglican Nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Compassion who brought their work for caring for the poor and elderly in the East End of London to Thames Ditton. In 1981 the Home was transferred to a charitable trust which continued its work in caring for the elderly poor. The Home was sold in 2008 as the trust was unable to raise the funds needed to bring the Home up to the latest care standards required.

How many of you have heard of Walsingham Care – the successor charity to the Home of Compassion? Walsingham Care was founded in 2008 following the sale of the Home of Compassion with an endowment of £4.5million, the proceeds of the sale. The aim of Walsingham Care is to help the older generation. It does this by providing financial help for topping up fees at a nursing home, providing costs of care at home, funding the cost of respite care or funding home improvements or care equipment so that people can continue to live in their own home. Grants are made to people who live in the Emly deanery (Long Ditton in the East to Weybridge in the West) or within 5 miles thereof. All grants are subject to a test of the income and assets of the person applying for the grant.

Since the untimely death of John Jennings, Debbie Beach has taken over as Administrator on a part time basis. Since

2008 the Trust has made grants of over £440,526. In 2013 the Trust made grants of £119,711 of which £54,714 were to help payment of nursing home fees and £64,997 was to provide help at home by part funding such items as stairlifts and motorised scooters. In most cases we are approached either by the person seeking the grant (or a relative) or by a third party such as Elmbridge Social Services or a nursing home. We work closely with other charities.

Case Study:

Recently, in collaboration with two other local charities, we assisted an ex-serviceman suffering with long term health and mobility problems with the provision of a stairlift. This has enabled him to move safely and confidently around his own home.

Walsingham Care's endowment now stands at over £5million. Most of it is invested in the Stock Markets through funds managed by professional investors. We also own a building in Hampton Court – the building which used to house our shop which was closed last year as it was losing money.

We are always happy to consider applications for grants. The best method to contact us is through our website – www.walsinghamcare.org.uk or call Debbie Beach on 07436 803102.



Karen's Angel's

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07760220604



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Are you feeling unappreciated, alienated, misunderstood, overwhelmed by negative feelings? You feel like nobody is listening and nobody cares?

If any of these emotions feel familiar, contact Melanie Friedrich. Gestalt Therapist working towards accreditation is offering therapy/counselling sessions for any age group in the Kent Clinic of Natural Medicine. Play Therapy offered for children.

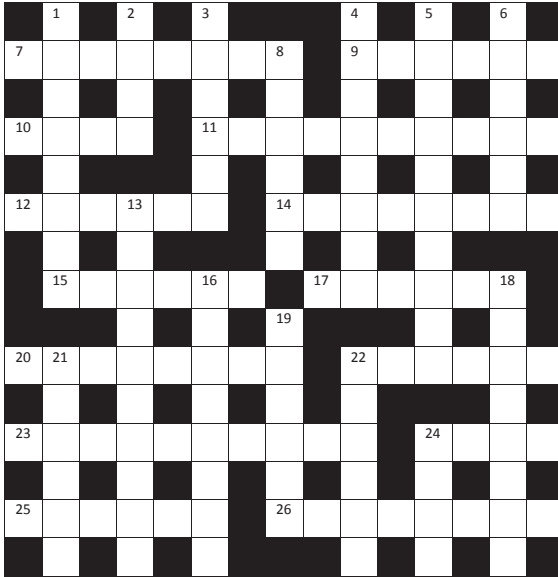
(Integrative) Gestalt Therapy has a holistic approach which means that it deals with the whole of the client's experience, including feelings, thoughts and actions. It focuses on gaining an awareness of emotions and behaviours in the present rather than in the past. The goal is for clients to become aware of their immediate needs and how to meet them and also to learn to accept and value themselves.

Tel: **07450 056 356** Email: **melanie.friedrich@gmail.com**

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

Spring Crossword

By Maureen Willcox



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date 8th May will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

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

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

ACROSS

7. If your name fits, you are easily noticed (8)
9. A white fleshed gourd (6)
10. To be honest, out of this is out of alignment (4)
11. Cannot conclude that this is a relevant clue (10)
12. A chaplain alters his title, then goes on a march (6)
14. A northern Ireland political party member (8)
15. Area developed for residential purposes (6)
17. Every film critic shares the same opinion re this film (6)
20. Member of the cadaver preservation society perhaps! (8)
22. They are definitely longer than dot’s! (6)
23. A south American trailer (10.)
24. It is reasonable for a brunette to become blonde (4)
25. They legally work for you and are usually good for nothing! (6)
26. This is a cover-up! (8)

DOWN

1. Because of a faulty car gear, I changed conveyance. (8)
2. The extra needed to achieve one’s ambition (4)
3. View a marauder ideally to express contempt (6)
4. Garment decoration created by seamstress (8)
5. Reps resent appearing on the media (10)
6. Ingredient in a biblical menu! (6)
8. An ancient Latin hymn (2,4)
13. Appealing, but evict a ‘tart’ from a beauty contest (10)
16. A Mediterranean shrub (8)
18. Seemingly plausible, but actually is not. (8)
19. “_____ the Lord and pass the ammunition” a Loesser song (16)
21. A minuscule number of spots (6)
22. Woven fabric (6)
24. He had one – E I E I O ! (4)

Solution to the Winter Crossword

by Michael Jackson



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

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

Mrs E M Jones
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Mrs Catherine Dunne
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KT7 0TH

Mrs R Scotton
29 Church Walk
KT7 0NP

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SERVICES, GROUPS, CLUBS, AND SOCIETIES

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Harry Livesey	01372 879321
Dittons and Weston Green Neighbourcare	Avril Ashworth	020 8398 7521
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for Retired People	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 5921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	020 8398 3772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride,	ask for service	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	at central switchboard	01372 474474
Homesupport Elmbridge	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

Girl Guiding in TD & WG	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Deborah Daoud	020 8398 5521
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Alexandra Lyall	07779 616463
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	07975 842423
1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)	Mrs. Louise Lewis	020 8398 4843
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
2nd Weston Green Brownies	Mrs J Epps	020 8395 0595
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Mrs Helen Hill	020 8398 3135
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Laura Clarke	020 8398 3447
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mrs. Adrienne Nealing	020 8398 5582
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	020 8398 2932
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Nick Pattenden	Nick.Pattenden@cassiopae.com

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	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rotary Club, Esher	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	020 8398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ember Choral Society	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher Recorded Music Society	Miss S. M. Garrat	020 8398 8541
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Chris Walker (Sec)	020 8398 6651
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	020 8398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	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



Two ways to treat your Pet

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

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

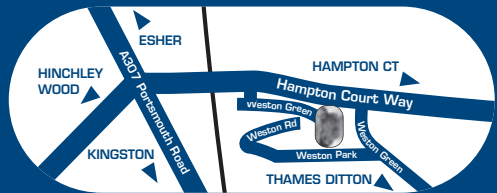
Prevention, we think, is better than Cure.

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

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