

THAMES DITTON HOORAY

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

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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Editorial Team

Libby MacIntyre & Sandra Dennis
editor@residents-association.com

Magazine Design

Guy Holman
14 Hayward Road, KT7 0BE
020 8398 1770

Distribution

David Youd
6 Riversdale Road
Thames Ditton KT7 0QL
020 8398 3216

Advertisement Manager

Verity Park
20 Portsmouth Avenue
Thames Ditton KT7 0RT
020 8398 5926

Contributors

You are welcome to submit articles or images. Please contact the Editorial Team well in advance of the next deadline August 5

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Cover: Lisa Tolley. See Lisa's work at lisatolley.co.uk

www.residents-association.com

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com; subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 14 High Street, Thames Ditton or Thorkhill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

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THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of residents.

We work to preserve and enhance the best in our attractive environment and the quality of life of everyone in our community.

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

With six Residents' Councillors covering the two electoral wards 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, Nick Darby, represents our views at Surrey County Council.

President: Martin Wilberforce

7 River Avenue,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

Vice President: Ruth Lyon,

11 Riversdale Road,
Thames Ditton 0208 398 3396

Vice President Tannia Shipley,

27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

Surrey County Councillor: Nick Darby,

12 Basing Close, Thames Ditton 020 8398 2382

Thames Ditton Borough Councillors

Alex Batchelor,
12 Hayward Road,
Thames Ditton 07710 943140

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

Gill Coates,
The Oaks, Orchard Gate,
Esher 020 8873 3040

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

James Crawshaw 07500 688632

Officers

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Vice-Chair: Libby MacIntyre
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33 Portsmouth Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8224 2880

Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes
6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

Conveners of Sub-Committees

Health and Community: Karen Randolph (see above)

Planning: 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

Tuesday 28 June, 8pm – All Saints Church Hall Weston Green

Tuesday 20 September, 8pm– Vera Fletcher Hall

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News from the Residents' Association to early June



Thank you for your support!

We are delighted to report that both RA candidates were elected in the recent local elections for Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC).

Councillor Caroline James (TDWGRA) was re-elected, with an increased majority, for a further term for the Thames Ditton ward and James Crawshaw (HWRA) was elected for the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward. The voting figures were:

Thames Ditton

Caroline James (RA)	1629
Lib Dems	749
Conservatives	347

Hinchley Wood and Weston Green

James Crawshaw (RA)	1669
Lib Dems	588
Conservative	347

Turnout in both wards was amongst the highest in the borough at just over 41%. The good turnout and strong support for our RA candidates shows that in this corner of Elmbridge the majority of people strongly believe in our message of *'local politics for local people.'*

The makeup of Elmbridge Borough Council for 2022 is:

Elmbridge Resident Group (ERG): 20
Conservatives: 15
Lib Dems: 13

EBC will therefore continue to be led by the ERG as the majority party in a coalition with the Lib Dems.

Jolly Jubilee



The RA Jubilee picnic started festivities

The Jubilee Long weekend kicked off in style with the Residents Association Community Picnic on Weston Green, by Milbourne Pond, featuring our festive alternative beacon.

A big thank you to Cllr Gill Coates and her husband Nigel for all their hard work organising a great day.

That was followed by a weekend of festive fun with street parties and garden parties galore.



RA Chairman Graham Cooke playing Saxophone in Southville Road

RA Chairman Graham Cooke played saxophone for the Southville Road Street Party in return for donations to the High Street Christmas Lights fund. More than £150 was donated! Huge thanks to all.



Ashley Road street party organisers

The Ashley Road street party raised £160 for the guides in Church Walk who lent their tables and benches for the occasion.

Coronation Memories Wanted By Elmbridge Museum

Did you live in Elmbridge in 1952-3 and remember the Queen's coronation?

Then Elmbridge Museum need you for our new oral history project! We're looking for five participants willing to be interviewed about their memories of the accession and coronation in our local area. Please email us at:

ebcmuseum@elmbridge.gov.uk, or call us on **01372 474568** if you would like to participate.



AGM

It was lovely to see so many people at the Residents' Association AGM in March. Attendees were fascinated by the talk from our guest speaker this year Nicola Andrews, from Historic Royal Palaces. Read the article on page 29 to find out more.

Nature and Climate Weekend

We are very excited to be hosting our Nature & Climate Festival on September 23-25. See page 17 for more details and keep the weekend free!!

As part of the Nature and Climate Festival there is a fabulous **photography competition** to celebrate our local environment see page 18 for details

Planning

Alexpo's appeal against EBC's refusal of planning permission for a massive development at the **Jolly Boatman** site (2018/3810) is due to start on June 14 and is scheduled over four days.

The RA has made a significant donation towards the production of high-quality visual representations of the impact such a development would have on the unique Hampton Court Palace and surrounding areas to help the case against it.

The planning inspector has dismissed the appeal against the refusal of planning consent for **Bransby Lodge, St Leonards Road (2020/0865)**. The dismissal agreed with all the points raised at the East Area Planning Committee. Our thanks to local RA councillors Karen Randolph and Caroline James for their detailed examination of the application.

Changes have been made to the **Aldi (2021/3857)** application involving a change to the flood risk assessment, and the addition of a new crossing point, so the consultation has re-opened. No committee date has been set.

Albany Reach

Albany Reach has seen an increase in visitors enjoying the green space next to the river. Local resident Nell Hickman, who has done so much to co-ordinate volunteer litter pickers there, is now looking at what can be done to make sure the area is as safe as possible for users. She said: *“With so many people spending time by the river we want to see what safety equipment we have or may need just in case.”*



Just some of the litter collected at Albany Reach!

Nell also said: *“The litter picking team including Duke of Edinburgh scheme volunteers Poppy Bartles-Smith, Niamh Hepburn and Jess Quinton are doing a great job at Albany Reach”.*

If you would like to get involved or have any ideas on river safety or litter picking please contact Nell on 07711 017100.

TD in Bloom summer planting

In mid-May 30 local volunteers got together at Thames Ditton Station to plant out the 17 railing planters, 10 wheelbarrows and three floor standing tubs with a wide variety of seasonal plants. This will provide a riot of colour in the Station Garden all summer long and cheer commuters and visitors alike.



Planting day at the station

Thank you from Guide Dog Kane

Guide Dogs Kingston would like to thank everybody who attended and contributed to the annual driveway plant and cake hosted by Sandi and Kane in Thistledene, it raised an astonishing £1,500.68.



Kane at the plant sale

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

Mercer Close Car Park (opposite the Library), fourth Saturday of the month

Weston Green Litter Pickers

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

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

Meet in Thames Ditton Tennis Club car park third Saturday of the month at 10.45am

All Saints Weston Community Lunch

Last Wednesday of every month. To book in, contact Alison Cruthers on 07957 347170 or alisoncruthers@yahoo.co.uk

Enigma Orchestra

Saturday June 25, 7.30pm at St Christopher's Church in Claygate Lane, www.enigmamusic.org.uk

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday June 26 from 1pm – 5pm

Nature and Climate Weekend

September 24/25. Contact gcoates@elmbridge.gov.uk

Residents' Association

www.residents-association.com or follow us on Twitter [@TDresidents](https://twitter.com/TDresidents)



See the Enigma Orchestra June 25, 7.30pm

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Visit the Secret Gardens of Weston Green



**It's back! Sunday June 26,
1.30 - 5pm**

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Visit a Secret Garden on June 26

Afternoon Tea and cake at All Saints Church, Weston Green (with help from the 3rd Weston Green Brownies)

Tickets £5 (under 18s free)

Tickets available in advance from:

- Marney's Village Inn
- Secret Garden Flower Shop, Thames Ditton
- Crossy's, Hinchley Wood
- Cllr Gill Coates 020 8873 3040
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Update from your Residents' Associations'

Thames Ditton Ward



Karen Randolph
TDWGRA



Caroline James
TDWGRA



Alex Batchelor
TDWGRA

The Local Plan Consultation - Deciding the future of Elmbridge for the next 15 years

The Regulation 19 public consultation stage of the Draft Local Plan is due to start on June 19. The Local Plan is an important document as it sets out the Council's vision for Elmbridge for the next 15 years.

As your Councillors we all support the policies included in it, but it has to go through public consultation and then to the public inquiry stage.

We don't expect an easy ride with the inspector as we are challenging the Government's housing target in order to resist developing our Green Belt. However, there was encouraging news from the Department for Housing and Levelling Up recently, which stated: *'areas that are constrained by Green Belt land or Areas of Natural Beauty will no longer be expected to reach unrealistic (housing targets) if they can produce a Plan that is well evidenced and drawn up in good faith'* This could be good news for Elmbridge as we embark on the final consultation with residents and it will help our case if we have vocal support

from the community.

We urge everyone to engage with the consultation and do contact us if you have any queries about anything in it. And please make your views known to the Council when you have decided what you think about it.

Grass verges

Elmbridge Borough Council has been cutting our highways grass verges since 2008 on behalf of Surrey County Council (SCC). As of 2022, SCC has resumed responsibility for cutting grass verges. Their policy is four cuts per year. SCC has a web page devoted to grass cutting where you can report issues and apply for a license if you want to maintain a verge yourself.

Oak Processionary Moth

A number of oak trees in the area have OPM nests. If you see the caterpillars - notable for their long white hairs - do not touch them as the hairs are an irritant. You can find out more on the Council's website www.elmbridge.gov.uk

Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates
TDWGRA



Janet Turner
HWRA



James Crawshaw
HWRA

Some questions answered

When we've been out and about talking to people about the local government election it's clear there is a lot of confusion about what goes on, so here's a few Q&As to explain things for those who don't know. (more will be in the Autumn edition).

Why do we have seem to have elections every year?

Elmbridge Borough Council follows a four year cycle, with Councillors elected for a four year term. To ensure continuity and minimise disruption, Councillors are elected 1/3 at a time (i.e 16 Councillors) in years 1, 2 and 3. Then in year 4 there is a year's respite with no EBC election.

Surrey County Council also runs on a four year cycle, but they elect all 81 Councillors in one go. We elected our Surrey Councillors last year (Residents' Councillor Nick Darby won The Dittons ward) so there won't be another SCC election until 2025.

General Elections (the big one) can be called a maximum of five years after the last one (December 2019). It's anyone's guess when the next one will be!

What is the difference between Surrey County Council (SCC) and Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC)?

Surrey County Council is our primary tier authority. Their key responsibilities are Surrey-wide and include: Education; Social care, Fire Services, Highways, Transport, Libraries, Recreation and museums

SCC has 81 Councillors and is Conservative led - 47 Conservative; 16 Residents - 14 Lib Dem, 2 Labour, 2 Green.

Elmbridge Borough Council is one of 11 boroughs in Surrey. It includes the towns of Walton, Weybridge, Cobham, Esher and E & W Molesey. EBC is primarily responsible for: Planning, Housing, Environmental health, Waste and Refuse collection, Licensing; Community Support services (eg Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Community Centres), Leisure and Culture (council-run sports facilities, arts etc), 1850 hectares of green spaces, including 57 parks, 20 countryside sites and common land, and collecting our Council Tax.



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Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Councillor



Highways is a hot topic, so I will start there. The County Council has replaced main Highways contractor Keir with Ringway. Time will tell, but my first experience was helpful. I reported various potholes in a road in Weston Green and the work was done the next day. Let's hope Ringway keep that up.

Residents can report highway issues direct to Surrey Highways. Anyone who prefers can email me and I will pass it on. Potholes which "qualify" should be repaired within five working days.

I await confirmation from Highways Officers on how far "my" Highway repair allocation will stretch. As usual the dilemma remains what to choose from a long list. I hope that a continuing study into local cycling and walking routes will produce results all over the Dittons. Some joined up thinking to cover Portsmouth Road, Hampton Court Way, the area between Long Ditton and Hinchley Wood would not go amiss.

Surrey currently spend about £44m a year on Home to School Transport. The Surrey Cabinet is intent on making changes to save money. It is essential that anything like this is covered fairly, with plenty of notice to those who may be affected. Some consultation has taken place. However, if any resident is aware of issues which may affect their family, please get in touch so I can raise this. I sit on the School Transport Appeals Committee

I will finish with the difficulties we face with Adult Social Care. Government has announced a cap on care costs, and an ability for those who self-fund to request



Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby

their local authority (e.g. Surrey) to arrange their care. In theory that should be cheaper.

Part of this "package" is the National Insurance increase which has just come in.

The difficulty is how counties like Surrey are funded by Central Government to cover the extra costs, which may in the worst case, amount to hundreds of millions. Much detail has still to be finalised. Surrey and others will no doubt press hard for a funding formula fairer than that which already exists. It is problematic, with serious implications for Council Tax in the future.

As always, if anyone has a query please get in touch. May I wish all a good, warm, safe and healthy summer, and that you have found time to celebrate the Jubilee, more than 70 years of outstanding public service by the truly exceptional person who is our Queen.

Nick Darby,
Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons
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Nature and Climate Festival



The RA is very excited to be hosting our Nature & Climate Festival on September 23-25. Make a note in your dairies to keep the weekend free as there will be a huge amount of activities going on and there is sure to be something of interest to everyone!

The programme will be announced in September but we can promise an exciting mix of talks, demonstrations, book signings, activities and family fun.

There are four themes for the weekend:

Rivers and oceans - find out the impacts of pollution and plastics, learn about the Thames and flooding, take part in a river clean-up...

Rewilding - hear from the experts how rewilding can help battle climate change, learn what you can do in your own back garden, take part in a creative writing workshop inspired by nature...

The Circular Economy - Reduce, reuse, repair and recycle: we should all be doing it, but what is everyone else doing? Hear from movers and shakers in business, find out where our recycling goes, re-think your approach to fast fashion, take part in a Repair Café...

Living Well - Are you thinking of buying an electric vehicle? Installing an air source heat pump? Want to harness solar energy? Invest ethically? Go meatless? We will have experts in all sorts of areas to show us where to start...

All this and lots, lots more!

This is a great opportunity for our Thames Ditton & Weston Green community to come together and find out how we can really make a difference.

If you'd like to get more involved, we are looking for:

Young people (under 18) to sit on a Steering Group to help shape the Festival programme

Local clubs, groups and societies and businesses - if you are involved (or want to do a project) in anything connected to our four themes and would like to showcase your work during the Festival, please get in touch

Business partners - this will be a big weekend with lots going on and a great chance to connect with our community. If you would like to sponsor the event, or part of it, please get in touch.

Suggestions - anything particular you'd like to learn about or have a go at? Let us know and we'll see if we can add it to our programme.

Host families for speakers - we will have a lot of visiting speakers travelling to the event. If you are prepared to offer free B&B to a speaker it will help us to keep costs down. (Ideally a double room with private bath/wc for one or two nights.)

Please contact: Cllrs Gill Coates or Caroline James if you'd like to talk about any of the above

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Photography Competition TD&WGRA Nature & Climate Festival



Let's celebrate our wonderful local environment by capturing it on camera!

As part of our Nature & Climate Festival (September 23-25) we are running a photography competition, open to all residents of Thames Ditton and Weston Green.

We want to see your photographs of local wildlife or local scenery that capture the very best of our nature and climate in 2022. It might be in your garden, by the river or in one of our wonderful green spaces; it could be a butterfly on a flower or an interesting cloud formation; you could send us a detailed close-up or a scenic shot. Just take the photos that inspire you.

The competition is open to all ages and the best photographs will be displayed in an exhibition as part of the TD&WGRA Nature & Climate Festival in September. The winning photographs will also be used for future covers of Thames Ditton Today magazine.

You can enter your photographs in three categories:

- Nature & wildlife - the animal world
- Nature & wildlife - local plant life
- Thames Ditton & Weston Green's Natural Environment - our natural surroundings

How to Enter:

Send a JPEG file of your photograph/s to gcoates@residents-association.com

If preferred, you can send/deliver an A4 glossy print to Gill Coates, The Oaks,



*Local nature captured by Emma Palmer
emmapalmerphotography.co.uk*

Prizes are: £50 for the winner in each category and £25 each for three highly commended photographs in each category. (Twelve prizes in total.)

There will also be a special prize of £50 for the best junior photograph (under 16).

Closing date for entries is **Friday September 2, 2022**

Entry is free and individual entrants can submit a maximum of three photographs in the competition.

Orchard Gate, Esher, KT10 8HY.

Include a covering email / letter stating:

- Your name
- Your address (if you live outside Thames

Ditton and Weston Green but are at school/college, or work here, please state name of school attended or place of business)

- Contact email and/or telephone number
- Age (if under 16)
- Category for which the photograph is entered
- Title of the photograph and when and where it was taken

Rules

- All entrants must live, work or attend school/college in Thames Ditton & Weston Green
- All photos must be the original work of the named entrant

- Photos must be in their original state, not altered in any way
- All judges' decisions are final
- By entering the competition, entrants give their consent for their photographs and name (and age if under 16) to be displayed in the Nature & Climate Festival exhibition and published in Thames Ditton Today magazine (use is at the discretion of the organisers/editor)
- By entering the competition entrants give their consent for their photographs to be used as covers in future editions of Thames Ditton Today Magazine
- Prizes will be awarded in cash / bank transfer within ten days of announcement of the winners

Enter the Nature & Climate Festival photography competition



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80th Anniversary congratulations to 1st Weston Green Scout Group



80th anniversary party, 1st Weston Green Scout Group

1st Weston Green Scout Group recently celebrated its 80th anniversary with a party at All Saints church. Nearly 200 people of all ages came together to enjoy drinks and pizza and take part in traditional fairground-style fun with a scouting twist. Anyone succeeding in starting a fire using just steel and flint was rewarded with toasted marshmallows!

The group's early meetings, when the white church by Marney's Pond was still new, were in the church hall (now gone) of the All Saints mission church on Weston Park. These wartime meetings were sometimes punctuated by air raid warnings, but the Cub pack and later a Scout troop prospered. Later, a Beavers colony and an Explorer Scout unit were added. The group now provides young people from six to eighteen years old with challenging adventures and activities that equip them with confidence and skills for life.

1st Weston Green Scouts has no problem attracting young people and has a waiting list. But like all scout groups it is run entirely by volunteers, and the group is always on the look-out for help. They would love to attract volunteers from the local community and can offer a wide variety of volunteering roles and experiences for adults of any age.

As well as leaders, the group needs help behind the scenes, in admin and finance, just like any business or charity. If you've got a few hours to spare and fancy doing something to help young people locally, there's almost certainly something you could help with.

The group offers a Four Week Challenge – come along and see what we do, try your hand at helping out, help to plan and run an activity, then review the experience, with no further commitment. Interested? Contact Nigel Harris on **07841 604022**, or email chair@westongreenscouts.org.uk.

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The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend June 2-5, 2022



Jubilee picnickers on Weston Green with our alternative jubilee beacon



Isobel (left), Sienna and mum Natasha with Jubilee Beacon



Tony Nockles telling organiser Gill Coates his memories of the coronation



June 2, a great day for a Jubilee picnic



The Platinum Jubilee Weekend
guises, including the 'decorate a
Cake, corgis (and other dogs) a
the celebrations.
And of course, there were lots
garden parties.
It was wonderful to see so m
you to all sent photos for our P
many to print but we loved seei



Portsmouth Avenue



Onslow Gardens & Newlands Avenue



and featured the Queen, in various
 a wheely bin competition?!
 and champagne were all part of
 s and lots of street parties and
 any people having fun. Thank
 platinum Jubilee montage... too
 ng them all.



Kings Drive



Thorkhill Road



Garden Cottage Garden Party



Alternative Jubilee Beacon



Ashley Road and Church Walk



Aragon Avenue



Alexandra Road street parties, left 2022 right 1935 (George V Jubilee)

Dittons' Library bunting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022



Samples of the Platinum Jubilee bunting - see it at Dittons Library

In our last edition, we covered the story of the Thames Ditton and Weston Green wall hanging which was produced by local people in the community to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee in 1977. The sewn panels can still be seen in the Dittons' Library computer room.

Inspired by this initiative and the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, the Dittons' Library crafting group has made a collection of unique and special pennants as decorative bunting to mark the occasion. Members of the group were simply invited to do their own thing to produce a pennant that would reflect the Queen's reign over the last 70 years to mark this moment of history. A fun Platinum Jubilee quiz was created to go with it.

Visit the library and you will find pennants which reflect the Queen's love of corgis, racing pigeons, hats and horses; and historic moments during her reign such as the launch of Concorde, and England winning

the world cup in 1966.

The Ditton Crafters meet every Thursday morning in the library and work in diverse mediums from knitting to tapestry.

Julie Royce



Some sheets of the silver jubilee wrapping paper (a little piece of local history) are still for sale at £2.50 per sheet at the library (cash only please) and the Thames Ditton Gin shop on Pip's Path. All funds raised go to towards the RA Christmas Lights fund (nearly £100 raised so far).

Neighbourhood Jubilee Trees Project



A huge thank you to everyone who has come forward to offer or suggest sites for our Neighbourhood Jubilee Trees Project.

The numbers are growing but we still need more, so if you are thinking about planting a tree in your garden and would like it to be considered as part of the Thames Ditton & Weston Green Jubilee Tree Canopy, please let us know.

What we are planning

We want to plant up to 70 trees in our community, to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Sites will be plotted on a map for posterity and kept in the community - this is yet to be decided and will be another community project, perhaps a tapestry, community artwork or interactive map on our website.

How it works

DIY - You choose, buy, and plant your own tree - we are happy to include trees that have already been planted in the last six months. Just let us know about it (what you

are planting and where) and we will add it to our list of sites, to be recorded in the artwork as a 'Jubilee Tree.'

Limited availability

DIWU (Do it with us) - You offer the site in your garden but we provide the tree/s. It might not be your preferred species, size etc, but we will make sure it is suitable and the tree will be supplied free of charge.

Future care of the trees is the responsibility of the resident.

We are grateful to the 3rd Weston Green Brownies who have offered to raise funds to help buy some Jubilee Trees.

Tree planting will take place during the dormant season 22/23.

If you would like to nominate your site please contact: gcoates@residents-association.com

Please note: We are not including street trees or trees in public spaces in this project, unless they are part of a pre-existing planting plan, as they are the responsibility of SCC and EBC and they do not have the capacity to maintain them.



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Behind the scenes at Hampton Court Palace (presentation given at our AGM)



A 1950s kitchen in a Grace-and-favour apartment at Hampton Court Palace

I'm Nicola Andrews - resident of Thames Ditton and also Palaces Director for Historic Royal Palaces. Historic Royal Palaces looks after six of the most iconic buildings in the UK: the Tower of London, the State Apartments at Kensington Palace, Banqueting House on Whitehall, Kew Palace, Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland and, of course, our very own Hampton Court Palace!

The Palaces, gardens and parks look amazing. They are grand and beautiful, and we do our utmost to present them at their best. But there is a lot that visitors don't see, and I'm going to share some of that with you here.

Hampton Court Palace is a building of

two halves: the Tudor Palace built in the sixteenth century for Cardinal Wolsey, only to be taken from him and further enhanced by Henry VIII; and the Baroque Palace designed and built in the seventeenth century by Christopher Wren for King William and Queen Mary.

The most important rooms are on public display and you can wander through the State Apartments in the footsteps of Kings and Queens. But behind the scenes is a warren of 1000 other rooms of all shapes and sizes. Many are now offices or other spaces let for commercial use. However, others have been left untouched for decades, now acting as an important reminder of the people that have come before us.

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x





A grace-and-favour apartment bathroom

In the mid eighteenth century, the Palace ceased to be used as a royal residence and much of it was sub divided into apartments for grace-and-favour residents: people who were offered free accommodation in return for services to the monarch or nation, or more often than not, to their dependents. My office, Apartment 44, was once home to Scott of the Antarctic's mother, and to Ernest Shackleton's wife (not at the same time!).

The average size of a grace-and-favour apartment was 12 to 14 rooms, and at its peak there were around 50 apartments in total. Despite the grand location, the living conditions were not great. In 1857, Charles Dickens described in *Little Dorrit* how the residents at Hampton Court Palace lived in 'the most primitive manner'.

We no longer have any grace-and-favour residents living with us, but there are a range of apartments and signposts left

untouched that serve as a reminder of that important time in the Palace's history. They also provide us with a fascinating insight in to changing tastes in interior décor, as a couple of photographs show.



Signs to grace-and-favour apartments are always left in situ around the Palace



Mementos of past residents - represent important stories from the Palaces' past.

Also housed at Hampton Court Palace is the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection. It contains 10,000 items of historic dress from the 16th century to the present day, providing information about the history of fashion, life at court, and the lives of key historical figures.



The Bristowe Hat, said to belong to Henry VIII

The treasures range from the Bristowe Hat, said to have been hurled in the air in triumph by Henry VIII when he captured Boulogne, and still dazzlingly well preserved after more than 450 years, to the Travolta dress, worn by Princess Diana when she danced with John Travolta at a gala dinner at the White House in 1985.



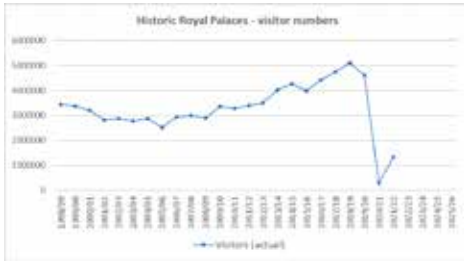
The Travolta dress on display at Kensington Palace

Not everything stored at Hampton Court is quite so glamorous. We also have rooms filled with the more day-to-day items used by residents and staff, such as suitcases to firemen's hats, and fabric from the building, including old doors, ironwork and stonework. All represent important stories from the Palace's past.

At Historic Royal Palaces we care for all of these things, alongside the gardens, parks, buildings and other precious collections in our care. As a charity, our role is to take off the taxpayers' shoulders the burden of caring for these important places, to ensure they are in ever better condition for future generations to enjoy, and to deliver public access and benefit through them. That's something we feel passionately about and we work hard to generate the income needed to achieve it (we receive no public funding support).

The last two years have been tough for our organisation. In 2020 we lost £100m in income and all our £40m reserves. We finished the year with nothing, but managed to secure a £40m loan which has kept us going. Of the 5 million visitors we welcomed each year pre-pandemic, 3 million went to the Tower of London and 70% were from overseas. Most of our income was generated by the Tower, with sites such as Hampton Court operating at a loss. The overseas market has been significantly impacted and will take several years to grow back. We have had to halve our staffing and other operating costs and stop nearly all projects. We are seeing shoots of recovery, however. In 2021/22 we welcomed 1.5m visitors across our sites and we only lost £11m (we were expecting to lose nearer £32m!).

We have a long road to recovery ahead of us and have had to make many changes to the way we operate in order to keep the



Historic Royal Palaces visitor numbers

organisation going. We are grateful for the support that so many of you have offered us and would like to take this opportunity to thank you.

There is much to look forward to in the year ahead. We will be celebrating the Jubilee with a ‘*Superbloom*’ event at the Tower of London. The moat has been sown with over 20 million seeds which will develop and morph through a spectacular display of wildflowers between June and

September. Visitors will be able enter the moat to experience the colours, scents and sounds close up.

The seeds have also been sown on the West Front of Hampton Court Palace for all to enjoy as they pass by. There is a Jubilee Joust at Hampton Court in the first week of June, and at Kensington Palace we have our Life Through A Royal Lens exhibition, which brings together some of the most iconic images ever taken of the Royal Family.

Of course the regular favourites also return to Hampton Court this year, in the form of the Music Festival, Garden Festival, Food Festival and Festive Fayre. More information is available on the website at www.hrp.org.uk

Nicola Andrews
Palaces Director for Historic
Royal Palaces



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Quality care and residents' wellbeing are at the core of Home of Compassion. An outstanding place of beauty that offers residential, nursing and specialist dementia care for elderly residents within a restored and extended 18th Century Grade II listed mansion. Our luxurious living environment is home for up to 78 residents in a unique setting of approximately 2.5 acres on the bank of the River Thames in Surrey, overlooking the grounds of Hampton Court.

Care and Compassion

We are dedicated to providing dignified and respectful residential, nursing and dementia care. What matters



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fantastic venue! All
of my expectations
have been exceeded
by the care that has
been shown**

Family member

most to us is the wellbeing of each of our residents, whatever their circumstances, whatever their needs. We are not here to take over lives, we are here to help live them, and we are always on hand with discreet assistance when required.

Comfort and Wellbeing of Residents

The main house boasts grand reception rooms including the magnificent first floor library and ground floor cinema room, private dining room, lounge and hair salon. There is a dedicated activities room with an extensive programme of events for residents' health and wellbeing, with chair aerobics and gardening club being particular favourites.

Customer service is crucial to the success of resident comfort and wellbeing. The Hotel Services Manager and team provide a 24-hour service and our menus use seasonal and local produce – some of which is



Explore the magnificent first floor library with comfy armchairs and a quiet space to read.



Host a dinner party or have afternoon tea with friends and family in the private dining room.

grown in our very own vegetable garden - forming the basis of the extensive restaurant-grade menus. Room service is also available, with a selection of lighter meals and snacks. A concierge service attends to a host of other requirements from ordering flowers and arranging dry cleaning to booking theatre tickets.

Choice and independence

When it comes to individual bedrooms, we help our residents to put their unique stamp on their room and keep things just how they like them. All bedrooms are ensuite and have delightful furniture and furnishings. Our home is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens with several rooms having access to the gardens directly from their room.

Our bistro is perfect for socialising with family and friends and has a kitchen areas for making drinks. If you prefer to have some alone time, you can explore quiet nooks with comfy armchairs, classic novels and books on the shelves. To keep the mind sharp you'll find board games, cards and puzzles too - there's plenty to keep our residents engaged if they choose.

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Home of Compassion

CARING HOMES

Ferry Works – still in the business of innovation and invention



NCMT - Interior of the Victorian machine shop – with AC cars 2011 centenary celebration

Have you ever wondered what goes on these days inside the mellow and dignified walls of Ferry Works?

Sitting serenely beside the River Thames, it is an important monument not only to the industrial revolution, but also to the vision and enthusiasm of local residents who passionately believed that Thames Ditton should be a great place to live and work – and not simply become a sleepy ‘dormitory’ of London.

Ferry Works has a history of innovation and invention going back over two hundred years. Willans and Robinson were the first builders, and made their revolutionary steam engine here. Then AC Cars moved in with their ‘Amazing Cars’ and made motorised transport affordable. After WWII came Rola Celestion, makers of top quality loudspeakers favoured by rock and

roll groups of the 60s.

In the late 1970s, just as the pigeons started to enjoy their vacant luxury riverside aviary, Octagon Developments, a local property development company, stepped in and applied for residential development. Persuasive arguments from residents led to a meeting of minds, and Octagon commissioned local Hungarian architect Katharina Halasz to restore its Victorian features as well as modernising, and return the site to a place of work once more.

Today the Ferry Works continues to breed innovation. For example, NCMT provide computerised precision machine tool solutions to UK manufacturers as diverse as makers of replacement knee joints and Rolls Royce aeroplane turbine blades. They were one of the first companies to bring Japanese machine tool technology to Britain.

Havas Life Medicom are a healthcare communications agency that integrates strategy, creativity, marketing and PR in one business. They creatively use data and psychology to help clients develop meaningful communications with their audiences about medicine and its role in improving health.

Then, there is the work of award-winning architects PRP, who specialise in designing later living environments. Clare Cameron, PRP Director, said: *“Our reputation for reinventing best practice earned us a place on an expert panel for innovation in 2009, advising government departments on recommendations for housing the UK’s ageing population. Known as ‘HAPPI’, this has become a firm base for further government initiatives in this area, and we continue to win in the ‘HAPPI’ category of the prestigious annual Housing Design Awards.”*

Its current occupants are committed to retaining the heritage of the building by sensitively incorporating this into their office refurbishments. For example, the meeting rooms of Havas Life Medicom carry the names of famous AC Cars such as ‘Cobra’ and ‘Ace’; and PRP have stripped



Meeting room names evoke history

bare their ceilings to reveal steel structures and insulated ventilation shafts to give the interior an industrial but contemporary feel.

As one of its earliest occupiers, NCMT built their suite of offices around the majesty of the original Victorian machine shop, with its floor to ceiling arched windows overlooking the river and tall steel girders, to provide an impressive showroom filled with precision machines.

Jonathan Smart, Managing Director said: *“After 40 years we are soon vacating the premises as the machine shop no longer meets our practical needs, but I shall really miss the village, our riverside location and working in a building with such an illustrious engineering legacy’.*



PRP Offices

Ferry Works is the workplace of several hundred employees - a mix of locals and those who commute, using public transport, or their car, as parking is provided as part of a deal with Colets Health Club.

Uniformly, people said that they love the riverside setting and are regular users of the village amenities – particularly those providing food and drink. However, following the Covid19 pandemic, businesses have moved to a hybrid style of working where people combine working from home and office and this has resulted in halving the numbers of employees on the site at any one time. To encourage staff to return to the office, Havas Life Medicom has adapted its environment to provide river-view sofa areas for casual

meetings and trendy soundproofed booths for quieter conversations between home and office based staff. Communications Manager, Smitha Kusumakar said: *“Not many workplaces can enjoy their own private seating area on the banks of the river Thames or sit in the peaceful garden of a 12th century church during their lunchbreak.”*

The move of its 40-year occupant NCMT, combined with a change to flexible working practices is likely to herald a new era for Ferry Works and the village, but with a heritage of innovation and adaptability, we can hope to look forward to a new chapter of reinvention.

Julie Royce



WALSINGHAM CARE

HELPING THE OLDER GENERATION

Walsingham Care is a long-established local grant giving charity assisting the elderly and those who help support the elderly in the Elmbridge area.

We are seeking additional trustees to join our existing team and we are particularly looking for those with either Accountancy and Investment training (for an advisory role only) or prior experience in working with the elderly, such as in a social work role. The time commitment is not onerous, we meet quarterly for approximately two hours and there is the odd email communication.

We would love to hear from you and would be more than happy to discuss the role and our charity in more detail. Please contact our manager, Debbie Beach, by email for further information, Debbie@walsinghamcare.org.uk

Meet your distributors – Crispin Ashford



Your copy of Thames Ditton Today was put through your letterbox by one of our volunteer distributors.

Who are they and what are they up to when they are not pounding the streets delivering magazines?

Crispin delivers to Speer Road.

How and when did you start living in Thames Ditton?

I started living here soon after I met Sara who was brought up in Thames Ditton. Two of Sara's siblings and her father live in the same road as we do.

How did you become a distributor?

I took over from somebody that we knew through the church who had been delivering for a long time.

A brief 'potted biography'?

I was brought up near York and went to Nunthorpe Grammar School - its only famous pupil is Vince Cable. I then went to Reading University to do a degree in Politics and International Relations. I was drawn to Reading partly because my parents studied and met there. After university I did a wide variety of jobs. In York I worked at Rowntree's chocolate factory and as an open-top bus tour guide.

After moving to London in 1995, I was a gardener/landscaper and then spent 5 years with Boden. When I met Sara in 1999, I was living near The Barbican.

We married in December 2003. It was



Crispin Ashford with the Best Actor cup from the Woking Festival

a winter wedding and Sara walked in her wedding dress with her father, Don, from her home at one end of Church Walk to St Nicholas Church at the other end. No wedding car needed! We were the first people to have a wedding reception at Hampton Court House School - and they have been doing them ever since.

We now have 4 children aged 8,11,13 and 15. We originally lived in the terrace of white cottages on Giggs Hill Green but, as the family grew, we moved to a larger house in Speer Road. Sara is a teacher and that persuaded me to also join the profession. Currently, I am a Year 6 teacher at a small, happy school in Kingston Vale.



9.6

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What hobbies and activities do you enjoy?

I have collected several old vehicles which I intend to 'do up' – eventually! A Jensen Healey, a Mini 1275GT (which was my first car), a Yamaha FS1E moped or 'Fizzy' (owned for 34 years) and a small river boat. Luckily, I enjoy tinkering.

I am also part of a local drama group called The Thursday Night Project which meets in St Nicholas Church Hall. The weekly workshops focus on different aspects of drama and in addition we enter drama festivals. At Woking Festival, our entry of 'Raving' by Simon Paisley Day was awarded Best Play, our group leader Richard Brimblecombe was Best Director and I won Best Actor! I was delighted to see that the first name on the cup is Buster Merryfield in 1968. Buster was manager of the National Westminster bank on Gigg's Hill Green (now 'The Old Bank'). He later retired, became a professional actor, and went on to fame as Uncle Albert in 'Only Fools and Horses'.



Crispin and "Uncle Albert" both feature on the Best Actor cup

What is the best thing about living in Thames Ditton?

Coming from Yorkshire I am very fussy about where I live, but this is a very special community in a great location with the river, Bushy Park, London and the countryside so accessible.

Is there one thing that perhaps people don't know about you?

My grandfather, C.E (Bunny) Webber was a playwright and BBC staff writer who helped to create Dr Who. Coincidentally the first Doctor, William Hartnell, lived for a while on Thames Ditton Island.

Pat Cooke

QUICK FIRE QUESTIONS

Favourite pub?

I think pubs are an essential asset to the community so I try to spend as much time as I can supporting all of them.

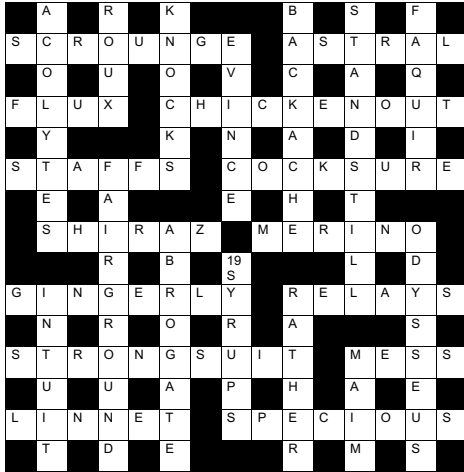
Favourite book?

Coming Up for Air by George Orwell.

Favourite holiday?

We've done lots of camping both at home and abroad, but my favourite family holiday is our annual skiing trip. We go to Isola 2000 with 40 or 50 other Dittonites. It's great to be in the mountains enjoying clean air, beautiful views and the company of some special friends.

Solution to the Spring Crossword



Congratulations to the winner of the Spring Crossword. The prize is a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Mrs Catherine E Dunne
12 Kings Drive,
KT7 0TH



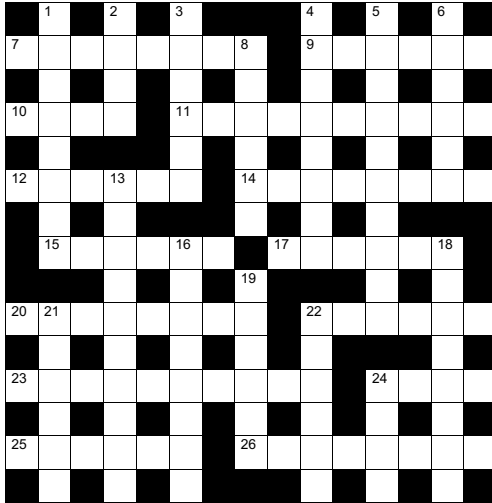
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Summer Crossword



by **Howard and Bob Cruthers**

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of August 5 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 Demote (8)
- 9 Moderate (6)
- 10 Complaint, about cattle? (4)
- 11 Transposition of initial or other sounds of words (10)
- 12 Falsify GP? (6)
- 14 Royal egg (anag) – a drain on the church? (8)
- 15 Ghost's favourite places? (6)
- 17 Prevent from happening (6)
- 20 Beating (8)
- 22 Tom, Dick or Harry? (6)
- 23 Radio 4 farmers, with arrows? (3, 7)
- 24 Try out, for cricket? (4)
- 25 Burnt dessert? (6)
- 26 Manfulness (8)

DOWN CLUES

- 1 Monster (8)
- 2 Peasant (4)
- 3 Emperor's favourite salad? (6)
- 4 Venomous fish; 1960s Sci-Fi TV show (8)
- 5 Prenatal biology. My globe Roy (anag) (10)
- 6 Small carnivore; betrayer (6)
- 8 Sufficient (6)
- 13 Sketch types; digit protectors (10)
- 16 Nervous ornithologist? (8)
- 18 Dapper (8)
- 19 Radiant (6)
- 21 Employ again (6)
- 22 Historically, Lorraine's neighbour (6)
- 24 Hard work – work hard (4)

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Manager	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 Dementia Centre	Nikki Harding	01372 474526
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	Emily Wattret	3rdthamesdittonbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	gsl@westongreenscouts.org.uk
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides		2wgguides@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)		1wgbrownies@gmail.com
3rd Weston Green Brownies		3wgbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Lizzie Owen	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Stuart Jack	07971 479740
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Girlguiding in Thames Ditton and Weston Green		dittonsdistrict.hjh@gmail.com
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	Alison Cruthers	07957 347170
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Cercle Francais d'Esher	Brigitte Tiller	01932 860842 brigitte@ptiller.com
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Ditton Bridge Club	John Dagnall	02083984463
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Hon Secretary	07710 139417
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263
Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146

Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club (St Nicholas)	David Ford	020 8715 2148
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleighan Rugby Club	Piers Cushing	07790 003731
Old Cranleighan Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus club, Hinchley Wood & the Dittons	Edmund Woolley	020 8398 3581
Probus Club, Sandown	Julian Rye	01932 976994
Probus Club of Molesey	Roger Marlow	0208 398 5460
Probus Club of Claremont	George Cameron	020 8224 1392
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
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	Rich Simkins	rpsimkins@gmail.com
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Geoff Dryden	07813 805 645
		Geoff.Dryden@hotmail.com

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	Jean Billett	01372 465961
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	0208 398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Gill Vickers	020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Oxshott & Cobham Music Society	Cherry Eddy (Membership)	0208 398 4377
		cherryeddy102@gmail.com
Soroptimist Women	Jean Smith	07770 417814
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

OTHER

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
Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee		wgcaac@outlook.com

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

Chairman's Address to the AGM



On March 29, Chairman Graham Cooke welcomed attendees to the first 'in person' AGM for three years – a special welcome was extended to Nicola Andrews who, following the formal business, gave an outstanding presentation about Historic Royal Parks.

Graham highlighted the success at the 2021 elections with 100% RA representation in both Thames Ditton and Hinchley Wood and Weston Green wards – attendees were urged to use their vote on May 5 and support the respective RAs.

Graham thanked all Councillors for their efforts over the year including Surrey County Cllr Nick Darby who continues in his role which includes being Leader of the Opposition on Surrey County Council.

Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton had been a great success, with over 250 attendees. This year, we look forward to another Secret Gardens of Weston Green on June 26.

Support continues to be provided for Christmas lights and we have also been able to provide both financial and physical support to many other local projects including bulb planting, litter picking, the popular Farmers' Market and the Elmbridge Food Bank.

Last summer saw the installation of two new benches by Milbourne Pond which was funded jointly with the Milbourne Pond Appeal Fund. We also gave financial support to our Flooding Sub Committee group who have been successful in obtaining additional funding from Elmbridge for survey work

on the area close to the Albany, this is an ongoing project and thanks go to all those involved.

We continue to communicate with all in the community via our magazine Thames Ditton Today, our website and via Twitter. We need more advertisers.

During the year we have taken part in a number of consultations including South Western Railway's proposal to reduce services. We have lobbied to maintain all forms of public transport.

Graham referenced a number of planning issues where the RA Cllrs have been able to argue against inappropriate developments.

The new Elmbridge Local Plan has been unanimously approved by Elmbridge Borough Council and special thanks were due to RA Cllr Karen Randolph for achieving a result which protects our Green Belt and Open Spaces.

Caroline James had agreed to stand for re-election for Thames Ditton Ward – James Crawshaw will stand as the Hinchley Wood and Weston Green candidate.

Numerous initiatives and events were planned for later in 2022 – see TD Today or the website for more detail.

Finally, thanks were given to all individuals who support our Residents' Association and help to make Thames Ditton and Weston Green a truly wonderful place to live.

Residents-association.com

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Karen

02082247848

07760220604



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