

THAMES DITTON TODAY

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

SUMMER 2017



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The Magazine of the



Thames Ditton
& Weston Green
Residents' Association

THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

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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.

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 £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, 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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Photo credit: *Thames Motor Yacht club (see page 33)*

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RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

About the Association

Founded in 1934 our Association is a strong, locally based non-party-political organisation concerned with protecting the amenities and furthering the interests of residents. We work to preserve and enhance the best in our attractive environment and the quality of life of everyone in our community. Through regular meetings, social activities, our magazine and website we keep in touch with residents' views and we raise and spend funds for the benefit of the community, from tree and bulb planting to contesting unacceptable development projects. With six Residents' Councillors covering the two electoral wards we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Council working with other Residents' Councillors to ensure that decisions are based on the needs of local communities and on good management rather than on party politics.

Our Residents' County Councillor, Nick Darby, represents our views at Surrey County Council.

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The Next Residents' Association Open Meetings are

Tuesday 20 June 2017 8pm – All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green

Tuesday 19 September 2017 8pm – Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

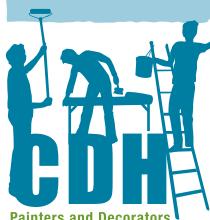
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News from the Residents' Association to end-May



At the AGM Graham Cooke was elected Chairman of Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association. Graham has supported many local residents over the past few years as planning convener. Retiring chairman Rhodri Richards has taken on the planning role.

There was success for residents' candidate Nick Darby when he was elected to represent the Dittons and Weston Green at Surrey County Council. This follows the retirement of Peter Hickman after 12 years serving the community (see page 12).

Dittons Fair thank-you to Peter Hickman

The Dittons Fair on 7 May was blessed with sunshine and a fine time was had by

all. It concluded with a presentation to Peter Hickman by Suzan Baker, Executive Chair of the Dittons Scout Group. She thanked him for his excellent service to his local communities and presented him and his supportive wife Julia with gifts of thanks.

Suzan also welcomed Nick Darby who, together with Chris Burton, from Gascoigne-Pees Esher Branch and Joe from Mercedes Benz, Brooklands, drew the winners of the Lucky Programme.

Be vigilant – Bus contracts up for renewal

Peter campaigned hard last year to keep our bus services. However, all Surrey County Council bus contracts are up for renewal in August. We do not have any



Chris Burton, Joe, Nick Darby, Peter Hickman, Julia Hickman, Suzan Baker.
Front row Scouts, Cubs and Beavers: Lauren, Rufus, Sebastian, Cameron and Alfie.

details at present but keep a look out for any updates and remember the best way to save our bus service is to use it - what journey can you make by bus?

Local Plan consultation

Elmbridge Borough Council received around 3,800 responses (50,000 comments) to its consultation on the strategic options for meeting development needs. It will publish a report on issues raised in due course. The general election and delays to Government policy have delayed work on the Local Plan and EBC will be issuing a revised timetable once the situation is clearer. For more information visit the EBC website www.elmbridge.gov.uk

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

The Secret Gardens of Weston Green will take place on Sunday 25 June from 1pm to 5pm to coincide with the Flower Festival weekend at All Saints. Plans are well under way and there are some very interesting gardens. Please look out for notices and buy tickets!



Gerald and his amazing flowers at All Saints

Tickets (£5 per adult; children under 16 are free) will be available in various venues – The Co-Op in Weston Green; Marneys Inn; All Saints Church; The Stitchery and The Secret Garden in Thames Ditton.

Please contact Cllr Nigel Haig-Brown at nhaig-brown@elmbridge.gov.uk tel: 020 8398 4060 for further details or Tannia Shipley (contact details on page 5).



Weston Green litter pickers

Litter pickers making a difference

The Weston Green Litter Picking group is going strong and two litter picks have taken place already. The group meets regularly at Marneys at 10.30am every first Saturday in the month. To join the group please telephone or email Tannia Shipley (020 8398 2484 tshipley@elmbridge.gov.uk)

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers meet on the third Saturday of every month at the George & Dragon at 11am and returns at 12 noon. For more details contact Tricia tdwgra@the-blanks.co.uk

Milbourne pond

The monitoring holes we installed have given us a clear picture of the water table and demonstrate that there is an option to re-profile Milbourne Pond to give a pond with year-round water at a minimum depth of about 70cm.

The next steps are a site visit with Elmbridge Council officers to review the options and with their permission we will seek quotes and detailed drawings on how the pond could be re-profiled.

Popular new Area Dean

The Church of All Saints Weston Green was packed on May 10 as members of the congregation showed their support for their popular Vicar, the Revd Phillip Johnson, who has been appointed Area Dean for the Diocese of Guildford.

The Commissioning Service was led by the Ven. Paul Bryer, Archdeacon of Dorking.



Ven. Paul Bryer and Revd Phillip Johnson

Trip to the Holy Land

If anyone is interested in joining the Deanery Pilgrimage to the Holy Land touring through Bethlehem, Jerusalem and Galilee from February 13-24 2018 please get in touch with The Revd Andrew Cowie at St Nicholas Thames Ditton or The Revd's Phillip Johnson or Jackie Richardson at All Saints Weston who will be leading the trip.

Planning

The RA has written to support the application for a **cycle rack next to Thames Ditton station** (2017/1115) that has been championed by Peter Hickman, provided it is put in the right location and further thought is given to the proposed materials.

We have supported residents in objecting to the latest plan to build an office block on the edge of **Colets playing fields, land east of 74 to 128 Speer Road** (2017/0818) and highlighted the Inspector's comments for the previous plans to build houses on the site (rejected at appeal) which continue to apply.

The Co-op on Hampton Court Way won its appeal to extend opening hours to 11pm.

Ashley Road Car Park – four hours free

The Residents and Liberal Democrat-led Elmbridge Borough Council have introduced four hours free parking on Saturdays to help support our local shops and foster community spirit. Please make use of it but remember, you will still need to put a ticket on your car!

Parking proposals

The parking proposals for Surrey, including proposals for St Leonards Road, Station Road, Weston Avenue etc. (see *Thames Ditton Today* Winter edition page 8) are delayed due to issues elsewhere. The current proposals will be advertised for consultation soon. Please be aware that no new parking restrictions will be possible as part of this current review. Any new proposals will be considered well into the future.

All Saints, Weston Green, late Summer Fair

Plans are under way for All Saints late summer fair. It will be 'Blasting Off' into

outer space on Saturday 23 September 12.30-3pm. Put the date in your diary and prepare to come along for an afternoon of out of this world fancy dress, fun and games. There will be prizes to be won!

Messing about on the river...

Not all messing about on the river is in boats. There is a Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) group now based in Thames Ditton. It is for local people to meet regularly to go paddle boarding and improve their skills.

It meets every Wednesday 7pm, from April until late October and one day of the weekend at Albany Reach.

To find out more visit the Facebook Group page – Dittons Paddle Boarding.



Paddle boarders in Thames Ditton

Dates for your diary

Secret Gardens of Weston Green

Sunday June 25, 1-5pm



Community Flood Plan – Open Meetings

Wednesday July 5 2017, 7.30pm

Ye Olde Swan, Summer Road, Thames Ditton

Tuesday July 11 2017, 7.30pm

Vera Fletcher Hall, Embercourt Road, Thames Ditton

Browse Environment Agency Plans 7.30 pm Presentations: 8.00 pm

Farmers' Market

George and Dragon car park from 9-1pm Saturdays; June 24, July 22, August 26

The All Saints Late Summer Fair

Weston Green, Late Summer Fair will be ‘Blasting Off’ into outer space on Saturday September 23 12.30-3pm.

Meet Nick Darby – our new County Councillor

You may already have met our new Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons, Nick Darby, walking with his wife Anne and black Labradors Ella and Poppy in Stokes Field, or one of the other commons or green belt areas. Nick has been following the progress of Elmbridge Borough Council's Local Plan consultation from the start and will be looking for any opportunity to help preserve the local Green Belt'

Alternatively, you may have chatted with him as he rode local buses whilst doing some personal research in advance of Surrey County Council's renewal of bus contracts. That is a subject dear to the hearts of all those who campaigned last year against the withdrawal of the bus service from Weston Green and Thames Ditton.

Locals turned out in force to elect Nick, our Dittons and Weston Green Residents candidate, following the retirement of Peter Hickman, who had held the role for the past 12 years. Nick was elected with 57 per cent of the vote - the highest vote count of the nine Elmbridge divisions.

When we caught up with him just after the election he said: "*I know that Peter is going to be a hard act to follow but I am inspired to see what he has been able to do locally. And I am fortunate that he is able to help me get up to speed with the role – I am really looking forward to it. I must say a big thank you to everyone involved in the election, it is a real team effort.*"



Nick, Anne, Ella and Poppy

Nick and Anne have lived in Basing Close since moving to Thames Ditton 23 years ago. *"It has been a wonderful place to bring up a family and we really appreciate all the amenities it offers, from our busy High Street to the quiet of Giggs Hill Green. I do appreciate the issues of running small businesses such as those in the High Street and I have been involved with the support organisation StartUp Britain to help them avoid being saddled with leases they cannot manage."*

Giggs Hill Green is very close to Nick's heart. He started to get involved with the cricket club when his youngest son played there. Now he has flown the nest Nick has qualified as an umpire and can be seen umpiring on the Green most summer weekends. And sometimes, I am told, having a quiet drink in the Angel opposite!

Libby MacIntyre

Peter Hickman – reflections on 12 years as a County Councillor



When I became your Surrey County Councillor 12 years ago I must confess I was left wondering: what happens now? I had no contact from my predecessor, no hand over – nothing! The first item that surfaced was a new bus stop layout at Winters Bridge, which had a very detrimental effect on parking outside the shops. In conjunction with Chris Bachmann, of Bachmann's Patisserie, I managed to get Surrey CC to change the layout to provide short-term parking spaces. I regard this as my first success as it ultimately increased sales at the shops. More recently I managed to get short term parking in the centre of Thames Ditton village and again this has been a great success for the shops.

The next battle was again about parking in the village. SCC came up with a complicated scheme that proposed two residents' parking zones and extensive parking restrictions. This scheme resulted in more than 500 different views, with no two respondents expressing similar views. Consequently this scheme was abandoned!

The problems of parking in the village are being addressed again and current proposals will be advertised for consultation very soon. There is a delay due to problems in other parts of Elmbridge. Unfortunately, there are many more cars that do not have off-street parking than there are spaces available on the roads.



Peter and Julia Hickman at Dittons Fair

The best part of being a councillor is being part of the Allocation Scheme, where every year a sum of money is allocated to good causes in each division. This has meant that I have been able to give £138,000 to hundreds of local projects. I have given money towards building projects at Ajax Sea Scouts, the Girl Guides in Church Walk, The Ditton's "shack" as well as the Long Ditton Youth Project, library improvements, play equipment at schools and so on. I have supported arts project, particularly at All Saints Weston, and art and craft activity in all of our schools.

Many problems in the Dittons have been painfully slow to resolve but once solved the time spent has been very rewarding. Our new councillor Nick Darby has taken on the task and I wish him well for the future. He will need all of our support given the current financial climate.

**Peter Hickman
Surrey County Councillor 2005-2017**

Thames Ditton continues to bloom



The next phase for Thames Ditton In Bloom will be unveiled shortly. This summer, for the first time, we will see hanging baskets throughout Thames Ditton High Street.

The High Street Hanging Baskets, (which will see 20 hanging baskets on lamp posts, businesses and residences), has been made possible by a generous donation from the Thames Ditton Farmers' Market which chose to help fund the project as part of its pledge to support the High Street and the wider community.

Fellow hanging basket supporters include Dominic Barrington-Brown (who is developing the High Street site originally occupied by Hawkes Ginger Beer factory) plus the Home of Compassion and Elmbridge In Bloom. The initiative is also being made possible by an ECIF grant for the one-off installation of the brackets from Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC).

Thames Ditton In Bloom, originally launched in April 2016 to coincide with the Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations, saw volunteers planting out Thames Ditton Station. It is being extended for summer 2017. Once again the local Men In Sheds team has made the wooden planters for



Volunteers planting at the station

the railings, doubling the number from 10 to 20 on platforms one and two. These will be joined by three shiny new green wheelbarrows.

On May 14 all these, and the floor standing planters, were filled with a variety of blooms including dahlias, geraniums and begonias, by the Thames Ditton In Bloom gardening team; green fingered residents – all volunteers – from the village.

Says Thames Ditton In Bloom organiser and Residents' Association Councillor, Tricia Bland: *"I am thrilled that our local community has so enthusiastically embraced the idea of making Thames Ditton an even more attractive and welcoming place for residents and visitors. This has brought together a host of community groups including members of*

our local WI, Men In Sheds, RA members, schools and others.”

The organising team includes residents Andrew Pratt and Nicky Turner. Nicky is in charge of the watering team and she welcomes new volunteers to help keep the floral displays flourishing.

Thames Ditton In Bloom has fantastic support from EBC working closely with officers from the Green Spaces team, including Laura Richardson and Adam Cheek who even gave up their day off to help plant out.

The initiative would not be possible without the ongoing support of South West Trains, who have continued to back Thames Ditton In Bloom. We hope this collaboration will be continued with the new train operator.

Thanks also go to Scott Cooper, the

station manager, Gary Vickers who mans the ticket office and Al Halbooby in Café Noir, who in addition to dispensing coffee with a smile also helps with the watering!

The germination of Thames Ditton in Bloom began over 20 years ago when resident John Lyon had the brilliant idea of planting out all the verges, green spaces, commons and ponds of Thames Ditton and Weston Green, making the villages abundant with daffodils every spring. That's in excess of 10,000 blooms! And since the boundary changes, the bulb planting is being extended to areas of East Molesey in the Thames Ditton ward.

The team has even more ambitious plans. For more information on Thames Ditton in Bloom and to become a volunteer contact Tricia by email: tdwgra@the-blanks.co.uk

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The Environment Agency versus floating pennywort



Residents in Thames Ditton and East Molesey might be interested to learn the background to the two rivers that flow almost parallel to each other prior to joining a hundred metres or so before entering the River Thames opposite Hampton Court Palace. The reason for the configuration of the two rivers was the construction of the Island Barn Reservoir, inaugurated in 1911, which involved the re-routing of the River Mole, which rises near Gatwick Airport, splitting the river into two halves. One, the River Mole, flows north of the reservoir; the other to the south is the River Ember.

The two rivers worked well for over half a century, draining a large part of Surrey, but in September 1968, Northern Surrey and specifically East Molesey suffered significant flooding from the River Mole. This spurred The Thames Conservancy, later to be called the National Rivers Authority and subsequently the Environment Agency (EA), to initiate a major flood alleviation scheme whereby the River Ember became the main channel for the River Mole as it flowed through East Molesey.

The River Mole stayed very much the same but the River Ember grew from a small stream just a few metres wide and under half a metre deep (in the summer) to a major flood channel 25 metres wide and three metres deep, with high side walls and the capacity to take around three times the flood flow East Molesey experienced in 1968.

In the almost 50 years that have elapsed since the flood causing the alleviation works to be undertaken, Molesey has been spared from flooding from the Rivers Mole

and Ember. However, a new challenge has emerged in the form of floating pennywort, *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*, which is described by the EA as '*a strong contender for the title of worst aquatic weed in the UK. Spreading across our waterways like a lush green carpet it is one of nature's enemies, growing up to 20cm a day and suffocating native plants and fish. Originally from America, it is an invasive plant that arrived in the late 80s and has since caused havoc in the environment. As well as having a harmful impact on the biodiversity, it is restricting our flood alleviation structures*'.



Floating pennywort... a new menace

The problem with floating pennywort is that during the summer it clogs the waterways and prevents the rivers from doing their work properly, potentially causing flooding by blocking up the existing weirs, locks and facilities on our rivers.

The EA has attacked the problem by sending employees in boats to physically drag the pennywort from the rivers, but each summer the task becomes more arduous and it became obvious that extra measures had to be taken to mechanise the removal process.

It was also clear that building developments of the past century had made access to the

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rivers quite limited and better access for large equipment would be needed to solve the potential problems. This is why, in early 2017, work commenced on installing ramps and reinforcing retaining walls along the banks of both the Mole and Ember.

The work is being undertaken at Wilderness Weir – on the River Mole near to the children’s playground – Island Barn upstream, and Island Barn Weir – on the River Ember near the Police Ground Spa Meadow on the River Ember adjacent to Aldersgrove on Esher Road, East Molesey, Zenith Weir on the River Mole near the BP station on Hampton Court Way, and Molemberry Weir on the River Ember where the river falls to the level of the Thames.

The EA expects the construction of the ramps to be completed by the summer so that the removal of the pennywort can be undertaken safely and efficiently and



New ramp at Spa Meadow

reinforcement of the banks can be completed in time for the seasonal increase in flow of the rivers as autumn approaches.

TD & WGRA on behalf of local residents will continue to monitor the works being undertaken by the EA and will report on any new developments that might impact upon the safety and security of everyone living near our local rivers.

Tony Knockles



simon simpson

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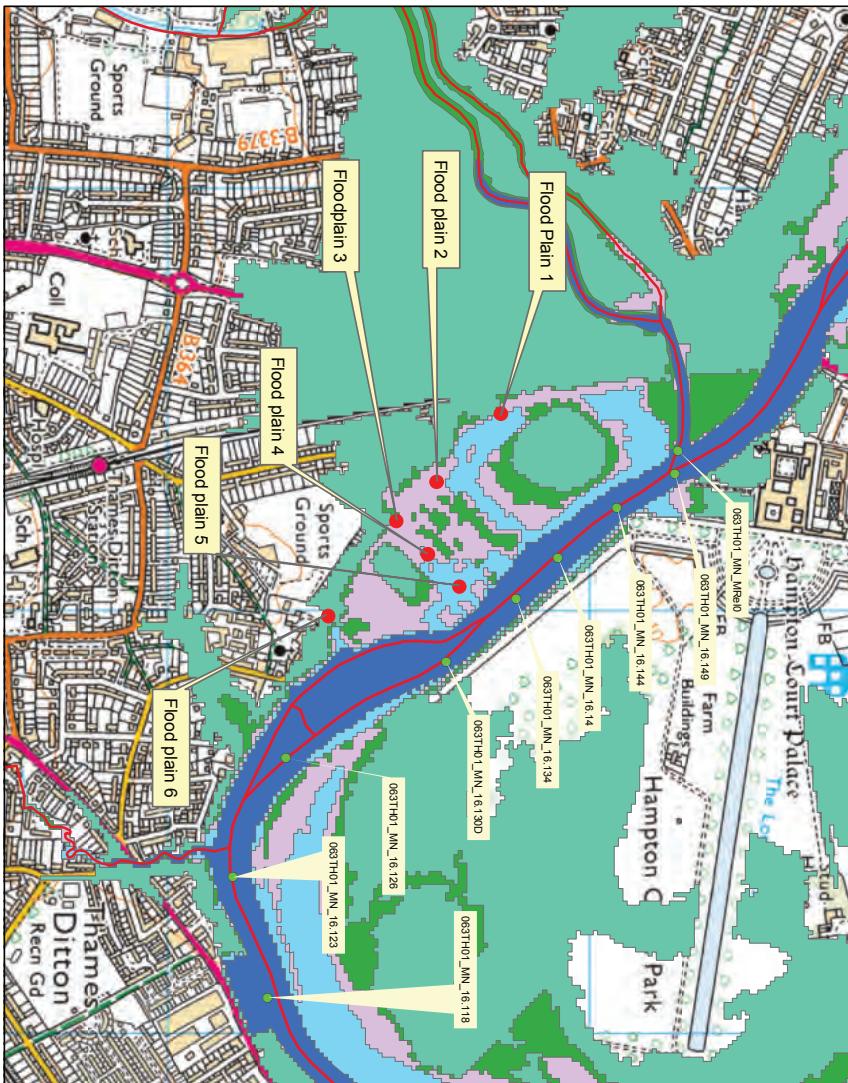


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**Detailed FRA Map centred on KT7 0QS
Created on 19 August 2016 REF: SU_1710_01**



Legend

- Node
- Main River
- 20% AEP flood extent
- 5% AEP flood extent
- 2% AEP flood extent
- 1% AEP flood extent
- 0.1% AEP flood extent

AEP = Annual Exceedance Probability
The probability of a flood of a particular magnitude, or greater, occurring in any given year

Flooding in Thames Ditton – keep up to date



Three years ago the River Thames at Thames Ditton reached the highest recorded level in recent times and put a number of properties along Alexandra Road and Thames Ditton Island at risk of flooding.

Since then the Environment Agency (EA) have continued to work on the River Thames Scheme and now some useful hard data is available from their detailed computer model. This article gives an update on that scheme and also on other activities relevant to Thames Ditton residents. Some people said that our previous article was a bit too technical – hopefully this is a bit simpler!

First, a recap. The River Thames Scheme aims to reduce the flood risk for areas around the River Thames from Datchet to Teddington. It includes three new channels to improve the conveyance or movement of water flow, increasing the capacity of three weirs by installing extra weir gates at Molesey, Teddington and Sunbury, and various ‘other features’. The area covered includes some 15,000 homes and businesses at risk from flooding. An important requirement is not to increase the flood risk anywhere else. Full details are available on www.gov.uk/riverthamesscheme

One of the ‘other features’ was free ‘Property Level Products’(PLP) that the EA were offering to residents whose houses were most at risk of flooding. In Thames Ditton they initially considered that 263 properties potentially met their criteria (i.e. these would be affected by a 2% chance of flooding in any given year – a 1 in 50-year flood event). Of these 93 were prioritised

as being at highest current flood risk and were offered a property survey. Of these properties, 58 owners accepted the offer of a survey; 49 were of a construction type suitable for PLP measures; and 29 have actually had measures installed. From local discussions we have had we are not convinced that this process was handled efficiently and we will be trying to make sure that next time it will be better!

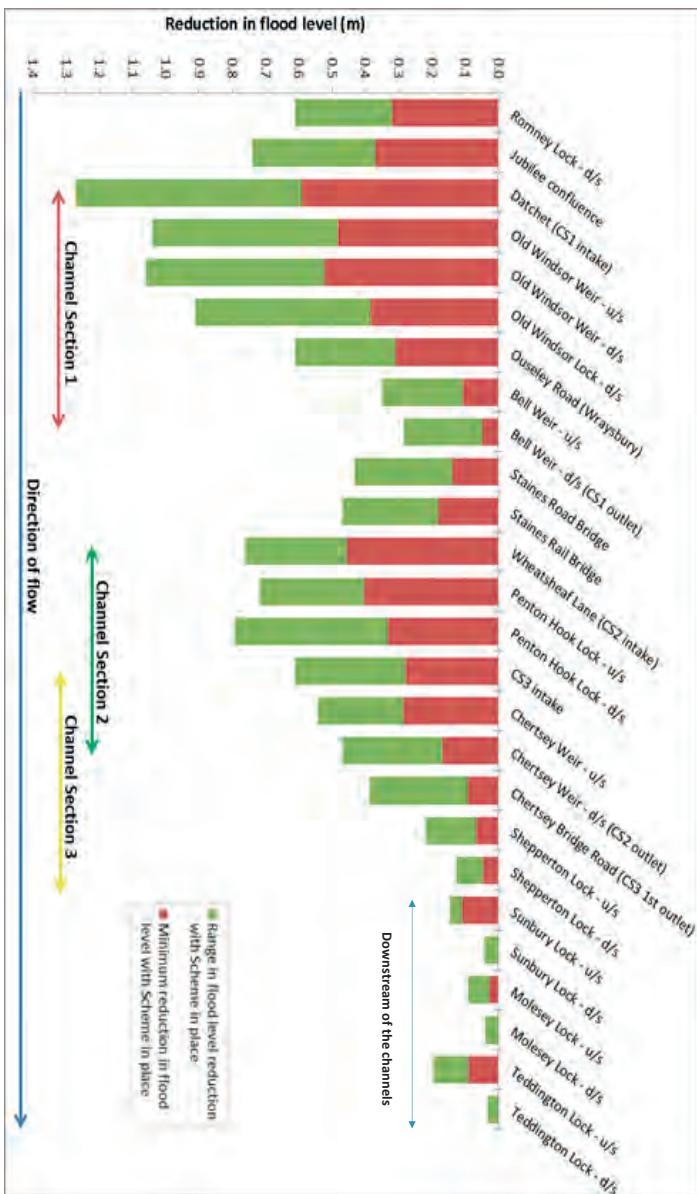
Second, it seems that the EA have had a welcome change of heart and are now more actively considering providing schemes (Community Level Defences) that will protect an ‘at risk’ community rather than just – or as well as – individual homes. It seems much more sensible to first stop the floodwater escaping from the river and down roads, rather than allowing this to happen and then trying to stop it getting into individual houses!

The Flood Risk Assessment Map opposite shows that the area of highest risk in Thames Ditton is between the River Ember and Ye Olde Swan pub, bounded nominally by Summer Road and, of course, including Thames Ditton Island. The Rivers Mole and Ember had significant flood prevention measures installed in the 1970s and a future scheme for Thames Ditton should take that into account. It should be noted that the map shown was produced before the current modelling exercise and hence may change in detail when it is updated.

The computer modelling that the EA have undertaken is not fully complete but the main part – looking at flows and water

River Thames Scheme Flood Level Information

We are committed to building a scheme which will not make flooding worse elsewhere, and we would be unable to gain approval for a scheme which is likely to do so.



Results are from the latest 1D-only model with the RTS Concept Design for the range of design floods.

Using the most up to date modelling technology, we have modelled a large range of scenarios of different types of flood event on the River Thames which ensures that all likely scenarios can be planned for. This has demonstrated that, on average, everyone will benefit from the scheme.

levels along the river under various rainfall scenarios – has been completed.

Based upon the current modelling, the bar chart opposite shows the average benefit expected to be achieved by the scheme all along the river sections covered.

Put simply, the lower the bar goes below the top line, the better the level of protection will be.

It is immediately clear that the benefit around the area of Thames Ditton, shown on the right, is small compared with most of the other areas. The smaller bar chart overleaf shows specifically the expected benefits in terms of reduction in flood level for different probabilities of flooding, related to the river height measuring station close to Thames Ditton Island.

It is interesting that the 1 in 10 and 1 in 20 year chance (as experienced in 2003 and 2014) show virtually no improvement in flooding protection. For the 1 in a 100 year flood magnitude, there is an expected benefit amounting to just a few centimetres less flooding.

To get this in perspective, 2014 saw the river level at the end of Alexandra Road increase in height by about three metres over the normal summer level. The 1 in 50 level used for Property Level Protection is about 60 cm higher than this and the 1 in a 100 year flood level is about 1.5 metres higher than that in 2014 and so a few centimetres will make no real difference.

Overall these small benefits depend very much upon the use of the Thames Barrier to keep the river level below Teddington Weir down sufficiently to allow the increased flow to discharge – as happened in 2014, when it was used over 40 times to help with potential river flooding. EA have said (informally) that the Government is committed to continuing this use of the

Barrier until 2034 at the latest, by which time (after consultation with affected communities) alternative measures should be in place.

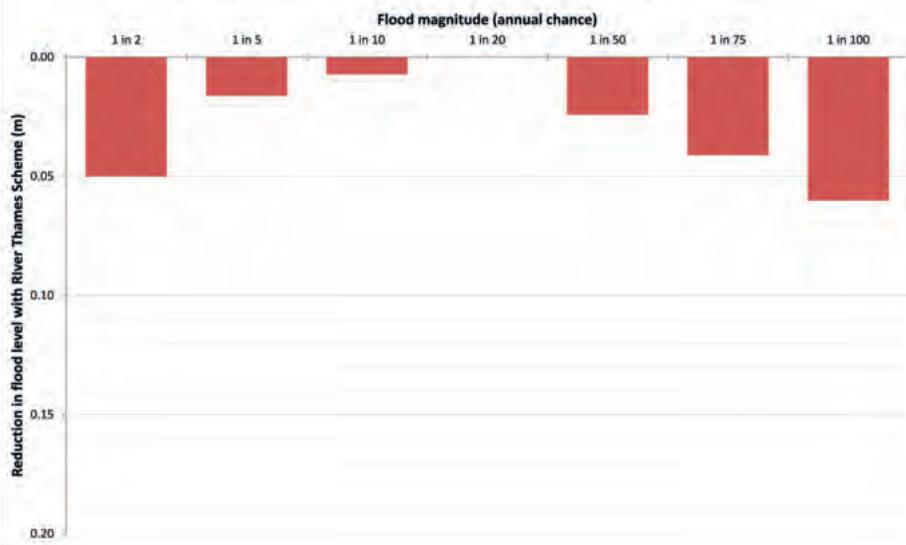
During 2017, the EA will be continuing with their modelling and extending it so that flood plain maps are updated. They will also be looking in some detail at Community Level Defences – and we shall certainly be working closely with them to make sure that Thames Ditton is seriously considered for this. The initial assessment should be completed by the end of this year.

There is also much to be done by the EA in making up the current funding shortfall and then all of the approvals for the various elements need to be put in place. The current plan is to start construction in 2020.

As part of the local preparation for the perhaps inevitable next time, the Residents' Association is arranging two public meetings to discuss the preparation of a Community Flood Plan and the establishment of a sub-committee to assist with local organisation in the event of a future flood. The Environment Agency has agreed to attend to provide background on the River Thames Scheme and flood alleviation in Thames Ditton. The meetings will both be the same format and two are arranged to provide a choice of dates. The first will be in Ye Olde Swan on 5 July and the second will be in the Vera Fletcher Hall on 11 July. Both will start at 7.30pm and should last up to two hours. We will be particularly interested in getting volunteers from roads most affected to serve on the sub-committee to meet occasionally to discuss relevant matters and to assist with implementing the Flood Plan as necessary in the future.

Tony and Linda Thompson

Impact of the River Thames Scheme at Thames Ditton Island



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A Year as Mayor



Our Residents' Association Councillor Tannia Shipley has just completed her year as Mayor of Elmbridge. Thames Ditton Today caught up with her as her term ended to ask her about it.

What does the Mayor of Elmbridge do?

The Mayor is the face of Elmbridge Borough Council, and is asked by fellow Councillors to take on the role.

The Mayor is First Citizen of Elmbridge and there are two roles. The first is a ceremonial one, representing the Borough at various events as requested by local people and local organisations, or in response to invitations from other Boroughs. The second is a practical one: the Mayor chairs the council meetings. These are recorded with live streaming these days so you are always on show.

What surprised you about the job – what did you not expect?

I did not expect to make so many new friends among the others Mayors that I met in the year. That has been a huge bonus and we will definitely be staying in touch, in fact we are already arranging a post-mayor get together!

What most struck you in your year as Mayor?

The fantastic work done by volunteers across the Borough. I have had the chance to meet many of them and to present community awards. There are so many

people who give up time for the community. For example, there are 800 volunteers at Brooklands, Molesey Centre has 180 volunteers and I could go on and on...

How many engagements did you have in the year? And what were they?

I attended over well over 300 engagements and my husband Nigel joined me for most of them. They were hugely varied, from attending a Buckingham Palace garden party to visits to Royal Holloway and Deepcut Barracks; from presenting prizes at schools to presenting business awards. I have also had the chance to open a range of businesses from hairdressers to boutiques; and even a funeral parlour!

Where do you keep the Mayoral chain?

It's here, in its cloth bag. It is quite lot of bling. I found I needed to adapt what I was wearing to accommodate the chain.

What charities did you support as Mayor?

I chose CHEER (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired) and ECL (Elmbridge Community Liaison) because in the 18 years I have been a Councillor I have watched them do amazing work. And I knew that every penny raised would be used to help people in the Borough.

A Year as Mayor



Buckingham Palace Garden Party



Opening Volksworld at Sandown



Dunkirk Little Ships Veterans Cruise



Armed Forces Day at the Civic Centre



Civic Day – Showing the Borough of Elmbridge to neighbouring Mayors and Chairmen

A Year of fundraising by the Mayor



Ladies lunch – speaker Anna Sedda



Golf Day, the Mayor's Team came second



Packing bags at Waitrose



Consort's lunch



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How much money did you raise and how?

We raised over £20,000 through lots of different events including a Mayor's Ball, fund-raising lunches, an opera, a jazz evening and a golf day. At Christmas we packed bags in Waitrose and last summer my son-in-law and his brother raised money at the Surrey Ride 100.

How did you manage to combine the role of Mayor and your role as local Councillor?

By being disciplined! I would check my e-mail and phone messages whenever I got home from a function and tried to deal with them before going to bed. We have three local Councillors for my ward and my fellow Councillors helped me with as much as possible.

How will your stint as Mayor influence the way you do things in future?

I have made so many contacts with different skills and experience – I am sure that will help me get things done in the future.

If the Mayor had supreme powers and unlimited budget, what single thing would you do/change?

If only! Well, I would do something about our roads, infrastructure, and public transport – even though that is the responsibility of Surrey County Council.

What is the best advice you can give the incoming Mayor?

Do your own research in addition to reading the briefs. I found out some

interesting things which really helped me connect with people and enhanced my visits. Above all be warm, friendly and approachable.

Who was the most memorable person you met as Mayor?

Well, one of the most memorable days was when we attended the 'Dunkirk Little Ships Annual Veterans Cruise.' Four Chelsea Pensioners were in the little ship next to us in Molesey lock. One of them really caught my eye. He was dressed up in his uniform and, with his pint of beer next to him and a cigarette in hand, he was (rather incongruously) videoing everything on an iPad! I will never forget him.

How many hands do you think you shook during your time as Mayor?

Gosh, I cannot imagine but it must be hundreds if not thousands!

What do you do to relax?

Well, I did not have much downtime this year but when I have a minute I like to cook and get out in the garden.

What is the most bizarre thing that happened in your year?

I was at a Mayor's lunch in Epsom when I met two people I had been at school with – I hadn't seen them since we left!

If you had your time again would you still be prepared to be Mayor? Would your husband agree!?

Yes and yes! It has been a privilege.

Libby MacIntyre

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50th Anniversary milestone for Lynton



Happy Birthday Lynton! This bright and homely development is a shining example of how a few determined village people can really make a difference.

Fifty years ago, on June 3 1967, the Bishop of Guildford, the Rt. Rev. George Reindorp, officially opened a private ‘home for the elderly’ at Lynton, St Leonards Road, Thames Ditton. This was the culmination of five years’ work by a group of local residents, inspired and spurred on by the dynamic young curate at Thames Ditton’s St Nicholas Church, Revd Geoffrey Fraser.

In 1963, aged just 34, he was a passionate and persuasive young man, deeply devoted to his parishioners, particularly those of increasing years and infirmity. He was especially concerned to find, during his research for Christian Family Year, that many members of his flock were parted

from each other and their families when they were shunted off into what were then known as ‘old folk’s homes’.

Geoffrey felt that Thames Ditton should have its own unique ‘home’ for the elderly, where people could go if they could no longer manage at home but crucially could still live independently, with the aid of support and assistance. He convinced a group of local people to get behind just such a project and eventually to establish the charitable company Thames Ditton Homes Limited to develop and manage a new home.

The first task was to find a suitable development site, the second to find the people to create the dream. Geoffrey came across a young architect, John Deal, who at 29 was just three years into his practice, mainly designing house extensions. They hit

it off immediately. Geoffrey knew John was the right person to design and implement his vision, and convinced the rest of the committee to back his instinct.

A property was finally secured at Lynton on St Leonards Road and work began on the design. Initially the work started as an entirely private venture, supported by St Nicholas Church, the local Congregational Church, Townswomen's Guilds and the Chamber of Commerce. However, the scale of the development meant additional support was needed and Geoffrey worked with the then Esher Urban District Council to gain government investment in the scheme.

With designs in place, plans approved for 15 single and two double flats and bungalows, and building tenders completed, work began on the site. Building work did not run smoothly and, on his first major assignment as architect, John had to deal with a builder's bankruptcy, which provided a few sticky moments. However, the tight

control he had maintained over works and materials meant that the impact on Lynton was contained and eventually another builder completed the project.

Overall the project cost about £60,000 – the equivalent today of about £1.3 million. (The UK average price for a detached house in 1962 was £2,500 compared with £207,000 today, according to the Nationwide House Price Index.)

Nearly 10 per cent of the cost was raised by Thames Ditton Homes Limited and the rest was covered by a 60-year mortgage from Esher Urban District Council. Local organisations played a role in getting the home ready: the common room was furnished and fitted by Surbiton Pilot Club and garden furniture and part of the laundry room was given by Weston Green Evening Townswomen's Guild. It had also taken thousands of hours of volunteers' time over the five years from conception. Lynton was and is a sheltered housing development with on-site support. In 1967 a Mrs Julie Lewis was employed as a 'housemother', although today the role is that of Resident Manager with warden duties.

In the midst of all the effort Revd Geoffrey Fraser moved away from Thames Ditton, first to a position in Peaslake and was then appointed the Vicar of Dunsford with Doddiscombsleigh in faraway Devon. His final parish move was to Uffculme, also in Devon. Lynton was his first project and gave him the taste for developing property for social purposes. In his career he developed more than 100 units, always with John Deal as his architect. These ranged from new houses to barn conversions in Uffculme and nearby villages, to the conversion of a failed wool factory into a working wool museum; from providing community facilities in a former village shop to an innovative care unit for the frail elderly. He was evidently a

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19 elderly people will have their own homes here by the middle of 1968.

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WHO IS THIS FOR?

Primarily, for residents of Thames Ditton in need of a home because of old age or infirmity. Tenants will be expected to pay their own rents; but applicants will not be turned away solely because they cannot afford the rent.

WHAT WILL THE RENT BE?

£4.12.6, a week inclusive (£3.18.6, net).

WHAT IS THE CAPITAL COST OF THE SCHEME?

£60,000, the large part of which is borrowed on a mortgage from Esher U.D.C.

CAN I HELP?

Yes, private gifts and interest-free loans are urgently required. £1 a year will make you a member of the Society.

Further information will be gladly given by any member of the Committee.

Rev. G. Blairstow, The Vicarage, Thames Ditton.
Rev. G. Fraser, The Parsonage, Peaslake.
L. Humphrey, Ty Green, Ashley Road, Thames Ditton.
J. W. Kerr, 45 Station Road, Thames Ditton.
G. McCrae, 41 Station Road, Thames Ditton.

Thames Ditton Homes Ltd. A Charitable Housing Association registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act 1900. Reg. Office: 99 Edes Street, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey.

Original leaflet for Lynton

man whose faith dictated that he get things done! Sadly he died just a few weeks ago, aged 88.

All property needs to be maintained and updated and Lynton has not stood still. The original design included shared bathrooms, common in those days. As accepted standards changed, from 1989 to 1991 there was another period of refurbishment and development which cost £650,000 and was financed by a social housing grant

from the Homes and Communities Agency. This included an extension along with the creation of individual bathrooms; the site now has 15 units.

Thames Ditton Homes Limited is still run as a charity by a Management Committee of volunteers according to its original ethos; to provide housing and any associated amenities for elderly persons of limited means with a link to Thames Ditton. Over the last 50 years 68 local people have been involved in keeping Lynton going. Hopefully the next 50 years will see equally enthusiastic volunteers. If you have an interest in volunteering, or wish to put a name on the resident waiting list, please email lyntonhome@btconnect.com

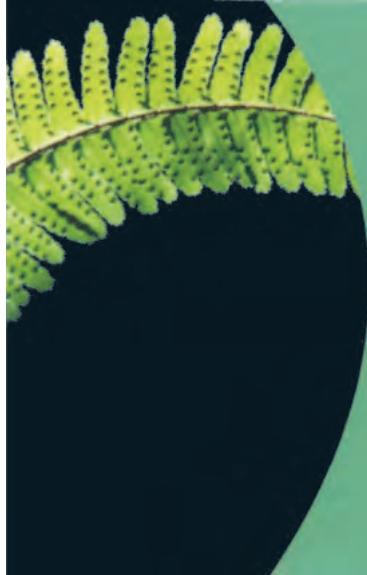


Lynton took part in the Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton 2016

**Libby MacIntyre
Chairman
Thames Ditton Homes Ltd**

A taste of 1967 – the year Lynton opened

- Beatles release “Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” – 27 weeks at the top of the UK albums chart
- Sandi Shaw wins Eurovision Song Contest with ‘Puppet on a String’
- QE2 Cruise Liner launched
- The UK applies for European Economic Community membership.
- The first automatic cash machine (voucher-based) installed in Enfield
- The pound devalued. Harold Wilson states ‘this will not affect the pound in your pocket’
- Sean Connery is James Bond in ‘You only live twice’
- The original Forythe Saga debuts on BBC 2
- BBC Radio 4 panel game Just a Minute, chaired by Nicholas Parsons airs for the first time



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Thames Motor Yacht Club



Nestling alongside the banks of the Thames at Hampton Court, with an enviable river frontage and moorings and visible from Hampton Court bridge you will find the Thames Motor Yacht Club. The club was formed in 1930 but moved to its present location in 1936.

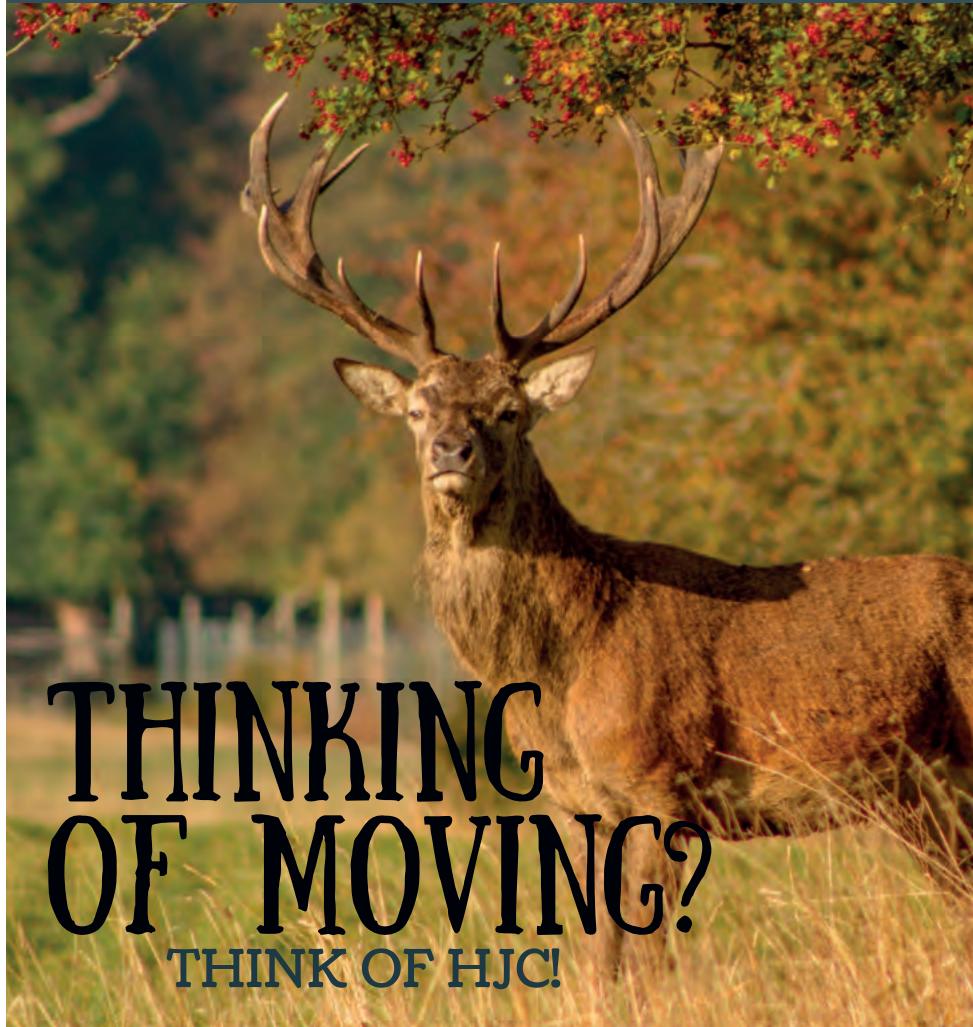
With 200 members and 58 boats, 24 of which are moored at the club, it isn't necessary to own a boat to join the club; indeed a third of the membership is purely social. And the membership is varied; the majority have families that have grown up with the club but there is also a thriving group of thirty-somethings. If you have a boat there are a limited number of moorings

A sociable gathering on the riverside available for members dependent upon a vacancy.

The club is very sociable with an extensive social programme. There are a number of major formal events starting in January with the Commodore's Luncheon. In March there's an Opening of the Season Ball, culminating in the End of Season Ball in October and in September there is an annual sail-past when all the boats proceed from the club down to Ravens Ait and return past Hampton Court Palace to Salute the Commodore. The boats are polished and resplendent for the event and single flags stretch along the moorings. It is not uncommon for a band to be playing.

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There are also lots of informal events, including so far this year, a Bollywood Night, St George's night and a fish and chip and quiz supper held on the last Friday each month.

It would be easy to assume that the club closes for winter but actually it's open all year round and in addition to the main clubhouse there is a fabulous riverside bar which is open on Wednesday and Friday evenings as well as at the weekend. Members often use their boats to stay on overnight following a club function which are held regularly.

Importantly, every year there is a very special charity day. This year the club will be welcoming families with children who have a terminal or life threatening illness and have links to the Starlight Charity. There will be a pirate theme, a morning of fun followed by a BBQ lunch, then the highlight of the day – an afternoon trip out on the boats for the children and their families.

Most of the boats are used all year, not least for the pre-Christmas shopping trips to Kingston by river – great for missing the traffic and parking. At Easter there was a cruise up river to Boveney Lock above Windsor and more recently a long weekend cruise to Rochester. Earlier this year there was a visit to the world's largest boat show in Duesseldorf and in the summer there will be cruises up and down river – and a trip to Holland.

Some non-boating weekends away are planned including one to Stratford Upon Avon, recently there was a very enjoyable one to Paris. In past years the club has cruised to the East Coast Rivers, the north



Summer Barbeque!

coast of France and Belgium, the West Country and the Channel Isles. More often members cruise to nearer destinations – on a sunny afternoon popping down to Teddington for afternoon tea.

The club is not just for social events. In August each year the Association of Thames Yacht Clubs has its annual get-together for some fierce competition.

Boats, like most mechanical things need looking after and regular maintenance helps to keep the large unexpected bills down. Cruising on the Thames need not be expensive, though it is true to say that going down river to the sea does mean higher fuel bills, particularly for members who can't resist the urge to push the throttles forward!

All kinds of strange and embarrassing things can and do occur when sailing. In fact the club has a special award for such events - the TMYC Bent Banana Trophy, which has been won by even the most experienced of the club's sailors.

The club is vibrant and welcomes new members and the clubhouse is also available for private functions holding up to 100 people. To enquire please contact Derek Prentice at honsec@tmvc.co.uk or call 020 8979 2298.

Sandra Dennis



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The Speers and the Sandys – a Dynasty of Taxmen



The Old Treasury where William Speer and his son William were senior clerks.

A considerable amount has been written about the Speers by earlier historians, whose research nevertheless leaves areas of uncertainty and confusion. Not least, because the name of William Speer is more common than one might think. And when it comes to researching the Sandys who married into the Speer family, you'd think that the name

Hannibal Sandys would be rare enough to make search results unequivocal. It turns out there were a few of them, too – mostly from the same Cornish origins; and among “our” Hannibals, there were Hannibals in three successive generations of Sandys, and to add to the tangle, the middle one died well before his father did.

There has been forelock-touching in some accounts, notably one by C R S Saunders in St. Nicholas' Parish Magazine of January 1951, for the Speers and their successors became big in the church here as well as huge landowners in the parish, as we shall see. However, I'll try to give the broadest picture in the articles that follow.

The Speers were to divide the village and the parish, as the second William Speer (born about 1763), like his father a senior clerk at the Treasury, bought his way in, ostentatiously exercised his powers as the Lord of the Manor of Weston that he purchased via his colleagues the Treasury Commissioners, and wangled the installation of his alcoholic son as vicar at St. Nicholas. William accumulated a large estate, about a quarter of the parish at the time when it included all of Thames Ditton, Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Weston Green. He also acquired lands extending to Epsom and into Sandown to go with his father's purchases of farms and houses in the parish of Thames Ditton. He engaged in several local disputes, taking matters to law; and others had him and his son in the ecclesiastical court. In the end, the church split, the Speers remained in Thames Ditton while some other notables departed.

William's undistinguished sons and grandsons dying out, the estates passed via his daughters to Hannibal Sandys, son of Cecilia Speer and her husband, the second Hannibal Sandys in that sequence. On coming into this inheritance Hannibal (the third Hannibal in the line) took the name of Speer. Hannibal and the other Sandys and their married partners restored some gloss to the family. Hannibal, who also joined the Treasury's Revenue service as did his brother, made further money by developing residential property on some of his holdings during the Victorian housing expansion that

followed the railway. Hannibal himself, who was nine when his father died after his law firm went bankrupt, never married. As often in such cases, he was generous in his support to the local community, his inheritors also remaining stalwarts of the church and community here for a time. Finally, large areas of commons that were accumulated by the second William Speer were acquired after Hannibal's death by our borough council, in a shrewd move that has ensured they survive for public amenity and recreation in the spirit of common lands, rather than as the source of exploitative profit for a few.

Speer Road

The name of Speer is locally commemorated in Speer Road. To deal with that first: the line of the path that Speer Road follows is shown on some of the earliest available maps of Thames Ditton. I think that most likely, the path marked part of the eastern boundary of Henry VIII's enclosed hunting Chase. There are no surviving documents which give the precise boundaries of the Chase, but the work of Surrey Archaeological Society members puts them in the region where what is now Speer Road would fit as a border. Furthermore, the enormous stump of an ancient oak that stood at the end of Church Walk on that line, now long gone, was by oral tradition part of the boundary. Speer Road bisects several former Speer landholdings, including lands of the former Manor Farm. Behind one of the present houses on Speer Road there is a passage under the railway that was made to connect Manor Farm lands when the railway was built. It was the second William Speer who consolidated the landholdings, and his son Rev. Wilfred Speer presided over the sale of land to the London and South Western Railway Company, with payoffs for those who gave up their rights of common at this

point. It may have been controversial at the time, but I think that all of us who make use of Thames Ditton station and the Hampton Court spur can thank the Speers for enabling its route.

William Speer (1717)

The story begins with William Speer, born about 1717, place not certain. He joined H.M. Treasury where he rose to become a Senior Clerk. In the 1750s he was one of the Trustees for the Commission for Building Fifty New Churches (in London and the surroundings) set up by the New Churches in London and Westminster Act 1710 (9 Anne c. 17), to serve the population increase in London. Fewer than 50 were in fact built, known as the Queen Anne Churches. Towards the end of the 1750s it was decided to wind up the Commission, with the remaining sites to be sold and the Commission's endowments, many of which were Old South Sea annuities, to be distributed. We can track annuities held by Trustees Edward Sleech and William Speer as they were transferred to the rectors of the new churches. Sleech and William Speer then petitioned for a reward for selling the remaining sites, for £1,115.

Records indicate that by 1780 William Speer (1717) was a Revenue Clerk at the Treasury, and during the next decade there are Parliamentary records of his attendances in the context of Customs and Revenue accounts, changes in various duties on goods, and the public (King's) debt. We know from his eventual obituary announcement that he became one of the Senior Clerks (his son William would in due course rise to be one of the Treasury's six Chief Clerks). I think it likely that he retired about 1787 when he would have been 70. In July 1801 there is a record that he was receiving a Crown pension of £200 p.a. "formerly paid at the

Treasury." This would suggest that his final salary was not far off a thousand a year, an excellent income in those days.

The properties in Brompton/Fulham which feature among the long-term London properties held by the family appear to have been acquired by the first William Speer in about 1745. William's place of work in the Treasury put him in close proximity to Katherine Wilson, orphaned along with her elder sister Elizabeth when their father died in September 1756, leaving his two daughters with a valuable Westminster property at Park Prospect at Queen Street, Westminster plus handsome annuities of their own, around £1000. The consent of Elizabeth was required for Katherine to marry. In a marriage bond dated 9 October 1756 William paid "two hundred pounds of good money" to the Bishop of London and was duly married to Katherine at Saint Martin in the Fields on the 23rd of that month. Both were described as "of this parish". In due course Elizabeth and Katherine both died and the Speers father and son, William Junior having been born about 1763, thereby inherited.

The coming of the Speers to Thames Ditton

The first recorded interest of William Speer (1717) in our locality is the purchase at auction in 1778 of Manor Farm, the largest farm belonging to Imber Court. The owner of Imber (Ember) Court, Lord George Onslow, held both the Manor of Imworth or Imber on a thousand-year lease, and the Manor of Weston on a shorter lease of some 30 years. I can't be totally confident from which of those two Manors the name "Manor Farm" derived, but I assume the senior manor of Imworth. William Speer paid £1900 for the farm with at least 35 acres. It was tenanted. Land tax records show that from 1780,



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William Speer also owned Pound Farm, tenanted. In 1783 he bought 20 acres of what is now Garson's Farm at West End, Esher.

Characteristically the better-off in those times would have a house in London, a rural lodge with grounds for summer purposes within coaching range of the capital where they could enjoy family life and their own produce for the kitchen; and if they were of noble family or very rich, an estate inconveniently too far to make feasible their attendance at Westminster or Whitehall. When local historians say that notable so-and-so "lived in Thames Ditton", the reality in many cases is that that they lived a good part of their lives in London or elsewhere, but had a handy place locally for the summer months.

London Land Tax and polling records from around 1782 show continuing residence of William and William Junior in Queen Street, where the elder William voted Tory: the younger, more complex, we'll come to in the next article. By 1801, William Speer is shown in Land Tax records owning two properties at Park Prospect off Great Queen Street Westminster, one of which he occupied with his son William Junior and the other of which had tenants. William had eight tenants at another property in Little Queen Street adjacent, and on the other side of Park Prospect, in Great Queen Street, he had an additional property with four tenants, next to which, under another landlord, was the property in Great Queen Street where tenant Hannibal Sandys – the first of the three Hannibals with whom we are concerned – carried out his business as an attorney and solicitor.

The first event marking the Speers' new connection with Ember and Weston seems to be the death of Katherine Speer in 1780, and her burial at St. Nicholas. In the poll book of that year, William Speer was registered to vote in Thames Ditton as owner of Pound

Farm where William subsequently appears in the Land Tax of 1781 for the first time as owner (but not the occupier). There's then a gap of several years, during which William Speer owned the two tenanted farms, and a piece of meadow in his own occupation, but does not appear as the occupier of a house here. Tax records show that from 1787 – 1793 William Speer did occupy a house owned by a person variously rendered in successive records as Mrs. Sherrin / Shellen / Shelling or Schelling. This period may conceivably have marked the elder William's retirement from the Treasury. He acquired the ownership of this property in 1795 and continued as occupier until his death apart from a short period when the house was listed as 'empty'. From its position in the list, and those in close proximity (which William was in due course to own or lease too), I deduce that this was most likely the house which became the Manor House for Weston, and today is known as Weston Grange. I'll deal with the younger William's purchase of the Manor of Weston in 1801, and its aftermath, in the next article.

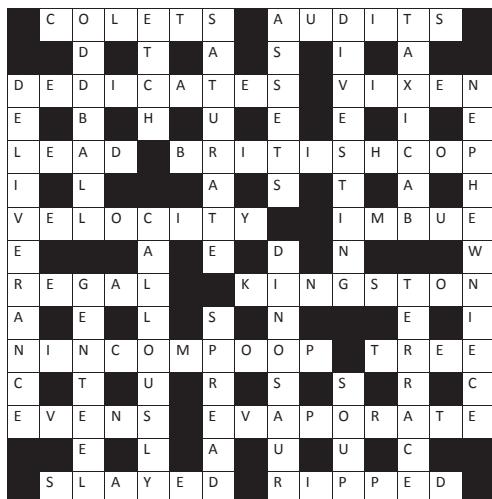
In 1800, William Speer acquired ownership of an adjacent property from the Widow Grubb, and now we find the names of William Speer – I assume father and son respectively – as occupiers of those neighbouring properties. It was not the house which abuts Weston Grange that we know today as Blandford Cottage, owned and occupied by Mr. Collier at that time.

In January 1805, the elder William acquired the lease of another nearby property along with about 38 acres of additional land and orchard, by deduction also along Weston Green Road. His death later that year at the age of 88 seems a suitable place to end this first article.

Keith Evetts

Solution to the Spring Crossword

by Maureen Willcox



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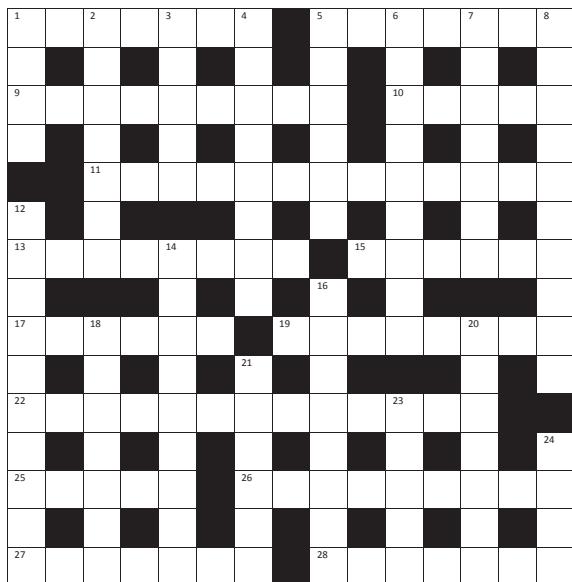
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Summer Crossword

by Michael Jackson



ACROSS CLUES

1. A moment in time (7)
5. Dutch humanist, scholar, died 1536 (7)
9. Naval officer (9)
10. Cold, hot, poorly, shivering (5)
11. In pal's montage one sees a watering place (10.3)
13. See 16 down (8)
15. Indian of northern Oklahoma (6)
17. Invisible (6)
19. Angle at fuselage of plane's wings up or down (8)
22. From Italy, crackpot held a Manhattan do (8.5)
25. Forbidden (5)
26. Devices launching planes from decks (9)
27. Hates (7)
28. Lyre set to a different form (7)

DOWN CLUES

1. Measure of Scottish 24 (4)
2. East African Republic (7)
3. Greek Assembly (5)
4. One who doublecrosses another (3-5)
5. To come forth (6)
6. A 'no charge' port (9)
7. German porcelain (7)
8. Are all 'lost' dancing to this? (10)
12. Darkened, confused (10)
14. Vigorous actions (9)
16. & 13 Across Knight kept bees, rarely in, out seeking elusive red flower (3.5.8)
18. Form of trombone (7)
20. Payment of owner of rights (7)
21. Big top (6)
23. Know these for the right procedure (5)
24. See 1. Down (4)

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date 5 August 2017 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:

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SERVICES, GROUPS, CLUBS, AND SOCIETIES

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Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services		
Thames Ditton Centre for Retired People	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 5921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	020 8398 3772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride,	ask for service at central	
Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	switchboard	01372 474474
Homesupport Elmbridge	Pam Howard (Manager)	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 46358
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

Girl Guiding in TD & WG	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Deborah Daoud	020 8398 5521
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Alexandra Lyall	07779 616463
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	07975 842423
1st Weston Green Guides (All Saints)	Mrs. Louise Lewis	020 8398 4843
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
2nd Weston Green Brownies	Mrs J Epps	020 8395 0595
1st Weston Green Rainbows	Mrs Helen Hill	020 8398 3135
4th Thames Ditton Ajax Sea Scouts	Alison Derrick	020 8398 0041
Dittons Scout Group	Aileen Widdowson	07783 449666
Coffee and chat (United Reformed Church)	Mrs. E. Barker	01372 467491
Emberbrook Trefoil Guild	Mrs. Adrienne Nealing	020 8398 5582
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	020 8398 2932
Molesey and Dittons Neighbourhood Watch	Chairman: John Haberfield	020 8398 5256
Parents and Toddlers(St Nicholas church)	Information	020 8398 7211
Ripieno Choir	Nick Harris	020 8399 7231
Surrey Bell-ringers	Giles Andre	020 8979 1994

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784 466651
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Claremont PROBUS Club	Mr. P. Collins	020 8398 3125
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Hon Secretary	07710 139417
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263
Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Anne Segall	020 8941 4528

Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	020 8398 7038
Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	020 8786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher Camera Club	Billy Buchanan	020 8398 3169
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club	Pam Phillips	01372 373745
Hinchley Wood / Dittons PROBUS Club	Geoff Francis	01932 867771
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Mothers Union (All Saints)	Jill Cotter	020 8398 4598
Old Cranleighan Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleighan Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
River Club (BMYC)	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Rotary Club, Esher	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Surbiton Croquet Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Golf Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	0208 398 3101
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ember Choral Society	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher Recorded Music Society	Miss S. M. Garrat	020 8398 8541
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Chris Walker (Sec)	020 8398 6651
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	020 8398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Association	Gill Vickers	www.lynwoodallotments.btck.co.uk 020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Soroptimist International (Kingston District)	Secretary: Pat Harman	020 8390 3507
Thames Ditton Women's Institute (W.I.)	Secretary	020 8398 8615

OTHER

Cancer Research UK	Mrs. Vivienne Harris	020 8398 6787
Elmbridge Fairtrade Network	Judy Porter	020 8398 6401
University of the Third Age (U3A)	Hon Sec Anne Brown	01932 881633
Vera Fletcher Hall	Lettings: Fiona Evers	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

Chairman's Address to the AGM



Chairman **Rhodri Richards** opened with a review of the RA's objectives: to protect local amenities and further the interests of residents; to encourage community spirit; to foster shared activities. He noted that tireless work by councillors, officers and volunteers has helped to meet these objectives and gave examples including:

- Our own Mayor of Elmbridge, RA Councillor Tannia Shipley, has fulfilled her role admirably, raising a significant amount of money for her nominated charities whilst still working hard for her constituents
- 2016 saw the Residents' Group, in coalition with the Liberal Democrats, take control of Elmbridge Council from the previous Conservative administration.
- The RA campaign against plans to withdraw bus routes from Thames Ditton and Weston Green, which included delivery of a petition with 2,000 signatures to County Hall in a Routemaster bus and significant lobbying. This resulted in the retention of a reasonable bus service. We must remain vigilant as all SCC bus contracts are up for renewal in August
- One our most important 'amenities' is our Green Belt land and we always challenge attempts to build on it or to reduce its protection. Therefore we submitted a detailed response to the strategic consultation on the Local Plan, saying that the case has not been made for development in Green Belt Areas and that Long Ditton Green Belt is an outstanding example of Green Belt in action
- RA Councillors responded to a threat to another amenity, council allotments, and were able to reverse a proposal to reduce some lease terms and notice periods, potentially putting them at risk
- We continue to scrutinise planning applications and provide residents with advice and assistance
- Litter-picking groups meeting regularly in Thames Ditton and Weston Green
- Thames Ditton in Bloom, drawing together many volunteers including the Men in Sheds to provide magnificent floral displays at Thames Ditton station
- The Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton with 11 gardens open and more than 400 tickets sold, raised £2,691 for the Garden of Remembrance and the Thames Ditton Christmas Lights Appeal.
- Regular bulb planting across the villages
- Christmas lights on Weston Green and in Thames Ditton High Street
- The annual Christmas Fair in Thames Ditton, helping to drive footfall to the High Street

Rhodri ended on a personal note, saying this would be his last AGM as Chairman. He had greatly enjoyed chairing our Open Meetings over the past four years and seeing positive outcomes from issues raised, for example the path established at the east side of Station Road by Esher Station.

He finished by highlighting the amount of work put in by our councillors, officers and volunteers to support our community and that this work really does pay off – we now have a vibrant, successful High Street, regular Farmers' Markets, beautiful spring bulbs and planting, noticeably less litter and four hours free parking in the Ashley Road car park on Saturday to support the local shops to name but a few initiatives. We cannot however afford to be complacent, and we continue to be vigilant against threats to our local area.

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