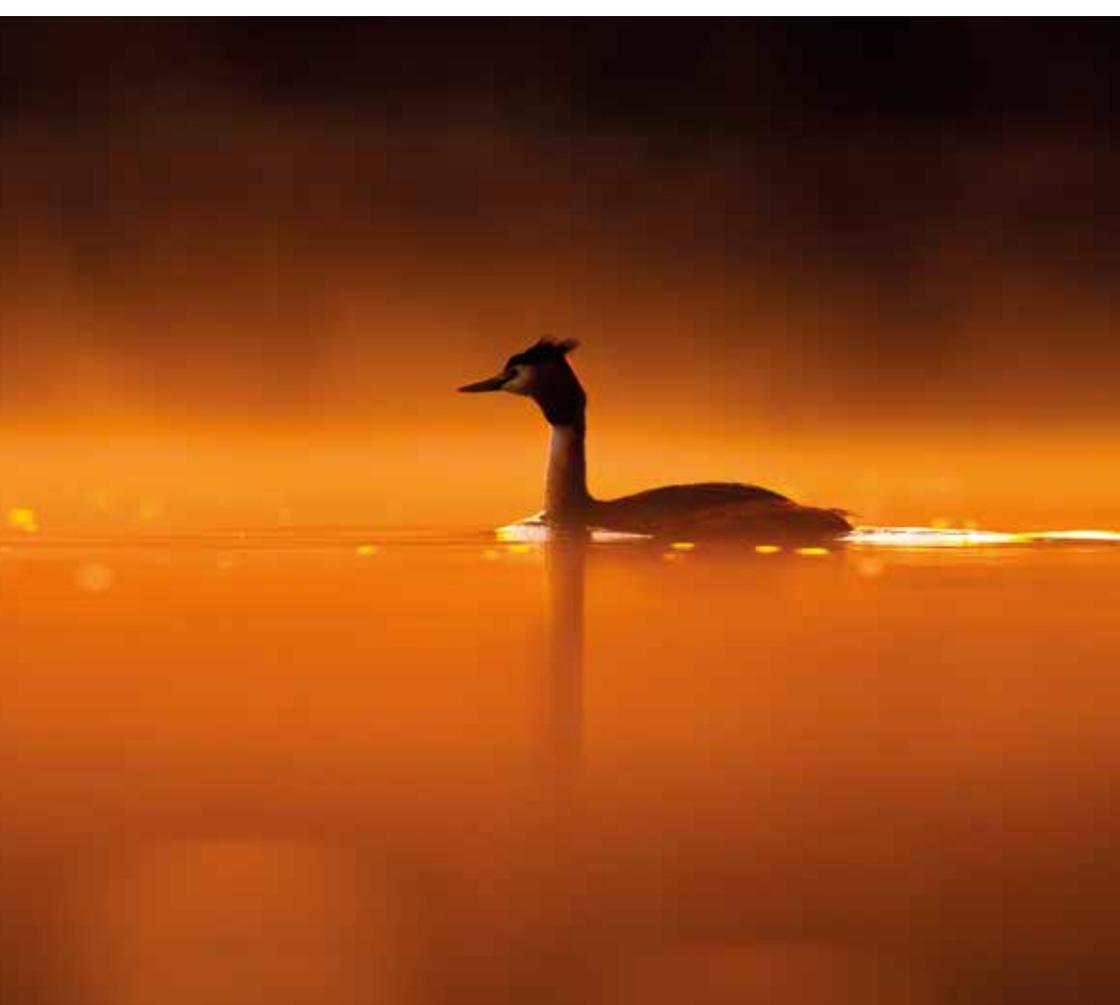


THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

SPRING 2024

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

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You are welcome to submit articles or images. Please contact the Editorial Team well in advance of the next deadline April 30 2024

Advertisers

Thames Ditton Today is delivered to an influential 5000 households throughout Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey. Contact Verity Park for rates for full page, half and quarter page advertising.

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Cover: A great crested grebe by Albany Reach just after sunrise March 2021. By Paul Furner @paulfurnerphotography on Instagram

www.residents-association.com

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com; subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at View, 34 High Street, Thames Ditton or Thorkhill Road Pharmacy, 94 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton. Or mail to Membership Secretary Peter Haynes at 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton KT7 0JJ. Thank you.

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THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

8.00 pm on March 19, 2024
at Vera Fletcher Hall

Agenda:

- Minutes of the 2023 AGM Meeting** and matters arising therefrom
- Chairman's Annual Report;** receive, discuss and adopt the Annual Report for 2023
- Accounts:** To receive the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023
- Appointments:** to receive nominations and appoint officers and an auditor: President, Chairman, Vice Chairmen, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer, Auditor
- Elections:** to adopt candidates for the Elmbridge Borough Council Election 4 May 2024
- Resolutions:** to consider any resolutions submitted in writing to the Secretary by 20 February 2024
- Guest Speaker:** Michael Tumilty Founder and Director of the Elmbridge EcoHub

President: Martin Wilberforce

7 River Avenue,
Thames Ditton 020 8398 4732

Vice President: Ruth Lyon,

11 Riversdale Road,
Thames Ditton 0208 398 3396

Vice President Tannia Shipley,

27 Lower Green Road, Esher 020 8398 2484

Surrey County Councillor: Nick Darby,

12 Basing Close, Thames Ditton 020 8398 2382

Thames Ditton Borough Councillors

Alex Batchelor, 12 Hayward Road, Thames Ditton	07710 943140
Caroline James, Laurel Cottage, 20 High Street, Thames Ditton	07970 672723
Elaine Sesemann, 14 Ennismore Gardens Thames Ditton	07801 943392

Hinchley Wood & Weston Green Borough Councillors

Gill Coates, The Oaks, Orchard Gate, Esher	020 8873 3040
Janet Turner, 2 Montgomery Ave, Hinchley Wood	020 8398 1565
James Crawshaw	07500 688632

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Chair: Graham Cooke 23 Ashley Road, Thames Ditton	020 8398 8509
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Membership Secretary: Peter Haynes 6 Onslow Gardens, Thames Ditton	020 8398 6019

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Health and Community: Karen Randolph Deepfield, Giggs Hill Road, Thames Ditton	020 8398 5005
Planning: Rhodri Richards, Ditton Cottage, Giggs Hill Road, Thames Ditton	020 8398 4962
Highways, Drainage: Andrew Roberts, 1 Boyle Farm Road, Thames Ditton	020 8786 6882
Flooding: Tony Thompson, Willow End, River Bank, Thames Ditton	07736 677671



THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

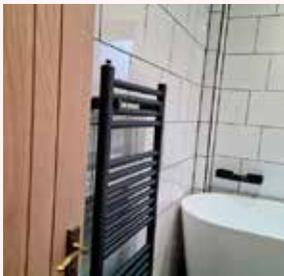
Tuesday 19 March AGM 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday 30 April 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

Tuesday 25 June 8pm - venue to be confirmed

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News from the Residents' Association to end-February



New editor for Thames Ditton Today

We are delighted that local resident Phil Mann has come forward to take on the editorship of Thames Ditton Today. He says: *“I am looking forward to it and would like to hear from anyone with ideas for articles or maybe competitions we can run”*. Phil can be contacted on the editor’s email address editor@residents-association.com



Our new editor, Phil Mann

High Street Christmas Fair

Although Christmas is a distant memory, we would like to thank everyone who came together to make the first High Street Christmas Fair since 2019 such a success.

We would also like to thank local builder Dominic Barrington Brown and his team for putting up and taking down 46 Christmas trees to light up the High Street.

It was lovely to see residents defying the torrential rain to enjoy the Fair and make the most of getting together to get into the festive spirit.



Christmas Light switch-on in the rain!

Thames Ditton needs a pharmacy – you can help

As discussed at the Residents’ Association Open Meeting in January and covered on the RA Website residents-association.com the RA is extremely concerned at the closure of Boots in the village. It is a great loss, particularly for those who rely on their medications being readily available locally.

It has been widely publicised that Boots is intending to close 300 outlets and it appears that Boots lost interest in this branch some time ago.

Thames Ditton High Street has had a pharmacy for as long as even the most long-standing residents can remember.



Alas, Boots is no longer our local pharmacy

Graham Cooke, the Residents' Association Chair, has been in contact with Boots, pointing to the impact of the decision and saying: *'We find it strange that Boots cannot seem to operate on a profitable basis in a village such as Thames Ditton'* and: *'We are confident that a better run pharmacy in this prosperous area could thrive commercially'*. The RA's letter and the reply from Boots is on our website www.residents-associaton.com

We have been lobbying widely for support for maintaining a pharmacy in the High Street.

We have written to the Director of Public Health in Surrey (Ruth Hutchinson), who is ultimately responsible for Health service provision in Surrey and Health Watch Surrey, both of whom are looking into the situation. We have also written to the Chair of Surrey County Council's Health & Well Being Board, Cllr Bernie Muir.

We need your support if there is to be any chance of getting Boots to reconsider. Please take the time to write to one or all the following:

Boots:

Julie Murphy, Head of Customer Experience julie.murphy@boots.co.uk

Melissa Comery, Senior Customer Manager Executive. office@boots.co.uk

Surrey Health Watch:
enquiries@healthwatchesurrey.co.uk

Cllr Bernie Muir
bernie.muir@surreycc.gov.uk

Please also complete the Surrey HealthWatch survey at www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/hwsypharmacygpxperience You can click through on the link from our website www.residents-association.com

Civility in local politics

Our local RA Councillor Caroline James recently appeared on BBC's Broadcasting House Saturday morning show with previous Home Secretary Jackie Smith and broadcaster Paddy O'Connell to discuss the recommendations of the Jo Cox Civility Commission.



RA Cllr Caroline James and Paddy O'Connell at Broadcasting House

The Commission has been working to find implementable solutions to make a difference to the issue of abuse and intimidation of elected politicians, which poses a very clear risk to our democracy. It has recently published a report with clear recommendations to address the issue and Cllr James talked about her own experiences at a local level. Elmbridge Borough Council has discussed the findings of the report and unanimously agreed to adopt all its recommendation. To read the report go to www.jocoxfoundation.org

As a community we will not always agree on the best way forward and people may hold different views of how to approach challenges. However, we are sure that everyone agrees that debate should be civil and abuse and intimidation has no place in politics at any level.

Thames Ditton Centre for the Community

There have been differing views about how best to secure the future of the Thames Ditton Centre in Mercer Close.

Following a review of the proposals for the future of the centre, the February Cabinet meeting of EBC approved the granting of a five-year lease to a Community Interest Company (CIC), Vital Village, to develop a community hub focusing on sustainability, health and well-being, and community gatherings. You can see the webcast and the minutes of this meeting on EBC's website www.elmbridge.gov.uk

This decision has been called in for review at the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March. We will keep you informed as soon as we have

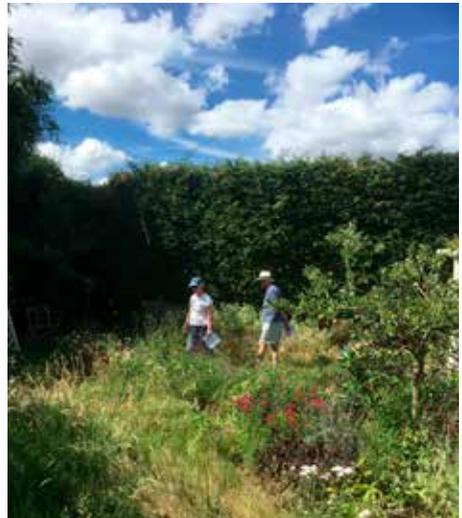
any further news. Keep an eye on our website residents-association.com

What everyone does agree is that they wish to see the Thames Ditton Community Centre as a thriving community asset at the heart of the village.

Secret Gardens of Weston Green 2024

This year's Secret Gardens event will take place on Sunday June 16, 1.30 - 5pm. This is always a wonderful community day, bringing everyone together to visit local gardens kindly opened by their owners. You can also enjoy a fabulous tea provided by volunteers at All Saints Church.

As usual we are looking for Weston Green gardens and their enthusiastic owners to take part. They don't have to be Chelsea standard. We just like to see something interesting, pretty or unusual. Everyone who takes part always says what a great day it is, so don't be afraid to join in. If you are interested, please contact Cllr Gill Coates on gcoates@residents-association.com



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April 16 - The Romanov Tzars

May 21 - Great English Cathedrals

June 18 - Army Music

July 16 - Roald Dahl

August 20 - The 18th Century Gin Craze

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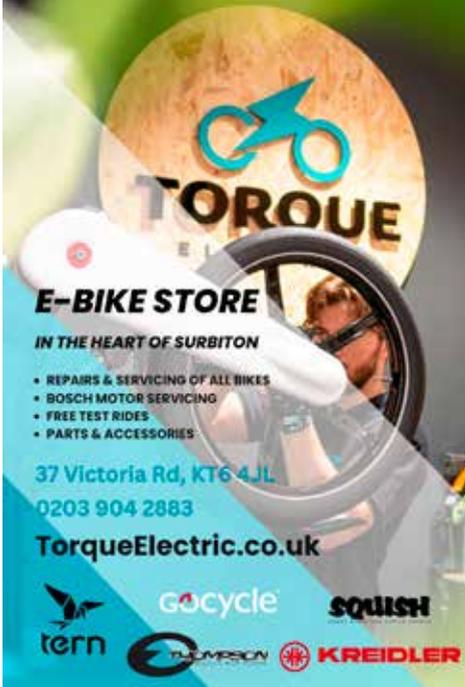
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Close links between Molesey Residents' Association and Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association

Councillor Elaine Sesemann is having regular update meetings with Stuart Selleck, the Chair of Molesey Residents' Association, so that both associations are aware of issues affecting all residents, particularly those who live in the East Molesey area of Thames Ditton Ward. The future of Hurst Pool and the proposed development at Molesey Ventures' site are examples of the subjects under discussion.

RA joins Green Elmbridge



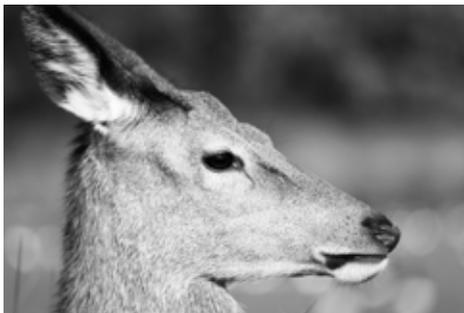
Green Elmbridge is the umbrella group in Elmbridge for groups and initiatives focused on spreading awareness of climate change

and what we can do to help us all lead sustainable lives. The RA has formally recognised the seriousness of climate change and the risks it poses to us all and has joined Green Elmbridge. We are uniquely placed to act as local '*climate change champions*' with our strong network of members, website, regular open meetings, quarterly magazine and our Nature & Climate Festival.

We have two residents, Alexandra Lexington and Stephanie Dare, acting as our representatives for Green Elmbridge and their role will be to liaise with them, attend their events and share ideas and initiatives we can introduce in Thames Ditton and Weston Green. If you want to know more, please contact Cllr Gill Coates on gcoates@residents-association.com

Nature & Climate Festival 2024 and Photography Competition

We will be holding our third Nature and Climate Festival over the weekend of September 7/8. Keep an eye on our website for details.



People's Choice winner 2023. Deer in Bushy Park by Sara Lano

As part of the festival we will be running our Photography Competition again, looking for photos of local animal life, plant life and our environment, so as Spring approaches get your cameras and phones out and start recording our changing seasons. More details in our next issue.

Exhibition of 2023's Festival Photography

Our Photography Competition sponsors, Killik & Co, in association with Elmbridge Museum, are hosting an exhibition of some of the photographs entered in our 2023 Nature & Climate Festival Photography Competition. It will run from March 13 for three weeks.

A total of 19 photographs - one from each entrant, including all the winning photos - will be on display in Killik's offices in Esher High Street. Please feel free to drop in any time during the working day to enjoy the photos. You will be made very welcome,

and you may get some green investment advice while you are there!

Thames Ditton Flood Group

The Residents' Association Thames Ditton Flood Group is making an application for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding to pay for temporary flood barriers for the high-risk flood area around Alexandra Road and Queens Road.

The Flood Group is active in helping people prepare for the worst and lobbying the Environment Agency to take action to try and keep at-risk properties safe.

All Saints Weston Quiz Night

The team at All Saints Weston are hosting a Quiz night on Saturday June 8. Further details will be available on the website:

allsaintsweston.com

New acoustic doors at All Saints Hall

In early January, acoustic partition doors were installed in the hall at All Saints Weston. The doors split the large room into two sound proofed areas which are already benefitting hall users and teachers who seek an additional smaller space for their classes.

Significant funding for the doors was allocated from Elmbridge Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), funds designed to benefit local communities. The community was grateful to the Local Spending Board for supporting this initiative.

New name for an old favourite

From March 1, the Home of Compassion in the centre of Thames Ditton and on the banks of the Thames will be known as '**Thames View**' (an Aria Care Community).

Paul Fenech, home manager at Home of Compassion, said: "*We are so excited for this new chapter. The name 'Thames View' feels much more reflective of life at the home and although the name might change, the hearts are still the same.*"



The 'renamed' Thames View

Planning

The former Guy Salmon site has been let to a company selling cars and providing a car wash to the public. Whilst Auto Sales is an established use, the car wash is not, in which case the company either needs to cease the car wash or apply for change of use. Immediate neighbours will be notified when / if a planning application is received for that. We will keep residents updated via our website residents-association.com

Cobra House, High Street. Permission was granted to convert the ground floor into accommodation, however there has been a breach of that planning permission with regards to the windows fronting the High Street. The EBC compliance team have informed the applicants that remedial steps are required.

We are still awaiting a decision on the application to develop the site at **Molesey Venture (2023/3525)**.

Thames Water in the High Street

In the winter edition we reported problems with the main sewer in Thames Ditton High Street together with the fact that Thames Water were declining to do anything about it. Thames Water is finally on the scene to deal with a blocked sewer and have been punping it out and ‘*cleaning and surveying the sewer*’. We hope this is the precursor to the company finally taking action to resolve the problems here. We will continue to keep the pressure on.

Ember Croquet Club – taster sessions



Do you enjoy being outdoors and want to try something new this spring? Ember Sports Club is hosting taster croquet sessions in April:

Tuesday 9,
Sunday 14,
Thursday 18

or Tuesday 23 - all at 2pm – they will start with a group game, which is easy to pick up and fun to play. To find out more email Simon Charrington croquet@embersportsclub.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

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

Molesey and District Antique Society (MADAS)

Esher College, Weston Green Road,
7pm on March 26, May 7, June 4

Ditton's Fair

Giggs Hill Green, Thames Ditton
Sunday May 12, from 1pm

Esher May Fair

Esher Green.
Saturday May 18, from 12pm

All Saints Weston Quiz Night

Saturday June 8.
See allsaintsweston.com

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday 16 June, 1.30 – 5pm

Weston Green Litter Pickers

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

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

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

All Saints Weston Community Lunch

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

Bereavement Café (open to all)

Third Tuesday of the month,
10.30 am - 12 noon. St. Nicholas Church Hall Call 020 8398 9641 for more information.

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Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon,
Talbot House Café, St Nicholas

Tiny Saints Bumps and Babies café

Fridays term time 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green

Residents' Association

www.residents-association.com

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Update from your Residents' Associations'

Thames Ditton Ward



Elaine Sesemann
TDWGRA



Caroline James
TDWGRA



Alex Batchelor
TDWGRA

Thames Ditton Centre for the Community

The Cabinet for Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) has approved the granting of a five-year lease to a Community Interest Company (CIC), Vital Village, to develop a community-hub focusing on sustainability, health and well-being and community gatherings. A CIC is a special form of social enterprise which must have community benefit as its focus and any profits must be reinvested. EBC believes this will give local residents a much more exciting and thriving village 'hub' than their current model of a centre for the over-50s, which has only ever opened on Monday and Thursday since it opened in 2010.

Leasing the centre to the CIC is forecast to save the council more than £500k over the five years of the lease which can be used to deliver other essential services. EBC is setting aside up to 20% of that saving for improvements to the building and support for Vital Village activities to help get it up and running.

The decision has been called in for review at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March prior to any change being

implemented.

Day Centre Service for the Elderly

Following the discovery of some health and safety concerns in EBC centres, it rapidly became evident that resources are spread too thinly over the seven centres which EBC runs (most other Surrey boroughs offer between one and three centres). This meant immediate closure for emergency training.

EBC is now building back safely, opening the centres in phases, only when there are safe staffing ratios and proper procedures in place. Walton and Cobham have been fully open since December 11. All other centres (Hersham, Claygate, Weybridge and Molesey) are now open two days a week on a rota and the aim is to move to four days a week each by the end of the municipal year.

In future, Wednesdays will be kept free for staff training/administration to avoid similar problems arising in the future.

Dementia Services

From April 2024, Elmbridge Dementia Services will be based at their new home at the Claygate Centre for the Community, Elm

Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates
TDWGRA



Janet Turner
HWRA



James Crawshaw
HWRA

Road, Claygate. During the coming weeks EBC will undertake £50,000 in adaptations which will improve Claygate Centre services and allow Dementia Services to run concurrently, but independently within the building.

Thames Ditton High Street enhancement grant

A grant of £5,000 has been allocated to Thames Ditton to enhance the High Street. Some of this will be spent on Christmas lights for 2024. Elmbridge have agreed to include Thames Ditton in their Christmas Lights programme from 2025. The balance of the grant will probably be spent on new cycle racks for the village or a new noticeboard.

Hurst Pool

Hurst Pool in Molesey is coming to the end of its useful life after almost 30 years. Several options were considered (refurbishing, extending or completely rebuilding) and residents and pool users were consulted. EBC does not have the money to extend or rebuild without finding enabling funding or borrowing substantial funds, neither of which are popular or feasible in the current climate.

The Cabinet has therefore agreed to set aside £715k for a major facelift for the existing pool, which will be carried out at some point over the next two years.

Public Space Protection Order

EBC is introducing a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) to help deal with boats that overstay their welcome on Elmbridge-owned riverbanks.

Most visitors follow the spirit of the Public Right of Navigation which allows visiting boats to moor for a short period and then move on. However, there is an increasing number of boat-dwellers who moor permanently, blocking mooring opportunities for other river users and sometimes creating litter, river pollution and other anti-social behaviours. Enforcement of the law on our rivers is the responsibility of the Environment Agency, but this PSPO will give additional powers to EBC to move on boat owners who are causing problems on Elmbridge-owned riverbanks. The PSPO covers Ditton Reach and City Wharf, Albany Reach, Cigarette Island, Hurst Meadow and Cowey Sale.



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Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor



We are rapidly approaching Happy Easter!
I am thrilled with the parking changes on Watts Road and the resurfacing of the road, both of which have made a big difference.

On Giggs Hill Road the section up to the Angel Road junction is to be resurfaced next year and the 20mph zone is to be extended from the cricket club to the Portsmouth Road.

I have also agreed that the 20mph zone will be extended along Summer Road from the village towards the Speer Road mini roundabout. I have asked for the road markings there to be renewed.

On Embercourt Road I am delighted that the section from the railway bridge to the Vera Fletcher Hall has been resurfaced. The road markings at the junction with Hampton Court Way are to be repainted, as



Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby
are the markings at the Speer Road/Station Road Roundabout.

Council Tax is to be increased by 4.99%, the maximum allowed before a Surrey-wide referendum is required.

Thames Water have continued to cause us big problems, they seemed incapable of carrying out any repair works in the High Street. However, just as we go to press there is work there to 'clean and survey the sewer'. We can only hope that this leads to the action which is clearly needed to resolve the ongoing problems.

Finally, my very grateful thanks go to High Street resident Libby MacIntyre and former resident Sandra Dennis for their efforts in editing this magazine over the last ten years!

Nick Darby
Surrey County Councillor for the
Dittons
0208 398 2382
07719 728725



Road resurfaced by the Vera Fletcher Hall



HJC

HIGHER VALUES



It's an art

Thank you to all the local Thames Ditton children who took part in our winter art competition, it was a tough decision with so many excellent entries! After much deliberation our winner is 10 year old Molly. She was thrilled to receive a voucher from View Gifts.

WINNER! WINNER! WINNER! WINNER! WINNER! WINNER! WINNER!

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Swifts: masters of the air



A scream of swifts Credit: Albany stock photo

Have you ever given any thought to those black, scimitar-shaped birds that grace our skies for a few brief months each summer?

These are Common Swifts (*Apus apus*), a migrant species that visits us each year to breed, arriving in Thames Ditton suddenly in late April and leaving equally abruptly for Southern Africa at the end of August.

Swifts are often confused with Swallows and House Martins, but although they are superficially similar they are not closely related and have very different life strategies. Swifts are sky-dwellers, spending the vast majority of their days and nights on the wing. They feed on invertebrates,

usually at quite high altitude and may travel considerable distances every day to find food or avoid inclement weather.

Historically Swifts would have bred in crevices in cliffs and trees. These days they are almost entirely dependent on small holes in buildings. They visit their nest sites relatively infrequently and enter them at speed, so many homeowners are oblivious to their presence. But Swifts are long-lived birds and it is thought some nest holes have been used for decades.

Swifts were recently added to the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List, with the UK population thought to have declined by

about 65% since 2000. The precise reasons for this decline are unclear but it is likely to be a combination of factors, including a lack of invertebrate prey and the loss of nesting sites.

Building modifications such as loft conversions along with modern construction methods mean that many nest sites have been lost. Scaffolding erected in the breeding season can inadvertently block nest access. For some reason Swifts struggle to exploit new nesting opportunities and once the nest is lost they may move on permanently. They will use nest boxes, particularly where these are close to existing colonies, but their adoption can take a few years.



A juvenile swift on a tree stump. Credit: RSPB

It is unclear how many active Swift nests there are in Thames Ditton and we want to know. There is certainly a population, maybe 10-20 pairs, in an area centred on Alexandra, Queens and Summer roads. Low-flying groups of screaming Swifts are a strong indication of local breeding and this behaviour is witnessed almost daily in this area of the village in the early summer.

But are there more colonies we don't know about? We are keen to get a feel for where there are Swift nesting sites in Thames Ditton and Weston Green. We hope that by establishing where they are, we can

try to protect nest sites when building or improvement work is planned. Depending on interest from residents, we might also consider whether to establish nest boxes to help strengthen the local population.

A number of community Swift Action Groups have been formed around the country and they have clearly demonstrated that population decline can be reversed through vigilance and nest box provision. We could do the same here.

April will soon be upon us. At this early stage we are keen to gauge local interest in Swifts and are asking residents to keep an eye out for two things:

- 1) Groups of low fast flying swifts (usually screaming!) anywhere beyond the Alexandra/Queens/Summer Roads known population
- 2) Swifts seen entering nest holes anywhere in the area.

If you want to join in the TD&WGRA Swift Survey this April to August, please send details of your sightings to Simon Riley at simonriley41@gmail.com or Gill Coates at gcoates@residents-association.com and we will come and check them out. And if you are already monitoring Swifts or interested in joining this project, let us know.

Simon Riley



RSPB Swift nest box

The Garden of Remembrance



The Garden of Remembrance waiting for spring

While King Henry I of England was mourning the death of his son and heir, killed in a shipwreck in the English Channel, a tiny village in Surrey was looking forward to the completion of its new church.

Further along the river at Windsor, a castle was settling in, and in Cheapside a baby named Thomas Beckett had just been born. The year is 1120 and, on the other side of the world, the Chinese were enjoying their newly invented game: dominoes. The tiny village was called...Thames Ditton, and the new church, St Nicholas'.

For the next 400 years it watched the

world go by. It witnessed a further seven King Henrys and saw the first bricks of construction laid at Hampton Court. And this alone might well qualify St Nicholas' as something sacred; something to be treasured. The garden attached to this local treasure is certainly to be celebrated. In such a crowded county it is rare to find nearly an acre of walled garden. And to find one that's open to the public without an entrance fee is almost unheard of.

But what do we know of this lovely garden? As anyone who owns a garden will know, they don't look after themselves. So, who makes this one feel so charming?

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For the last 25 years local resident Mary Turner has been giving up her free time to look after it. When she first volunteered she wasn't even interested in gardening, but her father had once helped in the garden and as he'd recently died, she thought it might be a nice connection to do the same.

And that's the point. Gardens have restorative powers. This one certainly does. You don't have to be a gardener to enjoy the magic of this tranquil place. Last year, local resident Marina Freitas was struggling with the loss of her son and found the garden to be a great solace, watching the wildlife and resting on a bench surrounded by plants. She got chatting to Lyn Postle, one of the volunteers who looked after the garden and decided to help. Again, she didn't consider herself a gardener. But working with nature and friendly people helped her enormously.



Marina and Lyn tending the garden

Marina is not alone. Since the turbulence of the pandemic, so many people I have spoken with enjoy strolling around or sitting on the benches and taking a moment in the

garden. In recent years, doctors in the NHS have acknowledged the soothing powers of gardens. Something gardeners have known for years.

Last year Mary handed the head gardener's hat over to Lyn Postle. And Lyn's excellent plant knowledge has paid dividends. There are now many beautiful additions including the winter flowering plants that give off the most beautiful fragrance. Lynn and Marina can often be seen working in the garden along with Martin Perrin. Some local employers too, like Havas Life Medicom, have been volunteering whenever they can. Their help makes a big difference to a garden run on a shoestring. But the garden could always use an extra pair of hands.

Whether you're a gardener or not, maybe the garden can help you. Please do get in touch. It might be the helping hand you're searching for. It certainly has a good track record of wrapping its arms around you the minute you walk through the gate.

For details about helping in the garden email parishoffice@stnicholaschurch.org.uk

Nick Turrell



The Lenten Rose reminding us Easter is nearly here



Your Residents' Association



Nature and Climate festival weekend. Enabling people to help the planet

Successfully opposed a supermarket (Aldi) on the old Guy Salmon site

Pressed SCC to improve maintenance of Highway trees

Website maintained as resource for all residents

High Street Christmas trees & lights

Supported residents' objections to inappropriate development

Supported Thames Ditton High Street retailers

Continuing pressure for maintenance to prevent flooding at Esher station, and to resolve other long-standing flooding problems

Lobbied for bridge maintenance at Esher Station bridge

Road resurfacing in Thames Ditton and Weston Green

Regular Open Meetings to engage with the community on important topics

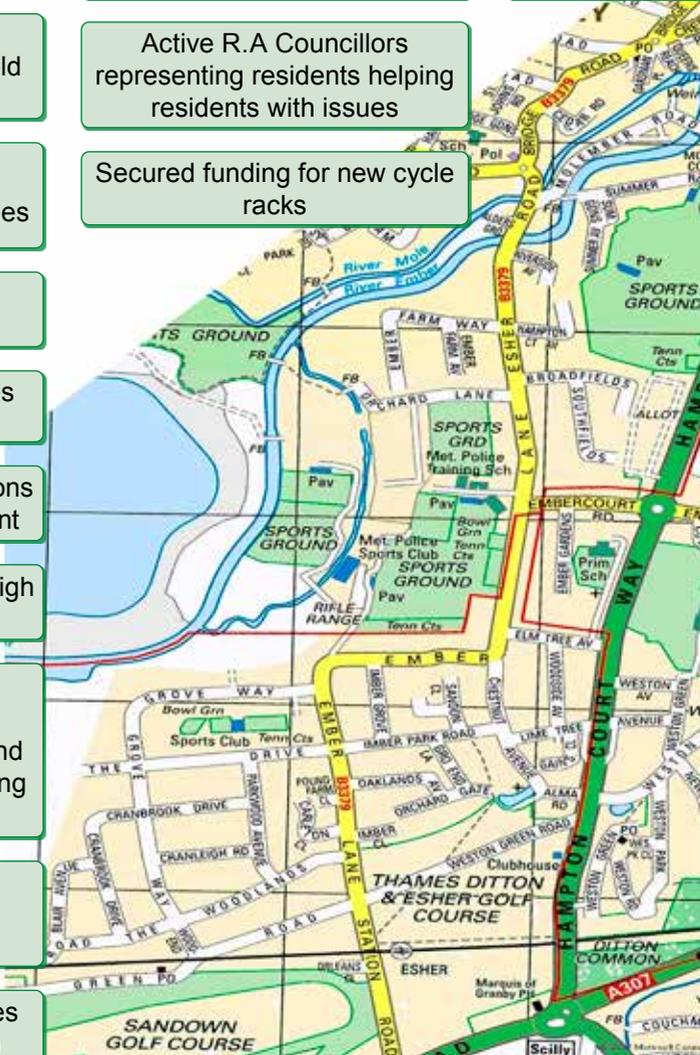
Notified residents of key planning applications

Active R.A Councillors representing residents helping residents with issues

Secured funding for new cycle racks

Constant vigilance Conservation Belt and our Thames

Twitter residents



tion in Action 2023-2024



ance to protect
Areas, Green
ames Riverside

to keep
informed

Property Flood Resilience
drop-in day

Secret Gardens of
Thames Ditton 2023

Keeping pressure on Thames
Water to replace the broken
sewer in the High Street

Responded to Boundary
Commision consultation on
Surrey Boundaries

5000 copies of Thames Ditton
Today distributed quarterly in
Thames Ditton, Weston Green
and Molesey

Water Safety afternoon at
Albany Reach

Supported Long Ditton's
application for Village
Green Status

Flood Action Committee liaison
with Enviroment Agency and
Thames Water

Planted spring bulbs,
maintained flower beds at
Fountain roundabout

Supported The Theatre at the
Vera Fletcher Hall

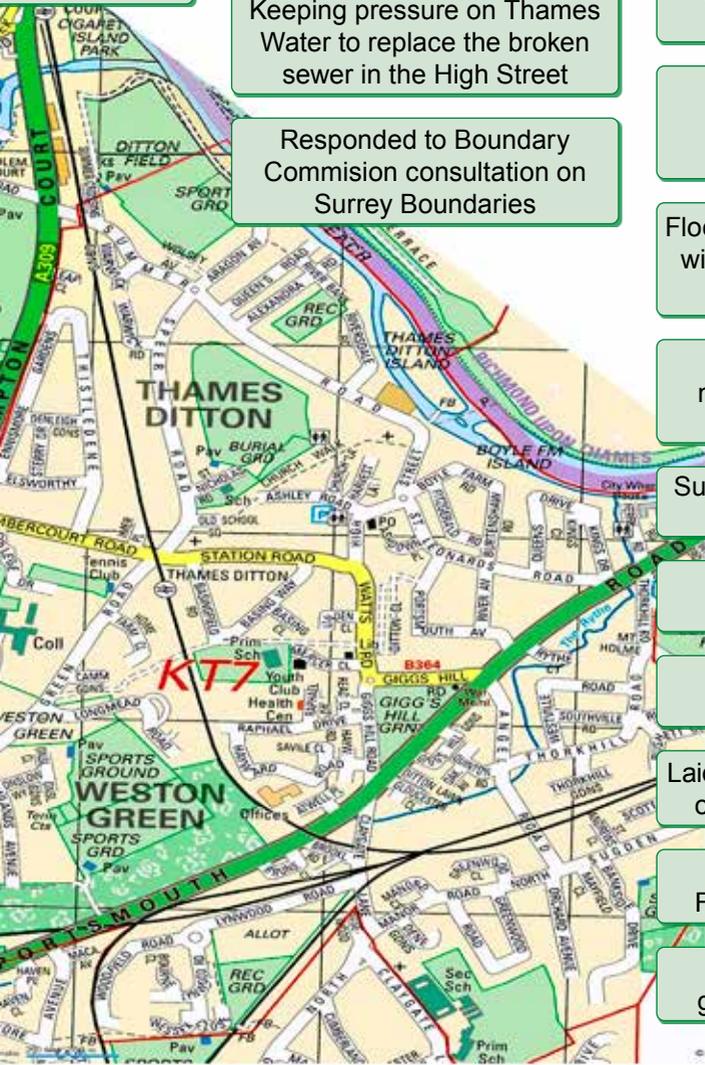
Litter Picking

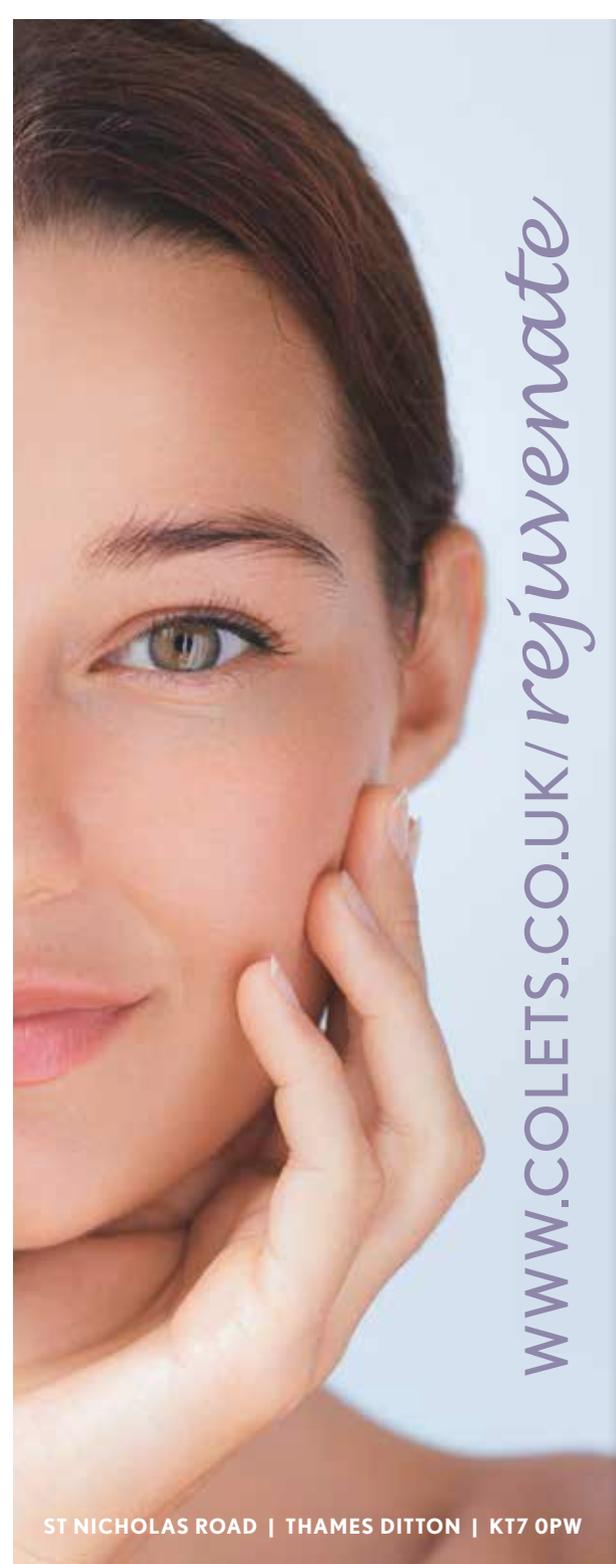
Supports monthly
Farmers' Markets

Laid wreaths on War Memorials
on Remembrance Sunday

Continued support to
Foodbank collection points

Responded to local
government consultations





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PS Is your garden a secret garden? If so, contact Cllr Gill Coates
(020 8873 3040 / gcoates@residents-association.com)



Bringing the Elms back to Elmbridge



Volunteers from Elmbridge Tree Wardens have been helping out with planting trees across the borough. In particular (and excitingly) we have recently planted some disease-resistant elm trees in Molesey.

Most of us won't remember elm trees, because they were wiped out by Dutch elm disease in the 1970s. By 1980, most mature English Elm had died. But new hybrids are now becoming available which are resistant to the disease. People across the country are planting them to help restore our lost elm tree-landscape. For example, this month the Hampshire Forest Partnership team is distributing over 1,200 elms all over Hampshire.

Who are the Tree Wardens?

The Tree Wardens scheme is a network of volunteer tree champions around the country coordinated by the Tree Council – a national charity working with organisations, government and individuals to care for trees and our planet's future. Our goals are to make trees matter to everyone, plant more trees - of the right kind, in the right places - and provide better care for all trees of all ages.

Elmbridge Tree Wardens is a local group operating as part of the Surrey Tree Warden Network. We've been active for a few years now and have mainly focussed on helping Elmbridge Borough Council with tree planting schemes. This winter for example, we helped EBC plant about 600 new trees in open spaces in Walton-on-Thames, as well as planting other trees and hedges in conjunction with various landowners.



Tree Wardens looking after a new planting in Walton-on-Thames. Photo: Rod Thorn

In the summer we try to help with keeping new trees healthy by encouraging watering, although a lot of new plantings have suffered from recent dry summers.

We have also helped out with Surrey Library's tree give-away scheme and maintain our own tree nursery in Walton-on-Thames where we grow saplings from seeds collected by volunteers.

There are only a small number of us, and we'd love to see more people getting involved. If you'd like to help, email us at elmbridge@surreytreewardens.org.uk.



Planting elm trees in Molesey Photo : Mick Rock

This winter, Elmbridge Tree Wardens Rod Thorn and Judy Moss together with interested friends and neighbours joined Howard Gregory – our Surrey-based elm expert – in planting two *Ulnus Wingham* disease-resistant elm trees in Nielson Field, West Molesey.

Last winter the Nielson Family, who originally gave the field to the public, donated an elm tree to celebrate the late Queen’s Platinum Jubilee. Local residents, including Tree Wardens wanted to add more elm trees to Nielson Field.

Rod organised a ‘Go Fund Me’ page which raised more than £200 - enough for two trees sourced from Howard, plus stakes and protection. So, on November 26 at 2pm the new trees were planted with help and advice from Howard and have joined the original one to help **‘Bring the Elms Back to Elmbridge’**.

Rod Thorn



English elms used to be a common sight

Contact details

Elmbridge tree Wardens:

email elmbridge@surreytreewardens.org.uk

facebook page www.facebook.com/elmbridgetreewardens

Surrey Tree Wardens:

Website www.surreytreewardens.org.uk



Tree Nursery at the Tree Wardens Centre in Walton-on-Thames. Photo: Rod Thorn

Painshill: where the walk is a work of art



Five Arch Bridge with bluebells

Louise Russell, who lives in Weston Green, writes about her time as a trustee at Painshill Park in Cobham.

In December, I completed my nine-year term as a trustee at Painshill. The world was a very different place in 2014: David Cameron was Prime Minister (well, perhaps not so different) Kate Middleton was pregnant with Princess Charlotte and we had never heard the word Covid.

Painshill was a different organisation then too. In my first weeks Painshill won an award for being the country's finest 'Hidden Gem' and that was how it was seen: a beautiful Grade 1 Listed 18th century landscape garden tucked away in Cobham, little known and attracting fewer than 75,000 visitors a year.

Since then, the growth of Painshill has been significant. In 2023, 195,000 visitors from across Surrey and beyond were welcomed to the gardens, underlining Painshill as an historic landscape of genuine national importance and bringing significant economic benefit to the local community.

By way of background, Painshill was created in the naturalistic style between 1738 and 1773 by the Hon. Charles Hamilton, a forerunner of the style made famous by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. A painter, plantsman and imaginative designer, Hamilton's garden at Painshill was at the forefront of 18th century landscape design and was renowned across Europe at the time.

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Over two centuries Painshill passed through several owners, ultimately falling into dereliction after the Second World War, until it was recognised by a group of local historians who initiated a campaign to save the historic garden. With great foresight Elmbridge Council purchased (and still own) the 158 acre site and in 1981 the Painshill Park Trust was set up to rescue and recreate Hamilton's masterpiece.

The restoration of Painshill is a remarkable achievement. Thanks to years of hard work from a dedicated team of trustees, staff and amazing volunteers and the support of many generous donors, the landscape and garden buildings continue to be restored to their former 18th century glory.



Bacchus flowerbeds

I joined Painshill just as the Crystal Grotto was restored from a destroyed wreck to the sparkling centrepiece it is today. Other restoration projects followed. In 2019, the final and perhaps finest garden building, The Temple of Bacchus, was completed. Thanks to the support of Elmbridge Borough Council and many generous individuals who love Painshill, sufficient funding was raised in 2022 to replace the Woollett Bridge and in 2023 to repair the Hermitage.

'Where the walk is a work of art' sums up the unique experience of a visit to Painshill. A serpentine lake is surrounded

by a landscape of ever-changing moods and views, some of which you may recognise from TV programmes such as Bridgerton. Many visitors find Painshill a safe and restorative place and, with memberships increasing, it seems the Painshill gardens are now embedded deeply within the local community.

The next phase of development at Painshill will be particularly challenging as climate change and the impact of flooding are damaging aspects of the landscape as well as forcing site closure and loss of income. As repair work intensifies and costs rise, it is a constant challenge for a small independent charity to nurture and safeguard the gardens for future generations to enjoy.

If you haven't visited Painshill recently, please do come in 2024. There is a full events programme and every season there is always so much for the whole family to see and do. Painshill is also a great place for holding off-site meetings, group outings, weddings and other smaller celebrations. The spring flowers are glorious at the moment too.

If you are interested in heritage, nature or just being part of the Painshill community then you might think about becoming a member or even joining the amazing band of volunteers or simply supporting the work of the Trust by making a donation at www.painshill.co.uk/support-painshill

Louise Russell



Ruined abbey and swans

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- 8.00pm Live Stream Meditation

TUESDAY

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- 10.45am Restorative Pilates
- 12.00pm Rehab Improver Pilates
- 1.00pm Rehab Pilates
- 6.45pm Meditation



WEDNESDAY

- 9.30am Mixed Level Pilates
- 10.45am Stretch Release & Relax
- 12.00pm Chair Pilates & Yoga
- 5.15pm Mixed Level Pilates
- 6.30pm Mixed Level Pilates
- 7.45pm Stretch Release & Relax

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Meet your distributors – Steve Ennis



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Steve delivers to Westville Road.

How did you become a distributor?

I live in Thorckhill Road but was asked to do Westville Road by Ruth Lyon more than 15 years ago. I was told that I was “*the chap we need*”!

How and when did you start living in Thames Ditton?

In 1971 I got married and our first house was in Herne Road, Long Ditton. 18 months later we were expecting our first child and saw our current home was for sale. The river Rytte runs alongside the garden and insurers worry about the flood risk, but it is in a deep culvert and we’ve lived there 52 years and never had a problem.

A brief ‘potted biography’?

My family initially lived in Roehampton and then Wimbledon. I went to Donhead Prep School and then St Joseph’s College in West Norwood, which was a bit of a trek to get to. Then, in the year I was doing my ‘O’ Levels, my parents decided to move to Broadstairs in Kent. Suddenly I was at a school in Ramsgate. I managed to pass the essential exams, left school and went to work.



Steve Ennis – distributes to Westville Road

My parents were attracted to the beaches at Broadstairs. It was on the beach, when I was 18, that I met the girl who would eventually become my wife.

I only stayed in Kent for three years and then moved back to Wimbledon where I still had friends.

My first and only job was for a private bank in Fleet Street. I started as a trainee clerk and during my career worked in tax, investments, lending and loans and, when they opened a branch in St James, I moved there and managed foreign exchange. At various times my father, brother, sister, and other family members worked for the bank – at one point more of us than there were managing partners! When I retired it was very strange not to go to work after 40 years in the same job.

Family Life

The 'girl on the beach' and I stayed in touch, got married in 1971 and have four children and nine grandchildren.

The extended family attends the Church of the Holy Name in Arbrook Lane, Claygate. In the past we went to Our Lady of Lourdes church on the Hampton Court Way. The current priest is Polish and has had the job of amalgamating these two churches. He is a busy man! Congregations diminished during Covid and people got out of the habit of attending services but I would miss it. I come out of church feeling better than when I went in.

What hobbies and activities do you enjoy?

Retirement enabled me to indulge my passion for cars. I love driving! For 15 years I volunteered as a driver for The Princess Alice Hospice, taking people to their day centre. Some wonderful passengers who were enlightening in so many ways. Covid stopped that.

I drove the courtesy cars for Wimbledon Tennis Tournament. Passengers included Venus and Serena Williams, Martina Navratilova and Leyton Hewitt.

For five years I worked for Guy Salmon's Prestige car hire based at Lancaster Gate. I delivered top of the range models all over the South of England. One summer's day I was driving to Hastings in a Mercedes SLK sports car. Roof down, sun shining and heading for the sea. I was in heaven and getting paid for it!

Needless to say, I have owned several classic cars over the years. I sometimes buy at auction and improve them. My first car was a 1934 MG. My favourite, and the one I wish I had kept, was a 1968 Mark 2 Jaguar.



Steve's favourite car

Quick Fire Questions

Favourite Pub?

We like to go down to The Angel for a lunchtime snack. I see that The Plough and Harrow, Long Ditton has re-opened. In my youth we used to drive from Wimbledon out to 'the country' to go there!

Favourite Holiday?

We have visited family in New Zealand at least six times and it's a spectacular country. I loved our visit to Venice, which is truly a place like no other. My daughter sang with her choir in St Marks Basilica while we were there.

Favourite Music?

I love choral music - especially singing Faurés Requiem in St George's, Hanover Square.

Favourite Shop?

When the grandchildren were small, I would tell them that we were going for a walk to 'Grandpa's Favourite Shop'. We would walk round the corner to the Guy Salmon showroom and look at all the Jaguars. I miss that shop!

Wildlife Aid Centre



Aerial photograph of the new lakes in place providing wildlife habitat at the new WAF site

At the 2023 Nature and Climate Festival held in Thames Ditton we heard about the ambitious plans of Leatherhead-based wildlife charity, Wildlife Aid Foundation (WAF). We asked them to share them with TDT...

Since it began, back in 1980, the Leatherhead-based wildlife charity Wildlife Aid Foundation (WAF) has become one of the UK's busiest wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centres, today responding to more than 20,000 wildlife-related incidents each year.

WAF is one of the longest established wildlife centres in the UK, championing British wildlife for more than 40 years and returning hundreds of thousands of animals back to the wild to give them a second chance at life. With the help of more than 350 volunteers, we provide year-round care to thousands of orphaned and injured wild animals every year. We also operate a

popular outreach and education programme, iDot (which stands for "I Do One Thing"), which helps people take action to make the world a better place for us and our animal neighbours.

Sadly, in June 2022, after a routine clinical scan our founder, Simon Cowell, much-loved face of the TV series 'Wildlife SOS', was devastatingly diagnosed with an aggressive form of terminal cancer. His passion for conservation and antics on 'Wildlife SOS' secured him a place in the nation's heart and an MBE for services to wildlife. Simon has devoted his life to saving wild animals that could not help themselves.

Now, as his last wish, he is asking for your help to continue his legacy and protect the lives of generations of wildlife to come. The Wildlife Aid Centre (WAF) currently operates

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from the wildlife hospital which Simon built, over many years, in his back garden, but soon we will need to move. For the last two years we have been developing an exciting new project which will one day become our new home: the Wildlife Aid Centre. Just half a mile away from our current site we have been transforming 20 acres of impoverished floodplain into a wildlife corridor with vital habitats. In time, accessible boardwalks, viewing platforms and hides will offer visitors access across the habitats, enabling them to learn what wildlife lives where and how to replicate those habitats in their own green spaces.

As well as the habitats, we are building a brand-new wildlife hospital and a visitor centre, offering year-round engagement for all our visitors, enabling everyone to discover how to protect, support and live alongside our wildlife. The new hospital will be a centre of excellence for care and rehabilitation, enabling us to treat even more injured and orphaned wildlife. We will also deliver unique Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses for veterinary students and professionals, and share our extensive knowledge with animal welfare organisations across the UK. The visitor centre will boast a variety of captivating

exhibits, a friendly café and gift shop, and two large, flexible learning spaces.

The centre will cost £12.8m to build. WAF has already contributed £1.2m, with another £1.9m from our reserves committed to the next phase of the development. If you feel you could support the Wildlife Aid Centre, visit www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/thewildlifeaidcentre for more information, or visit www.wildlifeaid.org.uk/simons-last-wish to donate to our fundraising campaign and help secure the future of the charity for generations to come.

“The Wildlife Aid Foundation grew out of my overwhelming passion to protect wildlife. For over 40 years, we have been rescuing, rehabilitating, and releasing wild animals; now, dealing with more than 20,000 wildlife emergencies, every year. I have come to realise that over 90% of wildlife incidents are caused by the ignorance or greed of humans. As a species, we have a lot to answer for. I am convinced that the Wildlife Aid Centre will forge the way in growing our knowledge, changing our behaviours and making all of us embrace the responsibility we have towards the wildlife with whom we share this world.” – Simon Cowell MBE, CEO & Founder



Artists Impression of the new WAF Visitor Centre and Community Hub design



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A fun and friendly training session

Have you ever thought of playing bowls?

A couple of years ago I read an article in this magazine about taking up the game of bowls at Ember Bowls Club and plucked up the courage to give it a try. I had a look on the website of Ember Sports Club in Grove Way, Esher (of which Ember Bowls Club is a part) and found lots of useful information. I then contacted Sylvia, the person who deals with new bowls recruits and beginners.

After learning more about the game a free trial coaching session was arranged to get me started and further free coaching, by qualified coaches, was available if required. This was a chance to try a new activity in peaceful surroundings whilst meeting other people from the local community and I was assured that it is a very easy game to learn!

I quickly gained confidence and began to join in the mix-ins (otherwise known as “roll-ups”). There were plenty of very helpful members around to offer advice and I found that my game improved quite

quickly. I was soon able to join in friendly matches against other clubs.

Ember Bowls Club has a reputation for being a very welcoming and friendly place and I subsequently learned that they had recruited a total of 28 new members over the past two years. I was beginning to understand why! Anyone is welcome to come and meet some of the bowlers and perhaps roll a few bowls up the green.

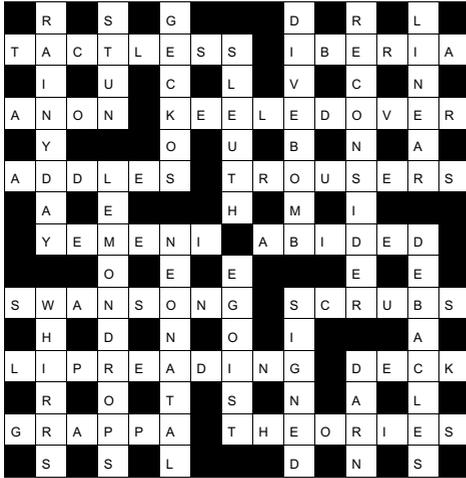
To agree a date and time just contact Sylvia: sylviatheaker@ntlworld.com
01932 788701 or 07778 034793

Gill Ovington



Players 'reading the head'

Solution to the Winter Crossword



Congratulations to the senders of the correct entries opened in the shuffle.

Each wins a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

Andrew Howarth

Cumi Mahadeva

Mary Bowen

Crossword Compilers Wanted

For five years Howard and Bob Cruthers have done a wonderful job with the crossword.

Now they would like to step back and invite someone else to have a go.

If you would like to try your hand at crossword compiling please contact

editor@residentsassociation.com



Brighten up your Garden!

Is your garden in need of a makeover?
From planting plans to a simple injection of colour

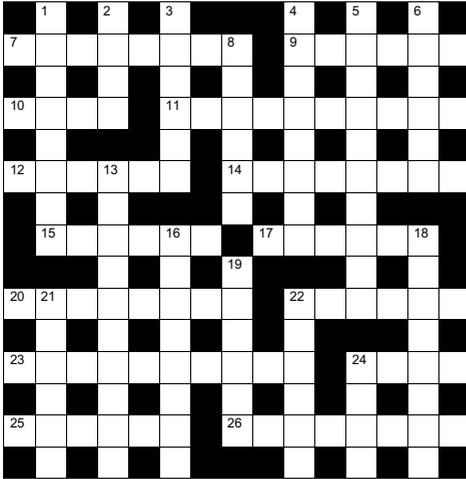
Green Room Garden Designs can help
020 8398 5703

Anna 07801 921166 – Kate 07956 641881
RHS and Merrist Wood Qualified

Peace

Hope

Spring Crossword



by **Howard and Bob Cruthers**

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 30 April 2024 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

Names of the winners will be published in the Summer edition, unless otherwise requested.

ACROSS CLUES

- 7 Ocean (8)
- 9 Fracas (6)
- 10 Brother (4)
- 11 Disparagement, after failure; off fruit? (4, 6)
- 12 Spectres (6)
- 14 American (anag) – kept private (2, 6)
- 15 Biffs (6)
- 17 Ignores, pretend ammo (6)
- 20 Agree to, sport? (4, 4)
- 22 From Bilbao, for example (6)
- 23 Turn, to insurrection? (10)
- 24 Balladeer (4)
- 25 Peter Pan creator (6)
- 26 Impressive buildings (8)

DOWN CLUES

- 1 Decrease in organ size (8)
- 2 Manoeuvre into a space (4)
- 3 Stagnation (6)
- 4 Mask, or gloves? (8)
- 5 Remedies (10)
- 6 Milk curd cheese (6)
- 8 Relative (6)
- 13 Drawings for a planned film (10)
- 16 Badmouths (8)
- 18 Hide, nuts? (8)
- 19 Foy, Danes or Rayner? (6)
- 21 Allowable margin of freedom (6)
- 22 Brigand (6)
- 24 Surety, remove water (4)

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	General Enquiries:	07895 762100 (Mon-Wed) www.cheer-elmbridge.org.uk
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993
Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for the community	Mon & Thurs	0208 3985921
Thames Ditton Dementia Centre	Nikki Harding	01372 474526
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Homesupport Elmbridge	Thomasina Breslin	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	0208398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Vanessa Corby	1stThamesDittonBrownies@gmail.com
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Emily Wattret	3rdthamesdittonbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group		membership@westongreenscouts.org.uk
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides		2wgguides@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Vanessa Corby	2ndThamesDittonGuides@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)		1wgbrownies@gmail.com
3rd Weston Green Brownies		3wgbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Lizzie Owen	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Chris West	chris.west@ajax.org.uk
Dittons Scout Group	Stuart Jack	07971 479740
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Girlguiding in Thames Ditton and Weston Green		dittonsdistrict.hjh@gmail.com
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Giles Andre	020 8979 1994
Bereavement Café	St Nicholas Church Hall	020 8398 9641
Thames Tots (Kings Church, Speer Road)	Abby Kelly	Office@Kingschurch.com

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Alison Cruthers	07957 347170
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Cercle Francais d'Esher	Brigitte Tiller	01932 860842 brigitte@ptiller.com
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Ditton Bridge Club	John Dagnall	02083984463
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Secretary	enquiries@dittons.org.uk
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263

Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146
Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
English Folk Dancing Club (Thames Ditton)	Jane Ford	07857 826668
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleighan Rugby Club	Piers Cushing	07790 003731
Old Cranleighan Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus club, Hinchley Wood & the Dittons	Edmund Woolley	020 8398 3581
Probus Club, Sandown	Julian Rye	01932 976994
Probus Club of Molesey	Roger Marlow	0208 398 5460
Probus Club of Claremont	George Cameron	020 8224 1392
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Stragglers Running Club	Andy Howarth	07941 242348
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	0208 398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Steve Aukett	secretary@tdltc.com
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Neal Brooker	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Geoff Dryden	07813 805 645
		Geoff.Dryden@hotmail.com

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance	Mrs Brenda Denby	0208 398 6054
Ember Choral	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Jean Billett	01372 465961
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	0208 398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Gill Vickers	020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Oxshott & Cobham Music Society	Cherry Eddy (Membership)	0208 398 4377
		cherryeddy102@gmail.com
Soroptimist Women	Jean Smith	07770 417814
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

OTHER

Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Alison Black	08456 528 529
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Weston Green Conservation Area Advisory Committee wgcaac@outlook.com

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings



THEATRE IN THAMES DITTON

at the
Vera Fletcher Hall
Spring Programme 2024

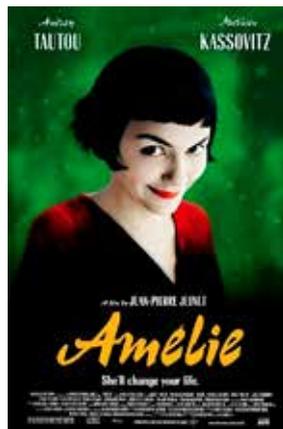
Friday April 5, 7.30pm

Film Night

Amelie

Amelie, an innocent and naive girl in Paris, with her own sense of justice, decides to help those around her and along the way, discovers love.

£8 (20% discount for groups of 6 or more)

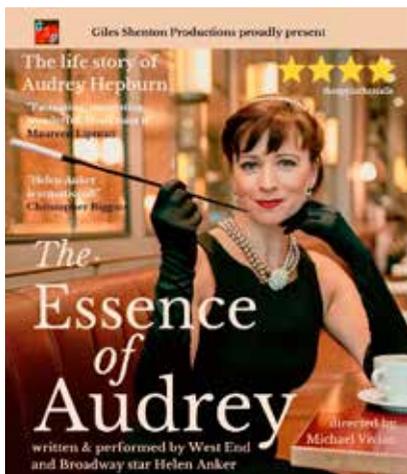


Saturday April 20, 7.30pm

The Essence of Audrey

Have you ever wondered what is behind the seemingly idyllic life of Audrey Hepburn? Glimpse behind the icon in this new biopic play written and performed by Helen Anker.

£15



Saturday May 18, 7.30pm

Cobham Band

Come and hear some delightful pieces from our 'local' brass band!



Film Night

Friday June 7, 7.30pm

£8



ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN EXTENSION, LOFT CONVERSION, OUTBUILDING, OR ANY OTHER ALTERATION OR ADDITION TO YOUR PROPERTY?

Thames Design and Build provides architectural design and/or construction services to clients across Surrey, with over 80% of our projects being Elmbridge based.

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Most people in need of care would prefer to stay in their own home. Our home care visiting service is carefully tailored to suit your loved one's needs, can help them retain their independence and stay connected to friends, relatives and pets.

Our caregivers are carefully selected. We find excellent people with the right mix of skills, experience and a true caring nature, so that they can provide consistently superior home care.

- *Companion & Social Care
- *Personal Care
- *Dementia & Alzheimer's Care
- *Post-Hospital Stay Care
- *Palliative Care
- *End of Life Care



Find out more about how a Visiting Angel can help

Call: 0203 143 4007 or 07923 157 020

www.visiting-angels.co.uk/northsurrey

northsurrey@visiting-angels.co.uk

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