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THE MAGAZINE OF THE
THAMES DITTON & WESTON GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SUMMER 2020

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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.

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Cover credit: Lisa Tolley

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 websit***e 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

June 23, 8pm AGM – Via Zoom. Check website for details
Sept 22, 8pm – Venue to be confirmed

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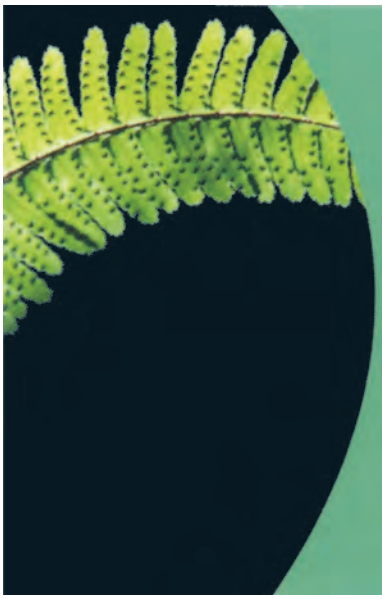

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News from the Residents' Association to end May

Coronavirus and community

Well, spring 2020 did not turn out quite as planned!

The Dittons Fair is a fixture in local life, going ahead come rain or shine. However, this year it was a coronavirus cancellation, as was the Thames Ditton in Bloom planting at Thames Ditton Station.

The Residents' Association (RA) cancelled its magazine distributors thank you party for the first time anyone can remember.

The Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton, a biannual event fast becoming a tradition, could not take place on June 7. You can still help the Secret Gardens project, please see the article on page 17 for details.

Those are just a few of a long list of community events that could not take place.

However, the testing times brought out a real community spirit.

When it became clear that the country was heading for lockdown our local Colets Health Club got in touch with the RA to offer their services to residents in need in Thames Ditton and Weston Green.

We contacted all our members (for whom we have e-mail) to ask if they or anyone they knew, particularly those without access to technology and social media, needed help.

For the last 10 weeks Colets' staff as well as members who volunteered have been collecting prescriptions and doing shopping (thanks to Waitrose in Kingston who offered click and collect slots). The Velo (cycling) Club at Colets put their cycling prowess to good use and formed part of the team too. Calls have also been made regularly to those who they know are self-isolating and are in need of a friendly voice.

This service continues, so if you or someone you know needs some help please call the club on 0208 398 7108.

It was great to hear that as soon as the lockdown news broke local WhatsApp groups sprang up to ensure that neighbours were OK.

Our wonderful local convenience stores were able to keep the doors open throughout the lockdown and others kept going through deliveries. Many more villagers discovered that shopping locally made sense.

Foodbank collection point.

People also rallied to the challenge when the East Elmbridge Foodbank reported a rapid rise in need for its help (see article page 21).

Local groups went online

Local groups which could not meet in person went online, continuing to give individuals support and camaraderie.

From the scouts to the guides, from local history groups to book groups, technology has helped us to stay in touch.

Although our local churches had to lock up *'the virtual doors were flung open'*.

They have been reaching out to those in need, working with the local foodbank and keeping parish activities going. For example, All Saints volunteers did a '*phone around'* to members of the community to help people to feel connected. One volunteer reported the response had been extremely positive and said *'I hope that we will continue to look out for each other and stay in touch in this way, long after lockdown'*.

Church services have gone online conducting a range of live services via Zoom and YouTube. Church Youth Groups have been meeting online. And the curate at St Nicholas has turned his hand to Quizmaster, hosting an engaging Pub Quiz every Thursday evening. You are invited to join them, visit the website for details, ***www.stnicholaschurch.org.uk***

We made new discoveries about where we live and what we might do with our time when we are forced to stay at home (see article page 18).

Saying 'Thank you', Clap for Carers.

RA online

The Residents' Association also had to cancel its AGM in March and we were sorry not to hear from this year's speaker Kate Ashbrook. We are glad to say that Kate has agreed to come and speak at a time when we may be back together.

Since then we have made history by having the first ever RA Open Zoom Meeting, with the next one planned for June 23. See our website the week before for how to join in.

These months have really been a time to say *'thank you'* to everyone who has been taking care of us in this pandemic. Residents turned out in force for the Thursday evening *'Clap for our Carers'*. Everywhere we saw creative thank you signs and messages of encouragement.

Local children created pictures and cards to send to care homes or the self-isolating.

A big thank you to the refuse collectors

Easter themed advice from Bella Longhurst aged 10

Union Flags cheer up Thames Ditton High Street

There were many creative thank you signs

Flying the flag for VE day

In the midst of the lockdown on Friday May 8, 2020 we had the 75th anniversary of VE day. This year the bank holiday had been moved to the Friday to enable widescale celebrations, which could not then take place. Not wanting to let the occasion pass unmarked RA Councillor Tricia W. Bland, through her work with the Thames Ditton High Street Retailers' Association and Thames Ditton Foundation, organised a cheerful display of Union Flags along Thames Ditton High Street.

Huge thanks to the team that made it possible: Will Bland for assembly and repairs plus local builders Brian and Martin Poulter and Brad Duddy for erecting the flags and taking them down - no mean feat whilst social distancing.

1945 - No social distancing in the VE party in Church Walk

VE Day celebrations despite everything

The VE day bank holiday dawned bright and sunny … and villagers were determined to celebrate whilst socially distancing.

Street parties were held with neighbours waving from a distance, and despite everything people managed to make the day special, even if it was not how we had imagined it.

RA Chairman Graham Cooke played VE day tunes in Ashley Road

Toby and Christa keeping the 1940s vibe going in the garden

Children's VE day tea party Weston Green, credit All Saints Weston archive

Local Plan and Covid-19

In May Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) stated on its website that '*work is continuing on preparing the new Local Plan, however due to the COVID-19 situation it is taking longer than envisaged*.' They will share any revised timetable in due course.

Many questions are now being asked about the impact of Covid-19 on the housing targets set for Elmbridge by the national government.

The leader of EBC has written to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government asking whether there will be changes to government policy in light of the pandemic and stating that '*current guidance on social distancing could not be more at odds with the previous government messaging to build and live in increasing densities to accommodate a disproportionate amount of growth within the urban areas. All to meet an arbitrary target given to local authorities without consideration for their individual characteristic, opportunities, or constraints*.'

The Residents' Association has also written to the Secretary of State pointing out that the world, post virus, will *look 'very different from the present one, therefore to proceed with Local Plans that could threaten Green Belt and/or dramatically change the environment without taking account of the longer term effects of Covid-19 would be at least irresponsible, at worst, pure folly.'*

This letter and a link to the letter from EBC can be found on our website ***www.residents-association.com***

Planning

A planning application has been submitted to build **Bransby Lodge, St Leonards Road (2020/0865),** a detached two-storey building with rooms in the roof space containing seven flats, and a detached two-storey building behind of one house, one flat and undercroft parking. The RA has lodged an objection on the grounds of scale, massing and character. Currently 66 objections have been lodged.

The proposed development at **Sandown Park Racecourse (2019/0551)** has gone to appeal and will go to a Public Inquiry. EBC has retained legal counsel to support the inquiry. Residents can write to the inspector with objections and the RA will review its submission.

A new application has been submitted for **16, High Street, Thames Ditton (2020/0266)** for change of use from restaurant to flats. The RA has repeated its objection in the interests of maintaining a vibrant village centre.

There is no committee date for the application to develop the **Jolly Boatman and Hampton Court Station site (2018/3810).** The applicants need to produce a revised flood model considering new Environment Agency standards.

Archive for 2020

2020 has been a very different year. We would like to put together an archive of pictures and memories for future generations.

If you have photos or thoughts to share, please send them to ***editor@residents-association.com***

Please stay local as lockdown eases

As lockdown eases slightly it is great to see more of our local businesses and shops opening, and Bradley the fishmonger is back on Tuesdays. We are so pleased to see them back in business. The RA website ***www.residents-association.com*** and the High Street Retailers' Association website ***www.thamesdittonhighstreet.com*** both carry information on which shops are open and when.

The last few weeks have proved how valuable our local shops are. Please continue to support them as things change and remember to 'shop local' first.

Dates for your diary

This section will be back in the Autumn edition.

Keep an eye or our website for news.

Residents' Association

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ASK ABOUT OUR PRE-PAYMENT FUNERAL PLANS

Update from Nick Darby, Surrey County Councillor

I must express huge thanks to all involved within Surrey whoever they may be. This is an unprecedented situation, with heroic efforts often from local people simply doing what they believe to be right. May we all learn from them

Not everything centrally has gone as we would have hoped. This is not a party-political point, but one of reality. We can learn from our experiences in a truly positive way. PPE deliveries have been an issue, also identifying those to be shielded.

My personal view is that local solutions have worked best, for example:

- Pharmacy prescription deliveries organised by the individual pharmacists working with small groups
- Foodbanks, organised locally, giving a sense of community
- Local WhatsApp groups to ensure neighbours are looked after

Turning to recovery:

- Schools need confidence and support - it's not one size fits all
- Mental health, stress, and social distancing will remain an issue for some time
- Back to work as soon as can sensibly be done is the right thing, minimising risk, a clear need to be especially careful with public transport

Climate change - open spaces, cycling, walkingopportunities have a much greater place in our lives now than they did only a few months ago.

Government housing targets and our ability to provide infrastructure in my view need a complete rethink. Will High Streets look the same over the next few years? Plans for Gatwick and Heathrow must surely be reconsidered. Those Authorities who have not yet completed their Local Plans have the time to rethink, to reconsider what is precious to our communities and what local residents' vision truly is.

Surrey County Councillor, (The Dittons) Nick Darby

Lessons learned now about how we have worked with others may stand us in good stead. Not necessarily business as usual.

Government assistance is essential for all Local Authorities to cover our additional costs fully, not just our extra cost but our reduction in income.

The Surrey Highways contract extension may be the right decision in difficult circumstances, but a chance to do things differently – at least Giggs Hill Road is no longer pothole alley!

To sum up, we face immense challenges - our Residents' Association group at County Hall is ready, able and willing to do so.

Nick Darby – Leader of the Opposition

Elmbridge Borough Council and Covid-19

EBC Community Support Services collecting food contribution from the Co-op

Had our present way of life been described to us a few months ago, I doubt we would have believed a word of it!

At time of writing we are 10 weeks into lockdown and are slowly finding ways to adapt and cope. However, adapting slowly was not a luxury that Elmbridge Borough Council (EBC) could afford. Community Support Services (CSS) had to hit the ground running to support the most vulnerable members of our community.

All seven Centres for the Community in our borough had to be closed - centres that were a hive of activity. Specialist groups supporting people with Alzheimer's and dementia, the Parkinsons Groups, Cobham and Molesey Link (helping people with learning difficulties), Men in Sheds, Boomerang Bags and the Sewing Bees (Thames Ditton Centre), Gardening under Glass (Molesey Centre) and a plethora of other activities came to an abrupt halt.

People attending the Centres for coffee or a meal could no longer do so. Those people had to be identified and arrangements made to help them. Everyone who attended a centre for anything needed to be contacted.

The Head of Community Support Services and her team leapt into action. The numbers requiring Meals on Wheels escalated – this meant more food, more kitchen staff, and more deliverers.

The response from the community was astounding - in no time at all volunteers were recruited, DBS checks arranged and training completed. Masks, aprons, sanitising gels, anti-bacterial wipes and gloves were sourced. Incredibly, the demand was met, and a seven days a week service with a breakfast and tea-time option was 'up and running' in no time.

This was a tremendous achievement, and the speed at which it was accomplished was truly remarkable. Over the four days of Easter more than 400 meals were provided, including more than 100 tea-time services. Emergency parcels were delivered and prescriptions were collected where there was an urgent need.

Welfare checks on all the people being supported by CSS were also required. A team of officers swiftly began this work and by the middle of April 4,000 individual residents of the borough had been contacted.

These welfare calls are continuing. Support is also being given to those who were attending specialist groups, by daily phone calls, video calls, newsletters and so on.

Details of those identified by the Government as being particularly vulnerable and in the 'shielded' category began to filter through at the end of March. A team of officers was immediately assembled to contact all those people. This work is on-going as more people are regularly being identified.

Help with shopping and obtaining medical supplies were also high priorities and, working with EBC, Central Surrey Voluntary Action (CSVA) took on this role.

The Head of Services has been working with many organisations to support residents. As well as CVSA, Citizen's Advice (who also provide a domestic abuse service), Surrey County Council, local GPs and surgeries, local PCSOs and four foodbanks, there have also been contacts with local charities and churches. A council officer has been organising the volunteers and directing them to the most appropriate tasks.

Elmbridge's four foodbanks saw a vast increase in demand and the Borough Council donated £10,000 to help. The Thames Ditton and Weston Green Residents' Association set up two 'hubs' for food collection – one in All Saints Weston Green and one at the George and Dragon in Thames Ditton. (see website for details and article on Page 21 of this magazine.). Several street collection points have also been set up.

Local businesses have also been contributing: Morrisons, Waitrose, Tesco, Fruit World (Claygate) and many more have donated food. Our local Co-Op on Hampton Court Way donated four carloads of food to the East Elmbridge Foodbank and £3,000 worth of food to Meals on Wheels when their refrigerators failed as the result of a fire. Such generosity!

Other council departments are also busy. Environmental Services have continued to empty our bins every week. It has been challenging, but they have done an excellent job and I know that the various crews have appreciated the many 'thank you' notes attached to bins.

The council has also been helping local business: 1,500 grants worth £21.5m have been paid to Elmbridge businesses.

There are support packages to help our high streets and independent businesses adapt, survive and thrive. For example, up to £2,000 in grant funding to help businesses to sell online; £250 grants to support adaptation to social-distancing measures; funding for shop front and signage improvements. All details are on the EBC website.

None of this would have been possible but for the dedication and sheer hard work of the officers at Elmbridge Borough Council. Chief Executive, Rob Moran, has led his team from the front and officers have walked the extra mile. Working from home has not been easy, but officers have adapted to technology and continue to work efficiently. The achievements are nothing short of amazing and I have been proud to be associated with such an outstanding Council. We are lucky to be living in Elmbridge!

Tannia Shipley

RA Councillor for Weston Green

Cabinet Portfolio Holder Social Affairs

Secret Gardens stymied for 2020

Sadly, we had to cancel the Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton which should have taken place on June 7 2020.

To add insult to injury, a lovely spring and enforced 'stay at home' has led to pristine gardens which we cannot visit.

This is a blow to the High Street as the funds raised at this biannual event are used to pay for Thames Ditton High Street Christmas trees and lights as part of the Heart in the High Street campaign and the Christmas Fair. Now, more than ever, we want to encourage everyone to rally around our local shops.

Please see opposite how you can still support our High Street and the Christmas Lights appeal. In the meantime, here is a photo montage of this year's garden delights.

You can still help support the Secret Gardens fundraising efforts in 2020

The special summer magazine cover by local artist Lisa Tolley illustrates a time when the world stood still and everything changed.

Her striking illustration is available as an A3 poster with the phrase 'keep shining through 2020'. In years to come we will be able to look back and remember these strange times.

The image is also available on special cards so that you can keep to those resolutions you made to stay in touch with friends.

Lisa Tolley's iillustration on cards and posters

Please help the fundraising efforts of the Secret Gardens of Thames Ditton - and buy some striking mementos of the year we will not forget.

A3 poster - £5

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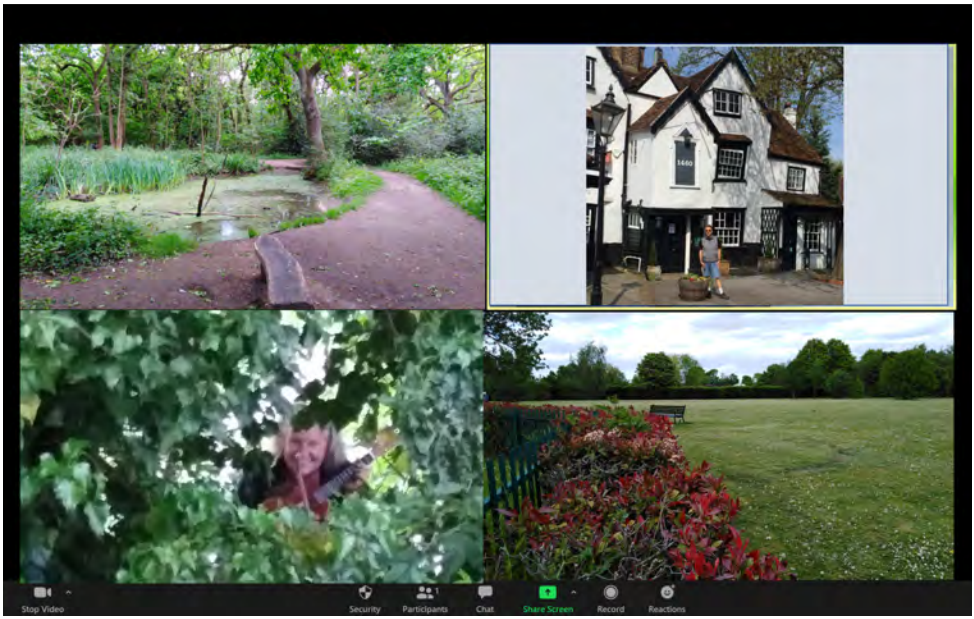
New discoveries beyond Zoom during Covid-19



Zooming in on some new discoveries, clockwise from top left; Stokes Nature reserve, the Bell Inn, Giggs Hill field, ukele-playing in the hedgerows

Nature threw down the gauntlet when we went into 'lockdown' on Monday 23 March 2020 and, apart from many of us learning more about technology to keep in touch with friends and family, our focus on 'home' has led to many new discoveries of a more local nature.

Andrea Ablitt regularly sings with Susan's Singers at the Vera Fletcher Hall and has newly discovered the delights of Stoke's Field Nature Reserve in Long Ditton, with its labyrinthine paths through dense woods and one of its entrances past lovingly tended allotments. Andrea added that she had no idea that she had so much self-discipline with her new routine of getting up a bit earlier in the mornings to do a Joe Wicks class!

Gail Caunt of Kings Drive was looking forward to her first visit to the George and Dragon Ukulele night in early April and when her hopes were dashed, she decided to buy her own ukulele and learn some tunes while she was waiting for service to be resumed. When Gail discovered that she could see her neighbour through the foliage across the River Rythe (fondly known as the ditch) at the back of her garden, they started to make a regular date to discover the joys of strumming along on their ukuleles together

Shirley and Roy Gundavda of Kings Close have an eye for interesting architecture

and they have enjoyed discovering buildings to admire while walking on roads new to them – such as The Bell Inn in West Molesey dating from 1460, a stunning close up of the gothic Ruxley Tower from Ruxley Ridge Road, and some stylish homes at the top of Claygate Lane with art deco features. Shirley's accidental substitute of cumin for cinnamon in a homemade fruit loaf helped her discover that in challenging times curry fruit cake tastes pretty good!

Sheila Leigh of Broadfields has discovered that she has felt closer to people during the lockdown, despite being physically further apart. Using the technology of Zoom, Sheila now meets regularly with her old school friends who live in Scotland and stays connected with her church through weekly prayer meetings. Above all, with fewer distractions Sheila has enjoyed being able to spend more time with God which has increased her wellbeing.

Linda Barton of Dittons Close and Ruth Rees of Kings Drive praised the effort local shopkeepers made to provide food supplies to help them avoid big supermarket queues. For example, Ruth discovered that the Ditto restaurant in Thames Ditton became 'Delivery Service? Ditto! Mini Market? Ditto!' and was delighted when The Deli at Winters Bridge re-opened to provide a takeaway service with plastic screens lovingly installed to protect their customers. Linda was particularly grateful to discover the little hardware shops open so that she could continue to fix those annoying little breakdowns at home.

Diana Pert of Kings Drive was a volunteer retired greyhound walker. Undefeated by the lockdown, Diana offered to walk any neighbour's dog while the owner was self-isolating and was put in touch with the owner of 'Poppy'. Despite living in Thames Ditton for most of her life, Diana has not only discovered a new friend and her friendly Cavachon Frise, but also new places such as the lovely view of the river from Ditton Reach and the delightfully quiet Giggs Hill Field at the end of Raphael Drive.

Many people mentioned places of new discovery to share such as the delights of Molesey Heath off Orchard Lane and the green space at the bottom of Aragon Avenue, with its magnificent view of the Wren Palace and the walk towards Cigarette Island.

So is it "lockdown" or "look up"? From the experiences being shared it seems that when you do the latter, you're sure to make a new discovery!

Julie Royce.

Curried fruit cake, a Covid creation!

What should we keep doing?

Littleworth Common

I'm going to keep enjoying the wonder of Littleworth Common - so much tranquillity in such a small area

I am going to keep up cello lessons on Skype. My lovely teacher lives a long way away now, so no need to use the car

LOCKDOWN

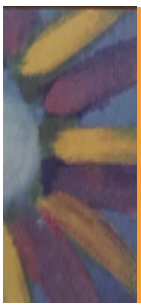
To add to Julie's article, we asked local people what will you keep doing as the lockdown eases?

I'm going to do less travelling for business, 90% is just not needed.

Cello lessons on Skype

I am going to stop getting in the car and cycle more. I used to get into the car almost like putting a coat on - everything is on our doorstep which I can walk/cycle to.

What do you want to keep doing as lockdown eases? What would you like to see the community keep doing? Please send your thoughts and photos to us at ***editor@residents-association.com***



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How our community is helping our local foodbank

Supplies at the East Elmbridge Foodbank

The author Helen Keller famously said *"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"* - and never has this been more true than today, in the midst of this pandemic."

Before Covid-19 hit us few people living in Thames Ditton or Weston Green needed support from our local East Elmbridge Foodbank, which serves Thames Ditton, Weston Green, Long Ditton, East and West Molesey, Hinchley Wood, Claygate and Esher.

Since the crisis, the picture is very different. One of the biggest increases in those seeking help has been from those residing in Thames Ditton. There is now a significant number of people locally who are in financial difficulties due to illness or having lost their jobs. In the early weeks particularly foodbank help was being sought by furloughed workers who had not yet received government money and by those in the process of applying for universal credit, bracing themselves for a five-week wait before receiving support.

Since the end of March demand at the foodbank has risen more than four-fold, and comes from a wider range of people: not just families and single parents but also a new demographic including young single people and those employed in sectors now largely or entirely shut down including non-food retail, restaurants and hotels, passenger transport and the arts and leisure services.

Before the crisis, food stock levels at the East Elmbridge Foodbank were fairly high but as events unfolded these quickly diminished. Luckily, our community has come to the rescue…

Early on street communities began springing up in the areas the foodbank serves, especially from those with good connectivity via e-mail or What's App groups. Neighbours got together to agree a collection point in their street or road where fellow residents could drop off food and essentials. Volunteers scoop up these donations, delivering them straight to the foodbank HQ in Esher, where the items are quarantined for three days, before being sorted and packed into foodbank parcels and delivered directly to the doorsteps of those in need.

Locally there are now numerous street

community collection points – I am collecting from Station Road, the Basings, Queens Road, Riversdale Road and Summer Road. We have also set up Residents' Association Central Collection hubs at the George & Dragon in Thames Ditton High Street, in association with the Farmers' Market, and in Weston Green at All Saints Weston Church.

These community collections are vital. At a time when many have felt cut off from normal life and powerless to affect the situation, being able to contribute to the foodbank has improved their well-being and given them a real sense of purpose. It enables them to offer real practical help to those people, those neighbours, who otherwise would be going hungry.

The East Elmbridge Foodbank has been assisted in other ways. Large quantities of food have been donated by various supermarkets, including the Co-op on Hampton Court Way. People have been generous with financial donations and a successful Crowdfunder campaign has enabled the purchase of wholesale food and vital equipment. The foodbank has been inundated with offers of help from volunteers - those not self-isolating who want to donate their time to help others.

The darkest days of Covid-19 are hopefully behind us. But the East Elmbridge Foodbank will continue to need our help in terms of food donations and money for a long time to come. Even when the lockdown is over, many of those seeking assistance may not be able to return to their former employment and may face financial hardship for months. We must be there for them. As a community we will come through this stronger and with a deeper appreciation of what really matters.

Duncan from the George and Dragon at the foodbank collection point

Supplies at the East Elmbridge Foodbank

Tricia W. Bland, Residents' Association Councillor for Thames Ditton

For more details regarding foodbank food donations contact:

Thames Ditton: RA Cllr Tricia W. Bland - 020 8339 0485 ***tbland@elmbridge.gov.uk***

Weston Green: RA Cllr Tannia Shipley - 020 8398 2484 ***tshipley@elmbridge.gov.uk***

To give a financial donation:

www.localgiving.org/east-elmbridge-foodbank

‘Til we meet again at a hostelry close by (part 1)

The George & Dragon

Duncan the Landlord has done a great job helping support the East Elmbridge Foodbank. Hopefully, locals will be back supporting the pub when we can.

Back in the 1906s and 70’s, the pub had a full-size snooker table. For the last 20 years the G&D has hosted live jazz and many famous jazzmen and jazzwomen have appeared there.

Most recently, the Thames Ditton Farmers Market has enlivened the village once a month – we look forward to its return.

I am penning these recollections and hopes for the future in the week that we celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE Day. My memories do not stretch back that far but I'm sure that the pubs of Thames Ditton and Weston Green must have done a roaring trade that day, always assuming they had vital supplies!

My recollections of the pubs of Thames Ditton and Weston Green go back to the late 1960s and, so far as I can ascertain, all the pubs that existed at VE Day were still operating when I reached the age that I could legally enjoy their offerings. Sadly, some of them have gone now but, compared to other parts of the country, we have done pretty well. A few pubs may now primarily be restaurants, but they are still with us and let's hope that is still the case when things get

back to normal.

When the Government announced the pub closures in March, I decided that if I could not visit them, I would take up my pencils, pens and watercolours and dust down my very limited skills - if I could do this with a glass of good bottled beer in hand, so much the better.

In the 1960s, there were 11 pubs operating in what were then the Thames Ditton and Weston Green electoral wards. Arguably the oldest, and certainly the most famous was The Olde Swan which was one of the seven Thames Ditton pubs.

The others were The Crown (now Maisie's, the Thai restaurant), the Red Lion aka Ditto, the George and Dragon, the Albany, the Angel and, now sadly no longer with us, the Olde Harrow, in Weston Green Road. Many of these pubs were 20th century buildings but built on sites where there had been pubs for many years. Indeed, all these pubs, with the exception of the Albany, existed in the 1700s.

The Olde Swan

Probably the oldest pub in Thames Ditton and Weston Green and certainly the most famous. For many years it was run by Ernie Cartwright and was popular with film stars as well as the early inhabitants of Thames Ditton Island.

We look forward to sitting out by the river with a glass in hand one warm sunny evening.

The Angel

In 1833, the Thames Ditton Cricket Club established its HQ at the Angel. But the pub dates back much further.

Towards the end of the 19th century it was a popular refreshment stop for cyclists. So it was appropriate that many locals were able to witness the Olympic cycling events that passed by in 2012 with a pint in hand from the Angel.

The pub is open for take-aways.

Marney's Village Inn – Formally the Alma Arms

Marney's, formerly the Alma, dates back to the 1700s but must have been known as something different back then as the name the Alma relates to an early battle in the Crimean War in 1854.

The Marney name celebrates a local family in the early part of the 20th century.

Tricky to socially distance inside but no problem in the fabulous garden – another pub open for take-aways.

Weston Green boasted four pubs, the Greyhound (now known as Sextons), The Alma (now Marneys), The Lamb and Star, subsequently known as the Ewe, now the Co-op on the Hampton Court Way and, finally, The Cricketers, a few doors up from the Greyhound, now converted to two, semi-detached houses.

So, only one of the VE day pubs has actually been demolished, namely the Olde Harrow in Weston Green Road. This is particularly sad for me as it was where I drank my first legal pint. The loss of the Lamb and Star/ Ewe is tempered by the fact that the Co-op has been a great asset for locals in Weston Green during the lockdown. I have supped a glass or two in all the pubs mentioned and aim to revisit each in turn when they are back with us again.

Sextons on the Green – Formally the Greyhound

A favourite with sports fans these days.

Rugby fans will be back for the 2021 six nations we hope

During the lockdown, pizzas can be ordered.

The Albany

Following a major refurbishment some years back, the then owners renamed the Albany, the 'Fox on the River' – quite why, nobody seems to know. Good sense has now prevailed and the original name restored.

The Albany is normally at its busiest when Hampton Court Flower Show is on as it operates a ferry from the pub to the entrance to the Show. Roll on 2021 when, hopefully, the Show will be on again.

Maisie – Formally The Crown

A very old pub, demolished in 1925, stood on this site, when the present building was erected.

When the Crown closed it became Maisie a very popular Thai restaurant. Takeaways are available.

Ditto – Formerly the Red Lion

Like the Crown, the present building is not the original one. In 1855, the then landlord got into a punch-up with his 'potman' and received 'an injury to his skull which terminated fatally'.

Thankfully, as far as we know, things are a little more peaceful under the stewardship of Sam Nicholson –take-away pizzas are available.

Let's hope that what Hitler couldn't destroy survives the Virus and, when we can, let's get out there and support these local and historic businesses. Surely, we will all raise a glass to that?

Graham Cooke

(See the Autumn edition for the final pubs in the set)

What links Belgium, Thames Ditton, and a Nobel Prize?

If you or your children have ever labelled the components of an animal cell you would not think that there was any connection with Thames Ditton; but there is and the story involves refugees from the First World War and a remarkable scientist.

Christian De Duve was born in Thames Ditton in October 1917 to Alphonse De Duve and his wife Madeleine Pungs, his parents were of Belgian-German extraction. Sadly, it is not clear exactly where the young family lived. Christian's parents were refugees, having fled Belgium at the outbreak of the Great War. In 1920, after the war, they returned to Belgium and it was in Antwerp that Christian grew up and was educated. He was known to be outstandingly intelligent from an early age.

Initially, his Jesuit school education led him to take an interest in ancient humanities but he changed his mind, and decided to follow medicine because of the appeal of medical practice. Christian moved to medical school in Louvain, Belgium but in 1940, in his final year, he was drafted into the army and posted to southern France as a medical officer. Very soon after he became a prisoner of war. It was his ability to speak multiple languages, (4 fluently), and the allied advance that enabled him to escape and return to Belgium, where he completed his medical training.

Medical studies at that time allowed for considerable free time, which he used to join a research laboratory. There he was attached to a group investigating the effect of insulin on glucose uptake. By the time he graduated as an MD in 1941, he had

Christian De Duve presenting

abandoned ambitions of a medical career, and had only one ambition: to research the mechanism and action of insulin. Some of his research focussed on enzymatic aspects of carbohydrate in the liver, which was expected to throw light on the broader problem of insulin action. With the war finally over he embarked on further training in biochemistry.

Christian's move into medical research eventually led him to Sweden and the USA. Unlike many scientists who made their name in the US he kept in touch with his Belgian roots and became a professor jointly in New York and Louvain.

He returned to Louvain in March 1947 and took over teaching physiological chemistry at the medical faculty. Here he started a small research laboratory. At this time insulin, together with glucagon was still his main focus of interest. But fate had a surprise in store, in the form of a chance observation. It was essentially irrelevant to the object of his research but was intriguing and led to the discovery of a new

cell part, the lysosome, which received its name in 1955, and later another organelle, the peroxisome. These have important functions in decomposing different types of materials, such as bacteria and parts of cells that have worn out.

Christian's greatest personal contribution to science was his analysis of the animal cell. He developed a technique for breaking up cells very gently, so that the internal organs stayed intact. He was then able to separate the parts by their different densities which meant they floated at different levels when spun at very high speed in a viscous liquid. This developed a gradient with the densest part at the bottom and the lightest at the top. His work on cell fractionation provided an insight into the function of cell structures allowing further investigation into a variety of problems of biological and medical interest.

In 1974 Christian de Duve was awarded a Nobel prize in the category of Physiology or Medicine for "*discoveries concerning the structural and functional organisation of the cell*." He is one of very few Belgians to do so in any area.

In 1974 he founded the International Institute of Cellular and Molecular Pathology in Brussels, which in 2005 was renamed the de Duve Institute. He was also the founding President of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science, and in later life became increasingly interested in the origin and evolution of life.

Tom Eddy

It would be lovely to find out where the de Duve family lived. If anyone has any information or if local historians would like to try to find out, please contact us at ***editor@residents-association.com***

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Boomerang Bag Club – busier than ever

For a dedicated band of sewing bees, Monday morning from 9.30am – 12.30pm is a highlight of the week. This is when we get together for our weekly Thames Ditton Boomerang Bag session at the Thames Ditton Centre for the making Boomerang Bags out of donated fabric to distribute to shops and businesses in Thames Ditton High Street.

The closure of the Thames Ditton Centre due to Covid-19 put a stop to all this, as access to the machines and stores of fabric was not possible. Luckily Mark Mortimer-Cleevely, the Centre Manager, let me grab a good supply of materials to enable the Club to continue in the new world of lockdown.

Most of the sewing bees were self-isolating but happy to continue sewing Boomerang Bags and I became the nominated delivery 'drone', dropping off fabric and kits and collecting finished bags. As most of the shops and cafes which stock our Boomerang Bags were closed we needed to find a new outlet for our anti single-use plastic initiative – luckily the East Elmbridge Foodbank was the obvious choice. I had been delivering Boomerang Bags to the foodbank for a while, but overnight we quadrupled our Bag donations.

It soon became clear that NHS and other key workers, were desperate for PPE. While our sewing bees couldn't make the official PPE they quickly turned their hands to making cotton face masks for NHS staff in maternity wards, contributing to the 'Masks for Maternity' initiative supplying hospitals in London. We then started to provide face masks to staff at some of our local care homes

Facemasks from the Boomerang Bag Club

Now, as local shops and businesses are beginning to open, we are able to supply them again with Boomerang Bags. Our latest stockist is Thames Food & Wine, but we also give them to Organic Nest, Lime Tree, Nice Buns, View and the Ironing Board in the High Street - a collection point for donated fabric - plus Jay News in Summer Road. One day, with more sewing bees on board, we would love to supply Budgens.

Our sewing bees are passionate about crafting, but they are also passionate about the environment. If every person were to choose to carry and reuse a Boomerang Bag (or any bag made out of a reusable, biodegradable fabric) instead of a single-use plastic bag then we will be a step further to achieving a carbon neutral society.

Tricia W. Bland RA Councillor

Chairman EBC Energy & Sustainability Working Group & Organiser Thames Ditton Boomerang Bags

For more info on joining the Boomerang Bag Club email: ***tdwgra@the-blands.co.uk***

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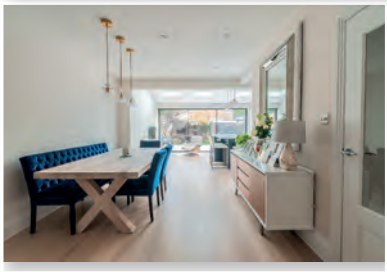

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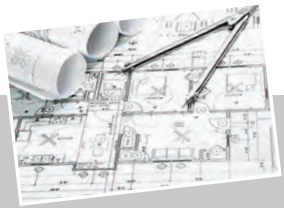

"Thames Design and Build were great to work with and they were ahead of schedule throughout the project. Their team was sympathetic to the impact of the works whilst we remained living in the house, and we were pleased with the quality of their workmanship. The team is well structured, and communication 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

Edward Maufe - from Guildford Cathedral to All Saints Weston

The 'Östbergian' window at All Saints Weston, credit Pam Tiller

Edward Maufe wrote that the building of All Saints Church was a continuously happy experience. The architect, best known for Guildford Cathedral, also designed the lovely church of All Saints at Weston Green, completed in 1939. A modern replacement for the church was needed as the population of the area grew, and in 1938 Edward was asked for his design ideas. He presented his plans, which were unanimously approved, at a crowded meeting in Thames Ditton Village Hall in January 1938. The Bishop of Guildford laid the foundation stone in October 1938, and the church was built rapidly and consecrated in June 1939, for a cost of almost £10,000 [around £500,000 today]. Edward wrote a prologue to a small booklet about the building of the church in which he said that it was:

'… a charming site, with a most sympathetic Vicar and Parochial Church Council. On looking back, I can think of only one awkward moment – when the members of the PCC intimated that I was going too far, after I told them I proposed to put silver metal stars on the beams of the Nave roof. However, they trusted me, even in this; how modest and how appropriate these silver stars now look… I sought to make it a happy place to worship, seeking to allow all its various parts to seem to fall inevitably and without effort into position.'

Edward found it a lovely site, but there were difficulties, partly because of the adjoining Marneys Pond. However, he designed the exterior to fit in with what was, at the time, a simple country location. The church is of white rendered brick, with stone coloured pantiles for the roof. The small square tower is set on one side and Edward used one of his favourite window shapes, a tall oval-topped window with small steps at the sides, called

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'Östbergian' by English Heritage, after Ragnar Östberg, the Swedish architect best known for designing Stockholm City Hall.

The church also has another of Edward's favourite design ideas, distinctive cast lead rainwater heads, always of relevance to the particular church. Here they are shown with a crown surrounded by the words Sanctus, Sanctus Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) for all the saints. The church was listed Grade II in 1997.

Downpipe with a differencer

Edward was invited back to Weston Green in 1947 to design the WWII memorial in the village. He first suggested a statue of St George, but this was turned down by the village, and a simple cross agreed instead. This was a small village project compared with many of his major memorials such as the Airforces Memorial to the Missing at Runnymede, and the parish had collected £340 to pay for it. Edward decided to waive his fees *'owing to my affection for Weston Green, for if I were to charge, I could not well charge fees of less than 50 guineas, and that would make the £340 look a little silly'*.

He and his wife Prudence remained in contact with the parish for some time, and they opened a Christmas Fair together there in 1954. Prudence Maufe wrote a letter to say how much she had enjoyed the day, in spite of the terrible weather, as they had had such a warm reception and she really felt among friends.

I am greatly indebted to All Saints excellent Archivist, Pam Tiller, for the detailed information she provided about the Maufes and the church.

Edward Maufe, born in 1882, was one of the 20th century's most prolific architects. His work was also his hobby and during his very long life he never stopped designing and thinking about architecture. He designed new churches and country houses, became Principal Architect to the Imperial (now Commonwealth) War Graves Commission, as well as being responsible for the post-1945 restoration of the Inns of Court, in particular Grays Inn and Middle Temple. During the First World War he became the only British camouflage officer on the Salonika front, helping to save the lives of gun crews. His interior decorator wife Prudence became a director of the upmarket furniture shop Heal & Son, and the Maufes worked as a power couple, committed to sympathetic and functional design, who shared a passion for perfection.

As a granddaughter of Edward and Prudence I listened to the grown-ups' conversation, and the words 'Guildford', 'Esher', or 'Grays Inn' remained in my mind. But it was only when I delved into the extensive Maufe files at the RIBA, and then discovered their love letters in family archives that I understood that this was a story that should be told.

Juliet Dunmur

While bookshops remain closed the book "Edward Maufe, Architect and cathedral builder" by Juliet Dunmur is available from Amazon, or directly from the author at ***j.dunmur@gmail.com***

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Local church to close?

United Reformed Church, Speer Roadr

The United Reformed Church in Thames Ditton is likely to close at the end of June 2021. This church is one of the oldest non-Conformist Protestant churches in the area. It started as a Congregational Church in 1804 and remained as such until 1972 when the Congregational Church joined with the Presbyterian Church of England to form the United Reformed Church. Now, in its 216th year, its ageing congregation is finding it more difficult to support the activities of the church and its minister, Peter Flint.

Despite being unable to use our church at present, we worship with New Malden United Reformed Church on Zoom each Sunday – you can find us on ***Facebook.com/newmaldenurc*** Providing we can do so safely, from July we hope to hold one service a month on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

The congregation is keen that the church should be actively involved in the community. After running a very popular Messy Church for local families, Peter developed a weekly drop-in centre for carers and children providing crafts, games and toast! It is also a home for groups such as the well-established playgroup Teddies which has been based in the church for over 40 years and is still running to cater for the children of key workers. Other users include the Ripieno Choir, Stage Studio and a Martial Arts group. We have an active social programme with the Film Nights and Burns Night suppers being particularly well supported by the community.

Ecumenism is a strong part of the church's ethos. For over 100 years the church has had close relations with the parish church of St Nicholas. They share four services each year as well as supporting each other in extracurricular activities. The church also takes an active role in Churches Together in the Dittons.

The church membership is friendly and welcoming. Church finances are sound. The building has had major work such as a new kitchen and meeting area done recently. The lovely old Arts & Crafts features of the church have been successfully blended with the new areas. So – why is the church likely to close? The problem – as with so many churches – is that the congregation is ageing and members are finding it harder to carry out all the activities that are so much a part of the church's life. We have an active and enthusiastic minister in the Rev. Peter Flint and we would dearly love to have the church continue, but we either need some new and younger members to help us or to form a partnership with some other group. Might you be interested? If so, have a word with Peter Flint (0203 754 0940) or the Church Secretary Linda Lambert (0208 398 1476) or come to the church when it opens again and see what we are all about. We'd love to have you join us.

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Thoughts on ‘Memories of War’

“It was tough – when you hadn’t seen them for so long or heard from them in a while. But I suppose we sort of got on with it really. You’d just look forward to the next time they’d be home.” [from Elmbridge Museum oral history interview with Lesley Martin].

With Britain approaching its third month of lockdown, you would be justified in thinking that this is an account of the testing times within recent weeks. Many families have been split between households and unable to visit one another. However, you would be mistaken. This memory actually recalls a period over 75 years before the Coronavirus pandemic, when a different national crisis was being played out in our streets and homes – the Second World War.

May 8, 2020 marked 75 years since the war in Europe ended. Homes up and down the country commemorated this with ‘Stay at Home’ street parties, singing and dancing to ‘40s music, and enthusiastically decorating their properties inside and out – all while dealing with our modern-day crisis. Many comparisons have been made between the so-called ‘Blitz Spirit’ and our community response to the pandemic this year. But were the two really that similar? What can we learn from the Blitz? And should we even attempt to compare them at all?

In December 2019, Elmbridge Museum began a ‘Memories of War’ project, part of our wider ‘Elmbridge at War’ scheme to reveal the Borough’s experience of the Second World War and remember its contribution in the lead up to the V.E Day anniversary. This involved collecting spoken memories in the form of oral history

The impact of war in Elmbridge

Their recollections were vivid, emotional, funny, captivating, sobering - and above all, extremely varied. They provide a personal insight into what it was like for some living through Elmbridge’s war, and the profound effect that it has had on life since.

Recently, I was listening back to one of these interviews – that of Mary from Hinchley Wood. Mary’s late husband Roy was in the Navy during the war and the couple were married when he was back on seven days leave after three years away in the Far East. After he came back from the war they were together for over 70 years. The relevancy of many of her experiences

today, and their capacity to teach us some valuable lessons, was particularly clear.

Separation from loved ones

Mary: *"Letters were always censored, so there wasn't a lot left to read very often, there was a lot crossed out. Especially one censor, who used to use scissors. So, you can imagine what they turned up like! But no, I used to be thrilled - you used to get a pack of about four or five letters, about every three months."*

Whilst nearly everyone has had to endure separation from friends and family recently, it was also an experience common to our Second World War forebears. But the degree to which we can adapt and cope with this has clearly become much greater. In my interview with Mary, she recalled waiting months for letters from Roy which were heavily censored when they arrived. Yet today, in a society where the average young person spends 60 days of the year on their mobile phone, the concept of such long periods of silence is thankfully totally foreign.

Loss of control

Interviewer: *"What was the public shelter like?"*

Mary: *"Claustrophobic. Smelly! But you felt secure. I mean, you wouldn't have been if you'd had a direct hit, but still."*

In many ways, the coronavirus is a dangerous invisible enemy – totally silent in contrast to the overt, noisy and destructive Blitz. Yet it did strike me while listening to Mary's interview, that the visibility of German bombers did not make the danger any easier to escape. On the contrary, the individual's loss of control over their own fate seemed greater. There was little to nothing which could be done to avoid being bombed, and staying at home, unlike today, would certainly not have made you any safer.

Making Do

"Things were rationed, shops were restricted, so you had to buy what was there at the time… I had two bridesmaids, one in pink, one in green with blue slippers! My shoes I also borrowed from my sister, but they were fabric, and they were too small for me. So, I cut them… and I had strips of ribbon across them to make them fit."

The extent to which some have struggled to access essential supplies in recent weeks cannot be downplayed. But listening back to memories like this brings home just how lucky we are today, despite facing shortages or queues at the shops.

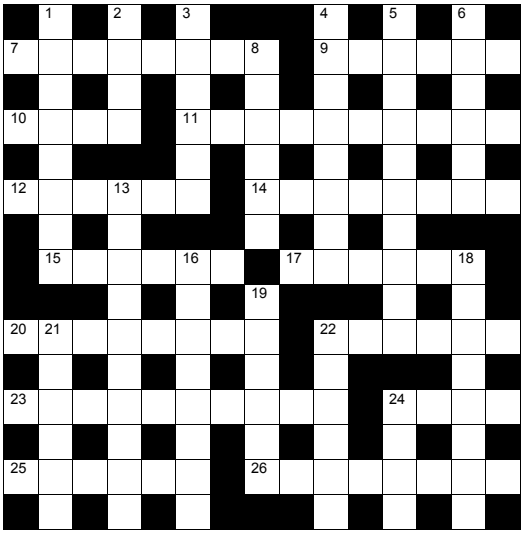
Yet perhaps the most striking similarity between the two crises is in the way that both communities responded to them. Life carried on, and the 'new normal' so often referenced in the press is something both the 1940s and modern society have shown they can adapt if necessary. Mary's wedding – which, fom the photo she showed me, looked like a beautiful day - went ahead regardless of the war, just as this 'carry on' attitude has had to take root to a lesser extent in many aspects of our lives now.

Despite the undeniable difficulty of the last few weeks for some, it's my impression that the *'Memories of War'* recordings can provide some much-needed perspective. In many ways, we can seek to follow the example set by the resilient war generation, but perhaps we should also be careful not to make an over-simplified comparison between our modern pandemic and Blitz Britain – the crisis they faced, after all, was totally different to ours.

Amy Swainston

Exhibitions & Interpretation Officer, Elmbridge Museum

Summer Crossword



by Howard and Bob Cruthers

The first three correct entries randomly opened after the closing date of August 8 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

7 Skilfully smashes idolatry (anag) (8)

9 Mass departure, maybe biblical? (6)

10 Glance at someone's appearance? (4)

11 Mouse's favourite dessert? (10)

12 Support for trousers or teeth? (6)

14 City in Mali; "from here to …" (8)

15 Covering, from Turin? (6)

17 Cause to become entangled (6)

20 Gushing (8)

22 Annoy stinging plant? (6)

23 Improper mix up of our second I (anag) (10)

24 Crazy aquatic bird? (4)

25 Central American rainforest bird (6)

26 Of a higher moral level (8)

DOWN

1 Postpones (8)

2 Implement - divergence (4)

3 Stays with small branches? (6)

4 From Wrexham, perhaps? (8)

5 Decisive (10)

6 A trip taken by an official at public expense (6)

8 Ed Balls' wife's name (6)

13 Fat Cats may have this? (10)

16 Mythical beasts (8)

18 Holy (8)

19 Distant TV operator? (6)

21 A group of enthusiasts, partly from the Latin "mad, or inspired by a god" (6)

22 Egypt's Suez Crisis leader (6)

24 Use your head, for bread? (4)

Solution to the Spring Crossword

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

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

Andrew Howarth
104 Summer Road,
KT7 0QP

Claudia Edwards
17, Saville Close,
KT7 0BU

Pauline Terry
24, Westville Road,
KT7 0UJ

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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
Cercle Francais d'Esher brigitte@ptiller.com	Brigitte Tiller	01932 860842
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 Cranleighan Rugby Club	Tony Price	07801 837129
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	020 8398 2463
River Club (BMYC)	David Walker	0870 460 3586
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	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 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 Membership: Sue Morris	08456 528 529 020 8224 0980

Please contact the Editor to amend these listings

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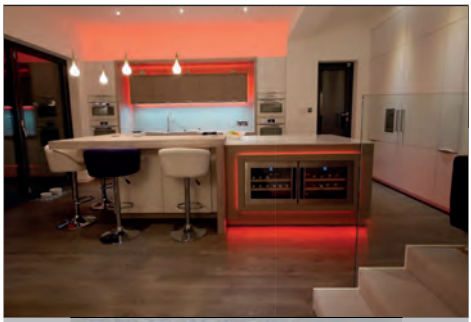

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