



● Platinum jubilee parties were in full swing all over The Good Life's patch to mark the Queen's 70-year reign. Four-year-old Willow Houghton, left, got a taste of what it's like to be crowned monarch in Cotterill Road; Jeanette Gale and daughter Karen gave a royal wave in Langley Avenue; and corgi tributes included a Victoria Avenue dog with classy pearl necklace. Full round-up: **p10&11**



She's free as a bird

As the plane wheeled away, Debbie Rose made her first tandem skydive, three miles above Salisbury Plain. The PA to the head at Shrewsbury House prep school, Ditton Road, Debbie is a breast cancer survivor determined

to raise funds for Macmillan (www.justgiving.com/fundraising/deborah-rose10) in style, strapped to a Red Devil, and plunging earthwards at 129mph. "It was like being in an intense wind tunnel," she said, adding that her landing in a field of buttercups was smoother than most she's had at Heathrow!



Debbie descends, at 129mph

A new recruit to the Good Life editorial office... a friendly robin who flew in to help... saying 'I'm cheep!'

Fury in 'wing mirror alley'

One of Surbiton's narrowest streets could become a round-the-clock lorry route if nine industrial units get the go-ahead. That's the fear of residents who say adding new commercial premises to three acres of the Red Lion Business Park would blight their lives.

At present the land is a quiet secondhand car lot, but industrial developer Chancerygate wants to create nine new units up to 38ft high with the single entrance disgorging trucks 24/7 into the wing mirror alley of Red Lion Road.

Surbiton's neighbourhood committee has reviewed the scheme, with a public gallery full of dissenters making their feelings clear.

The developer called the area 'brownfield', but Cllr Anita Schaper would have none of it. "You call it industrial, but I disagree. This sits in a densely populated area." Residents say Red Lion Road and Fullers Way North struggle to cope with cars, never mind HGVs.

But Chancerygate argues there's a serious shortage of light industrial space in the area, and claims landscaping and acoustic fencing will minimise the impact of new units.

Caught in the middle is the Advantage

children's day nursery, run for two decades by the feisty Hazel Moody. She doesn't want units 6ft from where her 500 tots play. "We'll have young babies right beside HGVs," she said. "We will not accept a downgrading of our environment." She added that several parents had already threatened to remove their children. She asked councillors to imagine how they would feel if their grandchildren were playing beside trucks.

Resident Liz Mitchell calculated there could be anything up to 960 lorry movements a day, "365 days a year, all feeding on to residential roads".

A resident of Fullers Way North, whose daughter is at the Advantage nursery, said his house shook every time an HGV passed.

Chancerygate responded that Red Lion Road already had some HGV restrictions in place, and that the existing entrance "would be widened to accommodate

larger vehicles" – a comment that led to catcalls as it was felt to have endorsed residents' HGV fears.

Complicating life is the rat-run barrier in Tolworth Road, near the business park, which has drastically altered local traffic patterns in streets close by such as Cotterill and Thornhill roads.

A quarter of Surbiton's councillors took no part in the discussion on June 15. Two sat back as they are on the planning committee which will make the final decision, and one – Cllr Mariana Gonçalves – left the room as she works for the developer's agent, Savills.

Tim Harrison



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Is this street suitable for day & night HGVs?

Mind those doggone fleas

He may look sweet, taking a dip, but does a silent killer lurk in his fur? The Hogsmill and Surbiton Stream are regularly contaminated with Fipronil and Imidacloprid from dog flea treatments, which kill fish, aquatic insects and birds. Both have been banned from agriculture since 2017.

Kingston Friends of the Earth volunteers have surveyed Berrylands Nature Reserve, Tolworth Court Farm Fields, Elmbridge Meadows, Six Acre Meadow and Alexandra Millennium



Green. Tolworth's Bob Dean has analysed the results, and says only a quarter of dog owners know to keep pets away from water courses for a few days after treatment. "Best use safer flea treatment tablets," he said. More on Instagram: [friendsoftheearth_kingston](https://www.instagram.com/friendsoftheearth_kingston)

● Two weeks' work to restore the Clarendon Gardens pond to its former glory starts on Monday, July 4. The pond will get a bentonite clay liner and the banks, muddy from footfall and dog use, are being restored. Aquatic vegetation is being cut back and the pond reshaped. New planting with native oxygenators will support a healthy ecosystem, and a pond dipping platform for children will be installed. The work is part of a £64,794 makeover of the gardens, approved by Surbiton neighbourhood committee six months ago.

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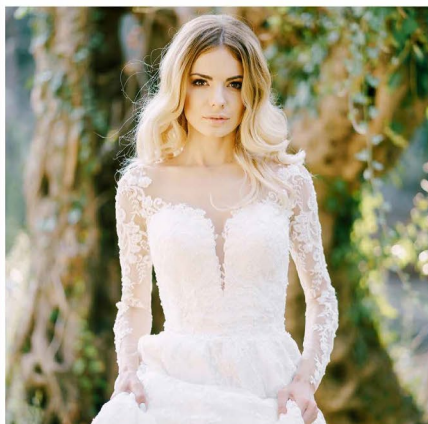
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After running one of Surbiton's most popular cafes for a decade, David Symons has sold up. He launched The Press Room in Claremont Road in the spring of 2012, despite the town boasting 33 coffee outlets within half a mile of the station. Regulars are

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unlikely to notice radical change as new owners Reema Patel and Steve Best, both 44, have worked with David on other projects. They have also bought The Press Room's sister premises in Twickenham.

"I've loved the cafe, and I'll miss the customers," said David, right, with spaniel Arlo. At 55, he swaps the daily grind for Joltify, a start-up dedicated to expanding the nation's home car charging points.

David had a serious retail career before being a coffee baron. As manager of John Lewis, Oxford Street, he handled a £300m annual turnover. Yet he's most proud of a Surbiton coffee shop which saw off Starbucks and, in Covid, for nimble switching to takeaways. In 10 years The Press Room (on the site of Southern Brew, and before that Mooka) generated 15,000 'suspended coffees', so customers could pay for a second cup for those down on their luck; a dignified scheme to aid the cash-strapped. Success requires three things, says David. Location, environment and product. Continuity is now the keyword. **Tim Harrison**

**Pressing
Change
for David**



More elbow room at the butcher's

Chop, chop! Customers missing Jennings butcher's can switch to Chessington Garden Centre, where Kevin Jennings and Alison Black are back in business for the barbecue season. When brothers Alan and Brian Jennings retired from Ewell Road and the maroon awning was retracted for the last time, regulars mourned an era's end.

But Kevin, 44, is now butchery manager of Sedum in the shop at Chessington Garden Centre (near the zoo), with three able butchers including Alison, plus apprentice Ollie, 24, and Saturday lad Jake, 17.

"We're using the same suppliers, and making our own sausages as usual," said Kevin, who says the centre's unlimited free parking has already transformed life from the Ewell Road days. The range has expanded to include barbecue kebabs, while the customer service and banter which was a hallmark of CD Jennings & Sons has transferred to the new counter. It's effectively a relaunch for Sedum butcher's as an integral part of an expanded cafe, deli and bakery within the garden centre. Mon-Sat 9-5, Sun 9.30-4.

In a generous gesture, the garden centre hosted a party for Alan (right) and Brian, inviting many of the former shop's customers along to say a proper goodbye to 60 years of Ewell Road service over a glass of fizz, and to usher in a new era, with Sedum full of stock from quality British suppliers. **TH**



**Distillery
'finishes
jigsaw'**

Sam and Alex Berry, owners of Surbiton's No 97, Cento Uno and Hideaway, have launched a distillery near the Turks Boatyard building in Thames Side, Kingston. Bone Idyll Distillery, bar & gin school has two 100-litre copper pot stills for gin, vodka and rum. There are also 10 two-litre stills in the bar area where gin classes and events will be held. A snack menu features British cheese and charcuterie. By night, it switches to a bar scene. Open Wed-Thu 4-11pm, Fri-Sat 11am-11pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Sam calls the distillery the "final piece in the jigsaw".

● Aldi's planning bid to Elmbridge Council is expected to be considered in the next few weeks, with an application to develop the old Guy Salmon car showroom site in Portsmouth Road appearing on a committee agenda in the near future.



Aldi's plans are for a two-storey building with warehouse and manager's office above, and a 926 sq m shop below, plus a car park for 51 vehicles.

The budget supermarket chain has submitted various surveys to the planning department on parking and traffic, and on the impact on nearby conservation areas.

Aldi has also proposed a middle lane in Portsmouth Road for traffic queueing to get into the car park, and a pedestrian-controlled crossing. It has compiled a report, calculating likely shopper demand.

Aldi is expecting to service the Thames Ditton store with up to three deliveries a day. Search the planning application number **2021/3857** on Elmbridge Council's website at www.elmbridge.gov.uk for news of when the application will be discussed by councillors, and a possible decision reached.

● Heading to next week's Hampton Court flower show? Make a beeline for stand **HC74**, for free sips of Hampton Court Gin, with two on offer: The 6 Wives and Lord of Misrule. Botanicals used for the small-batch hand-craft 42% gins (distilled 22 times) mirror those grown in Henry VIII's kitchen garden.

● Surbiton Farmers' Market regulars Kingston Beekeepers are also at the show (stand **HC51**).

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the good life

Editor: **Tim Harrison**

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Now lettuce pray

Don't work with children or animals! Yet St Mary's Long Ditton rector, Rev Kuhan Satkunanayagam, held a pet blessing service, asking young owners to bring rabbits, guinea pigs and dogs.

Smile at Waitrose

Surbiton's Waitrose now films shoppers at self-serve checkouts, recording each customer at the scanners. "It's because of an increase in theft," said a staffer.

Heartfelt gesture

Surbiton's GP surgery has a defibrillator thanks to the Sunray & Egmont Community Residents' Association. Inbuilt audio instructions aid use, and it is London Ambulance registered.

Samples of cake

Cookery writer Kate McBain gives the BookBox talk at St Mary's, Long Ditton, assisted by cake samples. It's on Wed, July 13, 7.30pm. Tickets £7 via www.stmaryslongditton.org.uk

Mayor's planting

Surbitonian Gardens, the dementia residential home in Browns Road, has a new sapling to mark the Queen's jubilee; presented as a last act of her mayoral year by Sushila Abraham.

Managing stress

Try a 90-minute taster of an adult education online stress course: Wed, July 13, at 2pm. It's friendly and free, with tips to increase resilience, boost wellbeing and reduce anxiety levels. www.bit.ly/KAE-CLPifh12122

A plum position

Enjoy blackberries and plums? Help on SunrayRecycle's Knollmead allotment plot in Tolworth, and reap rewards in fresh veg, flowers and fruit. Call Janine via WhatsApp on 07886 552 574.

Wheely good job

Are you a confident cyclist, enjoy the outdoors, like working with kids? Cycle instructors help Years 5 and 6 in schools. Full training and flexibility. deborah.wilson@kingston.gov.uk

A student leg-up

Surbiton Rotary has a bursary fund to help students aged 14-17 in KTS, 6 and 9 to attend courses and activities. Apply for a Caporn bursary by Sept for 2023. www.surbitonrotary.org.uk

A hospital party

Tolworth hospital in Red Lion Road holds a summer party on Wed, Jul 13, noon-3pm, for staff and community to come together. Street food vendors will serve cuisines from around the world.

Ways to keep fit

Learn about keeping fit and leading a healthier life at a Sunray community centre social in Knollmead on the afternoon of Sat, July 9, where lawn bowls and tai chi will be demonstrated, and cuppas and goody bags dispensed.

Active partners

South Western Railway is in partnership with the Community Brain group to improve Tolworth station and work together on life-improving projects.

SURBITON LIFE

by David Cox



Summer childcare arrangements finalised ahead of schedule and well under budget

Tower plans refused

In a verdict delighting the council, a planning inspector has rejected plans to convert Tolworth Tower into flats and build two more skyscrapers in the Broadway. The scheme by Healey developers to turn the iconic building into high-rise housing would, ruled Yvonne Wright, harm the area's vitality.

She rejected the developer's appeal, saying that the plans lost Tolworth the potential for low-cost office space for small businesses, lacked green energy quality and – frankly – were simply not attractive.

Surbiton committee chair Cllr Alison Holt's initial reaction was relief after an inquiry spanning six weeks and costing a small fortune in which she was called as a witness. As well as hearing from £2,000-a-day barristers hired by each side, Ms Wright visited Tolworth Broadway incognito, going in and out of shops and cafes to gauge how the scheme would hit local life.

Oddly, several of Kingston Council's most fiercely contested points were lost. It argued that 10% affordable housing, and the proportion of three-bed homes in the 500-flat project, weren't sufficient. Not so, ruled Ms Wright.

But while the inspector said that two new towers of 19 and 15 storeys wouldn't in themselves blight Tolworth (due to there being a soaking great precedent), she felt they lacked beauty compared to the striking design of Tolworth Tower.

But her verdict hinged on losing office space in the landmark 22-floor 1964 monolith; something which would damage the area's prosperity. The tower has lain empty since 2019; every fixture and fitting inside having been stripped out.



Tim Harrison

Andrea cuts her commute

A children's nursing specialist from Cranes Park, Surbiton, is the new deputy head of Kingston Uni's School of Nursing.

Dr Andrea Cockett can now stroll to work after leaving her senior academic role at King's College, London. She and the school's new head, Prof Claire Thurgate, have 70 years' combined experience.

A Surbitonian for 30 years, Dr Cockett began her teaching career at the uni in the late 1990s while also working in the children's intensive care unit at St George's.



Tooting. "What most interests me is understanding how to give students the skills and tools they need to flourish," she said.

Family history propelled her into the profession. "My grandmother qualified as a fever nurse, then became a general nurse and midwife, while my aunt also went into nursing, so it felt natural."

Life is too short, says May, 108

The First World War hadn't started when May Comfort was born. But she reached a remarkable milestone on May 18, turning 108... and enjoyed a sip of Pimms to celebrate.

The Southborough Nursing Home resident was feted at a garden party on her birthday at the home in Langley Avenue.

Daughter Gill Wilson and granddaughter Emma Murrell were proud guests of honour. Their family's matriarch has been at the care home since she was 103, having lived independently in nearby Hook in sheltered accommodation, after a fall and hip fracture prompted the move.

Most of May's family – three children, seven grandchildren, six great grandchildren and their partners – had gathered for a big family celebration with her a few days earlier. May blew out the three numbered candles on her cake and read her eighth card from the Queen. The next day she had a visit from the then mayor Cllr Sushila Abraham and her consort Dr Mathew Abraham.

The secret to a very, very long life? "I've been good," said the former machinist for an upholstery company who married Ted, an aircraft engineer (and her childhood sweetheart) at the age of 22. And what does she think of it so far? "It's been too short," was the considered reply.

Emma said that her gran had always been very determined and focused throughout her life. "She was never a shrinking violet, she always liked being the centre of attention, so this is the sort of thing she loves."

Perhaps we could all take a tip from May, who is a great fan of cards, games and puzzles. "She has always eaten a lot of fresh fruit," said Emma. "She would eat a banana every day. She never drank much; perhaps the very occasional glass of sherry. And she really likes a cup of tea."



Activities co-ordinator Shobha Lakshminarayan and home manager Kamal Gill with the birthday girl



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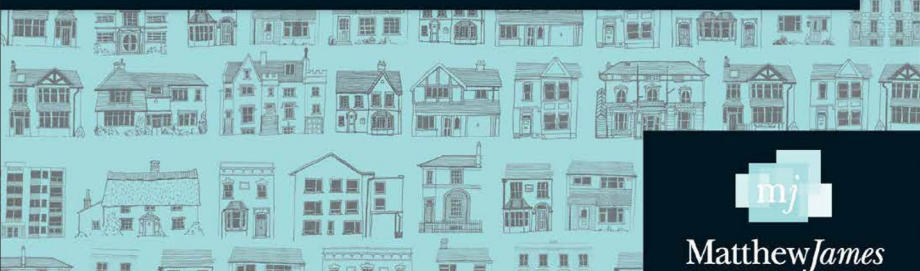
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The bishop's move

The Bishop of Kingston, who retires this year, spent his teenage years in Surbiton before embarking on a convoluted career that eventually led him to the church.

The Rt Rev Dr Richard Cheetham (or plain Dick Cheetham as he was known at Kingston Grammar School) was born in Leicester, grew up in Manchester and moved to Manor Crescent, Berrylands, in 1966 at the age of 11.

His father was a civil engineer who had worked on the M6 motorway, and shifted the family south to tackle the next seriously big project... the M25.

Surbiton was chosen as the Cheethams' new family seat as dad felt the area's large green spaces would compensate for losing access to the Peak District.

Initially ragged at KGS about his northern accent, Richard enjoyed his school years, and excelled at hockey. In later years he also played regularly for the Old Kingstonian hockey team, and to this day remains the club president.

Though he was baptised as a child, the Cheethams were not a churchgoing family. But young Richard began going to Christ Church, Surbiton, as it had a strong youth football team based beside the (long-demolished) church hall near the junction of King Charles Road and The Retreat. "That's what got me going," he said.

When he was 14 he switched to Emmanuel, Tolworth, in Grand Avenue, on the grounds that the youth group was livelier! He became a youth club leader at the same time as he began helping to run the grammar school's Christian Union, and its summer camps. Remarkably, Richard's year at KGS produced two bishops.

Emmanuel was where Richard met wife Felicity, and where they married in 1977. The couple have two grown-up children, Michael (b 1979) and Sarah (b 1981).

As a teenager, he'd briefly considered going into the church, but instead did physics and philosophy at Oxford, taught physics at a Yorkshire comprehensive, then switched to Eton ("a complete whim") for

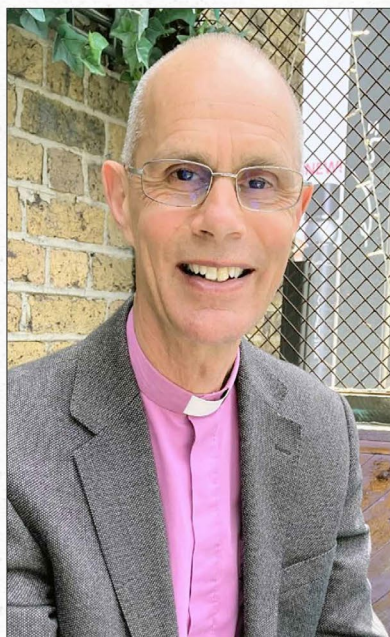
three years, at the time when a certain Boris Johnson was studying Classics.

He again briefly toyed with joining the church, but got cold feet, quit teaching, moved to Egmont Road, New Malden (attending St James church), and for a couple of years worked as an investment analyst with Legal & General.

Ordained in 1987, he became Bishop of Kingston in 2002 after stints as a curate in Newcastle, a vicar in Luton and an archdeacon in St Albans. "All through my ministry we've slid slowly down the country, relentlessly heading back to Kingston," he said.

As bishop, his 'see' extends from Kingston to Waterloo, enabling him to discover the work going on in dozens of church communities scattered along the train route.

"It's been a huge privilege to serve such an interesting, diverse, vibrant part of the world," he said, adding that he also took pride in his roles as president of one of London's main YMCA areas, and as patron of the Fircroft Trust charity. Its work supporting adults in the community with mental health challenges has a personal dimension for Richard. His maternal grandfather took his own life after years wrestling with



First World War shellshock. Richard's mother worked at one of Fircroft's charity shops.

Bishop Richard firmly believes in intertwining church and community, and maximising the use of church naves by nursery groups, gym classes, foodbanks and for neighbourhood gatherings.

"So many people are now disconnected from the church," he said. "Most are not antagonistic towards the church, and are not serious atheists; they're indifferent, or think it's not particularly relevant to them. So the connectivity into the community is important."

He jokes that you can tell a good church by the abundance and cleanliness of its loos, and whether it has a good kitchen.

He is a particular fan of the way All Saints church in Kingston has been opened up and modernised inside... remembering it well from his school days, attending numerous memorial services.

When he retires as bishop in October, on the 20th anniversary of his consecration, he'll focus on a real passion; exploring the area where science and faith

meet, through the groups ACSC, the Anglican Communion Science Commission (made up of eight bishops and eight scientists), and ECLAS, Equipping Christian Leadership in an Age of Science - a national dialogue project. It's a subject that has intrigued him ever since he did double maths and science at A-level in Kingston.

Though he currently lives in Southfields, he and Felicity are moving to Dorking. But he'll still visit Surbiton as he tries to keep fit by playing at Surbiton Methodist tennis club.

Before he finally retires (a process that necessitated getting the Queen's permission!) he'll make last nostalgic visits as bishop to the churches that helped set him on the path to ordination... Christ Church and Emmanuel in Surbiton, and St James, New Malden.

Tim Harrison

● Richard Cheetham, b August 18 1955

NOTABLE SURBITONIANS

Richard Cheetham



Above: Richard Cheetham, who is soon to retire as Bishop of Kingston after wearing the mitre for 20 years. Left, circled, as a teenager at the Kingston Grammar School Christian Union summer camp in Devon in 1972. Also highlighted, in the square, Paul Butler, who was in the same year at KGS, and is now Bishop of Durham

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Who's who in Surbiton wards

May's local elections resulted in a Lib Dem clean sweep in Surbiton. Alison Holt stays neighbourhood chair (and is deputy council leader). Three ward seats in New Malden were still being decided last week in a poll delayed by a candidate's death.

Of 45 cllrs confirmed in May, the opposition is three Tories and one independent. Two opposition members are being allowed to sit on each of three 'strategic' Kingston Council committees.

Alexandra ward has been reduced in size, and no longer includes the Sunray estate. Tolworth ward, stretching up to the A3, now falls within Surbiton neighbourhood's orbit. Uxbridge, Grove, Catherine and Cadogan roads are now part of Kingston Town ward.

ALEXANDRA WARD



Peter Herlinger



Ian Manders

BERRYLANDS WARD



Jackie Davies



Anita Schaper

ST MARK'S & SEETHING WELLS WARD



Liz Green



Diane White



Yogan Yoganathan

SURBITON HILL WARD



Alison Holt



Amir Ali Khan



Tom Reeve

TOLWORTH WARD



Mariana Gonçalves



Thay Thayalan



Andrew Wooldrige

● Past festivals have attracted 1,000 visitors, and hopes are high for this year's Hollyfest at Hollyfield School, at the top of St Mark's Hill, after last year's event was postponed because of you-know-what. Organised by parents and teachers, the festival is on Sat, July 16, from 4-10pm, with live music on two stages, food, stalls and bar, with a firework finale. Tickets £4 (£2 children), via www.hollyfest.co.uk



● After a two-year break, the Berrylands Festival returns on Sun, July 3, noon-4pm, with crockery smashing, tug-of-war, a coconut shy, crazy golf, bouncy castles, stalls and displays. More than 3,000 are expected to come to Berrylands Park (the site of the old Surbiton Lagoon). Entry free.



Fairy dancers wait to perform at 2018's event

Writer is on a grave mission

A Surbiton writer is helping raise £5,000 for a headstone for the first British woman to fly solo in a hot-air balloon. Sharon Wright, of Cleaveland Road, believes it is time for 19th-century daredevil Margaret Graham (pictured) to be commemorated. At present, the balloonist's remains lie in an unmarked pauper's grave in Hackney. "She was a charismatic and fearless pioneer who helped make the sky an early frontier of female freedom," said Sharon, author of *The Lost History of the Lady Aeronauts*. Born in Bath in 1804, Graham was the first British woman to fly solo, at 22.

● www.abneyark.org/news/2022/5/17/mrs-graham



● Her two local pillar boxes sported crochet crowns after self-taught stitcher Carol Gwilliams of Elmbridge Avenue got to work. She previously made tops for the pillar box at the corner of Grand Avenue and Elgar Avenue, with yellow and blue chicks for Easter, and – before that, and continuing the tribute to Ukraine – a yellow and blue love heart.

My, how the Masons Arms has changed. The Portsmouth Road pub at Winters Bridge, Long Ditton, once tied to Hodgson's Brewery in Kingston, went through as many name changes as Henry VIII had wives, becoming, variously: Greens, Billy Bunter's, Doc Brady's Injun Medicine Show, Tiger Joe's, The Leaf and Raintree. Now it's gone, replaced by boxy, angular flats which have absolutely nothing in common with the rows of Victorian homes they bookend.



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● Relieve stress and protect the environment at a Himalayan balsam bash on a summer evening at Elmbridge Meadows. Join Berrylands Nature Reserve volunteers to pull the invasive plant which is outcompeting native flora and degrading the Hogsmill's riverbanks. "Himalayan balsam is particularly prevalent at this time of year, and it's important we tackle it before it flowers and produces fresh seeds to spread further,"

said the reserve's Andrew Irving. "For anyone who's not done balsam bashing before, it's a fun and easy way of making a difference to our local spaces." Groups work to tackle the problem along the river. Wear trousers and long sleeves to avoid stings and grazes, stout footwear, gardening gloves... and bring drinking water. Meet at Elmbridge Meadows by 116 Elmbridge Avenue, 6pm, on: July 5, 12, 19 or 26. Email berrylandsnr@gmail.com

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Fodder for Hogsmill's discerning voles

As water voles are reintroduced to the Hogsmill in August, small plug river plants have been potted on by Citizen Zoo volunteers (pictured). Pedunculus sedge, meadowsweet and purple loosestrife will provide essential food, shelter and nesting sites for the fastest declining mammal in the country. Also on the menu, future plantings of marsh marigold, ragged robin, yellow flag iris, greater pond sedge and jointed rush.

The Surbiton-based rewilding group will hold a FestiVOLE at Thames Water's Hogsmill nature reserve site in Lower Marsh Lane in early September to mark the return of an animal which has seen a 97% drop in the UK since the 1970s. Details nearer the time at www.citizenzoo.org

● Citizen Zoo needs help with a community survey on Tolworth Court Farm Fields to build a species baseline dataset for the 50-hectare site bordered by the Hogsmill, Jubilee Way and Kingston Road. The rewilding group believes the green space in Tolworth could be one of London's greatest nature reserves, and it wants residents to get involved in the

Rewild Tolworth Court Farm project. It was launched at the cornerHOUSE in conjunction with the Field Studies Council, Kingston Council and the Community Brain. Long-term, the aim is to prove the potential of London's larger suburban green spaces.

Fri, Aug 5 (ants); Fri, Sep 23 (beetles); Fri, Oct 7 (worms etc). Full training will be given, 18+ only. Email ben@citizenzoo.org



Update from Paul Bartlett, Long Ditton Residents' Assn

Stand up for the Green Belt!

Dog walkers, cricketers, hockey players, ramblers and allotment holders are breathing a sigh of relief that the Green Belt in Long Ditton has not been released for development by Elmbridge's draft local plan. Now a public consultation is under way but the plan still has to be approved by the Planning Inspectorate.

The council concluded that no exceptional circumstances exist to make changes to the Green Belt boundary. This is fantastic news; a victory for years of respectful lobbying.

Long Ditton's Green Belt covers 166 acres, including Surbiton Hockey Club, a cricket ground, allotments, cemetery, Stokes Field nature reserve, a special needs school, Squires

garden centre, Hill Park Roses, One Tree Hill, a Buddhist centre and land east of Woodstock Lane North, up to the Hook roundabout on the A309.

While news is encouraging, it must be remembered that One Tree Hill is owned by the house builder Taylor Wimpey. In public consultations in 2016 and 2019, it was identified as a potential area for 900+ houses.

Long Ditton Residents' Assn (LDRA) has campaigned against this for six years. Loss of this metropolitan Green Belt would be disastrous as it's a buffer to the sprawl of Greater London. And Covid proved the area's worth for exercise, wellbeing and mental health.

The local plan has a vision, focusing on the climate crisis and sustainability while delivering well-designed, affordable housing. If approved, it will apply until 2037.

The consultation runs to July 29. Give your feedback at www.consult.elmbridge.gov.uk/reg19 More on the LDRA website.



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● Students at five Surbiton schools swapped eco-ideas at an event hosted by St Matthew's church, and grilled a panel of MP Ed Davey, Cllr Alison Holt, biodiversity guru Elliot Newton and diocesan green officer Jack Edwards. Hollyfield School's idea was voted best proposal: site plants in every classroom. Others included energy-free days, crisp packet recycling and a clothes swap. Joe Dowthwaite of Tolworth Girls' said: "Our girls had a great time and are brimming with ideas for future eco initiatives." Team rector Helen Hancock said it was "inspiring to hear the young people's commitment to our planet".



Talking about Seething site

Warring sides in the battle over the Seething Wells filter beds have sat around a table for the first time, exchanging views on the future of the troubled Portsmouth Road site.

At a two-hour meeting in the Guildhall, green campaigners faced Michael Graham, agent for developer Cascina, and expressed their anger at the once-green, ex-Thames Water site being stripped of vegetation.

Mr Graham said that tree roots threatened the integrity of concrete retaining walls and that work was necessary for health & safety.

He fielded questions from SWAG (the Seething Wells Action Group) and Friends of Seething Wells, and held out hope of a public park element to any eventual redevelopment.

It showed how far apart the two sides are on their hopes for the site, with Mr Graham claiming his staff had been subjected to swears phone calls, and insisting the developer would not countenance selling the site. SWAG said Cascina had undermined community trust and appeared intent on destroying the site, greenery and wildlife. More talks are planned.

Clandon Wood

Burials, ash interments and nature reserve



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Mini parade marks car factory's history

It looked like a scene from *The Italian Job* as a minima of Minis purr down Ewell Road – distainfully glancing at the new cycle lanes – to take part in an open day at the former Cooper Cars factory. The historic building, now the home of Porsche specialists Charles Ivey Ltd, was the base of the Cooper Car Company in the 1950s and 60s.

Coopers were successive F1 world champions in 1959 and 1960, with the Australian-born Jack Brabham at the wheel of a racing car built in the unlikely setting of Hollyfield Road.

Alvaro and Daniel Grego of Charles Ivey, and their staff, hosted the day, with ex-Cooper staffer Chris Dawson recalling what life was like in the 27 years he worked for the firm.

Also speaking, Alan Greenwood, a local funeral director and vintage fire engine restorer, whose dad John opened the garage when serving as the borough's mayor.

In all, 60 Minis and Mini Coopers turned up for the event organised by the John Cooper Garages Club. The Royal British Legion in Hollyfield Road lent its car park for the day as a convoy of 20 Minis arrived from Cobham.

There's a blue plaque on the wall of the factory where Charles Cooper and his son John created a racing car marque which forms a key part of classic British motorsport history.

As well as Brabham's success, there was also Argentine Grand

Prix glory for Stirling Moss in 1958, while other famous Cooper drivers included Mike Hawthorn and Jackie Stewart.

Prototypes of the Mini Cooper, the souped-up model of the British family car, were made in Surbiton in the 1950s, with racing versions winning the Monte Carlo rally three times.

Mick Jagger, George Harrison and Ringo Starr had Minis; Ringo's fitted with a second fuel tank so the Beatle didn't need to stop between Liverpool and London and risk being mobbed.

But it was the getaway scene in the 1969 film *The Italian Job* which really cemented the Mini Cooper's star status as it raced through the streets of Turin.

With staff numbers never exceeding 35, the Surbiton factory was a small operation.

Charles Cooper ran a garage in the town in the 1920s before forming the Cooper Car Company in 1947 with his son, John.

The early cars were essentially four-wheeled motorcycles which dominated the Formula Three field in the 1950s before the firm stepped up to F2 and F1.

English Heritage honoured the building at the junction of Hollyfield and Ewell roads with a blue plaque as a rare survivor of a purpose-built 1950s motor workshop.

The curved frontage echoes the rounded design of the Cooper racing cars, and was devised by architect Richard Maddock, dad of Cooper chief designer Owen Maddock.

Tim Harrison



How to stay a healthy Surbitonian, with Neil Reilly

Pace yourself when doing tasks

Don't try and do a week's worth of work in a weekend! My phone rings off the hook after a bank holiday with people who have overdone it in the garden.

Wear loose clothes that don't limit movement and warm up on lighter jobs first. Don't rush into the tempting bigger tasks.

Plan ahead. If buying gravel, compost or cement, don't overload your spine; buy lots of small bags instead of large ones. If you must buy big, get

them delivered as close as possible to where they are needed, then split them into smaller loads using a wheelbarrow for the last bit.

If using a ladder, don't overreach. Make sure to move the ladder nearer to the task and keep your shoulders, hips and knees facing the same direction.

Long-handled secateurs might be a good investment for the tricky horticultural jobs.

● Chiropractor Neil Reilly is based at Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club, Berrylands. He can be reached via www.kingstonchiropracticplus.co.uk



● Sixteen years after wearing the chain of office, Yogan Yoganathan has started a second term as mayor, succeeding another Surbiton first citizen, Sushila Abraham. Yogan is the 187th office holder, and has adopted Community Brain and Creative Youth as his good causes. His deputy, Nicola Nardelli, is also a Surbiton resident.



● Now looking more like the inside of a spaceship than a gym, Sweat Society in Victoria Road has just doubled in size. The multi-fitness centre next to Nationwide has occupied an additional floor, creating room for dedicated spin and personal training studios, state-of-the-art strength training equipment and cardio machines. When classes aren't running, the area provides additional gym space. The first floor now houses Sweat Society's low-impact classes such as mat-based pilates, yoga and barre. Georgia Ray explained: "The ground floor has a full-time reception, so you can pop in anytime for a chat and a tour, and visit the 'fuel bar' with smoothies, juices, protein bites and coffee." There will be a wider choice of classes. A soft launch last month included free taster sessions.

● Is Ziggy the cockapoo Surbiton's most pampered pet? For three years owner Sam Mansfield worked for one of London's leading animal care centres.

Now, after a career break to raise two daughters, she has launched her own dog grooming business from a cabin in her garden in Tolworth Park Road. "It's taken nearly a year, but we're finally up and running," she said. "I have a lovely tranquil cabin in the garden, kitted out with everything I need to pamper your pooch." As Ziggy will testify, Sam's Facebook page is **A Dog's Life – Groomers**.



Community groups across Kingston are coming together for a month of activity to help tackle climate change.



If you'd like to hold an event for **Sustainable September**, or would like to know more, let us know by emailing climate@kingston.gov.uk

You can find out about the council's Climate Action Plan at kingston.gov.uk/climate





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Lookout failure in rail death

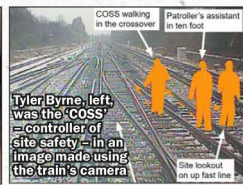
Rail accident investigators want better lookout procedures after a 30-year-old track worker was killed by a train thundering through Surbiton station.

Tyler Byrne, 30, died on the lines behind Sainsbury's, Victoria Road, after being struck by an express at 76mph.

A year-long inquiry says Tyler – one of four track staff in hi-vis jackets inspecting the lines – may have been distracted while training a colleague. Network Rail is accused of failing to learn lessons from a similar incident in which two men died.

It was at 11.35am on Feb 9 last year that Tyler was walking on lines with his back to the train from Waterloo, which sounded two warning horn blasts.

Tyler, from Aldershot, was



the designated site safety officer. The workers used 'unassisted lookouts' which, say investigators, is the 'least safe type of system'. Network Rail was in the process of abandoning the method after two workers (one 58, one 64) were killed in Wales.

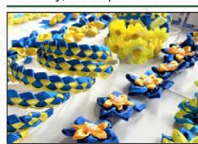
Network Rail's 'long-term failure to improve the safety of people working on the

railway' was a factor. Tyler had worked full-time for the company since 2015 and knew the Surbiton tracks well. The inquiry concluded he may have thought horn blasts were from another train. After five years with no track worker deaths, there have been fatalities every year from 2018-2022.

Tim Harrison

● Church services at St Andrew's, Maple Road, have switched to St Mark's after part of the ceiling fell down. Built in 1872, the ceiling planks are now being checked and secured. "It'll be closed for a while as the work to make it safe is laborious; reattaching each wooden ceiling plank securely," said parish administrator Clare

Chesterman. "The 150 years have taken their toll on the original fittings." The Glass Room and Blue Room are still open as usual to the church and community hires. St Andrew's concerts have either been relocated to St Mark's on St Mark's Hill, or postponed to a later date. For updates visit: surbitonchurch.org.uk



● A Ukrainian event at St Mark's church raised £8,015 for an orphanage in Chernivtsi in the west of the war-torn country. The 400 attending included MP Ed Davey, who tried on a traditional Ukrainian vyshyvanka (embroidered shirt). Borsch, cabbage rolls, pancakes and blue & yellow coloured cakes were served, while Ukrainian souvenirs proved popular. It was organised by Save Ukraine, which aids orphans near Kharkiv. More at www.saveukraine.org.uk

● There's now a defibrillator at St Mary's Long Ditton church hall, thanks to the congregation and the Surrey Division of the Masonic Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, which meets at Glenmore House, Surbiton. It cost £1,750, and is the fifth in Long Ditton (the others: village hall, cricket pavilion, Anny's and Surbiton Hockey Club, Sugden Road).



From left: freemason Andrew Sales; churchwardens Bob Hancock and Sue Rider; the Rev Kuanan Satkunanayagam; and Cllr Neil Houston



● Shushma and Rohit Patel, who run PSM Pharmacy in Tolworth, have been awarded the High Sheriff special recognition award. The citation specifies "acts of thoughtfulness and kindness in the pandemic" after the Ewell Road pharmacy's roll-out of Covid vaccinations, and its efforts to encourage take-up. "This award belongs to our family, friends and every volunteer who helped us run our vaccination clinic," said Shushma.

● A conservation day is being held at The Wood and Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary, behind Surbiton station, on Sat, July 9, to tackle invasive species such as cherry laurel, bamboo and self-sown sycamores, and remove litter. Kingston biodiversity officer Elliot Newton said he hoped people would come forward to take part, to help the site achieve its full ecological potential. "It's an area of beautiful mature native woodland which supports an array of

wildlife, including woodland birds such as great spotted woodpeckers, song thrush, blackcaps and even one of our smallest birds the firecrest," he said, adding that the hope was to set up a Friends' group. Meet at 10am by the information board near the park gates. Visit www.eventbrite.co.uk and search for The Wood and Richard Jefferies Bird Sanctuary Conservation Day.

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Surbiton marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in style. Residents of Browns Road, Warwick Grove, Alpha Road, Mayberry Place and King Charles Crescent gathered in **Browns Road** for a dressing-up race, crown-making competition, cake contest, quiz and raffle, with a surprise visit by unicorn Phoenix Blaze. "It was wonderful; a bonus was raising £400 for Ukrainian charities," said Cllr Tom Reeve.

Surbiton MP Ed Davey joined the revellers at the **Langley Avenue** and **Kirkleas Road** street party, and took time to speak to **Royal Star & Garter** veterans who were also invited. One organiser, Alison Filkin, said: "We had a fabulous day with the unveiling of a jubilee plaque and an old-fashioned singalong."

St Matthew's Avenue's street party

It was quite a jubilee

started with a short church service where the Queen was prayed for, the National Anthem sung and the recently restored bells rung. Then it was out into the street for jubilee quizzes, face painting, giant bubble making, and tricks by magician Kevin Hayes. In the best-dressed dog competition, Star, a five-year-old Springer/Basset, wore a coronation gown and robe. "A very happy day. Old friends, new friends and some wonderful memories made," said Child's Play Nursery manager Mel Fynn.

Cotterill Road was renamed CotteRoyal Road for the day and a special currency was issued – the CotteRoyal pound – allowing residents to buy refreshments from the Pimm's bar and make donations in honesty boxes. There was a singalong, and comedians from Surbiton's Whole Lotta Comedy entertained. The jubilee pud – a lemon Swiss roll and amaretti trifle – proved a hit. The party raised £1,310 to furnish Dysart School's sensory garden. One organiser, Mike de Souza, said: "The enthusiasm was overwhelming, so much so that we have had requests asking when is the next one!"

The Queen was at the centre of the **Horne Road** party where children played with giant Jenga and did pavement chalk drawings. There was also a crafts table where they could get creative. "We had a wonderful turnout and although it was the



CotteRoyal Road

Clockwise from left: Wheely bins put to use in Kings Road, Long Ditton; renaming Cotterill Road;

Star, 5, the Springer/Basset cross, in crown and robe in St Matthew's Avenue; Mike de Souza blends in with his Cotterill home; and at the St Mark's tea party, organiser Del Gadd poses with curate Janice Price



Clockwise from top left: Amanda and Hadyn van der Berg in party hats at St Matthew's Avenue; costumed superheroes race along Browns Road; mayor Cllr Yogan Yoganathan greets Margaret Palmer, 87, in Victoria Avenue, where she has lived for 49 years; Ann Blower added Commonwealth sparkle to the Oaks Way, Long Ditton, party after arriving from South Africa; Surbiton MP Ed Davey explains the Northern Ireland Protocol to Jenny Meers and her mum, Winifred White, 97, as residents of the Royal Star & Garter joined the fun at Langley Avenue; bunting across Langley Avenue; Ajantha Pratheepan in a patriotic hat at Sunray Avenue's event; and ex-teacher Debbie Stubbington is welcomed back to St Matthew's School, with a road named after her

On the day of the Queen's coronation on **June 2 1953**, Surbiton woke at 7am to a 10-minute peal of bells at **St Matthew's**. OAPs watched newfangled TVs at **Surbiton Assembly Rooms**, and a cricket match at **King Edward's rec** pitted North of the By-Pass v South! Surbiton Bowling Club played at **Alexandra rec**, where Surbiton Chamber of Commerce's procession from **Balacava Road** ended with pigeon fanciers releasing 500 birds. The Queen's speech was broadcast via tannoy at Surbiton Youth Council's fireworks pageant. The 4th Surbiton Ajax Sea Scouts illuminated their boat and Hollyfield Old Time Dance

Club held an assembly rooms ball. Other balls were held by Tolworth and District Old Time Dance Club and Surbiton Round Table, and there was a garden party at **Shrewsbury House School**. Surbiton Chess Club's contest at **Surbiton County Grammar School** saw 1936 British chess champion William Winter take on all comers. **Surbiton Odeon** showed the film **A Queen is Crowned**. Old folk were taken by coach to see the central London illuminations, there was a darts and dominoes match between Surbiton Club for the Blind and the British Legion, and a horticultural show was staged at **Fishponds**.

Paul Lang



Weston Green School rated "Excellent" in ISI Inspection

"Pupils have a very secure moral compass, which they demonstrate without hesitation"



"Successful in its aim of providing pupils with opportunities to achieve their academic potential"

There is lots to celebrate at Weston Green School in Thames Ditton, Surrey.

It has recently been awarded **'Excellent'** in all areas by the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) for the academic achievement and personal development of its pupils, reinforcing its aim to celebrate childhood and give pupils a breadth of opportunity to achieve individual success.

The school prides itself on providing opportunities for each child to reach their academic potential within an environment where they feel valued, fulfilled, confident and emotionally secure.

Since the school's last inspection in 2017, the school has grown from strength to

strength with the new inspection commenting that pupils have **"outstanding levels of self-confidence"** and that **"opportunities abound for pupils to experience excellence in achievement"**.

The Headteacher, Sarah Evans said, "I am thrilled that the **Inspectors have given such high praise to every aspect of school life** and have acknowledged the excellent academic achievements, as well as the incredible personal developments our children achieve throughout their time at Weston Green School."

Children and staff celebrated the excellent news with a party as they left school with cakes, music and balloons! We're delighted to have **a few spaces available for September 2022** - so do get in touch for a personal tour.



Weston Green School
An **"Excellent"** school
ISI Inspection March 2022
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first party of its kind on our road, we already plan to do more," said Lucy Bull who organised it with neighbour Jenny Smallman.

St Mark's church held a tea party in the garden on St Mark's Hill with cakes, scones, sandwiches and fizz. £400 was raised.

Mayor Cllr Yogan Yoganathan was at **Victoria Avenue's** party and met Margaret Palmer, 87, a resident for 49 years. There was glitter painting for Ukraine, pin the tail on the corgi and games in the rec. "It went on for 12 hours; a great turnout," said an organiser, Lucy Joyce.

St Matthew's School welcomed back former teacher Debbie Stubbington to unveil a road sign named after her at the allotment and school bus site. Debbie taught every year group in 43 years at the Langley Road school, retiring in July 2020. Covid delayed her send-off. Year groups sang hits from decades of the Queen's rule. After themed races, parent Valeria Bolton's royal cake was cut by Debbie.

The green outside homes in **Sunray Avenue** proved the perfect spot for a jubilee get-together. After a toast to the Queen, residents enjoyed a Victoria sponge. Neighbours in **Firdene** also enjoyed a party with red, white and blue bunting and balloons.

The even houses brought puddings and cakes, and the odds brought savoury at the **Kings Road**. Long Ditton, party. Wine flowed and gin cocktails were sipped. A raffle raised £100 for Mind in Kingston.

With bubbly, a loyal toast, jubilee cake and a hat competition, residents of **Oaks Way**, Long Ditton, had a barbecue, toasted marshmallows in a fire pit, and ended with fireworks.



A surprise face in the crowd at Herne Road's street party



● Cheers! Two Sylvias raise patriotic paper cups of fizz to toast the Queen at Alfriston in Berrylands Road: former Waitrose checkout staff Sylvia Secrett, 89, left, of Hook Road, and Sylvia Derbyshire, 94, of Lovelace Gardens, who joked that she was catching the monarch up. Alfriston closed as a day care centre in 2020 but - thanks to masterchef Tim Carter (right, basting the roasties), manager Lisa Blackman, assistant

Liam Burke, driver William Young and hardy volunteers - the kitchen supplies hot lunches to 100 seniors, and helps with shopping and laundry. In two years, 8,867 meals have been delivered by Alfriston Outreach, now a valued point of contact for many living alone. Thanks to meticulous precautions, not one recipient has caught Covid. The jubilee was a chance for everyone to return for a tea party and catch-up; some sharing lunch 'in person' for the first time since the pandemic. Surbiton Rotary is supporting Alfriston, to revive safe socialising to counter loneliness. "I miss the companionship," said Sylvia Secrett. "This is such a friendly place."



● Art student Xiaobin Wang drew a regal jubilee picture frame on Anglian's Tolworth Broadway window, so passers-by could pose for selfies with a cartoon Queen. Xiaobin, a second year at Kingston School of Art, said that the whole experience had been "very exciting".



● A majestic panorama of Queen's Prom's pocket park and river view garden has been unveiled for the jubilee. Created by artist Lisa Tolley, famed for her stylised images of local buildings and people, the picture is displayed on Surbiton's riverside walk as a guide to areas revamped by the Queen's Promenade Friends. Founder Julian Meers explained that Lisa's picture carries a QR code, allowing admirers to donate to future restoration projects. With every Royal otherwise engaged, The Good Life's Tim Harrison did the unveiling and summarised the Promenade's history.



● Another stunning example of arty shop window painting at Humphrey & Brand's Claremont Road office, for the jubilee.

Does this guy ring any bells?

Surbiton author Stephen Harding's 10th novel, *Ringing Bells*, is a rip-roaring comedy... and a change of direction for the writer of the Janus sci-fi trilogy.

It draws on the Elgar Avenue resident's time as a telecoms engineer in the 1980s, before the era of laptops, smartphones and wifi. "It's based on funny stories that came with the job; it's about a loveable bunch of engineers battling through good and bad times," he said. Download from Amazon or go to Novels by Stephen Harding on Facebook.

As for leaving Janus as a trilogy... In keeping with Stephen's surreal style, the writer is already working on a fourth in the series!



Garden is music to our ears

Composer, songwriter and producer Jon Shave is used to collaborating with the likes of Little Mix and Miley Cyrus, but now he's teamed up with the Community Brain to create music inspired by the Tolworth Court Farm Fields nature reserve. It features at the Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival (July 4-9), where it is one of four compositions with others by Our Lady Immaculate's Year 5s, Marian Bore and Kingston Uni student Samuel Robinson. The Symphony of the Wild garden has a giant 3.5m violin centrepiece, and will be reconstructed after the show near Tolworth station.

"Spending time in the nature reserve reminded me of all the music in nature," said Jon. "It was a joy to take inspiration from the natural surroundings and find melodies in the birdsong."



Listen up, folks

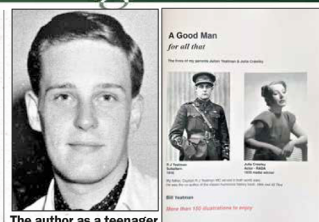
Reg Meuross is a singer and songwriter, crafting short stories inspired by fragments of history, politics and real lives, as well as love and loss, and setting them to captivating melodies. The musician, pictured below, will be charming audiences with his folk and country-tinged songs at the cornerHOUSE in Douglas Road, Surbiton, on Tues, July 19.

Mark Worledge (songwriter and guitarist) and John Mannel (guitar, flute and harmonica) are Back of a Length. Together they play traditional, contemporary and original songs and tunes. Expect a mixture of rousing choruses, thoughtful self-penned songs and stirring tunes with a bit of humour along the way.

Back of a Length play the cornerHOUSE on Tues, August 16.

Both gigs start at 8pm and cost £12. They are part of Folk@the cornerHOUSE - a monthly series of gigs showcasing the best in folk music. Each evening has a main guest and a support act.

Tickets and gig news: www.ticketsource.co.uk/ Folkthe cornerHOUSE



The author as a teenager

Bill charts his history

A Surbiton man has published a lavish history of his parents in a book spanning the 20th century.

At 85, Bill Yeatman has trawled family papers to produce *A Good Man For All That* - the title referencing dad Julian's co-authored masterpiece *1066 And All That*, a 1930 parody of school history lessons which influenced Flinders & Swann, Monty Python and Blackadder.

Bill, who has lived in The Avenue for 30 years, relates that his father's original manuscript was carelessly left in a London taxi, forcing his dad to reassemble it from notes.

This new book, with 150 illustrations, also charts the life of Bill's mother, actress Julia Crawley. The volume really comes alive, however, with Bill's own childhood memories, teenage anecdotes and confessions, sprinkled with entertaining name-dropping.

Married, divorced and the father of a daughter by his early 20s, Bill explained: "I'm an ex-movie guy, and I wrote it in storyboard style with no page numbers, split into 10 parts with outtakes."

The book, full of photos and endearingly naive sketches, is really aimed at his grandson, Alexander. All it lacks is a last chapter to bring us right up to speed with everyone mentioned.

● *A Good Man For All That* is £20 at Tolworth Photographic at 33 Tolworth Broadway.

● Earl Okin and Tez Ilyas, right, headline for Whole Lotta Comedy at the cornerHOUSE. Musician Earl opened for Van Morrison in the 70s, later adding comedy to his act. Tez had his own Radio 4 series. Earl is on Sat, Jul 16, Tez on Sat, Aug 13. 8pm. www.ticketsource.co.uk/wholelottacomedy



● There's family fun at the cornerHOUSE, Douglas Road, as the musical *Matilda Jr*, based on Roald Dahl's book, is performed, July 8-10, 7.30pm + 3pm matinees. It's the story of a schoolgirl with a sharp wit and a vivid imagination who dares to stand up to bullying, and it's being put on by Surbiton's youth theatre group South Side Theatre Academy. It's a joyous girl-power romp, with two alternating casts, aged 7 to 11. Tickets are £10. For more details about the show, or to book, visit www.southsidetheatre.com/matilda-jr

● The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists, a semi-autobiographical novel by Irish house painter and sign writer Robert Noonan, who wrote under the name of Robert Tressell, has been hailed as a classic of working-class literature. So much so that George Orwell described it as "a book everyone should read". cornerHOUSE chairman Jeremy Thorn reveals his passion for the book and a link to his own family at a Surbiton Historical Society talk at the Douglas Road arts centre on Mon, July 4 at 7.30pm. Non-members £2.



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Surbiton Boxing Club staged its first England Boxing-affiliated amateur show at Tolworth Recreation Centre, with clubs from as far afield as Norwich taking part in weight categories from 54 to 86kg. Ages ranged from 12 to 29. A 300-strong audience cheered on 15 scheduled bouts from novice to senior elite. In attendance, English middleweight champion and Berrylands resident Germaine Brown, and Olympic silver medalist Michael Conlan.

Surbiton's nine boxers performed well. Surbiton Boxing Club coach James Furlong said: "As a community club we were blown away by the support from coaches, volunteers, supporters, officials and clubs. Our values are hard work, discipline, dedication, support and teamwork, and all were showcased."

The club, behind the BT Exchange in Ewell Road, offers training, fitness and a healthy lifestyle via boxing. Ages 10 to adult.

Established in 2013, the club is affiliated to England Boxing. Email head coach Harry Morris at surbitonboxingclub@yahoo.com or call 020 8390 9576.



Tom Ellis throws a punch at Emmanuel Kyereme

Tony's the new gaffer

Tony Reid is the new first team manager of Tolworth-based Corinthian-Casuals; the pick of 30 applicants after James Bracken's seven-year stretch. The ex-manager of Walton & Hersham and Westfield, with whom he won promotion to the Isthmian League, his style of free-flowing, high intensity football has earned him praise. A former player at King George's, Tony was also at Carshalton Athletic and Kingstonian, where he lifted the Surrey Senior Cup alongside former Casuals' assistant Martyn Lee. "Words can't explain how it feels to be appointed Corinthian-Casuals manager," he said. "This is the level where I wanted to be, so I'm relishing the challenge. With the football that I will bring to the club, we'll create something good."



● Though he only made the semis, Andy Murray, right, drew crowds to Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club in Berrylands for this year's Surbiton Trophy. Club director Roy Staniland, below with women's champ Alison Van Uytvanck, was delighted with the turnout. Jordan Thompson won his first title on grass, but it was Murray's willingness to discuss his experience as a child in the



Dunblane shooting as news broke of another school massacre in the States that caught the world's attention. Van Uytvanck said after her win: "I love to play on grass; it's a really nice centre court."

● Four parents from St Andrew's & St Mark's juniors, Maple Road, are doing a 10-mile Thames paddleboard for 10-year-old pupil Poppy Gee, who has a rare blistering skin condition. Kate Gee, Maria Steinert, Emma Makepeace and Kate Marsh support Cure EB after taking up the sport in lockdown. www.justgiving.com/Paddleboard-EB




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● Berrylands swimmer Peter Black is limbering up for a solo swim of the Solent to help the charity Aspire UK. The 58-year-old Endway resident, who is married to Claire and has three grown-up children, attempts the three-mile open water challenge in September from Portsmouth to Ryde Sands to aid people paralysed by spinal cord injury. Peter, a music administrator and Surbiton Methodist tennis club member, has already done a six-person English Channel relay. Back him at: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Peter-Black22

Trophy honours a footballing pioneer

Corinthian-Casuals host a four-team football competition for amateur and semi-pro clubs from England, the USA and Hungary in Tolworth. The Egri Erbstein tournament, named after former Torino manager and Holocaust survivor Ernő Egri Erbstein, will take place at King George's Field against Budapesti AK, Fall River Marksmen and Sheffield FC.

There are two semi-finals on Sat July 23, followed by a third-place play-off and the final on Sun July 24; matches at noon and 4pm.

Tickets are available for the whole weekend, or individual days, the clubhouse bar is open and local street food sold.

The event - Casuals are the current holders - celebrates the power of football to cross borders and unite people, and the sense of fair play known as The Corinthian Spirit. Info: egriebstein.org



Casuals captain Danny Bracken is mobbed after lifting the new Corinthian Cup



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