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THE MAGAZINE OF THE
THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
WINTER 2023

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The Magazine of the

Thames Ditton
& Weston Green
Residents' Association

THAMES DITTON TODAY

Published quarterly since 1970

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

In this Issue:

News from the Residents' Association 7

Update from your Residents' Associations' Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council 12

Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Councillor 15

Restoring a water vole haven 17

Mr Sherriff's Trust 21

Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair programme 23

Thames Ditton Community Centre – update 27

Photography competition winners 2023 30

The BBC features Thames Ditton flood event 33

World War II remembered 35

Meet your distributors - Mike Duke 37

Autumn crossword solution 42

Winter crossword 43

Services, Clubs, Societies and Groups..... 44

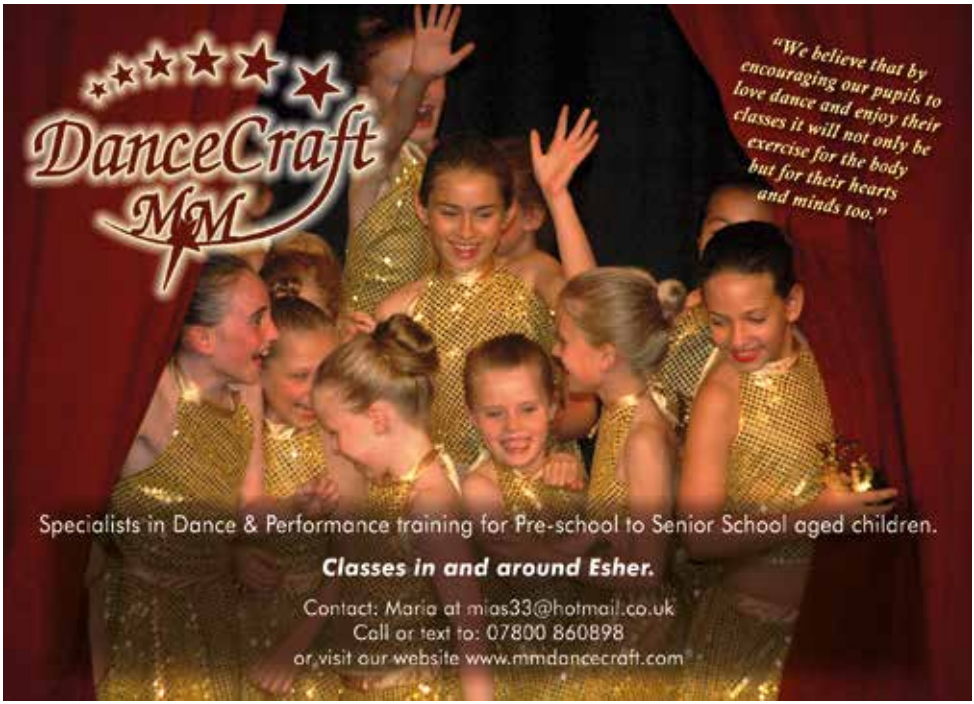
Theatre in Thames Ditton 46

Cover: *Winter Jay by Paul Furner*

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.

Published by the Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association
Printed by Impress Print Services Ltd., Unit 10, 19 Lyon Road, Hersham, Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 3PU



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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' 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.

President: Martin Wilberforce
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THE NEXT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETINGS ARE

Tuesday 28 November 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall
Tuesday 30 January 8pm - Vera Fletcher Hall

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News from the Residents' Association to mid-November

Thames Ditton Today is looking for new editors

We hope that you enjoy reading your quarterly edition of Thames Ditton Today, which has been a local magazine of record since 1976. The current volunteer editorial team at Thames Ditton Today have been in place for nearly 10 years and are planning to stand down after the spring 2024 edition. If you would like to get involved and keep this much-valued magazine going as part of an editorial team, please do get in touch. Call us on ***0208 398 5534*** for a chat or e-mail ***editor@residents-association.com***

Christmas Fair December 3, 3-6pm

The Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair is back on Sunday December 3, from 3 – 6pm. Switch on of the main Christmas Lights will be at 4.45pm. See the Christmas Fair programme on pages 23-26.

Flood Information Drop In

Around 130 people attended the Flood Information Drop In organised by the Residents' Association Flood Group on 28 October. We even got coverage from the BBC. There was plenty of information and ideas available, please see the article on page 33.

Thames Ditton High Street broken sewer

Rivers are not the only cause of flooding. There have been problems with the drain in Thames Ditton High Street. Examinations have shown that the main sewer in the High Street is cracked in places, with debris around the cracks, and is completely broken near the George & Dragon. At present Thames Water is declining to do anything about it. The RA is creating a lobby group to pressure Thames Water to take the situation seriously and mend the drains before a major incident occurs. If you would like to be involved please contact our Highways and Drains convener Andrew Roberts at ***andrew.roberts9919@gmail.com.***

Food Bank

In October the sheds at St Nicholas Church where the East Elmbridge Food Bank stores its supplies were broken into and a large amount was stolen.

St Nicholas Church has been a food bank distribution point since 2020 and helps about 40 adults and 20 children a month. The church's immediate response to the break-in was to emphasise that the church is here to help anyone who requires help, including the person/s who stole the items. The church can provide food but also support, company, and advice. This is all free and anyone is welcome.

Local people swung into action and significant donations were made in the days following the break-in. To find how to help visit ***www. eastelmbridge.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/***

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MONDAY

9.30am	Yoga Flow
10.45am	Mixed Level Pilates
12.00pm	Restorative Pilates
5.15pm	Mixed Level Pilates
6.30pm	Mixed Level Pilates
7.45pm	Mixed Level Pilates
8.00pm	Live Stream Meditation

TUESDAY

9.30am	Mixed Level Pilates
10.45am	Restorative Pilates
12.00pm	Rehab Improver Pilates
1.00pm	Rehab Pilates
6.45pm	Meditation



WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

9.30am	Yoga Flow
10.00am	Meditation
10.45am	Mixed Level Pilates
12.00pm	Restorative Pilates

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Remembrance Day



Remembering the fallen

A gloomy start to Remembrance Sunday did not deter a large turnout of scouts and members of the public to pay their respects to the war dead. RA councillor Gill Coates and RA Vice President Tannia Shipley laid wreaths in Weston Green and RA councillor Alex Batchelor and RA Chairman Graham Cooke laid wreaths in Thames Ditton.

Thames Ditton Centre for the Community

There has been considerable concern in the community about the future of the Thames Ditton Community Centre, following a review by Elmbridge Borough Council of its Community Support Services to address changing needs and ensure that these are sustainable.

This review contained a proposal to explore handing over the running of the community centre to a local community group. Opinion is divided amongst residents regarding this concept and some inaccurate information is in circulation.

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

We have asked RA Councillor Gill Coates, the portfolio holder for Community Care in Elmbridge, to give an update on progress to date, together with the background to the situation. See page 27.

Welcome new addition to Thames Ditton High Street



Welcome to The Code Interior Design Studio

We welcome a new addition to Thames Ditton High Street. The Code Interior Design Studio opened on Saturday 11 November.

Boundary Commission proposals

We have written to the Boundary Commission pointing out that their proposals to break up The Dittons electoral division for Surrey County Council were at odds with the three main criteria it is supposed to take into account

- Electoral equality
- Community identity and interests
- Effective and convenient local government

Bee-friendly status awarded to Thames Ditton station



Volunteers with their Bee-Friendly award

The *Thames Ditton In Bloom* planting day in October proved extra special. In addition to planting out a riot of colour for winter, the volunteer gardening team received the coveted award of Bee-Friendly status for Thames Ditton from the Bee Friendly Trust for its ongoing outstanding work maintaining the sustainable Station community garden.

The *Thames Ditton in Bloom* garden is made possible by the fundraising efforts of the local charity Thames Ditton Foundation and a grant towards the community garden from Elmbridge Borough Council.

For more information on volunteering with Thames Ditton In Bloom or to make a donation towards the project please e-mail: ***contact@thamesdittonfoundation.org***

Milbourne Pond biennial cutback

In October many residents turned out for the RA-organised cutback of the vegetation around Milbourne Pond. This was last done in 2021, but since then the brambles and pussy willow had grown back vigorously and were limiting accessibility to the area.

We are grateful to everyone (adults and children) for their efforts in making the area more available for all to enjoy.

Fountain flowers and spring bulbs - welcome to our new gardeners.

A warm welcome to new RA gardeners Rebecca and Elizabeth Staveley-Taylor, Barbara Lord and Mark Heyes.

Rebecca and Elizabeth have volunteered to succeed Francine Brooks in planting the winter pansies and the summer geraniums in the fountain at the Boyle Farm roundabout. Our thanks for past efforts and best wishes go to Francine Brooks, who has moved to



Vounteers at the biennial cut back of Milbourne Pond

the country. Many thanks also to local lollipop man Andrew James who waters the fountain flowers.

In October, Barbara and Mark took over from John Lyon and planted hundreds more spring bulbs all over Thames Ditton and Weston Green. For more than 30 years the Residents' Association has funded the planting of these bulbs and next spring we will see the results, not only of this autumn's planting but those that are spreading naturally. Our thanks and best wishes go to John Lyon whose idea it was in the first place and who has bought, planted, and cared for them every year since 1990.

Christmas tree collection

In our spring edition we covered the wonderful Christmas Tree Collection Service run by Weston Green Scouts. This not only prevents hundreds of individual car journeys but also supports your local Scout Groups. Arrange your tree collection from 1st Weston Green Scouts at ***www.collectmytree.co.uk***

Vera Fletcher Hall Association: vacancy for Honorary Secretary

After some 15 years Tom Rees wishes to step down as Honorary Secretary. The work is not onerous but seasonal, arranging committee meetings, taking minutes, completing charity commission returns, arranging insurance and licensing. The role would suit someone keen on supporting a valued asset in our local community which provides theatre and daytime classes and activities. Familiarity with digital form filling etc. would be an advantage.

Visit ***www.verafletcherhall.co.uk*** or telephone 08456 528529 to apply. Or to speak to Tom about the role, telephone 020 8398 2978

Dates for your diary

High Street Christmas Fair
Sunday December 3, 3-6pm, includes Christmas lights switch on 4.45 pm

Farmers' Market
Mercer Close Car Park (by Library)
Saturday 25 November, Sunday 17 December

Molesey and District Antique Society (MADAS)
Esher College, Weston Green Road,
First Tuesday of every month from October to June, 7.30pm

Weston Green Litter Pickers
Meet at Marneys pub on the first Saturday in the month at 10.30am

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

All Saints Weston Community Lunch
last Wednesday of every month. To book, contact Alison Cruthers on 07957 347170 or alisoncruthers@yahoo.co.uk

Bereavement Café (open to all)
Third Tuesday of the month,
10.30 am - 12 noon. St. Nicholas Church Hall. Call 020 8398 9641 for more information.

'Knit and Natter'
Tuesdays 10.30am – 12 noon, Talbot House Café, St Nicholas Church Hall

Tiny Saints Bumps and Babies café
Fridays term time 11.00 am – 12.30 pm
All Saints Church Hall, Weston Green

Residents' Association

www.residents-association.com
or follow us on T***witter @TDresidents***

Update from your Residents' Associations'

Thames Ditton Ward



Elaine Sesemann
TDWGRA



Caroline James
TDWGRA



Alex Batchelor
TDWGRA

Thames Ditton High Street enhancement grant

Thames Ditton has been allocated a grant of £5,000 from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to enhance the appearance and facilities of our High Street. Local councillors have been canvassing ideas from retailers and residents. Once options and costs have been identified an application for the grant will be made.

Support for local charities

In the last few weeks the Annual Grants Scheme has been allocated (£135k) and the second round of the £500k Cost of Living fund allocations has been assessed. These grants are awarded to local charities to help Elmbridge residents in need. Local recipients included Citizens Advice Esher & District, CHEER (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired) and Lower Green Community Centre.

Loss of tree in Weston Green

Weston Green residents may have noticed the disappearance of the large horse chestnut tree that stood outside Sexton's pub. Unfortunately, a large branch recently dropped off the tree and when the Council's Countryside Officer and Tree Officer inspected it, they found significant rot in the crown where rainwater had been pooling for some time. They decided it posed a significant health and safety risk, so it was regretfully removed.

Losing a local landmark tree is always sad, but the intention is to grind out the stump and plant a new feature tree this growing season to replace the horse chestnut. The suggestion is to plant a disease-resistant elm.



Horse chestnut tree in Weston Green was felled because of significant rot

Councillors at Elmbridge Borough Council

Hinchley Wood and Weston Green Ward



Gill Coates
TDWGRA



Janet Turner
HWRA



James Crawshaw
HWRA

Hurst Recreation Ground

Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) has confirmed that Hurst Pool will need to be refurbished or rebuilt in the coming years. A review of the options was considered at Cabinet in July ranging from a refurbishment of the current facility to a complete rebuild with significantly improved facilities. Several options were included in the report to the Cabinet as to how any improvements might be funded. No decisions have been taken about which of the options might be adopted going forward.

Climate change progress

Climate Emergency UK recently assessed UK councils' progress on climate action since 2019. EBC were rated joint second in Surrey and 15th in the whole of the South of England. The rating related to Council's actions on reducing emissions and tackling the climate emergency. This is good news and is a reflection of EBC's commitment to become a carbon neutral organisation by 2023.

Excel Leisure Centre

As part of the new leisure management contract between Places Leisure and EBC, the Excel Leisure Centre is currently undergoing a £6m refurbishment to provide brand new equipment, new studio spaces, and more energy efficient, innovative, and affordable facilities. In addition, the current gym will be significantly increased in size and fully remodelled. Improvements still to come include steam rooms, sauna, and salt room. These later projects are due to be completed in Spring 2024. The project is being fully funded by Places Leisure.

Torrington Road Car Park, Claygate

The Cabinet resolved at an extraordinary meeting in September, that, as the value to the community as a whole of maintaining the carpark (derived from undertaking wider community engagement with Claygate) would outweigh the benefits from the proposed development, the Council withdraw from negotiations with Kilo Properties Ltd and Marks and Spencer PLC.

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Update from Nick Darby, our Surrey County Councillor

Boundary Commission submissions had to be in by October 16. Everything received by that date will be considered although no decision is expected for some months. It is unfortunate that due to an IT glitch, many submissions received an auto reply indicating they had not been received. Despite two requests by Surrey County Council the commission refused to extend the time scale.



Residents have objected strongly to draft recommendations to change the boundary

Good news on highways. I have heard recently that the section of Embercourt Road between the railway bridge and Vera Fletcher Hall is to be resurfaced, along with Watts Road. Work is also to take place to prevent flooding on Summer Road by the level crossing.

I have continued to bring pressure to bear on Surrey Highways to refresh white and yellow lines in the Dittons. These include



Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby

markings on the Embercourt roundabout, the junction of Speer Road, Summer Road and Aragon Avenue and also Station Road with Speer Road.

The performance of Thames Water goes from bad to worse, as does the extent of residents' frustration. Thames Water is still refusing to carry out repairs to the broken drain on the High Street opposite Costa. This is despite four visits by them. What should be a simple job may turn out to be more complicated than it should be, possibly having to close and dig up the road.

We are asking residents to complain to Thames Water in the strongest possible terms. We have started a residents' group to co-ordinate action.

May I wish all in The Dittons a very Happy Christmas and the best for 2024.

Nick Darby
Surrey County Councillor for the Dittons
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Restoring a local water vole haven - Hogsmill River conservation project

At the RA Nature and Climate Festival in September we were lucky to hear about the work being done locally to reintroduce water voles.

A Remarkable Journey

After water voles become locally extinct along the Hogsmill River in 2017, Citizen Zoo launched their "Get InVOLEd" project the following year to reintroduce the species to the river. Since its inception, the project has made significant strides in achieving its goals. With unwavering dedication, it has engaged with over 6,000 people, educating them about water voles and their critical role in the ecosystem.

The project boasts a dedicated team of more than 400 local volunteers actively participating in various events, meetings, and volunteer sessions. These volunteers are the heart and soul of the project and their hard work has resulted in the release of 101 water voles back into the river, marking a significant milestone for this initiative.

The Road to Reintroduction

The journey began with the training of 60 volunteers to conduct habitat surveys along all 10 kilometers of the river. Their findings were presented at the 2019 London Recorders Day at the Natural History Museum, laying the groundwork for the project's future actions.

Subsequently, the team purchased, constructed, and deployed ten aquatic mammal detection rafts to determine which species inhabited the river. This was crucial in identifying potential threats, including non-native American mink, the main driver of water vole declines.



A water vole ready for release @ Pamela Abbot

The project's community engagement efforts have been vital in creating awareness and fostering local support. The team conducts monthly strategy meetings and develops a comprehensive re-introduction plan, executed with the help of volunteers working in various groups, including community engagement, invasive species monitoring, dog walker engagement, fundraising, and habitat restoration. The latter has involved creating over 150 meters of dead hedging that provides a nature-friendly barrier to the riverbanks, helping protect it from human and dog footfall. Additionally, volunteers have assisted in removing invasive plant species, such as Himalayan balsam, and backfilling with over 1,500 native, water-vole-friendly river plants.













It's an art

This edition we would like to invite local children to send in artwork of your home. It could be a drawing, a painting or use any other media you may like. The winner will receive a £25 voucher to spend at View Gifts in Thames Ditton High Street and have their artwork featured in the next edition of the magazine and our window.

Drop in and see us with it or photograph on your phone and email to us at td@hjc.co.uk. Closing date 12/01/24

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Team work to create a 'dead hedge' @ Citizen Zoo

The Historic Release

August 2022 marked a historic moment for the project when 101 water voles were released back into the river. This involved housing the voles in pens along the river to allow them to acclimatise to their new surroundings. Over the week, 75 volunteers assisted with feeding the voles daily. The successful release was a testament to years of hard work and dedication, bringing the project closer to its ultimate goal of a self-sustaining water vole population in the region.

Partnerships & Collaborations

Get InVOLEd has not been a solitary effort. It is a collaborative endeavour, benefiting from partnerships with Thames Water, Greenspace Information of Greater London (GiGL), Kingston University, The Hogsmill Catchment Partnership, and funding from the Mayor of London. Additionally, the project enjoys the expertise of Derek Gow, the UK's leading water vole expert. The support from the Royal Borough of Kingston Council, and the Environment Agency has been invaluable in providing the necessary resources and endorsements.

Looking to the Future

While the water vole reintroduction is complete, the project's work is far from over. Continuous monitoring of American mink and the water voles themselves is essential to ensure the survival and growth of the population. This is being carried out using aquatic mammal rafts and camera traps, as well as state-of-the-art bioacoustic sensors. Moreover, ongoing habitat restoration efforts will maintain the environment that water voles need to thrive. We are also delighted to have secured funding from Natural England's Species Recovery Grant for a secondary release in 2025. This is part of the South East Rivers Trust's WET Hogs Project, which we are excited to be leading the water vole component for.

With a successful reintroduction and an unwavering commitment to the cause, the project paves the way for a brighter future for water voles and their critical role in the ecosystem. Everyone is encouraged to get involved and support this vital project, ensuring the protection and prosperity of these remarkable mammals for generations to come.

Ben Stockwell

To find out more or to get involved see the website
www.citizenzoo.org/our-work/water-voles/

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Mr. Sherriff's Trust - celebrating 30 years advancing the arts in Elmbridge

In November there was a celebration in the Vera Fletcher Hall to celebrate the 30th anniversary of The R C Sherriff Trust, the charity established in 1993 to promote and develop the arts across the Borough.

The Trust was established through the will of the writer R C Sherriff, who lived in Esher for more than 40 years. He is probably most famous for writing *'Journey's End'*, the play based on his experiences in the First World War. It was first staged 95 years ago with a young actor called Laurence Olivier in the lead role.

Sherriff would go on to become, at one stage, the highest-paid British screenwriter in Hollywood, scripting some of the most famous films of Hollywood's Golden Age, including *'The Invisible Man'*, *'Goodbye Mr Chips'*, *'The Four Feathers'*, *'That Hamilton Woman'* (Winston Churchill's favourite film) and most famously, one of the greatest films about the Second World War, *'The Dambusters'*. In 2017 a new screen adaptation of 'Journey's End' was released with Asa Butterfield (star of the Netflix hit, 'Sex Education').

His novels are regarded as classics of their time. 'The Hopkins Manuscript', a tale about a lunar catastrophe in which the moon collides with the Earth, is considered the missing link between H G Wells and John Wyndham. In 2020, The Guardian asked authors to suggest a novel that would help people get through the first lockdown and Nobel and Booker Prize winning author, Kazuo Ishiguro, chose Sherriff's 1930 novel *'The Fortnight in September'*.

For more than 40 years Sherriff lived in *"Rosebriars"*, his house in Esher, which he bequeathed to Elmbridge Borough Council, to be used for cultural purposes. In 1993, the Council used the proceeds from the sale of the property to establish the R C Sherriff Trust.

Since then, the Trust has been honouring Sherriff's wish. During the pandemic the Trust worked closely with venues such as Riverhouse Barn, the Vera Fletcher Hall, The Barn Theatre in Molesey and Elmbridge Borough Council to support organisations and individual artists at one of the most difficult time the arts have faced



Elmbridge School Choir Festival – one of the R C Sherriff Trust's projects

The Trust's annual projects reach across the Borough, supporting thousands of residents of all ages.

The Rosebriars Project uses the arts to address issues of health, well-being and isolation amongst older people in Elmbridge through weekly singalongs, monthly art workshops and The Silver Screen Film Club & Sherriff Talks film club.

Established in 2014, Elmbridge School Choir Festival has become a highlight of the Elmbridge Cultural Calander, with the 2023 Festival involving almost 750 Elmbridge school children performing at ACS Cobham.

In 2023, the inaugural Adult Choir Festival, celebrating the wealth of musical talent across the Borough raised more than £1,500 to be used to support local choirs develop their programme and work.

The Annual Elmbridge Literary Festival run in partnership with Elmbridge Borough Council is now in its 19th year and has become a truly international affair with entries submitted from across the world.

Other initiatives include the R C Sherriff Young Musician of the Year and the biannual Moving Art Exhibition.

Since 1993, almost £2.5 million has been spent running projects and providing grants to arts venues, schools, community groups, arts organisations and individuals. The Trust has spent the past 30 years not only fulfilling the wish of R C Sherriff to advance the arts in Elmbridge, but also in bringing thousands of residents together to encourage their creativity and highlight the importance of music, theatre, dance, visual arts and literary arts in their everyday lives.

Pete Allen

Director, The R C Sherriff Trust
www.rcsherrifftrust.org.uk



Christmas Fair

Sunday 3rd December
3-6pm

Thames Ditton High Street



Supported by
THAMES DITTON TODAY
The Magazine of our Residents' Association

Keep the heart in our High Street

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❄ pull-out guide ❄

All the Fun of the Christmas 2023 Fair!

Aldous Craig – Receive a warm welcome, delicious mulled wine and festive nibbles with donations given to local charities

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

The Code Design Studio – Sit down and warm up at The Code Design Studio to discuss getting your home ready to host the 2024 holidays!

Costa Coffee – Costa will be open throughout the day – come and try our Christmas specials!

Cyclelink – Stop here and try your hand at a novel twist on 'hook the duck' with proceeds to a local charity. We will also have an exciting range of gift ideas for both the avid and leisure cyclist.

Denny's Books – Stocked with a great range of greetings cards and books, find the perfect book to read this Christmas.

The Foundry Bar & Kitchen – Join us after the Christmas Fair for a great choice of beers, wine, delicious pizza and bar bites. Come and say hi and warm yourself by our fires!

George & Dragon – Welcome to The G&D where you can sample our special recipe mulled wine.

HJC – HJC will be informally opening and, unless our children have eaten them all, we'll have a table with various festive offerings.

La Fontana – Come and try our festive delights including Italian Hot Chocolate and Fried Panzerotti. We will also have a singer singing Italian Christmas Songs!

Little Foray Hair and Beauty – We will be offering a hair braiding service and nail polishing for children and a glass of Prosecco for the adults... All proceeds going to charity.

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

Nice Buns Café – We will be serving our classic Sausage & Onion in French Sticks, Cheese Toasties, Christmas Cookies, Mince Pies and Rum Hot Chocolate and our Warm Mulled Wine. Jackie and the team are ready for some fun with the Nice Buns Christmas DISCO – see you there!

Craft My Day – Discover our full range of craft workshops while browsing artisan gifts created by our fabulous tutors. Find unique gifts for loved ones, handmade ornaments, crafts, jewellery and more! We look forward to welcoming you!

Paull's – Considering what to have with your Christmas meal? Come and have a drink with Katie and the team whilst placing your Christmas order.

Thames Ditton Gin – come and see us for all your Xmas gin gifting and to have a TD GnT or hot ginger gin!

The Art Buyer Gallery & Consultancy – Children can enjoy festive colouring in with fizz for the adults, while browsing our Winter Show. Discover fine hand marbled ceramic baubles and thoughtful original art gifts.

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

The Secret Garden – Discover beautiful and bespoke Christmas wreaths, festive floral arrangements, unique gifts, candles and decorations.

Sharm Hairdressing – Receive a warm welcome with a glass of bubbly. We will be styling hair and offering Xmas nail designs. Amazing vouchers to be won and all proceeds going to the Little Princess Trust charity.

View Gifts – Superb new range of gifts for all the family, luxury chocolates, Christmas decorations, seasonal greetings cards and new designs by ViewByRufus. Plus our almost famous Malbec mulled wine – fundraising for the Princess Alice Hospice.

Also on the High Street

We are happy to be joined this year by a selection of stallholders who have bundles of Christmas treats. These include Christmas gifts ideas from Louise Tumazos, Eli Fu Candles, Handmade by Chloe and Candles with Love.

There will also be drink from Thames Ditton Gin and Thames Ditton Brewers and food to eat at the fair from Baker Tim, Happy Hill Kitchen and cheese to take home from Graham Foster.

Not forgetting... The Brownies, The RNLI with Stormy Stan the Lifeboat Man and the Lifeboat Board Game, Boomerang Bags, fun activities with members of St Nicholas Church, and other community groups and stalls.

That's entertainment!

Students from **Scales & Tales** will display their street dance and musical theatre talents. Scales &Tales offers a wide range of classes in acting, music lessons, rock band, street dance, and musical theatre for boys and girls from 2 years to adult.

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

Let there be lights!

The lime tree, in the centre of the High Street, will be the main focus at 4.45pm, when the Christmas lights around it will be switched on along with the trees on the High Street.

This wonderful event will bring a return to normal after Covid and give the whole of the Thames Ditton community a fabulous chance to come together again.

We hope that this will mark the return of the Christmas fair as 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 November, look out for posters in participating High Street outlets including **Cyclelink**, **Sharm**, **Ironing Board**, **Lime Tree**, **Little Foray** and **View Gifts (both accepting card payments)** amongst others. Just **£1** per ticket.
Proceeds to local causes and the **High Street Christmas Lights Appeal**.

Thanks to all our Entertainers

Scales & Tales

Rowan Preparatory School

Thames Ditton Infant School

... and everyone else who takes to the stage and the street, showcasing their fantastic talent, free for the benefit of the community.

Thanks to all our Fair sponsors/supporters – we couldn't do it without you!

The Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association

Cllr Nick Darby and Surrey County Council

Elmbridge Borough Council

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Design: www.thesetupdesign.com Thames Ditton

The Thames Ditton High Street Christmas Fair 2023 is organised by The Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association – thanks to everyone who has made this possible.

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Thames Ditton Community Centre - update

An update from Cllr Gill Coates, TD&WGRA Councillor for Hinchley Wood and Weston Green and Portfolio Holder for Community Care in Elmbridge Borough Council.

Local residents may be aware that Elmbridge Borough Council is looking at how the Thames Ditton Centre for the Community opposite the library could operate in the future, but they may not understand the reasons why it is under discussion.

It starts with the fact that the centre is under-used. In 2023/24 it will cost council taxpayers more than £220,000 to run, but apart from the Dementia Services group (which is there every day), it is only open to the over-50s on Mondays and Thursdays. In all, just 50-60 people a week typically turn up for the activities on those days. The Council's lunch service for the elderly was attracting just one regular user.

It is simply not sustainable to run what has become a 'hall for hire'. We only have to look at our neighbour, Woking Borough Council, which is making £12.5 million cuts in discretionary spend (expenditure on council services which are non-statutory, including community centres) to realise how lucky we are in Elmbridge to have a council which is both solvent and committed to helping residents in need. But Council budgets are under ever-increasing pressure. Local authority spending power has been cut by nearly a third in real terms since 2010. If we want to support elderly and vulnerable members of our community - and spend council tax payers' money more wisely - there has to be a better way of doing it.

The Council brought in external consultants to help us re-shape our discretionary Community Support Services to meet changing needs in the 2020s and ensure that they are sustainable going forwards. Those services currently reach just 2% of Elmbridge's residents, but we know that nearly 10% of residents are currently in need of some kind of support. That includes young families and children living below the poverty line - groups that we have not traditionally targeted with our services. The consultants suggested that the under-used Thames Ditton Centre could be handed directly to the local community to take over the running of it, thus releasing the Council's budgets to focus on delivering support services to more of the people in real need in Elmbridge.

Representatives from existing centre users and local community groups were invited to explore this idea, but nothing positive came from the discussions. However, there have been two interesting developments which could breathe new life into the center going forwards. In the summer the local Primary Care Network (PCN), a group of seven local GP practices, came forward with the idea of developing a community Health and Wellbeing Centre together. The NHS increasingly recognises the value of health creation and preventative care in non-medical environments - interventions

that stop problems developing or worsening, such as diet and exercise advice to prevent Type 2 diabetes, or social singing groups to help with long Covid. They are increasingly working in partnership with others such as local councils to facilitate non-medical support such as debt counselling or gym sessions to reduce the root causes of physical and mental health issues.

More recently, a community group has approached Elmbridge Borough Council with a proposal which expands on the health and well-being concept to include 'eco' initiatives as well as other creative ways of bringing our community together.

Discussions and meetings are now under way with both groups to explore how we can bring these ideas to fruition, but it is still early days and absolutely no decisions have been made. It has always been the case that the existing groups that use the centre on Mondays and Thursdays - Men in Sheds, Boomerang Bags, a T'ai Chi class, an art class and a bridge club - will be able to continue to benefit from it, as their social and environmental value totally fits with the ethos of a community health, wellbeing and eco hub.

Unfortunately, the copy date for this issue of the magazine is too early to be able to say anything concrete about these developments, but as soon as there is anything new to share this community will be the first to know.

Gill would be happy to answer your questions and can be contacted on gcoates@elmbridge.gov.uk



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Photography competition winners 2023

We were delighted that so many people celebrated our wonderful local environment by capturing it on camera in the RA Nature and Climate Festival photography competition. Here are the winners.

Category 1: Animal life
Winner: Mary Anderson Ford



Three Cormorants

Category 2: Plant life
Winner: Judith Gracia



Seeking Recognition

Category 3: Local Surroundings
Winner: Geraldine Batchelor



Sunflower at the allotment

Category 1: Open
Winner: Nigel Goates



Shy Pelican

Best photograph by someone under 18
Winner: Bella Day



Wild

People's Choice Award
Winner: Sara Greeno



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The BBC features Thames Ditton flood event

At the end of October Thames Ditton featured on the BBC News App and Tony Thompson, leader of the Residents' Association Flood Group, was interviewed by BBC Radio Surrey. Why? Because they were covering an exhibition and presentation that the Flood Group had organised on October 28 in St Nicholas Church Hall. The theme was *'Know your Flood Risk (and what you can do about it)'*. Storm Babet was still wreaking havoc - although luckily not so much in Thames Ditton - so the risk of flooding was very much in residents' minds.

At the exhibition there were five stands ranging from Environment Agency (EA) advice to help you find out your flood risk and sign up for flood warnings; the RA Flood Group, providing local flooding information; the Watertight company, demonstrating a range of equipment that residents can have fitted to their homes to reduce flood risk; and FloodRe and Howden Insurance Brokers talking about house insurance and emphasising that you shouldn't have to pay more even if you live in a high-risk area.

It was a busy day with more than 130 people attending including our RA Borough councillors Caroline James and Elaine Sesemann and Surrey County Councillor Nick Darby. Everyone who came, and the presenters, was extremely positive about it.

The star of the show was probably Mary Long-Dhonau OBE, known as *'Flood Mary'*. She has been flooded eight times, although she lives nowhere close to a river. Each time was with increasingly less damage as the



BBC News featured the work of the RA Flood Group

'Build Back Better' concept, where flood protection is installed, reduced the damage. She drew attention to the heartbreak caused by flooding and gave us an insight into what we could expect if flooded, both during the flood and after while the clearing up and house repair operation goes on. She also gave examples of simple and inexpensive measures to protect one's property. See her excellent web site at ***www.floodmary.com***.

It was great to have a range of experts in the room, especially as the impact of global warming is estimated to put 1 in 6 of properties in UK at risk of flooding in the future. Currently in Thames Ditton there are more than 300 properties in the

'high risk' area (defined by the EA that each year these properties have a 3.3% chance of being flooded.)

Gareth Boyd from Watertight talked about (and displayed) a lot of property flood resilience equipment that can be used and offered a free initial survey to interested residents in the high-risk area. If you would like to sign up for this, contact the flood group on thamesdittonfloodgroup@gmail.com

The Watertight web site is ***www.watertightinternational.com***



Residents at the Watertight stand

One resident said: *"I find it comforting to know that I can have a (free) appraisal of my property and advice on how to install a range of innovative tools to help prevent water ingress."*

Harriet Boughton from FloodRe explained that this organisation was set up some 10 years ago to take over the flood risk from normal house insurers and spread the cost so that it remains affordable. In 15 years it will cease operations and is encouraging property owners to be more Flood Smart. See their website: ***www.floodre.co.uk*** for a host of ideas about how to build back better, be flood smart and create a flood-resistant garden.

Suzi Rackley from Howden Insurance Brokers talked about their experience in finding insurance cover for properties with flood risk. Broker A-Plan, part of their group, has an office in Kingston - tel. 0203 874 8640. Their two flood risk experts, Jo Payne and Christian Williams, are in Farnham tel. 01252 725725.

The EA provided general flooding information and help for residents to find out their flood risk and sign up for flood warnings. Tina Leishman, who was there from the EA, said: *"The event you ran was a brilliant success. Thank you for inviting us. I signed up a number of people for flood alerts and warnings and showed people where their street was in terms of the risk of flooding maps."* The link to check flood risk, flood warnings and current Thames River heights is: ***www.gov.uk/check-flooding***

The EA also said that provisional findings suggest a temporary flood barrier is *"technically viable, however due to its complexity and scale, it cannot be considered for deployment this winter."* It is also looking at whether there are technically feasible and economically viable long-term measures for the area.

It was a very successful event with 86% of participants stating that they would be likely to take action to reduce their flood risk, compared with 55% before the event.

Residents' comments included: *"It was great to have all the key people in one room." "All of the information in one place was very welcome." "All in all, a very positive day, especially as I have just received a flood alert!"*

If you live in the Thames Ditton High Risk Area and would like the Flood Group to provide river heights and details related to your property, or if you would like a free survey of your flood risk and advice by Watertight, or if you would like to join the flood group please e-mail giving your address, contact details and the information you require to: ***thamesdittonfloodgroup@gmail.com***

Tony Thompson
Residents' Association Flood Group

World War II, remembered

Following the observance of Armistice Day, local resident Lynn Jones remembers what it was like to be a child during wartime. (This is an extract from memories she shared with Thames Ditton Today).

I will always remember that day in September 1939 when we heard on the radio that we were at war with Germany. A few days later I was out on an errand when the sirens sounded. I had never heard that awful wail before.

Every house was supplied with an air raid shelter which had to be constructed. We were all issued with a gas mask, in a box, with a long cord that we put over our shoulder and carried everywhere.

Every evening the siren wailed and and we all had to spend the night in the shelter. Sleeping had to be arranged. There were two double bunks across the end. Ivy and Christine slept in the bottom bed, Marjorie and I in the top bed. The boys slept on the floor. Along the side there were two single bunks; mum slept in the bottom one and Dad in the top. Every morning we got up and went into the house to get washed and dressed. On school days we walked to school which was about a mile away, picking up shrapnel on the way.

Nights were always frightening - the bombing went on every night until 16 May 1941. One night a bomb landed on a nearby avenue and another hit a block of flats at the end of our road. The damage was tremendous and many local people were killed. At school we soon found out which children we would never see again.

On their 18th birthday, everyone received their call-up papers. Those fit enough were allocated to the army, navy, air force or the coal mines.

My brother, Frank, volunteered for the air force and became a Spitfire pilot. He and an American were shot down over Italy and taken prisoner. We had a very worrying time with official letters saying that he must be presumed dead. Then mum got a letter from Frank to say they had escaped and managed to get back to their own lines to fly again!

My sister Marjorie was called up to join the Fleet Air Arm where she later met Ben, her husband. When I left school I joined the cast of a touring play. In Manchester, I was watching a film in a nearby cinema when a bomb fell close by. We heard that an elderly lady had been trapped inside an air raid shelter. I never went down into a shelter again, deciding I would rather be blown up than buried alive.

I became part of a double act performing in theatres and training camps entertaining the troops (ENSA). One night in Brighton we looked out of our bedroom window and saw what I thought were planes flying north. I think there may have been the first Doodlebugs. We could hear the drone overhead until the engine ran out of fuel and it crashed and exploded somewhere, we could only guess which direction.

After that came the V2 rockets, they were faster so we didn't hear them coming and there was no time to take shelter!

Today on Armistice Day I remember all the men and women who died. I also remember all the children who did not have a chance to grow up.

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MEET NEW MEMBERS OF THE TEAM

Skin expert extraordinaire... we're delighted that Ellie has joined us, swapping the sun-soaked beaches of Sydney for the bustling streets of London. Ellie's career has gone from strength to strength along with a deep passion for skincare. She ran a thriving skin business in Sydney and now, as part of Little Foray, she's on a mission to share the wisdom of skin health with all who she meets.

The nail magician Karmelia is our talented new nail technician! Get ready to transform your nails as Karmelia brings her years of nail industry experience along with her expertise. She's not just a nail pro but an artist with a love for intricate designs, so let Karmelia's artistic touch transform your nails into unique masterpieces .



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Meet your distributors – Mike Duke

Your copy of Thames Ditton Today was put through your letterbox by one of our team of loyal distributors. Who are they and what are they up to when they are not pounding the streets of Thames Ditton, Weston Green or East Molesey delivering magazines?

Mike delivers to Ember Farm Way and Ember Farm Avenue

How did you become a distributor?

I was already delivering the newsletter for Molesey Residents' Association when my road became part of Thames Ditton ward, following some boundary changes. I was asked to deliver Thames Ditton Today. I now do both. The bag can be very heavy!

How and when did you start living in East Molesey?

I was brought up in Esher Road just round the corner from my current home. When we were first married we lived in Weston Green, then in Ember Lane followed by two different houses in Ember Farm Way. We liked this road - after the 1968 flood we all pulled together and we have kept up that camaraderie.

A brief 'potted biography'?

I started school at Emberhurst in Ember Lane, which is no longer there, and then Thames Ditton School in Speer Road. My secondary education was at Halliford School and I cycled there every day. It is over 10 miles away on the other side of Walton Bridge. I enjoyed the ride more than school.

My National Service was with the Navy on an aircraft carrier. I was lucky and ended up travelling around the world. It was an exciting time and great fun.

In 1958 I started working in the advertising industry and did that for 38 years. In those days advertising was run on alcohol - everyone drank like a fish! Then I became a groundsman at Denmead School for about 20 years and that's where I got the nickname *'Grumpy'!*

My wife, Norma, and I married in 1960. We had two sons and I now have six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Mostly boys - I only have one granddaughter. My wife died from breast cancer 22 years ago after a long period of treatment. I spent a lot of time looking after her and going to the Royal Marsden in Sutton for appointments.

Since losing my wife I have a new partner, Angela. We enjoy each other's company but prefer to keep our separate homes.

What hobbies and activities do you enjoy?

I belong to a Bridge group of 8 to 10 people. We meet in each other's houses and play what we call *'Kitchen Bridge'* - it's not serious and is more of an excuse for a drink and a natter. But we have recently made a rule to start playing cards straight away and not get started on talk about our various aches and pains!

We belong to the Surrey Theatre Goers group. Members get the chance to go to West End performances by coach with a pick-up on Giggs Hill Green. It takes all the stress out of travelling into London.

In my 50s I did a lot of running including several half marathons. I ran one London

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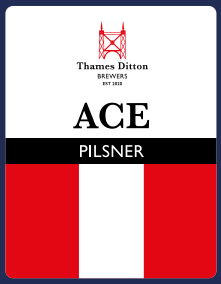

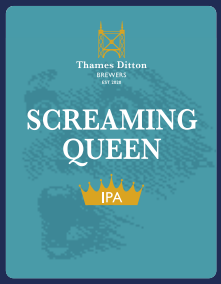

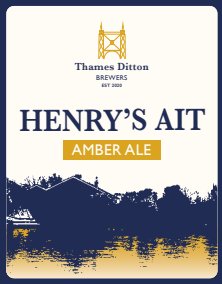



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Marathon which took me five and a half hours and saved my life. I got septic toes and, when visiting the doctor, it was discovered that I had a malignant melanoma. Happily, that has been successfully treated.

Another pastime is being silly and having fun. I don't mind making a fool of myself. I have been known to dress up as a chicken and walk up and down the road just to amuse my neighbours' children.

Every Friday I go to *'Meet in the Street'* with the neighbours. We started as a group going to the pub but now meet at 6pm come rain or shine at the bend in the road. That's why we are called *'The Benders'*.

Quick Fire Questions

Pub?
The Albion or The Alma. I can't get used to it being called Marney's even though I was involved in the past with the digging out and re-paddling of Marney's pond when it was losing water.

Holiday?
A memorable cruise on the Mekong River by small boat.

Reading?
I prefer novels and these days I use a Kindle.

Music?
UB40

Live Entertainment?
We have seen some great performers like Tom Jones at Hampton Court Palace. Angela sings in two choirs.

Christmas and New Year Plans?
I will be spending Christmas with my family and Angela will be with hers. There have been some riotous New Year's Eve parties here - we even conga-ed down the road. I'm not sure that will be repeated in 2023 but I will be being silly and having fun somewhere!



Mike dressed as a chicken!



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Quality care and residents' wellbeing are at the core of Home of Compassion.



Providing residential, nursing and dementia care on a permanent and short stay basis.

Home of Compassion Care Home is a Grade II listed mansion in the village of Thames Ditton, Surrey. An outstanding place of beauty that offers residential, nursing and specialist dementia care for elderly residents within a restored and extended 18th Century Grade II listed mansion. Our luxurious living environment is home for up to 78 residents in a unique setting of approximately 2.5 acres on the bank of the River Thames in Surrey, overlooking the grounds of Hampton Court.

Comfort and wellbeing of residents

The main house boasts grand reception rooms including the magnificent first floor library and ground floor cinema room, private dining room, lounge and hair salon. There is a dedicated activities room with an extensive programme of events for residents' health and wellbeing, with chair aerobics and gardening club being particular favourites. Customer service is crucial to the success of resident comfort and wellbeing. The Hotel Services Manager and team provide a 24-hour service and our menus use seasonal and local produce – some of which is grown in our very own vegetable garden - forming the basis of the extensive restaurant-grade menus. Room service is also available, with a selection of lighter meals and snacks. A concierge service attends to a host of other requirements from ordering flowers and arranging dry cleaning to booking theatre tickets.

Pastimes and mealtimes

At Home of Compassion there is a range of pastimes whether that's social, creative or physical to encourage good mental health. We help to ensure everyone has a purpose to their day, it's their life and they choose the way they want to live it.

We understand the importance of good nutrition and hydration. Of course, dining experiences are not only generated by the food eaten, the company and atmosphere can completely define our enjoyment. This is why we tailor the experience for everyone and welcome families and visitors to dine with us too.

Choice and independence

When it comes to individual bedrooms, we help our residents to put their unique stamp on their room and keep things just how they like them. All bedrooms are ensuite and have delightful furniture and furnishings. Our home is surrounded by beautiful landscaped gardens with several rooms having access to the gardens directly from their room.

Our bistro is perfect for socialising with family and friends and has a kitchen area for making drinks. If you prefer

to have some alone time, you can explore quiet nooks with comfy armchairs, classic novels and books on the shelves. To keep the mind sharp you'll find board games, cards and puzzles too - there's plenty to keep our residents engaged if they choose.

Proud to be 'Good'

Aria Care and the Team at Home of Compassion are delighted that, The Care Quality Commission (CQC), have awarded the home with the rating of 'Good' in all five key inspection areas for being safe, effective, responsive and well-led.

Whether you're looking for permanent or respite care, or would like some advice, please get in touch. We would be happy to give you a tour of our home and meet our team. Whatever your needs there is a place for you at Home of Compassion.





0808 223 5401
ariacare.co.uk

58 High Street, Thames Ditton,
Surrey KT7 0TT



Solution to the Autumn Crossword

■	D	■	T	■	E	■	■	■	T	■	P	■	F	■	
J	O	Y	R	I	D	E	S	■	U	R	A	N	I	A	
■	M	■	O	■	I	■	T	■	C	■	T	■	D	■	
W	I	L	Y	■	B	L	A	C	K	B	I	R	D	S	
■	N	■	■	■	L	■	T	■	A	■	S	■	L	■	
G	A	U	C	H	E	■	U	N	W	A	S	H	E	D	
■	N	■	H	■	■	■	E	■	A	■	E	■	■	■	
■	T	R	E	N	C	H	■	C	Y	M	R	I	C	■	
■	■	■	L	■	A	■	A	■	■	■	I	■	R	■	
C	H	I	M	E	R	A	S	■	C	A	E	S	A	R	
■	E	■	S	■	E	■	L	■	A	■	■	■	C	■	
A	R	T	F	U	L	N	E	S	S	■	R	A	K	E	
■	E	■	O	■	E	■	E	■	T	■	A	■	P	■	
U	S	U	R	P	S	■	P	R	O	V	I	S	O	S	
■	Y	■	D	■	S	■	■	■	R	■	L	■	T	■	

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

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

John Marks
Mrs Catherine Dunne
Emily Simpson

Crossword Compilers Wanted

For five years Howard and Bob Cruthers have done a wonderful job with the crossword. Now they would like to step back and invite someone else to have a go.

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

editor@residentsassociation.com



Brighten up your Garden!

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

Green Room Garden Designs can help
020 8398 5703

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

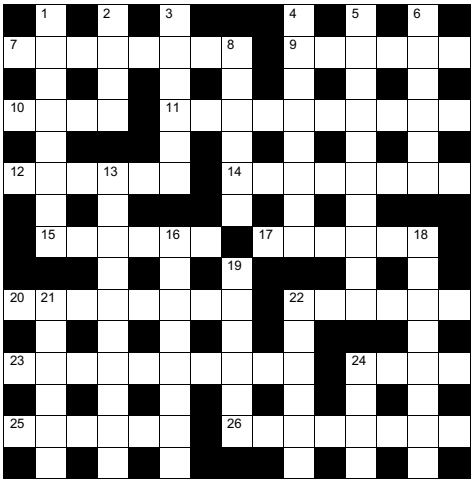
Peace

Hope

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year

from Flying Colours

Winter Crossword



by Howard and Bob Cruthers

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of 31 January 2024, will win a £5 voucher to spend in local shops.

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

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

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

ACROSS CLUES

7 Indiscrete (8)

9 Spanish airline (6)

10 Soon (4)

11 Unstable boat collapsed? (6, 4)

12 Confuses, rotting eggs? (6)

14 Steals money for own use – to buy clothes? (informal) (8)

15 From Aden, perhaps? (6)

17 Obeyed; tolerated (6)

20 Bird's final performance? (8)

22 Cleans, surgical gear? (6)

23 Understanding by watching a mouth (10)

24 Adorn, the boat's platform? (4)

25 Italian spirit (6)

26 Suppositions (8)

DOWN CLUES

1 Future (wet?) time of financial need (5, 3)

2 Gun type (4)

3 Carnivorous lizards (6)

4 Aerial attack (8)

5 Think twice (10)

6 Uncrooked (6)

8 Gumshoe (6)

13 Citrus sweets (5, 5)

16 Of newborns (8)

18 Fiascos (8)

19 Self-centred person (6)

21 Rapid motion sound (6)

22 Autographed (6)

24 Mend (4)

Services, Clubs, Societies and Groups

SERVICES

Cheer (Concern and Help for East Elmbridge Retired)	Manager	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 Dementia Centre	Nikki Harding	01372 474526
Meals on Wheels, Community Transport, Dial-a-Ride, Alarm & Telecare services, Relief Carers	ask for service at central switchboard	01372 474552
Homesupport Elmbridge	Thomasina Breslin	01932 267128
Esher and District Stroke Club	Ann Pollock	0208398 6132
Voluntary Action Elmbridge	Sally Dubery	01372 463587
Surrey Youth and Adult Education Service	Elmbridge Area	020 8979 8334

GROUPS

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

CLUBS

Albany Motor Yacht Club	Secretary	01784466651
All Saints Weston Lunch Club	Alison Cruthers	07957 347170
Arts and Heritage Club	Carol Butcher	01932 867511
Cercle Francais d'Esher	Brigitte Tiller	01932 860842 brigitte@ptiller.com
Claygate Bridge Club	Hon. Secretary	020 8398 1710
Colets Health & Fitness	Giordano Orsini	020 8398 7108
Ditton Bridge Club	John Dagnall	02083984463
Dittons Skiff and Punting Club	Secretary	enquiries@dittons.org.uk
Dittons & Hinchley Wood Royal British Legion	Hon Secretary	020 8398 6263
Ember Players (Drama) Ember Sports Club	Elaine Sesemann	07801 943392

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

SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

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

OTHER

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

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

THEATRE IN THAMES DITTON

at the

Vera Fletcher Hall

Winter Programme 2023

Friday December 1, 7.30pm

Film Night

The Ladykillers

Join us for this classic Ealing Comedy

Five oddball criminals planning a bank robbery rent rooms on a cul-de-sac from an octogenarian widow under the pretext that they are classical musicians.

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



Friday December 8, 7.30 pm

Five Star Swing at Christmas

Swing 'n' sing-along into Christmas - with the unique Five Star Swing Band

Enjoy all your favourite Christmas songs with the dynamic swing band treatment from Glenn Miller, Sinatra, Basie, Nat King Cole - jazzing up those Jingle Bells!

£21 to include glass of prosecco and mince pie



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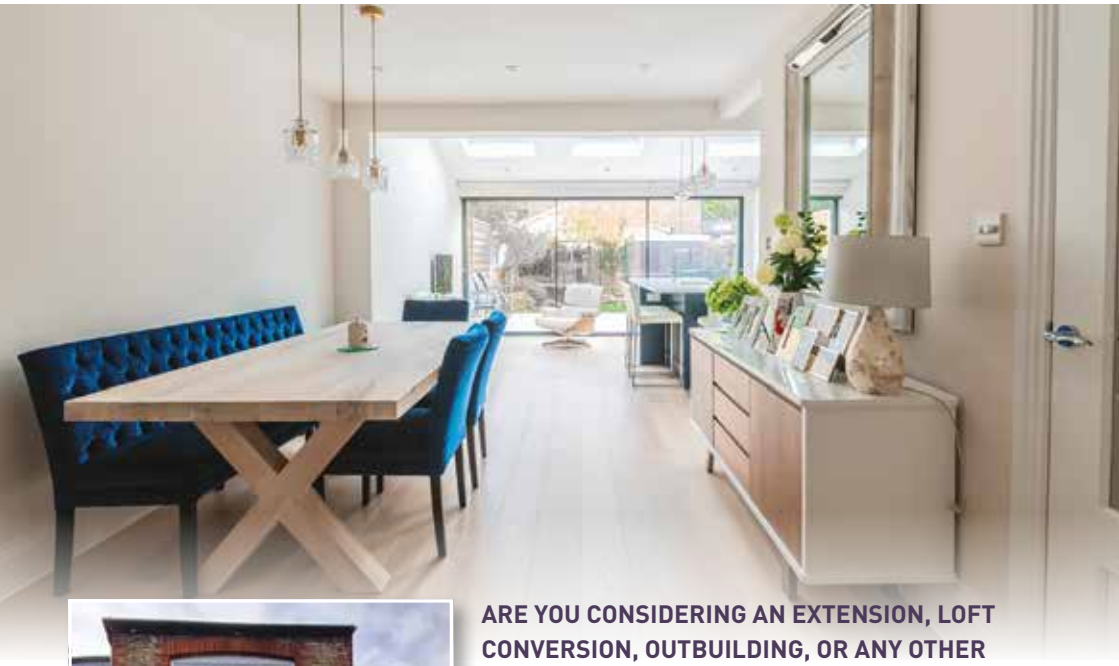



ARE YOU CONSIDERING AN EXTENSION, LOFT CONVERSION, OUTBUILDING, OR ANY OTHER ALTERATION OR ADDITION TO YOUR PROPERTY?

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

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or visit the website **www.thamesdesignandbuild.com**

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

Care Detectives needed!



Care isn't just about carrying out pre-determined tasks, you need observational skills to notice when things are different, and the problem solving ability to find a solution.

If you would like to join our Team of Care Detectives, scan the QR code or call the number below...

Visiting Angels North Surrey

Call 07923 157 020

www.visiting-angels.co.uk/northsurrey

cjames@visiting-angels.co.uk

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