

SUMMER 2014

THAMES DITTON — TODAY —



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



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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Summer 2014

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

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Cover photo: "*St. Nicholas from the far bank, by Keith Evetts.
This photo was donated to Wikipedia's entry for
Thames Ditton.*"

www.residents-association.com

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and the village Christmas tree. The subscription is only £3 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Chemist, 14 High Street, or Thorkill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

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THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION



About the Association

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

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

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

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

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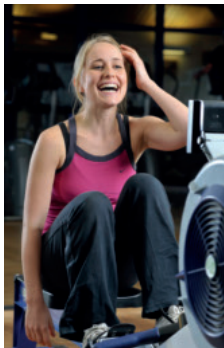
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News from the Residents' Association



to 15 June

Summer has arrived! The Ajax Sea Scouts held their plant sale, crowds gathered on Giggs Hill Green for the Dittons Fair and on Father's Day, 14 gardens opened to visitors as part of the "Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton". (See feature later in the magazine). Many thanks all those who nurtured their gardens to blooming glory.

The elections

In May the country held European and Borough elections. We are delighted that Residents' Association candidate Tricia Bland was elected as an Elmbridge Borough Councillor for Thames Ditton. Tricia is well known for her outstanding community work within the village and won by a resounding majority, the largest in Elmbridge. Her Conservative, Labour and UKIP rivals achieved only 615 votes between them.

She is replaced as Honorary Secretary of the Residents' Association by Florian Traub who lives in Longmead Road with his wife and young family.

Overall, parts of the country saw UKIP win seats in the Borough elections but not in Elmbridge which saw no change to the political status quo.

Tricia replaces Sandra Dennis on the East Area Planning Sub-Committee where we see the return of Conservative Councillor David Archer, following his removal last year after Elmbridge Council's Audit and Standards Committee

recommended he be removed from the planning committees while he had a professional interest in the industry. This followed his interview with Daily Telegraph under-cover reporters who asked Archer about his role as a planning consultant and Councillor.

Planning

The latest application for a 79-bed care home, incorporating a new wing, additions to the Priory and Chapel, new conservatory, changes to car parking and new mooring at the **Home of Compassion** (2013/4334) was approved. The previous application granted in 2008 for a 65-bed care home (along similar lines) was still live and could have been built anyway. This was a major consideration for the planners, especially consultee English Heritage, and the council's Heritage officer. Both considered the new application to be preferable to the former. During the planning process owners Caring Homes made further concessions to local concerns by removing a roof terrace overlooking properties on the High Street, reducing car parking at the rear, removing the electricity substation and windows.

In granting permission the council took into consideration the fragile state of the building and its significant heritage, and gave approval conditional upon the use of building materials that are sympathetic to the original building. Caring Homes have now submitted two new "materials"

applications (2014/1457 and 2014/1580) which seek to comply with the conditions imposed. Both are under consideration, though disappointment has been expressed that they don't go far enough to address the conditions imposed. If approved, development can commence swiftly.

Land adjacent to 55 High Street (next to Emma at Home). Last year the Planning Inspectorate allowed an appeal, for a townhouse with basement (2012/4026 and 2013/1128). In his decision the Inspector said *"Taking account of the nature of the locality including the road layout and proximity of other properties, I consider it is necessary to ensure that the construction process adheres to an agreed method of construction"*. The developer duly submitted a method-of-construction statement which contained plans to block off the pavement outside the site for the access and egress of materials and heavy plant machines throughout the construction period. Pedestrians would be required to cross the road to pass the site, with access to adjacent shops severely restricted. This was fought vociferously by ward Councillors for the safety of pedestrians and impact on shops. Although the applicant conceded some alterations to the plan, it was passed largely intact by the council because the complexities of the site (no other public access) meant there was no alternative. This remains of significant concern and will be exacerbated if construction at this site and the Home of Compassion coincide, resulting in simultaneous development on both sides of the road.

An application for nine flats with offices and boatyard at **Taggs Boatyard** in Summer Road (2013/2820) was refused in January because of its size, proximity to the

river, loss of amenity to residents of Thames Ditton Island, Summer Road and Riversdale Road and lack of contribution to affordable housing. A very similar "new" application (2014/1600) has recently been submitted and is under consideration.

The 11th application for development of **Land to the rear of 1 Lime Tree Avenue** (2013/2306) for a two-storey house was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The Inspector stated *"given the green and spacious nature of the appeal site, which is typical of the surrounding area, it is considered the proposal would have an urbanising effect that would in turn have a negative impact upon the character and appearance of the area"*.

At the former **Esher Angling Centre** (2013/4398) on Weston Green, permission was granted for a two-storey house following the demolition of the existing single-storey shop. The adjacent retail unit will remain. The new house will provide a small, much-needed unit that complies with many policies in the "Lifetime Home Criteria Assessment" which requires homes to be suitable for all stages of life and especially the disabled.

There is a planning application from the Co-op, for a single storey side extension, installation of new ATM, fenced plant enclosure and demolition of the existing conservatory at **The Ewe Public House** (2014/0243). This complex application has residents both against and in support. Technically, a 'change of use' is not required. The Public House could be opened as a shop, without permission, but planning permission is required to build an extension. The council are reviewing issues raised and the Highway Authority has been

consulted. A decision on this application is imminent.

The application for four detached two-storey houses and new access following the demolition of two houses at **87/89 Grove Way** (2014/1132) is under consideration. The four houses would be built – two facing Grove Way with access in between them and two built in the rear gardens. This back land development has attracted over 70 letters of objection.

In April, Surrey County Council approved plans for the expansion of **Cranmere Primary School**. This entails building a single storey primary school (630 places) and nursery school (26 places) on a new site on land adjoining Arran Way, Esher. Weston Green residents will be affected by increased traffic and parking. SCC's own assessment is that *"it will be no worse than around other schools"*. Our Residents' Association Councillors are working with the Head Teacher to address the impact of increased traffic while balancing the safety needs of Cranmere pupils and their families.

For details on planning applications see the Elmbridge Council website www.elmbridge.gov.uk and quote the relevant planning number. For the Cranmere application please visit the Surrey County Council website.

Fond farewell

In July, Weston Green School bids a fond farewell to Headmistress (and local resident) Lucia Harvey who is retiring after 27 years at the school. We wish her well.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Katie and Jason from Thames Ditton shop Paull's Fruit and Veg



Jason and Katy

who are winners of the Elmbridge Retailer of the Year Competition 2014 for best deli/grocery/speciality food store.

An outstanding number of votes was received this year, proving that there is overwhelming support for fantastic local shops. Paull's was described by shoppers as *"Always friendly and helpful and the best fresh fruit and veg around. Free delivery service."*

Summer events and traffic

The Hampton Court Palace Flower Show runs from 7-13 July. Local traffic is always heavy, so please use the train from Thames Ditton to Hampton Court if attending, or take the Thames Ditton ferry from the Albany Pub in Queens Road, direct to the show.

On 10 August the Prudential RideLondon cycle event takes place with road closures affecting our area. Details can be found on the Elmbridge Borough Council website at www.elmbridge.gov.uk or call GoSurrey event information 020 7902 0212.

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Introducing our new Residents' Association Councillor for Thames Ditton

– Tricia Bland



In the recent local election we asked residents *not* to mix national party politics and Town Halls, but to elect a candidate with a record of working to improve our village and tackling issues that threaten its character.

Thanks to you, Tricia Bland's record in these areas resulted in her election to Elmbridge Borough Council by an outstanding majority, 69% of votes, more than any other candidate in Elmbridge.

As the result came through Tricia said: 'I am thrilled and honoured to have been elected and I have been overwhelmed by messages of goodwill. Sandra Dennis has done a fantastic job as the RA Councillor for the past term and I am looking forward to continuing this work, preserving and enhancing the best in our environment.'

Tricia was Honorary Secretary of the Residents' Association for six years, and was an active campaigner on local issues; including the successful campaigns to save the Ember Centre facility for the elderly and 'Say No' to Pay & Display'.

The special character of Thames Ditton with its village centre and shops was one of the things that drew Tricia to come and live here. The need to foster and protect that character led her to develop initiatives to draw more people to the High Street and local shops. The first example of that was the village Christmas lights that now cheer up our dark Decembers.



Together with local resident Caroline James and Jeremy Hamilton from 'Stitchery', she co-ordinated a fund-raising campaign to put up a superb set of lights. That led to the '*Keep the Heart in our High Street*' and '*Think Local. Shop Local*' campaigns, working with a new High Street Retailers' Association which Tricia set up.

Through all this her husband, Will, and her daughters have been great supporters. She has also continued her career, as a national newspaper columnist and feature writer.

Catch up with Tricia and other Residents' Association Councillors at our regular Open Meetings at the Vera Fletcher Hall.

Libby MacIntyre



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Potholes, Parking and School Places



Peter Hickman, our Surrey County Councillor gives us an update from the County.

Highways and floods. The wettest winter in many years has left the council with a hefty bill and a road network that in places is not fit for purpose. About 70 miles of A and B roads are in very poor condition. Some 58 miles of residential roads (about 2,500 roads) have thousands of potholes, one bridge over the River Mole at Leigh, south of Dorking, needs to be replaced and about 30 more need to be repaired.

The cost of this damage is estimated at an additional £23m on top of the existing budget. The Government has promised only £5m towards the repair, leaving all of us to pay for the remainder from council tax. This is in spite of public statements from David Cameron that “we will pay for the damage and repairs”. The plan is to repair all of the above by the end of October.

Insurance claims in Surrey are up by a staggering 353% for damage caused by potholes. Here in Thames Ditton, Station Road and Weston Green Road were badly affected.

The good news is that the High Street (from the Boyle Farm entrance) and Station Road are to be resurfaced. Works are currently scheduled to start in Station Road on July 11; the road will be closed

between 9am and 4.30 pm. To minimise disruption to shops and businesses, the High Street resurfacing will be done over three nights, starting on July 16, from 8pm to 6am. Any cars left on the street during these times will be moved by the council. It is basically short-term pain for long-term gain.

Queens Drive is due for repair this year and Aragon Avenue and Parkwood Avenue are on the programme for 2015.

With regard to **flood defences**, many of us will recall an Environment Agency presentation in the Church Hall about two years ago in which various proposals were put forward costing approx. £128m. We were promised that the Lower Thames Flood defence work from Datchet to Teddington would begin.

Since the presentation the Government has refused to fund more than 50% of the cost and has also said that council tax payers must fund the remainder. However, work is being done to the weir at Molesey that will help those living upstream. The recent floods affected about 1,500 properties in Surrey; of those 169 were in Elmbridge. Fortunately only a few roads in Thames Ditton were affected although the Island walkways and gardens were under water for a considerable period. In Ferry Road, kingfishers, grebes and herons were seen feeding on fish from the river water that had flooded the road.

Parking. The current round of requests for parking changes is being considered. The proposals for this year will be advertised for consultation shortly and details will be in the library. These will include some short term parking outside shops in the High Street, some yellow lines around the bends in Ember Lane, extension of yellow lines along Woodend and The Woodlands and the extension of yellow lines along one side of Riversdale Road up to the bend in the road.

SCC and Elmbridge Borough Council are carrying out a joint study into Controlled Parking Zones and curfew parking. There is considerable opposition to extending these zones so any requests that have been made will be on hold.

School Places. Pressure for school places continues. At **primary level** the delays in obtaining planning permission for Cranmere, together with an ongoing increase in the birth rate, have had repercussions in that Thames Ditton Infant School has been asked to take another ‘bulge’ class in 2015. Thames Ditton Junior School will be provided with further accommodation to accept the ‘bulge’ leaving the Infant school in 2015. This would then be available for the ‘bulge’ coming into Year 3 in 2018.

We know that at **secondary level** both Esher High and Hinchley Wood are changing their admission criteria. Some disadvantaged parents are appealing against the Hinchley Wood proposals and the Schools adjudicator will announce the results of these appeals in September. These are parents who live within the Hinchley Wood School catchment area but whose children do not go to the feeder



The good news – High Street to be resurfaced this summer

schools that will have preference for admission. Short term, there are said to be sufficient places until 2018 – this does of course include Rydens, which is not so convenient for the Dittons children.

There is a lot of work going on behind the scenes for a long-term solution which no doubt will involve the hoped-for Cobham Free School expansion. All in all it is an unsatisfactory situation for the future of our children.

Catch up with Peter Hickman our Residents’ County Councillor and other Residents’ Association Borough Councillors at our regular Open Meetings in Vera Fletcher Hall.

Summer Holiday Fun for Young People



There are plenty of local summer activities for children and teenagers. Here are some suggestions within walking distance.

Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club in Weston Green Road has tennis lessons from July 28 – Aug 29 for children aged 3-16. Timings are 9-9.30am tots, 9.30-12.30pm 5-12 years and 1.30-3.30pm 13-16 year olds. Contact club coach Peter Light for more details on petelight2000@yahoo.co.uk or visit the club website www.thamesditton.net

Tennis is also on offer at **Ember Sports Club** in Grove Way, July 21-28 and August 18-25, (6-7 yrs 9am-10am) (8 yrs+ 10am-3pm). Contact coach Robbie Blundell on tennis.blundell@gmail.com

For a mix of tennis and swimming Jeff Minns is running courses at **Imber Court** from 10am – 12.30pm. Monday to Friday July 28 – August 8 for 5-11 year olds. Contact Jeffminns@btinternet.com or www.imbercourtsportsclub.co.uk or phone 020 8398 1267. You don't need to be a member to join the tennis coaching courses.

Thames Ditton Cricket Club on Giggs Hill Green www.thamesdittoncricketclub.co.uk has colts teams and coaching (boys and girls) from tots to teenagers and there is always a warm welcome for new players.

Chris Harrison runs cricket coaching at local cricket grounds throughout the summer from 10am-3pm for 8-14 year olds. It's the perfect way to play, have fun

and enjoy cricket. Chris is a Level 3 coach. Contact him at chris@chcricket.co.uk

The Dittons Library in Mercer Close is running the ever popular summer reading challenge from July 12- September 13. Last year over 17, 000 children in Surrey took part. The challenge for 4-11 year olds, is free and is inspired by myths and legends from around the world. Readers receive rewards and incentives as they read and once the 6th book is read the challenge is completed. Pop into the library for details or call them on 0300 200 1001.

And if you have children of different ages and interests **Colets Health and Fitness** in St Nicholas Road has a Kids' and Teen camp for 4-14 year olds running from July 21-September 5. The range of activities on offer is huge including trampolining, animal encounters, wet and wild, sports, arts and crafts. Booking forms and details are online at www.coletshealthclub.co.uk or call 020 8335 6993. Non members are welcome.

As with all activities for children please check staff are CRB approved.

Lastly, many people go away for the summer. The village is a quieter place and it's easier to get your favourite table in local restaurants, pubs and cafes. So why not take the family out for lunch, supper, or afternoon tea? If you're in the village please park in the Ashley Road car park and use Pip's Path which makes visiting the High Street so easy.

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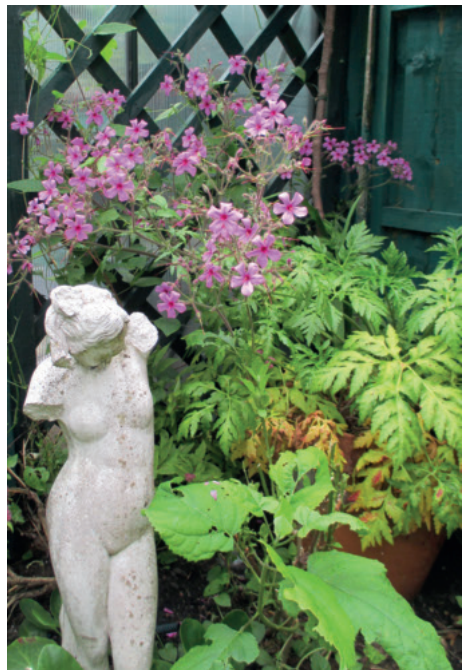


Artwork by Lisa Tolley www.lisatolley.co.uk

What on earth makes someone open their garden to the public? That's a question a good many of the Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton volunteers were asking themselves after the wettest winter on record, and with the weather continuing to baffle and confound throughout the spring.

But on the open day itself – Sunday 15 June – the rain stayed away, visitors arrived in droves (nearly 400 of them), and gardeners across the village breathed a sigh of relief. One of Thames Ditton's most popular events had again proved a resounding success, raising £2,650.

So what makes gardeners do it? Hilary Hepburn, of 21 High Street, Thames Ditton, summed it up in a nutshell: *'I get so much pleasure out of my garden and it is so secret I thought I would like to share it, and help raise some much needed funds as well.'*



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A Gem in Church Walk

This year's event (the fourth in the Secret Garden history) was organised by RA members and High Street residents Caroline James and Andy Anderson, with help from wife, Libby. It was the largest yet, with 14 local gardens throwing open their doors for people to view, all for the bargain sum of £5. The money raised will go to support the Heart in the High Street campaign and St Nicholas's Garden of Remembrance.

Local artist Lisa Tolley once again designed and drew the beautiful posters and tickets to the event, which are also lovely pieces of art and great souvenirs of the day. Will Bland (the husband of our newly-elected RA councillor Tricia) copied hundreds of tickets and posters for the event, as well as opening his own

super-secret garden at Garden Cottage, tucked away behind the Old Manor House in Station Road.

For the visitors making the most of the day, many surprises lay in store; especially for those who thought that the houses in Thames Ditton High Street were on small town plots. Historically the village has always been a trading centre so houses were indeed built with direct access to the busy street – but peaceful, beautiful gardens stretch out behind many of them.

This year the 14 open gardens stretched from 16 Giggs Hill Road – where Jane Neild themed her back garden around nursery rhymes, delighting many younger garden visitors – to the very borders of the Thames Ditton ward, represented by the verdant lawns (and tennis court) of Blandford Cottage in Weston Green Road.



Guess the nursery rhyme

Two gardens in Basing Way were welcome first-time 'openers' this year, drawing many people down this charming residential road – and surprising everyone with just how large a back garden can be in this crowded part of the world.

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The charms of Church Walk never fail to bring in the crowds, especially with five gardens open along this pretty pedestrian pathway. From the Garden of Remembrance at the top, past Jill and Charlie Poole's' perennial favourite at No 52, and with three new gardens towards the bottom end of Church Walk there was always something to see and perhaps to inspire.

In all the gardens the planting was a picture with ideas for everyone to take away. Rose Cottage and Beaumont Cottage in Watts Road were real feasts for the senses, while Hilary Hepburn at 21 High Street really showed how to style a secret back garden – whilst patiently shepherding 300+ people through her Tardis-like house to get them there!

No open garden day is complete without tea and cake and Maybury Lodge at 24 High Street was 'Tea Central'. On Sunday morning there was a constant stream of cakes arriving at the front door as many local people generously donated lovely fresh

baked goodies – again, all money raised went to the two good causes nominated.

So – a great fun day out, a sigh of relief all round weather-wise, and at the end of the day a well-earned drink in a local hostelry for all the hard-working volunteers showed us just why people open their gardens.

As organiser Caroline James said: *"It's amazing just how much work people put into their gardens for a day like this. Andy and I are so grateful to everyone who contributed to this year's event. Hopefully the local shops and pubs will have benefitted from the influx of visitors as well."*

"It's just such a lovely thing to do and see. We always tell people 'look, we're not expecting Chelsea standards'. But if, during the day itself, you overhear a visitor saying something like 'I've lived in Thames Ditton since 1953 and I never knew this was here' then you can pat yourself on the back – you really are a Secret Gardener!"

Libby MacIntyre



Some of the Secret Gardeners, enjoying the calm before the storm!

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The ‘White Church by the Pond’



All Saints Weston

You might be forgiven for thinking that All Saints Weston – or ‘The White Church by the Pond’ as it is affectionately known, tucked away as it is on the edge of Ditton Common next to Marney’s Pond – was just a pretty little church lovingly attended by a few devoted ‘ladies of a certain age’. You couldn’t be more wrong.

All Saints Weston is a living, breathing, vibrant community of people, boasting the fastest-growing congregation in the Guildford Diocese last year, with a huge increase in attendance by young families. And yes, you can blame the vicar for that!

Since he arrived two years ago, vicar Phillip Johnson has gained plaudits for his humorous, self-deprecating sermons and his enthusiastic approach to positioning All Saints at the centre of the

community in Weston Green, regardless of individuals’ attitude to Christianity.

Phillip played a leading role in the specially-written review ‘Weston’s War, The Musical!’, based on the childhood memories of residents living in Weston Green during WWII; and the 600 lucky people who got tickets before they sold out were left in no doubt as to his varied and sometimes surprising talents!

May’s Flower Festival saw All Saints overflowing with beautifully designed flower arrangements, all giving off a heady, ‘heavenly’ scent. Individual window displays represented popular taste in each of the nine decades that span the life of All Saints since 1939, or were themed around a celebrity or family wedding of the time.



The 2000's photo by Rebecca Gregg

Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers represented the '30s; Charles and Diana were the '80s couple.

The lavish pink and gold theme of the Peter Andre – Katie Price nuptials in 2005 was picked up to stunning effect and the '60s era was cleverly captured with 'flower power' and a picture of John and Yoko Lennon's special day.

'Weston's War' and the Bridal Flower Festival are just two on a long list of All Saints' 2014 events to celebrate its 75th anniversary. Many of these are free and are designed for the whole community to enjoy. The year started with 'Who Do You Think You Are?', a film-footage look at the history of the Church in Britain through to the All Saints of today, followed by 'Spiritual Themes in Modern Art', an illustrated talk about (sometimes controversial) pieces by famous artists over the past 75 years. In April, children dressed up in old clothes to 'Dig for Britain' and learn about the Land Girls celebrated in

'Weston's War'. They then indulged in 'welly wanging' before planting them up with herbs, flowers and vegetables for Easter and the Summer Food Festival.

And there's another anniversary opportunity for children to get mucky: 'Muddy and Messy' on Saturday 5 July sees All Saints join the Elmbridge Countryside Team to make mud sculptures and paintings by Marney's Pond. This is an outdoor variation of the popular 'Messy Church', held on certain Saturday afternoons throughout the year. Each is a fun event for children and parents/carers, offering craft activities, Bible stories, action songs and a cooked tea for all.

Children and families are a priority at All Saints. The Fun Saints toddler group meets in the Church hall every Monday morning in term time, and the SmAll Saints informal service, which includes songs, craft, musical instruments, stories, playtime and refreshments, is held once a month on the second Thursday morning. There's always something to surprise the youngsters: teddy bears abseiling down from the choir loft is one of Phillip's favourites!

'Jesus and Crackers', a lively group of older youngsters, meet on Sunday mornings for discussion and activities before joining the main service, while the first Sunday of the month is particularly aimed at families and often includes some surprises dreamed up by Phillip and the Leadership Team.

There are strong links and activities organised with local schools and Esher College. The Church also hosts the East Elmbridge Foodbank and Tuesday Café. The full complement of children's uniformed organisations – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and

Scouts – use the Church Hall. Parade services are colourful and joyful occasions, often showcasing Saints Aloud, the children’s choir.

Music is very much part of life at ‘The White Church by the Pond’. The adult choir and friends excel themselves regularly. You can listen to them singing ‘The Way of the Cross’ performed before Easter by visiting the All Saints website (details below). ‘Weston Life’, which headlines the Family Service, is a musical group comprising vocals, electric piano, mandolin, bass guitar and drums. Some of this happy band will feature in upcoming 75th anniversary events: at ‘Beatlefest’ in a Beatles tribute band; performing songs from stage and screen at ‘From Weston with Love’; and on Sunday August 3 at ‘Abba-Dabba-Do!’ at which all are invited to ‘glam up’ in their best tribute gear and sing along à la Mamma Mia.

Keeping the focus on the wider local community, there is a Food Festival and Bake Off (entry forms on the All Saints website or via the Parish Office) planned for Saturday 12 July. All kinds of food and

equipment will be on sale – there will be pop-up street food at lunchtime, a beer and Pimms tent, BBQ, locally-made jams, chutneys and cakes, plus fruit, vegetable and plant stalls. Children’s activities will be available all day. And one of the Bake Off judges is Oliver Blanc (son of superchef Raymond) whose children’s phone and computer app aims to spread the gospel about food and cooking to youngsters.

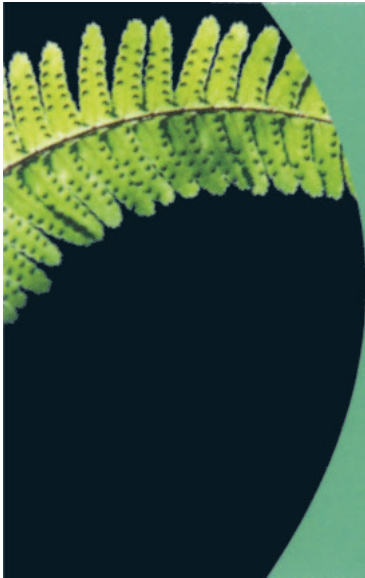
With all this activity you might wonder if anything spiritual goes on at all – but of course it very much does, as do all the usual happy christenings, blissful weddings and sad farewells. It’s all summed up best by the All Saints mission statement: ‘To be a blessing to our community by weaving the stuff of life with the story of God.’

For further information about services or events, visit the All Saints website at www.allsaintsweston.com, email office@allsaintsweston.com, telephone the Parish Office on 020 8398 1849 or visit the church itself, which is always open in daylight hours.

Ruth Bruce



Photo by Rebecca Gregg



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By Grace and Favour



Henry VIII's toilet block became grace-and-favour apartments

Wandering around Hampton Court Palace you may have noticed numbers on some of the green doors, a place for a name plate, and a disconnected doorbell. These are the entrances to some of the grace and favour apartments.

Since King George II's final visit to Hampton Court in 1737 no other monarch has lived there, although members of the royal family did occupy some apartments. Accommodation was awarded to other worthies by the grace and favour of the monarch in recognition of dedication and

service to the country and allocated by the Lord Chamberlain.

At its height there were some 100 grace and favour residents, each with their own household and 'staff' totalling over 200. The average size of the apartments was 12-14 rooms, some were smaller and the largest had about 40 rooms. There were 53 apartments initially but, as they were split and subdivided, they were not always numbered sequentially – presenting a nightmare for the postmen as they tried to find their way around.

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Nowadays, as we sit in our heated homes it can be hard to imagine how cold these rooms must have been and how hard to heat. And if you lived on the upper floors, how you got the shopping and coal up all those stairs, with no Ocado deliveries and no servants to help! A system of baskets on pulleys was established – some of which can still be seen, if you look carefully in the remoter stairwells.

Jerome K Jerome, in *Three Men in a Boat*, commented how quiet and peaceful a place it looked, but many residents complained about the number of visitors to the palace. Imagine what they would say nowadays, with thousands passing through the gates every year. George IV described it as the ‘quality poor house’. Charles Dickens, in *Little Dorrit*, portrayed the residents as living in the ‘most primitive manner’. (His character Mrs Gowan, the widow of “a commissioner of nothing in particular,” has a grace and favour apartment.) The palace was used in the scenes from the 2008 TV mini series of *Little Dorrit*, as *Marshalsea Debtors Prison*. And it was quite a sight to see a gondola parked in *Clock Court* – in the actual programme it appeared floating along Italian canals!

Some of my own favourite residents:-

Miss Millicent Gordon, born in 1845 and aged 105 when she died, holds the record for being the only grace and favour resident to have lived in the palace for over 100 years. Apartment 20, where she lived, was not modernized and had no bath. Her request in 1941 for a bath to be installed was refused even though she was over 95, and she managed without one until her death in October 1949. The first

recorded grace and favour resident of this apartment was Commodore Hon. Robert Boyle Walsingham who was granted the use of this ground floor suite soon after his marriage to Charlotte in July 1759. Along the corridor on the right hand side of *Base Court*, some of these rooms are nowadays available for public use and comprise a lunch room and toilets.

Looking at the front of the palace and to the right you see Apartment 39, open for tours during *Open House* weekend in September 2013. The area included Henry VIII’s ‘common jakes’, later known as the *Great House of Easement* – the communal toilet! Thereafter known as ‘*The Lady Housekeepers Lodging*’, the first recorded resident was Ann Mostyn who died in 1759. The last grace and favour resident was Lord Birdwood “of ANZAC and Totnes” – occupancy 1943 to 1951. His distinguished military career included posts as *Military Secretary to Lord Kitchener in India, 1905–9; Commander of Australian and New Zealand Forces at Anzac Cove, 1915; C-in-C Dardanelles, 1915; 5th Army in France, 1918; Field Marshal, 1925; C-in-C India, 1925–30.* Another famous member of his family, *Gonville Bromhead VC of Rourke’s Drift* – probably better known as *Michael Caine* in the film *Zulu* – was the uncle of *Lady Birdwood*.

Looking to the far left hand side of the front of the palace is Apartment 37 – the last grace and favour occupant was *Mrs Rosalind Kennedy*, widow of *Captain Edward Coverley Kennedy, RN*, who served in the *First World War*. He was recalled at the beginning of the *Second World War* and took command of *HMS Rawalpindi* – one of the first ships to be

sunk in 1939. Mrs Kennedy was the mother of broadcaster and writer Ludovic Kennedy – who married Moira Shearer in the Chapel Royal. This apartment is now the Textile Conservation Studio.

Lady Baden Powell, a visitor to Thames Ditton Guides, lived in Apartment 18 for 33 years. Part of this apartment looks out on to Base Court on one side and Master Carpenter’s Court on the other. The Annex, or The Appendix, to her apartments in what she called ‘Hampers Hotel’, has been re-presented into Tudor kitchens. It takes imagination to picture this space as a set of rooms, with a mezzanine floor. The Warders will always explain about her bath being placed in one of the fire places. Up the stairs to the Great Hall, on the left is a door to what used to be a bedroom of the apartment - nowadays there is seating, and a film. Only photographs preserve indications of the previous use for this particular space.

Weston Green’s Mrs Helen Lambert, widow of Vice-Admiral Rowley Lambert, occupied Apartment 29 in 1881, with rooms on the ground, first and third floors with a magnificent view over the gardens to the Long Water. Several other members of her family, the Campbells, had associations with the palace and her sister Lady Reynett had an apartment there too.

Apartment 44 – opposite the Tudor kitchens – was accessible during the Open House weekend in 2012. It is now offices, but could be called the ‘Explorers Apartment’. Mrs Emily Thompson lived there 1885 – 1903. Her husband, Captain Frank Thompson RN (d. 1883), captained H.M.S. Challenger on part of her

circumnavigation, a pioneering scientific voyage criss-crossing the oceans, stopping every 100 miles or so to take soundings, temperatures and collect samples of the sea floor and marine life. Many of the 13,000 specimens brought back are still studied by scientists today. It was the first scientific expedition of this type and the first to make extensive use of photography.

Mrs Hannah Scott, the mother of Captain Robert Falcon Scott (1868–1912), RN, the famous Antarctic explorer, lived in these rooms 1915-1924. Captain Scott was married in the Chapel Royal in 1908 to Edith Bruce, a sculptor tutored by Rodin, who executed the Scott Memorial in Waterloo Place. Hannah’s grandson was Sir Peter Markham Scott (1909–89), CH, CBE, DSC, FRS, the eminent artist, naturalist and conservationist. Lady Shackleton, widow of Sir Ernest Henry Shackleton (1874–1922), Kt Bachelor, CVO, RNR, Antarctic explorer, occupied these rooms 1930 – 1936.

The last Warrant was issued several decades ago and the granting of grace and favour accommodation at Hampton Court ceased. A fine idea had become impracticable. Household sizes had changed, and so had normal expectations. Heating? Hot water? Bath and a kitchen near a dining room, not on a different floor or in a completely different area of the “People’s Palace”? Good Lord!

Lesley Evetts

Lesley works as a volunteer on the Palace Memories project

Open House Weekend 20-21 September 2014

Sun Shines On Second Car Boot Sale



They say that one person's trash is another person's treasure and that certainly proved the case at TD's second Car Boot sale held in the Ashley Road Car Park on a gloriously sunny Spring Saturday in March. Organised by the High Street Retailers' Association and supported by the Residents' Association, over 500 people turned up to bag a bargain, rendezvous with friends and soak up the sunshine.

Most agreed that this was a 'quality' car boot event with items priced extremely modestly. Trevor Smith was one of the first buyers – emerging triumphantly, wielding his purchase of a rather handsome golfball retriever for the rock bottom price of just £1. Trevor, a keen golfer, explained that he'd been hunting for such an item for some time. Playing regularly at Sandown, where there are several ponds to negotiate, the extendable retriever will prove just the ticket for rescuing balls bobbing off course in the water.

Golf goodies were also the prize purchase of Jeff Cah who managed to nab a super stylish golf bag plus golf towel and a natty waterproof to protect against the driving rain. 'For only £20 the lot!'. Wife Ros was equally happy with her purchase of a stablesworth of My Little Pony toys for her granddaughter (£4) and a fire engine for her grandson (£3) while daughter Hannah bought a silver plated tray (£5) and cakestand plus five plates (£6), perfect for afternoon tea.

Brenda Carr, an antiques expert, who also performed a stint of voluntary marshalling at the event, spied with her magpie eyes a sparkly box of assorted jewellery at the end of her stint. She explained, 'The owner wanted £10 for the lot, but it was worth considerably more than that, so I gave her £15!'

Other fab finds for fashionistas included Ascot style hats, trimmed with ribbons, feathers and tulle. Sophia Kouame was one of the buyers who admitted she just needed to find the right occasion to wear it.

Main car boot organiser, Tracy Blatchford, was so taken with the two hats she tried on she bought them both, together with a caseful of fly fishing flies and a vintage weighing scales, all for a little over £30.



Lisa Mills 'downsizing and delighted'

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Meanwhile, at Sherin Dhangi's car, one lucky lady managed to carry off a rarely used Coach handbag, originally priced at £130, for £20. By selling this and other luxury items, Sherin admitted she'd freed up some much needed wardrobe space 'for purchases to come!'

So why were there such amazing bargains to be had? Lisa Mills who was selling an eclectic mix of stylish ornaments admitted to necessity due to down-sizing. *'I no longer have the room, so sadly some treasured pieces had to go, but I'm delighted they are off to good homes.'*

Keith Heybourne's reasons for selling up was the need to *'declutter'*...



Keith Heybourne's treasures

In addition to some very attractive paintings, he was selling aircraft memorabilia, various 'boys toys', including a bubble sextant from the 40s (rescued from an RAF aircraft) which was used to navigate by the stars. I asked Keith if he felt a pang of regret in letting them go? *'Goodness no,'* he replied. *'I'm*

an avid collector but a hoarder too and it's time to give someone else the pleasure of owning these things.'



Did Amelie make enough to get her rabbit?

Children's toys were another big hit with the car boot visitors. Under the watchful eye of her mum, Amelie Rootes was selling off lots of old toys including an impressive collection of Barbies and Moshe Monsters. *'I'm saving for a rabbit and hutch,'* explained Amelie, *'hopefully I'll have enough by the time we pack up.'*

The Brownies took a fund raising community table at the event – brimful of bric a brac, football paraphernalia and baby goods. Lucy Symons, one of those manning the table, explained business was brisk throughout. *'People aren't haggling like they usually do at boot sales. The prices are so reasonable and the people of TD appreciate they are getting a really good deal.'*

All in all, everyone agreed there was a 'lovely atmosphere' at the event, with purchasers happy with their bargains and sellers pleased to make a bit of cash while seeing their unwanted items going to good homes. As a bonus, the Car Boot also raised some welcome funds towards the *'Keep the Heart in our High Street'* campaign and its initiatives to support our shops and businesses.

Tricia Bland



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A Skeleton in the Cupboard



the storming of the Bastille, painting by Houël

As 14 July comes round again I'm reminded of national day receptions, a burden of diplomatic life. At least with the French, decent champagne was *de rigueur*. I must have attended a dozen Bastille Days, the most memorable in London at the French Ambassador's residence in Kensington Palace Gardens, shortly after we moved to Thames Ditton. Had I known that some twenty years thence research into local history would lead me to a story that somewhat tarnishes the *gloire*, a story of spin and propaganda, in which the main character was actually related to one of

our local figures, I would have found it hard to keep a stiff upper lip.

The storming of the hated fortress prison on 14 July 1789 came to be the defining moment of the French Revolution. With a crowd of a thousand or so, the bourgeois militia, in search of gunpowder and ammunition stored there, overcame a garrison of about 114, mostly *invalides*. Uttering joyous cries, they freed the prisoners. The most striking was an old man with a long white beard, who was borne aloft on the shoulders of the exultant crowd as they paraded through



the fanciful liberation of the "Comte de Lorges"

the streets of Paris to the Hotel de Ville. He thereby became a powerful symbol of revolution, of *liberté*, extolled in popular song and street pamphlets which named him as the Comte de Lorges.

Examples survive in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France. The story of the Comte de Lorges is calculated to excite the citizenry's sympathy. He was reported to have been consigned to a remote dungeon in the Bastille at the instigation of the Marquise de Pompadour for denouncing the scandalous doings of Louis XV's mistress, to have suffered greatly during 32 years of imprisonment, and to have made several brave but hopeless escape attempts. Revolutionary author Jean-Louis Carra, claiming acquaintance and personal interviews with de Lorges both at the Hotel de Ville on the day of his liberation, and later, published pamphlets and even books with quotes from the venerable and venerated fellow: "*The years flew by while my fate remained unchanged... I want the fourteenth of July to be celebrated forever, and let my remaining fortune be drawn upon yearly to help liberate five innocents from captivity...*"

Carra was made Head of the Bibliothèque Nationale in 1792, but with revolutionary factions jostling for power, he was guillotined just over a year later during the Terror. While his execution had nothing to do with what follows, if you think that the head of a national library should have meticulous regard for the truth of record, you may judge his fate deserved. For the "Comte de Lorges" was not as portrayed, and Carra's interviews with him were pure invention. The Bastille pamphlets were *canards* indeed. Cries of *liberté* and *égalité* may have abounded during the Revolution, and *fraternité* was overflowing if not for the headless aristocracy, but *vérité* was somewhat lacking.

The precious symbolism of Bastille Day being a matter of such national sensitivity, it was an hundred years before French historians, drawing on those papers of the Bastille and other institutions preserved at the Arsenal, ventured to set the record straight. Writing in the centenary year of 1889 in the journal *L'Intermédiaire*, the French equivalent of the Victorian "Notes and Queries", vol XXII, no.502 pp 216-223, M. Alfred Begis gave chapter and verse. There had been just seven prisoners in the Bastille - four fraudsters, one publisher imprisoned for peripheral involvement with a plot, very well treated and allowed to publish from and receive profits in the Bastille, and two deranged fellows, both styled Comte, one of whom, the Comte de Solages, had committed foul atrocities against citizens on his estate. The other, identified as the old man with the white beard who had been hoisted on the shoulders of the liberators and paraded

triumphantly through the streets, was Irishman James Francis (Jacques François) Xavier Whyte, Comte de Malleville. There was no “Comte de Lorges” – in the absence of any liberated prisoner of appropriate profile, and given the unsuitable personal history and inconvenient nationality of the deranged Whyte, “de Lorges” had been a convenient synthesis for propaganda.

Whyte was born in Dublin in 1730 and had been an officer in the French Army’s Irish regiment. He was incarcerated at Vincennes in 1781 by and at the instigation of his family for reasons of insanity, and transferred to the Bastille on 29 February 1784. Later researchers ascertained that Whyte and fellow-prisoner the Comte de Solages, also insane, had been accused of perverted sexual practices (*The Bastille: A History of a Symbol of Despotism and Freedom – Lüsebrink & Reichardt, 1997*).

It was not long before the liberators of the Bastille discovered that the old man with the white beard was round the bend, and they shut him up again immediately in the notorious Charenton asylum!

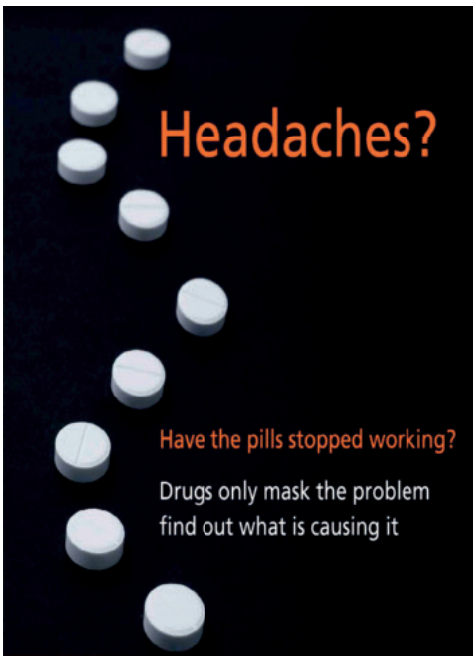
Now, the above has been picked over by many historians including Simon Schama, highlighting the great symbolism of the occasion and the spin and propaganda that fuelled it; and by Irish writers making the most of Whyte’s origins. But what has that to do with local history in Thames Ditton (I hear you cry)? You will laugh at the answer.

For I have established to my entire satisfaction that Whyte, the witless hero of the hour, was the brother-in-law of Capt. Robert Alexander Lambert RN.

Huguenot Sir John Lambert, the first baronet (of London, 1710), a founder and director of the South Sea Company, was exiled to Paris after the South Sea Bubble. The family stayed there. Robert Lambert, the second son of the second Sir John and Anne daughter of Tempest Holmes, was born in Paris but as a young man joined the Royal Navy and made his home in England (his maternal grandfather Tempest Holmes was the senior Clerk in the Navy’s Victualling office).

Whyte married Robert’s sister Anne Lambert on 27 October 1767, in Paris. They had two daughters, one of whom was named Sophia. Presumably Whyte’s behaviour to his family especially his daughters was the reason they had him locked up. The family obtained an interdiction against Whyte, preventing him from managing his assets. And I have lately come across the text of a French official document of 27 September 1789 – just ten weeks after the storming of the Bastille – which granted a dispensation from the constraints of consanguinity to Sophia Whyte and her cousin, Henry Lambert, so that they could marry. Henry was the son of the third Sir John Lambert, Robert’s brother. The dispensation was made in the presence of Henry Lambert, 29, and 21 year old “Sophia de Whyte... fille de M. Jacques François De Whyte Comte de Whyte, seigneur de Malleville et de De Anne Lambert son épouse”. It recites the earlier determinations made against Whyte, which alienated his right to decision in this matter.

The Peerage dates the marriage of Henry and Sophia as 1788 which may well be a mistake – predating the dispensation to marry. At some point after



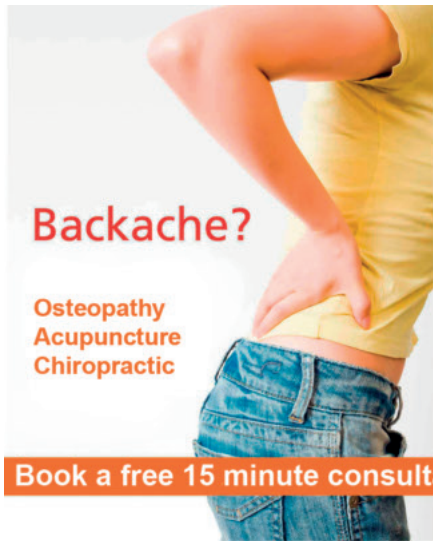
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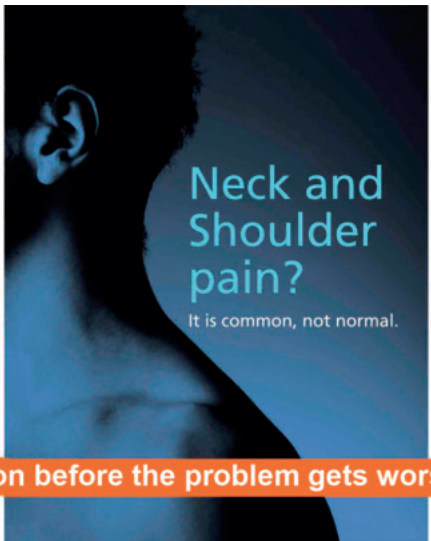


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September 1789 they moved to London, while revolution notwithstanding, Sir John Lambert (Capt. Robert Lambert's elder brother, the third baronet in the line) remained in Paris as did Anne Whyte né Lambert. Sir John was himself arrested twice during the Terror in 1793, and thereafter liberated. Unfortunately the pocket diaries of Robert's wife Catherine Lambert for the period 1784-1794 are missing, but I can pick up the story again there in 1795, two years into the war of the First Coalition with revolutionary France. The diary entry for Monday 9 Nov 1795 reads "*Capt L & Anne went to London & dined at Harrys with Sir John Lambert & Mrs Whyte, who arrived in London on Saturday.*" This Anne was the eldest daughter and firstborn of Catherine and "Capt. L" – her affectionate name for Robert. Harry was Henry Lambert, husband of Sophia Whyte né Lambert.

At that time Robert and Catherine were renting a country house in Long Ditton while they owned a town house in London outright and another on long lease there. In 1798 they bought Weston House in Weston Green, where Sophia and Henry Lambert were frequent visitors, including a visit by Sophia to our village summer fair at Weston. On the death of his father Sir John (3rd bt) on 21 May 1799, Henry inherited the title, but was himself to die early in 1803. Robert Lambert's sons Robert Stuart Lambert (who became a vice-Admiral) and John Lambert (who became General Sir John Lambert GCB) on both of whom I have written extensively were, together with Sophia, Henry's executors.

Lady Sophia Lambert, the daughter of James Francis Xavier Whyte, remarried in 1805 to Lt.-Col. Henry Francis Greville.

They remained close contacts of the Lambert family in Weston Green, and when Robert Stuart Lambert, then himself a captain in the Navy, was given the command of HMS Duncan in 1812, I think it highly likely that Sophia and her second husband occupied Weston House as a summer residence for a couple of years before it was let to Mr. Turner by 1815. For in the poor rate records of St. Nicholas Church of 7 May 1813 there is an entry for Weston Green in the name of Colonel Greville "late Capt. Lambert", £175.

Anne Whyte né Lambert died in October 1826. The obit in the Morning Post read: "*On the 28th inst at her house in Upper Seymour-street, at the advanced age of 85, Anne Whyte, relict of James Whyte, Esq and sister to the late Sir John Lambert*". Sophia their daughter died in March 1839.

Catherine Lambert made no reference in her pocket diaries to her sister-in-law's husband James Francis Xavier Whyte, styled Comte de Malleville, the old man with the long white beard who had been chaired triumphantly through Paris by the liberators of the Bastille. After that one day of freedom, he remained incarcerated until he died. Whyte's history of insanity and alleged sexual abuse, which led to his committal by the family, meant that for the Lamberts, as for the revolutionary propagandists who exploited his venerable image on that fateful day, he remained a skeleton in the cupboard.

Nonetheless on 14 July I'll raise a glass to the story, with a wink at my old French colleagues.

Keith Evetts



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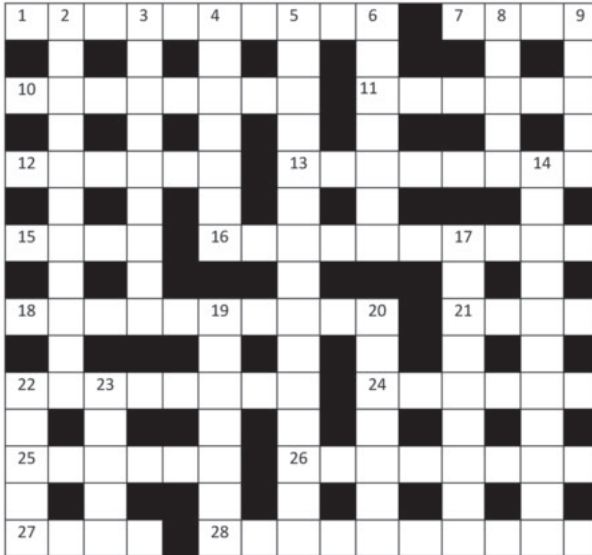
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Summer Crossword

By Michael Jackson



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 5 August 2014 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

1. & 7. Classic chilling story of wealth and interest compounded (3.7.4)
10. To reveal hidden ancient city open the shutter (8)
11. European Sea (6)
12. An Old World crow (6)
13. Being taught a lute to get it tuned (8)
15. River garden of e P.M. (4)
16. Dizziness consultants at No. 10. (4.6)
18. Racecourse (10)
21. Conkers to hit back with (4)
22. Reversion of property when the cases are amended (8)
24. These people do very little (6)
25. Isle a tenth the size of Kent (6)
26. A light musical drama, e.g. G&S (8)
27. Guardian found in our signatory (4)
28. Listeners like my tone, Cram says, giving this (10)

DOWN

2. Solid figures each with six faces (11)
3. Murder mystery; clue is found in hut down the garden (9)
4. Game should be between Poles and Kisses (7)
5. Thunder lightning etc. all correct items to make up this (10.5)
6. Land set at an angle (7)
8. Enclosure for contests (5)
9. Machine I found in N.I. Lough (5)
14. He throws tiger into pen for somebody else (5.6)
17. Blending into one, like the Mole and Ember (9)
19. Frenzy of those in craft overturning (7)
20. ...especially if it is a three tiered galley (7)
22. Finished meal at school I hear (5)
23. Accurate one might have saved those in 19 or 20 (5)

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Solution to the Spring Crossword

by Maureen Willcox



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

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

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KT7 0AX

Lesley Haynes
6 Onslow Gardens
KT7 0JJ

Jo Dunstone
57 Warwick Gardens
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SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Harry Livesey	01372 879321
Dittons and Weston Green Neighbourcare	Avril Ashworth	020 8398 7521
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for Retired People	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 5921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	020 8398 3772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride,	(ask for service at central	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	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	Nicki Sutherland	020 8398 4202
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Alan Nolan-Davies	0844 414 2826
1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)	Mrs. Louise Lewis	020 8398 4843
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
2nd Weston Green Brownies	Mrs J Epps	020 8395 0595
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Mrs Helen Hill	020 8398 3135
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Laura Clarke	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@FSLimited.com

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784 466651
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Claremont PROBUS Club	Mr. P. Collins	020 8398 3125
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Hon Secretary	07710 139417
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263

Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Anne Segall	020 8941 4528
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	020 8398 7038
Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	020 8786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher Camera Club	Billy Buchanan	020 8398 3169
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club	Pam Phillips	01372 373745
Hinchley Wood / Dittons PROBUS Club	Geoff Francis	01932 867771
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Mothers Union (All Saints)	Jill Cotter	020 8398 4598
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	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

Chairman's Address to the AGM



Chairman **Rhodri Richards** opened by saying that his decision to settle locally had been influenced by the Residents' Association website and the picture it painted of the area. He thanked Keith Evetts for his work on that and his eight years as magazine editor. His first report as Chairman highlighted the following:

- Residents' Association efforts to keep a vibrant set of businesses in the High Street, including lobbying to keep down Ashley Road Car Park charges, supporting Pip's Path and the need to use the car park or lose it.
- The launch of a new website for the High Street (developed pro bono by two local residents) and highly successful Summer and Christmas Fairs.
- The popular Secret Gardens event, held in Weston Green for the first time.
- New heritage lighting installed in parts of the village and Peter Hickman's continued monitoring of the contractors.
- Despite the wet winter, the area around Esher Station has not flooded this year thanks to Councillors' efforts to have the network of ditches and gulleys cleared.
- The role played to publicise and participate in the public consultation on plans for local development from now until 2026.
- The Association opposes inappropriate development on the flood plain.
- The Association campaigns to ensure good development is actively encouraged and that inappropriate development is resisted.
- We are keen to see the Home of Compassion used, whilst retaining its character. The owners revised their plans and removed additional riverside parking and roof terrace following objections.
- We supported islanders in resisting new plans for Taggs Boatyard to build out-of-scale flats overlooking houses on the island.
- Residents' Association Councillors presented to the planning inspector to prevent significant building on the green belt at Telegraph Lane.
- The support given to local resident Louise McDonagh in petitioning for new school provision. We will continue to press for an acceptable solution to the problem.
- The dedication of our Residents' Association Councillors and Ruth Lyons' celebration of 40 years in the role.
- The Association is not a few individuals; some 30% of residents are members and many volunteers give up their time, whether to serve on the Executive Committee, maintain flower beds, deliver Thames Ditton Today, plant 500 spring bulbs around the village, erect Christmas trees and their lights on the High Street, clear snow from the streets (not this year!) or numerous other tasks that the Association actively supports. Thanks for all the effort they put in and to members for their continuing support.



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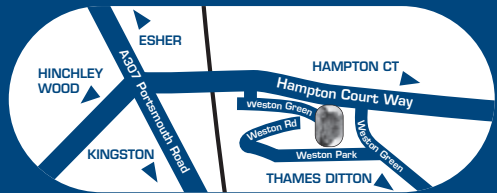
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