



Others in lockdown hung flags and bunting, but 11-year-old Ryan Pretty, left, baked a union jack! The Year 7 Southborough School pupil made a strawberry filling, and topped it with blueberries and strawberries to recreate the national flag. To see how Surbiton celebrated a brief relief from isolation, see **p9**



Cat Doctor founder Amy Bergs, home vet visitor to Surbiton's moggies since 2013, shares a lockdown snap, taken in her 'catmobile', proving that kittens such as Mabel won't let PPE get in the way if they want to bestow a kiss on nurse Shreen Haywood. "Kittens beat Covid-19 any day," laughed Amy.

PREMIER CARS

SAVE 10% OFF RRP

020 8274 9000

HEATHROW £30 / GATWICK £40

www.premierminicabs.com

The miraculous recovery of Patient 1

He's a walking, talking, miracle. Mike Sansom spent 45 days in an induced coma in Kingston Hospital – the first Covid-19 patient admitted to intensive care. Loved ones were told to prepare for the worst, but Mike, who was rushed to hospital on March 11 with breathing problems, made it. Initially the civil servant, who has lived at Ditton Reach, Long Ditton, for seven years, thought it was asthma, but ominously, on Friday 13th, he was put into an induced coma. Three days later he tested positive for coronavirus. "It was easy for me," he told The

Good Life. "I didn't have a clue what was going on, but my loved ones went through hell with daily phone calls saying I'd deteriorated, my condition had worsened, I'd gone into renal failure, I was on dialysis, they were going to try one more round of treatment and if it didn't work they'd have to switch off life support.

"I can't begin to imagine what that was having on their mental health, particularly as they were in lockdown so there could be no social contact, nobody to support them.



Continued **p7** Mike recovers at home after 45 days of Covid coma

One down, but two to go...

People power has triumphed over a bid to site an 82ft mobile phone mast on Victoria rec, but plans have been lodged down the road in Long Ditton for masts on the village green and cricket ground. Telecoms giant EE wanted a 25m mast, primarily for rail-users, in the ground off Balaclava Road, but Kingston Council, swamped by 250 objections, refused. The bid was made days after lockdown, with no committees sitting. "We're over the moon," said Friends of Victoria Rec campaigner Helen Swinburn. "We're delighted the council came down on our side, and that all three ward councillors strongly objected, as did councillors in Long Ditton too."

Those councillors must feel besieged. EE now wants to build a 49ft (15m) mast



Fury as riverside wildlife haven becomes dustbowl

As fears grow over the apocalyptic state of Surbiton's historic filter beds, denuded of greenery and life, a 'wake-up' petition gathers steam. The Seething Wells Action Group (www.saveseeingwells.org) believes Kingston Council is dragging its feet on protecting the 170-year-old beds, built to beat the Covid-19 of its day, cholera, and provide Londoners with clean water. Green councillor Sharron Sumner, leading the call to

arms, says chemical sprays have been used. SWAG wants to save the site from "developers who've proved such poor guardians of this precious place". Turning an ecologically diverse wildlife habitat into a dust bowl is, she says, unforgivable, and defies the council's own biodiversity policy. If designated a nature reserve, the site would gain protection. Planning watchdog the Kingston Society has joined

the fray. "The owners stripped the vegetation, destroying the wildlife and flora that made it their home," said angry chairman Anthony Evans. Registered in the Isle of Man, owner Cascina Ltd has made several unsuccessful development bids, one for 92 'floating apartments'. It wants the site reclassified. The council says it has limited powers as the site is privately owned. The petition is at tinyurl.com/y8cqzybk

Sue's a No1 star!

Surbiton community support worker Sue Brown (top row, second left) helped centenarian Capt Tom Moore make No1 in the charts with the NHS Voices of Care Choir and Michael Ball.

The Egmont Avenue resident was in the lockdown backing choir for You'll Never Walk Alone as the new Sir Tom raised over £32m for NHS charities. "I got involved as I work in social care and the online choir was formed of NHS and support staff," said Sue who sings with the Kingston-based Eclipse Choir. "It was all done remotely and we didn't know who or what it was going to be until we'd signed up!"

Music director James Hawkins was approached to arrange harmonies for 56 voices; learning, rehearsing and recording in three hours. "It was an amazing effort," he said. "In normal life it would never have happened – it was a process only made possible by technology."



Lockdown lowlife stole geraniums and begonias from Queens Prom's pocket park, undoing days of volunteer work. Friends chair Julian Meers was dismayed at the ransacking of the haven near Raven's Ait. If you have surplus plants, email queenspromfriends@gmail.com



Hallelujah! St Matthew's bells are back, restored after a year. The Ellacombe chimes (above) and 286-year-old service bell will soon ring out once again.

The team that get you moving



an exceptional experience every time

HUMPHREY & BRAND

Contact one of the local partners to arrange a valuation on 020 8399 1888

Humphrey & Brand
17 Claremont Road, Surbiton,
Surrey KT6 4QR
E: info@humphreyandbrand.co.uk
humphreyandbrand.co.uk



STREET CHAMPIONS



Dozens of Kingston residents are becoming Street Champions and are volunteering their homes as safe, secure and local drop off points for food banks across the borough.

Locations can be found at bit.ly/StreetChampions

If you would like to become a Street Champion, or volunteer in a different way, visit the **How can I help?** section of kingston.gov.uk/KingstonStrongerTogether
Or, contact martel.atterbury@kingston.gov.uk / 07500 952 919.

BBQ box launch

A Surbiton chef who has worked with Marco Pierre White and Gordon Ramsay is running a barbecued food delivery service for Surbiton... Boxed Local.

Richard Hards and wife Kaylie, based in Tolworth Road, sold out in launch week. "We sell by the box - single, double or big - and cater for larger numbers with full joint offerings and deli salad sides," said Kaylie.

Chef Richard has 14 years' kitchen experience, starting at Ramsay's Boxwood Café in Mayfair and later at Marco's L'Escargot. He then started heading up Soho boltholes, becoming group chef at seafood specialist Bonnie Gull.

Deliveries are twice a week, Wed & Fri, for meat lovers and vegetarians. Meals start at £14, and everything is home-made and barbed on site. Most items are gluten-free. www.boxedsocial.co.uk/join



Staff have also been tailoring activity packs to suit individual interests and passions. The centre helps 85 senior citizens in Surbiton, including 20 new referrals from social services. Manager Lisa Blackman said: "Those who depend on us fall into the high-risk category. Already vulnerable and isolated, this time has been extremely difficult for them."

Lockdown has denied Alfriston's regulars companionship and interaction, not to mention having their hair done, playing games with pals and sharing the 12.15pm lunch prepared by people's poet Tim, who has cooked there for a dozen years.

"That's all had to change," said Lisa. "But thankfully we've been able to change our service delivery quickly."

Working to Covid-19 safety rules, the meal delivery service has been made possible by donations

Meal service is a lifeline

Despite having to close because of the pandemic, Surbiton's old folks' day centre, Alfriston in Berrylands Road, has reinvented itself as a home support hub.

Thanks to donations (£2,500 was gifted in the first weeks), a full outreach service was built from scratch, with chef Tim Carter - The Man In The Cloth Mask, left - cooking up his popular hot meals for delivery to grateful self-isolators such as Ron, below. "It's just like being back at Alfriston," said Ron, as a splendid roast with potatoes, sprouts and carrots arrived.

Another recipient, Charmaine, said: "The meals are so welcome as I can't stand long enough to cook anymore."

"Isolated service users told us they were growing weary of a monotonous diet of tinned food and 'ready meals'," said Tim.

Alfriston is operated by the Kaleidoscope Project, set up at Kingston's John Bunyan Baptist church in Kingston in 1968 by the Rev Eric Blakebrough, the non-judgemental hippy minister who drove round in an open-top sports car and set up a drug support centre and Friday night youth club in the town centre.

Some of the old folk who use Alfriston in normal times fondly recall it from their youth! **Tim Harrison**



the french tarte

Maple Road, Surbiton

Surbiton's premier café, patisserie and boulangerie, is open for takeaways from Wednesday to Saturday (9.30am to 2pm)

Afternoon teas and fine-dining, heat-at-home menu also available to pre-order before 6pm the day before collection courtesy of top chef Eric Guignard. See our social media accounts for menu or email enquiries@thefrenchtarte.co.uk

tarte in the park

Victoria Recreation Ground, Balaclava Road, Surbiton

Sister café The Tarte in the Park is also open for takeaways from Wednesday to Sunday (10am to 4pm Wed-Fri and 10am to 5pm Sat-Sun, weather dependent)

Surbiton's No1 family butcher, Jennings in Ewell Road, has screens (modelled here by Kevin) as it moves back to full service. In recent weeks it's been more like a call centre, with phone orders.



Park Tarte returns

"We're really pleased to be back!" said beaming Tiphaine Fevrier, right, handing over a freshly baked chocolate and piping hot latte from a makeshift counter at Tarte in the Park in Victoria recreation ground. "Our customers are pleased too; there was one here at 9.30am, waiting for us to open!"

The Tarte in the Park in the rec off Balaclava Road shut on Mar 20, but is now open again for takeaways, Wed-Sun (10am-4pm Wed-Fri, and to 5pm Sat & Sun).

Pastries, cakes, baguettes, smoothies, milkshakes and hot drinks are on the menu, with hot snacks soon. It's one in, one out, with a one-way flow.

The café is a sister to The French Tarte in Maple Road, which is also open Wed-Sat, 9.30am-2pm, for takeaways. Afternoon teas and fine dining heat-at-home meals courtesy of chef Eric Guignard. Email enquiries@thefrenchtarte.co.uk for more. **Jane Grove**



● Whelkome back! Bradley Taylor escaped Grimsby lockdown and resumed Tuesday afternoons (3-4.45pm) by the Rose, Thames Ditton. With a new, slightly larger van, there's more seafood than ever before.

● The Good Life Gin Company is selling its own hand sanitisers, made to a WHO formula with 75% alcohol, infused with rose petals. The 50ml bottles (£3.50) can be ordered at www.thegoodlifemerch.co.uk Sam Berry, who runs the firm with wife Alex from No97, Maple Road, said: "We donate free to key workers, or anyone in need. Message us directly at hello@thegoodlifeginco.co.uk"



CD JENNINGS & SONS
TRADITIONAL BUTCHERS
SERVING SURBITON FOR
MORE THAN 50 YEARS



Meat of the Highest Quality from the Finest Sources

Suppliers of: Scotch Premier Beef ■ Scotch Highland Lamb & Romney Salt Marsh Lamb ■ Free Range Pork & 'Rare Breed' Gloucester Old Spot Pork ■ Balmoral & Royal Deeside Venison ■ Free Range Corn Fed Chicken

All sausages and burgers hand-made at the shop

See the complete range at www.cdjenningsandsons.com

C D Jennings and Sons
Traditional Quality Butchers since 1962

146 Ewell Road, Surbiton KT6 6HE

020 8399 4870

PLAY
WORKOUT
ENJOY



TENNIS IS BACK
ON COURT
SQUASH & FITNESS
COMING SOON
JOIN THE CLUB
TODAY



SURBITON.ORG
020 8399 1594
BERRYLANDS, SURBITON, SURREY, KT5 8JT

the good life

Editor: **Tim Harrison**

Set up in 2012, the community paper for Surbiton, Tolworth, Berrylands and Long Ditton appears six times a year between March and

November. We deliver to 11,500 homes and the issue is also available to download on our website. We're always delighted to hear from you, whether it's about editorial or advertising, or joining our band of loyal volunteers who help us deliver.

The email address is: thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com

Between issues, news appears on Instagram and Facebook (@thegoodlifesurbiton) and on our website, where fresh stories are posted most days, and where back issues are archived.

www.thegoodlifesurbiton.co.uk

This paper is also available at Michael's shoe repairs, Shoes At Last, Jennings, the cornerHOUSE, Community Motors & Stear greengrocers.



Oldies in isolation

The Surbitonians who have coped best in isolation are over 70s, says a mental health awareness poll. 52% of 18-24s felt lonelier, but just 12% of 70s. "They're determined to live life to the full," said Saga, whose survey it was.

Water our trees

Kingston Council planted 871 trees and 3,000 'whips' (titchy one-footers) this year. If you see a new one in your street, please help it flourish by watering it when dry, the council asks.

Got a lotta bottle

ExCellar, the wine cafe on the Victoria Road/Brighton Road corner, is urging customers to join a 'milk round' with daily doorstep deliveries of wine. Min. order: 3 bottles. Meanwhile, the cafe's takeaway hours are Tues-Sat, 10am-8pm. www.excellar.co.uk

Lucky 13 salon?

Led by Irish stylist Andrew Thompson, 35, staff from Hair by Mitch, which closed in Brighton Road early this year, have created Salon No13 in the 900sq ft former Carphone Warehouse shop in Victoria Road. It will open when rules permit. www.salonnumber13.co.uk

Ed wants top job

Trumpeting his "vision, experience and leadership", Surbiton MP Ed Davey aims to be confirmed as Lib Dem leader in a summer poll. The current acting leader faces competition from MPs Layla Moran and Wera Hobhouse. Candidate nominations close on July 9.

Wellbeing course

An online course to help people cope with the stress of lockdown, and boost resilience, starts Jun 25. Organised via Surbiton's King Charles adult education centre, and devised with charity Action for Happiness, it runs on Weds, 7-9pm, to Jul 30. To join, email community.learning@kingston.gov.uk

Hornet vigilance

Surbiton's beekeepers are keeping 'em peeled for Asian hornets, which can eat 50 honey bees a day. "They can quickly decimate a colony," said local bee guru Keith McMahon, who is remaining vigilant to guard his local hives.

Rec wins friends

A new friends group will "protect, preserve and enhance" Victoria rec. It wants the park off Balaclava Road recognised as an important green space, and aims to ensure it is safe and well-maintained. Join via Facebook (Friends of Victoria Rec - Surbiton) or email favr-surbiton@hotmail.com

Pre-ordering bites

Halloumi Bite does an order/allocated slot/collection service in Surbiton on Saturday nights. The vintage-style food truck serves authentic takeaway Greek food. It's in Harts Boatyard car park, Portsmouth Road, 4-8.30pm. Menu and orders: halloumibite.co.uk

Sushila is deputy

Berrylands Cllr Sushila Abraham is the new deputy mayor of the borough. Her barrister husband Dr Matthew Abraham will be consort. Cllr Margaret Thompson is mayor for a second year.

Mark lets it grow

Black Lion landlord Mark Sheehy has vowed not to have a haircut unless he can serve pints again. "I won't cut my hair until the pub reopens," he told 31 participants in his weekly online Zoom quiz. "I've had it longer in the past!"

Farming thoughts

Have you ideas for staging activities or events at Tolworth Main Allotments off King Charles Road to be part of 'The Community Brain's Farm of Futures' project. Suggest them at www.survey.monkey.co.uk/r/ML93T6F

Copy this: MBE

Mail Boxes Etc, the print, shredding, copy, post and office supply shop in Victoria Road has reopened 10am-3pm Mon-Fri and 11am-3pm Saturdays, with a three-customer limit at any time. The shop also offers mailbox rental. www.mbe.co.uk/surbiton



Dr Palmer, I presume?

The last European to have Victoria Falls completely to himself was pith-helmeted explorer David Livingstone, 165 years ago.

So Surbiton charity worker Sam Palmer will never forget his recent experience. When pandemic lockdown struck, the 33-year-old from Upper Brighton Road had been working in Namibia on a project with the San people, helping protect their way of life after generations of abuse and slavery.

He aimed to travel east, to work at the African Vision Malawi charity village established by his mother, Heather. "I'd bought a motorbike, and planned to ride 3,000km to Malawi, but I was alerted to the UK going into lockdown," he said.

"I rode north towards Zambia, but borders were closing, and there was suddenly a sense of urgency to get to Malawi before that option wasn't there either. But while passing through, it felt wrong not to make the most of the ride by visiting one of Africa's most incredible sights, Victoria Falls."

It usually attracts a million visitors a year... but Sam pulled in to an empty car park. "I wandered into a completely deserted national treasure. Not only was it peak season, but the flow rate was at its highest for almost 100 years!" he said.

"It was a privilege to have the falls to myself for two precious hours... perhaps for the first time since Westerners supposedly

'discovered' it. A day or two later, it was all shut to the public."

Although lockdown prevented him reaching Malawi, and he managed to get one of the last flights back to the UK, he says he'll be back.

"The charity's work there continues, and is as vital as ever," he said. To learn more about helping the rural community in Malawi become self-sufficient, and the charity's remarkable projects, visit www.africanvision.org.uk

Tim Harrison



We're living through history - no doubt about it - and photographer Amy Murrell has been capturing what has been keeping us safe in these unprecedented times - our homes.

Amy, of Upper Brighton Road, has been taking pictures of local residents on the doorsteps where we have stood on Thursday nights to clap for carers and wave at neighbours from a safe distance. The lifestyle-wedding photographer has captured striking images of individuals, couples and families on the threshold between a coronavirus world and the sanctuary of their castle to raise money for the mental health charity Mind in Kingston (Covid-19 Emergency Response). As The Good Life went to press, Amy had raised £1,235 for the cause.



"I love meeting people and love photographing them, so it felt completely natural to document this extraordinary time in the best way I know," said Amy, who has set up a JustGiving page so people can make a donation to the charity in exchange for having their doorstep portrait taken.

"Providing people with a beautiful photograph, and also benefiting such a great charity felt like the right fit."

Doorstep portraits capture history

Amy, pictured right, said she felt local residents enjoyed meeting a new face in lockdown, and having something to look forward to. "I've loved it; I'm fascinated by people, so hearing lockdown experiences and stories of their lives has been great."

Amy said she believed mental health was extremely important, especially at the moment "when more people than ever are suffering due to the huge impacts of Covid-19".

To see more of Amy's doorstep shots and to contact her about



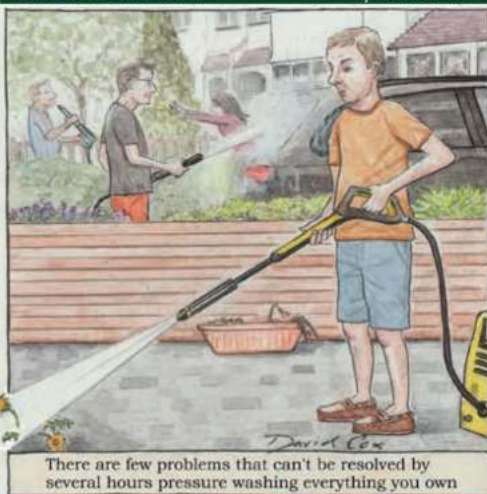
having your portrait taken, visit www.amymurrell.co.uk/album/doorstep-portraits

To make a donation to Mind, and find out more about Amy's lockdown fundraiser, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/doorsteplockdownportraits



SURBITON LIFE

by David Cox



There are few problems that can't be resolved by several hours pressure washing everything you own

Could you be a street champ?

From Raeburn Avenue to St Leonard's Road, from Kings Drive to Corkran Road, street 'champions' have joined Kingston Council's effort to establish volunteering mini hubs across Surbiton to support the borough's most vulnerable residents during the pandemic.

"Street champions are volunteering their homes as secure, safe drop-off points for food," said a council spokeswoman. "Supplies are collected and delivered to Kingston food banks."

There is still a need for volunteers to act as collection points. "We're trying to ensure that no one goes without food at this time."

To see which streets have 'champions', visit: bit.ly/StreetChampions

Street Champions

To become a Street Champion, or volunteer in another way, visit the How can I help? section of kingston.gov.uk/KingstonStrongerTogether, email martel.atterbury@kingston.gov.uk or call 07500 952 919.

Clearout conundrum

So you've had a clearout, and are frustrated you can't find a charity shop? A Surbiton Facebook group has made a virtual alternative, with proceeds helping save rainforests. You take a picture of the items destined for charity, and add a suggested donation. Buyers arrange the pick-up via private message, with money to the World Land Trust via JustGiving. Search on Facebook for Virtual Charity Shop in Surbiton

MatthewJames

Residential Sales and Lettings

St James House | St James Road | Surbiton | Surrey | KT6 4QH



Your Local Independent Estate Agent

T 020 8390 2266

E enquiries@matthewjamesestateagents.co.uk www.matthewjamesestateagents.co.uk

How John Dixon got the Needle

The man who gave a whole new meaning to needlework by transporting an ancient Egyptian obelisk to London was a Surbiton engineer.

Shifting a 69ft red granite monument 3,000 miles and installing it on the Embankment seemed impossible in the 1870s, but John Dixon relished a challenge. The hieroglyph column, made in around 1450 BC and weighing 224 tons, fell into what eBay would today call the 'buyer collects' category.

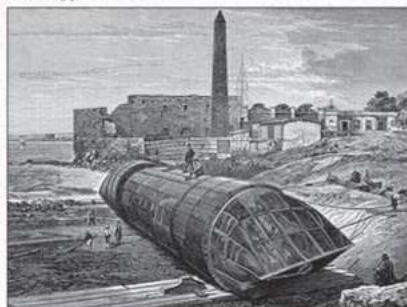
It had been given to Britain in 1819 by the Egyptian ruler as a thank-you for Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile in 1798, but the UK government had blanched at the cost of transporting it home.

So the well-meant but hopelessly impractical gift just sat in Alexandria. Seventy years passed, and the site owner was threatening to break it up for building stone.

A private philanthropist agreed to stump up £10,000 to bring the column to London, so Dixon, then in his early 30s and living in Portsmouth Road, set to work. Overland transport was too costly, so he hatched a plan with his brother Wayman to encase it in an iron cylinder and tow it to Blighty by steamship.

The only precedent had been the obelisk in Place de la Concorde, Paris, which had been moved from Egypt in 1836 in a specially built ship.

John Dixon's towing tube was shipped to Alexandria in bits, reassembled, and the obelisk manoeuvred in. The journey was going well until, in October 1877, a storm in the Bay of Biscay caused the cylinder (nicknamed Cleopatra) to roll over and disappear from view.



An engraving from 1872 showing the curious British-built tube which encased the needle in Alexandria before it was pulled by steamship to London; one of John Dixon's engineering triumphs

A rescue boat from the steamship Olga was dispatched, but capsized with the loss of all six crew. The obelisk was presumed to have gone to the bottom of the sea, but was later found bobbing after the storm abated. It finally arrived by tug at East India Docks, was unpacked and hauled to the Embankment when it was formally unveiled in September 1878. London's governing body paid for two stone sphinxes to complete the look, although haste (and misunderstood instructions) meant that they were unfortunately placed staring at the column, and not gazing outwards.

Shocked and upset by the deaths of the steamship crewmen, Dixon set up a fund to support their families. Dixon was born in Durham in 1835, the eldest of three brothers and three sisters. He left school at 14 and was apprenticed to Robert Stephenson, the top engineer of the 19th century and creator of The Rocket.

Dixon became manager of an ironworks before deciding fame and fortune lay in London. In 1862 he had married Mary England, herself the daughter of an ironworks owner. He was 27, she 20.

Five years later came the move to Surbiton, initially to 13 St Philip's Road where, from the upper windows, John and Mary (and the three children they had then produced) could watch boats on the river, with no homes in North Road or Maple Road to block their view.

The family kept growing. There would eventually be 11 children, with two sons and seven daughters surviving to adulthood. So in 1875 they moved to a bigger home, The Choubra (named after a fashionable district of Cairo) at 28 Portsmouth Road, by the Anglesea Road junction, where Surbiton and Kingston meet.

Dixon soon embarked on one of the strangest projects in local history. Seven years earlier, he'd taken out a patent on a 'floating saloon bath'. Basically, it was a fenced-off section of river or sea which could be safely used by swimmers.

It allowed the free flow of water through filters at each side, it was supported by floating pontoons, and it had changing rooms and a viewing gallery at water level.

In 1875 one opened on London's Embankment – near the spot the needle would later occupy. Bathers paid a shilling a time (5p), according to research by writer Ian Pearce.

Dixon proposed a similar one for Surbiton and Kingston residents at the High Street end of Queens Promenade... and instantly ran into strong opposition from Thames Sailing Club, which had been formed five years earlier and wanted no structure interfering with its yachts.

Dixon prevailed. Kingston Council backed his idea, to give the crowds that filled the prom on warm days something new to do in summer. His floating bathing area was not intended, he insisted, "for the great unwashed of Kingston and the small unwashed of Surbiton", but for recreational use!

At a cost of £1,500 the floating bath was built out of wood, 150ft long and 40ft wide, and supported on pontoons. It was moored at Town End Wharf, where Kingston High Street meets Portsmouth Road, opposite the point where The Anglers block currently sits.

Opened with much fanfare in 1882, its hours were 6am to dusk, May-September. Fee for bathing: tuppence.

But Thames Conservancy immediately ordered its removal



Top, John Dixon in an engraving from the Illustrated London News and, above, the site of the 'floating saloon bath' on the riverside at the Kingston end of Queens Promenade and, on August 11 1882, sent a tug to haul the floating bath away.

In an extraordinary stand-off, bigwigs from Kingston Council started grappling with the Thames Conservancy officials as the steam tug's crew tried to cut loose the bath's anchor chains. Alderman Gould sustained a leg injury from a boathook.

Mr Payne from Thames Conservancy shouted: "I'll remove that bath piece by piece if necessary." This was solemnly recorded by the Surrey Comet reporter in his notebook, but Mr Payne snatched the notebook away, tore it up and threw the pieces in the river.

Supt Digby of the local police force, who had been observing events, decided it was time to intervene. He broke up the fracas, Thames Conservancy's tug withdrew

YOUR 7TH GENERATION FAMILY-OWNED FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS

When a death occurs in your family, that is the time you need the advice and assistance of your local family-owned Funeral Director.

Lodge Brothers are the family you can turn to...

Seven generations of our family have been helping and advising local families in their time of need. For 240 years we have been providing funerals, both modest and traditional, with care and compassion. Our fully qualified staff take great pride in being able to offer a 24 hour service, 365 days a year.

HAM:	426 Richmond Road	020 8090 1685
NEW MALDEN:	26 Coombe Road	020 8075 6112
SURBITON:	50-52 Brighton Road	020 8546 3504



Lodge
BROTHERS 1780

the family you can turn to

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk



FPA
FUNERAL
PLANNING
AUTHORITY
REGISTERED

FUNERAL DIRECTORS • MEMORIAL STONEMASONS • FLORAL TRIBUTES
PERSONALISED FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE SERVICES

and the council won the day. Through the summer of 1882 200 people used the bathing pool each day; mostly 'lads'.

But the following year Kingston's mayor, Cllr James Thrupp Nightingale, ordered an inquiry. The floating bath had weathered badly over winter, and was no longer fit for use. Dixon and the council haggled over who was responsible for repairs, with the local authority deeming Dixon's manner 'discourteous', and adding: "He treats the corporation in a contemptuous way, as nobodies."

The Dixons had wearied of the floating bath saga. In 1884 they left Surbiton and moved (with their cook and three maids) to Selborne Road, Croydon – an area they'd got to know from visiting several sets of friends.

Queens Prom's famous floating bath was broken up, and the concept of river pools fell out of fashion and transferred to dry land with the opening, half a century later, of the Coronation Baths in Kingston and Surbiton Lagoon.

Does a photograph, or even a sketch, of John Dixon's 1882 floating bath exist? One has yet to come to light, and unfortunately local snapper Eadweard Muybridge was busy working in the USA at the time.

Dixon's CV sums up the world reach of British engineering in the 19th century: drainage projects in Brazil; piers in the Isle of Man, Llandudno and Southport; wharves in Spain; landing stages in the UK and Portugal; a bridge over the Nile in Cairo; a harbour in Wales...

In 1875 he won the concession for the first railway in China, in suburban Shanghai – a project plagued with difficulty as locals kept lifting the freshly laid tracks for fear they would upset the spirits of their ancestors.

Then, using his geological skills, he located a previously



unknown source of fresh water on the Rock of Gibraltar, so locals no longer had to import supplies from the mainland.

Dixon also rebuilt Hammersmith suspension bridge between 1884 and 1887.

A staunch Tory, and active member of the committee of Kingston Conservative Association, he was briefly a freemason, although he rapidly lost interest in it and gave up his lodge membership after less than a year.

Articulate, eloquent and a gifted watercolour artist in his spare time, Dixon's contribution to engineering was immense. Recognising this, the press agitated for a knighthood, but our Notable Surbitonian had to settle with being made a CBE.

In 1891, John Dixon developed heart problems. He died at his Croydon home, aged 56. His numerous projects had made him a wealthy man. His estate was valued at more than £11,000 (over £1million today). Mary died in 1907 at the age of 65.

● John Dixon, born in Durham, January 2 1835, died in Croydon, January 28 1891

Tim Harrison



Clockwise from bottom left: 13 St Philip's Road, Surbiton – the Dixons' first house in the town; Mary England, who married John on October 9 1862 in south-east London and produced 11 children; 28 Portsmouth Road, the Dixons' home, 1875-1884; and John Dixon in 1885, six years before his death



When Maple Road became trendy

Tree-lined, elegant, stylish and, of course, the home of Surbiton's hugely popular farmers' market, Maple Road has had its own distinctive identity for a century and a half.

But when did it gain the 'Maple village' tag beloved of estate agents, and adopted by the busy Maple Village WI?

The grainy picture, right, harks back to one of the new wave of pioneering ventures which helped pave the way for the parade of independent shops, businesses, bars and eateries (think Shoes at Last, French Table, French Tarte, Cento Uno) which give the road its character today, and which are poised to emerge from enforced coronavirus hibernation.

Although the street was established in mid-Victorian times, its bohemian tone was set four decades ago with the arrival of a wine bar, The Tappit Hen.

This snap was taken shortly after the opening at Christmas 1978, an early step in making 'the village' of today.

The Tappit Hen was at 97 Maple Road, a forerunner of today's No97, Sam Berry's

epitome of trendiness, ready to emerge from lockdown.

Set up by Sally Wheatcroft and sister-in-law Susan Williams, it had a shabby chic retro vibe: recycled, random furniture; weird framed photos; sawdust on the floor; arty paintings and an intimate, friendly atmosphere.

And if you went down the steep stairs to the basement, you entered another mini world... a little music bar where acoustic guitarists played on Friday and Saturday nights.

That's Kingston musician David Miles in the picture above, strumming merrily to the locals nursing their cute little 125ml glasses (today's pub wine glasses often contain 250ml, a third of a bottle) of Mateus Rose, Blue Nun and Black Tower.

Why Tappit Hen? The name was an old term for a vessel equal to three bottles of wine.

So was this new wine bar welcomed by everyone? Not a bit of it.

There was ferocious opposition to the premises at 97 Maple Road even being granted a basic licence, with every pub in the area campaigning to stop this upstart threat to trade.

Maple Road was already something of a destination for drinkers. The Antelope pub was thriving five doors along the road. Confusingly it had originally been called The Grove, while today's Grove was then called The Oak. Both pubs urged



magistrates to resist the licence application.

But there was also opposition to The Tappit Hen from the pub at the junction of Maple and Cleaveland. It was then the Royal Charter – a Watney's beer house specialising in darts. It changed to Gordon Bennett, with an exclamation mark, in 1999.

Justice prevailed. The Tappit Hen was granted a drinks licence (wine only at that time) on the grounds that it also offered home-made food. It opened Tues-Sat, and remained shut on Sundays and Mondays.

Number 97 Maple Road has been through many incarnations since the late 70s. By 1986 it had become Chez Fritz, before evolving into the Rubicon bar and lounge with the basement dubbed the Comedy Cellar.

There was then a flurry of name changes. Rubicon briefly contracted to Rubi, and then in 2014 the business became Purl@Rubi, the twin of a Marylebone cocktail lounge owned by cricketer Kevin Pietersen and his brother Bryan.

Finally it turned into the No97 gin bar-restaurant of today. **TH**



Roberts CLEANERS



Pull yourselves together!

We're open again from 9am-4pm, Monday to Saturday, for all your dry-cleaning and laundry needs. And rest assured that our processes kill the coronavirus on clothes and linen. We can also collect and deliver. So it doesn't have to be curtains... although we clean those too!

16 Claremont Road, Surbiton KT6 4QU

020 8390 6705

Beware! Moths on march

Nests of damaging oak processionary moths have been discovered in two local nature reserves - Berrylands and Stokes Field in Long Ditton.

After a nest was spotted on a tree in the Berrylands reserve, further nests were identified.

Kingston Council officers are now spraying or removing them. The moth caterpillars are damaging pests, feeding on oak leaves and making the trees vulnerable to other critters, drought and disease.

The caterpillars' toxic hairs also cause skin rash, eye irritation and in some cases breathing difficulties for humans and pets.

Nests have also been found in Stokes Field, the reserve near Surbiton Hockey Club, popular with strollers and dog walkers.

Dr Deborah Turbitt of Public Health England warned people not to touch the caterpillars or nests. "See a pharmacist for milder skin or eye irritations, or consult a GP or NHS 111 for serious reactions," she said. "Contact a vet if animals are seriously affected."

At this time of year caterpillars form nose-to-tail processions, hence the name. Lines of caterpillars are often arrow-headed.

● If you spot any in Berrylands, email berrylandsn@gmail.com. com You can also report them using the Forestry Commission's TreeAlert service at forestresearch.gov.uk/trealert

How cute is this? Gemma Wildig was enjoying a walk in Fishponds, and spotted a tiny gosling poking its head out of Mother Goose's protective embrace. Awwwww!



● An online art school is running a competition celebrating Surbiton, and everything starting with S. Enter via Instagram (@cygnetsartschoolsurbiton), with daily ideas and mini videos for inspiration, up to the July 1 closing date. Entry is free in KT5, KT6 and KT7, and there are prizes. Ex-Kingston School of Art student Karen Dear runs Surbiton's Cygnets Art School, teaching traditional art to 6 to 16s.

● Garden festivals and flower shows may be cancelled, but Tolworth has one online! The Tolworth Garden Festival, run by The Community Brain, celebrates growing with a chance to win £300 worth of prizes. Categories include best container or pot plant, best outdoor planting, best upcycled garden DIY, young gardeners (U10 & 11-16), oddest homegrown fruit and veg, and best greenery seen on daily exercise. Photos or videos accepted up to midnight, Sun, June 28. For how to enter: www.thecommunitybrain.org/tolworth-garden-festival

Janice Cripps looks at ways of achieving peace in your back garden

Shhhh! Let's hear it for the barrier method



Garden designers are well versed in problem solving, coming up with creative solutions for boggy gardens, dry gardens, too much shade, too much sun, and so on.

But what can be done about a noisy garden?

In the streets of Surbiton, we have to deal with construction work, sirens, the constant hum of traffic and, where I live, boy racers and – at the moment – the daily car crash!

Heaven help you if you live anywhere near the A3.

Most people think the best defence against this noise is a large hedge or a belt of trees and shrubs around the garden, but research has shown any planting barrier has to consist of thick evergreens, clothed right to the ground and at least 8 metres deep to deliver even a 25% reduction in noise.

Much more effective is a wall

or solid fence which can potentially cut the noise level by 50%.

The key to this reduction is to stop air flow through your chosen barrier so, for example, a larch lap or slatted fence will not do the job – a fence has to be of double leaf construction.

There is no advantage to making the barrier extra thick but the higher it is the better. There are all sorts of clever calculations which can be done but, essentially, we're looking at a bare minimum of 2 metres. Any higher means applying for planning permission.



Ideally the barrier should be as close as possible to the noise source e.g. slap bang against the road.

If that's not possible, and you have a large garden, the next best thing is to create pockets of tranquillity immediately around the area you want to protect. This may sound counterintuitive, but the least efficient spot is halfway between you and the noise.

You may also assume that if you can't see the source of the noise, you will be less conscious of it. But the reverse is true. If you can see the traffic, you expect noise, so it doesn't come as a shock!

Introducing other sounds which distract the ear are useful – rustling trees, wind chimes or perhaps a water fountain. But sadly there is no magic solution.

If all else fails, I can only suggest ear plugs!

Janice Cripps is a professional Surbiton garden designer. For advice, planting plans, or projects – from concept to completion – visit www.janicecripps.co.uk

'Anderson shelters' for bicycles

Cycle hangars which "look like someone's plonked an Anderson shelter in the street" are to appear in 14 Surbiton roads. Designed for cyclists in converted houses, where bikes can block narrow shared hallways, the lockable cages each hold six bicycles.

Opponents say they eat into residents' parking bays and cost too much as council budgets are squeezed. Cyclists pay £70 a year to use them.

"The precious money we have left should be prioritised for the important things in life," said critic Rob Robb, likening the hangars to corrugated wartime air-raid dugouts. "These look like someone has plonked an Anderson shelter in the street."

He calculates Kingston Council's bill at £80,000, or three full-time NHS nurses for a year. "They're an eyesore, an unwanted obstacle, and cause problems with parking," he said.

Sites: outside Malverosa, **St Andrew's Sq**: midway up **St Mark's Hill**; outside **2 Surbiton Hill Pk**; outside **Wren Ct**, **The Avenue**; **Dulverton Ct**, **Adelaide Rd**; **5 Berrylands**; **55 Bond Rd**; **48 Cadogan Rd**; **Kingsley House**, **Claremont Rd**; **12 Berrylands Rd**; **25 Headley**, **King Charles Rd**; **Lawson Ct**, **Lovelace Rd**; **82 Maple Rd**; **8 Oakhill Rd**



● "I'm looking forward to the store reopening on June 15; we're all prepared," said Sarah Taylor of **Shoes at Last**, as she emerged from lockdown. It's one out, one in, with a full range of summer merchandise & hand sanitisers, plastic screens and masks... the new normal. Customers can buy, take home, try, and return within five days for refund or exchange; with a 48-hour rest before returning to the rails. "Looking forward to welcoming everyone back, smiling down Maple Road again," she smiled.

simplybathrooms

It can be difficult to choose a bathroom, so we're here to help. **Simply Bathrooms Ltd** is a family-run Surbiton business working to the highest standards. We've worked in the industry for more than 20 years and our knowledge and expert advice is key to giving you the best experience, from design to installation. No matter how big or small your project, we'd love to hear from you. **Contact us today** so we can help you create your dream bathroom.

01932 698 990 / sales@simplybathrooms.co.uk
 @simplybathrooms / www.simplybathrooms.co.uk



The miracle story of Patient 1

Continued from p1

"The chaplain at the hospital, Susan van Beveren, was absolutely invaluable. She phoned regularly to offer support and prayers, and make sure they were OK... as did members of the intensive care team. I can't begin to thank them enough; they were absolutely marvellous."

Despite being the first with Covid admitted to the ICU, and the longest person intubated in it, he beat the virus, then spent two weeks on Keats Ward working with physiotherapists and occupational therapists, to walk and move again.

Mike was given a hero's homecoming. "It was so emotional; the love my neighbours and friends showed me." Reflecting on it all, he said: "I can't begin to say the debt of gratitude I owe the NHS and the wonderful staff at Kingston Hospital."

"The dedication of those doctors and nurses is something you can't comprehend and imagine. They put their lives at risk to look after ours, and while their colleagues died next to them, they carried on. I'd like to thank them from the bottom of my heart, for saving my life. Together we beat the virus."

Mike is still receiving treatment at home for blood clots on his lungs, rapid heart beat, fatigue, partial paralysis and post traumatic stress... but he's upbeat about the future.

"I'm feeling more than lucky to be alive. I'm so pleased they never gave up on me," he said. "It's made me see things in a completely different light since waking up; just how lucky I am, and that in life, no matter what it throws at you, you have to value every single moment of every single day."

A spur to Mike's recovery was the prospect of celebrating his 50th birthday at home, which he did with a socially distancing picnic in his garden on June 5 with his family.

"It has been an amazing journey. I've been given a second chance and intend to make the most of it. I see this as a new beginning. Being discharged from hospital wasn't the end, but it is the end of the beginning. The rehab and recovery is where the hard work starts."

Jonathan Villanueva, a tracheostomy practitioner and physiotherapist who cared for Mike at Kingston, said: "He's a remarkable fighter. All the staff who provided him with care, treatment and rehabilitation were instrumental in helping him beat the virus. I'm very glad he's now recovering at home, enjoying the nice weather! I wish Michael all the very best and good luck on his journey to full recovery."

Jane Grove

A cluster of flats which sit 50 paces from Surbiton station will be enlarged, with the blessing of current residents.

Five of the seven new flats at Claremont Court – the redbrick between-the-wars block which curls round the corner from Claremont to St James' Road – will be built in what is now the bin courtyard, completely hidden from view.

Claremont Court's existing flat-dwellers welcomed the plan, which will also benefit the occupants of the newer flats on the top floor as they will no longer have to get to their homes via a precarious open-air walkway bridge.

Surbiton's neighbourhood committee has unanimously approved plans for a new, concealed three-storey block in the centre of the site, alongside the vast back wall of Waitrose. It will provide three single-bedroom flats, and two two-bed flats.

A further two small flats will be squeezed in as infill over the rebuilt entrance arch opposite Matthew James estate agents, allowing for the creation of a proper entrance lobby with CCTV and secure gates.

Clr Liz Green commented that she hoped the same developer who had installed the "ugly and difficult" access bridge last time wouldn't be trusted with the project.

Planning officer Alex Rosser-Trokas assured her that the infill flats would do away with that contentious walkway – the kind of suspended-in-mid-air structure that would give anyone vertigo.

No objections to the proposed scheme were received from

Green light for flats



Two compact one-bed flats will be built above the arched entrance to Claremont Court, left, in St James' Road, while a mini block of five flats will spring up in the flats' hidden and rather messy courtyard, below



residents, although there was one from Surbiton Conservation Area, which opposed the plans on the grounds of overdevelopment.

This was swiftly waved away by the committee as the new courtyard mini block of flats will not be visible from the road outside.

Tim Harrison

Share Little Stories on your own lockdown

How has lockdown been for you?

Frustrating, therapeutic, emotional, inspiring, energising, revelatory? Are you now seeing things in a new light? Has anything occurred that you want to get off your chest?

Surbiton TV documentary maker Dan Howell, pictured with his rescue bichon frise Pippin, has launched a project, Little Stories, for people to contribute life experiences during the pandemic.

"It was my wife Catherine's idea," admits Dan who has worked for BBC2 and Channel 4. "We started it together as a way for people to anonymously share their experiences."

"We wanted to get beyond the news, and get people to share what it's really been like, so we've been asking people to send in their 'little stories'."

Dan, who lives off Maple Road, has had contributions from all over the country, but would love to receive more from Surbiton.

"We've read about mad dreams,



window-escapes, potatoes, anxiety, gratitude, money worries and custard confessions. We've heard from nurses, new parents, musicians, teachers and secret tree-planters among others.

"It is a collection of honest and moving personal stories about living with coronavirus in the UK. It's entirely anonymous to post, it's simple and your

story can be as short or as long as you like – it just needs to be personal to you."

To read the stories or post one, visit www.littlestoriesproject.co.uk. It's also on Instagram and Facebook @littlestoriesprojectuk

● The cornerHOUSE arts centre in Douglas Road is asking people to sum up lockdown in 100 words; its effect, Zoom experiences, home-schooling, job security etc. Contributions will be shared on the website from July. Visit www.thecornerhouse.org/lockdown-100

● Long Ditton residents are invited to share Covid-19 experiences, photos and objects for a book, The Elmbridge Lockdown Chronicles. Send to chronicles@riverhousbarn.co.uk



Spoo Song goes viral

Singing teacher Bec Gresson's video of her family's spoo lockdown song has gone viral with over 62,000 views on Facebook. Bec, of Grand Avenue, Berrylands, and children Frank, 12, Kit, 10, and Mabel, 7, sang alternative words to My Favourite Things.

"I actually wrote Rainbows in Windows for Lucie Benson School of Dance where I teach singing," said Bec. "The principal, Vanessa Lucie, asked me to film a video with my own children that she could share on the dance school Facebook page to cheer everyone up!"

In normal times dance classes are held at the Nuffield fitness centre in Portsmouth Road and Tolworth Recreation Centre, with singing in Putney, but since lockdown the lessons have moved online.

To view Rainbows in Windows (Lockdown) visit the school's Facebook page at www.tinyurl.com/y7pem4ea

Home-workers fuel rising house demand

Demand is rising for Surbiton homes with space for garden offices as many commuters opt to partly work from home rather than travelling every day up to Waterloo.

"People who settled in Surbiton to commute are realising there's also a good community, green space and schools," said John Flynn of Seymours, in his new-look Brighton Road office. "Many families have found in lockdown that they need more space."

That has prompted a rise in business which is building on the busy months of January and February which saw three years of pent-up demand release as Brexit uncertainty ceased to be an excuse for waiting.

Of his own office rebuild, right, he said: "The Seymours branding has been around for 20 years, and needed freshening, so we went for a refurbishment as well to increase our capacity."

As well as escorted viewings with masks and gloves as a coronavirus precaution, he is filming tours of houses on the market, with added commentary, as a virtual first inspection for prospective buyers... and then only for ones who are in a serious position to buy.

Other Surbiton estate agents are also insisting on protective gear for viewings. Lisa Brand of Humphrey & Brand said: "The sales market is exceptionally busy, and demand from buyers is high. All applicants view via video first, then where there is strong interest we arrange physical viewings, with full PPE."

In the first two weeks of office reopening, nine sales were agreed. "If you're selling, now's a good time: high demand and a low number of instructions!"

Greenfield's offices in Surbiton and Tolworth, with 37 years' sales and letting experience, reopened after 10 weeks of working from home, and immediately reported



business moving "at a fast pace". Viewings and valuations are all being conducted safely with gloves and face masks as appropriate, and strict social distancing.

Matthew James hit the ground running after reopening the office on May 13, with 14 new sale instructions in less than three weeks, sales agreed and lettings continuing to grow.

"A number of people on lockdown realise they now need a bigger house," said James Batty. "So we're expecting a busy return, and we've had several sales and exchanges."

He said the looming end to the government's furlough scheme meant some potential buyers and sellers were holding off until they return to work. "While they are on furlough, it's making it more difficult to get a mortgage," he said.

Surbiton still has a value edge over towns closer to London, with it possible to buy a KT5 or KT6 two-bed flat for £400,000-£450,000, and house for £650,000-£750,000.

Matthew Gill added that as many people had successfully proved they could work from home during lockdown, the typical conversation with potential buyers and sellers included mention of home-working as a factor.

At Hawes, Max Chapman reports that first viewings are online via virtual reality tours, with physical second viewings arranged after prospective buyers have passed financial checks and have a property under offer.

THE BED POST

BEDS AND MATTRESSES SINCE 1983



The Surbiton showroom is open again. Good to be back!



43-45 Brighton Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 5LR
020 8399 3293 www.bed-post.co.uk

10% OFF WITH REFERENCE TO THIS ADVERT (FULL PRICE ITEMS ONLY)

Pipers give Roy a moving send-off

Two pipers led the funeral cortege of artist Roy Mackintosh past his Long Ditton home as friends and neighbours lined the route to pay their respects.

Born to a Scottish father and Norwegian mother on the bicentenary of Robbie Burns' birth, Roy spent his early years in the Highlands, showing natural talent as an artist, and selling paintings as a schoolboy to pay for materials.

Moving to London, he was trained by Slade School of Fine Art tutors and ran his own art studio, exhibiting widely; his landscapes and seascapes finding homes around the world.

He loved sketching trips to the Highlands, depicting the action of wind on sea. You can view his art at www.roymackintosh.com

Roy could identify every Second World War ship by name and class, read books on naval battles and loved cars – vintage classics to sports – once driving his Jaguar XKR round Brands Hatch. His verdict: "Thrilling." He had a natty dress sense, doing nothing by halves, from full Scottish Highland to Norwegian hand-knits.

A former finance manager, he settled in Effingham Road with Lorna, his wife of 28 years. A series of strokes in 2007 meant he had to learn to speak and move again as his right arm and leg were paralysed, but he picked up a paintbrush again in 2011.

Friend Penny Ardie said: "Roy was highly intelligent, with a lightning fast brain, photographic memory and 22/24 vision; he could see more colours and hues in nature than most. He was loving, friendly and generous-hearted, always with a story to tell."

Lorna praised the NHS for caring for Roy through his strokes to the leukaemia that claimed him at 61. "The pandemic shows how utterly dependent we are on hospital staff risking their lives for the vulnerable," she said. Donations via www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

Robert Lodge of Lodge Brothers walked behind the pipers from St Nicholas Church, Thames Ditton, to his home. "It was very moving; a fitting tribute to a lovely gentleman," said Robert.

● Roy Mackintosh, born January 25, 1959, died April 12 2020



Pipers led the cortege. Below: Nairn Beach in the Wind



Exploring the area's hidden corners has kept me sane, says **Becky Mayhew**

Lockdown's bonus: making discoveries

What's that, Surbitonians? You want me to tell you my favourite part of lockdown? So many highlights, it's hard to choose, from sterilising my shopping to staring at the four walls of my tiny studio flat and seriously considering moving into the tree across the road to have more space.

But there has been a genuine upside of this whole peculiar experience; exploring. With no work and the sun shining pretty much constantly, it's been a solace that has helped stave off boredom, inertia, anxiety, loneliness and anti-in-my-pants. I have explored familiar roads, from the relentless 1930s semi-detached mock Tudoriness of The Mall, to the dolls houses and fairy cottages of Catherine or Grove Road. I've made countless stumps round the Langley Avenue/Ditton Hill/St Mary's Road/Surbiton high street loop, and if you happen to live in St Mary's Road and have looked out of your kitchen window over the last

couple of months to see a woman staring slightly creepily back from the pavement, it was only because I was trying to work out how many times my flat would fit in your driveway (the answer is 21).

I've ventured down the path by Long Ditton Cemetery and rediscovered the hill that sits between the nature reserve and the bypass, with incredible views that stretch for miles. It brought back fond memories of a painful altercation my 11-year-old self had with that hill, some faulty bicycle brakes and a tree stump.

I discovered the shedload of tiny alleyways in Thames Ditton, and delved into the woodland on Portsmouth Road between Gigg's Hill Green and the Scilly Isles roundabout, discovering a thrilling alley that hugs the edge of Old Cranleigh Rugby Club (who knew that existed?). I discovered that if you walk behind the City Arms in Portsmouth Road you come to a

jetty on the Thames that I never knew was there.

I explored the route under the bypass at Squires, and the long road that takes you to Claygate, and the beauty and total unexpectedness of Telegraph Hill, which can pick you up at the Claygate allotments and drop you off in Hinchley Wood. I discovered Home Park across the river, a heinously underrated park in the shadow of that coquettish Jezebel Bushy Park. I explored the Hogsmill Riverside Open Space between Tolworth and Ewell; if you're not familiar, make haste.

I've loved every moment of exploring, and, judging by the singles, couples and families pounding the pavements too, so have a lot of you. It's one element I hope to take with me into the new world. Keep walking, keep exploring. It does nothing but good.

● www.beckysaysthings.com



WI in action

Maple Village WI has proved resourceful in lockdown with coffee mornings, book club and craft group meetings via Zoom, weekly mindfulness and meditation sessions and a daily hour-long online chat to keep everyone connected.

Guest speaker Robin Hutchinson recorded a video on Tolworth's SHEDs project, while a talk by Dotty's Oils of Long Ditton saw samples delivered in advance to members' individual homes.

The 100-strong group supports Sewing 4 Kingston, donating fabric and buttons, and many members have sewn bags, headbands, hats and scrubs. "We've donated £150 to the Kingston Hospital charity and £150 to Voices of Hope, organising meals for vulnerable people," reports president Kelly Woods.

Getting key workers back on their bikes

Andy Litchfield and Stuart Lacey are busy men. The duo have been biking medicines to vulnerable isolating residents, and servicing key workers' cycles, with over 200 made roadworthy so far and for free.

"It's amazing!" said receptionist Gosia Lindsay at Surbiton Health Centre. "I stopped cycling when I got a puncture, but they got me back on the road. I live in Collingwood Avenue, so it's a reasonable cycling distance to work. I hadn't time to pop to something like Halfords, so this is brilliant."

Stuart, right, promoting cycling for Kingston Council for 11 years, said it was rewarding work. "This lets key workers use bikes as a safe way to travel," he said. "It also relieves pressure on public transport, where social distancing can be difficult. We don't do big repairs which need parts, but for a puncture or adjusting brakes and gears, we can help get your bike back on the road."

The pair, who ran a drop-in Dr Bike session at the health centre in Ewell Road, also offer a mobile service where they come to key workers' homes or workplaces. Visit www.kingston.gov.uk and search for Dr Bike to book.



Greenfield Estate Agents

We are back in the offices!

After 10 weeks of working from home, it feels great to be back in the offices, with business resuming at a very fast pace!

We have had many buyers & tenants patiently waiting to view, so we are actively catching up with viewings and are delighted to say we have secured a large number of Sales & Lets already. Business as usual!

All viewings and valuations are being conducted safely with gloves and face-masks where needed, and Social Distancing Guidelines are being strictly adhered to.

Our teams have worked together for over 10 years now and have a wealth of experience on offer to help you, so please do contact us for any of your property needs and requirements, and we will be delighted to assist.

For our Tolworth office on the corner of Elgar Avenue please call **Sarah Melbourn** for Sales and **Elizabeth Reah** for Lettings
020 8390 6666

For our Surbiton office on Claremont Road please call **Jason Hanley** or **Luke Dwyer** for Sales and **Joanna Ferguson** for Lettings
020 8399 7070



We look forward to hearing from you!



We'll meet again

There was a brief chance to forget lockdown and greet neighbours as streets put out the bunting and tables to mark VE Day's 75th anniversary. 1: Lucas Dinnin, 14, rates mum Jayne's home baking in Ellerton Road. 2: Keith Gow's patriotic balcony, Ditton Reach. 3: Sun-soaked Queens Drive. 4: Lara Morgan-Graham and Hywel Morgan, Morgans Dairy, Red Lion business park. 5: Maggie Cox snapped an image of Major Tom Moore, the £33m centenarian fundraiser on a Cadogan Road gatepost. 6: The Queen poses for David Jacobson, Cleaveland Road. 7: Arlington Road. 8: A patriotic, camera-shy skeleton hides behind a prosecco drinker in Maple Road. 9: Historic flags in Ashcombe Avenue date from 1945, 1995 and 1918, the bunting, 1935. 10: Looking the part in Chiltern Drive. 11: Taking tea in Cotterill Road. 12: Hinchley Wood School student Lucia Phillips, 16, sings Vera Lynn songs in Ditton Reach with dad Josh, Procol Harum's keyboardist. 13: Emma Hjaer, 8, brother Alexander, 6, and dad Mats in Effingham Road. 14: Caitlin and Niamh Herbert (6 & 9) with Sophie and Liliana Fellowes (9 & 13), Chiltern Drive. 15: Fence mural, Langley Avenue. 16: A wave from Northcote Avenue.



New blocks are unveiled

Tolworth Broadway will have two more blocks by 2023, alongside the 22-storey Tolworth Tower. The first phase of redevelopment is well under way, stripping out and 'repurposing' Richard Seifert's 1964 skyscraper to create 261 rental flats.

Kingston Council will soon be sent the application for phase 2: two more residential tower blocks alongside the 1964 original, with a 'pocket park' between them. The existing M&S car park remains.

An earlier redevelopment plan for Tolworth Tower by CNM Estates went into receivership, so Meadow Partners

acquired the site from administrators. It's proposing a slightly less bulky scheme with standalone blocks of 15 and 19 storeys; the facades echoing the look of the original tower.

Entrance lobbies will lead off a tree-lined square, with space for market stalls and musicians, and a tree canopy to 'create calm'. It will be in shade in the morning, sun in the afternoon.

There will be an elevated residents-only garden with children's play area, and even allotment beds.

Simon Brambles from Meadow Partners, speaking at a 'webinar' online presentation to update residents, explained that sustainability was key, with top-notch insulation, solar roof panels and a centralised heating system which would remove the need for a gas supply.

The Covid-19 pandemic will not lead to undue delays in the project, developers say.

If the council approves the plans, building will start in January 2021, and take two and a half years.

The new flats (which will almost certainly comprise a mix of sale and rental) will include some social housing. All flats will have their own balconies.

Detailed plans should be posted online in the coming days, with Meadow Partners pledging to hold meetings for interested residents and neighbours.

There are, said Carl Dawson from the developers, no plans to revive the Broadway Bar.

Following the Grenfell fire, and resultant unease about living in tower blocks, the two new structures will have resident 'safe zones' and wet risers on each floor, so firefighters have a water source at every level.

● The London Fire Brigade plans to use Tolworth Tower for an evacuation training exercise, to test three new appliances, acquired to tackle high-rise blazes.

Tim Harrison



Local Cycle Service & Repairs

Cyclelink has reopened on an appointment basis

- We do everything from puncture repairs to bike builds
- Highest quality work undertaken by fully qualified mechanics
- Same day service available
- All work quoted prior to repair
- Sale of parts and accessories on a text and collect basis

Please text 07514 650055 to make an appointment for bike servicing or repair.

Please text the same number to buy parts and accessories

Cyclelink

52 High Street Thames Ditton KT7 0SA
07514 650055

It's all about cycling

www.cyclelink.bike



MAIL BOXES ETC.

At Mail Boxes Etc. Surbiton we offer:

- ✓ Print, copy and scanning
- ✓ Binding and finishing
- ✓ Courier delivery
- ✓ Packaging solutions
- ✓ Personal and business address
- ✓ Email and internet
- ✓ Stationery and offices supplies
- ✓ Passport photos

Mail Boxes Etc. Surbiton
61 Victoria Road, Surbiton
Surrey, KT6 4JX

W: mbesurbiton.co.uk
E: info@mbesurbiton.co.uk
T: 0208 399 8399



MAIL BOXES ETC.

Mail Boxes Etc. Stores are owned and operated by licensed franchisees of Mail Boxes Etc. (UK) Limited in the UK and Ireland. © 2018 Mail Boxes Etc.

Lock gates close for Ken

Ken Knight, who has died at 82, was for nearly 40 years the endearingly grumpy keeper at Teddington Lock. He lived his entire life in the family home in Greenfield Avenue, Surbiton, proudly telling neighbours his dad had helped build it.

The third of four children born to Sidney and Lilian Knight, Ken was a keen Surbiton cub and scout, and joined the young farmers' club – the career he planned to pursue. In a eulogy prepared for his Covid-restricted funeral at Putney Vale on June 5, his sister Val said that a severe bout of encephalitis at the age of 14 ended any agricultural dreams.

Seriously ill in the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, his parents were offered the chance for him to be a guinea pig for an experimental drug. It saved his life, but at a cost. He was unable to complete his education and was registered disabled.

He attempted farm work, but the physical burden was too much. In 1962, after studying horticulture at Queen Elizabeth's Training College for the Disabled (now QEF) in Leatherhead, he worked as a council gardener until being offered the job of Teddington lock keeper, responsible for its admired flowerbeds.

"He'd found his niche!" said Val. "He worked there for the next 37½ years, loving the freedom of the open air, the interaction with the boating community (who would throw him innumerable cans of beer!) and taking care of the flowerbeds." He had his own boat moored there, and when he worked nights, he'd arrive with eggs, bacon, sausage and beans to cook a midnight fry-up.

Anne Purkiss took the atmospheric black-and-white image of Ken, complete with bushy beard and Falcon pipe, for an exhibition of faces to mark Richmond's 500th anniversary.

Ken thrived on the routine and discipline of work, so retirement was a challenge. "One thing I've learnt over the years, people seem to exist only in their job," he once said. "When that is taken away from them, they fade away too."

Yet far from fading, Ken threw himself with renewed passion into his hobbies: family history, trains, horse brasses, cow



Ken the lock keeper, photographed by Anne Purkiss, and, right, Ken posing with a steam train



bells, miniature agricultural toys, First World War battlefields, coins and stamps.

A loyal committee member of Surbiton & District Historical Society, he had an encyclopedic knowledge of the area, and wouldn't hesitate to correct any guest speaker who got a fact wrong. He organised a visit to Teddington Lock for the society.

He was a faithful member of Emmanuel, Tolworth, reading his Bible every day and keeping the church garden neat and trim. A man of few words, unless you

chanced on one of his pet topics, he was – like Paddington Bear – only ever seen out and about with his trademark battered hat. Though he rarely lit up the world with a smile, that grouchy exterior hid a thoughtful and considerate teddy bear within. Cancer claimed him in the end.

Ken's funeral exit music was Russell Cleaver singing *Messing About on the River*, and his old hat rested on top of the coffin as the curtains closed.

Tim Harrison
● Kenneth Bertram Knight, born March 16 1938, died May 7 2020.

abricot
Locally based web design company specialising in Wordpress and small bespoke sites

t: 020 8720 7315
w: abricot-production.com
e: info@abricot-production.com



● A crossroads in Long Ditton looks more like a car scrapyard after a slew of accidents caused (say weary residents) by speeding drivers, poor signage and a traffic spike after a Portsmouth Road diversion. In a month the Effingham Road/Windmill Lane junction has become a major black spot. Collisions involving a van and car on May 14 (top, left), two cars on June 2 (below) and two more on June 4 (top, right)

led Long Ditton Residents' Association to demand action. Options include new signs, partial one-way restrictions, a raised platform, extending parking restrictions or introducing a 20mph speed limit.



● A Long Ditton human resources consultant has teamed up with other business professionals to form Plan C, to support small firms with free advice during the pandemic.

Claire Watt, of Kings Road, is part of a network (www.yourplanc.co.uk) covering marketing, accountancy, HR, PR, social media, business strategy, IT and website design.

Spearheaded by Dominic Barker, with PR from the Claygate-based Jackie Mitchell, it pools business wisdom to address pressing issues and "help local small businesses keep moving forward through this most difficult of times".

Those seeking help will get "suggestions and tangible, practical solutions" from nine local specialists. Claire has worked in her field since 1994, recent roles including HR responsibility for the Samaritans' staff and volunteers.

Pandemic 'is force for change'

The head of a charity for disabled people says the pandemic, serious as it is, may be a force for change.

"I've been waiting for this moment my whole career," said Lisa Hopkins of SeeAbility, which has a home in Ditton Road. "The moment those working in social care are given equal footing to the health care workforce."

She says key worker appreciation,

exemplified by 10 weeks of clapping for carers, offers hope in challenging times. SeeAbility, which once had Princess Di as its patron, began as the School for Indigent Blind in 1799.

● Last week Waitrose donated £100 of shopping to shielded residents at the charity's five-bed house which supports adults with a range of disabilities, including sight loss.

WE'RE REOPENING FOR ALL VEHICLES AND SERVICES

PRIORITY STILL FOR KEY WORKERS

"Excellent staff, super friendly. Highly recommend these guys."
Paul, one of our many happy customers

Now working under 'COVID-19 Secure' guidelines

KINGSTON BUSINESS AWARD
★ ★ ★

COMMUNITY MOTORS
Call us to book your service or for a FREE quote
0203 177 0070
www.communitymotors.org
Unit 23 Red Lion Business Park, Surbiton, KT5 7DB

GARAGE OF THE YEAR WINNER 2019

GOOD FOR YOUR CAR, GOOD FOR THE COMMUNITY

The Dr won't see you now

After 33 years in his Surbiton practice, one of the area's most popular GPs is retiring.

Martin Wolfson, who turned 70 on New Year's Eve, hangs up his stethoscope at the end of June... but the pandemic means that his farewell party – when he hoped to chink glasses with scores of his patients at the Black Lion – has had to be indefinitely postponed.

He'd probably have soldiered on even longer, but after 30 years living in St Leonard's Road he and his wife have moved to Elstree, to be near the grandchildren.

Martin arrived in Surbiton in 1987, taking over Dr Hirsch's single practice in the Claremont Road basement now occupied by the ProBack clinic, opposite the Waitrose car park entrance.

In those days he managed 1,500 patients on his own, but the practice grew and grew, and since 2001 he's been the lynchpin of the Claremont Medical Centre on its site at the corner of Glenbuck and Arlington, where nine doctors look after 11,000 patients.

"I like to think I go that extra mile," he said when asked to characterise his bedside manner. "I'm an old-fashioned doctor; a dinosaur!"

Following in his father's footsteps, he qualified as a doctor in 1974. His own son is now following the tradition. Martin first worked in hospitals before becoming a GP. His wife, Elise, used to live in



Surbiton GP Martin Wolfson is retiring after 33 years

Surbiton, so – with their young family – they left the Crystal Palace area and moved to the river road.

Another draw was proximity to the synagogue in Uxbridge Road, where Martin was chairman.

A fitness devotee who cycles regularly, has run London marathons and inspires other oldies to play five-a-side football at Southborough School, when not in lockdown, for The Ancients, Martin admits he's been 'an irritant' to consultants, regularly referring his patients to them for specialist advice.

"Retirement terrifies me," he said, having been forced to shelve plans to travel and do more voluntary work. "I'm good with my hands; I recently put up a fence and I've done plumbing and other jobs round the house."

What he'll miss are his patients – he loves the personal contact and finds it difficult to work remotely ("It's exceptionally lonely") – and the staff at the centre.

When he finally clears his desk on June 30, he'll take with him his Fisher-Price 'happy apple', a bright toy with a bell inside, which has been his distraction aid when he needs to, say, look in a child's ear.

"I've had it so long that some of my patients bring their children and tell me they remember playing with it themselves!" said Martin.

TH

Quality Printing
Since 1947
Commercial & Trade Printing
Direct Colour
RELIABLE • KNOWLEDGEABLE • PROFESSIONAL
www.directcolour.com 020 8391 0011

Former pub manager Agnes Jones has been busy working on her music during lockdown, and the fruit of her labours is a new single called Taken. Agnes, who pulled pints at The George Evelyn in Ditton Hill Road, Long Ditton, for more than two years, is now concentrating on her music after the pub was sold to new owners in January.

Agnes pens new song



The singer-songwriter, who studied at the London Music School in Hackney, has performed as part of a five-piece band called Pitch and a duo called A2mazin, doing cover versions of pop songs, before deciding to concentrate on a solo career.

She has penned eight songs, her latest being the recently released single which is dedicated to her late father.

"Music is my love and passion. I honestly believe that the power of song can change lives; it is at the heart of everything I do today."

You can enjoy the video of Taken on YouTube at tinyurl.com/y9l2jbmc

The song is also available to buy on Spotify, Amazon and Google Play. Read more about Agnes Jones at her website

www.agnesjonesofficial.com Jane Grove

Songstress Lilith's big break

Tolworth Girls pupil Evie Burnett has reached the finals of a national songwriting contest. Evie, 15, who writes as Lilith Bee (Lilith her middle name) is down to the top three of 700 entrants. The winner in the Song Academy's Young Songwriter 2020's 13-18 age category will be declared on Sat, Jun 20 at 2pm on Instagram (@song_academy).

The musician, who plays guitar, piano and ukulele, and who is doing a GCSE in music at the school in Fullers Way North, said: "I'm really happy to have got to the top three; I never thought my songs would get this far."

Her music has been played on radio stations around the world. "I don't think there's a continent she hasn't been played on," said mum Karen. Evie attends the British School of Rock in Kingston on Saturdays. She's been creating songs in lockdown from her home off Berrylands Road. To hear her entry, *Lights of the Sky*, search for Lilith Bee on Spotify. JG



Sketches chronicle lockdown life

Artist Jo Kheir turned her hand to chronicling life in lockdown with daily sketches. Jo, of Balacra Road, who was about to hold her first exhibition of oils, prints, photos and life drawings in Surbiton when events were axed, now gets out her sketchpad and produces doodles on anything that intrigues or amuses her. Each sketch is then uploaded to her Instagram site, @JOKmyArt.

"I aim to capture an insight into life through this extraordinary time," said Jo, the former head of design at Virgin Media. "I'll keep it going as long as people want me to do it and I'm enjoying it."

Jo said there'd never been as important a time to stay in contact and connect to one another to get through each day.

She aims to stage her postponed exhibition, *Surbiton From A Different Angle*, at St Andrew's Church, Maple Road, "when we return to normality".



● You have until the end of June to visit Long Ditton artist Georgina Allen's online exhibition of dramatic landscapes and awe-inspiring skies at a virtual show in the Piers Feetham Gallery, Yorkshire, Wiltshire, Teesdale, the Peak District, Herefordshire, the Cotswolds, Cornwall and the Brecon Beacons feature. All works are for sale. Visit www.piersfeethamgallery.com

● Singer/songwriter Martha Christoforou, a regular at the cornerHOUSE arts centre's monthly Out of the Corner events, has released her first single, *Summer Air*, during lockdown. You can listen to the music student's haunting song by searching for her name at www.soundcloud.com



Surbiton author Ayesha Benson, pictured, who writes in rhyming couplets, has published a book for under fives about a ladybird's garden adventures. Her vividly illustrated *The Adventures of Henrietta: Hello Henrietta!* marks her debut. "I've lived in Surbiton for nine years with my husband, and we now have a toddler... who many will quite likely have seen me chasing about," she said. The book is published by Austin Macauley.



● The young artist with learning disabilities whose clay models were a hit on Channel 4's lockdown creativity show *Grayson's Art Club* works in a local café. Surbitonian Alex Robinson, who has proved a star of the show which encourages the public to get arty, struggled to cope with loss of routine when the Balance Café in the King Charles Road adult education centre closed for Covid-19.

When Alex, left, and mum Rachel showed ceramicist Grayson Perry some of the hundreds of cartoon-like fantasy figures he's made, and was persuaded to 'lend' them to the lockdown show, it proved an emotional moment in the TV series.

Perry described Alex and his art as "inspiring" after Rachel said her son had used creativity to "give him a bit of normality in a sea of uncertainty".

Belles meet again... but via Zoom

Vera Lynn sang it, The Queen said it, now Berrylands Belles have Zoomed it.

We'll Meet Again, forces' sweetheart Dame Vera's Second World War morale-booster, was recorded by the 50-strong Surbiton-based all-women choir while in lockdown especially for the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Their rendition is on the Berrylands Belles' Facebook page. Choir director Bec Gresson, pictured, said: "The online rehearsals are giving a lot of joy; it's been wonderful to log on every week and see everyone's smiling faces, share stories, laugh and sing together."

In 'normal times' the choir rehearses on Monday evenings at Grand Avenue primary, but Bec has been running weekly rehearsals on Zoom since lockdown began. As well as preparing the video for VE Day on May 8 the choir has also been learning new songs for future concerts.

"I formed the Berrylands Belles almost six years ago," said the singing teacher. "It was originally for a few mums of the school my three attended."

"At the first rehearsal I expected about eight mums to turn up, and was delighted to find 40, all keen to sing and meet others." Now 50-strong it has a reputation as one of the best amateur groups in the South East.

Bec said the group performs twice a term, plus a summer charity concert. It has also triumphed in Richmond

Festival's choral competition each time it has entered.

To join, email becgresson@hotmail.com

All ages welcome, with no auditions.

Jane Grove



"This impressively researched, crisply written biography gives Maria her rightful place in the Brontë story." *Daily Telegraph* ★★★★★

"Exuberant, fast-paced and deeply moving biography of a remarkable woman." *Jane Austen's Regency World*

"Beautifully researched and vibrantly written." *Daily Express*

"A Regency tale of passion and courage." *The Good Life*

In paperback, Kindle & audiobook



Virtual Open Events

Register now

kingston-college.ac.uk/virtual-open-day

Post 16
Apprenticeships
Undergraduate
Part time
Access

Kingston College



South Thames Colleges Group

Good Together
Even When We're Apart



KingstonCollege

KCUupdate

KingstonCollegeLondon

The Use of Digital Technology in Education

Join one of Surbiton High School's two virtual events providing you with insight into how digital technology can be used to enhance learning in a remote setting.

Senior School focus: **Tuesday 23 June, 7.00pm.**

Prep/Primary School focus: **Wednesday 1 July, 7.30pm.**

To register, scan the QR code or head to www.surbitonhigh.com/digital



SCAN ME

f/surbitonhigh

Surbiton High School is part of United Learning

@SurbitonHigh



The Hogs are ready!

It's pitch perfect, but not one ball has been bowled on it so far this season. Long Ditton Cricket Club's ground at Stokes Field off Betts Way looks tip-top, cricketers are raring to go but everyone's waiting for Boris and the sport's governing body, the ECB, to decide when they can stand at the crease again.

The situation is especially disappointing for the club who were promoted last season to the Surrey Championship.

However head of grounds Matthew Baker, pictured, has been making sure that when they get the green light the Hogs, as they are affectionately known, will be ready for action. He and a small team who live close to the club have been working in social distancing shifts, grass-cutting, strimming, hedge-trimming... doing the net maintenance and decorating the clubhouse to make sure the facilities are championship-worthy.

"To date, I'm confident that we are in the position to play cricket as soon as it is safe to do so," he said. "There are still a lot of hours that need to be put in, but once we get the green light for cricket, the Hogs will be ready!" **Jane Grove**

Chelsea: the New Normal champs

"We'll roll with the new normal," pledged Chelsea Women's manager Emma Hayes as the team from Kingsmeadow were crowned league champions of a topsy-turvy, abandoned season.

Talking to The Good Life via Zoom, the 43-year-old said she was chuffed the FA had decided "the most appropriate sporting outcome" was to name Chelsea the Women's Super League champions.

Crucially, as well as being double winners with the Conti Cup, the Blues are back in Europe when the new season starts on September 5.

She celebrated in her garden with her family. "It was low-key because my son woke me up at 5am!"

The decision not to resume the season, like the top-flight men, gives the women's game time to work out how to play and



Getting back on the water

Good news for paddleboarders, and those keen to learn. You're allowed back on the water for lessons from qualified instructors like Surbiton's Leah Fraser.

Watersport rules have relaxed, so Leah, who runs The Good Life Paddle Company, is on the Thames again. "I can offer sessions with social distancing guidelines!" she said, with tuition tailored to suit abilities and experience: gentle paddles, stretching exercises on the board, speed or fitness sessions, or foraging for fruit next to the river.

Beginners first learn stand-up paddleboarding and health and safety on land, then paddle pro classes help improvers work on technique and speed. Leah has boards, including "super stable ones for beginners". She's also an ambassador for Sandbanks Sup Style paddleboards, like this Amazon print version, pictured. There's a free Zoom lesson on its use as well.

Lessons are £40 per hour, £50 for 90 mins, daytime Fri-Sun on the Surbiton-Teddington stretch of the Thames, and some evening classes. www.goodlifepaddle.com

● Corinthian-Casuals have hired coach Martyn Lee. With the season cut short by the pandemic, the ex-Westfield FC assistant manager's job is to improve form. The side was fourth from bottom of the Isthmian League Premier Division table.

The former midfielder scored the winner for Kingstonian v Wimbledon in the 2006 Surrey Senior Cup final. Ks groundshare King George's Field, Tolworth. "I'm delighted to bring Martyn in," said manager James Bracken. "I've had

more time than usual to assess areas we can improve, and he's the perfect addition. I played with him during our youth team days at Wycombe Wanderers."

To plug the club's revenue shortfall, a £10,000 crowdfunding appeal offers donors replica shirts, signed photos, tickets, and even a chance to play against the team!

"Any donations, however big or small, will be a massive help to protecting the existence of the club," a spokesman said. Visit www.crowdfunder.co.uk/corcas



A sport that you can love

One of the last sports to be played before lockdown, and one of the first to resume, tennis is back at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club in Berrylands. "It's been a huge mental relief to be able to run around again, hitting balls and getting plenty of fresh air," said director Roy Staniland. "Sport unites people, and tennis has certainly reunited many in the past few weeks."

If you haven't picked up a racket in a while, a good way of trying the sport out is via park tennis (www.parktennisinkingston.co.uk), which allows online booking and gate access to Alexandra Road's resurfaced, secure courts.

If you're looking for a club, www.surbiton.org has full details about membership of Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, coaching, and the club's squash courts and gym.

● Can you tell a leg bye from a bye or a no ball from a dead ball? Long Ditton Cricket Club needs a new umpire for matches at Stokes Field off Betts Way, Long Ditton. "We're looking for a Saturday League umpire for our 1st XI fixtures following Sir Ian Foulds' retirement," said LDCC member James Mumford, who said previous experience wasn't essential. The season usually runs from May-September.

For more information, or to apply, email longdittoncricket@gmail.com



● Six months shy of the start of its centenary year, Surbiton Bowling Club is reopening for limited play on July 1. Founded in Alexandra rec in May 1921, it is restricting play to six at a time, with no access to clubhouse or changing room, and social distancing. But at least it's back! If further relaxation of rules is possible, or if newcomers and visitors can be accommodated, news will appear on www.surbitonbowlingclub.uk



● Surbiton Hockey Club in Sugden Road, Long Ditton, is back in action after lockdown, with players disinfecting equipment, trying to avoid physical contact and maintaining social distancing where possible.

spectate safely in a new landscape.

"I believe we'll come back bigger, stronger and better," said Hayes. "We'll roll with the new normal; it may bring more broadcast opportunities. I feel optimistic."

Asked if she felt that traditions such as players hugging fans after games, and posing for close-up selfies, were in jeopardy, she said: "I suspect there's some truth in that... until there's a vaccine."

"The physical connections we all have will be put on hold for a period of time. My question to my team is 'What will become the new normal?' and how can we continue to interact and make sure we don't lose the bond with our fans." **Tim Harrison**



THE CAT DOCTOR
AT-HOME VETERINARY CARE
Home Visits | Mobile Surgery

We are here for you during these difficult times thanks to our mobile surgery, delivering veterinary care to your door. Best wishes to all! ♥

07961 154886

info@thecatdoctor.co.uk
www.thecatdoctor.co.uk

For an up to date sales or lettings valuation please call our Partner run office on **020 8390 3333**.



"We really appreciated your straight forward honest, professional advice"

Mr & Mrs C.



John Flynn



Nick Johnson



Sam Brown



Sam Simpson



Shaana Mir

Seymour's. Large enough to make an impression, small enough to care.

enquiries@seymours-surbiton.co.uk
13 Brighton Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 5LX
seymours-estates.co.uk



SEYMOURS
Independent Estate Agents