

HUMPHREY
& BRAND



Local.
Trusted.
Proven.

FIND OUT WHERE THE
MARKET IS RIGHT NOW.

SURBITON STATION

Residential Sales & Lettings Agents

020 8399 1888

humphreyandbrand.co.uk



The Lychgate

Aug/Sept 2026



The magazine for the people and
community of Long Ditton

St Mary's Church Long Ditton

PET BLESSING SERVICE

Sunday 13th September
4pm

ALL WELCOME!



If your pet is too shy or you are worried about
bringing them to church, then please come
along with a photo of your pet.

Front cover photo taken by Helen B. at the Great American Songbook concert on Saturday 4th July

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.

Dear Father

In this summer month of August, help us to be aware of Your
presence.

If we are away on holiday, if we can't have a holiday, on our
journeys, in our homes, with our families or friends, when we're
alone, when life is sweet, when it's like an obstacle course.

At all times and in all circumstances, help us to know that You
are in it with us, sharing our ups and downs, offering Your love
and peace and hope when we connect with You through putting
our trust in Your Son, Jesus.

Thank You Lord. In His name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism of: Maia Boyton Reuben Hoare
Tallulah Hoare Evelyn Ali-Jones



Wedding of: Michael Bonney & Jessica Woods



Funeral of: Frances Buckenham

Burial of Ashes of: Valerie Triebner
Audrey Whistlecroft



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Sun 2 Aug - 6pm** **Hymns and Pimms**—in church. Tell us why you would like us all to sing your favourite hymn. Refreshment afterwards. Donations Welcome for nominating a hymn
- Wed 16 Sept - 8pm** **BookBox** - Andrew Downie talks about his book 'The Rise and Fall of the House of York' details page 4
- Fri 4 Sept - 1pm** Friendship lunch in Community Hall
- Fri 18 Sept - 2pm** Film Friday in Community Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sat 24 Oct 6.30pm for 7pm - Quiz Night in the Village Hall
see page 5

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

This summer has given us plenty to talk about when it comes to the weather. With heatwaves sweeping across the UK and much of Europe, many of us have spent more time than usual seeking out shade, keeping cool, and dreaming about air conditioning! It has been a season of bright skies, warm evenings, and for some, a reminder that even summer sunshine has its limits.

As summer begins to soften into autumn, we are offered a natural pause between seasons. The long days gradually shorten, gardens begin to change colour, and many of us settle back into familiar routines after holidays and time away. Nature does not rush; each season arrives in its own time. August invites us to enjoy what has been growing, whether that means moments with family, conversations with friends, time outdoors, or simply appreciating slower days. September brings a sense of renewal and purpose. Schools return, calendars fill, and fresh beginnings seem to appear as strongly as New Year resolutions.

We often measure life by milestones and plans, but the seasons remind us that growth is not always dramatic. Much of life unfolds quietly. Seeds planted long ago eventually bloom; small acts of kindness create lasting effects; steady faithfulness strengthens communities.

Jesus often spoke in images people understood - seeds, fields, changing seasons, everyday life. His message reminds us that God is present not only in extraordinary moments but in ordinary ones too. Whether we are enjoying unexpected sunshine, longing for cooler nights, or noticing how quickly the year is moving, the invitation remains to trust, to rest in God's presence, and to grow in love. So, as we move from summer into autumn, may we be reminded that God is with us in every season. In times of warmth and in times of rain, in busy days and quiet moments, God's faithfulness does not change. May we learn to see goodness in the small things, peace in the ordinary, and guidance for each step ahead.

Blessings

REGULAR GROUPS AT ST MARY'

Friendship Lunch

Friday 4th September at 1pm - £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 18th Sept at 2pm

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

BOOKBOX

Wed 16th September 8pm - Andrew Lownie will speak about his research processes and the impact, both personal and professional of publishing, what The Daily Mail called 'the most devastating royal biography ever written. His book is entitled: 'The Rise and Fall of the House Of York'.

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

**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	Fay Tiplady	07486 696167
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 Care		020 8398 8600
Citizens Advice Bureau Esher	01372 464770	
Elmbridge Borough Council	01372 474474	
Elmbridge Dial-A-Ride	01372 474944	
Samaritans Kingston	0330 09405717	

ST MARY'S 100 CLUB 22 RESULTS

WINNING NUMBERS

June	July
1st prize No.82	1st prize No.22
2nd prize No.80	2nd prize No.48
3rd prize No.68	3rd prize No.51

Congratulations to all the winners!

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

130 Miles Completed - Reflections on Walking for Children in Palestine

You may have read my article in March about walking St Cadfan's Pilgrim's Way (Llwybr Cadfan) in North Wales. Well, over Easter Week and the week at the end of May, I completed the walk!

What a truly inspiring experience it was. I have so many memories of special holy places, magnificent scenery and rare wildlife: St Cadfan's church in Tywyn was a starting place, with its ancient, inscribed stones; St Tanwg's, a tiny church huddled in the dunes, which both protect it from storms but also threaten to overwhelm it; St Hywyn's at Aberdaron, where for centuries pilgrims have gathered before crossing to Bardsey Island.

There were also the views, from way south near Harlech, of the whole of the south side of the Llŷn peninsula glistening in the sun. And finally Bardsey Island, Ynys Enlli, where Cadfan was abbot - a beautiful and mysterious place four miles off the coast, with its mountain like a back turned against the mainland, its resident grey seals singing, choughs and carpets of sea pink.

I was accompanied by my wife Deborah and our dachshund Marley and together we took the time to enjoy the walk, meeting people along the way. All this we did not only for the enjoyment and challenge, but to support a very special charity, ABCD Bethlehem, of which I am proud to be a trustee. We support disabled children in Bethlehem in the West Bank. All money raised from my walk will go towards Hope Through Hearing, ABCD's 40th Anniversary Project. Thank you to all those who have already donated.

You can still donate to support ABCD: <https://tinyurl.com/llwybrcadfan> or use this QR code:



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 will help 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 – 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/>

Help us to help you!

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 went to the EBC planning committee on 25th March and was refused by councillors. The LDRA has been informed that Taylor Wimpey are appealing the decision and requesting a public inquiry.

Hook Park development proposal on Chessington Green Belt

In October 2025, housebuilder Poppy Mill submitted an outline planning application for a development of 2,000 homes on Green Belt land adjacent to Chessington Equestrian Centre, next to the A3. (Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames app 25/02749/OUT and EBC app 2025/2765), arguing for the land's reclassification as 'grey belt' and approval for development. <https://hook-park.co.uk/>. At time of writing there is no decision.

2026 LDRA Annual Subscriptions

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>>

Hanging Baskets above the shops and Flower Tubs

The LDRA has liaised with EBC and the Fleece Road shopkeepers to provide the hanging baskets and the planting of the flower tubs in the parade as usual. We greatly appreciate the support of our local shops to enhance the parade.

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

If you would like to learn more about ABCD Bethlehem, please visit our website at abcdbethlehem.org
Or use this QR code:



Or have a word with me sometime.

Alastair Harris
Trustee & Chair of Finance
Action around Bethlehem Children with Disability
Charity No. 1097623





St Marys Church v. Long Ditton Cricket Club

A beautiful day on the 5th of July saw the latest game in the series of cricket matches between Long Ditton Cricket Club and St Mary's Church which date back to 2010.

A couple of early wickets to Krishnamurthi and Choueri were followed by an aggressive stand between Golding and Singh who added 95. Singh hit his first ball for six while Golding looked untroubled throughout his stay. Valvona ended Singh's innings for 44 but Golding reached 82 before he was brilliantly caught by Kenyon on the boundary. After that Long Ditton found runs hard to come by against spin from Harris, Gallimore, and Kenyon. The innings closed at 238 off forty overs.

St Mary's batted steadily and were always up with the rate while Gallimore was at the crease. He was well supported by Choueri and Valvona.

Huntingford bowled eight quality overs of leg-spin for 22 and among his three wickets was Gallimore bowled for 82. Once he was out, St Mary's faded away to fall short by twenty runs with Piper picking up three wickets and Paliwal two.

Long Ditton were excellent hosts and St Mary's thirty or so enthusiastic traveling fans were very well looked after.

Both sides are already looking forward to next year's game.

Edward Howard
Team Captain

matter will be discussed at great length. It will then be proposed that the final decision will be taken at the next meeting, after everyone has had time to consider the matter more thoroughly.

Come the next meeting, the item will somehow fail to appear on the agenda, and when it is raised in Any Other Business, it will be pointed out that it is now far too late in the evening to tackle such an important issue. From then on, you can be assured, it will sink without trace.

Always remember the golden rule: a church committee meeting consists of a body of people waiting to go home.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

Smile Lines

What do they teach them in school these days?!

The following excerpts are 10- and 11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes. They were collected over a period of three years by two teachers. Read carefully and enjoy the grammar, misplaced modifiers, and of course, the spelling!

The greatest writer of the Renaissance was William Shakespeare. He was born in the year 1564, supposedly on his birthday. He never made much money and is famous only because of his plays. He wrote tragedies, comedies, and hysterectomies, all in Islamic pentameter.

Writing at the same time as Shakespeare was Miguel Cervantes. He wrote Donkey Hotel. The next great author was John Milton. Milton wrote Paradise Lost. Since then, no one ever found it.

Johann Bach wrote a great many musical compositions and had many children. In between he practiced on an old spinster which he kept up in his attic. Bach died from 1750 to the present. Bach was the most famous composer in the world and so was Handel. Handle was half German, half Italian, and half English. He was very large.

Louis Pasteur discovered a cure for rabbits, but I don't know why.

St James the Least of All

On how to baffle the church committee

The Rectory
St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I was delighted to hear that you have been made chairman of the Missionary Sub-committee; it should help you to hone your skills in appearing to encourage committee members to contribute while ensuring that they only say the things you want to hear. It is a skill that needs not a little practice; democracy only works if all the important decisions have been made beforehand.

However, do remember that sub-committees are only formed in order either to kill an idea stone dead, or to give the chairman of the main committee some time to decide what he wants, since he isn't sure how to handle the issue at that moment. I formed a sub-committee in 1999 to discuss Miss Fothergill's suggestion of creating a 'water feature' on the Rector's Glebe land, as a way of celebrating the Millennium. More than 25 years later, we are still actively discussing the idea.

I noted at the time that no one wanted the thing on their *own* land. It's significant that whenever people suggest some imposing edifice, they always think it will be most appropriate either in the Rector's garden, or in some public place, well out of sight of their own homes.

While the Water Feature Group has been working away tirelessly, and endless masons and architects have been approached, a suitable design has yet to be presented. It looks as if a suggestion will eventually be considered by my hundredth successor as we enter the third Millennium. That is the customary rate of progress for St James the Least, which I find entirely satisfactory.

The procedure for decision-making is always the same: after enormous effort, the sub-committee will produce a carefully worded report, which will be circulated round all members of the church council. At the next meeting, they will be thanked profusely for all their hard work, and the

St Mary's Church, Long Ditton

🎉 Make a Difference Today! 🙏

Looking for a way to support the church without opening your wallet?

Discover how you can cut costs, help support our parish and keep our church thriving.

Scan the QR Code to get started or have a chat with Ped – it's quick and easy



Ped Pedder

07949 069398

pedder@rocketmail.com



Churches in The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) call for help to fight the Ebola Outbreak

As cases of Ebola in north eastern DRC continue to spread, the Bishop of Goma, the Rt Revd Martin Gordon, has joined other church leaders there in calling for urgent help. The country is facing its 17th Ebola outbreak in 50 years. More than 1,100 people have been affected, with over 350 dead.

Bishop Martin, a Church Mission Society (CMS) mission partner, says that churches across DRC can play a critical role in response. "The church is on the frontline. Through our schools, clinics, and local congregations, we are at the heart of every village and community, and we are one of the few institutions still trusted to tell the truth."

For it is widespread public mistrust of the authorities that has led many communities to doubt the very existence of Ebola. Restrictions surrounding burials have only intensified tensions, and already two Ebola treatment centres have been set on fire. Meanwhile, church leaders are circulating pastoral guidance outlining Ebola symptoms and encouraging best practices for hygiene, physical contact and medical referrals. Plans are underway to equip churches and schools with temperature screening equipment.

Bishop Martin stresses that financial support from outside is essential. "We need support to equip frontline churches and schools, and help communities respond effectively," he said. "But above all, we ask people to pray for us - for effective treatment development and for churches to continue to be voices of hope."

Andy Roberts, the CEO of Church Mission Society (CMS) says: "Bishop Martin and other church leaders have shown extraordinary courage. They are not fleeing the danger; they are moving toward it with love, practical help and hope."

Would you like to help them in any way? Go to <https://churchmissionsociety.org>

Don't drive fast with the windows down

Don't drive fast with your window down. It can damage your hearing. So, say experts from Boots Hearingcare and MoneySuperMarket.

The hot scorching weather of recent weeks can make it tempting to want to feel the wind on your face, but it does your hearing no good at all. Experts warn that at 70mph, the wind noise inside a car can hit 90-100db, exceeding the level of power tools and just below that of a concert.

An audiologist from Boots warns: "Even just 15 minutes of driving at levels of 100dB can be harmful to someone's ears. At high noise levels, your ears and brain are constantly working harder just to pick up conversations, the radio and even external noises like car horns and sirens. That extra effort can lead to listening fatigue."

And Department for Transport data shows that distraction or impairment played a role in 34 per cent of fatal collisions in 2024, the last year for which data is available.

Alicia Hempsted, an insurance expert at Money Supermarket, said: "Distracted driving is one of the leading causes of accidents on UK roads, and noise is a distraction that doesn't get nearly enough attention." So, she recommends closing the windows and using air conditioning when travelling above 50mph. For those drivers without air-con, open your windows partially, rather than fully, to reduce direct wind turbulence and protect your hearing.



Hot and humid - what to do with those yellow and amber health alerts

This year the UK Health Security Agency has issued a series of amber and yellow health alerts across the UK. Heatwaves can kill people; the Met Office has issued advice on how to keep safe in extreme temperatures:

- *Stay hydrated - drink plenty of water*
- *Avoid any exercise between 11am and 3pm, when the sun is strongest*
- *Close curtains in rooms that face the sun*
- *Wear sunscreen and a hat when outside.*

Remember that even on very hot days, the water in lakes and the sea is still very cold. The Royal National Lifeboat Institution warns that entering it suddenly “can lead to cold water shock, causing a sudden increase in breathing and heart rate, which may trigger panic.”

If you find yourself in trouble in cold water, remember to Float to Live.

- *Tilt your head back, so that your ears are submerged*
- *Relax and control your breathing*
- *You may need to gently use your hands to help you stay afloat*
- *It's OK if your legs sink – everyone floats differently.*

Where possible, choose a lifeguarded beach, and swim between the red and yellow flags. In a coastal emergency remember to call 999 for the coastguard.



The infamous Berlin Wall

It was 65 years ago, on 13th August 1961 that East Germany first sealed the border between East and West Berlin with barbed wire. Construction on the Berlin Wall itself began two days later, on 15th August.

The Berlin Wall grew rapidly to become a 96-mile (155km) concrete barrier. It became the physical embodiment of the Iron Curtain for the next 28 years. It was built to stop the 'brain drain' of East German skilled professionals. From 1949 to 1961, more than two million had fled the East. The Wall surrounded West Berlin, stranding it as an isolated island of capitalism within communist East Germany. It was two walls, separated by a heavily fortified 'death strip' 160 yards wide. It housed watchtowers, guard dog runs and anti-vehicle trenches.

The Berlin Wall was a surprise. East German residents woke up one morning to find barbed wire, armed guards and blocks on subways, streets and train lines. The East German border guards had the 'Order to Shoot' - the legal authority to kill anyone attempting to cross. About 140 people died this way. Yet still thousands escaped. More than 5,000, in fact. They fled by tunnelling, hot air balloons, ziplines, and ramming armoured vehicles through border gates. When in June of 1963 US President John F Kennedy visited the Wall, he made the famous declaration "*Ich bin ein Berliner*" (I am a Berliner) to demonstrate American solidarity with West Germany.

The Wall was unexpectedly opened on 9th November 1989, due to an awkward, unscripted announcement by an East German official, who mistakenly told a press conference that private travel to West Germany was permitted immediately. Following demolition, large chunks of the Wall were sold. Today, original segments are exhibited in over 100 locations worldwide, including the Imperial War Museum in London.



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

THE DITTONS & HINCHLEY WOOD
BETTS WAY LONG DITTON

ALL NEW MEMBERS WELCOME
(no need to be ex-service)

HALL FOR HIRE

for special occasions including
Birthdays & Weddings

LARGE GRASS GROUNDS

LINE DANCING - FRIDAY EVENINGS
DISCOS:
SNOOKER: DARTS
OUTINGS: BANDS

Contact: Nicole
020 8398 6263

THORKHILL PHARMACY

Mr D Patel MRPHARMS

Prescription collection service
Computerised Patient Medication Record
Advice and Help on Minor Ailments
Prescription Delivery Service for
the Housebound
Homeopathic Medicines · Vitamins

**EVERYTHING YOU WOULD
EXPECT FROM YOUR LOCAL
FRIENDLY CHEMIST**
Established 50 years

Open Mon to Fri 9am - 6pm
Closed for lunch 1pm - 2pm

Sat 9am - 1pm

EASY PARKING

**94 Thorkhill Road, Thames Ditton,
Surrey, KT7 0UQ**
Tel: (020) 8398 3008

National Allotment Week 10th to 16th August

If you like allotments, then this week is for you. It raises awareness of the very practical good that renting an allotment can do, in both providing space to grow your own food, but also in encouraging more connectedness with your immediate community.

This year the theme is 'Grow to Learn - Lifelong Lessons from the Allotment'. This highlights how time on the plot acts as a living classroom, teaching vital life skills such as resilience, patience, and creative problem-solving.

The National Allotment Society began in 1901, with the formation of the Agricultural Organisation Society. It grew rapidly, until by the time of WW2, from 1939 to 1945 there were 1.4 million plots supporting the 'Dig for Victory' campaign. Nowadays there are about 330,000 allotment plots across the UK, managed by hundreds of different local councils and independent societies. The average rent is about £45 a year for a standard 5-pole plot (125 sq. metres).

If you want an allotment, you will have to wait. Demand for plots is currently at an all-time high, making the average wait 37 months. London is averaging 69 months, while in Islington, some people have been on the list for more than a decade. The best crops for first-time allotmenters? You might want to try potatoes, onions, garlic, runner beans, courgettes, carrots, salad leaves, beetroot or strawberries.

Our favourite butterfly

The colourful peacock butterfly is our favourite, according to a recent poll. The butterflies, with their striking colours and 'eye-spots' designed to fend off predators, beat 59 other British species in the vote run by Butterfly Conservation.

More than 20,000 votes were cast across the UK, with a rainbow of colourful species making up the top five. The orange-tip butterfly came a close second to the peacock, followed by red admirals in third, holly blues in fourth and the bright yellow brimstone butterfly in fifth.

Butterfly Conservation, a wildlife charity, declared a "butterfly emergency" in 2024 as numbers recorded during the annual count fell to a record low.



The Village Hall

2 Ewell Road
Long Ditton



Welcomes
sports clubs, workshops,
meetings, societies, lectures,
demonstrations, classes,
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

Free seated exercise classes for all.

Location: Long Ditton Village Hall, 2 Ewell Road, Surbiton, KT6 5LE

Date: 1 April at 10am - 11am weekly Wednesdays

Contact Walfinch: 01932 553772
kingstonandwebridge@walfinch.com



If you would like
to advertise in this
magazine or send in an
article of local interest please contact:
Janet Burton Mob: 07810 810 822
or Email: janetpb15@gmail.com



Paul Dowey
Mob: 07568 481 299
or 07526 613 630
pauldowey11@gmail.com

Professionally trained local decorator

All your decorating
needs covered

Please call to discuss
your requirements



Telson Roofwise Limited



104 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2HY

Reg No. 1293

Building and roofing contractors. Specialists in listed building work

ROOFING

- Slating and tiling
- Flat Roofing (felt/asphalt/leadwork)
- All types of roofing repairs – guttering and fascias

BUILDING

- Extensions
- Loft Conversions
- Refurbishment/Decorations
- Kitchens and bathrooms

Fully Insured

Guarantees available for new roofs

Tel: 020 8391 9112 Email: info@telsonroofwise.co.uk
www.telsonroofwise.co.uk

OFFICE SKILLS TUTOR

- Staff training
- One-to-One tutoring
- Small groups/classes
- All levels from beginner
- Nervous students welcome
- Experienced, patient tutor

- Word
- Excel
- PowerPoint
- Publisher
- Access
- Outlook
- Office skills
- CV writing

Phone: 020 8398 2101
Mobile: 07949 069398
E-mail: pedder@rocketmail.com

28 St Mary's Road
Long Ditton
Surrey KT6 5EY

FREDERICK W PAINE

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL CONSULTANTS



- Help with all aspects of arranging the funeral
- Modern fleet of Mercedes hearses and limousines
- Our friendly, knowledgeable staff are available 24 hours every day
- Assistance with arranging memorials
- Contact us to discuss 'Dignity' pre-arranged funeral plans



265 Ewell Road,
SURBITON, Surrey

Tel: 020 8399 2060



Part of Dignity Funerals Ltd.
A British company.
www.dignityfunerals.co.uk

Dignity
CARING FUNERAL
SERVICES

A TRADITION OF TRUST AT YOUR TIME OF NEED

page 14 Please mention this magazine if you use any of the adverts posted here

Owen White & Catlin LLP

SOLICITORS

PRIVATE CLIENT	FAMILY LAW	RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING	CIVIL LITIGATION
MEDIATION	COMMERCIAL CONVEYANCING	COMPANY AND COMMERCIAL LAW	COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Always there when you need us

North Lodge, Esher Park Avenue
Esher, Surrey, KT10 9NP

01372 469 100

esher@owc.co.uk

Our other offices

Addlestone Ashford (Middx)

Chiswick Feltham

Hammersmith (incorp. Watson Marshal)

Shepperton

www.owenwhitecatlin.co.uk



Please mention this magazine if you use any of the adverts posted here

page 19

FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years seven generations of the Lodge Family have been privileged to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

SURBITON:

50-52 Brighton Road 020 8546 3504

THAMES DITTON:

37 High Street 020 8398 4586

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE



"An excellent service providing a compassionate funeral for our father. Lodge Brothers exceeded our expectations and demonstrated a depth of care that one would show to their own family."
- J. Luxton



ASK ABOUT OUR
PRE-PAYMENT
FUNERAL PLANS

Lodge
BROTHERS 1780
the family you can turn to

TOTAL PLUMBING(SURREY)

General plumbing services
Central Heating installation

Boiler installation

Competitive rates No VAT

Check a Trade and Gas Safe registered

Testimonials available



Contact Darius on
07957 799 821
totalplumbingse@yahoo.com

To discuss your
requirements
Free quotes & friendly
advice



HALL FOR HIRE



The ideal venue for your club, group, meeting or event

- Large, bright, flexible space
- Recently refurbished
- Well-equipped, modern kitchen
- Fully accessible - ramp and disabled facilities
- Can be divided into two smaller rooms
- One-off hires and regular users
- Parties and other events welcome
- Can accommodate up to 100 people
- Ample seating and tables for 70 adults and 42 children
- Free-to-use, regularly-tuned piano
- Ideal for creche/toddlers' groups
- Secure, fenced, outside area
- Plenty of free parking nearby
- Affordable rates

St Mary's Community Hall, Church Road, Long Ditton KT6 5HH

www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk/community-hall



Call Hall Manager Mandy
Ali on 020 8339 0008
or email office@stmaryslongditton.org.uk



Things to know about the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

This year it takes place 7th to 31st August. The largest arts festival in the world, it is made up of thousands of arts and cultural events which together attract the same number of people as a World Cup.

This year, it will feature a total of 3,649 distinct shows and 53,884 individual performances across 258 venues. It would take months to see everything.

Each year, the influx of performers, crew members, and attendees roughly doubles the city's population to about a million. Almost anywhere becomes a venue; traditional theatres, concert halls, pubs, churches, shipping containers and even moving buses.

The festival began in 1947, in the wake of WW2, to celebrate European cultural life and to heal divisions. Nowadays, it serves as a launchpad for global stars - including Phoebe Waller-Bridge, Emma Thompson, and Rowan Atkinson.

The Fringe was an accident - born when eight theatre companies, who had not been invited to the festival, still decided to come along anyway and stage their performances on the edge of the festival.

There is not just one summer festival in Edinburgh: as well as the International and Fringe Festival, Edinburgh also hosts the Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh International Book Festival, and the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.



Exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's wedding dress and fashion to celebrate the centenary of her birth

The largest-ever exhibition of Queen Elizabeth II's clothes is being staged at Buckingham Palace, in honour of the centenary of her birth until 18th April 2027

Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style, includes some 200 items - around half of which are being displayed for the first time. As well as clothing, jewellery, hats, shoes, and accessories, there will also be design sketches, fabric samples and handwritten notes that give a glimpse of the process involved in dressing the late Queen for her many public appearances.



Caroline de Guitaut, the exhibition curator and surveyor of the King's Works of Art, said: "Her distinctive style became instantly recognisable around the world, bolstering the British fashion industry and influencing generations of designers and couturiers."

The exhibition will include her wedding dress from 1947, her Coronation dress from 1953, and a few of the formal evening dresses she wore for banquets and visiting Heads of State and there will also be the riding jackets, tartan skirts and silk headscarves that made up her well-known practical everyday style.

'Queen Elizabeth II: Her Life in Style' will be at The King's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, Until 18th April 2027. Tickets sold out until November 2026

