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Cover illustration: Spring bulbs – Garden of Remembrance

Libby MacIntyre

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 can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com. Subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at Boots Pharmacy, 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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Annual General Meeting
8.00 pm on 24 March 2015
at the Vera Fletcher Hall

Agenda:
1. Minutes of the 2014 AGM:
   and matters arising there from
2. Chairman’s Annual Report:
   To receive, discuss and adopt the
3. Accounts: To receive the accounts for
   the year ended 31 December 2014
4. Appointments: To receive nominations
   and appoint Officers and an Auditor:
   President, Chairman, Vice Chairman,
   Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer
5. Elections: To adopt candidates at the
   Elmbridge Borough Council Elections
   7 May 2015
6. Resolutions: To consider any
   resolutions submitted in writing to the
   Secretary by 10 March 2015
7. Guest Speaker: Julian Temple –
   Estates & Heritage Manager,
   Brooklands Museum. Sir Sydney
   Camm, the Hawker Hurricane and
   Brooklands

President: Maureen Sheldrick,
34 The Woodlands, Esher

Surrey County Councillor:
Peter Hickman, Little Lodge,
Watts Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0931

Thames Ditton Councillors
Tricia Bland,
29 Station Road, Thames Ditton 020 8339 0485
Ruth Lyon,
11 Riversdale Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 3396
Karen Randolph,
Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 5005

Weston Green Councillors
Ruth Bruce,
15 Imber Grove, Esher 020 8398 8324
Tannia Shipley, Clinton House,
27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

Officers
Chairman: Rhodri Richards,
Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road,
Thames Ditton 020 8224 5181
Vice-Chairman: Martin Wilberforce,
7 River Avenue, Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732
Hon. Treasurer: Christa Silverthorne,
62 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 7101
Hon. Secretary: Florian Traub,
85 Longmead Road, Thames Ditton 020 8224 2880
Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes,
6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton 020 8398 6019

Conveners of Sub-Committees
Health and Community:
Karen Randolph  (see above)
Planning: Graham Cooke,
23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton 020 8398 8509
Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts,
1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton 020 8786 6882
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News from the Residents’ Association

To 22 February

The spring bulbs, resplendent across our greens and commons have been planted over the years by Residents’ Association volunteers led by John Lyon. We have much to thank them for as the carpets of flowers herald springtime.

The RA website has had a facelift under the careful hands of Mark Charlesworth and Damian Kingsford. The new site is a great source of news, planning information, groups, help and an updated version of the “Forum” allowing us to comment on local issues. More information is included on pages 13-15 or visit www.residents-association.com. Our thanks go to Keith Evetts who managed the former site so well for many years.

You are now able to pay your subscription to the Residents’ Association on line via the website. Just go to the homepage and click Subscribe. Please take a little time to subscribe. It’s just £3 a year (though donations are very welcome!). Subscription income is vital to keep the Residents’ Association running, allowing us to protect and enhance the lovely character of the area we live in.

The Elmbridge Conservative administration has decided to reduce from 60 to 48 the number of our Borough Councillors on the specious grounds of efficiency and cost saving. Their “savings” amount to about 38 pence a year per head of population. The down side is that as a result there will have to be major changes to ward boundaries, breaking up long standing community borders, costing a great deal of money and wasting time, all to no good purpose. Elmbridge is not over-represented in Councillor numbers, compared with other Surrey boroughs – we are about in the middle. The draft proposals on redrawing ward boundaries would not work and would mean the break-up of wards like Thames Ditton, Weston Green and Hinchley Wood with their longstanding community identities.

The decision to reduce Councillor numbers is born of ideology but we have a chance to make our views known through the public consultation process required by the Local Government Boundary Commission where we can show how we identify with our local community. Go to www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk and send your views to the Review Officer (Elmbridge), Local Government Boundary Commission for England, Layden House, Turnmill Street, London EC1M 5LG. Your local Councillors will be pleased to help with any information you need. The consultation closes on March 31.

After a delay the new Post Office is now open at Simply Fresh in Thames Ditton High Street. Although there were mixed feelings in the community about the move, we have retained a Post Office with extended opening hours. Our thanks go to Avni and Harish our former Sub Postmasters at 42 High Street.

The results of the recent parking consultation are being analysed with implementation due to start in April. Negotiations are ongoing regarding a new cycle rack on the plot of land by the
electricity substation at Thames Ditton station.

The Secret Gardens of Weston Green will take place on Sunday June 21 (Father’s Day). Details will appear on our website nearer the time www.residents-association.com

A resolution to the flooding in Chestnut Avenue is still “work in progress.” Weston Green Councillors are pressing Thames Water and Surrey County Council. Work has already been undertaken but only time will tell if this has resolved it.

In January the magnificent Holm Oak at Weston Green School partially collapsed on the early years building. Fortunately no one was hurt. The tree was subject to a Tree Preservation Order. After much consultation it was decided that the remainder was a serious safety risk and, in the interests of the public, felling was the only responsible course of action. A suitable replacement will be planted in due course.

Councillor Tannia Shipley has contacted Network Rail regarding the poor appearance of Esher Station Bridge (peeling paint, damaged height chevrons and weeds growing out of the pointing). She was told the bridge is not due for repainting until 2018/19 so she spoke to a contact at South West Trains. He will try to bring the repainting forward, if possible.

Applications are invited by March 31 for community projects which will be funded by CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy). Application forms and information can be found at www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning with decisions made in June 2015.

Planning

Negotiations continue to find agreeable solutions to development at 55b High Street (2012/4026). In addition to the refuse bins, disturbance and pavement area, concerns have been raised regarding damage to the fountain roundabout by construction traffic attending this site and the Home of Compassion. The latest application for redevelopment of Taggs Boatyard (2014/1600) in Summer Road has been refused. Reasons include the impact on the residents of Thames Ditton Island, its dominance and visibility on views of the river frontage, loss of light to 29 Riversdale Road and 46 Summer Road and the failure to prove wider sustainability benefits to the community that would outweigh flood risk.

Planning permission was granted to convert The Ewe Public House (2014/2729) to a Co-Op. Concerns about traffic issues were addressed and Surrey County Council raised no objection to this. In response to residents’ requests, Councillors Ruth Bruce and Tannia Shipley mounted a spirited defence at both the Elmbridge Area-Sub Committee and Planning Committee for shorter hours resulting in conditions being imposed by majority vote: Mon-Sat 07:00-22:00 hours and Sundays and Bank Holidays 09:00-19:00. (The Co-Op had originally applied to open from 7am until 11pm – 365 days a year). A condition was also imposed regarding hard and soft landscaping and waste storage and removal. At 87/89 Grove Way (2014/1132) an application to demolish 2 houses and erect 4 houses was refused by Elmbridge Borough Council and by the Planning Inspectorate.

Lastly, we mark the very sad passing of Maureen Wilberforce. Maureen and her husband Martin have been tireless supporters of the RA in Thames Ditton for many years. She will be greatly missed.

Residents-association.com
Giggs Hill Green is one of our best-loved assets, a pastoral backdrop to an attractive and vibrant mix of homes, offices and recreation areas. It could all have been so different: in 1995 a bombshell planning proposal for a giant Tesco superstore, garage and mega car park opposite the Green threatened the village we love.

It was that threat that first galvanised our Thames Ditton Ward Councillor Karen Randolph to get involved in the Residents’ Association and fight on behalf of the local community.

“We were living on the Green with two young children when the plans were submitted,” said Karen. “Alarmed by the potential impact I got involved with the Residents’ Association (RA) campaign which saw those plans shelved and led to the existing more sympathetic development of housing and green space. I realised then that people have to get involved if we want a say in how our communities are shaped.”

Karen has been involved in our community ever since. She served on the Executive Committee of the Residents’ Association, including a spell as Chairman, and was elected to Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) in 2007. She continues to push for a vibrant village centre with a strong local retail presence. “We actively discourage the loss of retail and business units.”

Keeping the Ashley Road car park open and affordable is crucial to support local trade. Karen feels strongly that it would be more effective and efficient if car parking charges were adjusted on an individual basis according to demand, rather than, as now, having a uniform charge for all village car parks across Elmbridge.

Whenever the ruling Conservative cabinet at EBC eyes up the car park as a juicy asset to sell off Karen reminds them that a number of new planning applications have been permitted in the expectation that this local asset would remain a public car park. “Part of my role is to counter short-term thinking and to help people see the bigger picture.”

Karen is Vice-Chair of the East Area Planning Sub-Committee and sits on the full Elmbridge Planning Committee, which reviews significant developments and planning policy across our area. “Planning is complex. Over the years I have learned a lot about the processes and policies that must be considered when applications are..."
made. Much of my time is spent helping residents to understand the planning process and how it affects them.”

Karen has also been involved for many years in local health services. She is Chair of the Friends of Thames Ditton Hospital and Chair of Save our Surrey Community Hospitals.

The understanding she has gained about the health service she puts to good use as one of three Borough Councillors (from the 11 Surrey Borough and District councils) who sit on Surrey County Council’s Health and Scrutiny Committee. Its main aim is to strengthen the voice of local people, ensuring that their needs and experiences form an integral part of the delivery and development of health services.

Although there is a lot of work involved in being a Councillor there are rewards. “The role is a tremendous privilege. It is also stimulating and challenging and certainly keeps the grey cells working! I meet lots of different people and it is satisfying when I can help them negotiate council bureaucracy or interpret some of the jargon.”

Alongside her community work Karen runs her own market research business and is an accredited Mediator. Although she doesn’t get the opportunity to horse-ride much nowadays she remains fascinated by all things equine and maintains a keen interest in the eventing world. Any spare moment she relaxes walking her dogs.

Libby MacIntyre
Calling young cricketers to Thames Ditton Cricket Club

For the past 10 years Thames Ditton Cricket Club has been steadily growing our Colts section. We now have six age groups ranging from beginners through to U14s with a number of very promising young District and Surrey County players.

The club has established a reputation for good quality coaching and helping to develop youngsters on and off the pitch. The club has always played the game in the right spirit. We understand that it is not all about winning but learning the important life skills of playing the game win or lose, team work and most importantly enjoyment of the great game of cricket.

This season the club has employed an external coaching company which offers our Colts additional qualified coaching, to supplement the existing club coaches. The club realises that it must continue to invest and develop our Colts section responding to the growing number of young families moving into the area and the demands of young cricketers.

Unlike some other cricket clubs all our Colts get selected to play matches regularly and they have a strong track record of competing successfully in the leagues and cup matches.

If you would like your son or daughter to join one of our Sunday coaching sessions held at Giggs Hill Green at the start of the season, please contact us to register your interest. Your child (and we welcome both boys and girls) can attend two sessions before deciding whether to sign up for the season.

We also like parents to be involved with the training, as this helps the coaches and your child. We are a very friendly club both for children and parents. We have an excellent social reputation and the clubhouse is open on Sunday mornings for coffee throughout the season. We also have outstanding BBQ’s on Friday nights and our bar is open at the weekends for members.

If you are interested in joining the club this season please contact Pat Kennedy – Head of Colts cricket at Thames Ditton Cricket Club at Pat.Kennedy@hp.com. We look forward to welcoming you.

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The Residents’ Association has an updated website and new webmasters, so we went to meet Mark Charlesworth and Damian Kingsford.

**How long have you lived in TD?**

We moved here from Teddington in 2010. We hadn’t meant to leave Teddington but fell in love with the unique villagey but eclectic feel that Thames Ditton has, plus we’re still in zone 6 and don’t feel isolated from Central London – which was really important to us. Five years later we never expected to live in and be part of such an amazing community which we think must be almost unique in 2015 UK! All our friends are very envious!

**So did you volunteer for this role?**

Yes – kind of, with some encouragement from Trica Bland! There was concern that with Keith Evetts due to stand down that there would be no-one to take up the mantle, especially on a non-charge basis. The development of sites like this cost thousands. Damian and I had worked on and created the Thames Ditton High Street website and thought there were natural synergies with the admin of the RA website.

**Why the RA and why the new webmaster role?**

A healthy, vibrant and well run local community is really important when you live in a close knit community like ours. We both believe at a local level that it’s important to rise above national party politics to focus on local needs and issues that are important to the place that you live. The RA does an amazing job of doing just that and we wanted to give something back to the community where we could add some value.

**Keith Evetts managed the website for many years, what’s new about it?**

Essentially, the old site was personally coded (very cleverly) by Keith some ten years ago and with him standing down the knowledge and coding was retiring too, so we needed to bring the site up-to-date by using a website content management system. This would allow for more dynamic functions and ultimately be easier to manage and administer in the future. However, it’s still taken quite some time to get to the launched site you see now but the great thing is it can easily be updated. The new site has many familiar features of the old site but has a brighter look and feel. It’s also better for archiving content such as back copies of the Thames Ditton Today magazines – which are easily accessible to view.

**Were there any major glitches?**

Yes – a couple. Firstly we couldn’t transfer over the existing usernames and logins for the Forum, so to post on the Forum people must register again as a new member. People are doing this but we’d urge more people to do it as we’re not yet up to the numbers on the old site – which is important for lively debate on local issues. It is very easy and simple and only takes a minute.
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Secondly, we couldn’t transition the many years of the Forum posts as the format was incompatible with the new software we’re using. We got around this by some manual copy and pasting – the downside being that these conversations are resigned to history. The good thing is that they can still be viewed – and if anyone wants to resurrect any, they can by starting a thread on the new Forum.

**How do you see the website evolving?**

Websites are as dynamic and evolving as the people that build and use them, and the organisations they reflect and convey. At the moment the focus is to continue the great work that’s been done previously, adding some tweaks and simplifications. We’ve also invested time making sure the administration is easier so that more content can be contributed. You’ll see more graphical links to the Vera Fletcher Hall and High Street websites and we’re introducing electronic payment for Residents’ Association subscription payments in March. People will be able to go to the homepage at [www.residents-association.com](http://www.residents-association.com) and click on Subscribe. (Details are also on the subscription form)

We’re constantly monitoring how people get to the website from search engines as well as how they use the site so that we can optimise how people get the information they need and we get the great message of Thames Ditton to as many people as possible!

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Since the 1960’s Kingston Grammar School (KGS) have had their playing fields in Thames Ditton. The site, known as “Ditton Field”, is opposite Hampton Court Palace and sits between the railway line from Hampton Court and Albany Reach. Sport plays an important part in the life of the 800 or so students in the school, with hockey, football, netball, rowing, cricket, tennis and athletics being just a handful of the sports on offer, and the school minibuses heading along Summer Road to Ditton Field for an afternoon of games will be a familiar sight to Thames Ditton residents.

However, were you aware of the quality of sportsmen and women that may be in the minibuses as they pass by? The coaching staff alone boasts an Olympic hockey player, an Olympic rower, a county level cricketer, a coach with rugby union team Harlequins, a Peruvian International rugby player, and a number of coaches in the ‘focus’ sports of hockey and rowing have coached junior and senior international teams and crews. Sport at the school has recently been independently reviewed and was deemed “industry leading”. With recent redevelopments of the school’s hockey pitches and tennis courts and the redevelopment of the old boathouse at the bottom of Aragon Avenue, sport at KGS plays a central role in the life of the students at the school.
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KGS has some outstanding sporting students in the school as well as alumni and current coaches. The most famous sporting alumnus is perhaps double Olympic rowing champion James Cracknell, but the school can also boast of the captain of the GB Olympic gold medal hockey team in 1988, Richard Dodds, and a number of other Olympians in hockey and rowing. Most recently Old Kingstonian Sophie Hosking won Gold in the Women’s Lightweight double sculls at the London 2012 Olympic Games. Indeed, a recent report ranked KGS third in the country for schools producing Olympic athletes in the four Games since 2000, and 5th = for full sporting internationals in all sports.

In the last three years alone KGS has produced more than 10 students for England, Scotland or Wales hockey teams and almost too many to count playing hockey for clubs in the National League alongside their school hockey. The boys’ and girls’ hockey teams regularly reach National Finals and are often ranked in the top 2-3 teams in the country at U18 level. Not to be outdone, the school’s rowers regularly provide students for the GB junior rowing teams, with 5 students having achieved this in the last 3 years alone.

As well as the international athletes KGS regularly produces medal winning crews at the annual National Schools Regatta in Nottingham and with opportunities in all sports available for both boys and girls KGS has also produced a handful of female cricketers that have played for England national sides. The rowers have produced athletes who have competed in the Boat Race either in the blue boat or reserve crews, proving that sporting excellence can and does go hand in hand with academic excellence, on which the school also prides itself.

As well as catering for those at the top end of sport, KGS ensures that there are opportunities for all students who want to play school sport to take part as members of a team or crew.

So, next time you see a minibus with Kingston Grammar School emblazoned on the side driving through Thames Ditton, take a closer look: you might just catch a glimpse of a sporting star from the past, present or future!

Note: The Kingston Grammar School playing fields are available for hire for private functions or for community use at special community rates. Please contact the Lettings Manager on 020 8546 5875.

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Why Residents’ Association Councillors

When talking to newcomers in Thames Ditton and Weston Green I am often asked “What are Residents’ Association Councillors and how do they differ from those in the national political parties?” People moving here from elsewhere, and particularly from London, with its strong party political councils, find it strange that Residents’ Associations should put up candidates for the Borough and County councils and, moreover, get them regularly elected! When I tell them that of the 60 Elmbridge Councillors 21 are from the Residents’ Group, they realise that we are not just a fringe group. In fact for 14 years from 1992 until May 2006 they very successfully led Elmbridge Council which under Residents’ leadership was awarded “Excellent” status, putting it in the top 10% of all councils in England. During this time we built the Excel Leisure Centre, introduced recycling, enhanced older people’s services, the children’s Shout scheme and our arts programme.

As a Councillor of many years I can take for granted the value of having Residents’ Councillors on Elmbridge Council compared with national political party ones. The main difference is independence and accountability. Residents’ Councillors are not attached to a national political party, which has a whip which can override local concerns and whose ideology comes from Westminster.

The Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents’ Association was set up in 1934 and put up candidates for Esher Council in order to have a voice on the decision making body – on issues such as the route of the Esher Bypass, which at that time was proposed to go through the commons of Weston Green. Today our Residents’ Councillors have seats and votes on the Council committees and can influence decisions. When the present Conservative Administration proposed to close the Ember Centre for the Retired, our Residents’ Association led the successful campaign to save this vital facility for older residents but they were only able to do this because we had RA Councillors on the committee who saw the document which alerted us in time to the proposals to close the centre.

The lesson from this is that, without Councillors on the Council committees where decisions are made, a Residents’ Association is toothless.

We are distinctive in our consistent support for the Green Belt, open spaces and heritage. It is unfortunate that for all the protestations of support from the political parties, they have all too often found excuses for voting for developments which would irretrievably change the character of our Borough. The Conservatives voted en-bloc for the massive development on the Jolly Boatman site opposite Hampton Court
Palace over the heads of Ward Councillors and disregarding 3,000 local petitioners. They also all voted en-bloc to build two hotels on green belt land at Sandown Park and Moore Place, Esher, and to sell to developers precious green space land at Stompond Lane football ground in Walton.

Defending our environment means constant vigilance. The Residents’ Association, through its planning committee, vets planning applications, makes representations to the Council’s Planning Department and gives evidence at appeals. It was Residents’ Association Councillors who led the successful battle against the housing development on the Tennis Club site, the over-development on the sites of the Olde Harrow and the former Cottage Hospital and the proposed flats at 29 High Street, Thames Ditton, which would have harmed the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and meant loss of employment.

We do not work in a vacuum. As well as our Thames Ditton Today magazine and excellent website we hold regular Open Meetings where everyone can air their views on current planning proposals and other matters of concern to residents, from major traffic proposals to dog dirt and litter on the riverbank. The political parties hold no open meetings and so their Councillors are not as well informed on local needs.

The varied experience of RA committee members such as surveyors, architects, lawyers and business people, provide a backing for our Councillors not found in the political parties so that RA Councillors are the best briefed in the Council.

I often meet the argument that “consultation is fine but don’t you need party politics to get things actually done?” My own experience is that the opposite is true. Party politics are largely irrelevant for the issues we face at the local level. We take a practical approach to local issues and never forget that we are spending public money on public services and our aim is to deliver value for money.

RA Councillors are not a “front” for any other group but have always stood on their own merits and policies, believing that at the local level Councillors should be accountable first and foremost to their electorate and not to a party political grouping. RA Councillors exist to give expression to this belief.

**Councillor Ruth Lyon**

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As you may know, Weston Green is a Conservation Area, which was designated in 1977 by Elmbridge Borough Council to recognise its historic and environmental importance and to protect its character. In addition to a number of Listed Buildings (which have legal protection), the Council works in conjunction with the local community to protect the appearance of buildings, trees, open space and other important elements of the area.

In order to involve local residents in the protection of Conservation Areas, Conservation Area Advisory Committees were set up, and the volunteers on the Committees are asked by Elmbridge to give their views on planning applications (and other issues such as street lighting) within their Conservation Area.

The Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee consists of local residents with varied backgrounds, such as architecture, teaching, surveying, inventing, building, etc., all of whom are committed to the preservation of their neighbourhood. We are currently six members strong but need to increase our strength by two or three new members to replace those who have moved away from the area. So we are very keen for other people interested in preserving their local environment to join us: it only involves an hour or so of your time around once a month on average, as the applications are passed round for your comments. We have an annual AGM when we discuss matters in a local pub, and, obviously, we have personal contact when we pass the applications round.

If you would like to help protect this special area please contact the current Chairman of the Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee Alan Oakley Tel: 020 8398 3168; E-mail: oakley1@which.net. Or you might like to speak to our local Elmbridge Councillors for Weston Green, Ruth Bruce and Tannia Shipley, for their views on the importance of the Committee.

Alan Oakley
Your Residents’ Association

- web site and forum renewed as resource for all residents
- active support for community events in TD and WG, including supporting and participating in Fairs
- removal of abandoned vehicles and fly-tipping; action to alleviate other rubbish issues
- supported residents’ objections to inappropriate development
- action to remove graffiti
- maintenance of Marney’s and Milbourne Ponds, installed borehole at Milbourne
- supported parents seeking long-term solution to secondary schools crisis
- worked with Council officers and police to resolve traveller incursions
- continuing pressure for maintenance to prevent flooding at Esher station, and to resolve other long-standing flooding problems

Tricia Bland elected to Elmbridge Borough Council

professional theatre, concerts, opera at Vera Fletcher Hall

regular communications to residents of key planning applications
Open Meetings to engage with the community on important topics

constant vigilance to protect Conservation Areas of Thames Ditton and Weston Green

liaison between contractors at Home of Compassion and neighbours

4,000 copies of Thames Ditton Today distributed quarterly

successful pressure for conservation quality street lamps installed in Conservation Areas

maintenance of flower beds, Fountain Christmas tree, planted 500 more spring bulbs

fund raising for Christmas lights

parking consultation re introduction of short term parking in the High St to support local shops

successful pressure for resurfacing of High Street, Station Road and some other roads.

maintained residents' snow-clearing scheme

continuing support and fund raising for services for NHS patients at Emberbrook
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Tucked away in a quiet residential riverside road between Thames Ditton and Surbiton is an area of outstanding physical and mental recreation. There, it is rumoured that Ajax Sea Scouts (named after the battleship HMS Ajax) offer local boys and girls a wide range of activities aimed at strengthening minds and bodies whilst enjoying a satisfying, and above all, a fun experience.

I had been despatched to find out how this could be possible in such austere and cynical times. Group Scout Leader Mark Marriott was on hand to provide the answers.

The first thing to hit the visitor on entering The Ajax Water Activities Centre is a cabinet bursting at the seams with awards. Obviously this is a successfully competitive enterprise.

You then pass through swing doors into a large sociable room with a Galley at the far end, which leads to the larger Maindeck looking out on to the grey expanse of the Thames. My host explained that the young people and adult leaders were in the middle of a Royal Yachting Association First Aid course.

He went on to outline the structure of Scouting, which involves dividing the scouts (girls and boys) by age into four groups:- Beavers aged 6-8 years, Cubs aged 8-11, Sea Scouts aged 11-15 and Explorer Sea Scouts aged 15-18. At the moment there is a total of 120 boys and
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girls in membership. An essential element of the operation is parental support.

Last year Ajax received a £10,000 grant from Sport England to expand their fleet with the purchase of two RS Vision sailing dinghies. All the equipment (boats, gear and other items) is owned by the Group and they enjoy a long lease on the buildings. The annual subscriptions pay for all regular expenses involved in their wide schedule of activities. Three local fund-raising events, the Esher May Fair, the Ajax Plant Sale and the Claygate Flower Show, provide a major contribution towards future capital projects.

Ajax has to offer a range of activities appealing to kids just out of pre-school to teenagers considering a gap year. Last year, the Beavers enjoyed learning about locks at Teddington, climbing at White Spider in Kingston, local politics with the Mayor of Elmbridge, and camping at Cobham. The Cubs learned about Buddhism at Long Ditton, skiing at Sandown Park as well as some taster sessions on the water preparing them for progression to the Sea Scouts Troop.

Inevitably, the older kids are encouraged to spread their wings and last year Sea Scouts and Explorers travelled to Holland for the Dutch National Water Activity Camp. Other activities included camping at the home of Scouting, Gilwell Park, and coastal sailing weekends on Chichester Harbour, where the group’s three Wayfarer sailing dinghies are kept. The Explorers also competed in the Great River Race from Docklands to Richmond, winter camped in Ashdown Forest, and won the Cock of the River award at the National Sea Scout Regatta for the second year running.

A wide range of activities but a consistent theme of excellence. The youngsters can learn skills, take responsibility and experience adventure afloat and ashore without the need for undue adult supervision.

Ajax is one of only 100 Sea Scout Groups to be officially recognised by the Royal Navy. Every 18 months the Group is formally inspected by the Navy and last year their inspection report noted that ‘Ajax is a very strong Sea Scout Group performing at an exemplary level.’

So everything appears ship-shape and Ditton fashion – but not quite!

In order for their Vision for the Future to become a reality and as well as constantly investing in their fleet, Ajax will need to raise funds for a new additional building to provide 21st century changing facilities. Large sums of money will be required.

Ajax offers a unique mix of learning and personal development, edged with excitement and thrills. Demand for Ajax places wildly exceeds availability, although more volunteer leaders might enable extra places to be made available.

The message therefore is that to preserve and enhance such an exciting and worthwhile organisation, more is required; more human resources to sustain this invaluable enterprise and more finance to secure its base. Thames Ditton residents interested in helping out in any way will be warmly welcomed.

Please note the following dates: Ajax Plant Sale... weekend of May 2nd/3rd. Esher May Fair... Saturday 16th. Claygate Flower Show... Saturday July 11th.

Terry Bygraves
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When you alight at Waterloo station, spare a thought for the bitter wars, with action from the Americas to Asia, which culminated in that famous victory two hundred years ago come June. We can follow the wars through the involvement of Thames Ditton residents – several fought long and hard, some died or were wounded on the battlefield or at sea, while others prospered in civilian life.

**Ditton casualties, and non-combatants**

All five of Catherine and Robert Lambert’s sons associated with Weston House fought with distinction. Captain Henry Lambert died through his action in command of the frigate HMS Java against the heavier frigate USS Constitution at the end of 1812 – the year in which the Americans declared war on Britain ostensibly for stopping American ships and searching them to press defecting British seamen. General Sir John Lambert and his brother Samuel went through the wars on the Continent, sometimes in horrendous conditions.

Samuel almost died from fever contracted in the Walcheren landings. John fought in the ill-fated campaign on the US mainland and played a distinguished role at Waterloo.

Two of the sons of Sir Richard Sullivan, first Baronet of Thames Ditton, who lived at Ditton House, fought in the war. Charles, who eventually became an Admiral, served as a junior officer in the Far East, with one mention in dispatches. He survived. His elder brother Sir Henry Sullivan did not. Commissioned
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Lieutenant in the Second Foot Guards (Coldstream Guards) in 1803 at the age of 18, he served for much of the campaign in the Iberian Peninsula where John and Samuel Lambert of the First Foot Guards were not far away. Both units were present at the siege of Bayonne on 14 April 1814 when the French Governor of the town tried to break out from the encirclement on a pitch-black night. The French were forced back at the cost of 900 French casualties and 840 British, one of whom was Lt. Colonel Sir Henry Sullivan. He’s buried out there and has a memorial plaque to the immediate left of St Nicholas’ Church door.

One of the sons of Jacob Hansler, of the Red House by Marney’s Pond in Weston Green, Edward Hansler, seems also to have been a casualty. There’s no trace after he was listed as Lieutenant in the King’s Royal Rifle Corps in 1810, when at least part of the regiment was fighting in the Peninsular War.

Sir Guy Campbell, first Baronet, came from the military Campbells many of whom lived in parishes adjoining Thames Ditton. In 1795 he joined his father’s 6th Regiment as an ensign, and his active campaigning included countering the 1798 Irish Rising, Canada in 1803, and the Peninsular campaign where along with the two Lamberts in the First Foot he was evacuated on Sir John Moore’s retreat to Corunna. On 1 April 1813 Campbell was promoted Major, and again deployed to the Peninsula where after the battle of Vitoria, when his colonel was severely wounded, he took command. He was seriously wounded in the victory over Clausel’s division at Echalar on August 1813. He rejoined his regiment in 1815, and was attached to the staff at the battle of Waterloo. Locally, Sir Guy is better known for marrying his second wife Pamela Fitzgerald, daughter of “La Belle Pamela” – this led to the Campbells occupying The Lodge in what is now Watts Road, the gift of Pamela’s maiden aunt Lady Sophia Fitzgerald.

The Fitzgeralds of Boyle Farm were in an invidious position following the Irish Rising of 1798, allied with a failed French attempt to invade Ireland. Lord Edward Fitzgerald played a leading role in the uprising and died, a traitor to the Crown. Charlotte Boyle, who had married the actor Lord Henry Fitzgerald, refused to have her brother-in-law’s widow Pamela in the house, and Charlotte redoubled her efforts to claim the ancient barony of de Ros. Thus she and her son Henry, a friend of Wellington’s but a dandy and cheat at cards who never went near the war (he was 22 by the time of Waterloo), would not have to be known primarily by the name of Fitzgerald.

Meanwhile at Imber Court, Robert Taylor, a former merchant captain for the East India Company, was now a merchant businessman in his late forties to early fifties, and his two sons Robert and Simon were too young for military service. Robert Taylor continued his business activities, including slave trading, from Imber Court during this period.

**Militia**

The wars also saw the embodiment of the Militia. Lists of men liable to be balloted had to be affixed to the church door. There were many exemptions, and balloted persons could find substitutes –
for a substantial fine or fee. The Militia was to be used for home defence, although men in it could join volunteer regiments deployed overseas. Surrey was required to raise 953 men.

There are a couple of mentions of the militia in the Vestry records of St. Nicholas Thames Ditton. A meeting of 4 April 1805 considered “the best way to raise the money for defraying the Expenses which this Parish is obliged to pay, for Men that have been wanted to fill up the Militia and Army of Reserve. It is unanimously agreed upon, not to have a Rate for that purpose.” How the funds were collected is not recorded, but the Overseers’ accounts for 2 January 1807 give an idea of the scale of payments: “pd for the militia 19.13.0” (£19.65 in today’s decimal notation).

Lt. Colonel Sir Edward Baynes, who had married the Lamberts’ eldest daughter Anne, and rented a large house next to The Newlands which is no longer in existence, subsequently renting Ember Cottage in Orchard Road, was made an inspector of volunteer units. We find him in 1803 deployed to Cambridgeshire and Huntingdon inspecting trainees.

**Income Tax**

The “tax to beat Napoleon” was introduced in 1799. From Catherine Lambert’s diaries: Tue 19 Aug 1799 “wrote to the Commissioner for the Income Tax” and on Thurs 28 Aug “went to Mr Crawters at Cobham about the Income Tax.” Crawters were the local official Surveyors with offices in Cobham and in Chancery Lane. In following decades they were to arbitrate between William Speer and Robert Taylor about the division of lands and rights between the manors of Weston and of Imber; and to prepare the tithe apportionment for this parish.

Land taxes were also raised, and some lands were sold off from Crown holdings. During the wars William Speer, already a large landowner in our parish, remained as a senior tax clerk in the Treasury. So he was well placed at the turn of the century to buy valuable land and manorial rights for Weston and other manors nearby, from his colleagues the Commissioners of the Treasury, acting for the Crown. In 1808 he was made one of the five chief clerks and we find him in Parliamentary records making occasional Treasury payments to the Home Secret Service, receiving other expenses himself and in 1815: “to pay Bills drawn by the Duke of Wellington, towards the purchase of a House at Paris, for the residence of His Majesty’s Ambassador Matthew Martin, Esq. & towards the Expense of carrying into effect a plan for enquiring into the state of the Mendicity of the Metropolis.”

**Waterloo**

The decisive battle between the French, and a coalition of European forces under the overall command of Wellington together with the Prussian army under Blucher, was fought amid the gentle rolling fields at Waterloo on 18 June 1815. The battle cost around 22,000 casualties for Wellington and Blucher, and over 24,000 French. General Sir John Lambert had returned from the battle of New Orleans in time to command the tenth brigade and march it to the battlefield where it arrived on the morning of the battle. The brigade was deployed in
the front line during the afternoon. One of its regiments, the 27th, formed the square near the pivotal French-held farm at La Haye Sainte, where it lost two-thirds of its men, a heavier loss than that of any other regiment. In all, Lambert’s 10th Brigade suffered casualties of 34 officers and 650 men, almost one third of those who had started out that morning.

John Lambert and his aide-de-camp, Lt. Tom Baynes, a relative of John’s brother-in-law Sir Edward Baynes, survived unscathed. Another brother-in-law, Major Henry Graham was not so lucky. On the night of Boxing Day 1806, John’s younger sister Maria Lambert, then 17, had written in her diary at Brighton: “Mrs Dawkins gave us a charming Ball. I danced every dance, the second from last with Captain Graham.” She married the dashing young King’s Dragoon in August 1812. Now he lay dead on the field of Waterloo after a gallant charge in the midst of the action. In the carnage his body was never identified. Maria was awarded a pension of £100.

**Aftermath**

General Sir John Lambert, mentioned in Wellington’s despatches, received for a second time the thanks of parliament. He commanded the eighth infantry brigade in the army of occupation in France, and remained a close friend of Wellington (who was godfather to his son John Arthur Lambert) until the Duke’s death in 1852.

As Vice Admiral, John’s elder brother Robert Stuart Lambert's last post would be as commander of the fleet guarding the prisoner Napoleon on St. Helena, at the time of the former Emperor’s death there. Accompanying him as Flag Lt. was their youngest brother George Lambert.

In 1827 the Wellington Arch was erected to honour the man whose military skill and tenacity won the day and ended the threat of French military dominance on land as Nelson had ended it by sea. Penny-pinching meant that its designer’s plan to top it with a Quadriga was dropped. Eventually in 1912, the huge Quadriga, held by many to be the most magnificent product of Thames Ditton’s former Foundry in Summer Road, was placed on top of it.

And now, the new Quadriga Gallery at the Arch is staging an exhibition about the Battle of Waterloo, open to the public from 18 April 2015.

*Keith Evetts*
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Music for Spring at the Vera Fletcher Hall

From Mozart’s and Rachmaninov’s classic piano trios through Gilbert and Sullivan’s operetta and Simon and Garfunkel to English Touring Opera’s welcome return with their new children’s opera “Shackleton’s Cat”, the Vera Fletcher Hall will be alive with music this spring in a packed programme.

Gilbert & Sullivan lovers have a treat when Charles Court Opera return with their “Ruddigore or the Witches’ Curse” on Saturday 16 May. This delicious gothic send-up of Victorian melodrama with bad baronet, and beautiful village maid Mad Margaret is a deliciously wicked opera, given a dose of electricity and punch in the only way Charles Court Opera can. Opera Now called it “a sparkling fresh package of pathos, foolery and high-class music making”. In more classical mode Charles Court Opera reminds us that they are a true opera company when they return with “Tosca” on 12 June, sung in Italian with English surtitles. Anyone who saw their “La Boheme” at the Hall will know what a treat is in store for us with this tragic tale of love, murder and deception featuring some of Puccini’s finest music and sung by some of England’s best young opera talent.

It is a real coup getting the prestigious London Mozart Trio again to the Hall on the 1st May following concerts in Shanghai and at the Krakow Festival.

Three outstanding world class musicians, Colin Stone (piano), Krzysztof Smietana (violin) and Sagi Hartov (cello) play works including Mozart’s E major trio and Rachmaninov’s Trio Elegiaque.

The Esher and Dittons Youth Orchestra goes from strength to strength, with a very successful concert in February and another coming up on Sunday 17 May. This young orchestra starts its next 5 week course on Sunday afternoons, starting 19 April, under its conductor Michal Kaznowski – cellist with the famous Maggini Quartet and formerly with the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He has a fantastic rapport with the children and this is a great opportunity for children of grade 4 or above to learn to play in an orchestra. Contact Megan Tress on 07932 717 582. No audition is required.
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On Saturday 7 March the award winning Rosemary Branch Theatre bring us “Pride & Prejudice”, Jane Austen’s classic of the five Bennet sisters and their admirers, proud Mr. Darcy, affable Mr. Bingley, rakish Mr. Wickham complete with period music and on 24 April we move on to the 20th century and World War 11 with Dad’s Army vicar, Frank Williams, in “Well, Really, Captain Mainwaring”.

For the older generation the names of Simon and Garfunkel will bring back a wave of nostalgia. You can indulge this on Sunday 31 May when, following their sell-out run at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Bookends presents “Simon and Garfunkel: Through the Years” – a live performance and multi-media show with hits such as “The Sound of Silence”, “Mrs. Robinson” and “Bridge over Troubled Water”. With a mutual passion for the music and a natural gift for close harmonies this is a show that celebrates the lives and music of these two great artists.

We have always had splendid shows for children and this spring English Touring Opera, recognised as the country’s leading touring opera company, presents “Shackleton’s Cat” on 27 March when eight singers, musicians and puppeteers tell the story of Ernest Shackleton’s voyage to Antarctica 100 years ago, with an ingenious set, interactive songs (and a puppet cat!). Image Musical Theatre are old favourites and they return on 21 March with “Merlin, the Sword in the Stone” a family participation musical on the legend of the young king Arthur and Merlin the wizard. “Little Red Riding Hood and Friends” on Saturday 2 May, bring us Red Riding Hood, a vegetarian wolf and Cinderella.

See page 40 for times and tickets for these shows. You can keep in touch with events at the Hall on the website www.verafletcherhall.co.uk.

Ruth Lyon
THE THEATRE IN THAMES DITTON

AT THE VERA FLETCHER HALL

Saturday 7 March 7.30pm
Rosemary Branch Theatre presents

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE
Jane Austen’s classic of the five Bennet sisters and their admirers, proud Mr. Darcy, affable Mr Bingley, rakish Mr. Wickham.
TICKETS £12.50

Friday 12 June 7.30pm
Charles Court Opera presents

PUCCINI’S TOSCA
Sung in Italian with English sub-titles, an exciting new full-scale production from one of the UK’s most innovative young opera companies.
TICKETS £16

Saturday 7 March 7.30pm

Friday 24 April 8.00pm

WELL REALLY, CAPTAIN MAINWARING!
Join Frank Williams, the Dad’s Army vicar for a unique and hilarious glimpse behind the scenes, with stories of the cast and of other classics such as Morecambe & Wise and The Two Ronnies.
TICKETS £12.50

Friday 1 May 8.00pm

THE LONDON MOZART TRIO
Colin Stone (piano) Krzysztof Smietana (violin) Sagi Hartov (cello) Three outstanding world class musicians play works including Mozart’s E major Trio and Rachmaninov’s Trio Elegiaque.
TICKETS £14 (under 16 years free)

Friday 27 March 10.45 am

English Touring Opera presents

SHACKLETON’S CAT
A new opera. 8 singers, musicians and puppeteers tell the story of Ernest Shackleton’s voyage to Antarctica 100 years ago and how the crew struggled to survive when the ship got destroyed by ice.
For 7 – 11 years. TICKETS £7

Saturday 16 May 7.30pm

Charles Court Opera presents

RUDDIGORE or THE WITCHES’ CURSE
Gilbert & Sullivan’s gothic send-up of Victorian melodrama – bad baronet, beautiful village maid, Mad Margaret. “A ghoulish comic opera” with glorious tunes, witty Lyrics “the matter patter trio” and “Sing hey, lack a day” with some of the UK’s best young operatic talent. “Wickedly funny” The Guardian.
TICKETS £16

Saturday 2 May 3.30pm

Booster Cushion Theatre presents

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD & FRIENDS
Meet Red Riding Hood, the vegetarian wolf, Cinderella, and dance the conga and rock to Jack’s beans.
For 4 – 8 years TICKETS £7

Tickets for all shows from Joan Leifer Tel: 0844 994 8832
Email: tickets@verafletcherhall and Bradley + Brown, 50 High Street. Thames Ditton
To hire the Vera Fletcher Hall contact Helen Mason Tel: 08456 528 529

www.verafletcherhall.co.uk
Most of you will have heard of the Home of Compassion, the former nursing home in Thames Ditton. It was set up in the early years of the twentieth century by the Anglican Nuns of the Order of the Sisters of Compassion who brought their work for caring for the poor and elderly in the East End of London to Thames Ditton. In 1981 the Home was transferred to a charitable trust which continued its work in caring for the elderly poor. The Home was sold in 2008 as the trust was unable to raise the funds needed to bring the Home up to the latest care standards required.

How many of you have heard of Walsingham Care – the successor charity to the Home of Compassion? Walsingham Care was founded in 2008 following the sale of the Home of Compassion with an endowment of £4.5million, the proceeds of the sale. The aim of Walsingham Care is to help the older generation. It does this by providing financial help for topping up fees at a nursing home, providing costs of care at home, funding the cost of respite care or funding home improvements or care equipment so that people can continue to live in their own home. Grants are made to people who live in the Emly deanery (Long Ditton in the East to Weybridge in the West) or within 5 miles thereof. All grants are subject to a test of the income and assets of the person applying for the grant.

Since the untimely death of John Jennings, Debbie Beach has taken over as Administrator on a part time basis. Since 2008 the Trust has made grants of over £440,526. In 2013 the Trust made grants of £119,711 of which £54,714 were to help payment of nursing home fees and £64,997 was to provide help at home by part funding such items as stairlifts and motorised scooters. In most cases we are approached either by the person seeking the grant (or a relative) or by a third party such as Elmbridge Social Services or a nursing home. We work closely with other charities.

Case Study:

Recently, in collaboration with two other local charities, we assisted an ex-serviceman suffering with long term health and mobility problems with the provision of a stairlift. This has enabled him to move safely and confidently around his own home.

Walsingham Care’s endowment now stands at over £5million. Most of it is invested in the Stock Markets through funds managed by professional investors. We also own a building in Hampton Court – the building which used to house our shop which was closed last year as it was losing money.

We are always happy to consider applications for grants. The best method to contact us is through our website – www.walsinghamcare.org.uk or call Debbie Beach on 07436 803102.
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(Integrative) Gestalt Therapy has a holistic approach which means that it deals with the whole of the client’s experience, including feelings, thoughts and actions. It focuses on gaining an awareness of emotions and behaviours in the present rather than in the past. The goal is for clients to become aware of their immediate needs and how to meet them and also to learn to accept and value themselves.

Tel: 07450 056 356 Email: melanie.friedrich@gmail.com

Above Kent Chemist, on 2nd Floor, 104 Walton Road, East Molesey, Surrey KT8 0DL
Spring Crossword
By Maureen Willcox

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date 8th May will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Please send the completed puzzle (or photocopy) enclosing your name and address, with the envelope clearly marked ‘Crossword Competition’, to:

Thames Ditton Today
Crossword Competition
24 High Street
Thames Ditton
KT7 0RY

ACROSS
7. If your name fits, you are easily noticed (8)
9. A white fleshed gourd (6)
10. To be honest, out of this is out of alignment (4)
11. Cannot conclude that this is a relevant clue (10)
12. A chaplain alters his title, then goes on a march (6)
14. A northern Ireland political party member (8)
15. Area developed for residential purposes (6)
17. Every film critic shares the same opinion re this film (6)
20. Member of the cadaver preservation society perhaps! (8)
22. They are definitely longer than dot’s! (6)
23. A south American trailer (10.)
24. It is reasonable for a brunette to become blonde (4)
25. They legally work for you and are usually good for nothing! (6)
26. This is a cover-up! (8)

DOWN
1. Because of a faulty car gear, I changed conveyance. (8)
2. The extra needed to achieve one’s ambition (4)
3. View a marauder ideally to express contempt (6)
4. Garment decoration created by seamstress (8)
5. Reps resent appearing on the media (10)
6. Ingredient in a biblical menu! (6)
8. An ancient Latin hymn (2,4)
13. Appealing, but evict a ‘tart’ from a beauty contest (10)
16. A Mediterranean shrub (8)
18. Seemingly plausible, but actually is not. (8)
19. “_ _ _ _ _ _ the Lord and pass the ammunition” a Loesser song (16)
21. A minuscule number of spots (6)
22. Woven fabric (6)
24. He had one – E I E I O ! (4)
Solution to the Winter Crossword
by Michael Jackson

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

Mrs E M Jones
23 Riversdale Rod
KT7 0QN

Mrs Catherine Dunne
12 Kings Drive
KT7 0TH

Mrs R Scotton
29 Church Walk
KT7 0NP

Cognitive Behaviour Therapy

Simon Simpson
MSc MAREBT BABCP

Expert, confidential help with:
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Panic
- Low Self Esteem
- Phobias
- Stress
- OCD
- Insomnia

Registered with Bupa and all major insurance companies

07801 450 477
www.cbt-surrey.co.uk
## SERVICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)</td>
<td>Harry Livesey</td>
<td>01372 879321</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ditton and Weston Green Neighbourcare</td>
<td>Avril Ashworth</td>
<td>020 8398 7521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thames Ditton Centre for Retired People</td>
<td>Mon &amp; Thurs</td>
<td>020 8398 5921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thames Ditton Children’s Centre</td>
<td>Tues, Weds, Fri</td>
<td>020 8398 3772</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm &amp; Telecare services, Relief Carers</td>
<td>ask for service</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homesupport Elmbridge</td>
<td>Pam Howard (Manager)</td>
<td>01932 267128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Esher and District Stroke Club</td>
<td>Ann Pollock</td>
<td>020 8398 6132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Action Elmbridge</td>
<td>Sally Dubery</td>
<td>01372 463587</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service</td>
<td>Elmbridge Area</td>
<td>020 8979 8334</td>
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## GROUPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Girl Guiding in TD &amp; WG</td>
<td>Mrs K Williams</td>
<td>020 8398 1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Thames Ditton Brownies</td>
<td>Mrs. Bronach Hughes</td>
<td>020 8398 1628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Thames Ditton Brownies</td>
<td>Deborah Bronach</td>
<td>020 8398 5521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows</td>
<td>Alexandra Lyall</td>
<td>07779 616463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group</td>
<td>Carole Needham</td>
<td>07975 842423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)</td>
<td>Mrs. Louise Lewis</td>
<td>020 8398 4843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Thames Ditton Guides</td>
<td>Mrs. Bronach Hughes</td>
<td>020 8398 1628</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)</td>
<td>Mrs K Williams</td>
<td>020 8398 1300</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Weston Green Brownies</td>
<td>Mrs J Epps</td>
<td>020 8395 0595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st Weston Green Rainbows</td>
<td>Mrs Helen Hill</td>
<td>020 8398 3135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts</td>
<td>Alison Derrick</td>
<td>020 8398 0041</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dittons Scout Group</td>
<td>Laura Clarke</td>
<td>020 8398 3447</td>
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<tr>
<td>Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)</td>
<td>Mrs. E. Barker</td>
<td>01372 467491</td>
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<tr>
<td>Emberbrook Trefoil Guild</td>
<td>Mrs. Adrienne Nealing</td>
<td>020 8398 5582</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Bushey and Home Parks</td>
<td>Jean Smith</td>
<td>020 8977 9391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of Walsingham Care</td>
<td>Miss Valerie Chicken</td>
<td>020 8398 2932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch</td>
<td>Chairman: John Haberfield</td>
<td>020 8398 5256</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parents and Toddlers (St Nicholas church)</td>
<td>Information</td>
<td>020 8398 7211</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ripieno Choir</td>
<td>Nick Harris</td>
<td>020 8399 7231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Bell-ringers</td>
<td>Nick Pattenden</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Nick.Pattenden@cassiopae.com">Nick.Pattenden@cassiopae.com</a></td>
</tr>
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## CLUBS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albany Motor Yacht Club</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>01784 466651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Heritage Club</td>
<td>Carol Butcher</td>
<td>01932 867511</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claremont PROBUS Club</td>
<td>Mr. P. Collins</td>
<td>020 8398 3125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claygate Bridge Club</td>
<td>Hon. Secretary</td>
<td>020 8398 1710</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colets Health &amp; Fitness</td>
<td>Giordano Orsini</td>
<td>020 8398 7108</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dittons Skiff and Punting Club</td>
<td>Hon Secretary</td>
<td>07710 139417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dittons &amp; Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion</td>
<td>Hon Secretary</td>
<td>020 8398 6263</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club</td>
<td>Anne Segall</td>
<td>020 8941 4528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Ember Choral Society</td>
<td>Linda Bridges 020 8399 5402</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esher Recorded Music Society</td>
<td>Miss S. M. Garrat 020 8398 8541</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esher and Molesey Garden Society</td>
<td>Chris Walker (Sec) 020 8398 6651</td>
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<tr>
<td>Esher and District Amnesty International</td>
<td>Cherry Eddy (Campaigns) 020 8398 4377</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton Court Way Allotment Association</td>
<td>Lettings: Piotr Hennig 020 8398 5358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Ditton Youth Club</td>
<td>Toni Izard 07749 633973</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynwood Allotment Society</td>
<td>Louise Flaig 020 8398 7704</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Molesey and District Antiques Society</td>
<td>Linda Lambert 020 8398 1476</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>NADFAS (Decorative &amp; Fine Arts) Kingston</td>
<td>Mrs. Valerie Windsor 020 8549 9967</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Soroptimist International (Kingston District)</td>
<td>Secretary: Pat Harman 020 8390 3507</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)</td>
<td>Secretary 020 8398 8615</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>OTHER</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cancer Research UK</td>
<td>Mrs. Vivienne Harris 020 8398 6787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elmbridge Fairtrade Network</td>
<td>Judy Porter 020 8398 6401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of the Third Age (U3A)</td>
<td>Hon Sec Anne Brown 01932 881633</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vera Fletcher Hall</td>
<td>Lettings: Helen Mason 08456 528 529 Membership: Sue Morris 020 8224 0980</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings
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.

Our easy parking, fresh, modern & involving premises and professional engaging team will greet you each visit, making your whole experience more enjoyable.

Prevention, we think, is better than Cure.

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Passionate about Healthy, Happy Pets

www.beechhousevets.com

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