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The Lychgate

Oct/Nov 2026



The magazine for the people and
community of Long Ditton

QUIZ NIGHT

**SATURDAY 24th OCTOBER
IN LONG DITTON
VILLAGE HALL**

6.30pm FOR 7pm

**Bring your own food, drink,
glasses and money
for the raffle**

To book:
Joanne Hall 020 8398 5637 or
Diana Jemmett 020 8398 1184
£10 per person
Teams - a maximum of eight

REGULAR SERVICES AT ST MARY'S

Sundays:

08.00am Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion
10.15am Parish Communion with Organ and hymns
6pm Evening Prayer (Choral Evensong 3rd Sunday of month except August)

Wednesdays:

10.00 am Holy Communion followed by Coffee Club

Prayer Chain

If you, or someone you know, would like to be prayed for (for any reason) please send your request by e-mail to:-
prayerchain@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

Your request will only be known to those in the Prayer Chain and your confidentiality will be respected.

Notes for Services

Sun 4th Oct	10.15	Harvest Festival
Sun 1st Nov	16.00	All Souls Service of Memories
Sun 8th Nov	09.45	Remembrance Day service in church Followed by Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial
Sun 29th Nov	18.00	Advent Carols service

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism of: Zara Pegner



Wedding of: Sam Vallings and
Henrietta Gibbons

**Renewal of
Wedding vows:** Alistair and Judith Harris



Funeral of: Maria Buckenham
Sheila Minter
Anne Phillips

Burial of Ashes of: Pamela Jessop



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 14 Oct 8pm BookBox - 'Why Poetry Matters' - Poetry Workshop - Heather Cook and Linda Huxley will lead this workshop. Details page 4

Fri 16 Oct 2pm Film Friday - in the Community Hall

Sat 24 Oct 6.30pm for 7pm - Quiz Night in the Village Hall
Details page 2

Wed 18 Nov 8pm BookBox - Stephen Owens - talks about the creation of the Imperial War Graves Commission. Details page 4

Fri 20 Nov 2pm Film Friday - in the Community Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE

Mon 7 Dec 12.30pm - Christmas Buffet lunch £12 per person

Sat 23 January 6.30pm for 7pm Burns Night—full details in the next edition

**The Rectory, 5 Church Meadow
Long Ditton, KT6 5EP**
Tele: 020 8398 1583
email: rector@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

There is something rather wonderful about Autumn. The days grow shorter, the evenings arrive before we are quite ready for them, and the garden begins its annual attempt to return every leaf it has ever produced!

This season feels particularly significant to me. After three months away on sabbatical, I have recently returned to parish life. A sabbatical is a wonderful opportunity to step back from the familiar routines of ministry to rest, reflect, learn and, perhaps most importantly, to see things with fresh eyes.

Coming back has reminded me how much we can miss something when we step away from it. Familiar faces seem even more precious and ordinary conversations feel like gifts. There is something deeply reassuring about returning to a place we know, while also discovering that we ourselves may have changed.

Perhaps that is one of the gifts of Autumn. It is a season of change. Trees let go of what they have held onto for months, reminding us that change, although sometimes unsettling, can also be beautiful. In October we celebrate Harvest, giving thanks for God's generosity and for all that sustains us. In November our thoughts turn towards Remembrance; those who have gone before us, the sacrifices of others, and the preciousness of life itself.

Between Harvest and Remembrance lies a gentle invitation: to pause, give thanks, let go of what needs releasing, and look ahead with hope. After three months of sabbatical, I am especially grateful for that invitation. I return thankful, refreshed and ready for the next chapter in my ministry in Long Ditton.

May this Autumn be a season of gratitude, reflection, renewal and hope for us all.

REGULAR GROUPS AT ST MARY'

Friendship Lunch

Friday 2nd Oct and Friday 6th November - £8 per person
To book call 020 8398 1184

Babes and Tots

Every Friday in term time. All carers and their little ones welcome
for singing, outdoor play and crafting. 09.30 - 11.30
Coffee makers always welcome!

Film Friday

Friday 16th October and Friday 20th November at 2pm

All of the above activities take place in St Mary's Community Hall

BOOKBOX

Wed 14th October 8pm - Why Poetry Matters. We offer a poetry workshop with poets Heather Cook and Linda Huxley. Our two poets explore what poetry is, where their inspiration comes from and how to get started. Given that research has shown that more people are engaging in writing poetry (it is argued this is one of the side-effects of involvement in social media) their guidance will be really helpful

Wed 18th November - Stephen Owens will outline the creation of the Imperial War Graves Commission, the development of memorials and cemeteries, before moving on to outline the Commission's work around the world today. He will include stories relating to those buried locally of which St Mary's provides some first class examples.

**Tickets £10 available in church, on the door
or through the church website**

**These events are held in St Mary's Community Hall
followed by refreshments**

ST MARY'S CHURCH CONTACTS

Ministry Team	The Rev'd Dr. Kuhan Satkunanayagam	020 8398 1583 (Day off -Tuesday)
Associate Priest	The Rev'd Prof Alison Baverstock	020 8546 9267
Churchwardens	John Howe Felix Deer	020 8399 4887 07977 112 920
Pastoral Team	<i>Call us if you need someone to listen or talk with you</i>	
Pastoral Assistants	Cathy Doyle Joanne Hall Diana Jemmett Kenneth Mould	020 8398 0715 020 8398 5637 020 8398 1184 020 8339 0933
Sunday Club		children@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Churches Together	Cathy Doyle	020 8398 0715
Director of Music	Julia Bowyer	music@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Church Electoral Roll	Lucy McMullan	office@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Flowers	Timbo Rennie	07961 137 381
Sacristan	Val Tanner	07771 817 760
Stewardship Hon Treasurer	Sarah Carvalho	treasurer@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
PCC Hon Sec	Penny Fussell	020 8672 0838
PCC Hon Treasurer	Sarah Carvalho	treasurer@stmaryslongditton.org.uk
Parish Office & Community Hall	Mandy Ali The Parish Office Church Road	020 8339 0008 office@stmaryslongditton.org.uk

www.stmaryslong ditton.org.uk

LONG DITTON
GENERAL CONTACTS

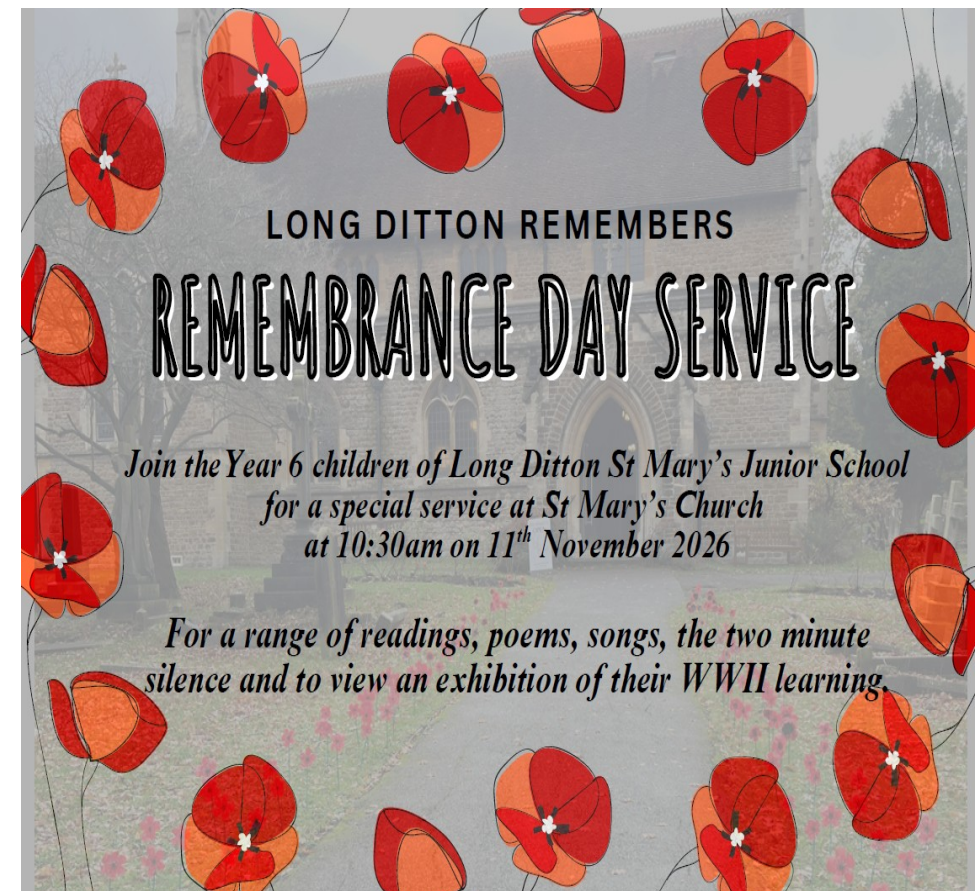
Group	Contact	Contact
Sugden Road Allotments	Mark Barwick	markbarwick@yahoo.com
Babes 'n' Tots	Cathy Doyle	020 8398 0715
LD Residents' Assn	Mark Herbert	020 8398 6037
LD Garden Club	Sue Corb	07766 742 370
Village Hall	Michelle Aveson	07804 057589
Rainbows	Lesley Sullivan	07801 440 510
Brownies (Wednesday)	Lesley Sullivan	07801 440 510
Brownies (Wednesday)	Rache Bowie	07786 991469
Guides' leadership team		Longdittonguides@gmail.com
Rangers	Georgie Sibley	07885 540472
Dittons Scouts	https://dittonsscouts.com	
LDSM Junior School Sugden Road, KT7 0AD	Sarah Martin (Head)	020 8398 1070
LD Infant School Ditton Hill Road, KT6 5JB	Sarah Martin (Head)	020 8398 4398
Long Ditton Youth Club	Glenn Sampson	07588 825 917
Ditton Bridge Club	Redvers Cunningham	020 8398 4338
Long Ditton Cricket Club	Jeremy Huntingford	07876 171 899
Surbiton Bowls Club	Keith Stedman	07543 095 070
Lychgate Editor	Janet Burton	07810 810 822
Dittons & Neighbourhood		020 8398 8600
Citizens Advice Bureau Esher	01372 464770	
Elmbridge Borough Council	01372 474474	
Elmbridge Dial-A-Ride	01372 474944	

ST MARY'S 100 CLUB 22 RESULTS

WINNING NUMBERS

August	September
1st prize No.74	1st prize No.48
2nd prize No.14	2nd prize No.78
3rd prize No.64	3rd prize No.73

Congratulations to all the winners!

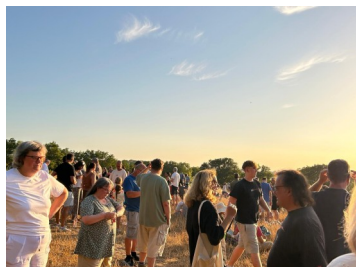


SOLAR ECLIPSE WEDNESDAY 12th AUGUST 2026

On Wednesday 12th August, from about 5 pm onwards, people could be seen making their way to One Tree Hill, armed with picnics/drink/chairs/blankets and most importantly - 'the colander'!

Those of us who hadn't been organised ahead of time to get the sought after 'eclipse glasses', or to make the 'Blue Peter style' pinhole- in -a -cereal- box, raided the kitchen cupboard for 'the colander' & went in search of the perfect viewpoint—well the next best thing if we hadn't already gone to Spain or Cornwall

'Destination One Tree Hill' seemed a great place to meet and it soon became apparent that many other Long Ditton residents had the same idea too! Seeing everyone heading in the same direction reminded me of past years when snow had fallen and settled enough for the kids to take a sledge or tray in hand to toboggan down the hill except, of course, this August day the sun was out, the sky was blue and we were still sweltering in the heatwave!



The magical hour began and the buzz on top of the hill was truly special... everyone trying out their various gadgets and those kind souls who did have the special glasses, generously letting those around them 'have a go' to see the eclipse happening which was amazing to see !

Surrey County Council Reorganisation

Surrey County Council is being divided into two Unitary Authorities called East Surrey and West Surrey. Elmbridge Borough Council will cease to exist from April 2027 and will be merged with Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Tandridge and Reigate & Banstead Borough Councils to form the 'East Surrey Unitary Authority'. In April 2027 the three Elmbridge Councillors and one shared Surrey County Councillor roles will be replaced by two Unitary Authority Councillors. These two new councillors, Neil Houston and Fran Fish, elected in May this year, will represent the new ward of Long Ditton, Hinchley Wood, and Weston Green from April 2027. They are helping to build the new East Surrey Council and shadow existing councillors until April 2027, when they will assume their full councillor roles and duties for four years.

LDRA Committee

We are seeking new volunteers, (Planning Officer, Secretary) so if you are interested in a position on the LDRA committee, please contact Mark Herbert (Vice Chair) or Paul Bartlett (Treasurer).

LDRA on Facebook

The LDRA Facebook page continues to grow in popularity and has over 2,700 members. It is a great source of local information. You can join by searching FB for 'Long Ditton Residents Association' and requesting membership. Please read and agree to the FB page rules to be accepted.

Monthly LDRA Committee Meetings – St. Mary's Community Hall

The LDRA continues to hold monthly committee meetings in the Long Ditton Community Hall, behind St. Mary's Church. All residents are welcome to attend, especially if they have an issue to raise. The meetings start at 8.00pm, on the first Wednesday in the month, (except May, August and November).

Local Police

All incidents of anti-social behaviour should be reported to Surrey Police (ring 101 or online <https://www.surrey.police.uk/>). The LDRA is working with the local police team, so please feel free to keep us informed too. Information on police matters can be viewed on <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/surrey-police/the-dittons-and-hinchley-wood/>

In addition to Facebook and our website, we would like to use e-mail to keep you informed. If you would like to be on our e-mailing list please send your full name, your road and e-mail address to: mark.herbert@longditton.org. All information supplied will be used in accordance with GDPR, strictly by the LDRA Officers only, and not made public. All recipients are e-mailed using *Blind carbon copy* (Bcc).



Taylor Wimpey development proposal on Long Ditton Green Belt

In August 2025, Taylor Wimpey lodged a planning application (2025/2018) with Elmbridge for a development comprising of around 144 homes on the Green Belt land extending from Hill Park Roses to the summit of One Tree Hill. The application was refused at EBC planning committee, Taylor Wimpey have appealed the decision and a six day public inquiry will be held in 12th – 19th January 2027.

Development proposals on Green Belt land

Our concern is not just for Long Ditton's Green Belt but other nearby parcels which are under threat from development. Housebuilder Poppymill has submitted an outline application for 2,000 homes adjacent to Chessington Equestrian Centre (RBK ref. 25/02749/OUT); an application for 56 homes has been lodged on land adjacent to Heathside in Hinchley Wood (EBC ref. 2026/0577); and The Crown Estate has announced plans to release Loseberry Farm in Claygate for housing. If approved, these proposals would result in the permanent loss of Green Belt land all around our area.

2026 LDRA Annual Subscriptions – NOW DUE

2026 annual subscription is due as online payments (and cheques for those who do not use online banking – to be sent to the Treasurer, 7 Chalcott Gardens, KT6 5HJ). We suggest £3.00 or more per household. Bank details remain the same:

Sort Code: 20 – 46 – 73 Account No.: 33506282 Payment Reference: <<Insert your road name>>

LDRA Autumn Public Meeting

The LDRA Autumn Public meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th November in the Long Ditton Village Hall at 8.15pm. All residents are welcome to attend, as this is your chance to meet our councillors and discuss local issues like the proposed Green Belt development, street maintenance, telephone masts, changes to local Government from April 1st 2027 and more.

Whilst the actual eclipse moment may have felt a little underwhelming as there wasn't particularly moment of notable darkness, the birds hadn't been singing - probably too hot for them and too many people, so we didn't have a dramatic silence the whole experience of being together was magical.



Everyone was in good spirits and so friendly. The whole 'vibe' was really special and I'm sure everyone will treasure and remember that shared community experience

Cathy Doyle



100 Years of Winnie the Pooh!

One hundred years ago, on 14th October 1926, the children's book Winnie-the-Pooh, by A A Milne, was published.

It was set in the Hundred Acre Wood, an innocent world described as "largely Edenic" but based on Ashdown Forest in East Sussex, which the Milne family often explored from their home in nearby Hartfield. It came about through the encouragement of E H Shepard, Milne's colleague on the humorous magazine Punch, who provided the beguiling illustrations. Alan Alexander Milne was firstly a playwright and occasional mystery story writer who, again with Shepard, wrote the book of children's verse When We Were Very Young, which contained the seeds of Winnie-the-Pooh and its sequel, The House on Pooh Corner, all of which proved extremely popular.



It was apparently during a family visit to London Zoo, where Christopher Robin encountered a tame bear called Winnipeg, that the book was conceived. Winnie's literary friends, such as Piglet and Eeyore, were originally toys of the real Christopher Robin. Sadly, the book eventually had an adverse effect on the Milne family. The author said that he felt "amazement and disgust" at the fame his son had had thrust upon him: "I do not want C R Milne to ever wish that his name was Charles Robert." Nevertheless, the son did become estranged from his parents, especially following his marriage to his mother's niece. The effect of the book on others has been happier. A plaque at Ashdown Forest declares that Milne and Shepard "captured the magic of Ashdown Forest and gave it to the world".

Despite creating a kind of Eden, Milne, who was a pacifist, said little about religion but he did say on joining the Home Guard that "in fighting Hitler we are truly fighting the Devil, the Anti-Christ ... Hitler was a crusader against God."

The four Winnie-the-Pooh books went on to sell more than 50 million copies worldwide. The first book became the first-ever foreign-language book on the New York Times bestseller list.

Unfortunately, one Sunday, his dog ran away. While he searched for it over every field in the parish, I spent the intervening two hours reading the greater part of Leviticus, discussing the food laws set forth in Deuteronomy, and arguing for a Deutero-Isaiah. I was headed for the Babylonian exile when we all heard the vestry door re-open.

After the Service, the congregation left looking as though they had just been rescued from a major shipwreck and at the next church council meeting, we unanimously voted to buy our organist a stronger lead.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Smile Lines

Stories

As part of his talk at a banquet, our minister told some jokes and a few funny stories. Since he planned to use the same anecdotes at a meeting the next day, he asked reporters covering the event not to include them in their articles. Reading the paper the following morning, he noticed that one well-meaning cub reporter had ended his story on the banquet with the observation: "The minister told a number of stories that cannot be published."

Bats on the wing

Two bats went for their midnight feed. After an hour or so, one bat got tired of looking and went home with no blood. Later the other bat came back, with blood dripping from its mouth. The first bat said enviously, "Where did you get all that blood from?" The second bat replied "Follow me. I'll show you." He led the first one to a cave and said: "You see that wall over there?" The hungry bat excitedly says, "Yes!" The other bat said, "I didn't."

St James the Least of All

On how long a sermon should last

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am afraid we will never agree about the appropriate length of sermons. Your 50-minute exposition on the theology of St Paul concerning women wearing hats in church is, I am sure, of real interest to you but, as your sermon slowly unfolds, I suspect it will prompt quite a different concern among your congregation. Have they set the oven timer to come on too early?

Whenever I even hint that a matter of theological importance may be about to appear in one of my sermons, an expression of benign incomprehension comes over my congregation. You know the look – you see it on golden Labradors whenever they try and work out what their owners are telling them.

There are certain sure signs that should warn you when you have preached for long enough. One is when members of the congregation reach for their prayer books to try to work out for the umpteenth time how the date for Easter is calculated. The organist turning on the blower when you say “and finally” is another. Most members of the congregation will count the number of dead flies on the windowsills during your sermon but, when you can see members of the congregation counting the numbers in the congregation counting the numbers of dead flies that is absolute proof that it is time to stop.

There has only been one occasion when I preached for longer than my standard eight minutes. Our former organist was in the habit of taking his dog for a walk during the sermon. I knew I had to carry on preaching until I heard the latch on the vestry door for the second time. That meant he was back, and ready to play the last hymn.

Sailing on God's Creation

This summer I was blessed to journey along the Montenegrin coast aboard a gulet, a traditional wooden sailing vessel. As the sails filled with the Adriatic breeze and the boat glided past mountains rising straight from the sea, I was reminded of the Psalmist's words: “I lift up my eyes to the mountains, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth” (Psalm 121:1–2).

The Black Mountains of Montenegro stand as silent witnesses to God's majesty. Their peaks, carved by time and weather, remind us of the steadfastness of the Lord. Just as these mountains have endured storms and seasons, so too does God's love endure through all generations.

From the deck of the gulet, the waves whispered lessons of persistence. As Genesis tells us: “God saw all that he had made, and it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). In the rhythm of the sea, we hear echoes of God's eternal order, sometimes calm, sometimes turbulent, but always purposeful. A gulet cruise is not only about scenery but about fellowship. Meals shared under the stars, remind me of Acts 2:46: “They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” Holidays, when rooted in gratitude, become holy days, moments of communion with God and one another. In my case four French people, four Brits and a Finnish man named Marco.

As a head teacher, I often remind children that learning is everywhere. On the gulet, geography was taught by the coastline, history by the fortresses, and theology by the awe of creation. We are all pupils in God's classroom, and creation is His textbook. Friends, whether we sail on the Adriatic or walk through our own familiar valleys, let us remember: “The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it” (Psalm 24:1). May we take holidays not only to rest but to rejoice, to see anew the beauty of creation, and to give thanks to the One who made it all.

Lucy Wintle

LONG DITTON'S MILL

Readers of the Lychgate who, like me, have an interest in local history may well be familiar with the record for Long Ditton in the Domesday book of 1086, that has been translated as follows:

Households: 2 villagers, 9 smallholders, 1 slave.

Land and resources:

Ploughland: 4 ploughlands; 1 lord's plough team; 2.5 men's plough teams.

Other resources: Woodland 15 swine render; 1 mill, value 9 shillings; 1 church.

Valuation: Annual value to lord: 2 pounds 10 shillings in 1086; 1 pound 10 shillings when acquired by the 1086 owner and 3 pounds in 1066.

Owners: Tenant-in-chief in 1086: Richard son of (Count) Gilbert.

Lord in 1086: Picot.

Overlord in 1066: King Edward.

Lord in 1066: Almer (the Anglo Saxon lord).

My own recent involvement with Cobham Mill as a volunteer has prompted me to think a bit more about Long Ditton's mill. Cobham is, by the way, the last working mill in Surrey
- <https://www.cobhammill.org.uk/>

There is a lot of information about mills of the 11th Century on the Mills Archive Trust website - <https://millsarchive.org/2016/09/06/from-quern-to-computer-the-history-of-flour-milling/6/>

This tells us that there were about 6,000 mills in England at the time the Domesday Book was compiled and it is, therefore, not at all surprising that there would have been one in Long Ditton given that we also had a church and would have been largely surrounded by agricultural land. Interestingly we are also told that the value of mills in that period varied between 3 pennies and several pounds. Therefore, at 9 shillings, Long Ditton's mill would have been mid-range in terms of revenue.

So, where would the mill have been located? Although there were at the time a few mills built of stone, the mill building and the mechanism of that period would more likely have been made from timber and therefore will almost certainly not have survived although there may be fragments of millstones buried somewhere.

We have to consider the likely landscape in 1086 as the mill would have had to have been on or adjacent to a watercourse – and we have one of those running along the boundary at the back of the manor house in Woodstock Lane and the church. There are currently two

The beginning of the M25

Forty years ago, on 29th October 1986, the M25 motorway around Greater London was opened. An orbital motorway for London had been proposed in 1944, but by 1966 this idea had evolved into two ringways, to the north and south. By the time the first sections opened in 1975, however, it had been rethought again, and so joining them together to make a full orbital motorway was again the plan.



Just over ten years later, in 1986, the final section was opened by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and the new M25 was the longest ring road in Europe. The Dartford Crossing is technically not a motorway, but few would know the difference. Environmental considerations became a factor, and almost 40 public inquiries took place, the most controversial area being in Kent over the North Downs. However, none of the public inquiries came out in favour of objectors.

At first the M25 was popular with the public. In the 1987 General Election, the Conservatives won everywhere the motorway passed through but problems quickly surfaced, the obvious one being chronic congestion. Part of this was due to apparently unanticipated office and retail development along its route, generating in-and-out slower-moving traffic. Also, it was soon clear that more lanes were needed in many places: in some areas three had become five or six. Some churches even objected because it created a kind of stone wall between those congregations within and those without. A report in *The Economist* said it “had taken 70 years to plan, 12 to build it and just one to find it was inadequate”.

The M25 is now well established and used in practice as an alternative boundary for Greater London, especially by haulage companies. If you ever get stuck in a traffic jam on the M25, it might help to remember that it was designed for a maximum of 88,000 vehicles a day but instead carries at times up to 300,000 a day.

Remembering St. Francis of Assisi

Eight hundred years ago, on 3rd October 1226, St Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar, deacon and mystic, died. One of the most venerated religious figures in Christianity, he founded the Franciscan Order. He died at the age of about 44 of severe illness, including eye disease, malaria and exhaustion, possibly following a 40-day fast. He was declared a saint by Pope Gregory IX two years later.

Francis' father was a wealthy silk merchant, Pietro di Bernardone dei Moriconi, and his mother a noblewoman from Provence. He was one of seven children – called Francesco by his father, who was an enthusiast for France. At first, he behaved as a typical son of a wealthy merchant, but several things changed his attitude – one of which was his capture and imprisonment for nearly a year after fighting in a war against Perugia. He also had visions and underwent a change in character leading him to a strong commitment to help the poor – an attitude which led to estrangement from his father, whom he eventually renounced.

He aligned himself strongly with the poor, on one occasion begging with them at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. He also spent times in lonely places, seeking divine illumination, and was said to have received the stigmata during an angelic vision.

Often pictured wearing a plain brown habit tied with a rope of three knots, symbolising poverty, chastity and obedience, St Francis is one of the most honoured people in Christianity. He is a joint patron saint of Italy with Catherine of Siena, and in 2013 Archbishop Bergoglio of Argentina chose the papal name of Francis in his honour, becoming Pope Francis. Many pilgrimage routes lead to the tomb of St Francis in Assisi, and he is honoured by many churches, including Lutherans and Anglicans.



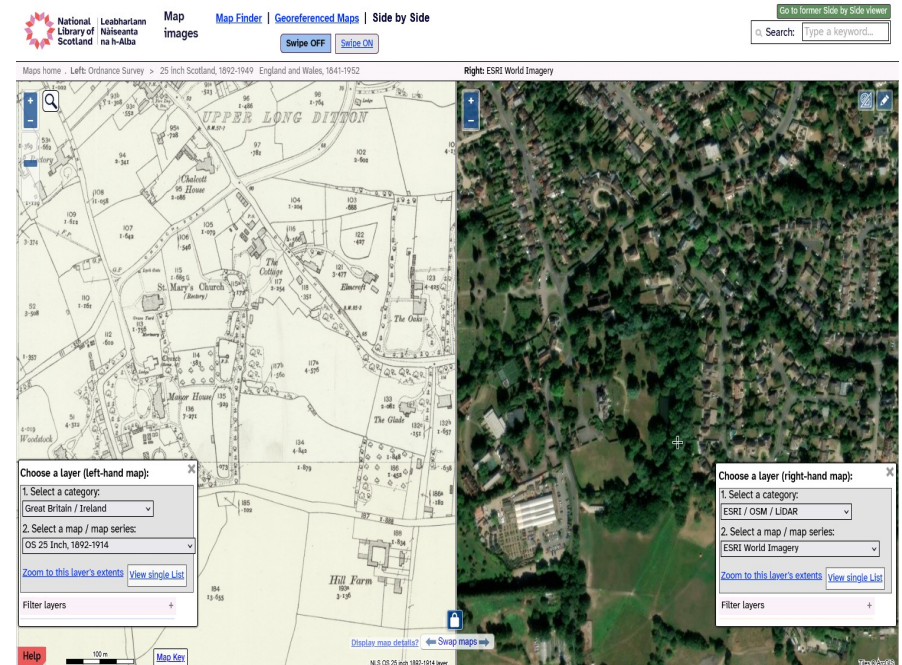
large ponds in the grounds of the manor house and old maps also show a third further pond towards the war memorial.

I often look at old maps and find the Side by Side map website great for doing this as it allows us to view very many old maps alongside a current ariel photo in order to compare historic and current landscapes - <https://maps.nls.uk> > geo > explore > side-by-side

The third pond is shown on the 25 inch Ordnance Survey 1892-1914 which is a good reference in my opinion given that it shows a sufficient number of buildings still present today without any of the more recent development that would obscure the historic landscape.

The mill would have had to have been located close to the stream and, therefore, at a low point in the topography. Logically it would also have been near a road or more accurately for the time, an ancient trackway. Ditton Hill shows on even the oldest maps of the area (as does Love Lane) so, for my money, I would place the mill either at the rear of the war memorial site itself or at the back of the building shown as “The Cottage” on the above OS map and also shown as “The Dell” on other map editions. The second possible location would place the mill at the bend at the bottom of Church Meadow which we can see is a low point before the road starts to rise up – ideal for a water mill?

By Alan Pemberton



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pedder@rocketmail.com



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Long Ditton



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children's parties.
Occasional and
long-term hire
07804 057589

The Village Hall Trust
may sometimes make
charitable donations to benefit
Long Ditton residents.
Enquiries to 020 8398 3643

**Long Ditton Residents' Association
(LDRA)**
www.longditton.org



Contact: Mark Herbert Tel: 020 8398 6037

We aim to:

- Preserve Long Ditton from over development
- Maintain the character of the district
- Improve the amenities and defend our Green Belt
- Keep in close contact with our councillors

*If you share these aims please help us -
The subscription is a suggested £3 a year
per household*

Bank details: Sort code 20-46-73 A/c 33506282

The Association is non-political and non-sectarian

*Committee meetings are held at 8pm on the first
Wednesday of the month at St Mary's Community
Hall, behind the church*

All residents are welcome!

Come to Thrive Club

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A Tale of Two Schools: Local Children Turn Tour Guides to Share Community Heritage

An inspiring afternoon of discovery recently brought together two local primary schools, as Year 6 pupils from Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School teamed up with visitors from Malden Parochial Church of England Primary School in New Malden for a unique history and faith exchange.

Stepping into the role of tour guides, the Year 6 pupils at LDSM proudly led their visitors around St Mary's Church. Drawing on their historical knowledge, the young guides captivated their audience with stories of the building's heritage, the artistry of its stained-glass windows, and the fascinating lives of significant local figures buried within the church grounds.

The children also put their computing skills to excellent use for the event. Combining research they then designed and printed professional information leaflets about the church to hand out to their guests.



The learning flowed both ways. The visiting pupils from Malden Parochial brought along their own custom-made leaflets showcasing their own place of worship. Together, the children spent the afternoon exploring the similarities and differences between their schools and churches, discovering common ground while celebrating what makes each community unique.

Beyond the rich history and religious education, the afternoon proved to be a fantastic social opportunity. New friendships were forged as the children proudly displayed their local landmarks and shared a wonderful, collaborative afternoon of learning.

The children were clearly proud of their local history!