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

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

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Photo credit: Sandra Dennis

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 £3 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com; subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 14 High Street, Thames Ditton or Thorhill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorhill 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

Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm on 26 March 2019

at Vera Fletcher Hall

Agenda:

- 1. Minutes of the 2018 AGM Meeting** and matters arising therefrom
- 2. Chairman's Annual Report:** receive, discuss and adopt the Annual Report for 2018-2019
- 3. Accounts:** To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018
- 4. Appointments:** to receive nominations and appoint officers and an auditor: President, Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Auditor
- 5. Elections:** to adopt candidates for the Elmbridge Borough Council Election 2 May 2019
- 6. Resolutions:** to consider any resolutions submitted in writing to the Secretary by 5 March 2019
- 7. Guest Speaker**

President: Martin Wilberforce
7 River Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

Vice President: Ruth Lyon,
11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3396

Surrey County Councillor: Nick Darby,
12 Basing Close, Thames Ditton 020 8398 2382

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29 Station Rd, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485

Caroline James,
Laurel Cottage, 20 High Street,
Thames Ditton 07970 672723

Karen Randolph,
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Borough Councillors

Tannia Shipley, 'Clinton House'
27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

Janet Turner, 2 Montgomery Ave,
Hinchley Wood 020 8398 1565

Nigel Haig-Brown
53 Heathside, Esher 020 8398 4060

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23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509

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6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

Conveners of Sub-Committees

Health and Community: Karen Randolph (see above)

Planning: Rhodri Richards,
Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4962

Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,
1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton 020 8786 6882

Flooding Tony Thompson,
Willow End, River Bank, Thames Ditton 07736 677671



THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

March 26 8pm (AGM) - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

April 30 8pm Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

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News from the Residents' Association to end-February



Loss of a great community-minded individual

We are sorry to report that Peter Hickman, our previous Surrey County Councillor and long-standing supporter of the community, died just before Christmas. Peter had been active in the Residents' Association for many years. In his time he had been Treasurer and Chairman (three times). He was also a governor at Thames Ditton Junior School and Esher Sixth Form College and served as our local Surrey County Councillor from 2005 – 2017.

Please read our article on page 15 to find out how much the local community owes to his efforts.

'Refill' for the environment

Thames Ditton High Street was the **FIRST** in the UK to introduce Boomerang Bags, made from donated, reusable fabric, to eliminate the need for single-use, planet polluting plastic bags.

Thames Ditton is now at the forefront of REFILL in Elmbridge, eliminating the need for single-use, planet polluting plastic water bottles, with seven REFILL stations – six in the High Street including Costa Coffee, Cyclelink, George & Dragon, Lunch, Nice Buns and Organic Nest - plus Café Noir at Thames Ditton station.

To fill up your reusable water bottle/cup or container, simply walk into any of these shops or businesses and they will happily give you tap water **FREE!**

Together we will eliminate single-use plastic for a more sustainable village and future for our children.



Look out for the Refill signs in the village and across Elmbridge.

Refill is being led in Elmbridge by RA Councillor Tricia W. Bland, Chairman of Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC)'s Energy and Sustainability Committee.



Alaa Habbooby (AI) from Café Noir and RA Cllr Tricia Bland supporting REFILL.

For further information on Thames Ditton Refill or Boomerang Bags, contact Tricia: tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk

Campaigning to improve rail services

We continue to press South Western Railway (SWR) on its level of service. SWR representatives accepted our invitation to speak directly to residents and take questions at the RA Open Meeting in January, see the article on page 19 for more details.

Esher Station lighting

RA Cllr Tannia Shipley has been in contact with David Wilby (South Western Railway) and David Langton (Network Rail) regarding the lack of lighting on the path from Lower Green Road to the platform and the flooding issue on the same path. We are hopeful that both these issues will be dealt with soon.

Parking charges to increase



At an EBC cabinet meeting in December the ruling Conservative administration voted to increase car parking charges across the borough. Under pressure from Residents' Group Councillors from a number of wards, the matter was brought to full council for a vote. The Conservatives voted unanimously to introduce the new charges, despite

the efforts of our Residents' Association Councillors to press for a review before any increases are introduced.

The implications for users of the Ashley Road car park in Thames Ditton village are particularly draconian. Annual parking permits, which have been a great benefit to residents without access to off-street parking, will be scrapped; and the costs for parking all day will also increase dramatically. Please be assured that our Councillors will continue the fight to reduce the size of the increase in parking charges.

Thames Ditton Centre for the Community

November saw the launch of a newly refurbished coffee shop in the Thames Ditton Centre for the Community open 9-3pm Mondays and Thursdays. Do drop in and find out a bit more about this community gem.

Floating Pennywort

Following concerns raised at an RA Meeting regarding the threat of pennywort blocking rivers and ditches and exacerbating flood risk, EBC Officers, Thames Water and the Environment Agency have been working together to solve the problem and work is progressing well.

Planning

New plans have been submitted for the development of the **Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site 2018/3810**.

At the time of going to press almost 600 'public comments' had been received, the overwhelming majority of which were objections. The RA has also written to the EBC Planning Department. Comments close on March 18.

Sandown Park Racecourse held two development consultations (December and January) regarding the Jockey Club's

planning proposals for the site. These involve a series of proposed ‘enhancements’ funded by ‘discrete pockets of residential development’ on 5.1% of the site. At the December consultation it appears this will equate to 300 or so residential units.

The information that was presented at the consultation both on the proposed improvements and siting of proposed developments can be found on our website residents-association.com.

Esher residents have established **Save Esher Greenbelt** to oppose the Jockey Club’s planned development; details of that can also be found on our website.

The Residents’ Association has always opposed development in our Green Belt, as spelled out in the Association’s 2017 submission to the Local Plan consultation. Keep an eye on the website for up to date information including notification of any planning application that may be received.

councillors. The building is currently used by the charities Citizens Advice Bureau and Relate, which will have to be relocated.



Harry Fletcher House

The Residents’ Association has written to Elmbridge CEO, Rob Moran, to object to this on the basis of lack of consultation and the expansion of parking which is contrary to the council’s own guidelines for judging planning applications.

2018/3840 – Land to the rear of 74 to 128 Speer Road (Colets playing fields)

There has been an application to build two more two-storey office units on previously undeveloped green field land to the north of the two units that were permitted last year on appeal. We continue to believe that this site is unsuitable for an office development, and have written to support local residents in their objections.

2018/3425 – Corner Cottage, Portsmouth Road application to replace the current family house with a development of 8 flats. Whilst we are not against the principle of a sensible redevelopment to provide much-needed 1 and 2 bedroom flats, we believe that the proposal represents a gross overdevelopment of the site in terms of scale and massing.



Development sites proposed – Sandown Park

Elmbridge Borough Council has notified that it intends to demolish **Harry Fletcher House** (by the council car park) and to use the land as additional car parking for council staff. This decision has been made without proper consultation with elected



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2017/4062 – Land to south of 5-9 Embercourt Road the applicant has appealed against the refusal of planning permission for the development of 4 detached houses in the gardens of these properties.

The retrospective planning application at **Taggs Boatyard (2018/1695)** was **refused** at the East Area Planning Committee in January. We wait to see what happens next.

Butterfly Patch Nursery (2018/2094) has lodged an appeal against the refusal of retrospective planning permission for the front outbuilding.

Anyone wanting a local MOT or annual service may be disappointed to see that **Esher Tyres and Exhaust** has closed its doors after 25 years of serving the community of Weston Green and beyond. Planning permission was finally granted for the site and the garage was closed in the New Year.



Fraser Frost thanked customers of Esher Tyres and Exhaust for their loyal support

Fraser Frost, pictured, who has run Esher Tyres and Exhaust, said he was ‘heartbroken’ to see the closure of the garage and was particularly sorry not to have had the chance to say good bye and thank you to the many loyal customers who have supported the

garage over the years. He has been very touched by the many good wishes and messages he has received from his customers over the last few weeks.

All Saints Youth Group Weston Green

All Saints Weston may be waiting for a new Vicar to be appointed but that hasn’t stopped the wide range of services and regular activities on offer, including the Youth Group.

There is a regular youth group meeting on a Sunday evening twice a month which continues to grow in numbers. ‘Open Minded’ - a name chosen by the group itself - meet in the church hall at All Saints from 6-7.15pm on the first and third Sundays of the month to enjoy a varied programme across the year.

A typical evening might include table tennis and team games followed by a short discussion on spirituality, world events, God and prayer as well as some joint meetings with other local church youth groups.

The young people are aged between 11-17 and if you think your child might be interested to take part please contact Alison Cruthers (alisoncruthers@yahoo.co.uk) for more details.



Youth group tackling the donut challenge

Dates for your diary

RA AGM

Vera Fletcher Hall,
March 26, 8pm

Farmers' Market

George and Dragon car park
9.30am-1.30pm
Saturdays March 23; April 27; May 25

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

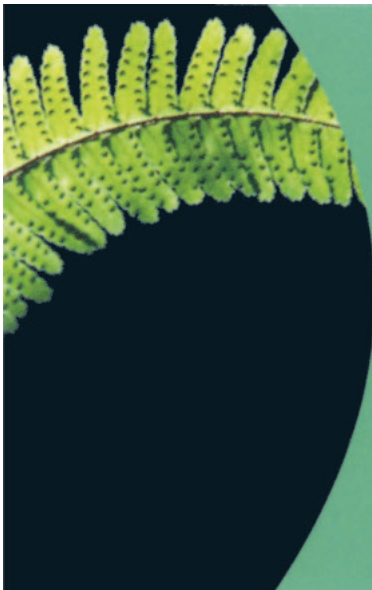
St. Nicholas Church Hall
10:30-12 noon
3rd Wednesday of the month

All Saints, Weston Green
10:30-12 noon
1st Tuesday of the month

St. Mary's, Long Ditton,
Community Hall
7:30pm-9pm
2nd Wednesday of the month

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday June 23



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Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



It has been a busy few months at County Hall (see later!).

I make no apology for putting knife crime top of my list. After the various incidents in the Dittons in January, I am delighted we have had an obvious visible police presence on our streets. I hope that local people will feel reassured and that the efforts of our police will make a permanent difference. My thanks to Dallas McDermott, our Area Commander, for his prompt action. We have just been promised more officers on the streets of Surrey.

As to the various Surrey consultations, the results have been mixed. The decision to close our Children's Centre, along with 20 others, was wrong in my view. However, as I write this, I will have meetings shortly with the Surrey officer responsible and various residents to see what we might achieve as a community.

Turning to our Library, another consultation will take place in a few months. I would urge everyone to respond and, in anticipation of a petition, to sign that as well. The Library provides so much more than books, and to people of all ages. This will be a final chance for our voices to be heard. I will continue to make our case.

Onward to buses. Surrey's original proposal covering withdrawal of concessions for the disabled was partially withdrawn, but we still face a new consultation over bus subsidies generally. In the worst case, this might mean the loss of our routes through Thames Ditton. Again, please respond. The case for joined-up thinking at Surrey is



Surrey County Councillor Nick Darby

overwhelming - no point in commenting on planning applications for new homes based on sustainable transport links if those very links disappear.

On the same theme, our fight to ensure rail replacement buses from SWR on days of disruption has taken a step forward. There are ongoing discussions over a shuttle service to Surbiton, and automatic acceptance of tickets for alternative travel to Esher or Hinchley Wood, when the Hampton Court branch isn't running.

More transport! Having attended the latest Heathrow presentation, the plan seems to be to spread flights wider over the

surrounding area. Whatever one thinks of that, the proposal is also to reduce stacking. In achieving that, they will work both to reduce queues of aircraft at Heathrow waiting to take off and liaise with airlines to delay departures from abroad till there is a definite landing slot. The proof of that pudding... It is very much a question of Heathrow earning our trust. I have written before about transport links to and from.

At County Hall, I am starting a campaign for reports and suchlike to be in plain English i.e. no “more endeavouring to ascertain”, when “trying to find out” will do nicely! And yes, Surrey County Council is wanting to relocate from Kingston to a building within Surrey. Looking after existing staff, including getting the IT right, must be top priority and it isn't sensible to be spending £2m a year on maintenance -

not exactly good value for residents.

I will end with a mention of Highways. Various local roads are due for significant work before the end of March. Recent examples include the north section of Speer Road, sections of St Mary's Road in Long Ditton, and Chestnut Avenue in Weston Green. Several roads are due for double yellow lines at their entrance/exit in the coming months to improve safety. On that subject, you may have noticed the replacement of the old rotten telegraph pole on the Thames Ditton Station island along with its light and road signs. My thanks to the local resident who reported that to me, and also the various sets of bushes and trees causing safety issues to pedestrians and road users.

Cllr. Nick Darby

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Peter Hickman 1939 - 2018

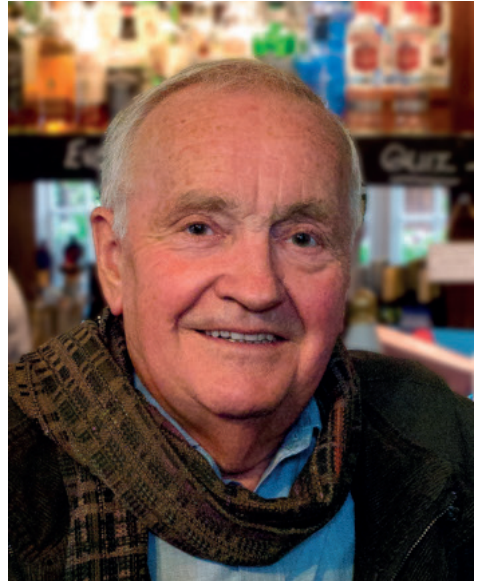


Peter was known to many residents from his days at the Stitchery shop which he and his wife Julia set up in Thames Ditton High Street, and for opening their beautiful garden in Watts Road each year for the National Gardens Scheme charity. Perhaps less known is the tremendous work he did for the community during his 12 years as our Surrey County Councillor (2005 – 2017) and in many wider voluntary roles

In 1972, four years after Peter and Julia moved with their young family to Thames Ditton, Peter was persuaded by their neighbour to stand as Treasurer of the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association. After this Peter served as Chairman of the Association on three occasions and then in 2005, after he had retired, he was elected the Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons and Weston Green.

Peter was an active and effective county councillor. His business background, as former head of quality control at Heinz, was matched by his knowledge of the area - where he cycled around the division to view problems on the ground and listened to residents and businesses affected by them. This enabled him to speak with first-hand authority to officials and committees alike, in search of workable solutions.

Peter was an active governor of both Thames Ditton Junior School and Esher Sixth Form College. He served as Surrey County Council's member on the Thames Landscape Strategy - the partnership to conserve and enhance the River Thames between Weybridge, Hampton and Kew



- and was Chairman from 2015 to 2017. A natural countryman, Peter was a hands-on Chairman, walking the tow-path and introducing the Shire horses from Operation Centaur when they first cut the hay on the 18th century Ham Avenues and at the Hurst, East Molesey.

Peter was an active Chairman of the Thames Ditton Conservation Area Advisory Committee for 19 years, where he and his colleagues were responsible for maintaining the character of the Conservation Area. They successfully saw off the attempt by Surrey County Council to sell off the Youth and Community Centre and car park opposite the library. The character of a Conservation Area High Street is not just the architecture but its vitality and viability - there should be a mixture of shops, employment (offices)

and residential. Converting shops and offices to residential destroys the balance and can lead to ghost villages. On two occasions Peter successfully led the battle at public inquiries against the change of use from shop and from offices to residential.

Surrey County Council is responsible for roads, youth services, libraries and education and Peter worked tirelessly to improve these services. On some occasions he fought against unacceptable proposals, such as the pay-and-display proposals in village high streets including Thames Ditton. At Winters Bridge, when a new bus stop layout prevented parking outside the shops, Peter worked with Chris Bachmann of Bachmann's Patisserie to get Surrey CC to change the layout to provide short-term parking spaces, which immediately increased sales at the shops. More recently Peter managed to get short term (one hour) parking in the centre of Thames Ditton village and again this has been a great success for the shops. At Thames Ditton station Peter was instrumental in supplying the new covered cycle stands.



As our Surrey County Councillor Peter attended hundreds of meetings, both committees and informal ones with local residents or council officers, which resulted in many improvements for our community, from improved drainage around Esher station and outside Thames Ditton Infants School to heritage street lights for our older streets. Writing in Thames Ditton Today in 2017 Peter recalled that the best part of being a councillor is being part of the Allocation Scheme, where every year a sum of money is allocated to good causes in each division. This meant that he was able to direct £138,000 to hundreds of local projects including the Ajax Sea Scouts, the Girl Guides in Church Walk, the Dittons' "shack" as well as the Long Ditton Youth Project, library improvements, and the arts projects at All Saints Weston.



His passing is a huge loss to our community – and even more so to his family. At every stage in his public life Peter was supported by his wife Julia, to whom we owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Ruth Lyon

Local Volunteering, National Impact

The Fredericks Foundation



What is the link between The (thriving) Garden Shop in Devon and Thames Ditton?

Local resident Mandy Iles has lived in Thames Ditton for more than 22 years. During that time Mandy established, and eventually sold, her own successful image consultancy helping people to improve their personal image and communication skills in business. This experience, and the satisfaction she gained from seeing her clients achieve their ambitions, was in the back of her mind when she met the Fredericks Foundation at a business networking event over a year ago.

The Fredericks Foundation is named after the selfless grandad of its founder, Paul Barry Walsh. Frederick taught young Paul that you should take little and give as much as you can in life. The Foundation's mission is to provide access to small business loans to help people who have been excluded from mainstream credit to start or develop their own business. This is backed up with support from experienced mentors, who

volunteer their time through the charity.

Mandy decided to become one of their voluntary mentors and has found herself paired with Susan Brown, a garden shop and cafe owner in Devon. Mandy is mentoring Sue over the telephone for a couple of hours a month to help her to extend and develop the business on the back of a second Fredericks loan that Sue has received.

'I'm advising her on marketing and selling as well as how best to manage the growth. For example, Sue has asked for my advice on how to retain and develop the high performing style of the team that she has cultivated, when they move to working across two sites. The role is one of providing advice and signposting. It's not 'coaching' which is more about helping people find the answers themselves. It helps that I have had experience of running my own business, but it's not essential,' Mandy said.



Mandy Iles mentoring over the phone

The charity offers a range of loans which include start-up loans for those entrepreneurs who are hampered by poor credit ratings, and loans designed to help them grow and develop their business. Mandy said: *'Fredericks is about creating choice not charity. That's why I liked what they were doing, as it is all about 'hand ups' not 'hand outs' which I believe is a more dignified way of helping people'*.

Fredericks has recently established a ring-fenced loan fund for women, as they are largely under-represented in the business community, accounting for only 17% of business owners in the UK. Mandy said that while everyone can benefit from a Fredericks Foundation loan, she was particularly excited about being involved in this women-focused initiative.

'When I ran my image consultancy I met many women with children who had lost confidence in themselves. It was so satisfying to help them build their image and develop their communication skills so that they could become successful in business. Their success is likely to have a beneficial social impact on their children and the wider community, and I get a real kick out of being part of this as the reward for the time I give,' said Mandy.



Tokunbo was supported to set up Nigerian Kitchen

There are many examples of entrepreneurs who were refused a loan from banks and who then turned to Fredericks to find finance and mentoring support which enabled them to start up, develop or rejuvenate all types of businesses, from dog grooming and handmade candles to windscreen replacement and cakes.

If you are interested in further information about how to apply for a loan or to read about some of the success stories, please visit www.fredericksfoundation.org.

Individuals with relevant backgrounds and at least a spare hour per month could also volunteer to be a mentor. Volunteers are also needed on the panel which assesses the loan applications. There are lots of corporate support opportunities too, including the '1% club' where businesses pledge to donate at least 1% of their annual profits to the charity as part of their corporate social responsibility.

Julie Royce

Residents' Association campaign for improved train services



Many residents, including both regular commuters and occasional users of the train services from our local stations at Thames Ditton, Hampton Court and Esher, are dissatisfied with the level of service provided by South Western Railway (SWR). The Residents' Association has made regular representations to the franchise on behalf of residents and submitted demands that services are improved and more reliable.

As part of its campaign, the Residents' Association invited SWR representatives to answer questions raised by residents at the RA's Open Meeting on 29 January 2019. About 100 residents attended the meeting. SWR was represented by their Regional Development Manager, David Wilby; Regional Manager Central (which includes the local lines), Mark Franklin; and the local Station Manager, Scott Cooper.

Numerous questions were put to them, and while SWR's attendance at the meeting was appreciated, it was felt that their answers were often unsatisfactory as regards detail and problem fixing, despite having been informed of the issues to be discussed.

Many residents raised their concerns regarding the inadequacy of services

during the recent strike days. It is clear that SWR often moves to cancel the service on the Hampton Court branch in the event of disruptions; Mark Franklin claimed that this is mainly for operational reasons.

Graham Cooke, the RA Chairman, reminded the SWR representatives of their obligation to provide a service under the franchise, which includes rail replacement buses if necessary.

David Wilby explained that SWR is committed to invest in the railway. For example, SWR will replace the ageing stock of train carriages with modern 10-carriage trains which will be introduced at the end of 2019 / beginning of 2020 and he expects this to help improve the reliability of services. SWR is also keen to improve cooperation with Network Rail, which is responsible for the rail infrastructure, to reduce the impact of track faults and signal failures.

Graham Cooke thanked the SWR representatives for their attendance and Scott Cooper was particularly thanked for his helpfulness and diligence in his work as our Station Manager. The Residents' Association will continue to campaign for better train services from our local stations.

Florian Traub



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Jazz nights in Thames Ditton



For more than 20 years Tuesday evening has been jazz night at the George & Dragon (G&D) in Thames Ditton High Street. The tradition started in 1998 when the late Dick Charlesworth, an accomplished and renowned tenor saxophonist and resident of Thames Ditton, put together a band of seasoned professionals willing to entertain at what must have been well below Musicians' Union rates.

The original line up included Dick plus Alan Dandy on keyboards, John Rodber on bass and Don Cook on drums. All four had been playing professionally for many years and they were often joined by guest musicians and singers once the 'gig' had become established.

Sadly, Dick Charlesworth passed away in 2008. Many will remember that his funeral arrangements included a New Orleans style procession through the village with many famous jazz musicians in attendance – his obituary in the Guardian is available on-line.

John Barnes took over the gig after

Dick's death and, subsequently, it went through various changes. The ever-present participant was drummer Don Cook who managed things until very recently. Don had learned his art serving in the Scots Guards from 1949 until 1954 when he became a professional musician. His career took him to many famous venues and ballrooms and included work with the BBC.





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Dick Charlesworth left a jazz legacy

He regularly played at the Eve club in Soho in the 1960s (Google that to find more about the racy side of West End life 50 years ago!) Don's line up in more recent years included Alan Berry on keyboards and Mick Durrell on bass.

Don was highly successful in persuading many well-known jazz professionals to play at the G&D. It is no exaggeration to say that

one night they would be playing in Thames Ditton and the next they might be at Ronnie Scotts. Alan Barnes, Karen Sharpe, Don Weller, Willie Garnett, Nigel Price, Simon Spillett and Art Theman are all legends on the jazz scene and have frequently graced our local.

Recently, Don passed the baton onto Lester Brown, a fantastic trumpet and flugelhorn player. Lester is supported by Matt Skeaping on drums, Dave Jones on bass and Alan Berry on keyboards.

Sadly, at the time of writing, the George & Dragon jazz gig is under threat. Free jazz nights (and it always has been free) are not doing enough for its owner Shephard Neame's profits and it looks as though the gig will become a monthly rather than a weekly event in future. The RA is in discussion with Shephard Neame and it is hoped that the event can continue and, possibly, the weekly format be resurrected.

If you've never been to the G&D on jazz night, why not give it a try? Some people are put off by the word 'jazz' but the G&D gig is all about great musicians of all ages playing music and having fun.

At present, the gig takes place every Tuesday evening starting at around 8.30pm –and its free!

Graham Cooke





Your Residents' Association

Notification to residents of key planning applications

Web site maintained as resource for all residents

High Street Christmas Fair & continued funding for High Street Christmas Trees & lights

Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton

Supported residents' objections to inappropriate development

Supported Thames Ditton High Street retailers

Organised and part financed Milbourne Pond restoration

Supported parents seeking long-term solution to secondary schools crisis

Supported injunction re Traveller incursions

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

Supported 'Boomerang Bags' to make Thames Ditton a plastic bag free zone

Regular Open Meetings to engage with the community on important topics

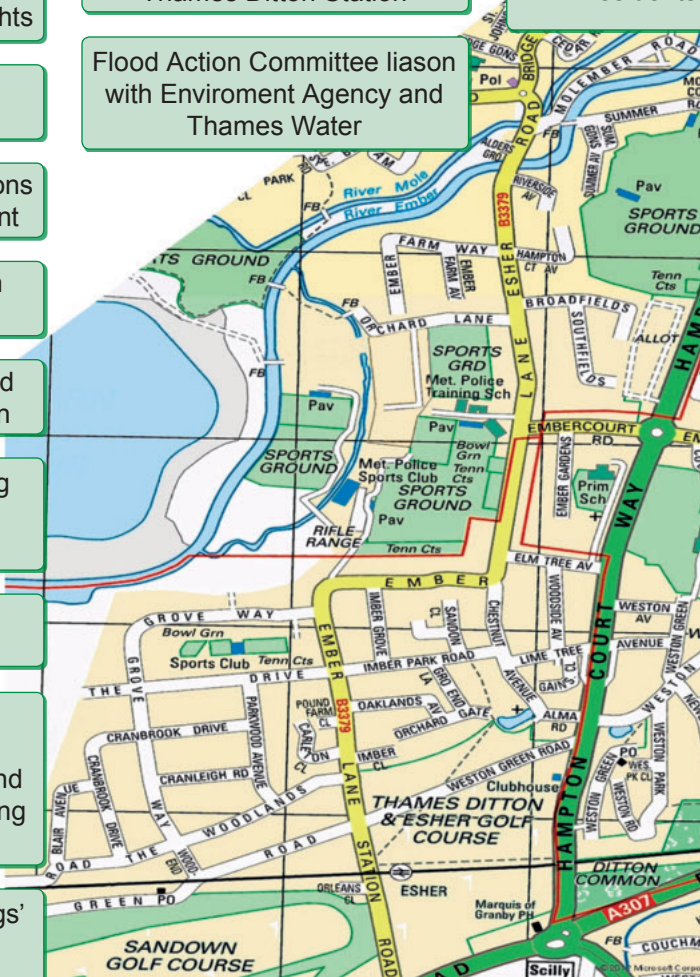
New village sign for Thames Ditton

Covered cycle rack at Thames Ditton Station

Flood Action Committee liaison with Environment Agency and Thames Water

Constant vigilance
Conservation
Green Belt in

Twitter
residents



tion in Action 2018-2019



ance to protect
n Areas and
n Local Plan

to keep
informed

RA Councillors represent interests of local residents to GP surgeries and the CCG on health services

5000 copies of Thames Ditton Today distributed quarterly in Thames Ditton, Weston Green and Molesey

Campaigned for Floating Pennywort removal to reduce flood risk

Lighting under the bridge at Esher station

Enabled installation of defibrillator outside Dittons Library

Planted spring bulbs, maintained flower beds and Fountain roundabout, supported Thames Ditton in Bloom at the railway station and beyond

Active Litter Picking Groups in Weston Green and Thames Ditton

Supports Monthly Farmers' Markets

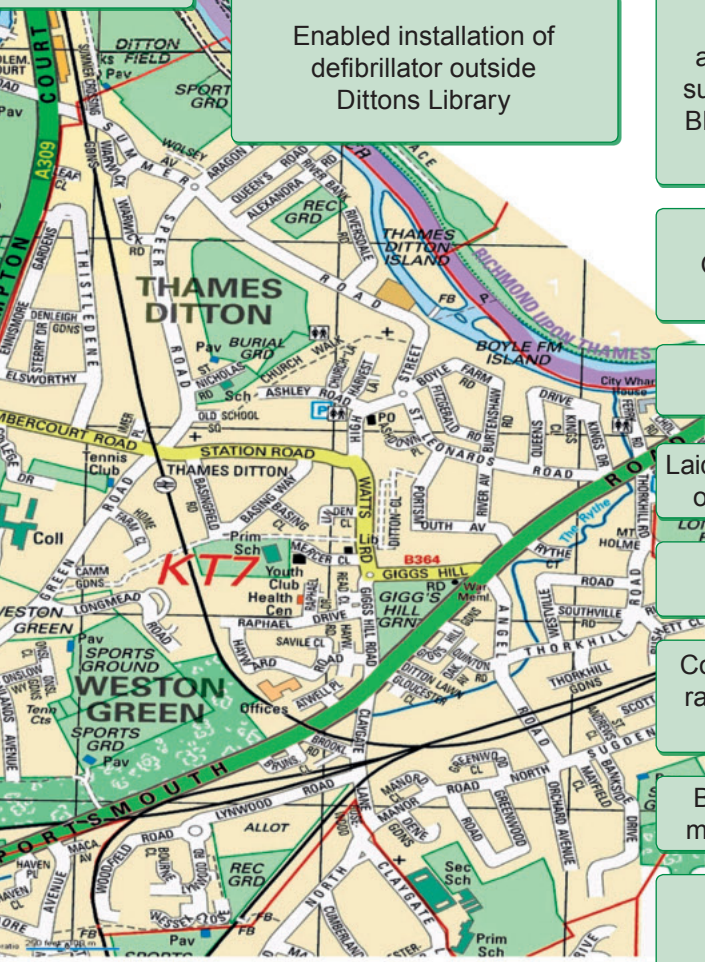
Laid wreaths on War Memorials on Remembrance Sunday

Surface for new path on Ditton Common

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

Bug House and wildflower meadow installed at Co-Op

Actively pressed South Western Railway to improve services





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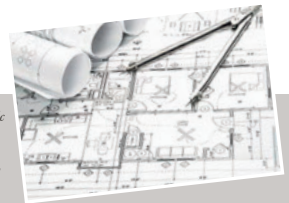
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"Thames Design and Build were great to work with and they were ahead of schedule throughout the project. Their team was sympathetic to the impact of the works whilst we remained living in the house, and we were pleased with the quality of their workmanship. 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

Thames Ditton and Esher Golf Club



There is a long history of golf on Ditton Common

Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club, your friendly local golf club, was established in 1892 and is one of the oldest golf clubs in England!

The course was originally set out (as a 3-hole layout) by local landowner Lord Hannibal Speer for his servants' exercise and pleasure. From this lowly start Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club was formed in 1892 and started playing on Ditton common.

Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club was built to provide affordable golf to the community and still lives by that mantra today. Offering membership from as low as £199, with considerable discounts for juniors and colts, we hope there is a “deal for everyone”.

The club has raised money for many worthy causes over the years including Surrey Young Carers, Royal Marsden and Help for Heroes. This money raised is all through the hard work and commitment of our members who put in countless hours preparing the events.

Our members/visitors are aware that they are playing on “common land” and as such make sure they don't endanger the public.

We have co-existed alongside dog walkers, runners, commuters etc. for years and have had very few incidents over that time.

The club is run as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) which is a non-profit making community amateur sports club. This allows the club to function financially, but it has been and still is a constant struggle to survive. We are constantly looking for new initiatives and inspiration to attract more people to the game. We would particularly like to recruit more young players and women to enjoy golf.



Dexter Rodbard showing golf is for all

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A great way to relax on a summer evening

To this end we have teamed up with 1Putt to bring a new “vibe” to the game - take a look at our website for more details over the next two months and also the next edition of Thames Ditton Today

We are currently actively looking for new members and to this end are offering 25% off the first year’s subscriptions plus a “welcome” kit.

Our warm and friendly clubhouse is open every day and everyone is welcome to come in for a coffee, sandwich or drink. If you’re walking the dog or coming back from the station do pop in for Surrey’s friendliest welcome.

The club runs a multitude of different competitions over a varying number of holes. 9-Hole golf has become very popular with modern lifestyles which don’t allow much time to spend on leisure. There is a big push from the government currently to get people into golf for the enormous health benefits. A 2-3 mile walk while whacking a little ball amid great company can do wonders for physical and mental wellbeing!

Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club can

also accommodate evening functions for up to 100 people, with excellent-value hire cost and drinks at very reasonable prices. If you are thinking of having a do for your 40th or your wedding anniversary or any other cause for celebration then give us a try. We also provide catering through our 19th Hole Café.

Club Professional Mark Rodbard is on hand to give valuable advice, through golf lessons, on the “swing” as well as having tie-ins with the no.1 junior golf academy.

The golf club is trying to lead the way in getting rid of the stigma around golf that its boring, elitist and for old people! For example, we no longer have a dress code and long gone are the draconian rules stifling the growth of the game. We pride ourselves on being inclusive, friendly and ready to listen to any new ideas members/visitors may have. We’re confident you won’t find a more welcoming sports club around. We hope to see you on the course or in the clubhouse soon.

Mark Rodbard
Club Professional

Website

www.thamesdittonandeshergolfclub.com



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Flooding in Thames Ditton – Another Update

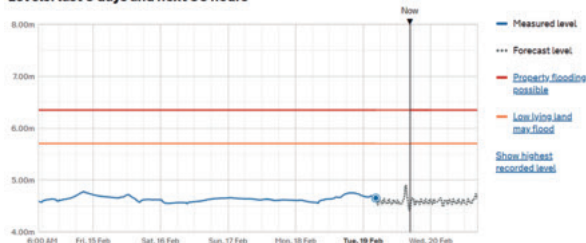


River level

River Thames at Thames Ditton Island

Latest recorded level 4.65m at 4:30am Tuesday 19 February 2019.

Levels: last 5 days and next 36 hours



So far this winter, up until early February at least, there has been no sign of flooding along the River Thames and river levels in Thames Ditton have not risen very much above their summer levels. This is shown on the graph below. Note that, as reported before, the Environment Agency have now provided a 36-hour forecast for us.

The Environment Agency has also updated its web-based plans showing the areas ‘at risk’ of flooding in our neighbourhood, based upon their latest modelling. This is shown opposite. As before, ‘high risk’ equates to a 3% chance of flooding in any year (the same as saying 1 in 33.3) and a river level at TD Island of about 7.1m, or 0.4m higher than in 2014. The medium risk area (1% chance of flooding in any year or 1 in 100) equates to a flood level of 7.62m, and 1m over 2014 levels. The good news is that the latest modelling shows the ‘high risk’ area as rather smaller than on the previous plans.

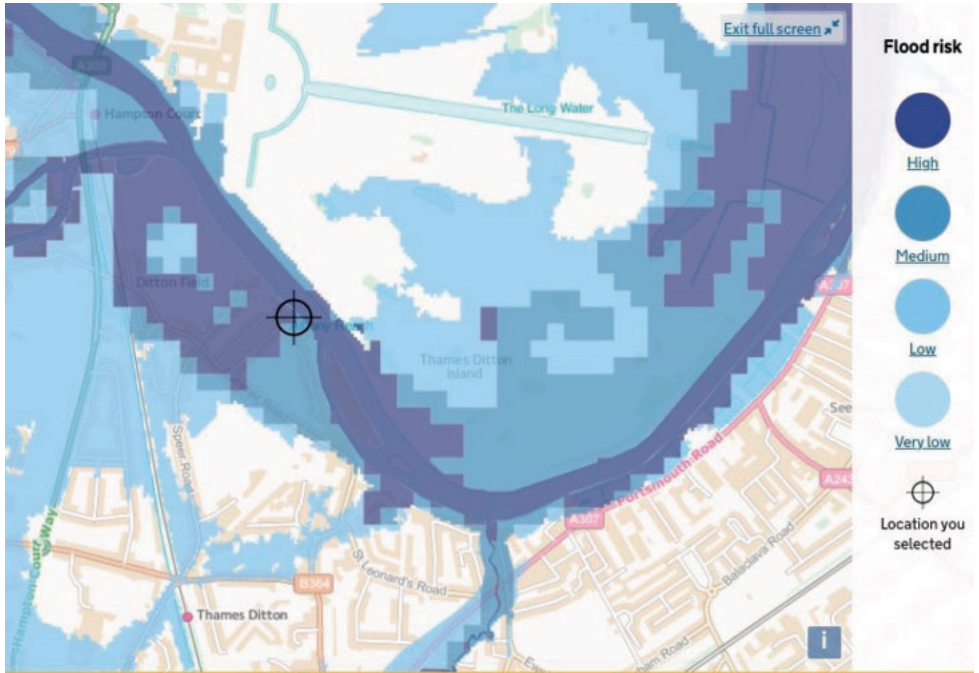
The Environment Agency team working on the ‘River Thames Scheme’ are refining their Business Case while additional funding is sought and any construction work is not

likely to happen before 2022. Although the scheme itself would provide little direct benefit to Thames Ditton, the Environment Agency is developing a community resilience scheme for the main ‘at risk’ area here. This includes investigating the use of permanent flood barriers to provide protection of the high and medium risk areas. This design is at an early stage and will take some time to develop, discuss with residents and then, if agreed, implement.

In parallel, as part of a much larger country-wide plan to reduce the impact of flooding, the Environment Agency is developing a temporary flood barrier solution for Thames Ditton. This is almost complete, subject to agreement of some final details. Thames Ditton is one of around 20 areas along the River Thames and tributaries where a temporary barrier may be deployed and there are 150 locations countrywide. The photo below was taken at a demonstration of the barrier in Walton on Thames last autumn.



Demonstration of a temporary flood barrier



Areas at risk of flooding published by the Environment Agency

The Residents' Association Flood Group has had some initial discussions with the Environment Agency on both permanent and temporary barrier proposals and has raised a number of concerns. These are being taken into account as part of the design development. Residents will have plenty of opportunity to comment on both proposals as the Environment Agency will be organising one or more public 'drop in' sessions in Thames Ditton so that all residents have the chance to see what is proposed and provide comments. Plenty of publicity will be provided and the Residents' Association will ensure that full information is also available on our web site. It is likely that the first 'drop in' will take place in the early summer.

Anyone who lives around Alexandra Road will know that in 2013/2014 the flood water came out of the street drains to cause much of the flooding. The drains

are the responsibility of Thames Water and the Flood Group have been trying for some time to get them to investigate the routing of the drains and outfalls into the river and to see what can be done to stop the flood water coming from them in the future. At last, Thames Water have agreed to investigate and we should shortly have some proposals to try to sort this problem out. Without a reasonable solution, any permanent or temporary flood barriers will be ineffective because the drains will provide a free passage for flood water underneath the barriers.

The Flood Group will also be developing a new section of the Residents' Association website to include flooding information such as a Summary of the Flood Warning Process.

**Tony Thompson, Convenor
Residents' Association Flood Group**

What do you know about Hurst Park?



FRIENDS
of
HURST
PARK



Photo credit: John Inglis

Many of us may have walked along the Thames at Hurst Park. These old lammas lands, held in common of Moulsey Hurst, where the Hampton Ferry comes ashore on the Surrey bank, have certainly seen life:

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 1603: | what is said to be England's earliest game of golf is played along the river |
| 1731: | an early cricket match is held on land near the Hampton Ferry landing |
| 1785: | an early hot air balloon ascent, about a year after the Montgolfier Brothers |
| 1787: | a professional runner ran a mile in 4 minutes and 3 seconds in an attempt for the 4 minutes - naked, it is said, for speed |
| 1798: | Mr Troward, a member of the Toxophilite Society, shot an arrow on level ground at Moulsey Hurst seventeen score (340) yards. |
| 1807: | bare knuckle champion Tom Cribb fights and wins |
| 1810: | Incidents, Marriages and Deaths reports two duels in a week on Moulsey Hurst; the first over a disputed bet at Egham Races, when Captain Hants was severely wounded and his opponent fled; the second mortally injuring a Mr G Payne |
| 1812: | Pugilist Edward Turner kills his opponent after a fight lasting 90 minutes. He was convicted of manslaughter, shown mercy, and spent just two months in Newgate Gaol |
| 1815: | Molesey Lock opens on 9th August to improve navigation - more crowds to the Hurst |
| 1822: | James Ward fought regularly at Moulsey Hurst, once admitting defeat when in fact he won - all bets were called off |
| 1823: | Barney Aaron and Tom Collins' famous boxing match (Boxing Register International Hall of Fame) |

1830s:	a glimpse of the Hampton Races on Moulsey Hurst in Dickens' Nicholas Nickleby: <i>"The little racecourse at Hampton was in the full tide and height of its gaiety; the sun high in the cloudless sky. Every gaudy colour that fluttered in the air from carriage seat and garish tent-top shone out in its gaudiest hues."</i> Hampton Races, known as the Cockney Derby, took place in June and September – big days with a carnival and fair, said to attract 100,000 visitors each day (Thameside Molesey, 1989, Rowland GM Baker). It drew the poor of London - a rough place with fist fights, robberies, beatings and worse (recorded <i>The Machinery of Crime in England</i> , 1834); nevertheless, it is said that William IV was often a spectator at Moulsey Hurst
1845:	with the arrival of the railway, Moulsey Hurst is now accessible from London by rail and steamer
1867:	Molesey Regatta established - still held each July on Moulsey Hurst
1890:	area fenced for Hurst Park Racecourse
1960s - 80s:	– much of the riverside land returned to the public as open space



Kniff View –1704, birds-eye view of Hampton Court Palace looking upstream towards Moulsey Hurst;

There is a very local plan from 1806, showing the lammas lands held in common and the flood fields running down to the river's edge. It showed a scheme to improve the Thames Navigation: a canal along a route where, roughly, Hurst Road now runs, from Platt's Eyot to the River Ember at Hampton Court. For barges, the Molesey reach of the Thames was a series of impassable mud, shallows, shoals, and locals who set up obstacles like fish weirs and flash locks.

In the event, the scheme was superseded by something much simpler – a pound lock and dredging of the navigation along the Surrey channel creating a cut, using the spoil to consolidate the towpath, Taggs Island, Garrick's Ait and the islands. The reach was later the setting for Garrick's Villa and Temple to Shakespeare - fine Georgian buildings on the Hampton Bank from the Age of Enlightenment. The reach is now protected under the Thames Landscape Strategy – in 1994 it inspired the Arcadian Thames, Hampton to Kew.



Painting by Zoffany The Garrick family on Garrick's Lawn, looking downstream towards Moulsey



Print showing the ferry to the races at Hurst

It is easy to see why local people in Surrey and Middlesex, and users of Hurst Park, the Thames Path, Garrick's Temple and Hampton Ferry, have all united in recent years to resist - successfully - planning proposals on the riverside at Hurst Park and Meadows. Hampton Ferry itself has a licence that dates from the c16th – amongst

the earliest on the Thames.

Today the riverbank and park are protected for nature conservation. Hurst Meadows is rare meadow floodplain for river water whenever the Thames rises. This enrichment contributes to unusual botanical diversity and an astonishing butterfly population. Despite its closeness to London, Hurst Park remains tranquil and pastoral, designated Public Open Green Space. Today activities tend to be peaceful – picnics, walking, exercise, charity events, and the like. But standing on the old lammas land by the Hampton Ferry landing, you can't help but imagine some of what went on in the past...

Jill Sanders – Friend of Hurst Park
<http://www.friendsofhurstpark.org.uk>



Aerial view of current Hurst Park and Hurst Meadows

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Captain Tyringham Howe



HMS Glasgow (Captain Tyringham's command) being pursued by the rebel American colonial squadron.

When you tiptoe from St. Nicholas Church door along the north aisle, shortly before the amazing Norman font you tread on a large flagstone inscribed:

Sacred to the memory of Tyringham Howe Esq. a Captain in his Majesty's Royal Navy who departed this life the 7th of June 1783, aged 38 years.

Also the body of Elizabeth Howe, wife of the above Tyringham Howe Esq who departed this life the 21st day of December 1785, aged 45 years.

Their bones lie beneath.

Now Tyringham is an unusual name, of a family from Buckinghamshire with an ancient manorial Hall in a village named after them. Tyringham Howe was a younger son in the Stephens family of Gloucestershire, which in the early 1600s provided several sheriffs of that county and Thomas Stephens, attorney-

general to Prince Henry (son of King James I) and Charles I. Thomas' grandson Nathaniel married Elizabeth, daughter and eventually heir of Robert Tiringham, of Weston-upon-Favell, Northants, and the forename Tyringham then appears among their descendants with the sons taking the customary professions of the Church, the Army and the Navy.

A couple of generations down the line saw Millicent Stephens married to William Howe of Essex, producing two sons who became captains in the Navy, William dying in 1760, and our Tyringham (named after his mother's elder brother, a Commissioner in the Navy's Victualling office). Two younger sons joined the Marines and the Army, the latter, Lt. Col. Stephens Howe, becoming aide-de-camp to the King. Millicent's younger brother Philip Stephens (1725 - 1809), our Tyringham's uncle, also

started in the Navy's Victualling office but caught the eye of Admiral Anson and had a glittering bureaucratic career as Anson's secretary, becoming assistant secretary of the Admiralty in 1763, later first secretary, and well-placed to foster the naval careers of his seagoing nephews whom he long outlived.

In 1795 Philip Stephens, already an FRS and MP for Sandwich, was created a baronet and appointed one of the Lords of the Admiralty. He died aged 84, having enjoyed a whopping pension and proved that you didn't need to go to sea to achieve greatness in the Admiralty!

American War of Independence

Tyringham Howe showed his mettle in a different way.

At twenty years old he was made Lieutenant in September 1765 (I do not know on which ships he served as a junior officer), rising to Commander in December 1770 in command of HMS Vulture, a sloop of 14 guns. In July 1772 he commanded a smaller sloop, Cruizer, 6 guns, and two months later sailed to North America. Within a year trouble would break out at Boston harbour which led to the American War of Independence. Tyringham must have impressed Vice-Admiral Samuel Graves, commander of the Navy's North American Station, for on 11 January 1775 Graves made him a Captain and gave him command of a twenty-gun frigate, HMS Glasgow, based at Boston. In June that year Glasgow was part of the fleet involved with the retaking of Bunker Hill from the colonial forces that had occupied its narrow peninsula with the intention of laying artillery siege to British-held Boston.

During late 1775 and early 1776 The Naval Committee of the rebel United Colonies acquired and fitted out its own navy, which

made its maiden voyage in the Spring. It enjoyed some initial success capturing minor British vessels but then, on 6 April, off Block Island which is about one-third of the way between the easternmost tip of Long Island and the island of Martha's Vineyard, the Americans' fleet spotted HMS Glasgow downwind. Now the American force, commanded by Commodore Esek Hopkins, was much stronger than the lone Glasgow. It included the recently refitted Alfred (24 guns), Columbus (20), Andrea Doria (14), Cabot(14), and Providence (12). It was packed with marines. It also enjoyed the weather gauge when Glasgow was spotted. Nevertheless, Glasgow went creaming upwind to meet them. Here is our Captain Tyringham Howe's report, which stands reading:

"On Saturday the 6th of April, 1776, At two am, Block Island then bearing N. W. about eight Leagues, we discovered a Fleet on the weather beam, consisting of seven or eight Sail; tacked and stood towards them and soon perceived them to be two or three large Ships and other Square Rigged Vessels. Turned all hands to Quarters, hauled up the Mainsail and kept standing on to the N. W. with a light breeze and smooth Water, the Fleet then coming down before it. At half past two a large Brig, much like the Bolton but larger, came within hail and seemed to hesitate about giving any answer, but still kept standing towards us and on being asked what other Ships were in company with her, they answered 'the Columbus and Alfred, a two and twenty Gun frigate.' And almost immediately a hand Grenadoe was thrown out of her top. We exchanged our Broadides. She then shot ahead and lay on our bow, to make room for a large Ship with a top-light to come on our Broadside and another Ship ran under our Stern, Raked as she passed

and then luft up on our Lee beam, whilst a Brig took her Station on our Larboard Quarter and a Sloop kept altering her Station occasionally. At this time the Clerk having the care of the dispatches for the So. Ward to destroy, if the ship should be boarded or in danger of being taken, hove the bag overboard with a shot in it. At four the Station of every Vessel was altered, as the two ships had dropt on each quarter and a Brig kept astern giving a continual fire. Bore away and made Sail for Rhode Island, with the whole fleet within Musket shot on our Quarters and Stern. Got two Stern chase guns out of the Cabin and kept giving and receiving a very warm fire. At daylight perceived the Rebel fleet to consist of two Ships, two Brigs and a Sloop, and a large Ship and Snow that kept to Windward as soon as the Action began. At half past six the Fleet hauled their Wind and at Seven tacked and stood to the S. S. W. Employed reeving, knotting and splicing and the Carpenters making fishes for the Masts. At half past seven made a Signal and fired several guns occasionally to alarm the fleet at Rhode Island Harbour. The Rose, Swan and Nautilus then being working out. We had one Man Killed and three Wounded by the musketry from the Enemy.”

Commodore Hopkins' report was rather brief. Indeed the rebel fleet, which suffered two vessels disabled, ten men killed and fourteen wounded, and which was outpaced when Glasgow bore away for Rhode Island despite the damage to Glasgow's sails and rigging, had done poorly. The engagement led to criticism of Hopkins and the nascent Continental Navy, and to two courts-martial. Hopkins was investigated by the Continental Congress of the United Colonies for disregarding his earlier orders to take the fleet southwards. He had moreover disposed of the spoils taken

earlier in the cruise, without consultation. In January 1778 he was dismissed from the Navy.

There are several accounts of the battle online, with diagrams for the aficionados of naval warfare. There are, of course, many papers by US researchers who tend to expiate Hopkins and find excuses for a poor show. My view is that Hopkins and the new American fleet were callow in naval strategy and Hopkins in particular made basic mistakes from which all would have learned a great deal: there is nothing like experience. For his part, Tyringham Howe was spirited and skilled.

Return to Britain

HMS Glasgow was badly damaged and in need of substantial repairs. Tyringham Howe's commission as post captain was confirmed by the Admiralty, and he returned to Portsmouth to take command of HMS Thames, a more powerful frigate of 32 guns which was in the process of completing a major repair and refit. Thames sailed for North America in December 1776, during which tour of duty she took a brig, and was in action off Virginia and in Chesapeake Bay. The ship was stricken by fever which left Howe ill and many crew dead. After joining Commodore Sir George Collier's expedition against rebels on the Connecticut coast during the first half of 1779, the Thames returned to Newhaven and Deptford for further repairs, and in September 1782 she was paid off.

In the last few years of Tyringham Howe's short life, he and his wife settled in Thames Ditton from November 1781: I have not discovered which house they lived in. Personal details about Tyringham, his older wife Elizabeth, and when and where they married, are extremely scant. Tyringham had bought and brought back



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

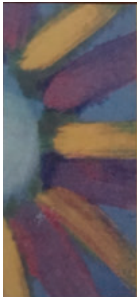
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with him from his tour in America a black slave girl, Charlotte. From his Will, and the lack of records in the likes of Ancestry, the Howes were childless. The Will is dated 13 November 1781 (it seems it was drawn up at the time they came to the village) and there is a codicil signed weakly by Tyringham on 7 June 1783, the day he died. Everything is left to Elizabeth. There is no mention of Charlotte.

Charlotte Howe

On the other hand, Charlotte not only remained with Elizabeth Howe, but was baptised with the family name as Charlotte Howe at St. Nicholas, Thames Ditton, on 17 December 1783 (which has led Ancestry to list that as her date of birth!). The register describes her as “an African servant to Mrs How” (not as a slave, note). And now there ensued a seminal case in British law concerning slavery, on which I touched in an earlier article.

The newly-widowed Elizabeth decamped to Chelsea and took Charlotte with her. After a few months it appears they fell out, for Charlotte Howe returned alone to Thames Ditton and sought relief on the parish. Our Vestry was unwilling to cough up as Charlotte had been in Chelsea the past forty days. St. Luke’s Chelsea was also disinclined, and there ensued a legal battle to avoid responsibility for this black pauper. I can’t help thinking that more was spent on legal fees than would have been required to support Charlotte.

The judge in the case was none other than Lord Mansfield, who had already made a crucial judgment on a slave’s right to resist repatriation; maintaining that slavery had no basis here in common law nor was it established by legislation. But the unfortunate Charlotte Howe fell right through these holes in English law, for after a ding-dong case in which advocates for both

sides argued eloquently, Mansfield ruled that a former slave had no right to wages or a settlement without an express contract of hiring. Charlotte had none, so was not entitled to support from either parish:

“The Statutes in question have not a word applicable to Slaves; the Legislature never thought of them. To have the privilege of a Settlement, a person must be within the description of hiring and service, here is no Hiring at all.”

Almost needless to say, despite the fame of this case there are no details at all of poor Charlotte, or what became of her. Two years later the newly-established Committee for the Relief of the Black Poor was meeting in Batson’s Coffee House to mete out doles to destitute Indian sailors discharged by the East India Company, and indigent black American loyalists.

So the next time you wear away a little more of the inscription on Tyringham Howe’s gravestone, you may be mindful of the history. Tread softly.

Keith Evetts



Be mindful of history at St Nicholas. Photo credit Andrew Eccleston

Solution to the Winter Crossword



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

There were no correct entries this time for the Winter Crossword

Try your hand at our Spring crossword



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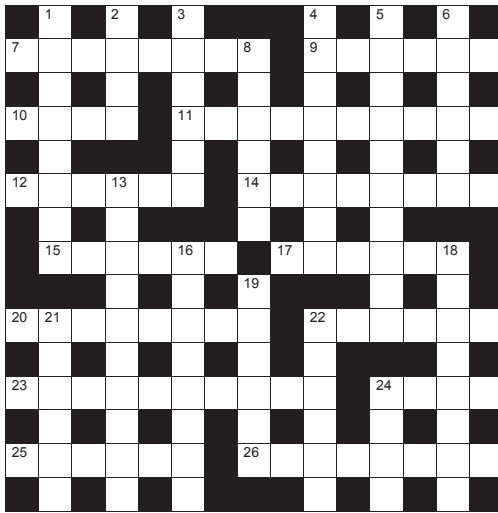
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Spring Crossword



We would like to introduce a new crossword compiler to Thames Ditton Today **Howard Cruthers**

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of May 10 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. Where to see sea creatures (8)
9. Selfishly (6)
10. Connect parts of chain? (4)
11. Warning devices (4, 6)
12. In accordance with the usual requirements (6)
14. Acerbic (8)
15. An indefinitely great number (6)
17. Increasing in number (6)
20. Enduring (8)
22. Tropical fruit (6)
23. Deep sea marine animal that thinks its a reptile? (10)
24. Muck about – with a songbird? (4)
25. Old name for tea growing country (6)
26. A nervous upset causes extreme hunger? (anag) (8)

DOWN CLUES

1. Having the same shape (8)
2. Break into a computer system (4)
3. Immoral (6)
4. Flawed, often of hearing or vision (8)
5. Butch Cassidy's South American neighbour? (10)
6. Former students (6)
8. Ill-tempered or surly (6)
13. Able to sell mixed up table maker (anag) (10)
16. Keeping clear of (8)
18. Big-hearted (8)
19. More hideous (6)
21. Flowering plants – seen with the eye? (6)
22. Act, to conform? (6)
24. Mid-sized wild cat (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
Hinchley Wood / Dittons PROBUS Club	Edmund Woolloy	020 8398 3581
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 Cranleigham Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigham Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus Club, Hinchley Wood/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	TBC	TBC
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 Iazard	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

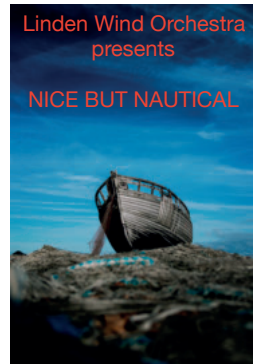


Our March mini-festival of plays continues with the second of our **Fish, Chips and a Play** nights and the return of **James Pellow** with his new bitter-sweet comedy **Her Majesty Fed an Elephant** on **Saturday 30 March**. James plays both characters in this piece - a flamboyant and opinionated lady Novelist and a very ordinary theatre cleaner as they both share joyful and painful memories. Come and enjoy a fish and chip supper before the play. Doors open at 7.00 pm, supper is served from 7.30 pm and the show will start at 8.15 pm.

On **Saturday 6 April** at 7.30 pm we welcome back the **Linden Wind Orchestra** with their festival concert **Nice But Nautical** featuring pieces from a range of genres with a theme

based on the sea and water.

We have two more plays concluding our late Spring Season. On **Sunday 14th April** at 7.30 pm we have **Florence 'Flo' Smith - Now and Then** by **Christopher Saul** which started its life in 1969 when the writer was a drama student. For his dissertation, he decided to interview his paternal grandmother, Florence Smith. It resulted in spools and spools of reminiscences of her life in London, through Victorian childhood, a difficult marriage, the struggle to feed her children and the experience of living through two world wars and the aftermath. Many years later the story was published as a Kindle book.



Meeting with actress Ursula Mohan and working with her on the transcripts led to the play which has already enjoyed successful performances in Stratford-upon-Avon and London.

Cyphers Theatre Company bring their adaptation of Jane Austen's gothic satire novel, **Northanger Abbey** on **Friday 10 May** at 7.30 pm. A timeless tale of growing up and getting it wrong, told through accessible humour and fast-paced action. For children and families we have **The Wind in The Willows** by **Kenneth Grahame** in an adaptation by Don Brown of The Cat's Grin Theatre Company, which promises to be an interactive performance shimmering with big characters and big hearts on Saturday 27 April at 2.30 pm.



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