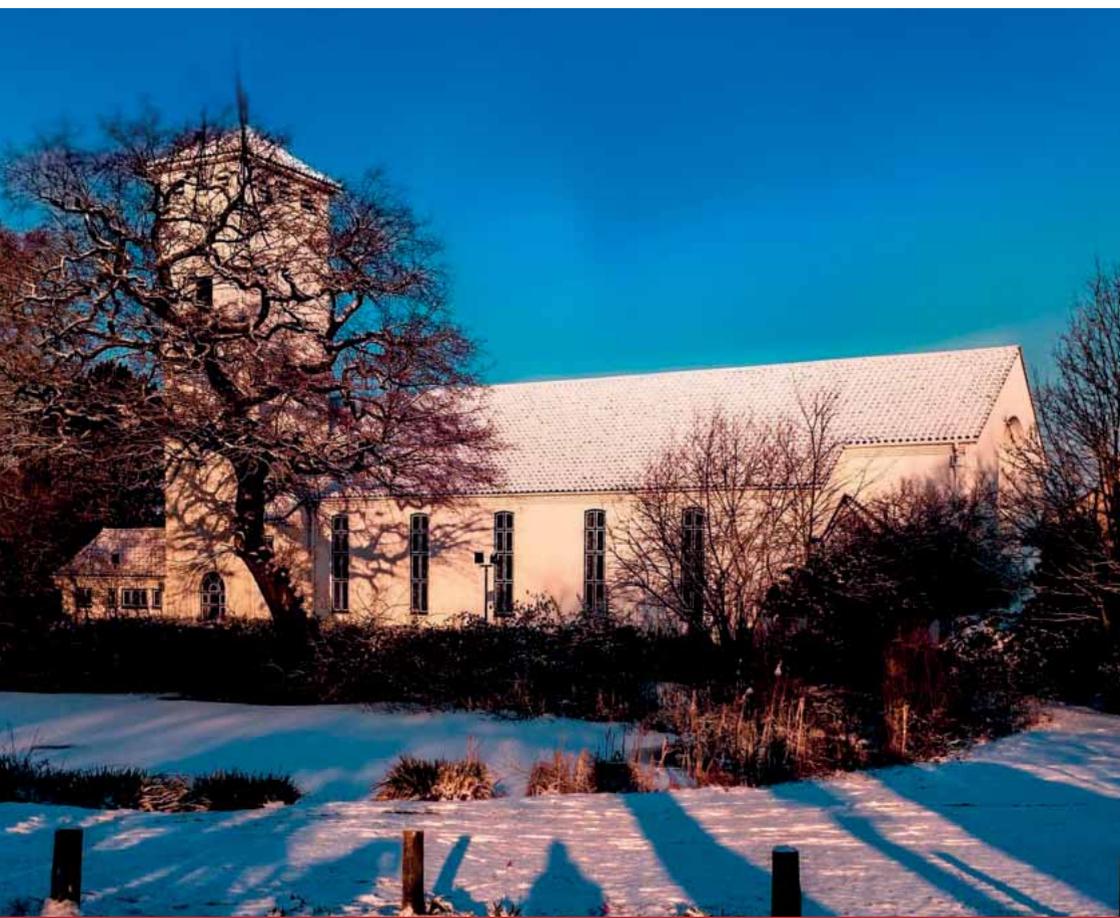


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THAMES DITTON TODAY

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.

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Photo credit: Susan Mason

www.residents-association.com

Officers and staff of the Association are volunteers, but we must fund costs of this magazine, administrative and election expenses, and other expenses such as spring bulb-planting and village Christmas trees. The subscription is only £5 per household. If you can contribute more, please do so. Subscriptions can be paid via our website www.residents-association.com; subscriptions (in an envelope please) may be left at 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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THAMES DITTON AND WESTON GREEN 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' Association Councillors covering the two electoral wards we have a strong voice on Elmbridge Borough Council working with other Residents' Association 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

January 28, 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton
March 17, 8pm. AGM - Vera Fletcher Hall, Thames Ditton

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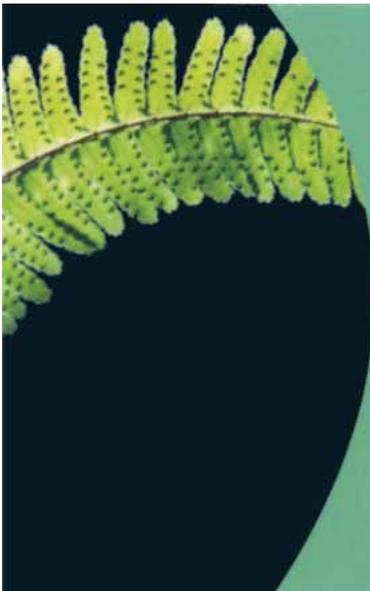
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News from the Residents' Association to end October



Local Plan Consultation

The second Local Plan consultation closed at the end of September. Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) received 6,622 responses, of which 64% were from people who had not responded to the first consultation. Of the total responses received 85% selected Option 4 for their area. However, the response was varied across the borough with less than half of the respondents in four of the 10 areas choosing option 4.

The Residents' Association submitted a detailed response following discussions at our Open Meeting on September 24. See the article on page 13.

Christmas Fair and Christmas Lights

Don't forget the Thames Ditton Christmas Fair will be on Sunday December 1, 3pm-6pm. The Residents' Association has paid for new Christmas Lights for 2019 and these will be switched on at 4.30pm on the day. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

New Refill sites

The Co-op and Electrical Supplies both on Broadway Weston Green, Thames Ditton Golf Club and Marney's pub have signed up to the Refill scheme. Remember to download the refill app to find sites that are signed up to the scheme, where you can fill your reusable water bottle free of charge.



Path from Lower Green Road to Esher Station platform

And then there was light!

For some years RA Cllr Tannia Shipley has been trying to get lighting for the path that runs from Lower Green Road to the platform at Esher Station. It has been an uphill struggle with ownership issues and financial problems regarding its installation and the ongoing cost of electricity.

We are delighted to report that, after many months of intense negotiations and site visits, Network Rail has agreed that the lighting be installed – this work should be completed within the next couple of months.

We will keep you posted!



Thames Ditton in Bloomers braving the wet to plant out Thames Ditton station

Thames Ditton In Bloom wins major Britain In Bloom Award

The Thames Ditton In Bloom Station Garden was recently awarded a Level 4 ‘Thriving’ Award in the South & South East In Bloom Awards, part of the prestigious RHS 2019 Britain In Bloom nationwide competition. This is just one small step



Young Thames Ditton in Bloomers

away from the highest accolade, Level 5 ‘Outstanding’, so the village can be justifiably proud of its achievement!

Once the celebrations were over, the Thames Ditton In Bloom volunteers were, once again, out in force at the station, planting for Autumn at Winter with Spring bulbs underneath.

Thames Ditton In Bloom organiser, Cllr Tricia W. Bland, would like to thank all those who braved the rain and attended on the day – including all the local families who help to plant out the planters, wheelbarrows and long flower bed, the dedicated Thames Ditton In Bloom watering team plus local South Western Railway staff. Not forgetting Alaa, in Café Noir, who gave up his day off to give out free teas and coffees to everyone who came to help and Tricia who baked brownies and flapjacks to revive the spirits and fuel the efforts of the workers.

If you would like to get involved in Thames Ditton In Bloom contact Tricia on tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk



Alaa and Tricia with refreshments!

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The CIL Settlement Area Board has agreed funds for the Guide Hut roof and the Sea Scout's toilet block and fencing. Thames Ditton Tennis Club has received partial funding for court resurfacing. To find out more about CIL read the article on page 17 in the Autumn edition of Thames Ditton Today. It can be found on our website www.residents-association.com

Reducing Thames Water Traffic

Local residents (with support from RA Councillor Tannia Shipley) have been asking Thames Water to help pupils at Cranmere be safer by restricting their vehicles. Thames Water have agreed to stop their vehicles using Douglas Road at drop off and pick up times. Thames Water are

being very helpful and we are hopeful that the situation will improve.

Thames Water has an education department and they are hoping to work with Cranmere to provide a vehicle to show the children how hard it is to see them and to encourage them to be careful. They will also talk to pupils about the environmental issues regarding waste and the sewage system.

Planning

The proposed development at **Sandown Park Racecourse (2019/0551)** was refused unanimously. It is expected to go to appeal.

The application for 78 flats plus offices to replace current industrial units on **Hampton Court Trading Estate, Summer Road (2019/2005)** is still under consideration.

Land to the east of 74-128 Speer Road (2019/1721) and **(2019/1691)**. Application **2019/1691** for two single storey detached buildings comprising 15 garage units has now been withdrawn necessitating a re-consultation on **2019/1721** (1 two-storey, three-bedroom dwelling within the built form of planning permission **2017/0818** (an office building)).

George And Dragon Public House, Thames Ditton (2019/2346). An application is under consideration to replace the umbrellas at the front of the pub with a permanent pergola.

Currently there is no update for the application for the development of the **Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site (2018/3810)**.

Milbourne Pond

We are pleased that Milbourne Pond continues to hold water and the wildlife and vegetation is flourishing.

Dates for your diary

Farmers' Market

George and Dragon
car park 9.30am-1:30pm
Saturdays; November 23,
Sunday December 15
Saturday February 22.



Christmas Fair & Lights Switch On

Thames Ditton High Street
Sunday, December 3pm to 6pm
lights switch on at 4:30pm

Café Bridge

Bridge Road, East Molesey
Thursday, December 5
(see article page 31)

Boomerang Bag Club

Thames Ditton Centre
Mondays 10am- 1.30pm.
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Weston Green Litter Pickers

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

Thames Ditton Litter Pickers

Meet on the third Saturday of the month
at the George & Dragon at 11am

Bereavement Cafés

St. Nicholas Church Hall
10:30am-12 noon
3rd Wednesday of the month
All Saints, Weston Green
10:30am-12 noon
1st Tuesday of the month

St. Mary's, Long Ditton,
Community Hall

7:30pm - 9pm
2nd Wednesday of the month

Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton

Sunday June 7, 2020.

To take part please contact
carolinejames1@gmail.com

Residents' Association

www.residents-association.com or
follow us on Twitter @TDresidents

 **7 June 2020** **THAMES DITTON**

We are looking for Secret Gardeners for 2020 ...

There is plenty of time to prepare!

***If you and your garden would like to take part
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Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Councillor



I had some difficulty working out where to start with Surrey news this time. Should it be that Surrey spends £1m a day on Adult Social Care and £0.5m (half) on Children's services? But a recent afternoon brought everything into sharp perspective - an example of the fabulous caring community with whom we share the Dittons.

Hattie, our eight-month-old black Lab, decided to investigate elsewhere as we momentarily had our backs turned with the garden gate open. An hour or so later, we had a call from the emergency vets in East Molesey to say Hattie had been found by a passer-by in Thames Ditton and handed in to them. Great relief all round! Much concern and kindness was expressed by those we spoke to in our searches. Our enormous thanks to all for their support.

As Vice Chair of the Surrey Adult and Health Select Committee we have frequent contact with various health bodies. Staff numbers are a big issue in Surrey, as elsewhere, despite protestations of more money now being available. There is great concern over the falling numbers of children and others who have had the MMR vaccination. Similar concern exists over the flu jab – many, including those over 65, can have them free.

On other matters: -

- 1) Significant gas main replacement works are due in St Leonards Road. While Surrey have little choice when dealing with utility companies, I am hoping that following recent disruption in nearby Southbank, the same contractors will have learned



Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby

- some lessons. I am seeking a meeting both with them and Thames Water
- 2) Extinction Rebellion visited our last two full Council meetings - interesting for me to follow the Leader's speech knowing they were in the public gallery!
 - 3) There is still work to be done for secondary school places in the Dittons but the new extended bus service from Thames Ditton to Three Rivers has started well
 - 4) We are looking at parking changes on Weston Green Road, both to assist residents, and to ensure the bus does not get held up
 - 5) In the latest Heathrow consultation, Surrey County Council expressed concerns on many aspects, from the lack of southern rail access, traffic, air quality and pollution, to noise from aircraft rerouting and massively increased flights. Our Residents Association and Elmbridge Borough Council have said much the same.

Wishing everyone some autumn sunshine!

Nick Darby



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Local Plan— why this is a great place to live



The Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association made an extensive submission to the Local Plan Consultation. The full response can be found on our website residents-association.com. Here is our answer to question 3a. **What are the key characteristics that make your area a great place to live?**



One of our network of green spaces at Weston Green

Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey are attractive places to live, with excellent facilities as well as green spaces.

Our area has a unique identity benefiting from its close proximity to London with excellent transport links with access to the A3, M3 and M25, easy access to both Heathrow and Gatwick Airports and several South Western Railway train lines into London Waterloo, whilst keeping its village character with great cultural heritage. A network of green spaces, commons, parks and rivers contribute to the vibrancy that make Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey special places to live, work in, or visit.

Overall, the character of Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey is generally “suburban with a village atmosphere”. Many residents use the excellent transport links to commute into London, but the area is also home to a variety of smaller and mid-sized businesses which is attractive to residents who wish to live close to their workplace. The area has lower density residential housing compared with the neighbouring Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames. Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey are characterised by a mix of (larger) detached properties, semi-detached houses and terraces. These are generally a mix of inter-war, Victorian

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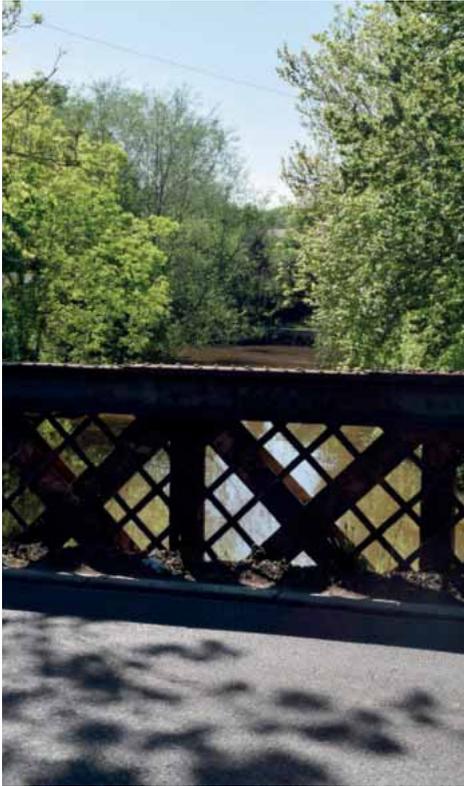
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River Mole at East Molesey

and Edwardian homes often on larger plots including front and rear gardens.

We are lucky enough to have three rivers flowing through our communities, the Thames, the Ember and the River Mole. All rivers offer a great deal to residents, from boat trips, and rowing, to walks along the river's edge and nearby countryside.

The surrounding green spaces and commons provide rich havens for wildlife and places for residents to explore for walking or on horse-back and for other

outdoor activities. The green spaces, including the places designated as part of the Green Belt, are major green assets which give our part of Elmbridge an exceptional character.

The Thames Path touches on the northern fringes of East Molesey before crossing Hampton Court Bridge and following the tow path on the north bank of the Thames opposite Thames Ditton. Other footpaths provide residents with easy access to the green spaces, and as a result of this, the open spaces are frequently used by residents.

Thames Ditton, Weston Green and East Molesey are also attractive places to live on account of outstanding local schools. There is considerable pressure on our local secondary school in Hinchley Wood as a result of this.

Residents are keen to maintain the attractiveness of our local High Streets, for example the High Street in Thames Ditton and Bridge Road in East Molesey. Thames Ditton has established a vibrant farmers' market which takes place monthly.

The area is also home to a variety of long-established sport clubs which make use of sports fields, recreation grounds, Ditton Common and Giggs Hill Green common in Thames Ditton.

Overall, residents enjoy our unique communities because they provide them with a sense of space and neighbourhood safety. Many residents live in our villages over decades and are keen to preserve the character of the area that they have bonded with.



Image courtesy of Thamesdittonhighstreet.com Illustrated by Lisa Tolley

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Kane enables



Sandi Johnson has lived in Thames Ditton for most of her life. She was born in South Africa, because her mother, a Scottish nurse, was permitted to travel to Johannesburg to stay with her diplomat brother when she asked her parents if she could see some of the world. There she met and married Sandi's father and they returned to the UK when Sandi was four.

They initially set up home in Osterley until Sandi began a love affair with horses when she became a Hampton Court Ranger, and her parents a love affair with Thames Ditton while they were hanging around waiting for her to finish. Sandi said: *'They would hire a boat at Hampton Court and go down to Thames Ditton Island where they saw a house for sale which was vacant. They had picnics on the lawn before they even made an offer – a kind of try before you buy!'*

By the time Sandi was at Thames Ditton Middle School, the school eyesight test picked up that she had a problem. It turned out to be a rare combination of genes which gave her Stargardt's Disease - a genetic condition which kills the central vision, leaving her no facial recognition or detail and only peripheral vision, which deteriorates in all of us as we age.

With time Sandi began to feel more isolated as her sight worsened and her independence diminished. *'I started bumping into things and would wave down a dustbin lorry at a request bus stop, or I would be approached by security guards in the supermarket when trying to dig out my magnifying glass, until I explained that I wasn't shoplifting. After*

a while it wore me down and I more or less stopped going out.'

Cue Kane...



Sandi and Kane

Kane is the black, sleek Labrador with an affectionate tongue who never leaves Sandi's side. He has changed her life. He wasn't a straight 'A' student at Guide Dog school, but Sandi has partial sight and so they felt the risk was small and he landed the job. After a gradual bonding 18 months ago, they are now the perfect couple. Since having Kane she finds people are so much more friendly and helpful, for example in assisting her to use public transport. She has since been on an aeroplane and is now thinking of doing a cruise. She's even been to the theatre for an audio performance of Hamilton and said: *'While we were inside enjoying the show the staff treated the guide dogs like royalty, they were having a bun fight out there and even dressed up in the costumes!'*



Kane at the theatre for Hamilton

A friend encouraged Sandi to go on the guide dog waiting list which she had resisted it for the selfless reason that it would make her disability more visible and this could stigmatise her teenage son. Guide Dogs Kingston set about matching her to a suitable dog using their process, which includes working out a person's leg length, speed of walking and ability to trust by using a trained human in a harness!

Sandi quipped: 'Walking past Esher College where my son was studying and hearing 'you've forgotten your dog love' was not the most auspicious of starts, but it made me more determined to educate people to promote awareness and increase understanding'.

Sandi has since given talks at Esher College and elsewhere about Guide Dogs Kingston, and the students love stroking Kane for exam stress therapy.

From birth to retirement a guide dog costs £57,000 and with no government funding for guide dogs, the charity, Guide Dogs UK, relies entirely on voluntary donations.

Working in leafy Thames Ditton, Kane has a pretty good life - and a girlfriend who lives just round the corner! Kane is the main reason for Sandi's transformation and her gratitude drives her to work tirelessly for Guide Dogs Kingston to promote awareness and fundraise. Listening to Sandi was like watching a firecracker go off as she has so many creative fundraising ideas.



Fundraising

Technology has also played its part in helping Sandi regain her independence, such as the integrated speaking and expansion system provided by Apple, Google maps and Contactless, which allows her to independently shop up to £30. Sandi has also started using a new app to recognise faces and products and even read books ... but none of them are as cuddly as Kane.

Volunteering alongside the energetic Sandi to help promote awareness of and raise money for Guide Dogs Kingston sounds like a lot of fun and even an hour of your time every month or so would be really welcomed. If you would like to give it a try contact Sandi at sandi.j@icloud.com or visit [facebook.com/guidedogskingston](https://www.facebook.com/guidedogskingston)

Julie Royce



Guide Dogs Kingston

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Celebrating Christmas, local Christmas services



In the bleak midwinter

At this time of year, the days may often seem short and dark and in Christina Rossetti's words 'bleak', but 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 appear, mince pies are eaten, stockings hung by the fire and carols sung – all traditions that point out that this is a special time.

In our increasingly secular world, many 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 and those no longer practising the faith, 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 1 December. All of our churches have a variety of Christmas activities (in addition to the normal services) to which all are welcome – whether you are a Christian or not. The children's activities range from Toy Services when congregations bring in toys that will be donated to various local charities, Christingle services, Crib services and a Children's Christmas Eve Candlelight service. There are also children's Christmas parties and arts and crafts sessions.

For adults there are the Nine Lessons and Carols services in which the Christmas narrative is intermingled with carols.



Church Christmas tree

There are also often social gatherings. For instance, St Nicholas Church is holding its Christmas Bazaar on November 30.

Here are the Christmas activities at various churches always check their websites (Yes – all the Churches have websites!)

Linda Lambert

All Saints Weston (C of E)

1 December	4pm	Christingle service
15 December	6.30pm	9 Lessons and Carols
24 December	2pm & 4 pm 11.30pm	Crib services Midnight Mass
25 December	9.45am	Christmas Day Family Eucharist

Our Lady of Lourdes (RC)

8 December	5pm	Service of carols and readings by Candlelight
24 December	6pm 10:30pm 11pm	Vigil Mass of Christmas Carols followed by Mass of Christmas night
25 December	9pm 10.45pm	Christmas Day Mass

Speer Road United Reformed Church

1 December	10:45am	First Sunday in Advent service
8 December	10:45am	Toy service
15 December	10.45am	Nine Lessons & Carols
22 December	10.45am	Third Sunday in Advent service
24 December	6pm	Children's Candlelight Christmas Eve service
25 December	9am	Christmas Day service

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

15 December	10am 4pm	All Age Eucharist Christingle Café
22 December	10am 6pm	Sung Eucharist Carol service
24 December	3pm 11:30pm	Crib service Midnight Mass
25 December	10am	Christmas Day All-age Communion service

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

22 December	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols followed by mince pies & mulled wine
24 December	3pm 11:30pm	Crib service – come dressed as a shepherd, an angel or a wiseman Midnight mass
25 December	8am 10:15am	Holy Communion Family Communion

St Mary's, East Molesey (Cof E)

8 December	6:30pm	Carol service followed by mince pies and mulled wine
24 December	Times TBC 11:00pm	Two Christingle services Midnight Communion
25 December	10am 10:30am	Christmas breakfast Family service followed by coffee & pastries

St. Nicholas' (C of E)

30 November		Christmas Bazaar
15 December	6pm	Nine Lessons & Carols
22 December	3pm	Christingle service
24 December	3pm and 5pm 11:30pm	Blessing of the Crib Midnight Communion
25 December	8am and 10am	Christmas Day service

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

1 December	10am	Christingle service
15 December	6pm	Candlelight carol service
24 December	TBC 11pm	Crib service Midnight Mass
25 December	8:30am 10am	Holy Communion Family Christmas Day service

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❄ pull-out guide ❄

All the Fun of the Christmas 2019 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, try your hand at a novel twist on 'hook the duck' 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.

HJC – The team at HJC will be delighted to see you in their office next to the George and Dragon – please come and join us for a drink and festive bites between 3pm and 6pm. Children and pets welcome!

Little Foray Hair and Beauty – donate to childrenwithcancer.org.uk and join our team for a glass of chilled Prosecco and free festive hair braiding, a chance to win some wonderful organic Oway hair and beauty products and 10% off Christmas gift sets.

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

Maud – Fabulous presents, complimentary gift wrapping, mince pies and sparkle!

Nice Buns Café – presents Madame Zucchini, she brings her unique Childrens' Entertainment to our special village with a vegetable creature making workshop and one of her delightful Shows. Prepare for some hilarious vegetable delights along with our delicious sausage rolls, mince pies and large cups of Mulled Wine. We can't wait to see her sparkly brussels sprout costume!

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.

Ditto – Come and warm up by our flaming fires after the Christmas fair. Restaurant and bar will be open for some delicious warming treats.

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.

Sharm Hairdressing – receive a warm welcome with a glass of bubbly and some gorgeous tasty treats from Mumma's Soul Food. Amazing vouchers to be won too, a blow dry or intense hair conditioning treatment for you or your loved ones. Looking forward to your visit!

View Gifts & Gallery – superb new range of gifts for all the family, luxury chocolates, Christmas decorations, seasonal greetings cards with local imagery. Plus our almost famous Malbec mulled wine with proceeds to Princess Alice Hospice.

White and Lloyd Surveyors – Mulled wine and mince pies with all proceeds going to Princess Alice Hospice.

Not forgetting... The Brownies, The Thames Ditton Crafters, The RNLI with Stormy Stan the Lifeboat Man and the Lifeboat Board Game, Guide Dogs for the Blind, other community groups and stalls.



Santa's Grand Entrance!

This year, **Santa** will be arriving in the classiest of styles – chauffeured in a 1927 Rolls Royce Phantom. He will take a slow cruise through the High Street to his **Christmas Grotto** – the 'manger' outside the George & Dragon – which has been transformed into a magical



Christmas setting. Here you'll find Santa along with his sleigh, 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 to make a Christmas memory. Queue early to avoid disappointment!

That's entertainment!

We will have a host of Entertainment on the High Street. **Carol singing, music and dance** to keep everyone enthralled throughout the fair.

During the fair, **Radio Jackie** will once again be compering the various events and providing additional music.

The **St Nicholas Church choir** will mark the beginning of Advent by leading us all in Christmas carols – bring your best voice!

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.

There will be a **Christmas themed fancy dress for dogs competition** – so don't forget to prepare your pampered pooch!

We're delighted to feature two school groups this year – **St Paul's Catholic Primary School** and **Thames Ditton Infant School Choir**. The children singing love their music and hope you'll be joining them in a medley of traditional and modern carols.

Madame Zucchini (featured on Britain's Got Talent), will be joining us from her Workshop in Nice Buns Café, to perform one of her renowned and very entertaining Childrens' shows at the Lime Tree.

Various other live acts will also be performing and we want to thank them for their involvement

Let there be lights!

Santa will journey back up the High Street to the stage where at 4.45pm, he will switch on the **new Christmas lights around the Lime Tree** and the trees along the High Street.

This wonderful event, organised by a new committee, continues to bring the whole of the Thames Ditton community together in a festive mood which has become a major part of the calendar for the village and the surrounding areas.



XMAS RAFFLE: OVER 20 FABULOUS PRIZES TO BE WON!

This year's festive raffle is spectacular, with an amazing array of prizes up for grabs so don't forget to purchase your Christmas Fair raffle tickets. Available from early November, look out for posters in participating High Street outlets including **Nice Buns Café, Cyclelink, the Ironing Board, View Gifts & Gallery** and the **George & Dragon** amongst others. Just **£1** per ticket, or **5 for £4**. Proceeds to **Keep the Heart in our High Street Campaign** supporting our local shops and businesses and the **High Street Christmas Lights Appeal**.

Thanks to all our Entertainers

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The Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair 2019 is organised
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A welcome awaits at your local community centre

A chance meeting with a resident at a local supermarket galvanised me into writing. She was shopping for an elderly neighbour who she described as ‘lonely and in need of help’ because her children live away. I asked if the neighbour had any support – had she been in touch with Elmbridge Borough Council? The response was ‘what can the council do – there is no support for older people?’

How very wrong can you be?!

Support for older people in this borough is second to none. While boroughs throughout the country (including Surrey) have closed, or are closing, their centres. Elmbridge has seven thriving Community Centres – Claygate, Cobham, Hershaw, Molesey, Thames Ditton (operating two days a week; Mon and Thurs) Walton and Weybridge. Each centre is ‘buzzing’ and provides a bespoke service to the community it serves.

Gone is the old image of Day Centres being a place where people sit, have lunch and then go home. The reality is the complete opposite. They are about meeting people, joining in the myriad of activities and classes on offer, generally being sociable, supporting one another, and having fun! New friendships are formed and these friends get together for other activities outside the centres. On a recent visit to a centre I chatted with many attendees and soon became convinced that their social life was more exciting than mine!

Elmbridge’s centres run computer clubs, art clubs, exercise groups, Tai chi, curling and boccia, community yoga, singing classes, whist, bingo, sequence dancing, bridge clubs and film sessions. Reflexology, beauty and aromatherapy therapists and hairdressers visit the centres, as well as chiropodists and physiotherapists. Each centre also runs its own events calendar



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with all sorts of varied and interesting activities and outings.

There are specialist groups supporting people with dementia and Alzheimer's disease – they operate through the Relief Carers' Scheme. At the start of this year the Community Support Service launched its twelfth day-care group.

A 'Tovatafel' has recently been launched at the Thames Ditton Centre. This is a multi-media table that helps people who have a cognitive challenge, from children with autism to people with dementia. It's an amazing bit of technology and the positive impact it has on those with dementia is astounding. Have a look on the internet to see it in action.

A Day-Care service operates in the Cobham Centre supporting people with learning disabilities. It began with 10 people attending in 2011 and now has 86 regular attendees.

The Thames Ditton Centre runs an extremely successful 'Men in Sheds' project and, more recently, 'Gardening Under Glass' was launched at the Molesey Centre. There are Stroke Groups, Parkinson Groups and an Alz Café.

Earlier this month the 'Safe Places' initiative was launched. This is a countrywide initiative and it is being piloted in Walton and will be rolled out to the whole borough. A 'safe place' is somewhere where someone who is unsure, feels unsafe or anxious can go for help. It can be a shop, café, business, or community centre. Someone there will be able to offer reassurance, some refreshment, and general help.

The Community Alarm service supports 1,700 residents, helping people to stay in their own home.



Men in sheds are actively involved in community projects

A new product called 'Elm Assist' has recently been launched. It's a compact device that has an emergency button for easy two-way calling. It can be used whilst out and about. This provides independence for the user and reassurance for their relatives and those who care for them.

These services are the tip of the iceberg – there are many more! This outstanding work would not be possible but for the dedication and hard work of the excellent team at EBC's Community Support Services. The borough also has a highly committed band of volunteers who support all the services from Meals on Wheels (over 100,000 centre and meals on wheels produced every year!) to supporting tea bars and helping with a myriad of other activities.

I think you would agree that, if you are lucky enough to be growing older, the place to do it is in Elmbridge!

Should you want more information about any of these services please contact Community Support Services on **01372 474552** or email commsservices@elmbridge.gov.uk; web Elmbridge.gov.uk/css

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"Thames Design and Build were great to work with and they were ahead of schedule throughout the project. Their team was sympathetic to the impact of the works whilst we remained living in the house, and we were pleased with the quality of their workmanship. The team is well structured, and communication was good. We were always able to discuss issues either with Fred, the site manager, or Paul Merifield, and agree solutions quickly. The final results are fantastic and have delivered exactly the space that we were looking for." Robin, Kingston

Ditton Garages, Southville Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0UL

Café Bridge for Momentum Children's Charity



Café Bridge fundraising for Momentum Children's Charity in Bridge Road

On Thursday December 5 from 10.15am-4.30pm Café Bridge will be running their third hugely enjoyable bridge event in Bridge Road, East Molesey. This time they are raising money for the Momentum Children's Charity. Feedback from last year's event includes: *"Sorry but absolutely no suggestions as to how to improve the event. Really just about the most enjoyable Café Bridge Liz and I have participated in."*

Café Bridge events are a duplicate pair's game which is set up to run in multiple restaurants and cafés within 250 metres of one another. Pairs of players move to a new venue after each round, guided by a movement card, while boards remain on their starting tables throughout. The registration fee covers refreshments at the venues, for either lunch or drinks at each stop depending on the event and also a charitable donation. Café Bridge usually runs at a time during the week when the host restaurants and cafés are less well attended and with 160 participants already signed up for the Bridge Road event, this brings very

welcome extra custom to the venues when they are generally quieter.

Café Bridge events have been organised in the UK since 2015 raising thousands of pounds for charities, mainly in London and the Home Counties. The longest running in the UK is Guildford Café Bridge which is in its ninth year and has raised over £30,000. Almost all Café Bridge events have a component of raising money for a good cause. In the past, charities that have benefited include The Downs Syndrome Association, The Princess Alice Hospice and many others. Often the beneficiary charity is chosen because of a personal relationship with one of the organisers, which allows the charity to be involved on the day.

This year, the charity chosen to benefit from the Café Bridge event on December 5 is Momentum Children's Charity. The charity was founded by Bianca Effemey in 2004 when she was working in the Paediatric Department at Kingston Hospital. Here she saw the incredible challenges facing



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children with cancer, and their families. The charity started by buying a fridge-freezer for a little girl's room, so that she could have ice lollies and cold drinks to help ease the terrible pain from ulcers in her mouth, resulting from chemotherapy treatment.

Being told that your child has cancer, or another life-challenging condition is devastating, and everyday life is completely turned upside down. Momentum Children's Charity supports the entire family at a time of unimaginable strain by offering an individually tailored support programme at home and in hospital. This includes therapy services, counselling, respite breaks, experiences and children's ward refurbishments. Based in Kingston, at any one-time Momentum Children's Charity aims to support around 200 families whose child is in active treatment, and a further 75 bereaved families



Jakub, (supported by Momentum Children's Charity throughout his cancer treatment) proudly rings the 'end of treatment bell'

Momentum Children's Charity's vision is to help more children and their families by extending the range of services offered and the areas where they work, which currently includes South West London, Surrey and West Sussex. Now celebrating its 15th Anniversary, the target this year is to raise £900,000 for several vital projects.



Café Bridge 2018 raised £2240 and £1871 in July 2019

The East Molesey Café Bridge event promises to be a fun-filled day of playing bridge, meeting new people, and sampling the fantastic cafés and restaurants along Bridge Road. All for a very worthy cause.

Currently, the event is sold out with a waiting list, but the organisers are looking to expand into more venues and are very keen to find substitutes, both singles and pairs. For substitutes the deal is that you commit to arrive on the morning of December 5, and play, all day if necessary, in lieu of a late or no-show pair. If all registered players are present at the start, then you are free to leave. Regardless of whether you are needed, you will be provided with a lunch voucher valid during the event only at any of the participating venues. If you end up

playing for the whole event as a substitute, you still don't have to pay the registration fee, and you will be fully entitled to any prizes that you may win. You will need to register as a potential substitute with Café Bridge ahead of the event



Daisy with her mum Katie and big sister Poppy enjoying a much-needed respite break together following Daisy's cancer diagnosis



If you would like to find out more details about the Café Bridge in East Molesey please contact the event organiser Michael Brown at michael@picturehouse.org or call 07795 264 156 or for future events (and there are lots already planned for 2020) contact www.brianbridge.net

For more information and to make donations to Momentum Children's Charity please visit www.moment-um.org

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The Sleepy Pebble and other stories



The willow tree at Marney's Pond is now immortalised in a book for children

In my family, bedtime can be a fraught affair, with children over-tired from school, clubs, activities and homework. From talking to other parents, I know that we're not alone. Some children go to sleep easily, but others find it hard to wind down and relax at bedtime.

So, when Professor Alice Gregory, a sleep expert and author of *Nodding Off: The Science of Sleep from Cradle to Grave* (Bloomsbury, 2018), approached me with the idea of co-writing a children's book to help children relax at bedtime, I jumped at the chance. Like Alice, I was excited by the idea and we drafted a story, 'The Sleepy Pebble', that embedded into a story scientifically grounded techniques – imagery, muscle relaxation and mindfulness.

Alice and I ran a small pilot study to trial the story, inviting 100 families (who had

at least one child aged between 3 and 11) to take part. The feedback we received was largely positive and gave us useful information for improving the book. We decided to move forwards with the project.

We found a publisher, the delightful Flying Eye Books, and got to work on more stories for the book. We wanted the stories to incorporate themes and characters based in nature, so started to think of ideas. Alice lives in Teddington and I live in Weston Green, so we are both lucky to have access to numerous ponds, wooded areas, parks and greens – and with young children who needed entertaining, we spent a lot of time out and about in them.

Alice suggested writing a story about a tree, but we struggled to make it work. Then one day, as my daughter and I were feeding the ducks at Marney's pond, I looked up at

the beautiful tree there and came up with the character of Willow, a tree who wants nothing more than to stay up late on her birthday. I sent the story to Alice and we agreed that this was to be our tree story.

Together, Alice and I came up with five stories for the final book, with the other stories focusing on a snail, giraffe and a pot-bellied pig. Then Eleanor Hardiman illustrated the stories. It was a dream come true to see our little characters – who by now had become friends to us – become real.

Our book was published in October, and it's been wonderful (and a little bit nerve-racking!) to watch it appear on children's bookshelves. Our little pebble's journey into the outside world has begun and we hope that our book is making bedtimes that little bit easier for families.



Prof. Alice Gregory (left) and Christy Kirkpatrick

'The Sleepy Pebble and Other Stories: Calming Tales to Read at Bedtime' by Professor Alice Gregory and Christy Kirkpatrick (Illustrated by Eleanor Hardiman, Flying Eye Books, 2019) is available to buy from Amazon and other retailers.

Christy Kirkpatrick

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The Williamses, and the Newlands



The Newlands 1823, from a drawing by John Hassel

I first came across the Williams family in the parish when among the witnesses at the 1841 ecclesiastical trial of the vicar, Rev. Wilfred Speer, for habitual drunkenness on duty, was Captain Rowland Edward Louis Charles Williams. Williams deposed among other things that the vicar had made a parochial visit to him before dinner one day in 1836 and was clearly intoxicated – to the extent of mounting his horse to leave, and immediately falling off the other side of it.

Since then I have never been able to pass the entrance of The Newlands, Williams' home in Weston Green, without picturing that memorable scene. Capt. Williams then departed for his plantation interests in the Caribbean without cross-examination by the court, which had plenty of other witnesses before it – nearly all the notables in the parish.

I next happened upon the Williamses in my researches into the Lambert family of Weston House, across the green from The Newlands, particularly during the period

1799-1805 when Catherine Lambert struck up a friendship with Mrs. Mary Williams, mother of the above Captain. The daughter of Robert Symes, of Esher and Jamaica, Mary had married Rowland Edward Williams of Antigua and Thames Ditton, born 18 Dec 1748, died November 1826 and buried at Thames Ditton, who inherited from his father several slave plantations, mainly in Antigua, along with The Newlands. The Williamses thus had much in common with other slave plantation owners in the parish, including Catherine Lambert who inherited a plantation in Jamaica where she was born Catherine Byndloss; Robert Taylor of Imber Court and the Lord of the Manors of Imber and Weston, a former captain of ship for the East India Company who became a slave trader as well as plantation owner (and acted for his brother who was reputedly the biggest slave owner in Jamaica), leaving the plantations to his son-in-law Sir Charles Sullivan; Charles Rose Ellis, who owned Claremont in Esher - and ten thousand acres of Jamaican plantations - for a while; and not least Rev. Wilfred's predecessor as vicar here, Rev. William Ellis, who gained along with his first wife his presentation to the living and a large interest in slave plantations in Demerara.

Wild days of Caribbean conquest

There was quite a long line of these Williamses, who may have hailed originally from Penrhyn, extending back to the 1600s and the desperate days of derring-do as the Caribbean was colonized by the rival powers of Western Europe. The rather bloodthirsty indigenous Caribs of the Lesser Antilles, wont to butcher the settlers and abduct their wives and children, were largely extinguished (some 3000 now remain) before the French, Dutch, Spanish and English set to among themselves to

determine which among them should establish their version of civilization on which islands, with the use of slaves bought from their fellow Africans in Africa and shipped in appalling circumstances to the new plantations. There was money to be made; but not without danger and bravery, in times when ethics were a minor consideration.

The father of the first identifiable Rowland Williams, who might himself have been named Rowland, reputedly emigrated under the auspices of William Herbert, Earl of Pembroke, and is said to have been the first colonist from these shores to set foot in the Island of Antigua, a medium-sized island some 28 miles by 22 miles in the Leeward Islands. He planted and settled what became the first part of the family estate at Old Road. In about 1632 he had a son, Rowland Williams, who is said to have been the first white child born in the colony. This Rowland Williams, an active officer in the militia forces that provided security on the island, had an eventful life. In 1668 he was granted 300 acres; promoted Lieutenant 1669, Major 1671, Lieutenant-Colonel 1676, and a year later full Colonel, by which rank he was thereafter known. In 1676 he bought a further 230-acre estate on the island.

In 1671, Antigua became part of the newly formed colony of the Leeward Islands and a Lieutenant Governor was appointed on Antigua to oversee domestic affairs. In 1676 we have a detailed account of facilities on the island, which by that stage had one church. The militia numbered around 800 men, with 33 horse, and there were three forts and sixteen cannon – eight twelve-pounders and eight eight-pounders. Lt. Col. Rowland Williams was second in command under Col. Philip Warner. The 'manurable' acreage on the island was 100,000. A thousand slaves were imported yearly to the

Leeward Islands for £20,000.

Colonel Rowland Williams became the second Lieutenant Governor, from 1675 to 1678, and then served again in that capacity 1689-1692, when he was made a Clerk of the Navy. In 1690 he commanded a contingent of some 800 men from Antigua which contributed to a force of 2300 soldiers and 200 sailors under the captain-general of the Leeward Islands, Christopher Codrington, which retook the twin islands of St. Kitts and Nevis from the French. Codrington's account makes interesting reading for the military minded.

Col. Rowland Williams married Elizabeth, a daughter of Samuel Winthrope, Deputy Governor of Antigua, the widow of William Mildon of Nevis. By the time he died 20 July 1713, aged 80, they had produced two sons and four daughters.

The Newlands

It is not clear exactly when the Williams family acquired the Newlands on Weston Green Road, or indeed whether they had it built. The property, which according to its Grade II* listing dates from the late 1600s, was not identifiably referenced at Colonel Rowland Williams' death. Apart from some bequests to maintain his daughters of money, sugar, and a small number of slaves (one of whom was granted his freedom and two slave boys), he left all the rest of his estate to his surviving son Thomas Williams, who likewise became a Colonel. Thomas died in 1733, listed as "of Old Road Antigua and Newlands in Thames Ditton."

There has been some further confusion in that the Newlands has at various times been referred to as a Mansion House, and later as Weston Grove. It thus needs disentangling from Weston House across the green, now no longer in existence. I am fairly satisfied that the house that was part of the Imber

Court estate, known formally as "The" Mansion House, was the one which became Weston House and not the Newlands. It was built towards the end of Shem Bridges' life in about 1716; bequeathed by Henry Bridges to his niece Rose Bridges; became part of the Onslows' estate through marriages of Rose and her sister, and was sold by Lord George Onslow at auction to George Jarvis, whose estranged daughter, Lady Mary Twysden, sold it to the Lamberts.

That leaves the origin of the Newlands slightly more obscure. It is tempting – and may be apposite – to regard its name as a reference to the "new lands" being exploited in the Caribbean; and some of the design themes in the glorious plaster ceiling and oak paneling there seem to reflect that sort of heritage. But I have also come across a reference in the 1700s to John(?) Newland, with a house and an orchard in the manor; and if that was a family of several previous generations here, then "the Newlands" might be how the site was known to local people. At any rate, for the century it was in the Williams family it had about 12 acres attached, including Bason Field – subsequently known as Basing Field.

Colonel Thomas Williams married Mary, daughter of Edward Byam, by Sarah, daughter of Samuel Winthrop - the same Deputy Governor of Antigua who had furnished Thomas' father with a daughter for a wife. Of their sons Rowland Williams and Edward Williams, both born at St John's the capital of Antigua, the former went via Queens College Oxford to become a doctor in New York and died in 1738-39, and the latter inherited. We know that in 1780 he was the owner of 250 slaves and 1030 acres on the island. Of two other sons, one, Samuel Williams, inherited the 'Horns' estate on Antigua.

Edward Williams married Mary Bennett



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Weston Green Road, Thames Ditton, KT7 0JN

from Penrith and they had two sons. The eldest, Rowland Williams, born in 1748, inherited three plantations on Antigua and the Newlands when Edward died in April 1784, aged 74, to be buried at Thames Ditton. This Rowland Williams married Mary Symes – these were the neighbours and friends of Catherine Lambert. His younger brother Samuel inherited a further plantation from Edward Williams.

Rowland Williams “of Antigua and Thames Ditton” died in 1826, his wife Mary a year later, both buried at Thames Ditton. His will named three estates in Antigua and he owned 121 slaves. A wealthy man in those times, apart from his properties and residual estate he left over £68,500 to his legatees. This included £5,000 to pay off some annuities which his son Captain Rowland Edward Louis Charles Williams “*hath most imprudently and destructively to himself granted.*”

Which brings me to where I came in. Capt. in the 10th Hussars Rowland Edward Louis Charles Williams, born April 1784, whose contempt as a Hussar for Rev Wilfred Speer’s drunken horsemanship may be well imagined, was - apart from an imprudent manager of finances - a Member of Council and Puisne Baron of Exchequer, Antigua. He grandly called his ancestral estate in the Caribbean “Claremont.” Capt. Williams styled “of Weston Green, Surrey, and of Antigua,” married Clara Susanna, second daughter of Major-General Sir Patrick Ross.

During their tenure the abolition of slavery, and the subsequent end of indentured labour on the plantations, put the finances of many Caribbean plantations in difficulties. To get the legislature through Parliament, financial compensation was offered to the plantation owners (but of course none to the poor souls whose fellows had sold them to Europeans as slaves).



*The Newlands, Weston Green 2019
credit Keith Evetts*

Clara, Capt. Williams’ wife, died at Claremont, Antigua, in March 1840. Capt. Williams testified against Rev Wilfred at the Court of Arches a year later, then returned to attend to his affairs in Antigua where he died in 1852. Their son Rowland Edward Louis Henry Williams of the 32nd Foot, born in October 1828 on Antigua, died 3 October 1867 at Upper Norwood. In his turn buried at St. Nicholas, he was described as “*of Antigua and of Newlands in Thames Ditton.*”

But by then, the Newlands, for some while shorn of Basing Field which had come into the hands of Alexander Raphael, had been sold. Its subsequent occupants and its institutional history in the last century have been covered by others; it has returned to private hands in recent years and this fine old building has undergone a sympathetic restoration.

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.

Stephen Beecroft,
9 St Helens,
Weston Green Road,
KT7 0JD

Michael Evans,
46 Station Road,
Thames Ditton

Mrs E M Jones
23 Riversdale Road,
Thames Ditton

there's **something** for the young ones...



and there's
plenty for
grown-ups

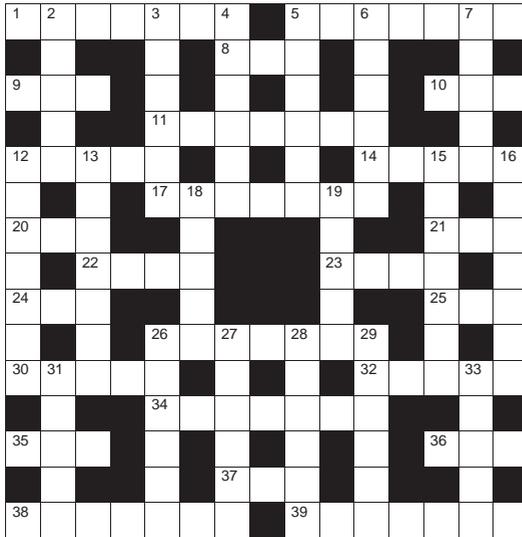


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Winter Crossword



by **Howard and Bob Cruthers**

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 31 January 2020 will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops. Please send the completed puzzle (or photocopy) enclosing your name and address, with the envelope clearly marked 'Crossword Competition' to:

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

ACROSS CLUES

- 1 Genuine mix up for unsophisticated young woman (anag) (7)
- 5 Hairy (7)
- 8 Prompt for snooker? (3)
- 9 Bizarre (3)
- 10 Organise a marathon? (3)
- 11 Location for surgery, or a play (7)
- 12 Come up with plan, for egg birth? (5)
- 14 Take on (5)
- 17 Damage to reputation (7)
- 20 Botham, or McEwan? (3)
- 21 Go down (3)
- 22 Worry, about guitar strip? (4)
- 23 Muslim leader (4)
- 24 Stock cube, or London Tower? (3)
- 25 One of Freud's three mind agents (3)
- 26 Already seen? (4, 3)
- 30 What you're trying to do with these clues (4)
- 32 Eg. gold or silver (4)
- 34 First five bones of a beef loin (7)
- 35 Employ (3)
- 36 "Rubbish!" (3)
- 37 Sash for kimono (3)
- 38 US President, born William Jefferson Blythe III (7)
- 39 Ultimate adversary (7)

DOWN

- 2 Comaneci, or Sawalha? (5)
- 3 Coming after eighths (6)
- 4 Itchy skin complaint (6)
- 5 Impassioned (argument?) (6)
- 6 Rescind (6)
- 7 Beat, in card trick? (5)
- 12 Odious (7)
- 13 Very thin layer of metal, now made from aluminium (7)
- 15 Article from a broken set (7)
- 16 Upper part of the garden? (7)
- 18 Attractive young female (5)
- 19 Farewell (5)
- 26 Change sides, because of fault? (6)
- 27 Hackneyed term (6)
- 28 Noxious animals (6)
- 29 Mummify (6)
- 31 Blackbird (5)
- 33 Garlic mayonnaise (5)

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	0208 3985921
Thames Ditton Children's Centre	Tues, Weds, Fri	0208 3983772
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Homesupport Elmbridge	Thomasina Breslin	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	0208398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

1st Thames Ditton Brownies	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
3rd Thames Ditton Brownies	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Rainbows	Heather Crowe	heathercrowe@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green (All Saints) Scout Group	Carole Needham	1wgbrownies@gmail.com
1st Weston Green Guides	Sumathi Jeevaratnam	sumathi.jeevaratnam@gmail.com
2nd Weston Green Guides	Helen Lawson	helenlawson287@gmail.com
2nd Thames Ditton Guides	Bronach Hughes	bronachhughes@hotmail.com
1st Weston Green Brownies (All Saints)		1wgbrownies@gmail.com
3rd Weston Green Brownies	Gillian Twomey	gtwomey@hotmail.com
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	Mary Bowen	020 8398 6857
Friends of Bushey and Home Parks	Jean Smith	020 8977 9391
Girlguiding in Thames Ditton and Weston Green		dittonsdistrict.hjh@gmail.com
Friends of Walsingham Care	Miss Valerie Chicken	0208 398 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	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Val Atkinson	020 8398 1117
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Ditton Bridge Club	John Dagnall	02083984463
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Hon Secretary	07710 139417
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263

Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392
Ember Sports Club	Zenda Hedges	07717 304146
Ember Sports Club: Bowls	Sylvia Jones	01932 788701
Ember Sports Club: Croquet	Dr. David Cooke	01932 862841
Ember Sports Club: Tennis	Annabel Duncan	0208 786 6318
Esher Bowling Club	Roger Cooper	01372 468109
Esher Bridge Centre	Paul Whicker	01372 460157
Esher 41 and Ex-Round Tablers' Club	Dr. R. Tudor-Williams	020 8398 0108
Folk Dance Club (St Nicholas)	David Ford	020 8715 2148
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Nigel Hardy	020 8398 8361
Long Ditton Garden Club	Heather Harvey	020 8398 2642
Model Railway Society (Hampton Court)	Secretary	01932 241224
Old Cranleigh Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
Old Cranleigh Hockey Club	Simon Marshall (Men)	07801 737695
	Helen Hawes (Ladies)	07771 557900
Probus club, Hinchley Wood & the Dittons	Edmund Woolley	020 8398 3581
Probus Club, Sandown	Julian Rye	020 8398 2463
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	0208 398 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

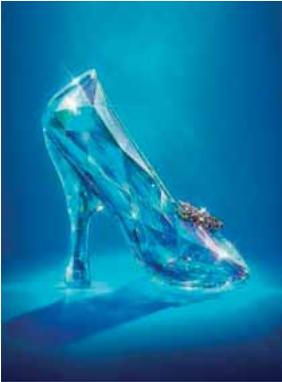
Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance	Mrs Brenda Denby	0208 398 6054
Ember Choral	Linda Bridges	020 8399 5402
Esher and Molesey Garden Society	Mrs. Julia Presland	01372 464203
Esher and District Amnesty International	Cherry Eddy (Campaigns)	0208 398 4377
Hampton Court Way Allotment Association	Lettings: Piotr Hennig	020 8398 5358
Long Ditton Youth Club	Toni Izard	07749 633973
Lynwood Allotment Society	Gill Vickers	020 8398 4870
Molesey and District Antiques Society	Linda Lambert	020 8398 1476
NADFAS (Decorative & Fine Arts) Kingston	Mrs. Valerie Windsor	020 8549 9967
Oxshott & Cobham Music Society	Cherry Eddy (Membership)	0208 398 4377
	cherryeddy102@gmail.com	
Soroptimist 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
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

Christmas and the New Spring Season

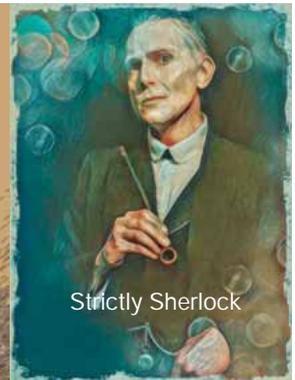
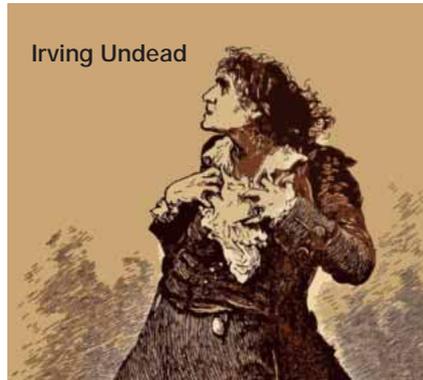


We have an exciting December coming up at the Vera Fletcher Hall. We are delighted to be welcoming the RC Sheriff Trust's new resident theatre company, the Penny Knives' who will be presenting Cinderella - a treat for families - on Friday 6 December. After the huge success of Elsa McTaggart's tribute to Eva Cassidy last year, we have invited her back to bring us a special Christmas themed show which will include more of Elsa's own work. Accompanied by Gary Lister, the multi-instrumental duo will bring us an emotional roller coaster of



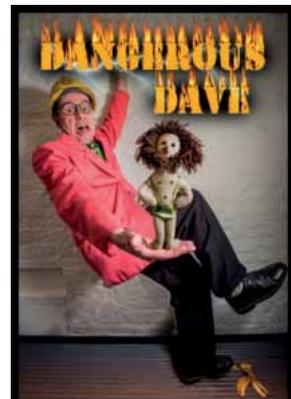
love, laughter and with a festive twist. The ticket for this show will include a glass of bubbly and a mince pie.

The Spring 2020 Season gets off to something of a gothic start with Irving Undead, written and performed by acclaimed West End actor, James Swanton on Friday 24 January, and the Don't Go Into the Cellar bring us Strictly Sherlock on Saturday 1 February written and performed by Artistic Director, Jonathan Goodwin.



**Full details at
www.verafletcherhall.co.uk**

We have two treats for children and their families, starting with, on Saturday 11 January, the ever-popular The Cat's Grin Theatre Company and their exciting version of The Wizard of Oz, a great way to spend a Saturday afternoon. On Saturday 8 February, the anarchically hilarious Noisy Oyster return to the Hall with a great favourite with children and adults alike, Dangerous Dave.



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