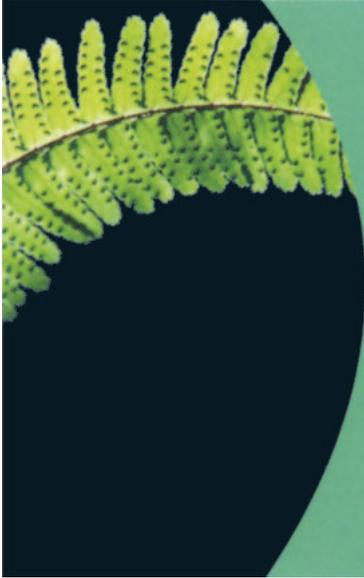




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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

Autumn 2013

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Thames Ditton Today is delivered to an influential 4000 households throughout Thames Ditton and Weston Green. Contact Verity Park for rates for full page, half and quarter page advertising.

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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 organization 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' 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 at Surrey County Council.

President: Maureen Sheldrick,
34 The Woodlands, Esher

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Watts Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0931

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THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

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News from the Residents' Association



to 18 August

Summer fun

After a fine Summer High St. Fair, a scorching summer proceeded with two excellent local gardening events, providing nice reminders, at the season of the Hampton Court Flower Show, that real gardening is about far more than costly six feet high bronze firebreathing dragon sculptures or the latest faddy pile of old freezers with a few alpines stuck in them a day before!



Judges take it seriously — here, Peter Hickman

The **Queen's Road competition** was the fourth such event, conceived and organised each year by resident Pam Bannister. It began as a hanging basket and window box competition and this year added front gardens as a whole. The idea is to generate community pride in the road by brightening it up, while visitors to Hampton Court Flower Show who choose to walk down to The Albany pub on the river at the end of the road, from where there is a ferry service to the Palace during the show, can see what a marvellous little road it is. Pam's own front garden is always a picture, but of course she does not allow herself to be entered in the competition!

Thanks to an immense amount of artful work by Pam, the Queen's Road event has been wildly successful in its aims. There

are many stories of sharply competitive rivalries among participants, the number of whom has grown each year – this year, almost every household participated. The event is always judged on the opening day of the Flower Show, and gentle argument that the Royal Horticultural Society should encourage 'grass-roots' gardeners has met with a marvellous response from the RHS. This year they provided Bob Sweet, their Head of Judges, and Jim Buttress VMH, as Queen's Road judges. They were joined by RA Cllr. Peter Hickman, whose own garden at Little Lodge, Watts Road, opens yearly in the National Gardens Scheme, and Rory O'Neill from The Albany.

The competition was sponsored by The Albany with a prize of a meal for two with a bottle of wine. Squires Garden



Pam Bannister also organised residents' funding for heritage-quality upgrades to the new street lights, and for hanging baskets for Queen's Road

Centres gave £50 worth of vouchers. There were pairs of tickets for the Comedy Club given by Justin Burke, and one of the residents also gave sets of forks and trowels. Best Front Garden winners were Sarah and Paul Greeno at no 2, who won the top prize – a free consultation with garden designer, Selina Botham, who herself won a Silver-Gilt medal at Hampton Court for her display in the Plant Heritage Marquee. Winner of the Best Window Box was Ellen Byrne at 27A and perennial winner Susan Driver won the Best Hanging Basket category. Queen's Road looked lovely. Wheeliebins, however, still lack a definitive solution!

The **Secret Gardens** event was this year held in Weston Green (see the article elsewhere in this issue). Immaculately organised by RA Cllr. Ruth Bruce with many helpers, it was another highly successful and enjoyable community event, with a variety of gardens. Carlo Frondaroli and wife Napsugar opened their house, The Newlands, so that for the first time in many years visitors could see this fine listed house, well restored, which has a fascinating history that Carlo is researching. We hope that someone will step forward next year to organise a similar event in another part of Thames Ditton or Weston Green – how about the area east of the Portsmouth Road?

Farmers' Market

Residents Damian Kingsford, Mark Charlesworth, and Sarah Eddy mounted an excellent survey of residents' local shopping habits, desires, and support for the idea of a regular street market in or near Thames Ditton High Street, drawing on the great success of the Farmers' market in Surbiton which has

invigorated the area where it is held. The results can be viewed on our website. Extremely well-presented, they show overwhelming support for such a market (we should note that 'Farmers' is a generic term, and does not mean that stalls will be full of farm produce). With suitable caveats from the Retailers' Association, the team now wish to take matters forward to the actual organisation of the market. They urgently need volunteers to help: please contact them via email (info@thamesdittonhighstreet.com) or call at 2 Ashley Road.

Former Home of Compassion

Something of a lull in planning matters was ended by the recent planning application for this important listed building. Owners Caring Homes made a successful application some five years ago, but just as the former Home had been cleared and works were about to



The Home of Compassion is a noble building

commence, they were hit by the credit crunch which put their finances into jeopardy. Work never began, and the building was deteriorating when a group of squatters took it over in October 2010. Their eventual eviction heralded a better approach to security and maintenance of the building, but the owners were still unable to raise financing for its conversion to a commercial care home until recently.

In order to make the scheme viable, Caring Homes assert that they must amend earlier proposals in order to accommodate more bedrooms. They have worked to ensure community information and support: earlier this year they presented draft outlines to residents at an 'open session' at The Swan. They have now presented their formal application. This must be judged against the plan approved last time and the criteria for development and restoration of a grade II

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listed building of great importance to the local context. There is general support for a proper conversion and a willingness to accept that Caring Homes must get more from it to make it viable. However, the plans as submitted are, in the views of the Conservation Area Advisory Committee, the Boyle Farm Estate, the Residents' Association and many individual residents, deficient in certain important respects ranging from a new aspect toward the High Street (that looks like a 'prison block' in the words of several residents) to vague or inappropriate specifications for period features and materials.

This fine old building must be restored and developed and we are keen to see progress, but it must be done properly and

in context. Most residents asked about it hope that the application in its present form will not be approved and that, as in the past, the owners will work to take local community views into account in a future application that fairly meets criteria.

Weston Green Local People at War

No, the heading does not refer to an outbreak of hostilities within these villages! 2014 sees the 75th anniversary of the consecration of All Saints Church, Weston Green in 1939. The establishment of the new church owed a great deal to the efforts, among others, of churchwarden Colonel E.T. Rees DSO OBE MC JP and his wife Mary, then secretary to the



Colonel Evan Thomas Rees and wife Mary

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Home Guard march past Jubilee Villas

Parochial Council. Rees, who lived in Newlands Avenue, was also a founder, and the first Chairman and President, of our Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association.

To mark the anniversary, which is a fine opportunity to underline the local identity of Weston Green and its community, local resident and former BBC producer Nick Handel will stage a live show in the church next February to depict life around Weston Green between 1939 and 1945, and how local people met the challenges of wartime. There will be live period music – but, above all, Nick is looking to tell the stories of folk in the community: sacrifice, gallantry and public service; the role played by local women; stories of those who fell in love in those uncertain times; what individuals did for the war effort and how a community gained strength by pulling together.

Alas many with first-hand experience have since died, but Nick is keen to include stories (funny as well as serious) that may have been passed on to living relatives. If you have a cherished story about a parent, grandparent, sibling, aunt or uncle, he would love to hear from you. You may even have memories of growing up in wartime – or were possibly an evacuee. Amazing facts would also add colour and texture (the bombs that fell on Imber Court, V.E. high jinks on Weston Green, how long did it take Granny to learn how to build a Spitfire?) as would the challenges of 'digging for victory' – or being thrown together with the GIs stationed at the American base in Bushy Park. It can only happen with input from members of our community and Nick would greatly appreciate your call on 020 8398 2789 or e-mail: nickhandel@btopenworld.com

Doings and Dates

The word ‘doings’ is a reminder that an editorial correction is needed to the false impression some readers may have gained, that the lovable spaniel illustrating the Summer edition’s appeal for dog owners to clean up after their dog was himself an offender! Not so – **Dudley the dog and his owner Margaret Wingfield** are exemplary in that respect and very much lend their support to the appeal. May others follow their example.



Dudley is a model dog

Cancer Research UK awarded their annual Flame of Hope Award to Weston Green Road resident **Vivienne Harris**, who was made an honorary fellow of the Charity at a special ceremony on 24 May. Vivienne has helped raise more than £500,000 since joining the Thames Ditton local committee in 1967, becoming Chairman a decade later. Her charity supper and quiz nights at the Vera Fletcher Hall are legendary.

Following **Pat Farmiloe’s** retirement as organiser of the twice-yearly Children’s Good As New sales, which cumulatively have raised £110,000 for Cancer Research UK as well as providing an excellent recycling facility for families, a new team is taking over the running of the sale. The next one will take place at **Esher College on Saturday 5 October, 13.30–15.30, entrance £2**. As always, there will be a huge range of really good bargains in excellent condition: quality second-hand toys, clothes, and sporting and other equipment for children of all ages. As well as refreshments, there’s now a maternity and baby room as a calmer and more spacious area for expectant and recent mums to sort things out. For any further details contact crukgoodasnewsale@hotmail.com for any further details.

Residents’ Christmas Party

It’s never too early to start planning for Christmas. The Association’s Christmas Party this year will be held at the Vera Fletcher Hall on **Saturday 7th December from 7 pm**. All residents and their guests are welcome – either get a group together to make up a table, or come on your own

and meet new friends. Tickets are £34 and include a welcoming glass of fizz with canapés, an excellent three course dinner and enthusiastic dancing to an excellent live band. Wine will be available to purchase at reasonable prices on the night. Tickets will be available from Nicola Chetwynd-Stapylton on 020 8398 5480 from Monday 4th November. Nicola would also gratefully receive any offers of help to decorate the hall beforehand.

The Association's **Open Meeting** held in Weston Green last June went well, with a good attendance auguring for some meetings to be held there regularly.

Lastly, lawyers are often maligned, the most famous quote about them arising in Shakespeare's Henry VI Part II, on revolution being contemplated ('The first thing we do, let's kill all the lawyers.' 'Nay, *that* I mean to do'...). Dickens did not help their image with his biting portrayal of the endless Chancery case of Jarndyce vs Jarndyce in Bleak House. However, it was with approval that one spotted in the Law Society Gazette local solicitors **Russell-Cooke** representing the Solicitors' Regulation Authority in a disciplinary case against... other solicitors! Russell-Cooke, a major London firm, used to have an office in Thames Ditton High Street but now cover the area from their Kingston offices (and they are still

stalwart supporters of this magazine by advertising, by the way). For various misdoings, three solicitors elsewhere had been let off lightly by the Solicitors' Disciplinary Tribunal, but wait... the regulatory authority appealed for tougher penalties. Edward Levey of Fountain Court represented the SRA with Peter Cadman and James Danks from Russell-Cooke. They won the case and the fellows were struck off. Peter Cadman tells us with pride that this heartening decision confirms that *'even without a finding of dishonesty, striking solicitors off the Roll can protect the reputation of the profession that otherwise would have been seriously undermined.'*

So – we'll let 'em live, shall we? Aye, that we mean to do.

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Secret Gardens of Weston Green



After the great success of previous ‘Secret Gardens’ events, Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents’ Association looked to broaden the focus to Weston Green this year.

Set against a background of near monsoon level rain on and off and distinctly chilly temperatures in May and June, tensions were running high in the Weston Green

‘Secret Gardener’ community when Sunday 30th June dawned bright and sunny on what then turned out to be the hottest day of the year. Consternation turned to temperatures at the other end of scale!

All was well however and hundreds of people of all ages dressed, finally, in summer outfits and an array of interesting hats, set off on the ‘Secret Gardens of Weston Green’ trail that took in ten very different gardens of varying size, shape and type spanning Weston Green Ward, with a very welcome and wonderful temporary teashop stop set up on the lawn at All Saints’ Church, courtesy of Anstice Wadia and helpers, whose ages ranged through seventy years plus.

The ‘Secret Gardeners’ all worked so hard in the weeks and months prior and



Roses at Cranbrook Drive

we owe each and every one of them our most sincere thanks. Without exception, all the gardens had something different and interesting to offer and a very warm welcome for all-comers. All hosts were pleasantly surprised and delighted by the justifiable praise and interest shown by visitors who all appeared to find something to wow them or an idea to ‘borrow’ for their own patch.

The expertly produced plant list at The Hecquets in The Woodlands was snapped up by envious green-fingered types while others of us just soaked up the atmosphere in the ‘Italianate’ area. Some (definitely me) were very thankful to Helen and Malcolm Hughes and friends for their ‘Pimms pick-me-up’ at Kingfishers and Nicki Holland’s tiny, design-led green and white ‘Mediterranean’ delight at Overton was a real talking point.

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Exploring Gerald's garden

It would appear that snazzy foxgloves are 'in', while nasturtiums seem to be on the wane. Hostas remain universally popular though and, at the home of Weston Green's very own 'Garden Gnome' aka specialist plantsman Gerald Smith, provided the children with a game of 'spot the hole' chewed by those devilish slugs and snails. This proved an almost impossible task (I couldn't find any) as Gerald tells me he goes out with a torch at night, just when they are least suspecting him!

A treat was in store for those who made it as far as The House at The Newlands where Napsugar and Carlo Frondaroli opened their house allowing us to review the fruits of Carlo's research and careful restoration of the downstairs reception rooms.

In the words of 'Grannie Jean', who had to borrow Tom's scooter to make it round the last two houses (thank you Tom!), 'It was a lovely, old-fashioned

community event in the best sense, that all of us really enjoyed'.

And from a recent Weston Green arrival, 'I hadn't been into All Saints' yet. I didn't realise it was open all the time. I love its simplicity. Lovely and peaceful. And cool!'

As well as being a hugely successful local event, over £1,800 was generated and a very decent donation made to Weston Green conservation area community projects, namely Milbourne Pond Restoration Fund (see recent TDT articles) and, an idea in its early stages, Christmas lights for a tree on Weston Green to provide a focus for Winter celebrations such as carol singing.

Thoughts are already being bandied around for 'Secret Gardens' 2014, perhaps ringing the changes again to a different part of Weston Green and Thames Ditton.

Ruth Bruce

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Leader of the Pack

– Dave Clarke



Dave Clarke inducts yet more eager Cub Scouts

Dave Clarke has dutifully run packs of cubs for over four decades. Mandy Cooper sits down to talk to the man who is Thames Ditton's very own Bear Grylls...

If ever you could capture the smell of boys – sticky-fingered, sweaty-headed, Halibro-breathed nine-year-olds, it would be at The Shack. A quaint, 1930s outbuilding located by the miniature railway off Claygate Lane in Thames Ditton. At the end of a group meeting of some 30 boys, I sit down to talk to David Clarke, 66, the chief scoutmaster, who has led packs of cub scouts for 49 years.

At the age of 17, Clarke became a junior leader and has dutifully seen hundreds of boys pass through his packs in Long Ditton, Chessington, Esher and now The Dittons. He met his wife Sue in the 1960s, a Brown Owl for a local Brownie group, who also shared his passion for outdoor adventure. Together they camped and de-camped, church-paraded and mustered their groups – in their spare time – while bringing up their children Laura, Amy and their son, affectionately known as The Boy Clarke. Laura, 31, and Amy, 26, have since taken up the mantle and help their father on one

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out of the two evenings a week he runs the Mowglis and the Zulus.

For 49 weeks of the year, throughout bank holidays and school holidays, Clarke is at The Shack. He runs three camps a year, rallies the troops for the popular Dittons May Fair, gives up two evenings a week and several Saturdays each term and never misses a district gathering for the St George's Day service.

'Well I couldn't do it without lots of help', he says modestly. But it's a way of life, really. 'I also do it because I love working with kids. I prefer them to adults. They look you in the eye and tell you what they think.'

Scouting began in August 1907 when Robert Baden-Powell gathered a group of 20 boys for a camp on Poole's Brownsea Island. Then in 1908 he published *Scouting for Boys*, a fortnightly pamphlet which was meant as a handy guide for other youth groups. In 1909 Edward VII gave scouting the royal seal of approval by introducing the King's Award and the rest, as they say, is history.

Today the organisation boasts over 499,000 members and 96,000 volunteers in the UK alone and has extended to over 216 countries. Famous British scouts have included Sir David Attenborough, Sir Richard Branson and Prince Andrew; and in the US, Neil Armstrong, Bill Gates and Barack Obama have all promised to 'do their best'.

Clarke reflects on some of the adventures he cherishes most from his scouting years. 'The most memorable was when we went caving in the Mendips. On the way back our mini bus broke down and we had to hitchhike all the way back to

Long Ditton. We eventually got a lift from a cigarette lorry and I got dropped off in time for work the following morning.'

As a keen parent of a newly invested cub, I ask Clarke how many badges there are to collect. 'For me it's not all about the badges, but there are 33 activity badges plus other leadership ones,' he explains. 'Parents can download a form from the scout website, so if there's something a cub is good at, say, music or drama, a teacher can sign it, then hand the form into me and we'll award them their "entertainer" badge, for example'.

'One boy, Zac, collected all 33,' recalls Clarke. 'But I think scouting is more about taking part in the activities and helping a youngster develop in confidence. They have enough tasks set for them at school these days, so I don't push the badges, but they're there if they want them.'

Any parent of a cub under Dave Clarke's tutelage will know he takes no nonsense. It's particularly noticeable at the end of a meeting as the many parents line the walls of the Shack before collecting their children.

'SHEEERUP!' or 'Hands out your pockets ... That's five press-ups, Archer!' Clarke barks if there's any messing among the cubs now forming a circle before the meeting is formally closed.

The young Queen Elizabeth II with a Mona Lisa smile looks down from a photograph on the wall. Silence falls. A Sixer raises the flag. You can hear a pin drop. Clarke closes the meeting with a prayer before sending the children on their way. We collect our cubs – by now it is 8.20pm – but Dave is in no rush to get home. The Shack is where he belongs.

Mandy Cooper

Ruth Lyon's 40 Years as a Councillor



Ruth Lyon, Thames Ditton's longest serving councillor, recently marked the 40th anniversary of her first election success. Celebrations included a summer garden party in the beautiful hidden garden of Will and Tricia Bland, TDWGRA's Honorary Secretary, a role once occupied by Ruth herself during her early involvement with the Residents' Association. Ruth's steely resolve to follow things through and get things done was quickly recognised and her proposal papers as a Residents' Association candidate forty years ago were signed by another long-standing stalwart of Thames Ditton village life, Surrey County Councillor Peter Hickman. Duly elected on 7th June 1973, Ruth joined Councillors Don McKerrow and Cecil Murphy as a representative for the Thames Ditton ward and began championing the many causes we have so much to thank her for today.

Local government was in flux at the time, yet many of the issues then are still the issues of today. Parking and safety on local roads featured heavily then as now and speed reductions on the Hampton Court Way and in the village centre are



Councillor Ruth Lyon (photo by Scott Hortop)

just two of many changes brought during her tenure. Her campaigns against large supermarket developments contrast with her efforts to encourage local businesses in Thames Ditton itself.

The ever-present balance between maintaining the progress and vitality of a community and its destruction through over-development has been at the core of Ruth's work for four decades.

Ruth never does things in half measures and has boundless energy, putting those half her age to shame. She is courageous in her actions and causes, even when swimming seemingly against

the tide, and if Ruth is on your side you can be sure you will succeed. Always a stickler for detail and leaving no stone unturned, Ruth will not be deterred from working towards the outcome she thinks is right. Her experience, long service and excellent memory ensure that the mistakes of the past are not revisited.

Local healthcare provision has been one of Ruth's major interests and she has served on Surrey County Council's Health Scrutiny Committee, on the former Kingston, Richmond and Esher and Mid-Surrey Health Authorities and on the Local Government Association's National Wellbeing Board.

Education has also featured highly on Ruth's agenda. She first became a school governor when her own children were pupils at Thames Ditton Infants School in the late 1960s and has been a governor of both Thames Ditton Infants and Junior Schools, providing advice, support and counsel to a succession of head teachers. She served as Chairman of Governors at both schools and helped guide them through challenging periods of reorganisation, relocation and expansion until her recent retirement from the governing body of the Infants School.

Ruth is also a valued and exceedingly hard-working Councillor at Borough level and beyond. She has served on all the main committees of Elmbridge and was the Borough Mayor in 1987–88. More recently she was a founder member of the Thames Landscape Strategy, formed to protect historic views and buildings along the river, and has campaigned vigorously against plans to

build on the Jolly Boatman site at Hampton Court.

Ruth has a strong cultural hinterland and her ongoing involvement with the Vera Fletcher Hall gives outlet to this: from selecting shows with Joan Leifer, to organising the Christmas tree and selling ice creams at the children's shows.

She was also instrumental in the 1990s transformation of the dilapidated and unloved Village Hall into the high quality theatre and community space we enjoy today.

Ruth has an incredible knack of identifying and then persuading other people to do things they didn't necessarily know they wanted to do! Many of us will recognise we have been 'Ruthed' into something which ultimately we have enjoyed, all of which adds to the rich community life we enjoy in Thames Ditton. Ruth has been supported at every stage in her public service by her husband John, who deserves his fair share of our gratitude. Whether putting up election posters or changing bulbs in the Vera Fletcher loos, John is always in the background supporting Ruth. Re-elected to Elmbridge Borough Council this May with an overwhelming majority, Ruth is the living embodiment that 'local government is best served by councillors whose commitment is solely to their local community rather than to a national political party'. Thank you, Ruth, for all you have done and continue to do for our village.

Nicola Chetwynd-Stapylton *with many thanks to Tannia Shipley, Peter Hickman and Martin Wilberforce for their contributions*



Autumn

is just around the corner and, as I write, it's not just the weather that is hotting up again but also the debate over whether or not to regulate letting agents. A report produced by the Communities and Local Government Committee (C&LG) says cowboy agents rip off landlords and tenants and committee chairman Clive Betts MP cites problems including unreasonable fees and opaque charges. The C&LGC report also notes that letting agents are subject to less control than estate agents and suggests they should be subject to the same level of regulation, allowing the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) to ban those guilty of abuses. The report follows what MPs call widespread concern about the level of fees charged to both tenants and landlords by letting agents. The OFT recently found that about a third of all complaints about the lettings market were about fees and charges, many of which were drip-fed after tenants had signed a contract.

This is the strongest call yet for regulation and this current government, or its successor, will find it hard to avoid implementing the committee's proposals at some stage.

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Ember Choral Society: Hidden Thames Ditton Gem



The choir tour to France a few years ago resulted in this impromptu 'Ballet in Calais'. Crazy, but true!

It's often the way that a local treasure remains something of a well-kept secret, and **Ember Choral Society** is indeed such a gem. It's time to tell you a bit about this local choir.

Originally formed as Ember Music Society in 1956, the choir is still based in Thames Ditton. Over the period 1956–2013, the choir has seen several changes. In 1978 the Hinchley Wood School Choral Society was incorporated into the choir when John Sutton took over as musical director. And in 1981, the

choir assumed its current name of Ember Choral Society.

Now in 2013, the choir has around 80 members and is a friendly non-auditioned choir. What do I mean by non-auditioned? This indicates that anyone can join, without the stress of undergoing an audition to find out how well you can sing. You just turn up for a rehearsal (preferably near the start of the season), and see whether you like what the choir does. You try out the choir, rather than the choir auditioning you!

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So how does it work? The choir meets for rehearsal once a week, on Wednesday evenings from 19.45 until about 21.30. These rehearsals lead up to two major concerts each year: a ‘winter’ concert in November/December, and a ‘summer’ concert in May/June. The choir takes a long break over the summer, but those who miss their singing over the summer holidays can opt to join a short choir tour to Europe (e.g. France, Italy) in July. It’s a sort of singing holiday and has a long tradition, where members from several associated choirs join forces under the baton of choir director John Sutton.

Where does the choir meet? Rehearsals are held in the hall adjacent to the Church of Our Lady, Hampton Court Way, Thames Ditton KT7 0LP. The rehearsal breaks mid-way for a coffee break, so that members can chat and get to know each other: it’s a friendly, sociable choir.

Do you need to read music? Well, it obviously helps if you can read music. But the choir’s website has lots of learning material to help you, and each season, for just £1, members can buy a practice CD of the season’s works which emphasizes each different voice part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass). So being unable to read music is not a total barrier, and learning the music is not as difficult as you might think.

So what sort of music does the choir sing? It’s a fairly traditional repertoire, with many old favourites such as Haydn’s ‘Creation’, Mendelssohn’s ‘Elijah’, Brahms’ ‘German Requiem’,

Elgar’s ‘Dream of Gerontius’, Rossini’s ‘Messe Solennelle’ and Orff’s ‘Carmina Burana’. But the choir also sings modern works, for example by Benjamin Britten and by living composers such as Barrie Guard, John Rutter and Karl Jenkins. So it’s a broad musical palette. Sometimes the works are accompanied by piano or church organ, but major works get the full treatment with a complete orchestra. Verdi’s monumental ‘Requiem’ was such an occasion!

What’s coming up in the next two seasons? For the winter 2013 concert, the choir will be practising and performing two works by French composers: Duruflé’s ‘Requiem’ score (stunningly beautiful) and Poulenc’s ‘Gloria’ (exciting to sing). And for the summer 2014 concert, the programme will include Cyril Rootham’s ‘For the Fallen’ (composed by the grandfather of a current choir member) and the much-loved work ‘A Sea Symphony’ by Ralph Vaughan Williams.

There’s lots more information on the choir’s website (www.emberchoral.org.uk), and the calendar there has details about the current season (started in September) and the next season (starting in January).

If you are thinking of joining Ember Choral Society or have any questions, why not drop an email to the choir: info@emberchoral.org.uk? New members are always welcome!

Dan Rootham
Ember Choral Website Editor

Thames Ditton's Taint of Slavery



Beyond one or two well-known slave anecdotes, the darker side of some of the rich families that lived in the parish on the proceeds of slavery has been largely ignored by past local historians. They wrote when it was still customary to tug your forelock to the rich as superior beings, regardless of how their wealth had been acquired.

We all know the well-worn story of César Picton, the six-year-old boy brought from West Africa by Capt. Parr in 1761, raised and indulged as a favourite servant by the Phillips family of Kingston and Pembrokeshire, who endowed César with the means to set up as a successful coal merchant in Kingston. When he retired to live in Thames Ditton, he bought and renamed Picton House in the High Street after Picton Castle, the Phillips' principal seat which furnished his own name, and from where the family's coal-mining holdings provided his supplies. César Picton cannot really be described as a 'slave' – with all the horrible implications of that word. When looking through Thames Ditton records in Surrey History Centre I was curious to see whether there were clues to how this wealthy large black coal merchant was accepted into the village hierarchy of those times. I am happy to report that he played his part in Vestry meetings like any other ratepayer, and his death at 81 was mentioned in the London Gazette with those of other respected citizens.



Ember Court about 1816, bought successively by Francis Ford, owner of large slave plantations and failed banker, and Robert Taylor, merchant captain, plantation owner and slave trader

Less well-known locally is the case in 1785 of the Crown versus 'The Inhabitants of Thames Ditton' concerning Charlotte Howe, a negro slave bought in America by swashbuckling Capt. Howe, who settled with his wife in Thames Ditton and gave Charlotte the family name. Charlotte was baptized at St Nicholas. When Capt. Howe died, she moved with Widow Howe to Chelsea. Things did not go well. After five months there, Charlotte left the household to return to Thames Ditton as a pauper. There began an ignoble wrangle as to whether she should be supported by the

parish here or by St. Luke's Chelsea. The Vestry obtained an order from two JPs for her removal from Thames Ditton to St. Luke's. Chelsea appealed. The case went to Surrey Quarter Sessions where it was settled in favour of St. Luke's.

The 'Inhabitants of Thames Ditton' then took the matter to King's Bench at considerable expense. This squabble over welfare led to a landmark point of law. For Charlotte was an un-person. Lord Mansfield, presiding, entrenched his ruling in an earlier case that after serfdom fell into disuse, slavery in Britain was illegal and unrecognised in English law; nor was she a servant as she had no contract nor terms of hire! The unfortunate Charlotte did not fit the requirements of the poor laws: she was the responsibility of neither parish. Thereafter the 'Inhabitants of Thames Ditton', after spending fifty pounds on counsel in order to save sixpence a month on her maintenance in the workhouse, washed their hands of Charlotte who disappeared into obscurity.

In the cases of both César Picton and Charlotte Howe, the respective military and naval officers who brought them to England are likely to have saved them from a worse fate, acquiring a useful servant in the process. They were not part of 'the slave trade.' Points of law and quibbles over status aside, these two stories are cameos compared with the bigger picture of slavery at that time: slavery in the plantations, and the appalling Atlantic trade in slaves, in the main sold to seagoing merchants by African tribes, and bought by plantation owners to work their holdings. In which

activities, alas, some very notable inhabitants of Thames Ditton and environs played a part.

Trading and British colonisation in the East Indies had got under way at the beginning of the 1600s. British colonisation of the West Indies followed in the twenties and thirties as the power of the Spanish Empire declined: a trade in sugar, rum, and coffee – and the brutal trade in slaves. At its apogee West Indies trade was worth four times as much to Britain as that of the East Indies.

The early settlers were often robust, young, and in arduous and dangerous circumstances sought a fortune that could not be made or inherited in Britain. Among these was Rowland Williams, reputedly the first white man born on the island of Antigua, whose father is said to have emigrated under the auspices of the Earl of Pembroke. In 1666 Rowland Williams was granted 300 acres there. He begat a line of Rowlands and Edwards whose seat in England, till the 1840s, was The Newlands in Weston Green which house was almost certainly built by Williams on the proceeds in the late 1600s. It is tempting to attribute the name 'The Newlands' to the new lands the Williams family exploited; but from manorial records there is a trace of a family called Newland in Weston Green in the 1700s, and it is conceivable that 'The Newlands' may derive its name from earlier property that their local ancestors rented from the manor. The Williams family, significant figures in Antigua, accumulated at least three plantations and several hundred slaves to work them.

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As the owners of slave plantations grew rich, they sought status back in Britain through purchase of property and influence, following in the footsteps of Sir Thomas Lynch, plantation owner and Governor of Jamaica, who bought Esher Place in 1669. Their inheritors hired attorneys and overseers to manage their plantations on the islands, visiting occasionally or some not at all, while they lived on the proceeds in high society here. In 1802 Charles Rose Ellis, inheritor of the vast Montpelier estate at Montego Bay, Jamaica, bought Claremont and became an MP for the rotten borough of Seaford (along with Thames Ditton's Richard Sullivan MP, who was not a slaver but had married a banker's only daughter), while in 1791 Francis Ford bought Ember Court and likewise entered Parliament.

Ford, the fourth generation of the family plantocracy, inherited the largest sugar estates on Barbados. He contributed to a handbook advising benign treatment of slaves in the interest of better profit. He married well, to the Ansons, and through his in-laws' influence and the power of his purse became MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme in 1793. For the expense he was, as the History of Parliament puts it, 'consoled with a baronetcy' and became Sir Francis Ford, Bart. of Ember Court - the second 'baronet of Ember Court.' (Dudley Carleton, the first one, was a diplomat of impeccable standing). Ember Court having served for the title, Ford sold it later that year.

Ford spoke just three times in the House of Commons, once in favour of postponing a vote to abolish the slave

trade. He set up a bank, which failed in 1799 through speculation by two other partners, whereupon he returned to Barbados where he died in 1801.

The man to whom Ford sold Ember Court was Robert Taylor, whose contribution of funds to early schooling in Thames Ditton is esteemed in local history. A memorial plaque to his grandson in St. Nicholas' Church describes Robert Sr. as 'much beloved and respected'. He was a JP for our area, Lord of the Manors of Imber and Weston by lease, and Sheriff of Surrey in 1797.

But Robert Taylor was a slave trader, owner of slave plantations and agent in Britain for his cousin Simon Taylor, Jamaica's richest man, godfather to Robert's younger son named Simon after him. Simon Taylor of Jamaica, who in 1792 testified to a House of Lords enquiry into the state of the Slave Trade that he had over 4,600 slaves 'in my care', was an attorney and agent for many absentee plantation owners. Several estates came into his own hands. When he died in 1813 his personal property included 2,228 slaves. He kept extensive correspondence, including letters to and from Robert Taylor, which you may read at London's Institute for Commonwealth Studies.

Robert Taylor had been a skipper in the East India Company's merchant fleet, then in partnership with Alexander Renny set up his own shipping agency in London. Merchandise included slaves. Towards the turn of the century it became clear that the slave trade across the Atlantic was likely to be outlawed.

Simon and Robert Taylor saw this as a great commercial opportunity to ship to Jamaica as many young slaves as could be got before this happened, as their price would surely rocket while planters could still buy them legally (for slavery on the plantations themselves was not abolished until much later). Simon lamented the shortage of females for breeding stock on the island. With finance from Simon for four shiploads of slaves, Robert Taylor partnered with Richard Miles (a noted slaver and former Governor of Cape Coast Castle in Ghana) and Thomas Hughan to target the acquisition and delivery of 1,500 slaves from the Bight of Biafra and Anomabu in Ghana. Robert Taylor's long-standing business partner, Renny, had scruples and was cut out.



A touching 1793 painting of Francis Ford's children giving a shilling to a beggar boy. But where did the money come from?

In his will before he died in 1823, Robert Taylor divided his assets, including Ember Court, the Lucky Valley sugar plantation and the Mount Atlas coffee plantation in Jamaica along with many slaves, among his three children. His daughter was married to Sir Charles Sullivan who remained at Ember Court, while sons Robert and Simon had his London properties, Robert inheriting as Lord of the Manor plus Basing Field in the village. According to the will, the school house in Thames Ditton which was provided by Taylor along with a legacy of £1,000 to fund it, would revert via the estate to the parish if the school house was no longer required. When the Sullivans sold up and left the parish in 1860, well after the new National School

had been opened, Sullivan made a thousand pounds over to what became the Sir Charles Sullivan Trust, administered under church auspices to this day for the benefit of school children. Perhaps it is as well that it is not named the Robert Taylor Trust!

Through other notables of Thames Ditton and Weston Green we can trace the final decline of slave plantations, compensation for owners deprived of the services of their slaves by the Slavery Abolition Act 1833, and the period of compulsory bound 'apprenticeship' for former slaves which immediately followed before they were truly freed. But that must await the next episode.

Keith Evetts
sources on application

Curtain Up at the Vera Fletcher Hall



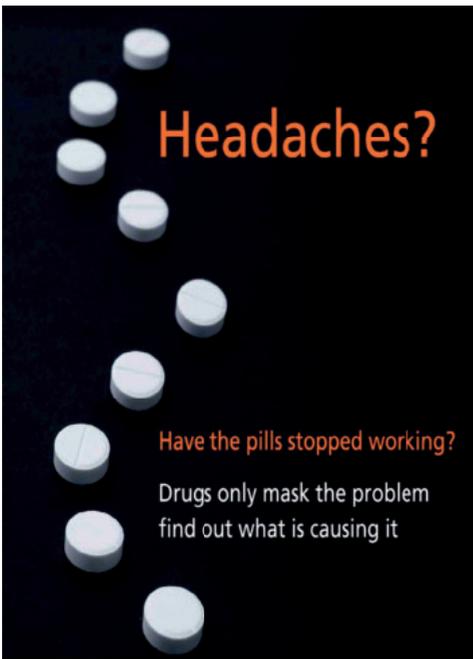
25 September – Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh in ‘Lady Hamilton’

Now in its 21st year at Thames Ditton’s very own theatre and concert hall, the Autumn programme goes from strength to strength, ranging from classical music, big bands, children’s shows, Gilbert & Sullivan, to theatre and to a film show to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the RC Sherriff Trust.

We have always been lucky in being so near the capital and thus able to attract musicians who would normally play in the major concert halls in London, such as pianist **Benjamin Frith** and cellist **Sagi Hartov**, who return on the 28th September with a concert including Beethoven’s Sonata No. 3 in A major and Rachmaninov’s

Sonata in G minor. Local violinist **Amy Tress** is a regular at the hall, and returns on Friday 11th October with her **London Chamber Collective** string sextet and piano, with a lovely programme of Brahms and Schubert.

On the lighter side of music our Strictly Sunday shows feature three big bands – the **42nd Street Band** on Sunday 29 September, with classics from Glenn Miller, the Blues Brothers and the Beatles, followed by the South East’s premier band, the **Linden Wind Orchestra**, on Sunday 13th October, with their **‘Last Night of the Proms’** – bring your Union Jacks and revel in nostalgia with Elgar, a Fantasy on

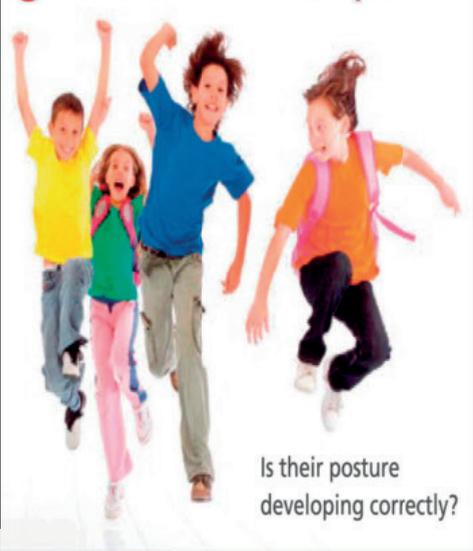


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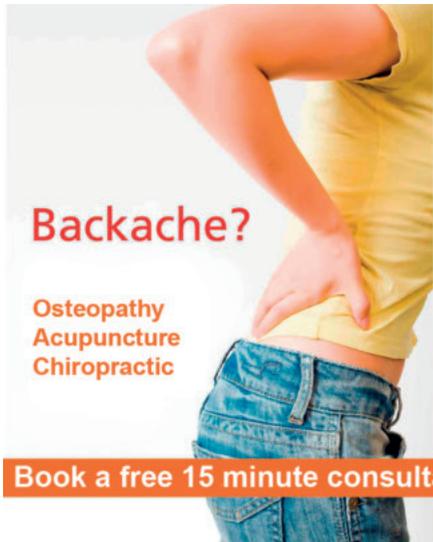
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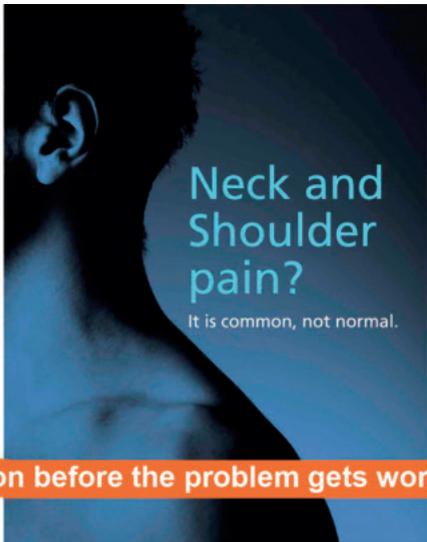


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British Sea Songs and Jerusalem! **Dick Laurie & the Elastic Band** on Sunday 17th November, from the Cannizaro Jazz Festival, will give us their New Orleans, Dixieland and traditional jazz. Guitarist Diz Disley played with the late, great Stefan Grappelli and they regularly perform at River Thames regattas including Henley.

Also in a lighter vein, we have cabaret pianist and singer Andrew Brewis from the Cafe Royal and the National Theatre and his **'Putting on the Glitz'** on Friday 18th October, celebrating the wit and music of the great songwriters including Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Gershwin etc. Molesey Musical Theatre return to the Hall on November 13th–16th with their 'Mikado', and for those who enjoy their Shakespeare but can't quite remember all the plays in order, Opera della Luna give us their **'Brush up your Shakespeare'** – a light-hearted celebration of the Bard on the musical stage, with songs and music from 'Kiss me Kate' and 'West Side Story' to Verdi's 'Macbeth' and 'The Tempest's' 'Where the Bee Sucks'.

Parents – and grandparents – should mark their diaries for three splendid children's shows: the first is a modern twist on Aesop's classic tale of **'The Hare and the Tortoise'** on Saturday 21st September when Harry Hare and Les the tortoise race for the Golden Medallion at the Animolympics. Who will win? On Saturday 19th October Mo Willem's modern classic **'Don't let the Pigeon Drive the Bus'** comes to life with puppets, songs and lots of

audience participation and our old friends Image Musical Theatre return on Saturday 30th November with their **'Scrooge'** complete with Tiny Tim, Bob Cratchit and Ebenezer Scrooge himself, and not forgetting the ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future.

The RC Sherriff Trust, which supports the arts in Elmbridge, celebrates its 20th anniversary this year and we are marking the occasion with a showing on Friday 25th September of Sherriff's 1941 film **'Lady Hamilton'** starring Laurence Olivier as Admiral Nelson and Vivien Leigh as the woman he falls in love with in Naples, creating one of the great love stories – and scandals – in history. Sherriff is perhaps best known for his great play 'Journey's End' (written to raise money for Kingston Grammar School Boat Club) but he was also a famous script writer for films such as 'The Dam Busters' and 'Goodbye, Mr. Chips'.

As part of the Sherriff festival we are also showing his play **'White Carnation'** on Friday 22nd November, which originally starred Ralph Richardson and tells the ghostly tale of one man's chance to do things differently. The Guardian newspaper's review said *'Sherriff's drama remains as hard hitting and fresh as ever'*.

See page 39 for times and tickets for these shows. You can keep in touch with events at the Hall on the website:

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TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)

Sunday 13th October 7.30 pm

'LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS' CONCERT

The Linden Wind Orchestra, The South East's
premier band, with music to include Pomp &
Circumstance March No 1, Fantasy on British Sea
Songs, Jerusalem...

TICKETS £11.00 (under 16 years free)

Friday 18th October 8.00 pm

PUTTING ON THE GLITZ

Andrew Brewis (pianist / singer,) Terry Davis (bass)
and **Francesco Corallini (drums)**. Premiered at the
NT, celebrating the great songwriters incl.
Irving Berlin, Cole Porter, Gershwin...
TICKETS £11.00 (under 16 years free)

Friday 25th October 7.30 pm

LADY HAMILTON

starring **Laurence Olivier and Vivien Leigh**

In partnership with the RC Sherriff Trust and
Thames Ditton United Reform Church the classic
1941 film, scripted by RC Sherriff – the fascinating
story of Nelson's mistress Emma Hamilton.

TICKETS £6

Tickets: Tel Joan Leifer 0844 884 8832

(or other no where indicated),

email vfh.tickets@gmail.com & at

Bradley + Brown, 50 High Street, Thames Ditton

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk

Wed-Sat 13th-16th Nov. 7.30pm; Sat Mat 2.30pm

Molesey Musical Theatre presents
THE MIKADO

Gilbert & Sullivan's most popular opera.

TICKETS £13-£15 from Box Office 020 8941 3255

Sunday 17th November 7.30 pm

DICK LAURIE & THE ELASTIC BAND

from the Cannizaro Jazz Festival, perform New
Orleans style jazz, Dixieland and traditional jazz.

TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)

Friday 22nd November 8.00 pm

THE WHITE CARNATION

Troupe Theatre's production of Sherriff's
(Journey's End) ghostly play of one man's chance
to do things differently.

TICKETS £12.50

Friday 29th November 7.30 for 8.00 pm

Opera della Luna presents

"BRUSH UP YOUR SHAKESPEARE"

Sponsored by Urban Matrix. A light hearted
celebration of the Bard on the musical stage.

TICKETS £20 including canapés

in aid of Cancer Research UK

from Vivienne Harris Tel: 020 8398 678

CHILDREN'S THEATRE

**NOTE: Children under 4 years will NOT be
admitted to any theatre performance**

Saturday 21st September 2.30 pm

Idolrich Theatre presents

THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

Aesop's classic tale with a modern twist.

Captivating music, puppets and song. For 4-8 years

TICKETS £6 carpet / £8 seat

Saturday 19th October 2.30 pm

DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS

by Big Wooden Horse: Mo Willem's modern classic
comes to life with puppets, songs and lots of audience
participation. For 4-8 years.

TICKETS £6 carpet / £8 seat

Saturday 30th November 2.30 pm

Image Musical Theatre presents

SCROOGE:

Charles Dickens' classic tale of Bob Cratchit,
Tiny Tim, Ebenezer Scrooge and the ghosts of
Christmas Past, Present and Future. For 5-11 years.

TICKETS £7



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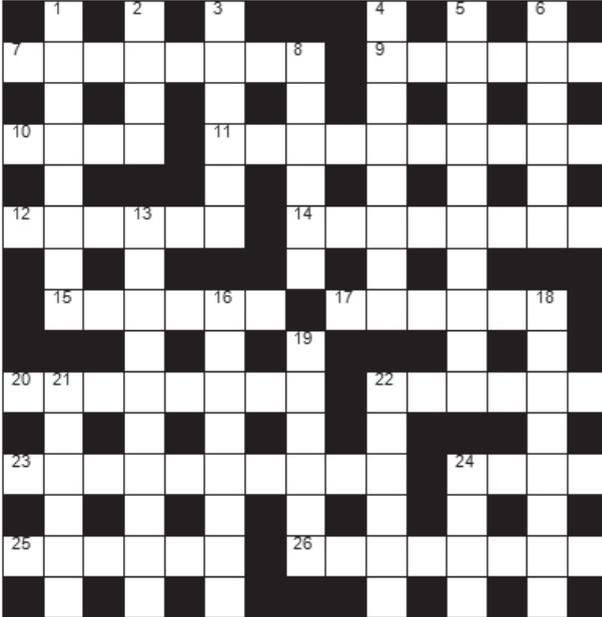
11 - 18 year olds

For further information about Open Mornings or to arrange an appointment please tel: **01372 473624** or email: **info@claremont.surrey.sch.uk**



Autumn Crossword

By Maureen Willcox



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 4 November 2013 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
'Stamford' (*next to Weston Green School*),
Weston Green Road,
Thames Ditton
KT7 0JN

ACROSS

7. Is charm a requisite to attract others? (8)
9. A soft one is an easy alternative (6)
10. Fall of a heroine in a Grimm tale (4)
11. Pinocchio's nasal aperture reveals these to a great extent (10)
12. Right up one of these shows one's preference (6)
14. This male always has something to crow about (8)
15. Begin to make a fuss (6)
17. Must cost E.R. dearly for this protection (6)
20. Annoying leylandii grows here (4, 4)
22. Needed by 19 down (6)
23. A gigantic heap of fertiliser for sale! (5, 5)
24. Only a silly billy would act like a kid! (4)
25. This won't deter a paralympics competitor (3, 3)
26. Formally questioned on oath (8)

DOWN

1. Conforming to pronunciation (8)
2. A cut for the workforce (4)
3. Pregnant Linda's sister will help at the birth (6)
4. Associates mentally (8)
5. Sounds to me Cinderella has overstayed her welcome (7, 3)
6. Half of a notorious duo (6)
8. If offered, take it or leave it (6)
13. Sooner or later (10)
16. I admit this clue is hard to swallow! (3, 5)
18. Areas for ardent fans (8)
19. A course of insignificance! (6)
21. They give many repeat performances (6)
22. Munch is an artist to shout about (6)
24. Lewis Carroll's cat had a broad one (4)

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Solution to the Summer Crossword

by Michael Jackson



Congratulations to the following winners who each receive a £5 voucher:

Mrs E M Jones
23 Riversdale Road
Thames Ditton

Penny Clarke
70 Longmead Road
Thames Ditton KT7 0TP

Lesley Haynes
6 Onslow Gardens
Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ

DISCOVERING ANTIQUES

Now that Autumn is here why not come to the **MOLESEY & DISTRICT ANTIQUES SOCIETY**

The society meets in the Vera Fletcher Hall and has expert speakers on a wide range of interesting subjects, and also organises social events and visits.

For further information ring 020 8398 1476 or just come along on the night – 7.30 for 8.00pm. Licensed bar with wine, beer, coffee, tea and biscuits.

Tuesday October 1st

Illustrated talk on ENGLISH FURNITURE by Lennox Cox, a familiar face on BBC's Antiques Roadshow. Lennox is a member of the BADA Council and has built up a worldwide antique furniture business since 1978. He will talk on 18th and 19th century English furniture.

Tuesday November 5th

Dodge the fireworks and come and hear Marcia Page's illustrated talk on EDGAR DEGAS, a founder member of the Impressionist movement and particularly known for his depiction of dancers in both paintings and sculpture.

Tuesday 3rd December

Our Christmas Social and AGM with intriguing exhibits from the Weybridge Museum for us to guess what they are and their origin...

Later subjects include the Pre-Raphaelites, the 18th century silversmith Hester Bateman, the care of antiques and the history of timepieces, from Big Ben to watches.

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	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	central switchboard	01372 474474
Homesupport Elmbridge	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

Girl Guiding in TD & WG	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Deborah Daoud	020 8398 5521
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	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: Pat Farmiloe	020 8398 2787
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
Thames Ditton Marquetry Group	Jasmine Berry	020 8398 4358

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

Foodbank opens in Weston Green



Foodbanks are now appearing all over the country and in these austere times, with many job losses and the recent welfare reforms, the number of people being fed this way has risen 200%.

East Elmbridge Foodbank opened its doors 9 months ago. It seems amazing that in an area like this, one of the richest boroughs in the country, a foodbank should be necessary, but unfortunately in these difficult times there is need everywhere. In some ways the problem appears worse here, as local amenities are expensive and there is limited affordable, accessible public transport. As most of us sit comfortably in our warm homes with plenty to eat, it is difficult to imagine needing a foodbank, but even amongst the more affluent, we are never more than 3 wage packets away from financial worry.

Started in 2012 with the help of 5 local churches, the foodbank recently signed up to the national foodbank charity 'The Trussell Trust' and now works on a voucher scheme. People in financial trouble can obtain vouchers for short term need from their job centre, local social services, schools, doctors, Esher CAB, and even the clergy from their local parish.

In March, May and July the bank collected almost 3 tonnes of food in generous donations from local Waitrose and Tesco shoppers.

The foodbank is now open at All Saints, Weston Green on a Tuesday 10–11 am, and



Weston Green foodbank volunteers

a second centre will soon open at St Peter's Church, West Molesey. They now have a further 7 local churches involved as well as non-church going volunteers.

Despite the controversy over the need for foodbanks within the welfare state, there are still people who fall through cracks in the system. The recipients are incredibly grateful and it's good to know that families, and especially children, aren't going hungry.

If you're interested in helping, donating food or in need of assistance, please email:
foodbank@allsaintsweston.com

Alison Cruthers



Two ways to treat your Pet

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

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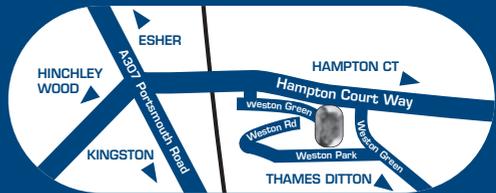
Prevention, we think, is better than Cure.

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

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