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THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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Cover photo credit: *Sandra Dennis*

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 £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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A photograph of a group of young girls in gold sequined dance costumes, smiling and posing on a stage. The background is a dark red curtain. In the top left corner, there is a logo for 'DanceCraft MM' with five stars above it. In the top right corner, there is a quote in white text. At the bottom, there is contact information for the dance studio.

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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 23rd January 2018 8pm – Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton
Tuesday 20th March 2018 - 8pm – Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton
All who live or work locally are welcome

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News from the Residents' Association to end-October



Potential flooding – preparations

At the end of October the RA Flooding Sub-Committee had a multi-agency meeting with staff from Surrey County Council (SCC), Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) and the Environment Agency (EA) to discuss preparations for potential flooding.

Attendees reviewed questions that were raised at the public meetings the RA held in July. These ranged from needing to know detailed responsibilities and contact details of agencies involved in flood action to how to get and position the right number of sand bags to each property that needs them.

Flooding Convener Tony Thompson said: *“It was a big step forward to get all the relevant parties in a room together to work through our questions and start to develop our Community Flood Plan. However, there is still a lot of work to do. We will keep residents informed as we go and once we have the EA’s formal replies to our questions we will make them available on the RA website, residents-association.com”.*

Path to Esher Station on Ditton Common

This path (which came about as a result of discussions at an RA Open Meeting) has been in place for nearly a year and is being well used.

Recently the Countryside Consultative Group reviewed the options for maintaining this path. EBC officers are researching and costing geotextile material as a ‘surface’ as a potential last resort. However, it is hoped that its use will not be necessary as the path is on common land and there is a need to preserve the surrounding area, wild

flowers, and special wildlife (lizards, bees and wasps) that thrive on the pathsides.

At present the path remains firm, water is not ‘pooling’ even when wet, it is stable and in keeping with its surroundings and is identical to the other paths that are well used on Ditton Common. Officers will continue to monitor the area over the winter to see how it holds up.

Lighting under the bridge at Esher Station

RA Councillor Tannia Shipley, with the support of former Surrey County Councillor Peter Hickman, has been pressing SCC Highways Department to provide lighting under the bridge at Station Road since 2015. This now seems to be paying off. Two light columns have appeared under the bridge. The next challenge is to get power installed, the work continues.

Train timetable consultation

South Western Railway (SWR), the new operator of South West Trains, has launched a consultation on proposed services. It opened on 29 September and will close 22 December. Whilst there are some ‘improvements’ on the Thames Ditton / Hampton Court line with an earlier start of service and later finish of service, the fast service that currently departs Waterloo at 19.23 is missing from the proposed new timetable. The RA is urging SWR to retain this service, add additional fast trains and improve connections at Surbiton.

Please take the time to your views known. Details can be found on their website www.southwesternrailway.com/contact-and-help/timetable-consultation. There is a link on www.residents-association.com.

Emergency First Aid Training in the Community



More than 50 residents attended First Aid training

Community First Aid Training Sessions run by the George Bairstow Charitable Trust were held in All Saints church in Weston Green in October. More than 50 residents came to the sessions which gave basic training on the practical and immediate steps you can take in the event of a cardiac arrest.

There was also a demonstration on the use of the AED (Automatic External Defibrillator) such as the one installed in the porch of the church hall at All Saints.

Improving Esher Station

As the result of comments from residents RA Councillor Tannia Shipley met with the Community Rail Liaison Manager at South West Trains at the end of June to discuss the disused platform at Esher which, was looking neglected and overgrown.

The RA hoped that a community project would sort this out. However, we were told

that this would not be possible as no ordinary member of the public would be allowed to access the platform under current Health and Safety legislation. Although, we are pleased to report that the platform has been set up as a 'Brownfield Restoration' project which has gained favourable comments from the RSPB and Buglife.

During the course of the meeting Councillor Shipley secured a contribution from South West Trains of £500 for enhancing the entrance to the station with plants/containers, provided the RA would match the funding, which it has. SWT also gave an extra £200 towards the enhancement.

Plans are in the pipeline to carry out the work next year, probably in the Spring.

Preparing for Spring



RA members Will Bland (left) and John Lyon

RA members Will Bland and John Lyon were out in October, planting bulbs for the Spring. John first had the idea of planting out all the verges, green spaces, commons



Thames Ditton in Bloom Team

and ponds and this is the 27th year the RA has funded the bulbs. We have plenty of Spring flowers to look forward to.

Thames Ditton In Bloom

Members of the Thames Ditton In Bloom team were out in force on Sunday 29 October to improve Thames Ditton Station. They planted out 23 wooden planters (handmade by Men In Sheds) plus 13 wheelbarrows with Autumn/Winter planting and Spring bulbs.

Laura Richardson and Adam Reed from Elmbridge Borough Council and Thames Ditton Station staff joined the Thames Ditton In Bloom RA volunteer team headed by RA Councillor Tricia Bland. This year has seen the initiative bloom even more thanks to the watering team, headed by Nicky Turner. 2017 saw Thames Ditton In Bloom win a RHS award for community planting and the group has even more ambitious plans for 2018.

For more information on Thames Ditton in Bloom or to become a volunteer contact Tricia, tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk.

Cow Common path improvements

Following a contribution of funds from SCC the Ember Clean Up Group is planning to make improvements to what is locally referred to as Cow Common path. This is the path from Orchard Lane across the rivers Ember and Mole.

All Saints Weston Green: Bereavement Café

The Bereavement Café at All Saints is run in partnership with Princess Alice hospice and is open to anyone whose life has been turned upside down by losing someone close. It is a place where you can feel safe to talk about how bereavement is affecting you and where you will find others who have experienced their own loss who understands something of what

you are going through. The sessions take place at All Saints Church Hall from 10.30 -12.00 noon on the first Tuesday of every month. Just drop in at any time. (November 7th, December 5th, January 2nd, February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd.)

75 years of scouting in Weston Green

In September, Weston Green Scout Pack celebrated its 75th birthday. A great day was had by all. Read more in the article on page 21.



A scouting themed cake to celebrate

Vandalism

Sadly, there have been reports of vandalism to cars legally parked on Portsmouth Avenue. Instances of nails in tyres and cars scratched by keys have been reported. Please be vigilant and report any anti-social behaviour to the police.

Planning

The planning inquiry into the proposed development of **Drake Park**, Walton-on-Thames, started on Tuesday 31 October at the Civic Offices in Esher.

The application for a **cycle rack next to Thames Ditton station** (2017/1115) is still under consideration with work going on re the best place to site it.

A new application has been received for an extra house to the rear of **31 Embercourt Road** (2017/3081). There are no significant differences from previous plans which were rejected at appeal.

An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of plans for an office block on **Colets playing fields, land east of 74 to 128 Speer Road** (2017/0818).

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

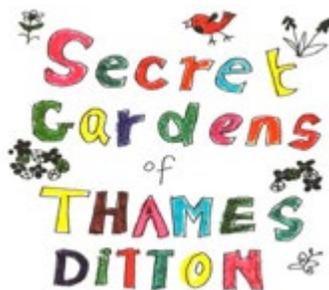
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Caroline James and Andy Anderson via
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Starting out as a Surrey County Councillor



A friend asked recently whether my initial experiences as a Surrey County Councillor had been anything like I expected. In some ways yes, others no!

At the first full council meeting, we were warned that with Surrey County council (SCC) funding as it is, we would face difficult decisions. With £104m to save from the previous year's budget that has certainly been true, alongside an assumption that Surrey is a rich county. As a member of the Adult and Health Select Committee, involvement with decisions about Housing Related Support was an early eye opener. In a different way, Surrey's decision to invest heavily in commercial property, for instance a shopping centre in Malvern bought for £74m in August is in my view problematic, risking the possibility of significant future losses.

Closer to home, the SCC induction to new members allowed me to visit the Highways Depot at Merrow, also the lovely Puttenham Common, managed by SCC. Nearby is the Hampton Estate, with its prized beef herd, and one of the few hop fields in our county. Here too, I learned much about the lack of Surrey finances.

We were told early on that correspondence would be likely to major on highways. That has proved right. Fair funding for highways is a big issue, one which urgently needs resolution. Potholes less than 40mm deep on roads, 20mm on pavements, are unlikely to be dealt with at present. I am due to spend a day with a pothole team shortly. At least the local bus service contract has been renewed!

The Thames Ditton parking review, started in 2016, has recently been advertised. Some changes are likely to be agreed, and the scheme implemented, hopefully by spring next year.

We need to decide on the frequency of parking reviews, currently only once every three years. My feeling is we need these more often as habits change, new developments receive planning permission, and the effect of previous reviews is understood. Particularly difficult is the effect of Kingston's more stringent parking regime on our roads close to the border, with commuters wishing to escape the Surbiton station car park charges. Flexibility seems essential.

I have helped the Thames Ditton in Bloom volunteers, occasionally watering the flowers at the station, (ably assisted by Gary who fills the water bottles, and Al who supplies the coffee) and have caught up with many people at the monthly Farmers Market. I have met a lot of people to discuss highway and parking issues.

One item I will be getting to grips with next is how Surrey will meet the challenge of infrastructure in response to Elmbridge Borough Council's (EBC) Local Plan. Infrastructure includes schools, highways, and transport. Surrey County Council has responsibility for this while EBC has responsibility for providing housing through the Local Plan. There is little or no money for infrastructure at SCC, with this in my view unlikely to change – it will be a huge challenge.

Nick Darby
Surrey County Councillor



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The people's path – an exciting opportunity



At this time of year, with Remembrance Day, Giving Tuesday and Christmas just around the corner, we find ourselves thinking about the people and moments that have touched our lives and the importance of family, friends and community. All Saints Weston has an exciting, new initiative that will not only bring together local residents but also offer individuals and families a unique way to celebrate the memorable events or moments that have specifically shaped who they are.

A new stone path, of engraved bricks, is to be built within the grounds of the church and anyone with a connection to the area is invited to sponsor a brick, choose an engraving and mark what's important to them – be this a key date or event in their life, such as a graduation, marriage, birth, a business or, even simply write a message such as 'I was here'.

This will be the only engraved path in the Diocese of Guildford and demand for bricks is expected to be high.

Revd. Phillip Johnson, Vicar of All Saints said, *'Over 1000 people visit our grounds each week and we want All Saints Weston to be a place for all to enjoy, from the peace and serenity offered by our building and grounds, to the activities we provide and the outreach we deliver.'*

The surplus from the sponsorship of bricks will be utilised through the Parochial Church Council's (PCC) general fund to enrich the programme that All Saints Weston provides to benefit those who live and work in the parish and enable the church to fulfil its mission of being 'a blessing to our community.' A limited number of bricks are now available on a first come, first served basis. Sponsorship costs £75 per brick, inclusive of engraving. The deadline for ordering bricks is 17th December.

For further information and an order form, please contact The Parish Office on 0208 398 1849 or email susan@allsaintsweston.com.



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Over 50 and want to meet new people, be more active or learn new skills?



Daniel Cooksley from the Centre for the Community with keen participant Catherine

In a 2008 report¹, the New Economics Foundation found that being connected to people around you is an essential ingredient for wellbeing, and yet research shows that almost a fifth of older people have social contact less than once a week, and just over a tenth less than once a month².

If you are, or someone you know is, feeling lonely – or you just fancy a change, the Centre for the Community in Thames Ditton offers the opportunity to connect with others who live locally! The welcoming staff and volunteers make friendliness their number one priority, so you can confidently come on your own and soon feel at home.

For people over 50 or with a disability, the centre is open Mondays and Thursdays from 9am to 4pm offering a hot three-course lunch and regular activities such as singing, bridge and Tai Chi on a Monday; with art and afternoon entertainment on a Thursday. Some activities charge a small fee but many are free to members who pay a modest annual subscription.

The centre also hosts 'Men in Sheds', which is a first for Elmbridge. Originating in Australia, this initiative gives men over 50 years of age the opportunity to socialise, learn new carpentry skills and benefit the community – For example, they made

¹ NEF report 2008 Five Ways to Wellbeing

² Victor et al 2003

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Some attendees enjoy a hand of bridge

the lovely wooden planters at Thames Ditton railway station. It has a growing membership and you can meet 'Men in Sheds' at the monthly Farmers' Market.

It's possible for someone to arrive at 9am at the centre and have a full and satisfying day out until 4pm – you can even get your hair done – and there is a regular programme of outings. For example recent visits have included Denbies Wine Estate, Woburn Safari Park, pub lunches and a Christmas shopping trip.

Catherine, 55, was diagnosed with MS ten years ago and is now unable to walk. She said, *'Everyone is so friendly, and the staff (Chris, Daniel, Charlotte and Stella) know what to do if something goes wrong, so you feel safe'*. Catherine was encouraged by members and staff to join the accapella singing group. Although she had no previous experience and says she 'croaks' rather than 'croons', she is now a devotee.

Rita lost her husband ten years ago and found comfort and new friends at the centre. Rita is also a regular singer entering the senior solos of the Kingston Music Festival last year, and, as a volunteer, arrives early to lay the tables and keeps her eye out for new visitors to help them settle in.

Kay just loves to come for a chat and lunch, whereas Joan, 96, is a fantastic advertisement for how the centre can keep you young, as a volunteer she can usually be found in a whirlwind of tidying up after lunch. Geoff simply likes to potter in the garden, and Stuart leads the 'Men in Sheds'.

If you find it difficult to get around, the staff can arrange for you to have transport to and from the centre for a modest fee. For further information about the centre and other community support services just pop in and pick up some leaflets or talk to the staff. Alternatively visit www.elmbridge.gov.uk/centres

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Government policy, the green belt and the CPRE



At a recent Open Meeting of the Residents' Association, Tim Murphy, Vice Chair of the Surrey Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) gave a fascinating, and unsettling explanation of the impact of the Government's policy on the Green Belt and its implications for Elmbridge, which, like other parts of Surrey, is facing demands from central government to absorb levels of population growth not seen since the 1930's.

He outlined what CPRE stood for: protecting the countryside (and urban open spaces) from inappropriate development. He recognised the tremendous pressure on boroughs such as Elmbridge to increase the rate of building and that there was no appetite on the part of local councillors and

planning officers to sacrifice their cherished countryside. However, the Government, while saying on the one hand that the Green Belt is "sacrosanct" is also introducing regulations which, if implemented would mean the biggest attack ever on the Green Belt.

Tim Murphy considered that the Government is going about it in the wrong way. The CPRE would tackle the need for more housing by first, using our existing stock more efficiently. Second, growth should be spread more evenly around the country. Third, we should ensure that areas of previous development – the so called brown areas – are properly utilised. Fourth, we should build more higher-density well designed houses within existing areas.

He reflected that the need in Elmbridge is not for more expensive executive houses but for affordable housing – in particular social housing which would offer the only way that so many of our young people and key workers will be able to be decently housed in this type of area.

The Strategic Housing Market Assessment produced in 2016 had required Elmbridge to build another 9,480 houses between 2015 and 2035 – a rate of 474 homes a year. Even if all the brownfield and windfall sites and the three ‘weakly performing’ Green Belt sites in Cobham and Long Ditton (only parts of which are said to be developable) were delivered, this would still yield only between 5,500 and 6,250 dwellings, well short of the 9,480 figure.

If this were not bad enough, the Government announced on 14 September a significant increase in the housing requirement for Elmbridge of a further 29% which in the CPRE’s view is unachievable, quite apart from the huge infrastructure problems it would create. Surrey County Council commissioned a study showing Elmbridge needs £225 million over the next 15 years for essential physical and social infrastructure based on very modest population growth assumptions but will have only £65 million available. This leaves our borough with a funding gap of £160m for areas such as roads, other transport, and primary and secondary education.

Around 250 houses are built each year in Elmbridge. Elmbridge Borough Council has been working to see how the previously assessed need of 474 houses per annum could be achieved – this is twice the rate in the present Local Plan. Now it is faced with the task of providing 612 homes per annum.

When the Leader of Elmbridge Council wrote to the Secretary of State for

Communities and Local Government about the concerns raised in the consultation he received a standard reply. The Minister said that exceptional circumstances to justify Green Belt boundary changes should only be contemplated once all other paths have been eliminated -using brownfield land, optimising densities and consulting with neighbouring authorities. Such advice is clearly unhelpful in the case of an authority such as Elmbridge faced with such a high housing target, with relatively little available brownfield land, and whose adjacent local authorities are in the ‘same boat’ as themselves.

Tim Murphy pointed out that much of the proposed housing need will not even be serving the needs of local people as the Government’s plans are based on over half the future housing in Elmbridge accommodating people from outside the district.

Elmbridge Council’s consultation on the planning proposal showed overwhelming opposition to building in the Green Belt and he advised the council to join other councils which are being faced with similar unrealistic pressures.

Gavin Barwell, when Minister of State for Housing said “...*planning authorities, in planning to meet local housing and other needs ... must have due regard to national policies- including Green Belt policy- which may restrict the ability of an authority to meet its need.*” In March this year Sajid Javid wrote “*Even under current policy planning inspectors have found that compelling evidence of an area’s housing need did not automatically justify a significant loss of Green Belt*”.

If you want to learn more about the Campaign for the Preservation of Rural England visit their website www.cpre.org.uk.

Weston Green Scouts – Birthday Celebrations!



Celebrating 75 years of scouting

In September, Weston Green Scout Pack celebrated its 75th birthday with a service of Thanksgiving at All Saints Church. The service was attended by present day Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers and it was wonderful to be joined by so many Scouts from yesteryear. Rev Philip Johnson gave an entertaining sermon and the rousing hymns were sung with typical campfire gusto. Guests were treated to food and drink after the sermon with a chance to mingle around the campfire that had been lit in the church car park.

The group was set up by Rev. Matthews, the vicar of All Saints Church, and whilst

the church links remain strong, a lot has changed since the group was formed in 1942. It was a difficult time for local residents including those involved in scouting. During a meeting in March 1944 a bombing raid took place and the pack vacated to Ditton Common to continue the meeting. Sadly, the raid caused significant damage to the building and they were forced to hold meetings elsewhere.

In May 1944, eight Cubs moved up to the newly formed First Weston Green Scout Troop but meetings were suspended the following month when local children were evacuated. Later that year, the Acting Scout

Master, George Stooley, was drafted away and nothing more was heard of him. Poignantly, his last comment in the log was, *“I hope to see them (the troop) after the war.”*

In 1954, the Cubs went on their first Cub Camp to Polyapes and the trip is diarised in glorious detail with photographs, pencil drawings and even a receipt from J Simmons and Sons for 16 Hot Cross Buns. One highlight of the weekend was around the campfire when the warden of Polyapes declared the fire open by throwing *“a can of ‘magic firewater’ over the flames which exploded into a huge flame about 15 feet high and almost electrified the Cubs”*. Different times!

We are blessed that the group has kept such fantastic records – many written in beautiful copper-plate handwriting in leather bound journals. These throw a fascinating spotlight on the details of the group at the time. The annual dinner seemed very important in the late 1950s, meeting notes record, *“It was the general feeling that if possible the dinner should be a more ‘classy do’ than the last one, and after much discussion the following menu was drawn up – soup and rolls followed by spaghetti bolognaise, cheese and biscuits and coffee.”*

The following year, a rather heated discussion in the form of the stay in the Lake District took place. Paul stated that he did not want to be held up by the rather younger and smaller members of the group while Alan stated that he did not intend the

weekend to be a *‘route march’ with people telling him to hurry up all the time.”* It continues to say that the meeting ended with a game of hand-ball so hopefully the men buried their differences!

Sporting contests to close meetings proved popular. In October 1960, *“after playing indoor cricket with the aid of improvised jumble for a bat and ball for a good half hour, the meeting was abandoned until November.”* A highlight for the group was a visit by Lord Baden-Powell’s grandson in 1975. What an honour!

1st Weston Green Scout Group is currently thriving with Explorer Scouts (14-18s) for the first time in 8 years. The children are lucky to be able to take part in many different activities and camps – though sadly the two week trip to Norway the scouts enjoyed in 1959 hasn’t been reinstated! But it’s not just the children who have fun. Ask one of the leaders how you could help, as it’s fun is for adults too!

Jo Williamson



Lord Baden-Powell’s grandson’s visit 1975

Christmas Fair

**Sunday 3rd December
3-6pm**

Thames Ditton High Street

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Residents' Association



❄ pull-out guide ❄

All the Fun of the Christmas 2017 Fair!

Aldous Craig – Receive a warm welcome, delicious mulled wine and sizzling BBQ with proceeds to local charities.

No30 Antiques – Looking fabulously festive, find Cancer Research UK Christmas cards.

CycleLink – Stop here for an exciting range of gift ideas for both the avid and leisure cyclist. Also, race a friend on CycleLink's 'virtual racetrack' with proceeds to a local charity.

George & Dragon – As well as hosting Santa's Grotto, make your way to the G&D to sample our special recipe mulled wine.

Hawes & Co – Fun, fun, fun all the way – come and play some children's Christmas games. All proceeds to children's charity.

HJC – The HJC elves welcome you for a mince pie, whilst the children eagerly anticipate meeting the star of the show in Santa's Grotto (no, it's not Jay!!!).

Indian Summer – Authentic Indian food with tongue tingling flavours.

La Clinique – Pamper yourself with 10% off gift vouchers and products at the Fair.

Little Foray Hair and Beauty – a glass of fizz when buying a raffle ticket for the chance to win some wonderful Organic OWAY Hair Products! Proceeds will go to childrenwithcancer.org.uk

Lime Tree – Find a fabulous Italian Christmas experience with sparkling Prosecco and delicious panettone.

Lunch – Don't miss Jennifer's fab festive spread of sausage rolls, cakes and hot and cold refreshments.

Maud – A must for luxury gifts plus a 'wish list' service to ensure the special people in your life get what they really, really want.

Nice Buns Café – Find piping hot sausages on sticks, mince pies, winter white rocky road, lashings of hot chocolate plus heaps more!

Organic Nest – Find Christmas food and beauty hampers and festive organic fruit and veg boxes plus pre-order your organic turkey or goose by award winning Rhug Organic Meats Farm.

Paul's – 'Guess how many sprouts?' game to win a large seasonal fruit and veg box, proceeds to the Princess Alice Hospice. Plus pick up your Christmas order forms for Paul's seasonal boxes.

Red Lion – The team will be serving up their beer barrel smoked sausages and boozy home brewed mulled wine. Plus play the game: 'catch the present down the chimney' in aid of IYAF (Int Youth Art Festival).

The Rose – The place for delicious lamb and vegetable samosas; vegetable pakora, chicken wings and nan. Yum!

The Secret Garden – Discover beautiful Xmas wreaths, festive floral arrangements, table and tree decorations.

The Stitchery – Be dazzled by a festive extravaganza of Christmas lights and spectacular selection of gifts. Plus, spend £80 and receive a delicious £10 box of chocolates absolutely free!

View Gallery – Featuring a superb new exhibition from a range of complementary artists – with work priced for Christmas from £200! Plus, our almost famous Malbec mulled wine with proceeds to Princess Alice Hospice.



That's Entertainment – Festive Spectacular Thames Ditton Style!

All lit up!



This year at the Fair our twinkling lime tree **Christmas lights** are being 'switched on' by **Ben Franks**, resident of Thames Ditton, who

won the Rugby World Cup with New Zealand twice. Make your way to the lime tree for **4.45pm** when Ben will flick the switch to set in motion the lighting up of our High Street for the entire festive season.

We are also delighted to welcome **Singers and Songs' Elaine Hallam**, who will be singing songs from her Christmas show *'The Garden Dragon & The Lovely Lily'*. Many of our local schools will be providing a mixture of music, song and dance to keep everyone enthralled throughout the Fair.

On the Programme

The renowned **Hinchley Wood School Choir and Brass Band** will be singing and playing our favourite Christmas Carols and songs.

Students from the **Starlight Academy of Dance and Performing Arts** will display their dance and musical talents. The Academy offers a wide range of classes from ballet to street dance, musical theatre to modern jazz for boys and girls from 2 years to adult.

A major highlight is this year's **Christmas grotto** – the 'manger' outside the George & Dragon – has been transformed by **HJC** into a magical, Christmas setting where you'll find Santa on his sleigh with his fairies and elves and a sack of gifts for the children. This is your opportunity to take a photo of Santa with your little one, so join the queue early to avoid disappointment!



Slap those thighs and high-five-with-a-stick, the **Kingston Morris Dancers** will be making a big sound with their bells-a-jingling.

Thames Ditton Infant School choir will be singing traditional Christmas carols.

Not forgetting... The Brownies, The Thames Ditton Crafters, The RNLI with Stormy Stan the Lifeboat Man and the Lifeboat Board Game, St Paul's Primary School, Weston Green School, plus community groups and stalls.

Raffle: win the latest iPad and at least 20 other Fabulous Prizes to be won!

This is our biggest raffle ever so don't forget to purchase your Christmas Fair raffle tickets and with it your chance to win a brand new iPad 32GB in space grey plus at least 20 other absolutely fabulous prizes. Just **£1** per ticket, or **5 for £4**. Available from early November, look out for posters in participating High Street outlets. Proceeds to **Keep the Heart in our High Street Campaign** supporting our local shops and businesses and the **High Street Christmas Lights Appeal**.



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'Twas the month before Christmas

– Christmas services



Christmas is a festive time here in Britain – high streets are decorated with lights, shops are filled with tempting wares, carollers stroll around singing and there is a feeling of expectation in the air. This holiday atmosphere does engender a feeling of happiness and fun for all.

For Christians, Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, is one of the most joyous times of the year. Christmas is coming and all are preparing to celebrate the birth of the Christ child. Christmas trees and Advent calendars appear, mince pies are eaten, stockings are hung by the fire and carols sung – all traditions that point out that this is a special time.

In our increasingly secular world, many would say that Christmas has been hijacked as a commercial event. Certainly, mince pies and Christmas cards seem to appear ever earlier in the shops. However, even for non-Christians there is an excitement, an awe about Christmas that attracts them to hear the magical old story of the birth of Christ and to join in the celebration.

This year Advent begins on 3 December. All of our local churches have a variety of activities (in addition to normal services)

to which everyone is welcome – whether you are Christian or not. The children's activities range from Toy services when congregations bring in toys that will be donated to various local charities, Tots Praise in Church, various Christingle services, Crib services and a Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight service at all of which the Christmas story is retold for little ones – and some not so little! There are also children's Christmas parties and arts and crafts sessions that promise fun for all.

For adults – aside from various services, including the Nine Lessons and Carols services in which the Christmas narrative is intermingled with carols – there are social gatherings such as the St Nicholas Christmas Fair and the Speer Road URC evening Christmas party for adults which includes music, poetry, carols, mince pies and mulled wine!

This year as we did last year, because of the electoral boundary changes, we are adding two East Molesey churches to our listing. Below you will find the Christmas activities of all the various churches though you can always check their websites to see what else is happening at the Church. (Yes – all the churches have websites!)

All Saints Weston (C of E)

3 December	4pm	Christingle service
	7pm	Advent Carol service
17 December	7pm	Nine Lessons & Carols service
24 December	2 & 4pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 December	9.45am	Christmas Day Eucharist

Our Lady of Lourdes (RC)

10 December	5pm	Advent Carol service by Candlelight
23 December	6pm	Evening Mass
24 December	10am	Morning Mass
	6pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas
	10.30pm	Christmas Carols followed by
	11pm	Mass of Christmas Night
25 December	9 & 10.45am	Christmas Day Mass
26 December	10am	Mass

Speer Road United Reformed Church

3 December	10.45am	Beginning of Advent service
9 December	7.30pm	Church Christmas Party
10 December	10.45am	Toy Service
	3.30pm	Messy Christmas Church
17 December	10.45am	Nine Lessons & Carols service
24 December	6pm	Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight service
25 December	9am	Christmas Day service

St Christopher's, Hinchley Wood (C of E)

1 December	3.30-6pm	Messy Christmas
3 December	10am	All Age Communion
	12.30pm	Christmas Lunch
10 December	4pm	Christingle Café (with refreshments)
17 December	10am	All Age Communion
	6pm	Christmas Carols service (followed by refreshments)
24 December	3pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 December	10am	Christmas Day All Age Communion

St Mary's, Long Ditton (C of E)

10 December	4pm	Christingle service
17 December	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols service
24 December	4pm	Crib service
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass
25 December	8am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Parish Communion

St Mary's, East Molesey (C of E)

Please refer to church website for services smem.org.uk

St Nicholas', Thames Ditton (C of E)

2 December	10am-3pm	St Nicholas' Christmas Fair
3 December	10am	Family Toy service
10 December	4pm	Worship
14 December	9.30am	Tots Praise in Church
17 December	10am	Christmas Sunday School (crafts and fun)
	3pm	Christingle service
	6.30pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
18 December	12.30pm	Carols for TD business community
24 December	3 & 5pm	Blessing of the Crib
	11.30pm	Midnight Communion
25 December	8 & 10am	Christmas Day services

St Paul's, East Molesey (C of E)

St Paul's has recently welcomed the Revd Anne Farmer as its new priest.
Please refer to the church website stpaulmolesey.org.uk for details of services.

Whatever your faith or beliefs, may this holiday time be a happy one for you and, if you feel like joining in any of the activities listed above – please do. You will be very much welcomed. And when the joyful Christmas bells ring out on Christmas

morning, may the traditional Christmas blessing of – ‘Peace on Earth, Good will to all people’ – be taken up so that in our troubled world peace and joy may come to all.
A happy and blessed Christmas to you all.

Linda Lambert



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HIGHER VALUES

Ember Choral – Looking ahead!



Ember Choral before their concert at Yehudi Menuhin Hall, Stoke D'Abernon (photo by Raf Jezierski)

In the Autumn 2013 edition of “Thames Ditton Today” my predecessor, Dan Rootham, wrote an article entitled “Ember Choral Society: Hidden Thames Ditton Gem”. It’s now four years later, so what has changed since then? I’m not sure if we’re still hidden, but we are certainly still a gem. However, eagle-eyed readers will have already noticed one change – we have renamed ourselves “Ember Choral” as part of a “re-branding” that we undertook at the start of this year. Two main events triggered this. Our long-standing musical director, John Sutton, who joined us in 1978, decided to retire in December 2016 prompting us to look for his replacement. Our new musical director joined us at the start of the year and we are now led by Joel Newsome-Hubbard, a 2012 graduate from the Royal College of Music in London. Secondly, Dan Rootham himself retired and moved away from Thames Ditton at the end of February 2017, necessitating a re-vamp

of the website as we were unable to maintain the old one.

Quite understandably, with a new young conductor, we are looking forward to some changes in our repertoire. We have already noticed changes to our rehearsal regime! Joel conducted a very successful first concert with us in June at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall, together with his talented young orchestral players and soloists.

As for the website, we have adopted a new logo, name and layout. We also now have a Facebook page, Ember Choral, which tends to be quite light-hearted but keeps members and other people who “like” the page in touch with what we are up to. We hope this helps to dispel the idea that as a choral society we are full of old “fuddy-duddies” who stick to the same repertoire and don’t welcome younger singers. Far from it! In fact, we are a very friendly non-auditioning mixed-voice choir with around 80 members which is one



Tenor soloist, Joel Williams (photo by Raf Jezierski)

aspect of the choir which hasn't changed over the past four years. We hold concerts twice a year and have regular social events outside the usual rehearsals.

Do you need to read music? Well, it obviously helps if you can read music. But the choir's website has links to lots of learning material to help you (very often with emphasis on each different voice part (soprano, alto, tenor or bass). So being unable to read music is not a total barrier, and learning the music is not as difficult as you might think.

There's lots more information on the choir's website (www.emberchoral.org.uk), including

details about the 2017/18 season which started in September. Even if it is now too late for you to join this term, we will be starting to rehearse some new music in January, so you would be welcome to come along then.

If you are thinking of joining Ember Choral Society or have any questions, why not drop an email to the choir: info@emberchoral.org.uk or complete the enquiry form on the website? And, don't forget to "like" us on Facebook! New members of all ages and especially tenors are always welcome!

Pauline Terry
Ember Choral Website Editor

Kingston Liberal Synagogue Celebrates 50 Years



Rabbi René Pfertzel with a Torah scroll

Did you know that there is a thriving Liberal Jewish synagogue and associated community in the Dittons? Kingston Liberal Synagogue occupies what was once the old Long Ditton Victorian village school at the corner of Rushett Road and Ewell Road. The community was founded 50 years ago this year. Originally the community started worship in Kingston, in temporary accommodation at the Quaker Meeting House. However, in 1976, founder members raised money, bought, and refurbished the old school. By that time, including the name Kingston in our title was so well established that it stayed, and has been known fondly as KLS ever since to its members who now number over 300 from Kingston, the Dittons and well beyond!

Our strong sense of Jewish tradition is coupled with a progressive, modern

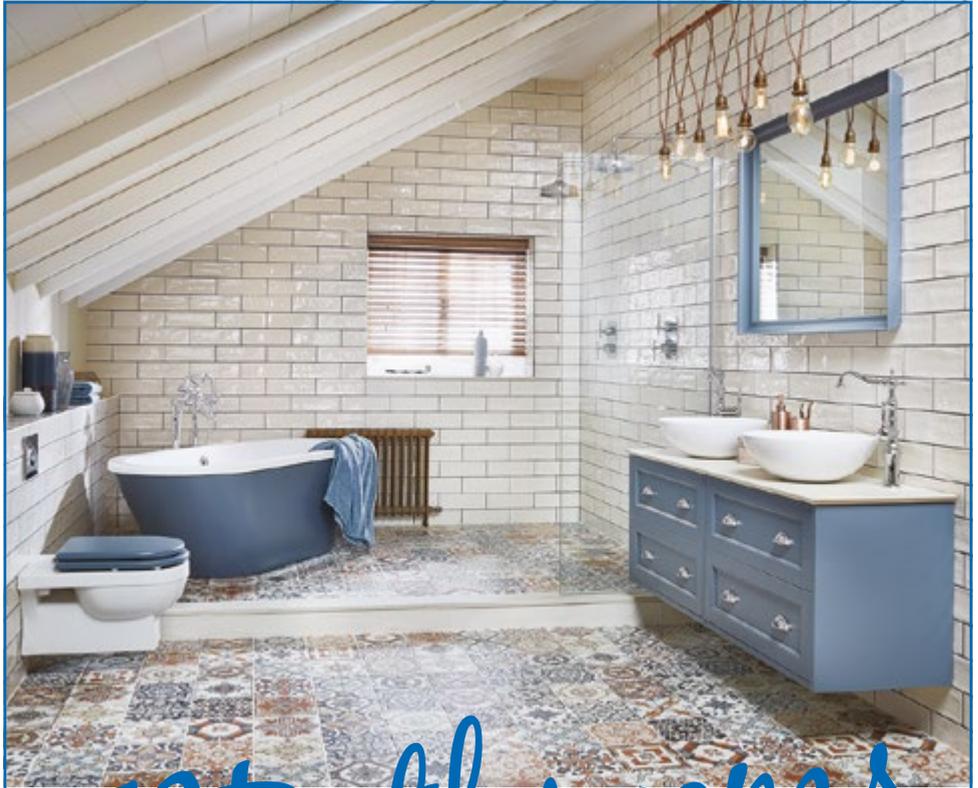
outlook, and we are proud of being a warm, welcoming, and inclusive community. Our rabbis have always forged links with other religious traditions in the area, including local churches and the Kingston mosque and our Emeritus Rabbi, Danny Rich, founded the local Interfaith Forum. Lay members and rabbis visit local schools to talk about Judaism and host visits to the synagogue.

Each January, around Holocaust Memorial Day, we join with the orthodox synagogue to run events for local secondary schools at which Holocaust survivors or their relatives tell their stories. Over the years, the demand from schools to attend these events has steadily risen and now, instead of 2 workshops, with only 200 student attendees (in 2007), there are 12 workshops and 1200 students, helped by 60 volunteers.

We have recently welcomed a new Rabbi, René Pfertzel, who hails from France, and we are therefore expecting to forge links with a community that René used to serve in Lyon, in spite of Brexit!

During our services we use Torah scrolls (hand written scrolls of the first 5 books of the Old Testament) which were “rescued” from Czechoslovakia. They were part of a collection intended for confiscation by the Nazis from the destroyed communities of Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. By using this precious heritage, we honour the memory of those vanished communities. Several beautiful covers for the scrolls were decorated by local embroiderer Kate Davis.

We also have a Ner Tamid (eternal light), designed by an Israeli artist in memory of a founder member’s parents who perished in



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the Holocaust. It features a design of petals emerging from a circle of barbed wire.

This year, we celebrated our 50th anniversary. The weekend of Friday 21 April and Saturday 22 April 2017 fell almost precisely 50 years after the Public Meeting held, in April 1967, at Surbiton Assembly Rooms to discuss the formation of a Progressive Jewish Community in Surrey which led to the formation of KLS.



Ner Tamid (eternal light)

We held a celebratory communal service and supper and a more formal Saturday morning service attended by local dignitaries including Geoff Austin, then Mayor of Kingston, Tania Shipley, then Mayor of Elmbridge, Michael More-Molyneux the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey, the then local MP for Surbiton and Kingston James Berry, and David Munro, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey. Visitors from the Interfaith Forum included Rashid Laher, member of the Sunni Muslim community, whose mosque is in Kingston, Lally Malik, former councillor

and deputy mayor of Kingston, a member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community, whose mosque is in Morden, Dr Kuhan Satkunanagayam, Vicar of St Mary's church, Long Ditton and the Reverend Susan van Beveren, Lead Chaplain to Kingston Hospital.

On display in the synagogue foyer was a range of material about the history and progress of our community with photos of past and present members and activities which brought back memories to founder members, many of whom, although aging, attended the celebrations. We have also enjoyed a 50th anniversary hike in the Surrey countryside, a garden party with a bake off competition (!), a quiz evening and a talent show, to name but a few.

Sharing life as a community is integral to our services. These include baby blessings, bar and bat mitzvahs (of which there have been over 100), weddings and conversions, celebrated with joy and singing, accompanied by piano and guitars or led by our small choir. Services are followed by a blessing over bread and wine. And let's not forget food, which is very prominent at any celebration – it's an integral and very important part of Jewish life!!

A service is conducted partly in Hebrew, but much of it is also in English, so all can participate. We are always ready to welcome anyone, Jewish or non-Jewish, who is genuinely interested in experiencing or re-experiencing Judaism. We have a very active programme of on-going activities for both adults and children at KLS which can be accessed on our web site, <https://klsonline.org>

If you do want to visit, please contact our synagogue office first, (contact details on the web site), to let people know. Sadly, we have to be very security conscious in this day and age. Meanwhile we look forward to another 50 happy years in our home in the Dittons.

Jenny Woolfe



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The Speers and the Sandys

– a Dynasty of Taxmen. Part 3



Hindsight is an interesting tool. I'm going to look backwards from the 1841 case in the ecclesiastical court against William Speer's son, Reverend Wilfred – the drunken vicar – which I covered in this magazine in 2011. No images this time. Rely on your imagination.

Apart from denying, in the teeth of abundant evidence, that Wilfred was often drunk on duty, the Speers' defence contended that the case was driven by spite. Judge Herbert Jenner however considered that *"The parties supposed to have taken this unfounded prejudice against Mr Speer are persons of respectability, of honourable stations in life,"* and rejected the argument in his summing up. That there was an element of malice – Jenner had earlier said *"possibly it may be so"* – had the ring of truth for me. Imbibing aside, Wilfred was popular with the poor and by all accounts a gentle fellow. There was a sharp division between the witnesses for the prosecution, nearly all of whose families or friends had either been in dispute with William Speer or otherwise adversely affected by his actions, and the witnesses for the defence, some of whom were beholden to Wilfred's powerful father. My working hypothesis was that animosity engendered by William Speer fostered the case against his son. Let's look at William's several activities in the parish that might have got up local noses.

Manorial disputes

The Manor of Weston was acquired by Henry VIII from Barking Abbey to establish his hunting Chase. With the end of the Chase, the Manor was customarily taken on

short lease by the owner of the much longer lease of the Manor of Imworth. For practical purposes, one Lord, in the person of the Lord of Imworth at Imber Court, held courts baron (local administration and property) and courts leet (local misdemeanours and policing, and trading standards) for Thames Ditton and Weston Green.

At the time William Speer bought the Manor of Weston outright from the Crown, Robert Taylor was Lord of the Manor of Imworth, and although he was a slave trader as well as a slave plantation owner, he was – as a wall plaque in St Nicholas Church makes explicit – *"much beloved and respected"* in the parish. Taylor had acquired the lease of the Manor of Weston in 1794 from his predecessor at Imber Court, Francis Ford MP, a failed banker whose family owned slave plantations in Barbados. It had twenty years left to run. I suspect that the first that Robert Taylor or anyone else in the parish knew of William Speer's purchase of the Manor of Weston was after the deed had been signed and Taylor had to pay the annual rent to a new landlord – two pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence.

In June 1808 an Act of Parliament *"for inclosing Lands in the several Manors of Kingston-upon-Thames, and Imworth, otherwise Imbercourt, in the County of Surrey, and for selling part of such lands for the purpose of providing a Court House and Market House for the said Town"* precipitated a long dispute between Speer and Taylor over the boundaries between the Manors of Imworth and Weston.

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It delayed the implementation of the Act until settled in 1828. Meanwhile, Robert Taylor had died, and Sir Charles Sullivan who had married Robert's daughter Jean moved into Imber Court. While the properties were mainly settled on Sir Charles Sullivan and his lady, the manorial rights were bequeathed to Robert's eldest son, also named Robert. There were further disputes over these rights between the younger Robert Taylor and William Speer, which were resolved in an agreement signed on 20 July 1833.

Note that Sir Charles Sullivan was a leading figure among those who were to seek prosecution of William's son Wilfred, and several of the witnesses for the prosecution were connected with Imber Court – including the Master of the National School, which had been financed by Taylor and subsequently by Sullivan administering a Taylor bequest. The schoolmaster's stipend was almost certainly paid from Taylor money.

New Lord overbearing

No sooner had the eventual arbitration agreement over manorial rights been signed than on the very same day in 1833 William Speer, just retired from HM Treasury, held his first court as Lord of the Manor of Weston. The record of proceedings is quite something in aggressive tone and

reach, running to twenty foolscap pages of expensive vellum. It recited the dispute resolution, announced fines on any resident who had failed to attend William's court – you may scarcely imagine that many local dignitaries attended – and unpicked several past property arrangements that had been made by the Manor of Imworth and which were now accounted matters for Weston. Among other things, William Speer slapped annual rents of £2 on ponds used for several decades by Admiral Robert Lambert and Leonard Seeley.

Note that Leonard Seeley of The Elms, whose pond is now known as Milbourne pond, was to be a prime mover in the case against Wilfred Speer. And the then Capt. George Lambert, Robert Lambert's youngest brother, was to be the occupant of Weston House with its adjacent pond on Weston Green at the time of Wilfred's trial, and a witness for the prosecution.

Buying patronage of the living

For a century the Hardinge family of Kingston owned the advowson for St. Nicholas and the other four chapelries that came under the Rectory at Kingston, and thereby the right to nominate the incumbent clergymen. In 1769 George Hardinge obtained an Act of Parliament to separate this fief into two vicarages and two perpetual curacies (Thames Ditton

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and East Molesey). Hardinge subsequently proceeded to sell off the component parts in a complex way only a lawyer could conceive, multiplying his profits. In 1777 he sold the *right of presentation* to East Molesey (but not the advowson) for a term of sixty years. In 1778 he sold a similar right for sixty years to present to Thames Ditton. Both sales were to John Rowells who sold them on to a Mrs. Legh who in turn sold on to William Attwick (Attwick had inherited his money along with his father's business manufacturing ironmongery for the Royal Navy yards in Gosport). In 1781 Hardinge sold the *leases* of the advowsons of Kingston, Kew, Thames Ditton and Molesey to Edmund Escourt and in the same year he sold the advowsons themselves (i.e. the absolute ownership) to King's College Cambridge subject to the rights and leases above. Meanwhile he ensured the appointment of his brother Rev Henry Hardinge as Vicar of all the above vicarages and curacies. Henry Hardinge was not a success in Thames Ditton and on the parishioners' petition to the bishop he was replaced first by Rev Daniel Chandler (who may well have been presented by Attwick) and when Chandler was promoted elsewhere, Attwick presented his son-in-law Rev William Ellis who became the incumbent at Thames Ditton.

Ellis had married Caroline Attwick, William Attwick's daughter (when she died, William Ellis remarried in 1823, to Sarah Walter). William and Caroline Ellis had a large interest with others, amounting to £75,000, in slave plantations in Demerara where conditions were bad and there was at least one revolt. Ellis, who also had the curacy of East Molesey, would remain at St. Nicholas for 42 years until his death in November 1834.

There is no doubt that William Speer did acquire the right of presentation for one turn, for he described himself in Vestry records as patron of the living, and the ecclesiastical Court of Arches also described him as such. It seems most probable that the Attwick – Ellis connection led to Speer's opportunity to acquire this right as Rev William Ellis' death approached, three years before the lease on the presentation expired, exercising it to install his son Rev Wilfred Speer as incumbent in March 1835. William Speer's connection with the Ellis family was close and commercial. George Ellis and John Kempson of London, were William Speer's attorneys. George Ellis was Rev. William Ellis' brother and John Kempson was married to William Ellis' sister Anna. George acted for William Speer in his manorial dispute with Robert Taylor (and his heirs including Sir Charles Sullivan) between 1808 and 1833. George Streater Kempson, son of John Kempson and Anna Ellis, became William Speer's Steward for the manor of Weston at the latter's overbearing first Courts in 1833. He lived at Blandford Cottage next to William Speer at Weston Grange.

At the time of Rev Wilfred Speer's appointment there was no indication that he was alcoholic. For the previous seven years he had been curate at St Michael's, Crooked Lane among the slaughter-houses of Eastcheap. But his appointment here, signalled by the vestry's majority decision on his eligibility for the local Hatton bequest, was not unanimously approved.

Lastly on Ellises, Rev William Ellis' widow Sarah was to testify in support of Wilfred Speer that she had "*never witnessed anything indecent or improper in his conduct at church.*"

Church and land disputes

Historian T S Mercer records that the farmland belonging to Boyle Farm included part of the Palace Estate adjoining the Ember, some of which is now known as Albany Reach. “Neighbouring landlords” refused Lord Henry Fitzgerald of Boyle Farm access across their land to and from Molesey Road (now known as Summer Road), compelling him to make a lengthy detour to access it across the River Ember. From later maps I believe that the owner of the adjacent land denying direct access to the Boyle Farmers was William Speer. The Lord de Ros who appeared for the prosecution of Wilfred, asserting there was no reason why he would not be received “by the superior classes” other than his bad habit, was Lord Henry’s third son.

William Speer found himself in company from about 1828 when along with others including Sir Charles Sullivan, Robert Taylor and Rowland Williams of the Newlands he engaged in a legal dispute with Alexander Raphael of Ditton Lodge (North-West side of Giggs Hill Green), to get Raphael to tear down a wall and desist from enclosing Basing Field – where they had Lammas grazing rights during the winter months. This culminated in Speer taking Raphael to the Court of Common Pleas in 1833.

However, this company was to diverge in mid 1835. At about the time of Rev Wilfred Speer’s installation at St Nicholas, the congregation was becoming overcrowded and the vestry had plans to develop the church. A committee was formed with the new vicar in the Chair: members included William Speer, Sir Charles Sullivan and Leonard Seeley. In William Speer’s absence, the committee opted to build a new

nave if the necessary subscriptions could be raised. A message was sent to William Speer in Margate seeking his concurrence. His response: “*I have to inform you that as patron of the living and as a parishioner, I shall oppose the destruction of the ancient nave of Thames Ditton Church.*”

Nevertheless, the committee applied for the Bishop’s permission to proceed. Moreover, as subscriptions were falling short, Alexander Raphael now stepped in. A Catholic himself, worshipping elsewhere, Raphael offered the then large sum of £500 towards expanding the church – provided that his opponents would drop their suit to prevent him enclosing Basing Field (while retaining their grazing rights). A Vestry deputation of gentry including Rowland Williams, Admiral Robert Lambert, Leonard Seeley – a churchwarden – and Sir John Buxton of Ruxley Lodge, Claygate, called upon William Speer to ask his agreement to obtain the five hundred pounds. This however was not acceptable to Speer who continued to pursue the dispute with Raphael through the courts. The Vestry went ahead with the expansion anyway, knocking down a wall of the nave and building the north aisle.

Within a few years Rev Wilfred had resolved the overcrowding by his conspicuous alcoholism. Sir Charles Sullivan and Leonard Seeley supported by the other *dramatis personae* were to lead the move to prosecute William Speer’s son for drunkenness on ecclesiastical duty. Seeley together with Buxton were prime movers in the establishment of a new church in Claygate with a separate benefice so there was no chance Wilfred could officiate there.

Keith Evetts

Solution to the Autumn Crossword



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

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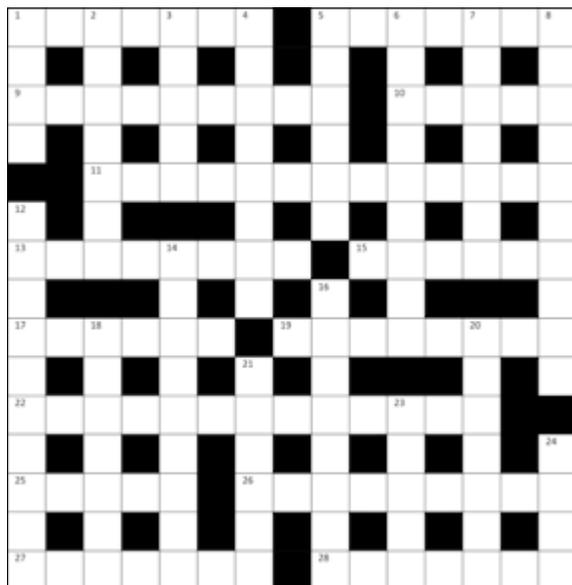
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Winter Crossword

by Michael Jackson



The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 2 February 2018 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

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ACROSS CLUES

1. Puzzled (7)
5. Cordial greeting (7)
9. The bounders (9)
10. Arise (3,2)
11. De Falla's hat is (5,8)
13. Adding nutrients does (8)
15. a stew (6)
17. Set up temporary quarters (6)
19. Greek youth visited every night by Moon goddess Selene (8)
22. Train old nag badly for race (5,8)
25. Bellini's girl (5)
26. Girl that's diffusing heavenly glow (9)
27. Cavities in cranial bones (7)
28. Greek letter (7)

DOWN CLUES

1. Port on Caspian Sea (4)
2. Province in Ireland (7)
3. Ringo (5)
4. Greek Cynic philosopher who advocated a simple life (8)
5. Does Cardinal point on Green here (6)
6. Heroic Lady Green crumbled (9)
7. Alternating trio on a Lake (7)
8. Hastening a process (10)
12. Cleaners discourage men (10)
14. Entertainers (9)
16. Vine twisted above wise man's picture (8)
18. In such a grinding soreness (7)
20. Poorly bird we hear is prohibited (7)
21. Anatolian river; supporting tissue (6)
23. Small sweet winter pear (5)
24. Hit heads up (4)

SERVICES, CLUBS, SOCIETIES AND GROUPS

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Mark Michelmore	01372 879321
Dittons & Weston Green NeighbourCare	Frankie Bell	07790 472993

Elmbridge Borough Council Community Support Services

Thames Ditton Centre for the community	Mon & Thurs	020 8398 5921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	020 8398 3772
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	020 8398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

Girl Guiding in TD & WG	Mrs K Williams	020 8398 1300
1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Mrs. Bronach Hughes	020 8398 1628
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Deborah Daoud	020 8398 5521
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	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	Larisa Strickland	westongreenrainbows@gmail.com
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 Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
Rotary Club, Esher	Geoff Morris	01932 868454
Rubber Bridge TD Lawn Tennis Club	Val	020 8399 9972
Surbiton Croquet Club	Alec Thomas	020 8398 2391
Surbiton Golf Club	Secretary	020 8398 3101
Surbiton Hockey Club	Secretary	020 8398 2401
Thames Ditton Lawn Tennis Club	Chris Lewis	07770 562569
Thames Ditton & Esher Golf Club	Mark Rodbard	020 8398 1551
Thames Ditton Squash Club (Colets)	Dave Peck	020 8398 7108
Thames Ditton Cricket Club	Howard Frish (Secretary)	07947 561449

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Ember Choral Society	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher Recorded Music Society	Miss S. M. Garrat	020 8398 8541
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Chris Walker (Sec)	020 8398 6651
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	020 8398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	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 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: Amelia Crafts	08456 528 529
	Membership: Sue Morris	020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

Events at the Vera Fletcher Hall

Autumn 2017 into Spring 2018



FILM NIGHT: The Happiest Days of your Life 1950 Classic British comedy starring Alastair Sim and Margaret Rutherford as two head teachers trying to cope with the chaos that ensues when St Swithin's Girls School is accidentally billeted at Nutbourne College for Boys.

Friday 24th November 7.30 pm Tickets £7.00 (includes a complimentary drink)

CHILDREN'S SHOW: Proteus Theatre presents A Christmas Carol. Award-winning Proteus Theatre brings Dickens' best-loved story to the stage in the fast, funny, highly physical and contemporary adaptation.
Saturday 2nd December 2.30 pm Tickets: £8.00 Age 6+



CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Noted for Music presents Baubles, Bubbles and Bells An evening of unadulterated Christmas sparkle. Jess Radcliffe and her fabulous trio take you on a nostalgic sleigh ride through festive tunes from the likes of Doris Day, Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Ella Fitzgerald and more. This production is sponsored by **NEST of Ripley** and **The Vineking of East Molesey**. **Sunday 10th December. 7.30 pm. Tickets: £15.00 (includes a complimentary glass of bubbly and a yummy artisan mince pie)**

All details of the current Autumn Season can be found online at www.verafletcherhall.co.uk. Tickets can be booked online or via 08456 528529. Our Spring 2018 brochure will be out in early December.

PREVIEW OF THE SPRING 2018 SEASON

DRAMA: Isosceles Theatre in association with Useful Idiots present MURDER - JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED (The Anatomy Murders of 1828) by Patrick Prior. C19th science and murder cling together in a dance of death. Sixteen people are slaughtered by Burke and Hare and a trail of terror leads from West Port to the dissection table of Robert Knox. Murder will out and a price must be paid, even by the anatomist supreme. **Saturday 13th January 7.30 pm Ticket £13.00**

CHILDREN'S SHOW: Little Angel Theatre presents. RED RIDING HOOD AND THE WOLF There are two sides to every tale. What if the big bad wolf wasn't big or bad at all? What if they got it wrong? Robyn wants to tell you what *really* happened through a world of home-made make-believe. Enjoy a new spring on this classic story - about two misfits who just want to fit in.
Saturday 27 January 2.30 pm. Tickets: £8. For Age 7+



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