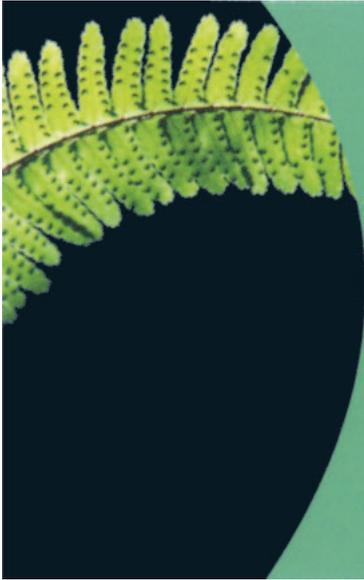


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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

Spring 2013

Published quarterly since Spring 1970

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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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Cover photo: *Easter bunnies in Bushy Park*
– photo by professional photographer,
resident David Spink (07966 238 341)

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



Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm on 19 March 2013, at Vera
Fletcher Hall

Agenda:

1. **MINUTES** of the 2012 Annual General Meeting and matters arising therefrom.
2. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT:** to receive, discuss and adopt the Annual Report for 2012-2013.
3. **ACCOUNTS:** to receive the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2012.
4. **APPOINTMENTS:** to receive nominations and appoint officers and an Auditor:
President Vice President
Chairman Vice Chairmen
Hon Secretary Hon Treasurer
Auditor
5. **ELECTIONS:** to adopt a candidate to stand at the Surrey County Council Council Elections on 2 May 2013
6. **RESOLUTIONS:** to consider any resolutions submitted in writing to the Secretary by 5 March 2012.
7. **GUEST SPEAKER:** Illustrated talk by David Hassard: "Designed and Built in Kingston – 100 years of world class aircraft 1912-2012, from Tommy Sopwith, Harry Hawker, Sydney Camm..."

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Thames Ditton Councillors

Sandra Dennis, 020 8873 2936
Little Bradley, Thames Ditton

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11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton

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

Weston Green Councillors

Ruth Bruce, 020 8398 8324
15 Imber Grove, Esher

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

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29 Station Rd., Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485

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

Conveners of Sub-Committees:

Health and Community:
Karen Randolph (see above for details)

Planning: Graham Cooke
23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509

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

THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

TUESDAY 30 APRIL AT 8.00PM, VERA FLETCHER HALL, 4 EMBERCOURT RD, THAMES DITTON
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News from the Residents' Association



to 20 February

Council Tax

Despite a huge cash pile of around £60 million, and a persistent budget underspend each year, the Elmbridge Borough Council Cabinet, one hundred percent Conservative Party, plans to increase your council tax by about 1.95%. This is just below the level at which they would have to face the public in a referendum. In hiking the tax they are defying Government policy and will forego the Government grant to councils that implement a freeze. If instead they froze the tax and took the handout, then they would still be looking at another budget underspend in the coming year and would be able to add over £350,000 to the already swollen reserves. Prime Minister David Cameron said at question time recently: *“If councils want to go ahead with the council tax freeze, the money is there, but if they reject it, that is a huge mistake, because the council will be asking families to pay more at a time when it should be on their side.”*

Two years ago the Elmbridge Leader, John O'Reilly (Conservative, Hersham South), told the public that reserves (of £30 – 40m) were there to ensure continuing services in hard times. At this January's public meeting, however, he said that the cash pile would not be spent on services as reserves were all 'earmarked.' In December the Audit Commission noted that councils



Elmbridge is sitting on a £60,000,000 cash pile

squirrelled away reserves 'earmarked' against future contingencies and called for them to provide greater details to justify this accounting.

Why is the Elmbridge leadership abandoning the freeze this year? Councillor Stuart Selleck, leader of the Elmbridge Residents and Independents opposing the increase, said: “These are difficult times for most residents. There is absolutely no need for the Elmbridge leadership to extort more money from hard-hit taxpayers this year. The last time the Conservatives pushed through an increase in council tax here was four years ago, in another year when they would not have to face the electorate in council elections. They are doing that again now, to avoid both a referendum and consequences at the polls.”

Elmbridge's ruling party has railroaded the increase through the full Council. We predicted a year ago that in 2013 they would again take advantage of a gap in Borough elections to raise Council Tax. In

the Government, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Eric Pickles and his Under-Secretary, Brandon Lewis, both Conservatives, have been highly critical of such council behaviour, labelling it “democracy-dodging.” Residents will not be surprised if next year, when there are Borough elections, the Elmbridge Cabinet draws on the proceeds to proclaim – a freeze.

Surrey County Council is also increasing tax by a similar amount, but at county level there is a clear case for an increase to fund large and growing deficits in schools, care for the elderly and road maintenance. And they are prepared to face the polls in county elections this year.

Planning

Please read Cllr. Sandra Dennis’ important article on p.17 concerning the course of future development in Thames Ditton and Weston Green, and monitor our website and noticeboards for updates when the Elmbridge public consultation begins soon (date not yet fixed). What was billed by Government as a decentralised, local, ‘community-led’ process has here become a process led by Borough planning officials to meet targets centrally imposed. Whether you do or don’t like what they are planning for the next 12 years, this will be your only chance, as the real local community, to say so. Alas the documents that emerge will be long and monstrously dull – but they will determine the future of the place where we live, and your silence will be taken as support for them.

Meanwhile under the current planning regime **Ba Siam** lost their appeal against an edict to remove the inappropriate structure erected without planning permission alongside the former Crown. The developers of the former **Harrow**, having finally won permission at appeal for four reasonable houses on the site, reverted with yet another application – to extend upwards – which has been refused by Elmbridge. There has been a new application to demolish historic **Brabant House** on Portsmouth Road and replace it with flats, which addresses the sole reason for previous refusal. Kingston’s council turned down the application to build a large number of houses on the **Seething Wells** site, and after heroic efforts by the Residents’ councillors of Molesey, Gladedale/Network Rail plans to partly demolish the heritage canopies at **Tite’s railway station, Hampton Court**, were rejected by Elmbridge. Elmbridge also rejected a further application to build several houses on the site of **31 Embercourt Road**, and turned down a controversial application to build a family house on **land between Lunch and Maison Bleu** in Thames Ditton High Street. There seems to be broad agreement that the latter site, within the Conservation Area, may be built on, but the proposed modern building lacked sufficient amenity space and was adjudged harmful to the street scene and to the setting of nearby listed buildings, on the grounds of scale, design, and materials.

Recycling

Residents’ Cllr. Ruth Bruce writes: *“Back in the summer, members of the Cranmere Primary School ‘Eco Club’,*



Ruth Bruce and young recyclists

run by school Bursar, Mrs Sesemann, contacted Councillors Tannia Shipley and me as they were unhappy about the ten black bin liners worth of rubbish produced by the school each week going to landfill.

We beat a path to the Environmental Care Team at Elmbridge Borough Council, who in turn consulted with Surrey County Council – as both the Education authority and managers of our domestic food waste recycling scheme. Finally in October, two special 140 litre food waste recycling ‘wheelie’ bins were delivered and some special biodegradable food waste bags were donated to get the project off the ground. Eco Club members Alex and Thomas told they had explained the changes planned for the lunchtime

routine to the whole school in assembly. To encourage everyone to reduce food waste everyone who finishes ALL their food is awarded a special sticker. More and more stickers are needed each week. This is great news.

Well done everyone, and especially the young pioneers and Mrs Sesemann from the Eco Club who are now working on a ‘Car Free Friday’ initiative. Other schools have been watching developments at Cranmere as they are keen to recycle their food waste too.”

Elmbridge, initially reluctant to publicise the matter as they feared it would spark others to request resources, has now decided that it is a good example which they are going to use in their publicity.

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INCORPORATING CHOSES (GURET)

Snowmen & women

The Residents' Association now has about 33 Snowman groups in Thames Ditton and Weston Green, equipped with proper shovels; a manual snowplough useful in fresh snow; and hopes to buy a human-powered automatic gritter. Many thanks to teams and individual residents who diligently cleared their frontages, and some other stretches, during January's snow-fall. There are still some key roads with frequent pedestrian traffic where there is little clearing of the pavements, however. Ashley Road is one, where reportedly a resident fell over on the uncleared icy snow and was injured.

We noted that in a presentation to the public in early January, the Elmbridge Leader proudly showed a photo of our volunteer Snowmen and women with the 12 shovels contributed from the small Elmbridge local allowances for community work apportioned to our councillors Sandra Dennis and Tanna Shipley. Unsurprisingly, there was no mention of the Residents' Association, which put the scheme into action, sustains it, and has funded the major part of the equipment.

Guide Hut on Church Walk

Over five years after the launch of the appeal for refurbishment of the Guide Hut, which began as £20,000 needed to replace the roof and as more things were discovered, has grown to over £120,000, the work finally begun last Autumn is drawing to a close. Our next issue will give full details and thanks to the many



Gerry, Helen and Tessa – and Bronach with the cheque!

who have toiled to make this happen. Suffice to say now, that although some external work needs completion, notably the drains, the Guiding groups will recommence meetings there imminently. There will be an official launch on 8 June to which all who have helped and fostered this appeal are invited. Watch for details. Funds are still sought, if in smaller amounts. The senior citizens at the **Thames Ditton Centre** opposite the Library have made the Hut their charity recipient over the past year. On 7 February member Tessa Craig presented a cheque for £500 to the Guides which they had raised among themselves. Well done.

Rainbows and Guides leaders required

With activities about to resume in the Hut, a new volunteer is needed to lead a group of about a dozen Rainbows – girls aged five to eight years – to meet once a week. Also for a Guide group aged 10-14. Training will be given. It's good fun, and sociable. Call Bronach Hughes on 0208 398 1628 or 07711 902653.

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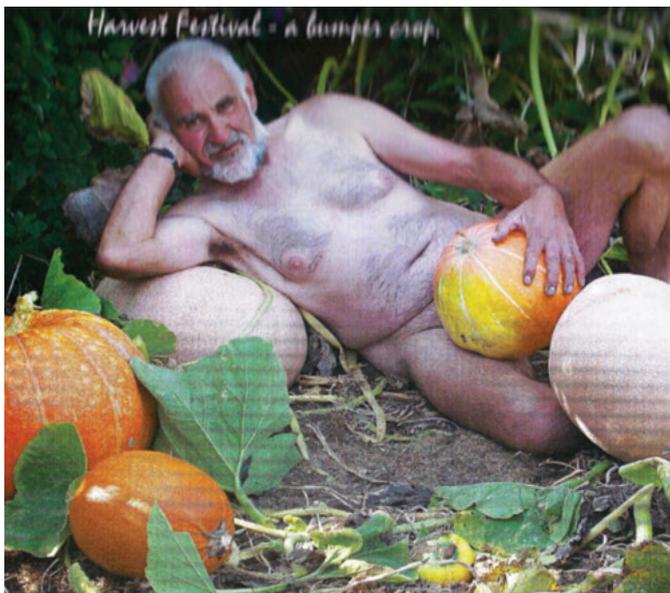
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Don't lose the plot

Surprisingly, several allotment groups in Elmbridge, including those at Hampton Court Way, Lynwood Road and Sugden Road, have found there are now very few people on their waiting list for plots. Some of this is due to requests for smaller plots, dividing the standard size into half or even a quarter plots. And perhaps people hear on radio and TV that there are huge waiting lists throughout the country and are discouraged from seeking an allotment.

Allotments are a great way to exercise and eat healthily. There's that feeling of satisfaction growing your own veg., and they do taste better than anything. The social life can also be fun – even if you don't want to be photographed for a nude calendar, as for the Sugden Road Allotment Association which thereby raised £4000 for Kingston Can in 2004 (everybody kept their boots on, and pumpkins came in handy to obscure the naughty bits). Contact Elmbridge Borough Council or the Hon Secs of each allotment association: for Sugden Road, it's Pam Bannister of 20 Queen's Road (0208 398 3263) – each full-sized plot costs £30 a year plus a £5 membership fee. Smaller plots *pro rata*.



Sugden Road allotments charity calendar 2004

Funds raised for cardio equipment

Supporters of the campaign to advance the Thames Ditton Community Hospital at Emberbrook and to restore to local people their community hospital beds raised £4,100 last Saturday 12th January at a fund raising dinner in the Vera Fletcher Hall.

The panto and splendid dinner organised by Residents' Cllr. Ruth Lyon and the Friends of Thames Ditton Hospital, sponsored by Dairy Crest, raised £4100. With previous funds raised by the friends this will go towards the purchase of echocardiography equipment which, under a suitable arrangement, will be made available at Emberbrook clinic under the visiting consultant cardiologists there. This will enable local NHS patients

to be diagnosed and treated more quickly, more conveniently for them and at a lower cost to the NHS than at present. This year's fund raising will go towards 24-hr mobile ECG and heart-rate monitors so that patients with heart problems can get a complete consultant service without needing to go to Kingston.

The Friends continue to work both for out-patient services and for the provision of NHS intermediate care beds for local people in Thames Ditton and the surrounding area requiring short term care. NHS Surrey's financial problems have resulted in the loss of more than 30% of Surrey's community hospital beds; close to home this has meant that Molesey Hospital has only 12 beds in spite of an extensive waiting list of patients in Kingston and other hospitals. The beds in Thames Ditton remain unfunded. GPs have had significant problems admitting patients directly into local community hospitals. Residents' Councillors Ruth Lyon and Karen Randolph, Chair of the Friends, call for recognition of the contribution which local community hospitals can make to reducing costs of the NHS and improving the quality of care of patients. But the national policy is to concentrate treatment in fewer, bigger and more distant hospitals while patient care in such places is increasingly under critical scrutiny.

Yet more reorganisation of important hospitals could see Kingston and Epsom hospitals losing either or both Accident & Emergency or Maternity wards altogether. We are resisting.

Doings and Dates

Television presenter Chris Tarrant will host another cracking **quiz night in aid of Princess Alice Hospice** at the Holiday Inn in Portsmouth Road, Long Ditton, on March 15 (7 for 7.30pm). Call 01372 461869 or email events@pah.org.uk.

The next **Good As New Sale** at Esher College will be on 4 May starting at 1.30. These twice-yearly events, with excellent children's clothes, toys and other gear, have now raised over £100,000 for Cancer Research. Over 70 volunteers help to run them.

Dittons Scouts are again organising the truly excellent **village Fair on Giggs Hill Green** on the afternoon of Sunday 12 May.

See www.thedittonsfair.co.uk.

The 58th Annual Esher May Fair, which is a major fund-raising activity for the organisers, **4th Thames Ditton 'Ajax' Sea Scouts**, and for local community groups and charities, starts at noon on Saturday 18th May. The organisers are looking for more sponsors and auction pledges, and also have a few spaces for stalls remaining.

See www.eshermayfair.org.uk.

Colets' deputy gym manager **Damien Wood** raised over £15,000 for the Norwood charity (Down's syndrome) with the **2012 Capital-to-Coast bicycle race** from London to Brighton, and is repeating the exercise this summer. Exercise is the operative word, but not too intense, with plenty of social life and a good dinner at the end of it! Not restricted to Colets members – join the team in time to train for the race on Sunday 30 June.

There will be a **Secret Gardens** event in Weston Green on 16 June. For details of this and similar events, follow our website www.residents-association.com or call Ruth Bruce for details.

RA Open Meeting in Weston Green

In days long gone by, the Residents' Association held meetings where it could, including at the Infant School, the church hall in Weston Green and The Newlands. The central position and availability of the Vera Fletcher Hall since its restoration in the 1980s made it the venue of choice for meetings since that time. However, the Association would like to facilitate participation by all parts of Thames Ditton and Weston Green and with this in view is holding an Open Meeting in Weston Green this summer, on 25 June at All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green. This will be at the usual time of 8pm – those regularly attending our meetings at the Vera Fletcher Hall please note the new venue for the meeting on that date. A good turnout will ensure that this experiment can become a regular feature.

Subscriptions

If you are glad these villages have an active volunteer Residents' Association and want it to continue, then please support the Association and this magazine by subscribing for 2013. The Association is what you, the residents, make of it: so do engage. A subscription form is included with this issue, or see details at the foot of page 3. Thank you.



the herald of elections

County elections on 2 May

Spring is the time of year when members of the national political parties in search of political careers appear from nowhere, promise the earth, then disappear afterwards. Unlike Residents' candidates – who have excellent track records of service, live in this community, and are persuaded to represent it with no thought of any career in politics. This year we have County elections. If you don't want party politics to dominate County Hall and prefer a decent practical local representative, please make the effort to turn out to vote for your Residents' candidate. See page 27.

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New Development: You Decide Where

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Under the Government’s National Planning Policy Framework local communities can influence planning decisions, decide where developments are built, determine what land needs special protection and advise where money raised from development is spent locally. This information must soon be provided for our area in a draft plan. It will form part of the Elmbridge Borough Council Local Plan and direct future development. The Government has imposed the condition that this Plan has to deliver growth in the borough and cannot prevent all development. It must show how housing targets imposed for new homes will be achieved by 2026.

Two documents will go to public consultation this spring, the “Development Management Plan” and the “Settlement Investment and Development Plan” (the SID). The Development Management Plan contains day-to-day guidance against which planning applications and enforcement will be assessed. It will replace previous planning policies. There is a presumption in favour of development. It covers green belt policy, local green space, “garden grabbing” (now allowed), back land development, listed buildings, conservation areas, riverside development, the siting of telecommunications equipment, parking standards, privacy, overlooking and more. Of equal importance is what is not included. For example previous policy gave guidance on the ratio of residential to retail

units in village centres, which was thought critical in order to preserve retail vitality. It is very important that our community responds to what is proposed because this document, once adopted, will determine what can be built and what cannot. The second document is the Settlement Investment and Development Plan (the SID). It is site specific and identifies where development can take place, land we want protected and investment in local infrastructure. Local people should engage with this consultation.



one proposal in the Elmbridge planners' documents is to build 25 terraced houses here on Colets' playing fields, in the flood plain, in an area lately designated by Elmbridge as of high amenity value, and with mature trees.

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To compile the SID, Elmbridge was divided into 8 areas. Thames Ditton and Weston Green are grouped with Hinchley Wood and Long Ditton as one such area. In September 2012 Elmbridge Council ran workshops for each area, by invitation only for a small group of Councillors, residents' groups, conservation and environmental groups, developers and landowners. They were asked for views on:

- *green spaces requiring special protection from development, formerly Strategic Open Urban Land (SOUL e.g. Giggs Hill Green);*
- *areas of Strategic Employment Land which must be kept for employment;*
- *infrastructure requiring investment (schools, surgeries), new sites for travellers; and more controversially*
- *areas where new houses could be built e.g. Colets - land rear of 74-128 Speer Road where 25 terraced houses are proposed; the Telephone Exchange Portsmouth Road (36 houses/flats); and Unit 1 Hampton Court Estate (90 bedroom hotel and 85 residential apartments).*

A full list of sites identified for each category, and there are more, can be found in documents on the Elmbridge Council planning website. See the forum thread on Local Plans on our website for more information as the matter evolves.

The sites identified for new development were **not** selected or endorsed by those invited to the workshops. Most had been identified in a document called the SHELAA (Strategic

Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment). Prepared by council officials, the SHELAA uses information from landowners, estate agents and developers who speculate on how many houses could be built, should a site become available. If you have responded to an enquiry from a developer or estate agent about selling your property, then it may appear in the SHELAA as land targeted for new development! Elmbridge Council matches these “potential” sites to housing targets. The SHELAA is therefore speculative, some sites come forward, others do not, but the intent to build should not be overlooked. **Neither Councillors nor local residents get to contribute to the SHELAA, nor can we change it. It is not subject to any public consultation** but its content is relevant to the SID consultation: the two documents should be read together. **If you agree or disagree with sites identified for development in the SHELAA you need to say so firmly in the SID consultation.** We can object to them but are expected to suggest alternatives here or elsewhere in the borough for development.

Our part of Elmbridge is more densely developed than many other parts of the Borough and it would be quite reasonable to call for a higher proportion of new houses to be built in less dense areas to spare our remaining green spaces.

Between 375 and 425 new dwellings are allocated to our SID area between 2011- 2026. Of these, 256 homes have either been built, are to be built, or will come from small “windfall” sites. This means that land needs to be identified for

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approximately 119-169 new homes somewhere in our area before 2026. We are to be asked where this should be. The SHELAA identifies sites for 231 dwellings. Residents may decide some are unsuitable for development. However, if houses are not built on SHELAA sites, they will have to be built elsewhere in either our SID area or the Borough. Ultimately Elmbridge Council has to submit its Local Plan to an independent Inspector for approval. If it cannot show how housing targets can be met by the regeneration of urban sites, then our green spaces and Green Belt will be under threat to make up the government-imposed target. Borough wide, the target is 3375 new homes between 2011-2026, approximately 225 units each year. In the first 2 years 550 units will have been built, about 100 above requirement.

Green land worthy of protection was identified as SOUL land by participants at the workshops held in September. However, this classification has recently changed and green land is now designated as either: “Open Space in the Urban Area” which cannot be built on unless it is surplus to requirement or can be replaced elsewhere, or “Local Green Space” which is green space that is of special importance to the local community and will benefit from the same level of protection as Green Belt. To qualify it must be close to the community it serves,

special to the community (playing field or for wildlife etc.) and cannot be an extensive piece of land. Does the current draft SID contain all the areas we want to protect or are there others worthy of inclusion?

These are important choices residents must make, so please respond vigorously, to the consultation when it begins. If we don't, our lack of response will be taken as agreement to what is proposed. Dates for the consultation will be published on the Residents' Association website as soon as they are finalised, together with points of controversy or objection in the plans and a link to the Elmbridge site where views can be submitted online. Otherwise hard copies will be available from local libraries. The Elmbridge planning team will be holding local question and answer sessions, dates and venues to be advised. You can also comment on SIDS for other areas of Elmbridge, this is likewise important as development in other parts of the borough may impact on infrastructure in our area.

Cllr. Sandra Dennis

Sandra is one of our three Thames Ditton Residents' Councillors on Elmbridge Borough Council

For updates check our website:

www.residents-association.com

Einstein said:

“We can't solve problems by using the same kind of thinking we used when we created them.”

“Education is what remains after one has forgotten everything learned in school.”

“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.”

What's on this March



Spring is finally here and, as always, we have lots going on at the **Holiday Inn London – Kingston South**. Make sure you book early for these events, as we do get booked up very quickly! We look forward to seeing you soon.



10th – Mother's Day

One way to say a great big 'Thank You Mum' £24.95 per person, Children up to 8 eat for **FREE**, 9 – 12 half price

Includes: 3 course carvery buffet, professional framed family photo, live classical music.



Sunday Carvery

Enjoy a traditional carvery – great value unlimited buffet lunch every Sunday.

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31st - Easter Sunday

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Includes: 3 course carvery, live jazz and a gift from the Easter Bunny for the kids.



Delhvi

Every Friday

'Delhvi' Curry Night Buffet – traditional and authentic cuisine of Delhi, get the real taste of India!

£18.95pp.

Putting It To The Test

New Science Lab at TDJS



Thames Ditton Junior School is among the very few state primaries to acquire a dedicated science laboratory. The county funded the building to accommodate the ‘bulge’, while parents’ support and sponsors like IBM and the Institute of Chemistry funded equipment. By the time you read this, the lab should have been opened officially on 4 March by UCL’s Professor Mark Miodownik, engineer, broadcaster and writer.



Will, Alby, Jasmine, and Lucy

It’s a clean, bright laboratory, which was already in use for Year 6 experiments on the best conditions for growing yeast when visited in early February. Teacher Nan Davies, who argued the case for a science lab, was supervising.

Pupils could decide in groups how to tackle the task, then compare their approach when they got the results. What pupils themselves have to say is always stimulating – effervescent, even! There was no doubt they had already grasped the essentials of scientific method, and the huge advances for humanity accruing since the age of flat-earthers and sorcery.

Said Jasmine: *“Science is better than art because you can learn more.”* Joel: *“I love all the experiments to see if anything new is happening in the world. If someone says something then it can be proved.”*

“Some tests can be fun,” added Johnny. “My Uncle’s in secondary school and he’s done lots of science – he was given a chicken to cut in half and took the heart out!”

But what about creativity? Yes, science is creative, said the children. Will observed that *“scientific creativity is different, you use imagination but it’s based on what went before and can be repeated to prove things instead of just guessing what happens.”* Alby nailed it: *“In Science you have to follow the rules. But you can make anything up in English!”*

All excellent stuff from TDJS under the leadership of Head Nick Fry and staff. They look forward to Science week and a planned programme of pond analysis. Three cheers for the scientists of the future!



Your Residents' Association

web site and forum maintained as resource for all residents

notification to residents of key planning applications

active secret

active support for police panels

Ruth Lyon re-elected and Ruth Bruce elected to Borough Council

professional theatre, concerts, opera at Vera Fletcher Hall

supported residents' objections to inappropriate development

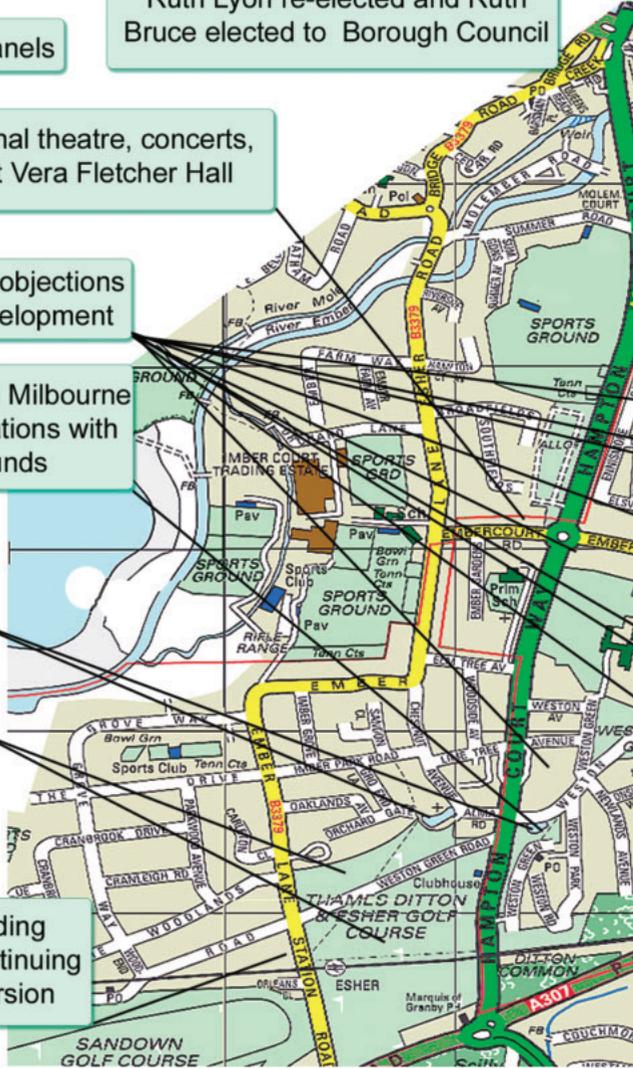
obtained hydrology report on Milbourne Pond, cleared recommendations with Elmbridge, & raised funds

maintenance of Marney's and Milbourne Ponds

supported litter picks on commons

RA stall at Weston Christmas Fair

successful resolution to flooding around station, pressed for continuing maintenance to prevent reversion



ion in Action 2012-2013



programme of social events -
get gardens, Christmas Party

supported planning application for
public space on Jolly Boatman site

4,000 copies of Thames Ditton
Today distributed quarterly

supported proposed path
from car park to High St
and reasonable pricing in
car park

maintenance of flower beds,
erected Christmas tree, planted
500 more spring bulbs around the
village

lobbied for flood prevention
measures & explored group
insurance possibilities

supported retention
of shops

active support for
Christmas and
Summer Fairs

installed Jubilee flags
along High St

expanded residents' snow-
clearing scheme

lobbied for continuing community
use of multisports courts

raised funds for echocardiograph and hr
monitors for NHS patients, campaigned for
restitution of community hospital beds





1 in 4 'ripped off' by letting agents

Shelter has revealed that almost one in four people have been charged unfair fees by a letting agent. In their survey, 23% - equivalent to 11 million people – said they had been charged unfair fees when renting their home through a letting agent in England. The most common fees were for 'administration' (14%), credit checks (10%) and for renewing a contract (8%). More than half (52%) felt the fees were unfair because they were disproportionate to the cost or amount of work done by the letting agent. A tenant paid £540 in administration costs when she rented a home with her partner through a letting agent. She said 'We didn't receive any justification for these extortionate fees and ended up having to pay nearly £3,000 upfront, making a huge dent in our finances. I have nowhere I can complain to and be taken seriously. We can't afford to buy our own home, renting is so expensive that it seems impossible to save for a deposit. The rental market is a horrible place right now'.

Kay Boycott, Shelter's Director of Campaigns, Policy and Communications said:

'It's scandalous that some letting agents are creaming off huge profits from the boom in private renting by charging both tenants and landlords fees that are totally out of proportion to the service they provide. With costs like these, on top of the sky-high rents that families already face, it's no surprise that many dread the day they have to look for a new place to rent.'

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An Active County Councillor

– Peter Hickman



Peter Hickman has agreed to stand again in the county elections. We trust that members will endorse this choice at the AGM. Peter and Julia (who founded Stitchery in the High Street) have lived in Thames Ditton since 1968. He has played an active and constructive part in the Residents' Association, with three past spells as Chairman. He also chairs the Conservation Area Advisory Committee. With a business background as worldwide head of quality assurance at Heinz, he won election to Surrey County Council in 2005 and was re-elected four years ago. Peter is an energetic and effective councillor, with the tenacity and patience to understand and get results out of the stultifying official bureaucracy. He has earned the respect of his colleagues.



Peter's doing the work of half a dozen councillors

Before 2005 the Dittons and Weston Green had a Conservative councillor, and then a Liberal Democrat, neither of whom did much real work to represent all local residents at county level. Meanwhile with the transfer in 2000 of many local highways and traffic issues from Elmbridge to Surrey, along with drainage, we had found that county officials wouldn't respond to borough councillors. Therefore Residents put up a candidate for Surrey.

Before 2005, out of 80 county councillors in all there were no Residents' councillors in Surrey. From 2005 there were four. From 2009 there were eight. If more residents' groups could be persuaded to undertake the formidable work of putting up county candidates, there would surely be many more.

We were not alone in exasperation with a county that has been run by the same cosy political coterie since 1884. Still a shambles in many areas, it badly needs a

To get the best deal for The Dittons and Weston Green, an active councillor who spends much time on his bike looking at real problems, a representative who actually works for residents throughout the division, Peter is your man. He has earned your support.

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Admiral Sir George Robert Lambert GCB

– the “Combustible Commodore”



George was the first Lambert I followed up, as he was a key witness in the ecclesiastical trial of Rev. Wilfred Speer for persistently being drunk on duty – see **The Scandal**, TDT Spring to Winter 2011. At that stage, in 1841, George was a Captain in the Navy and living at Weston House on Weston Green. His testimony struck me as of stout and fair character. Speer performed divine service in a slovenly, indecent and irreverent manner, said George, which could often be attributed to intoxication, but on only one occasion could he be positive that the man was actually drunk during the service. However, he felt that he could no longer take his family to St. Nicholas’ church, and with Sir Charles Sullivan and Leonard Seeley had approached the Bishop about the matter. But, he added in questioning, Rev. Wilfred did appear to be of a nervous disposition, and in mitigation, within a short time he had lost a mother, a sister, and a child. Capt. George Lambert’s sympathy might have been evoked in that he too had lost his mother and a brother within the previous few years.

George, the last of Catherine and Capt. Robert Lambert’s brood of warriors, was born in London on 8 September 1795: *“Through God’s Mercy I was safely delivered at 3 o’Clock in the morning of a*



Adm. Sir George Lambert, photo supplied by descendants in Australia

fine Boy,” wrote Catherine, at the age of nearly 44. He came to Weston Green with the family at the age of three, and at six was put into Cheam School, his parents teaming up with Weston neighbours Sir John Murray (8th Bart of Blackbarony) and Lady Anne, whose son Archy was also at Cheam, to share school runs in the gig.

With a father and two brothers in the Navy, and two others in the Army, the only question was which one would George choose? Gifts from his mother of

a riding whip when he was nearly four, a knife at six, and a History of England at eight show an officer and a gentleman in the making. George went via Harrow to Stanmore when his father died in 1805, and shortly afterwards Catherine wrote to a family friend that he was “*fully bent on following his Brother Robt. & Henry’s steps*” into the Navy. She put him into the Royal Academy at Portsmouth, arranged extra maths tuition, and through family friends in the Rowley naval dynasty placed him on HMS *Eagle* (74 guns) under Capt. Charles Rowley at the age of 13. From which I deduce that George’s fifth son Rowley Lambert, who was later to play a part in our local history, was named after his first captain.

George soon saw action in the Napoleonic wars as a midshipman, with glowing reports. By 1815 he was 4th. Lieutenant on the frigate HMS *Ister*, 36, which saw the end of the second Barbary War with the rendition to Britain of over 1200 Christian slaves, and an undertaking by the Dey to abolish that piratical practice. From 1820-22 he was flag lieutenant on HMS *Vigo*, 74, under his elder brother Admiral Robert Lambert, guarding the imprisoned Napoleon at St. Helena. In May 1822 George married 20-year-old Katherine Cobb. His brother Admiral Robert married her widowed mother Louisa that December (when Robert died in 1836, George and Katherine moved into Weston House with his mother-in-law who was also his sister in law!)

Meanwhile in 1823 George spent a year back in Weston renting Ember Cottage from Robert Taylor of Ember

Court. At some point he began buying the two or three modest houses alongside the Green which were listed under his ownership in the Tithe Apportionment. In February 1824, George was promoted Master and Commander and given the captaincy of HMS *Cameleon*, a 10 gun brig deployed on special duties from the Mediterranean to South America. Made post-captain in 1825, he did not get another ship until August 1831 when he captained HMS *Alligator*, a small 28-gun frigate, in the East Indies and the Antipodes.

It was to be an eventful command. In March 1834, at Waitangi in New Zealand, Captain George Lambert was an active participant in the first recognition of the Maori Confederation of United Tribes, with *Alligator* firing a 21-gun salute as the new flag was hoisted. However things did not go well immediately thereafter: the savage and occasionally cannibalistic Maoris captured, killed or ransomed whaling crews. The Executive in Sydney asked Captain Lambert to take the *Alligator*, the schooner *Isabella* and a military party on a punitive expedition, and to hell with ransoms. The mission discharged, George issued a warning to other tribes:

“His Britannic Majesty’s Ship Alligator, Entree Island, 11 October, 1834. George Robert Lambert, Captain.

Two ships of war, belonging to His Majesty King William the Fourth, having arrived on this coast in consequence of the horrid murder of part of the crew of the Harriet, the remaining part having been made slaves by the people of

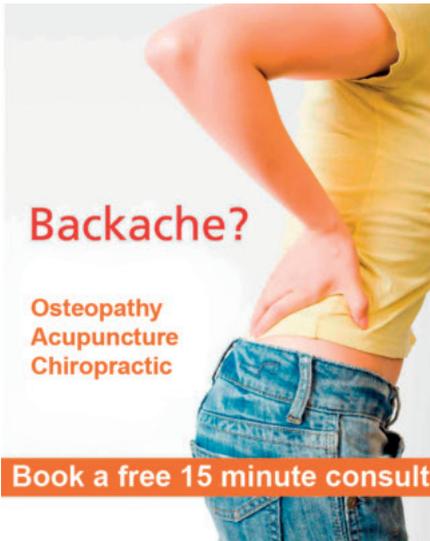
Mataroa, Nummo, Taranachee, and Wyamati, and to require the said people to be given up, which has been effected after a most severe punishment inflicted on the said tribes, by burning their paha, their property, and killing and wounding many of them; and at the same time to point out to the other tribes, however much the King of England wishes to cultivate friendship with the New Zealanders, the indignation he will feel at a repetition of such cruelty to his subjects, and how severely he will punish the offenders.”

George ended his tour with *Alligator* in August 1835 and returned to Weston Green. Five years later the Treaty of Waitangi was signed, Lieutenant Governor Hobson forcibly removed the United Tribes flag from the Bay of Islands, and the Union Jack replaced it. In consideration of his Antipodean services, George subsequently received a land grant of 4,000 acres in South Australia, later managed by his eldest son George. Some descendants live in parts of it to this day.

At the end of 1845, four years after Rev Wilfred Speer’s ignominious sentence, Captain George Lambert was at sea again. Given the ageing but famously fast frigate *HMS Endymion*, still a desirable command, he was deployed to the North Atlantic where in 1846 he was commended by HM Minister at Mexico and by an American Commodore for “*the daring efforts made by the officers and men under your command, to save the lives of the unfortunates*” of the sinking brig *USS Somers*, which capsized chasing a blockade runner in the Mexican-American War. Just seven were saved of a crew of 39. In 1847 George was made

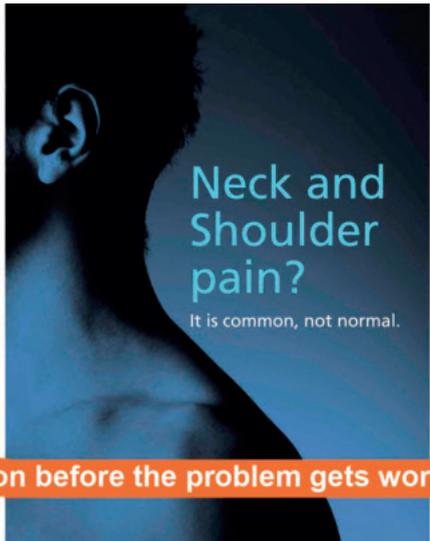
Commodore himself, in command of *HMS Imaum*, 76, and the West Indies Squadron, and it was there in January 1848 that he witnessed the death of his brother Major-General Samuel Lambert, Lt. Governor of Jamaica, from yellow fever. Now only George and two sisters remained of his generation. With his wife and six children, George rented Norbiton Place in Kingston. Weston House was occupied by the family of his deceased brother General Sir John Lambert, while George had had use of his parents’ former house at Hinde Street in London. We find him enjoying himself on our stretch of the Thames: “The Era” of 10 September 1848 reports that “*Captain Lambert of the Royal Navy acted as umpire in a rowing match of coxed fours from Seething Wells to the house of T Martin 3 miles downstream for a purse of sovereigns subscribed by gentlemen. Turks provided the cutters.*”

In July 1850 George was given command of *HMS Fox*, 42 guns, recently converted to steam with a screw propeller, and despatched to the East Indies where he took command of a squadron. In early 1852 the Governor-General of India, the Earl of Dalhousie, deployed him to Rangoon to face down the native Burmese Governor and King over alleged mistreatment of British merchants. By the time he arrived in Burma, George Lambert, caught between written instructions to exercise caution and verbal advice to take action, found that circumstances had deteriorated. He provoked a confrontation on a point of British honour and started what has been described as “the right war for the wrong reasons” – the Second Burmese War.



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the squadron destroys a Burmese magazine

There were serious repercussions within Whitehall. The Times reported events with patriotic righteousness. He had carried out naval operations very effectively (his son Lt. Rowley Lambert commanded a sloop in the squadron and also did well) and the Navy backed him; Admiral Austen praised his subordinate George's services in the highest terms and in August that year the Navy Board expressed entire approval of his performance. Dalhousie publicly thanked Commodore Lambert four times for his services. Yet in private communications the Earl was irritated, labelling George forever as "the combustible Commodore." The Government and Foreign Office were not altogether displeased to have another reason to assert ascendancy over the East India Company, the Council and Dalhousie.

At the end of 1853, George Robert Lambert was knighted KCB, and a few weeks later he was promoted to Rear-Admiral.

This was, however, the end of George's blue water days. Returning to Kingston, he became a JP, a director of the Royal Naval & Military East India and General Life Assurance Society, director of the Northfleet Docks and Quays Company Ltd., director of the Alexandra Hotel Company at Hyde Park Corner, and a patron of the Royal Naval School at Greenwich. In 1857 he was promoted Rear-Admiral of the Red, later Vice-Admiral of the Blue, then in mid-1863 as Vice-Admiral of the Red he was made C-in-C The Nore, commanding the vital but dull home waters from Chatham to the Humber.

George knew mixed happiness and grief during this period. He lost his son Capt. Arthur Lambert of the Royal Artillery in 1860, aged 33; his first wife died in 1861 and another son, Rev. Harry Lambert, died in 1862 aged 36. At 68, George married a second time, again to a Katherine, in 1864. As befits a naval officer, he chose a celebrated beauty, the widow of Colonel John Roger Palmer and thereby related to Colonel Sir Roger Palmer – one of the few to survive the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaclava. A year later he was invested with the GCB by the Prince of Wales.

On 5 June 1869 Admiral Sir George Lambert died, within minutes, of apoplexy in the United Services Club in Pall Mall. A fitting end for the Combustible Commodore, you might agree. He's buried at All Souls Kensal Green, alone, but adjacent to the grave of his first wife Katherine Cobb, buried with her mother Louisa (Admiral Robert Lambert's second wife) and Rev. Samuel Cobb her brother.

There's a plaque to George's memory in St Nicholas' Church Thames Ditton, along with his brothers. It must have been arranged by his son Rowley, whose likeness is on the wall behind the pulpit and who remained connected with our parish.

Rowley Lambert eventually became an Admiral himself. His history, and that of his wife Helen, are next (and last) on the list.

Keith Evetts



*Admiral George Lambert's second wife,
Katherine Webb-Palmer*

My thanks to George's descendants in Australia for some of the genealogy and images. Other sources on application; but particularly recommended are:

Oliver B. Pollak: A Mid-Victorian Coverup: The Case of the "Combustible Commodore" and the Second Anglo-Burmese War, 1851-1852, in Albion: A Quarterly Journal Concerned with British Studies, Vol. 10, No. 2 (Summer 1978), pp. 171-183

Col. W. Laurie: Our Burmese Wars and Relations With Burma 2nd Ed. Allen & Co 1885

Music for Spring

at the Vera Fletcher Hall

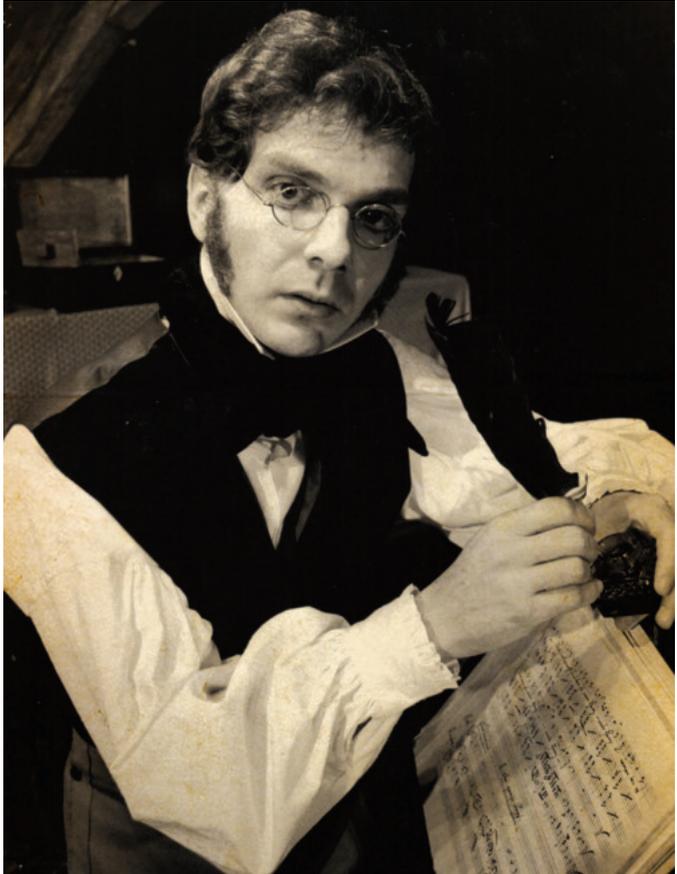


From Beethoven's classic sonatas through twenties jazz and forties Big Bands to English Touring Opera's new children's opera Laika the Space Dog, the Vera Fletcher Hall will be alive with music this Spring.

Jazz and Swing is always a hit with our Strictly Sunday Shows, and we welcome back **Five Star Swing** on Sunday 17 March with their **Hits from the Blitz**, the vibrant sound of the 1940s Big Band era – Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn and many more, from one of the top jazz and swing bands in the UK who have performed at venues as varied as Kensington Palace, the Blackpool Tower Ballroom and on National

Theatre tours. Leader Chris Smith played at the Royal Variety Show, Ronnie Scott's and on BBC's Breakfast Show.

On Sunday 26 May **Jake Fryer** brings his **Jazz on a May Evening**. Jake, from Ronnie Scotts and the



Michael Lunts as Schubert the Wanderer

London Jazz Festival, is by now an old favourite and he brings his top line-up of trumpet, saxophone, trombone, full rhythm section and guest vocalist to play jazz classics by Duke Ellington, Cole Porter, Gershwin...



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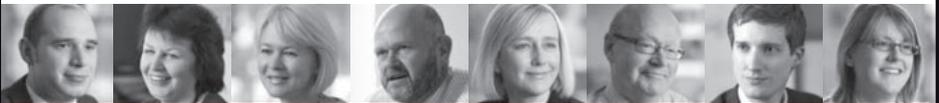
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In classic mode, a real treat will be the return of pianist **Benjamin Frith** with cellist Sagi Hartov, on Saturday 11th May. **Benjamin Frith** was described as a “Prodigy of Prodigies” when aged 14 he won the British National Concerto Competition, and since then was first prize winner in the Rubenstein Masters Competition and the Busoni International Piano Competition. He has established himself as an international concert artist who has appeared with the world’s finest orchestras. **Sagi Hartov** hardly needs any introduction to audiences at the Hall, as one of our finest cellists. They will play works including Beethoven’s Sonata No. 3 in A Major and Rachmaninov’s Cello Sonata in G Minor.

On Friday 26 April we welcome back **Amy Tress** (violin) with **Grace Mo** (piano). These rising stars of the music world will play works including Beethoven’s Sonata for Violin and Piano No. 6 in A Major. Bach’s Chaconne for solo violin and piano solos by Liszt and Chopin. Both these concerts are supported by RC Sherriff Trust.

Michael Lunts has brought us memorable one-man shows on Chopin and Rachmaninov, and on Friday 22 March this talented pianist, actor and writer will present **Schubert the Wanderer** – his fascinating show exploring the last days of Schubert’s short life, interweaving the sublime music that he wrote at the time into the dramatic action. Michael has carved out a reputation for these music dramas built on the lives of the great composers with reviews hailing “a *tour de force* by a master actor and writer”.

Our children’s shows often have music at their heart and there will be joy for 7-11 year olds when English Touring Opera bring their new opera Laika the Space Dog on Saturday 16 March. Four singers, four players and a puppeteer tell the true story of Laika, the first dog in space, through song, puppetry and animation. It is a coup getting to Thames Ditton the leading touring opera company in the country described by Opera Now as “the flagship of British Touring opera”. Image Musical Theatre’s **The Wind in the Willows** on Saturday 23 March is a family participation musical based on Kenneth Grahame’s classic of Mole, Ratty and Toad.

Finally, we are delighted that the Vera Fletcher Hall provides the venue for the **Esher and Dittons Youth Orchestra** under its conductor Michal Kaznowski – cellist with the famous Maggini Quartet and formerly with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. This is a great opportunity for children to learn to play in an orchestra, through a five week course on Sunday afternoons – the next course starts on Sunday 21 April and any young musicians wanting to consider joining should contact Megan Tress on 07932 717 582. They had a splendid concert in February and it is wonderful that the Hall is being used to encourage music in this way.

See page 37 for times and tickets for these shows. You can keep in touch with events at the Hall on the website:

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk

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Sunday 17th March 7.30pm

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*The vibrant sound of the 1940s Big Band era –
Glenn Miller, Vera Lynn and many more...*

*from one of the top Jazz
and Swing bands in the UK.*

TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)

Friday 22nd March 8.00 pm

SCHUBERT THE WANDERER

*Michael Lunts, pianist, actor and writer presents
his fascinating and original one-man show
exploring the last days of Schubert's life,
interweaving into the dramatic action the
sublime music that he wrote at the time.*

TICKETS £11

Friday 26 April 8.00pm

CONCERT

*Amy Tress (violin), Grace Mo (piano)
Rising stars in the music world play works
including Beethoven's Sonata No. 6 for violin
and piano, Bach's Chaconne for solo violin
and piano solos by Liszt and Chopin.*

TICKETS £11 (under 16 years free)

Saturday 11th May 8.00 pm

CONCERT

Benjamin Frith (piano), Sagi Hartov (cello)

*Two world class musicians play
Beethoven's Sonata No 3 in A major
for cello and piano and*

Rachmaninov's Cello Sonata in G minor.

TICKETS £12.50 (under 16 years free)

**Tickets for all shows from Joan Leifer
Tel: 0844 884 8832 and Bradley + Brown,
50 High Street, Thames Ditton**

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk

Sunday 26 May 7.30pm

JAZZ ON A MAY EVENING

*Jake Fryer – Ronnie Scotts and the London Jazz
Festival and his top line-up of trumpet, saxophone,
trombone, full rhythm section and guest vocalist
play jazz classics by Duke Ellington,
Cole Porter, Gershwin...*

TICKETS £11

(under 16 years free)

YOUNG PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Saturday 16 March 11.00 am

English Touring Opera presents

LAIKA THE SPACE DOG

*Award winning new opera about
the first dog in space.*

Four singers, four players and a puppeteer.

For 7-11 years.

TICKETS £6

Saturday 23 March 2.30pm

Image Musical Theatre presents

THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS

A family participation musical based on

*Kenneth Grahame's classic of
Mole, Ratty, Badger and Toad.*

For 5-11 years.

TICKETS £6

Saturday 27 April 2.30pm

Hand to Mouth Theatre presents

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK CAFE

With Martin Bridle "The Puppet Man".

*The traditional tale of Jack and the Beanstalk,
with puppets, story telling, comedy, songs
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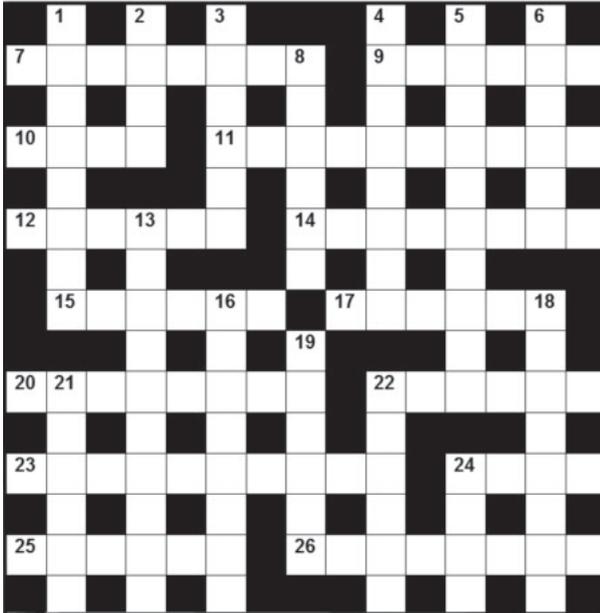
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Prep	7 - 11 year olds
Senior	11 - 18 year olds

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



Spring Crossword

By Maureen Willcox



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 7 May 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
6 Church Walk
Thames Ditton
KT7 0NW

ACROSS

7. A generous amount from a baker with dough (8)
9. Opt to eat and have a drink from it (6)
10. Maybe amusing comedians will raise a smile (4)
11. There, there, a drab carpet shouldn't floor you (10)
12. Initially overbearing folk frequently exacerbate niggling displeasure (6)
14. Tardy opera-goers won't face this music (8)
15. Feline offspring... (6)
17. ...hopefully not destined for a US wheelie bin (3,3)
20. He tells stories, yet tells no lies (8)
22. Change in a small cupboard where one keeps fit (6)
23. Some performers are affected (10)
24. Keep rhythmically in step with a vixen (4)
25. He built a suspension bridge (6)
26. When the last judgment will occur (8)

DOWN

1. God loveth a ... giver (Corinthians) (8)
2. Coins in your purse will pay for this instrument (4)
3. Having a strong financial interest (6)
4. Boats needing vapour to keep afloat (8)
5. A special temporary leave of absence (10)
6. Peter Cushing's cinematic genre (6)
8. An overweight convict will find this escape tricky (6)
13. A successful hostess certainly does! (10)
16. I rely on this hospital dept. completely (8)
18. Oh, it's just grand in Liverpool! (8)
19. Lost and found (6)
21. An inexperienced horseman detests Arab horses (6)
22. Not good qualifications for a job seeker (6)
24. A Hardy Heroine (4)

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Solution to the Winter Crossword

by Michael Jackson



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

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

Mrs. Mary Bowen
90 Summer Road
Thames Ditton KT7 0QP

Mr. Cumi Mahadeva
44 Thistledene
Thames Ditton KT7 0YJ

Mr. Tom Eddy
46 Grove Way
Esher KT10 8HL

Many good entries. Engineers please note there is no K in TOSCANINI – you know who you are!



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SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Harry Livesey	01372 474555
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 Scheme	central switchboard	01372 474474
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
M.D.H.S. Household Services (& garden tidying)	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 248533

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	01784466651
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	Mrs. Pauline Wareham	020 8979 8977

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	Eds Copleston (Men)	07775 940703
	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	Secretary	gettle51@msn.com
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

The Association's Website

– check it out



THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

home: news: what's on: Resources: groups: forum: about: contact: cookies:

Welcome to Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association

Elbridge Residents Group
business index
our locale
useful links
local history
Vera Fletcher Hall
what's on
trains
buses and journeys
weather
neighbourhood watch

Residents'
Ditton or Weston Green, 3 and helps to keep this going

announcements || Elbridge Residents Group
Last update: 19 February 2013 good web hosting

Follow TDWG Residents on Twitter @TDResidents

Headlines

- Neighbourhood police bolster defence against thefts of building materials 19 February 2013
- Thefts of diesel reported in Weston Green forum 12 February 2013
- Would you like and use a 'Farmers' Market' in Thames Ditton? forum 10 February 2013
- Surrey pensioner left without care dies BBC 6 February 2013
- Flood protection - EA meeting for local residents forum 1 February 2013
- Harrow developer seeks yet more, residents encouraged to make submissions 30 January 2013
- Continuing 'Courier Fraud' scam - beware forum 18 January 2013
- Vandalising our railway heritage YouTube 16 January 2013
- Watch out! - forged banknotes about forum 16 January 2013
- Thames Ditton panto funds gear for local NHS heart patients 16 January 2013
- Resident Hilary Whittaker awarded MBE link is to photo of Hilary 29 December 2012
- Waste not, want not as Cranmere pupils recycle food waste 18 December 2012
- Bin collection over Xmas & New Year EBC 6 December 2012
- TD Retailers resist Elbridge Cabinet's plans to hike car park charges again 6 December 2012
- Operation Candlelight - don't be a gift to Christmas burglars forum 5 December 2012

No Borough elections, so Elbridge Tories hike Council Tax

If you don't already know our website then simply Google **"Thames Ditton"** or **"Weston Green"** and up it pops on the first page of hits.

The site's a good source of news and information for residents and for regional news media, with upwards of 2,500 regular visitors. Ad-free and entirely independent of commercial influence, it carries updates on what's happening locally, and briefings on issues to cut through glossy corporate and government spin. Works on your iPad too.

There's also a Twitter feed: @TDResidents.

There's a forum for residents to post information, ask questions and share views and ideas. Matters discussed lately include local broadband service and mobile phone reception; ideas for a bridge from Albany Reach to Cigarette Island and for a pedestrian area around the lime tree hexagon; a regular farmers' market in the High Street; the perils of planning reform and several contentious developments. Oh, and those speed bumps...

residents-association.com



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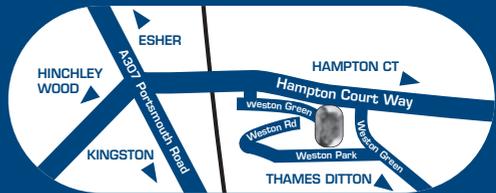
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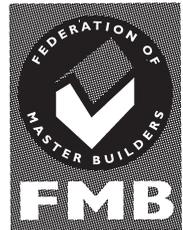
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