



● Take a Star of Bristol and a Purple Haze and you get a Surbiton! See p7 for the full story

Are you in the zone?

● The Black Lion pub at the Maple Road/Brighton Road lights finds itself on the frontline of the new low emission divide. **p3**



● It's all smiles as the Thames Concerts season starts with a feast of percussion and a Ukrainian brass band. Turn to **p11**

● Mrs Bennet's Regency dancers join the Surbiton Festival parade on the 23rd. See **p3**



● Kingston College's overall BTEC pass rate was 94%, while half of the students taking the national extended diploma gained the equivalent of three As at A-level. More than 600 students are now bound for university or an apprenticeship. "We're absolutely delighted," said principal John O'Shea. "The results are incredibly pleasing."

Fury over summer mast bids

Stocking great phone masts may soon tower over Surbiton green spaces after bids for 50ft poles were quietly lodged during the summer holidays. One would be against the St Andrew's Square



How the proposed 5G mast would dominate St Andrew's Sq

railings, in a conservation zone. "Putting it in the middle of a densely populated historic area of Surbiton is madness," said resident Helen Ridley, adding permission was even needed to prune trees.

The other would dominate the green at the junction of Burney and Ferguson avenues. Applications arrived in early August, after school break-up and in a council meeting lull... the usual ploy for mast bids. But councillors have little power. In April 2022, Boris Johnson sped up 5G roll-out by allowing masts up to 82ft (25m), unless council officers are prepared to robustly challenge adverse 'visual impact'.

They must take into account residents' objections before announcing a decision by the Sept 26 deadline. The proposed mast in Maple Road, plus assorted cabinetry, would loom over St Andrew's Square, the last surviving Victorian garden square in south-west London; centrepiece of Thomas Pooley's vision for Surbiton, mapped out in 1838 as the railway arrived.

Residents reacted strongly, with a word-of-mouth campaign urging comments on Kingston Council's planning portal.

"This beautiful square would be vandalised by the plan, and I'm deeply concerned about the impact so close to Maple infants and junior schools," said neighbour Sarah Lawrence.

Applicant Signal Infrastructure stated that, post-Covid, "high-speed mobile connectivity is the

● Continued on p9

Stabbing accused appears in court

A man was due to appear at Guildford Crown Court for a plea and pre-trial hearing on Fri, Sept 15 following the double stabbings at the Crowne Plaza hotel in Long Ditton, on Sun, July 9.

Sher Wali, 48, of Portsmouth Road, Long Ditton, is charged with two counts of attempted murder and possessing a bladed article.

Two people were taken to hospital, and were said to be in a serious but stable condition as they were treated for their injuries after the stabbings at the hotel in Portsmouth Road, which currently houses Afghan refugees.

Two air ambulances attended - one landing in Long Ditton rec and the other behind the hotel.

A spokeswoman for Surrey Police said: "They have both been fully discharged [from hospital] and are making a good recovery at home."

On Tues, July 11, two days after the incident, pro-refugee supporters and anti-illegal immigrant protesters had a war of words outside the hotel.

One warning was issued by the police for common assault.

Experienced and qualified one-to-one **ONLINE TUTOR** for KS3 secondary level English

Specialising in all aspects of **GCSE English Language and Literature**



"We would strongly recommend Lucy to any student wishing to improve their English"

Providing expert support with:

- ✓ Exam strategy and timing
- ✓ Creative and essay writing
- ✓ Reading comprehension

Lucy Furlong

Please contact me for details and rates:

07859 997 617

la_furlong@hotmail.com

www.lucyfurlong.com

First Session HALF PRICE when you book before Sept 30th
 Contact me for details

Ready to talk about your next move?

We're ready to take your call. We're the independent agent selling and letting homes in Surbiton for over 15 years, so we know all about the local property market.

Call us today to arrange a free valuation.

HUMPHREY & BRAND

020 8399 1888

humphreyandbrand.co.uk



FIND OUT!

PREMIER CARS
 SAVE 10% EXCLUSIVE OFFER OUR HAPPY
020 8274 9000
 HEATHROW £46.30 / GATWICK £55
 www.premierminicabs.com

ROSE THEATRE
 WIN A TRIP TO OSLO
SHOOTING HEDDA GABLER
 By Nina Sigal After Henrik Ibsen Directed by Jeff James
29 SEPTEMBER - 21 OCTOBER
 rosetheatre.org 020 8174 0090
 *T&Cs apply. Visit rosetheatre.org for more information.

hello summer...

...the market is hotting up

HJC
 HIGHER VALUES

It's time to get your teeth into selling, buying or letting your home. Contact HJC to discuss your property requirements.

020 8390 0404 sales
 020 8390 9290 lettings
 www.hjc.co.uk

For 43 years, Coffee Bay has roasted Surbiton's coffee...

Change is brewing

first at a dinky town centre shop, and for two decades at 274 Ewell Road. But times are changing. Founder John Green may still be resident coffee guru, but the business is now jointly owned by all 18 employees. The shop has had a dramatic facelift: still selling the wherewithal to make brews at home, plus loose teas and coffee beans, but now also offering coffees and teas to go, or sip and people-watch at barstools.



Mike Vickery at the Red Lion Road base

The area's major supplier of tailored blends to 300+ cafes and restaurants, Coffee Bay's working hub is a warehouse in the nearby Red Lion business park, where 50-kilo hessian sacks of beans arrive from the coffee belt (between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn) to be roasted and ground.

The enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, coffee seems boundless. Modern technology meets traditional methods on the site: roasted beans fly up and down tubes from huge hoppers, but are



Jason Kirkpatrick

monitored by screens which wouldn't look out of place in a hospital.

Jason Kirkpatrick, who has worked for the firm for nearly 30 years, says he never tires of that alluring roast coffee smell.

The target is to be totally sustainable, while the over-riding mission remains to serve customers with the best, freshest brews.

"Coffee Bay has been underselling itself," said Mike Vickery. "The shop used to have an 'Open All Hours' look about it, but it's been revamped, and has a new website too."

But customers can still chat to founder John Green, whose bean knowledge is unrivalled.

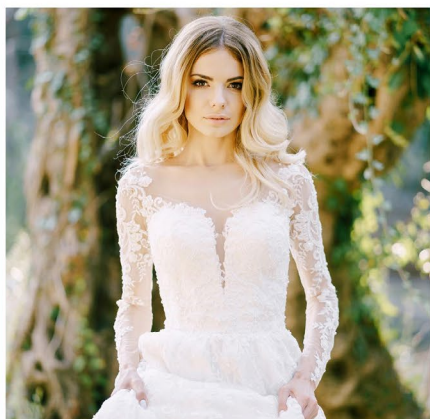
coffeebay.co.uk

Tim Harrison

WARD & CROSS Ltd.



Roberts
CLEANERS



When the honeymoon is over...

We clean and preserve bridal dresses.

Open 8.30am-5.30pm Monday-Friday
9am-4pm Saturday

16 Claremont Road, Surbiton KT6 4QU
020 8390 6705

CHANGING YOUR VEHICLE DUE TO ULEZ!

WE OFFER A "NEW USED VEHICLE INSPECTION" TO GIVE YOU
PEACE OF MIND - CONTACT US FOR MORE INFO



WVM WALSH VEHICLE
MANAGEMENT
CALL OR EMAIL US ON 0208 399 8584/INFO@WASLHVM.COM

There's Brazilian flair in the Bosco kitchen. Chef at the hotel, lounge and cocktail bar in St Mark's Hill is Marcello Costa (49), right, from São Paulo, who worked his way round the world before settling in Surbiton.

He left Brazil in 2001 to be a chef in Sydney, to improve his English, joining Bosco in 2012. He then worked in a Runnymede hotel before returning to Bosco, where he now works alongside fellow chef Ozay Coban.

Along the way he gained a Polish wife and four children - three daughters and a little son called Lennon (reflecting his love of the Beatles!). "I love it here," the Chelsea fan told The Good Life. "I love to cook steak, and I think I bring a little Brazilian to the menu." The Bosco kitchen also specialises in tacos and tapas, including calamari and monkfish. All chicken and meat is marinated for 24 hours, but it also caters for vegan and vegetarian guests, and - increasingly - gluten-free customers. It may be September, but the Christmas menu is imminent. hotelbosco.co.uk



Festival celebrates Big Smoke beers

The Antelope's ninth beer festival (Fri, Oct 27-Mon, Oct 30) offers 40 kegs, 20 casks, 15 ciders, gin and rum, live music Fri and Sat, and barbecue. "The Big Smoke beers include several just for the festival," said Rich Craig.

It's been an unsettled summer at the Maple Road pub after the Big Smoke Pub Co went into administration on July 6, though customers were reassured it was simply "a bump in the road". Trading woes were blamed on Covid.

For a fortnight a question mark hung over the Antelope and eight sister pubs, including Kingston's Albion. The 108 staff awaited news, then it emerged the pubs had been bought by Esher ABC Ltd, owned by 64-year-old local investor Richard Newman, but retaining the existing management team.

The Antelope dates to 1853. It was tied to Hodgson's, Courage, Whitbread, Greene King and finally Big Smoke, which brewed beer in sheds at the back.

When the brewery (unaffected by the pub chain's shenanigans) moved to Esher, the Antelope created The Brewhouse restaurant at the back. Festival runs 11am-11pm Fri, Sat and Mon, midday-10.30pm Sun.

Bring a leek or potato, or both, to The King's Soup on Sun, Oct 15 in Claremont Gardens.

"King's Soup is more than just cooking; it's a symbol of what a community can achieve when we all come together," said Robin Hutchinson of The Community Brain. "It's a chance to contribute to, and sip soup with, neighbours while enjoying free live music by local artists." Free grub and music from 1.30-4.30pm in the gardens off Claremont Road.



Serious investment has gone into a new arrival in Tolworth Broadway, The Alb Lounge, right opposite the tower. It's neither bar, restaurant nor coffee shop, but all three. "It's a lounge,"

The Good Life was assured. "It's somewhere to chill, and have a drink." And it does food. Alb is short for Albanian, but the menu is a mix of Mediterranean, Greek and Turkish dishes. It occupies the former Padbok Thai restaurant site at No120, which served green curries for a decade, and was once called Sao Siam. Open 10-10, Sun-Thu, and 10-11, Fri & Sat.



Poke-a-gone

Three months after it opened, snack bowl micro-restaurant Poke Place has closed. Set up by 32-year-old entrepreneur Guy Adams in the Sweat Soc gym foyer, next to the Duke pub in Victoria Road, it was based on a Hawaiian takeaway model, using fresh - often raw - ingredients, but with a pan-Asian twist.

"Sadly it just didn't work out; there wasn't enough footfall," The Good Life was told after the tiny grab-and-go eatery, which also offered coffees, juices, smoothies and bagels, packed up.



Vine grows

Settling nicely into its stride, the all-day coffee bar/cocktail lounge/venue The Surbitonian Vine in Claremont Road had a good summer with its outdoor tables particularly popular catching the late afternoon sun.

It's developing, with tapas-style dishes being added to the mix. During the morning, the tea and coffee-making expertise built up at the sister outlet The Surbitonian Grind in Ewell Road takes centre stage, but light snacks, draught beers and a robust wine list come into play from lunchtime into evening.

The Vine is also available to hire as a venue for parties and events, and there are two-for-one deals on coffees and cocktails until October 15, if you present vouchers on the back page of this paper. Instagram @thesurbitonianvine

It's an ominous sign when circus posters appear on a shop window. Neighbours report that Berrylands' curved cafe, Chai@34, has closed after three years. Housed beneath the flats at the King Charles Road/Berrylands Road junction (the ones that took eons to build on the site of a car showroom), it was owned by Russian-born entrepreneur Yana Mann, who set up Chai Enterprise Ltd in August 2020. It could seat 36 inside, with scope for outdoor tables, but never really got going.



You may like your food spicy, but be warned. The pokiest sauce at Surbiton's farmers' market is stronger than police pepper spray.

At 6.4million on the Scoville heat scale, Horse Power is to be treated with caution. It also explains why it's £10 a bottle, rather than the £5.50 charged for most of the entertainingly labelled sauces sold by Chilli Project stallholder and maker Rick Saunders, 43.

A Leatherhead-based software developer by day, he spends evenings and weekends developing different chilli mixes, brand names and label designs, including his Hot Fox blend of Carolina Reaper and Naga chillies. He has been selling at festivals and markets for six years.

chilliproject.co.uk



Never miss The Good Life

If you live outside our distribution area, or in flats with limited access, we can post The Good Life to you: £12 for a year's worth. Head an email Subscription_send_your_name_and_address_to_thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com and we'll send you details.

the good life

Editor: Tim Harrison

Set up at the start of 2012, the community paper for Surbiton, Tolworth, Berrylands & Long Ditton appears regularly from March to December. We deliver to 12,200 homes.

Issues are also 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.

Email thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com Between editions, follow us on Instagram (scan the QR code) and Facebook

@thegoodlifesurbiton and check our website.

Back issues at: thegoodlifesurbiton.co.uk

This paper is also available at Michael's shoe repairs; Shoes at Last; the cornerHOUSE arts centre, and direct by post (see above).



Our Lady turns 60

Congratulations to Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth, which has celebrated its diamond anniversary. The redbrick church at the end of the Broadway was dedicated in 1963.

Sustain the month

Free Sustainable September events highlight ways residents can link with, and protect, nature. kingston.gov.uk/sustainable-september

Station is in pieces

Restored mosaics were being unveiled at Surbiton station on Sept 11; the work of Hillcroft College artists-in-residence Jo Lewis & Franca Hunt.

Free cycle checks

The Dr Bike team invites all cyclists to Surbiton station on Thu, Sep 21, between 4 and 7pm, for a free 10-minute service and brake check.

Heritage review

Surbiton's conservation areas are being reviewed; the first time in 15 years. Rebecca Eng talks options at the Kingston Society on Wed, Sep 20, 7.30pm, Tiffin School. All welcome.

Serving up sport

Surbiton Racket & Fitness Club's bar TV covers all big sports events, including Premier and Champions League football, rugby, ATP and WTA tennis. Food is also available.

Airport bus boost

Good news for Surbitonians who take the X26 bus from Kingston to Heathrow. The service has recently increased to four buses an hour.

Making the grade

With 88% of grades at 9-7, principal Rebecca Glover dubbed Surbiton High's GCSE results "outstanding". One girl, 'Sophie G', got 11 grade 9s.

Dancing for fun

Mrs Bennet's Regency dance class next takes to the floor of St Mark's hall (entrance in Church Hill Road) at 8pm on Wed, Sept 20. The £5 fee includes a cuppa. mrsbennet.co.uk

Destressing kids

Want to help your child cope with exam stress? An online local adult education course (£7.50) from 6.30-8pm on Wed, Oct 18, offers advice. Visit: bit.ly/KAE-CLW12324

Developing talent

Marking 130 years, Kingston Camera Club, with members across the borough, holds a 200-image photo show from Sep 30-Oct 13, 10am-4pm, at All Saints, Kingston. Free.

Road set to close

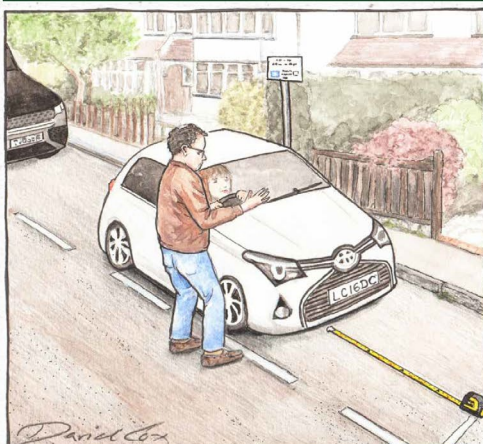
Toby Way, by Tolworth's Hollywood Bowl, will shut for eight weeks from Sept 11 for roadworks at the Signal Park flats. Contractor Conway will restrict noisiest work to mornings.

Musical vintages

The ExCellar wine bar at 20 Brighton Road now offers free 'soothing' jazz nights on Thursdays from 7pm, entitled Beyond The Surbiton Sky.

SURBITON LIFE

by David Cox



Out-of-town visitors taking care to park precisely in the middle of a two-car space

Festival is set to fill the streets

Surbiton's annual festival on Saturday, Sept 23, will fill Victoria Road and St Andrew's Road with more than 100 stalls. There will be live music, and food and drink, in St Andrew's Square and Claremont Gardens, plus a brass band on the station forecourt. Younger children will enjoy face painting and a teddy bears picnic in Claremont Gardens.

The noon parade will have police motorcycles, the Surbiton Royal British Legion youth marching band, Spring Grove morris dancers, Circus Suburbia and ULEZ-exempt classic cars. Festival chair Robbie Dobbie said: "The Surbiton Festival celebrates the community, and we'd like to thank everyone who has supported this event over the past 29 years."

"The fun-filled event relies on a small group of firms and individuals who organise it, sponsorship by local businesses, the participation of local groups and societies, and an awesome line-up of local entertainers who volunteer to perform throughout the day." More at surbitonfestival.co.uk

Are you compliant?

ULEZ is here; the clean-air boundary splits Surbiton, with businesses fretting it may deter out-of-town customers.

The scrappage scheme means every Kingston borough resident affected by the Ultra Low Emission Zone can apply for up to £2,000 compensation to scrap old vehicles. Firms can claim up to £6,000 to retrofit vans. Charity minibuses and wheelchair-adapted vehicles also qualify. Visit tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/scrappage-schemes or call 0343 222 2222.

The zone runs down Brighton Road, Upper Brighton Road and Hook Road, so won't affect areas to the west, eg Balacava, Lovelace and Southborough. It excludes Tolworth's Sunray estate and Malden Rushett. Chessington World of Adventures falls within the zone.

The aim is to improve air quality by removing polluting vehicles. Central London has already seen NO₂ cut by nearly half. Map of the boundary: tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion-2023

If your car, motorbike or van doesn't comply, you'll have to pay £12.50 a day to drive in the zone, or risk a £180 fine (£90 if paid in 14 days). Check compliance at tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle

Pay the charge at tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/pay-to-drive-in-london You can register up to five vehicles on Autopay at tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/auto-pay while firms can use tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/fleet-auto-pay

Download the free Tfl Pay to Drive in London app or phone 0343 222 2222 or textphone 020 7649 9123.

Patients travelling to NHS hospital appointments may be exempt. Check at tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/reimbursements-of-the-congestion-charge-and-ulez-charge

● Wardens have been ticketing any delivery mopeds outside McDonald's which stray on to the pavement, creating a bottleneck for shoppers. At times there are more than 20 either side of the zebra crossing in Victoria Road, waiting to ferry round-the-clock Big Macs to Surbitonians reluctant to rise from their sofas. The blitz was welcomed by Cllr Andrew Woodridge, a vocal critic of any encroachment into pedestrians' pavement space.



A buffer to cost-of-living crisis

Community groups and local charities can apply for grants to fund projects or knock money off their rent or energy bills. A £720,000 pot has been established to support community groups and cultural organisations through the cost-of-living crisis.

Kingston Council has launched the second phase of a community resilience fund, with grants of up to £3,000 for rent and energy bills, up to £5,000 for small projects and up to £20,000 to help fund larger initiatives.

In the first phase, launched in April, £290,000 was awarded to 37 local organisations.

Grants ranging from £74 to £23,000 have already been allocated to fund programmes across the borough, including the refurbishment of community kitchens, expanding a community fridge project, and one-to-one money 'buddy' advice for people with mental health and learning issues. Funding will also support wellbeing activities for unpaid carers, provide bicycles and cycle training, and contribute to paying a local choir's bills.

Council leader Andreas Kirsch said: "We had over 60 applications to phase 1 of the fund and I'm immensely proud that we are able to fund 37 fantastic projects that will make a real difference in our neighbourhoods."

"Kingston's voluntary, community and cultural organisations are vital to the resilience and cohesion of the borough. These grants fund projects that will support residents and communities through the challenges they are facing with unprecedented rises in the cost of living."

● Visit kingston.gov.uk/communityresiliencefund email strategy@kingston.gov.uk or call 020 8547 5000.

Celebrate 40 years with us.

To celebrate our 40th Anniversary, we are giving away a pair of Spundown pillows worth £58 to our first 40 customers throughout October.

As a family run business, our small, friendly team of specialists provide expert and independent advice. With over 40 beds and mattresses on display to try before you buy, our entire store is dedicated to helping you make the right choice.

43-45 Brighton Road, Surbiton KT6 5LR
T: 020 8399 3293 W: bed-post.co.uk

Our gift to you:
A free pair of Spundown pillows for our first 40 customers in October.

Offer valid with purchase of full price item.
Minimum spend £200.
Promo code BEDGP2309.
Terms & Conditions apply - see in store for details.

THE BED POST
40 YEARS SINCE 1983

SURBITON & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ALL WELCOME!

Tuesday October 3
7.30pm (bar open 7pm)
Update on the Horton Cemetery
Project by Kevin McDonnell

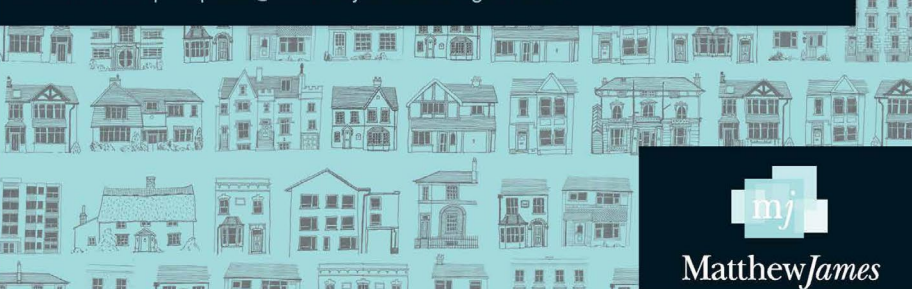


Tuesday November 7
7.30pm (bar open 7pm)
Good Life editor Tim Harrison
talks about Queen's Promenade

Both talks at the cornerHOUSE,
116 Douglas Road
surbitonhistoricalsociety.org

Selling & Letting in your area...

020 8390 2266 | enquiries@matthewjamesestateagents.co.uk



Matthew James

THE ANTELOPE'S

Legendary

BEER FESTIVAL


FRIDAY 27TH OCT - MONDAY 30TH OCT



87 Maple Road, Surbiton

30 KEGS • 20 CASKS
15 CIDERS • GIN & RUM BAR

www.theantelope.co.uk



IMPERIAL SMILES Ltd

SAME-DAY DENTURE REPAIR SERVICE

RESTORE YOUR SMILE WITH IMPERIAL SMILES

Life-like prosthetic dentures, veneers or crowns made by skilled technicians using cutting-edge technology in our Kingston lab. Meticulous attention to detail for a perfect fit and natural look. We transform lives with confident smiles.

IMPERIAL SMILES DENTAL LAB

Experts in precision, quality and excellence

020 8546 8923 // 07918 312 263

www.imperial-smiles.co.uk

FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND MEMORIAL STONEMASONS



Robert, Chris, Andrew & Michael Lodge

OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

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

SURBITON
50-52 Brighton Road
020 8546 3504

Also branches in:

HAM
426 Richmond Road 020 8090 1685

NEW MALDEN
26 Coombe Road 020 8075 6112

Trustpilot

"The staff at Lodge Brothers have been sympathetic, understanding and supportive. They were with us every step of the way throughout a very difficult time and we are and will be forever grateful for their support."

★★★★★

Mr Robinson

Lodge BROTHERS 1780

the family you can turn to

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk

ASK ABOUT OUR PRE-PAYMENT FUNERAL PLANS

FLORAL TRIBUTES • FUNERAL PLANS • WILLS & PROBATE

Esme dies at 104

Surbiton's oldest charity volunteer has died at 104. As she turned 100, Esme Mills still did weekly shifts at the Princess Alice Hospice shop opposite Sainsbury's in Victoria Road.



Born in London in the First World War, Esme lived in Christ Church Road and attended Our Lady Immaculate, Tolworth, where a requiem mass was held. She played the organ there, having played the organ at St Raphael's, Portsmouth Road, for 40 years.

Esme began volunteering at the Princess Alice shop's Kingston branch in the 1980s, but switched to Thursdays at the Surbiton shop following the death of her husband, Ron, who was cared for in the hospice.

She was regularly stopped in the street for photos by tourists convinced she was the Queen! She happily posed for snaps after assuring mistaken visitors that the late Queen was, in fact, eight years her junior! Esme died peacefully in St George's Hospital.

Society stalwart

A stalwart of Surbiton & District Historical Society, Margaret Kelly has died at 86.



At a service of thanksgiving at St Mark's, the Rev Janice Price described the St Matthew's Avenue resident as "a person of deep integrity, kind and good, generous and gracious, with a strength and resilience that was impressive".

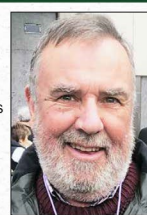
Marge, as many knew her, and husband John were married for 62 years. They met at a youth club.

She worked for Barclays Bank and Surrey County Council, and was secretary to two vicars of St Mark's in the 70s. An assiduous and dependable volunteer, she assisted at a Surbiton playgroup in the 1960s and 70s, was a tawny owl, and worked regular days at Kingston's local history room for 25 years.

She served on the committees of Surbiton's historical society and St Matthew's residents' association, and was active in Surbiton's Caledonian Society. She had a strong faith, contributing in many ways to St Mark's church on St Mark's Hill. She leaves husband John, children Jo, Isabel & Richard, and grandchildren Rory, Jacob, Florence & Wilfred.

Ian Mole, who ran The Bun Shop in Berrylands Road, has died at 73. His open mic comedy nights in the pub's back room famously gave comic Lee Mack his first break at a stand-up evening in September 1994.

Mine host



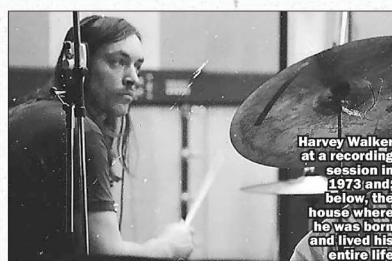
Born in April 1950, Mole grew up in Chessington, went to Hinchley Wood School and was an engineering apprentice at Mollarts, later running a business in Worcester Park. "It takes an engineer," became a catchphrase. Daughters Rea and Amy arrived after he married Elaine. The family lived in Ellerton Road.

He and Elaine took on The Bun Shop in 1989 (it later became Brave New World) and ran it until being made bankrupt in 1996. Divorce followed. Mole remarried Lorraine and lived in Southwood Drive, Tolworth, then Epsom.

A memorial service at St George's, Hamilton Avenue, (where Ian helped set up the men's club) included grandchildren Theo, Max and Ella. A pal, Akhtar Shah, called Mole "one of the most perfectly imperfect men I ever knew". Rea read a poem she'd written about him. Amy recalled him drenching her with a soda siphon, and remembered her dad regularly nagging her to stop swearing, adding "but anyone who has ever been in a car with Dad knows where I got it from".

Mole was a popular figure at Surbiton's cornerHOUSE, appearing in several plays and helping behind the scenes. He laid the parquet floor used daily in the bar of the arts centre in Douglas Road.

Surbiton musician Harvey Walker, who lived all his life in Regent Road, is now playing drums in an altogether more exalted setting. At his funeral, the Rev Lesley Charlton, a neighbour, called him "a man who loved a grumble over the garden fence".



Harvey's musical life

Born Edward Harvey Walker, the son of a bank manager, he embraced music after technical college in Twickenham, drumming in local bands when he wasn't working for the Directorate of Overseas Surveys in Tolworth, or Anchor Press printers in Red Lion Road.

His memories of Surbiton's music scene in the 60s and 70s provided material for his history of the Toby Jug pub. "I passed my driving test in 1970, and then played in bands at Kingston Poly, the Fighting

Cocks, the Grey Horse and Eel Pie Island, supporting Shakey Vick and backing Wolfie Witcher & His Brew," he told me.

He roadied for the Yardbirds when they played the Ritz (now

Wetherspoons) in Surbiton, then drummed for Jim McCarty's band Illusion, notably at The Rainbow.

Harvey was 73, reclusive, curmudgeonly and possessed of an encyclopaedic knowledge

of Berrylands history.

He owned two TVR cars and a dilapidated Morris Minor, and doted on cats Jimmy and Sammy.

Covid struck him badly, leaving him with lingering anxiety.

A monarchist, traditionalist and pessimist, he had the same lunch each day: egg and cress sandwich + cheese & onion crisps. He never travelled beyond our shores, and never had a passport.

Tim Harrison



Key cutting Luggage and leather goods Watch batteries and straps Shoe care products



020 8339 9995
11 Claremont Road, Surbiton

Is this the Lake District?

Crumbs! Who or what is a crummock? The tiny sliproad leading to Sainsbury's car park ramp has just been named.

Crummock Chase runs round the back of the Victoria Road shops... but is it Crummock or Crummocks? And would you know a crummock if it bit you on the leg?

Estate agents now refer to it as Crummock Chase, singular. But the street sign suggests there's more than one. Some Scots call walking sticks 'crummocks'. And it can also mean a vegetable or crumple-horned cow. Then there's Crummock Water.

Turns out that's our Crummock. A council spokesman said: "Crummock Chase was named and numbered to facilitate two new blocks of flats accessed off what was an unnamed service road. Crummock Chase was chosen from a pre-approved list of names the council holds, and is named after a lake in the Lake District."

So Crummock Chase it is, even if a service road by the railway line may not instantly conjure up images of watery idylls. But why make signs calling it **Crummocks** Chase instead? **Tim Harrison**



Long Ditton curate Alison Baverstock, who is also a Kingston University professor, has helped develop a project to support Ukrainian refugees gain English language skills.

Organised in partnership with Kingston Council, the free 10-week course is being offered as part of the government's Homes for Ukraine scheme.

Prof Baverstock devised the course with Kingston Language Scheme module leader Gabrielle Smallbone. Eight Ukrainians have already completed it. Now the hope is to expand it to other refugee groups, and the university's international students.

"Refugees face a host of challenges and barriers when resettling into a new country," said Prof Baverstock, who swaps college clothes for a dog collar to help conduct services at St Mary's church. "We wanted to play our part in helping them with their transition into UK life by removing the language barrier they face accessing higher education and continuing career development."

Her colleague Ms Smallbone said the course would smoothe the route to higher education, where would-be students have to meet a required standard of English and communication skills.

"After receiving emails from refugees who had just resettled in the UK, but were not able to afford the course, it felt only right to look at what we could do to support them," she said. Kingston Council helped identify Ukrainian students in the Surbiton and Kingston area who could benefit, ranging from young people, whose education had been interrupted by war, to professionals who wanted to boost their prospects.

As well as the courses, the possibility of partnering with English language test providers is being explored, to enable refugees to sit exams for free.



Jessie Shepherd, Kingston Council resettlement & integration officer; Alison Baverstock; and Gabrielle Smallbone

Pastures new for Helen

After more than a decade tending the flock at St Matthew's, Helen Hancock is leaving as team rector of Tolworth, Hook & Surbiton to take up a new part-time post in the Surrey countryside. She leaves the church in St Matthew's Avenue in early October to become resident minister at St John's, Churt & Rushmoor.

Built in 1838, St John's is 30 years older than St Matthew's... and the job comes with a large vicarage. "It's been a really hard decision for both Simon and me, and we leave with heavy hearts... but also excited about a fresh chapter with new opportunities."



It's a hole lot better now



The worst road in the borough has become the best. The little lane that leads to the car park behind Surbiton Library resembled the old British Leyland test track before it reached the top of the queue and was re-tarmacked. It was so bad you could shout your name and hear it echo from potholes. Now it's smooth as silk.



Parking rules change

You're going to need a phone to use Surbiton's street parking bays... unless you happen to be near a corner shop.

The council is switching off the borough's 180 pay-and-display machines this autumn, to save having to fork out £1.8m to replace them.

You'll now have to use the RingGo smartphone app, after registering your number plate, location, car make, colour and credit card (myringgo.co.uk/register or call 020 3046 0060).

Or you can find a space and then phone RingGo on 020 7125 0044, or text 81025, and pay by card.

You can still pay cash, but only if you traipse to one of 60 PayPoint convenience stores.

You can access 30 minutes free parking too when using RingGo at some locations, or by registering your parking session at a PayPoint shop.

Blue badge parking is still free for up to three hours, or as signposted. kingston.gov.uk/parking-1/pay-parking/1

Clandon Wood

Burials, ash interments
and nature reserve



Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*)
at Clandon Wood

- Set in 31 acres of English meadowland in the Surrey Hills - close to the A3 at Ripley
- A place for everyone – religious, spiritual or secular
- Burial and ash plots available for immediate or future need
- Live webcast service ensures no one need miss a funeral
- On site office and grounds open seven days a week

A perfect place to be

Our experienced and caring team is on hand to help. Simply phone, email or come and visit – you will always be welcome.

T: 01483 479614
E: info@clandonwood.com
www.clandonwood.com



Guildford in Bloom
2021 & 2019 Gold Award
– Best Site for Natural
Conservation



Cemetery of the Year
2021, 2020 & 2019
Winner – Natural
Burial Category

Free fresh fruit drive

The goal is to cut food waste, distribute fresh fruit and promote organic food. Abundance Kingston saves locally grown fruit from rotting in gardens and on public land. Volunteers harvest apples, pears and plums then distribute in the community. Private owners keep what they want, with some left for the birds, bees and insects.

The group promotes the importance of locally grown food, its health and ecological benefits and low carbon footprint as it

is not transported miles. It offers workshops on juicing and fruit preserving.

Everyone is encouraged to use Abundance's two fruit presses for juice-making, and they are loaned to allotments and schools. Fresh fruit is given out free, and the project is self-sustaining by making and selling juice at events. Some fruit goes to making local cider.

It's fun, open-air volunteering in September and October. Email abundance@ttingston.org or call/text 07749 633973 to report laden fruit trees, or help harvest, juice or receive free fresh produce. "It's wonderful to be out there picking fruit in a leafy garden on a sunny morning," said Toni Izzard, left. www.ttingston.org



• They're called the Water Babies; a team from the Alpha Road residents' association who water and weed a newly planted bed of low-maintenance perennials. The plants in Howard Road replace an area of shrubs planted by the council which was out of control.

Glendale, which maintains borough green spaces, cleared the area for association members to turn the soil, buy compost, bark, chippings and plants, then dig them in over two days. The finishing touch was a fence round the border.

"We hope other residents will help us keep it maintained by watering, weeding and looking after it," said association chair Mary Parmar.

Parklands Decorating



www.parklandsdecorating.co.uk
facebook.com/parklandsdecoratingsurbiton
www.paintingdecoratingassociation.co.uk
parklandsdecorating@yahoo.co.uk
07801 102 861

• What do you call a gathering of ring-necked parakeets? A squawk? A screech? Officially it's a flock, or a pandemonium, or a prattle or a company. After listening to this mob, queuing impatiently to steal the seed meant for the sparrows of Surbiton, add 'a shriek' to the list.



• Year 5 & 6 youngsters at Lime Tree primary worked on encouraging wildlife in Surbiton in national fieldwork fortnight. Borough biodiversity officer Elliot Newton spoke to the school before pupils began collecting data.

He told them that woodpecker tongues are so long they wrap around inside the birds' head. Kingfishers aren't blue; it's light creating the illusion; and when owls communicate, one owl calls "Too-wit" while the other calls "Too-woo".

Elliot led the children from the school just off Ewell Road on a safari to The Wood near the station to inspect badger snuffle marks, and see where a quarry existed in Victorian times. He showed them deadwood structures that a team helped create to provide homes for stag beetles, the largest beetle species in Europe, which live as larvae for three years before a brief life as an adult.

The children learnt how important bees are, for pollinating crops and contributing to the world's food supply, were urged to walk or cycle whenever possible, and to conserve water by not leaving the tap running when brushing teeth.



What's up Doc? It's Bugs Burney!

Children living near Surbiton's Burney Triangle have been watering the bee-friendly verberna, lavender, honeysuckle, nepeta and thyme, and marvelling at the new bug hotel with woodcut images of bees, moths, butterflies, earwigs and beetles which are already making it their home.

It was created by Tom Hooker of Surbiton's Wild Reclamation from foraged wood. It has a sedum roof, nest boxes, bird feeder and hedgehog door.

Residents near the junction of Burney Avenue and Ferguson Avenue have undertaken to top up the feeder and do any necessary weeding.

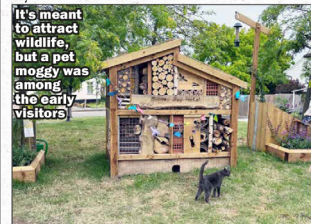
They turned out in force to see the mayor, Cllr Diane White, officially declare the bug hotel open and to hear Kingston biodiversity officer Elliot Newton talk about its value. "It's important that we have things like this; our suburban landscape is vital for so many species," he said. "The UK is now ranked 187th in the world for biodiversity!"

"Since the Second World War we've lost 97% of our wildflowers, and since the 1970s we've lost 60% of our butterflies, so we're really seeing a huge decline. It's pulling apart our life-support systems."

Underlining the bug hotel's value, red mason bees had moved in within days.

Councillor ward funding paid for the stylish construction.

It's meant to attract wildlife, but a pet moggy was among the early visitors



• A large crowd gathered on Queen's Promenade to hear how volunteers have been sprucing up the area.

Mayor Cllr Diane White cut a ribbon to mark the official opening of the Julian Meers Italian Garden, one of the areas along the one-and-a-quarter-mile walkway by Portsmouth Road where the Friends group has been working.

She praised the efforts of the group (queenspromenadefriends.org) of which Julian is the founder) which has transformed a large part of the riverside walk, helping it earn Green Flag status.

At the Promtastic event, info on clearing and planting was interspersed with facts about the history from Good Life editor Tim Harrison.



Mayor Diane White with Prom Friends' chairman Stefan Gross and founder Julian Meers

• A new generation of eco-friendly candles are proving popular at Surbiton's farmers' market. Lisabel Biscaldi, a singer-songwriter with an intriguing sideline, was behind the table at her Masked Garden stall to promote nature-inspired sustainable vegan candles.

"We don't use paraffin wax; it's all natural soy," said the 28-year-old, who as well as candles was offering her CD, *Keep Me Afloat*. Some candles are in scallop shells, others (£16) are in pots. All have wood wicks, instead of string. "They crackle as they burn," she said.

Lisabel has lived in London for a decade, and began her hand-poured candle-making three years ago. Scents include bergamot, ylang-ylang flowers and sage.



YOU ARE WARMLY WELCOMED TO THE

Surbiton
Festival
2023

JOIN US FOR FOOD, FUN, MUSIC & MORE!



MARKET OPEN FROM 10AM - 4PM

PARADE AT MIDDAY

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES AND MUSIC IN CLAREMONT GARDENS

FOOD AND DRINK IN ST ANDREWS SQ

MUSIC IN ST ANDREWS SQ UNTIL 5PM

Generously sponsored by



SATURDAY 23RD SEPTEMBER | 10 AM TO 4 PM

VICTORIA ROAD, ST. ANDREW'S ROAD,

ST. ANDREW'S SQUARE, CLAREMONT GARDENS



www.facebook.com/surbitonfestival



@surbofestival



www.surbitonfestival.co.uk

Passiflora passion

Myles Irvine is an alchemist. From his Lovelace Road home he creates passion flower hybrids, aiming for stunning, free-flowering plants.

"Every now and again you get something spectacular," said the former gym owner who has grown passion flowers since the 1980s and bred them since the early 90s.

He uses a distribution firm in California and nurseries which test and grow the plugs in the UK, Holland, Canada and America.

Myles specialises in bee-friendly flowers which are relatively hardy and suit the UK climate. He has won numerous awards and created and named 10 Passiflora including Betty Myles Young (after his mum), Snow Queen and our favourite, Star of Surbiton.

"What you're looking for as a breeder is something distinctive, and Star of Surbiton is



Myles and, right, Star of Surbiton

that. Star of Bristol and Purple Haze are the parents. It's unique; very white and pale. Nothing looks quite like it." It can take four years to create something that is commercially viable.

"Passion flowers are difficult to breed. It's a war of attrition, and sometimes you just need luck. It's fascinating, but it's tough," he added.

Visit riversidepassiflora.com and passionflow.co.uk Jane Grove

Barrier method

A final drop-in session about Berrylands traffic barriers is on Tue, Sept 26, 7-9pm, at Emmanuel church hall, Grand Avenue, after consultation was extended to the end of the month.

A 400-name petition (kingston.gov.uk/consultations/petitions) demands the King Charles Road barrier go, to end rat-running in Berrylands' residential streets. The deadline is Oct 20.

"The council's well-intentioned plan to keep traffic in Ewell Road has failed," said Rukhshana Bilimoria of

Raeburn Avenue. "Knock-on effects weren't properly considered, nor

was Berrylands as a whole properly consulted." Data shows 500 additional drivers a day now cut through the area.

Seventy attended a drop-in event in July near the Alexandra Drive shops. Resident Denis Vernon said the mood was "dissatisfaction tinged with genuine anger". Despite council assurances, the feeling was that opinions were being ignored, he added. "To a plea from a council officer to tell him how he could make journeys better, the response was 'Stop interfering!'"

Concerns revolve around the limited access points to Berrylands, the awkward junction of Ewell and Hollyfield roads, and a traffic surge in Raeburn Avenue. The area committee will debate the issue this autumn.



Chips with everything

Snowdon, Bailey, Cartier-Bresson, Jacobson... yes, Surbiton lensman David Jacobson (Instagram: [andmakeitsnappyuk](https://www.instagram.com/andmakeitsnappyuk)) joins the greats after his print Chips, Chips, was one of 80 picked from 3,500 for the Royal Photographic Society's summer exhibition.

"One of my moans about modern-day photography is that most people view pictures on a 6in screen," he said. "So to have a photo displayed as it should be, and at such a prestigious event couldn't make me happier. This is a Hopperesque image I'd had in my head forever, yet one that had always proved elusive."

David was prowling Broadstairs, Kent, when he



passed a chippy where condiments had been tidied "as a heavenly ray of light beamed down momentarily". His trembling finger descended, capturing the scene for posterity.

Aldi remains bullish after losing store appeal



How it would have looked

Aldi's appeal to build a supermarket in Portsmouth Road has been turned down by an inspector.

Following a seven-day inquiry, David Wildsmith backed Elmbridge Council's reasons for refusing permission for a budget store on the Guy Salmon showroom site, citing the effect on the nearby conservation area and Grade II listed Angel pub, and the adverse impact on neighbouring properties.

The inspector felt there might be some benefits to a foodstore, but these were considered not as substantial as Aldi had claimed at appeal.

Thames Ditton & Weston Green Residents' Association welcomed the decision, but said it had been a divisive issue. "While a lot of people favoured having an Aldi, the overriding view of those living closest was against it.

"The residents' association's objection was not to an Aldi as such (we're well aware of the popularity of nearby Aldi and Lidl stores), but to the development of a busy supermarket with extended opening hours in this out-of-town, stand-alone, residential location."

A spokesperson for Aldi said: "We're extremely disappointed our appeal has been refused, especially as we've worked closely with the council and residents to ensure proposals would meet the needs of the local community. It was supported by all statutory consultees with the local authority recommending the scheme for approval.

"We remain fully committed to investing in the area and opening a new Aldi."



LAMBERT
Medical Practice

Offering :

- GP
- Children's Clinic
- Menopause Planning
- Same day blood testing
- Health checks
- Counselling

Present this advert to receive an
exclusive **20% discount**

In Tolworth

380 Ewell Road, KT6 7BE

Contact us today to schedule your appointment:

0208 133 5694

Website: www.lambertmedicalpractice.co.uk



NEW DIRECTIONS

Adult learning for careers, life and wellbeing

ENROL NOW
RHACC.AC.UK

RHACC
Richmond and Hillcroft
Adult Community College



FSK SUPPLIES

Stationary Kitchen & Storage



● Pay attention at the back. Apparently, the plastic bucket shop near Megan's in Victoria Road sells kitchens that don't move. Yes, the signwriter fell into the trap of placing an 'a' where an 'e' should be. Your editor's memory aid? Cars are stationary, pens need stationery. You're welcome.

● Not so much a public house, more a public horse. Lots of them. The City Arms in Portsmouth Road was from where David Cox snapped these steeds, tucking into the neighbours' laurel hedge while waiting for their owners to rehydrate on the hoof at the bar on the other side of the road.



● The birdman of Surbiton has left his 'nest'. Well, the heap of bedding and belongings in the doorway of the old M&Co in Victoria Road have been removed. Signs promise the imminent arrival of a pre-Christmas pop-up shop, while warning people not to dump any rubbish.

● There's a gap where charging points in Waitrose's car park once were. Not helpful for owners of electric cars. "They'll be back," The Good Life was assured. "We're just waiting for new generation charging points to be fitted."



One year on, green business group will get to meet in person

Members of the Kingston Green Business Community will meet in person for the first time on Mon, Sept 18. The community, which has nearly 70 members, offers networking opportunities to local businesses which pursue a green agenda.

The meeting at Kingston's Rose theatre marks a year since the organisation was

launched to help transition the borough into a green economy.

Earlier this year the group helped to create the borough's first ever Efficient Homes Show at Hollyfield School in Surbiton. Hundreds of visitors attended, getting information on how to reduce energy bills.

There were also talks and panel

discussions led by experts. It proved such a success that another is planned for Sat, May 18 next year, at the same venue.

The group is free to join and is made up of borough-based businesses and organisations of all sizes and sectors, from well-established companies to start-ups. It aims to help members to save resources, as well as reduce their

environmental impact and running costs. It also identifies potential customers and markets and enjoys links with other business communities which share the same objectives.

For more information and for details on how to join visit kingston.gov.uk/climate-change/climate-change-information-business Jane Grove

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

WE ARE YOUR LOCAL NO-NONSENSE WEB DESIGN COMPANY

abricot
abricot-production.com

E: info@abricot-production.com
T: 020 8720 7315

MBE
SURBITON



MAIL BOXES ETC.

[MailBoxesEtcUK](https://www.facebook.com/MailBoxesEtcUK)
[@mbesurbiton](https://twitter.com/mbesurbiton)



- Print, Copy & Scanning Services •
- Binding & Finishing Services •
- Courier Services •
- Personal & Business Addresses •
- Packaging Solutions •
- E-mail & Internet Services •
- Inkjet Cartridges & Office Supplies •
- Passport Photos •

61 Victoria Road, Surbiton KT6 4JX
0208 399 8399 • www.mbe.co.uk/surbiton



TRINCA

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE USE OPENTABLE
WED-SAT NOON TO 10PM TRINCA@THEROASTING.CO.UK
73 HOOK ROAD KT6 5AF 07507 888590

IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR A FOOD AND WINE EXPERIENCE

● The well-used playground at Victoria Rec will close until mid October while it's upgraded to improve access for children with special needs. Safer surfaces will be laid and the sandpit refurbished with a new surround. A shade sail will be added.

The play tunnel and embankment will be resurfaced and new equipment installed by the toddler area, including bongo drums, play panels, springers and a spinner bowl. A new path will be made, old benches replaced, and a picnic table constructed.

Ward councillor Liz Green said: "I'm delighted we're seeing improvements. It'll make the play space more accessible and includes sensory play areas for everyone to enjoy."



● Youngsters had fun limboing during the Surbiton Royal British Legion open day last month. For future events, see p10

● Continued from p1

lifeblood of a community", and claimed other sites in Brighton Road, Portsmouth Road and The Mall were unsuitable because of narrow pavements.

The proposed Ferguson Avenue/Burney Avenue 5G mast, also 50ft, would dwarf houses around the Burney Triangle, a green space where time, effort and money has just gone into creating a new bug hotel and planters to improve the biodiversity of the area and attract more wildlife.

"Residents are up in arms," said Marcus Wagner of Ferguson Avenue. "It's beyond belief they think this is acceptable. The mobile signal is fine in this area." Neighbour Mary Watt of Burney Avenue agreed. "It's the wrong place for a mast."

Cllr Liz Green said it was strange how many mast bids were made in school hols. "As ward councillors we've objected; it's not suitable because of the green space, lack of other sites being considered, and errors on the application form."

Signal said the mast would "assimilate well into the immediate street scene and not be detrimental".

Fury over masts

How to stay a healthy Surbitonian, with Neil Reilly

Heads up: how are you sleeping?

Waking with a headache is more common than you think. When you wake, cortisol levels rise to help you emerge from the sleep state. This heightens sensitivity to smell, touch and sound, but also make you more sensitive to pain.

Daytime predisposing factors such as poor ergonomics and stress make morning headaches more likely, but also consider these nocturnal factors.

● I see patients who wake in distress after sleeping awkwardly and overloading neck muscles. The worst is sleeping prone with your head twisted to one side. Imagine spending 8 hours of the day looking over your shoulder.

● A comfortable pillow that

supports your neck without tilting your head is essential.

● Blue light exposure. I don't mean dreaming you're being chased by the police. Don't scroll on your phone before bed, read a book or listen to a podcast.

● Oversleeping can upset your circadian rhythm and give you a 'groggy' headache. Eight to 10 hours sleep is recommended.

● Snoring. Regular headache sufferers are twice as likely to be chronic snorers due to reduced oxygen uptake in the brain. Try to cut alcohol intake. It relaxes the muscles in the airway, causing it to narrow. So it's good night from me, but don't sleep tight.

● Neil Reilly is based in Berrylands. kingstonchiropracticplus.co.uk



Clinic promises rapid GP dates

Kneen to see your GP but daunted by the wait? A private clinic promises swift appointments, and says it takes pressure off the NHS.

Lambert GP Practice at 380 Ewell Road, Tolworth, and the sports clinic next door, set up in a former pet shop and trade paint outlet, is a wellbeing base which founder Bruno Pereira hopes will be a template for future centres.

Rapid doctor appointments are £49.99 (for at least 20 minutes), while physio, sport and posture work is offered at below market rates.

Bruno, a Portuguese tech whizz, says that his clinic complements the hard-pressed NHS.

Why Tolworth? He sees the area's potential for regeneration and growth. Lambert also runs over 60s' exercise classes on Wednesdays at Our Lady Immaculate



church, with 24 regularly attending.

Next to the medical hub is the sports clinic with technical equipment to boost performance and assist recovery, plus massage and conditioning programmes. There are even electronic insteps to gauge how well you're walking, and an anti-gravity treadmill that's kind to knees.

Lambert charges half the going rate for menopause appointments, and offers counselling, including anger management. Blood tests are in-house, with results in an hour. Diabetes tests (£8) get results in 15 minutes. Results are shared with patients' NHS doctors.

"I'm not replacing the NHS, I'm trying to complement it, and get back to an old 'family doctor' set-up, so you see the same doctor, not a locum," said Bruno, who does fitness assessments for Kingstonian and Corinthian-Casuals youth teams, and Surbiton Boxing Club. "Just because it's private, it's not expensive."

Lambert does deals for local firms which want to offer staff a health check and preventative medicine perk.

lambertmedicalpractice.co.uk

Telson Roofwise Limited

104 Leatherhead Road, Chessington, Surrey KT9 2HY

Reg No. 1293

Building and roofing contractors. Specialists in listed building work

ROOFING

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

BUILDING

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

Fully Insured

Guarantees available for new roofs

Tel: **020 8391 9112**

Email: info@telsonroofwise.co.uk

www.telsonroofwise.co.uk



@traders_coffeebay

www.coffeebay.co.uk



Our shop on Ewell Road has undergone a much-needed facelift after 18 years. We are still selling our delicious signature blends and single origin coffees from around the globe, which are freshly roasted two blocks away on the Red Lion Business Park. In the shop, we grind to order in 250g and 500g bags, and by the kilo. We also stock over 30 loose-leaf teas, from green unfermented teas of the Far East to the quick-brew black teas of India.



John Green, founder of Coffee Bay and resident coffee & tea guru, will be delighted to offer his advice. You will find his passion infectious. Spend over £10 in the shop and you will be offered a coffee on the house. A full coffee menu is now available to go or simply pull up a stool at our new breakfast bar and watch the world go by.

"Rest assured it's business as usual, we've just gone a bit posh!"



John Green, Founder

Visit us: Coffee Bay, 274 Ewell Rd, Surbiton KT6 7AG

Tel. 020 8390 8280

● As The Good Life went to press Kingston Council briefed surveyors to inspect 13 schools and 45 council buildings for reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete. "If RAAC is suspected during those inspections, samples will be taken for further investigation and appropriate safety advice will be provided and mitigating actions taken," it said.

Community Resilience Fund

Are you a community, voluntary or cultural group supporting Kingston communities?

The Kingston Community Resilience Fund is providing £720,000 to support groups through the cost of living crisis.

#KingstonTogether



Find out more and how to apply at kingston.gov.uk/communityresiliencefund



Inquiry verdict is awaited

While you've been slumped in your deckchair, an inspector has spent the summer wading through reams of evidence to decide if local fields merit village green status.

Stephen Morgan pulled stumps at 3.15pm on Friday July 21 in the Long Ditton village hall, ending a six-day planning inquiry into the area around One Tree Hill and Stokes Field.

Housebuilder Taylor Wimpey wants to build 900 homes, while residents, represented by a barrister crowdfunding to the tune of £50,000, want to preserve it as green space forever.

When Mr Morgan has finalised his inquiry report – expected by Halloween – Surrey County Council will use it to make a decision. If land is declared 'village green', nothing can be built on it.

The inquiry must determine if the land has been in continual recreational use from 1998 to 2018. David Manley KC, for the developer, homed in on the earliest years, claiming that while two paths did indeed cross a contentious rectangle of land, allowing walkers to get from A to B, that couldn't be construed as 'recreation'.

Residents' barrister Paul Wilmshurst, in open-neck shirt on dress-down Friday, summed up by condensing the heartfelt pleas of 30 locals which he'd funnelled into the evidence stack... each



Inspector Stephen Morgan in action

passionately declaring their love of the land.

Firm evidence from the 1990s has been hard to gather with the passage of time, but witnesses have used birth dates of their children and fondly remembered pet dogs to pin down critical moments.

"It has been in widespread use for well in excess of 20 years," declared Mr Wilmshurst. Mr Manley disputed that, while cleverly conceding areas nearby were indeed popular.

Mr Wilmshurst's contention was that if one or two key zones were worthy of preservation, it would be perverse to argue neighbouring land was not.

Both barristers, and the inspector, are well-versed in village green caselaw, and all made a final formal site visit ahead of their summing-up, which was watched by 50 residents.

Tim Harrison



● Many thanks to the thoughtful donor of a Mastermind chair, left out in the rain for the benefit of quiz contestants passing near the Fleece Road shops in Long Ditton. So kind of you to block the pavement in so selfless a way.

● Surbiton Farmers' Market's volunteers in Maple Road toasted the achievement of raising £100,000 for good causes over its 14 years. Natalie Kontarsky was presented with a bouquet to mark her decade's service, and Richard Sealtiel, left, was saluted as a market founding father. "Here's to the next £100,000," said market mandarin David Jacobson.



What's on at the Surbiton Royal British Legion



Our social club in Hollyfield Road, Surbiton, is open to all, seven days a week. Come and have a look around!

We have four full-size snooker tables, two bars, a café, and a function suite available for hire.

We run bingo sessions, jackpot draws, raffles, darts competitions, race nights, dance groups, pub quizzes, and more. Plus, we show live sport on a big screen.

We also have a busy events calendar - see below!



▼ September ▼

The Elton John Experience on Saturday 16th at 7pm, tickets from £5
Open Mic Night on Friday 22nd, sing, play an instrument or just sit and enjoy
The MacMillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th

▼ October ▼

The Massive Christmas Draw Tickets on sale from Sunday 1st
Oktoberfest on Friday 13th from 6.30pm with an Oompah Band, German beers on tap, food, tickets from £8
Halloween Disco on Saturday 28th from 8.30pm with DJ Foxy Paul, plus fun prizes

▼ November ▼

Trick or Treat Bingo on Wednesday 1st at 8.30pm plus prizes for best dressed fright costume
Remembrance Sunday on the 12th. After the 11am memorial service, food and entertainment at the club
The Scouts Fair on Saturday 18th from 1-4pm, stalls, great raffle, food and bar
The Great Neil Diamond on Saturday 25th at 8pm, tickets from £5

Surbiton Royal British Legion Social Club, Hollyfield Road, Surbiton KT5 9AL
www.surbitonrbl.club • 020 8399 3993 • surbitonrbl@gmail.com

What the Dickens?

Berrylands writer Thom Braun wonders why Charles Dickens said so little about the year he spent in the 1820s, working in a boot-blackening factory.

So he's penned a historical novel, rooted in early Victorian London around the time Dickens' father was consigned to Marshalsea debtors' prison, forcing 11-year-old 'Charley' to leave school and stick labels on bottles to support the family.

Shamed by the episode, Dickens kept it hidden in his lifetime, though child exploitation and poverty were recurring themes in his books. "Why was Dickens so secretive about the year in the factory?" asks Thom, of Kings Drive, who has also written about Disraeli. "The idea for the book grew from a suspicion Dickens was 'economical with the truth'."

Rigorously researched, atmospheric and pacy, **Hungerford Stairs** is published by Troubador at £14.99.



● Exercise your vocal cords; join singing sessions at the cornerHOUSE. Singalong, on the first and third

Mondays of the month, 2-3.30pm at the centre in Douglas Road, is open to all, especially those with dementia and their carers. Joan Mayhew leads a range of popular songs from musicals, the 60s and wartime. It's free, with no need to book.

"It's set up to be accessible to people with dementia and their carers, but a lot of others come to enjoy the fun, tea and cake," said organiser William Allberry. The next Singalong is on Mon, Sept 18. Details at thecornerhouse.org

● Surbiton author Orlando Pearson, 60, who does much juggling on the 8.32 to Waterloo, has written a 10th Holmesian book, continuing his passion for Sherlock, created by Arthur Conan Doyle.

This time the Malcolm Drive writer focuses on the sleuth's brainier elder brother Mycroft for **A Study in Statercraft**.

"My first nine books sold well internationally, some translated into German and Italian," he said. "The new book is an episodic novel."

Mycroft discovers that prime minister David Lloyd George held parties in Downing Street at the height of the 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. "Obviously, that would be inconceivable in the more recent Covid pandemic," he remarked.

It's available at £9.99 from the end of October at Surbiton's Regency Bookshop.



● The story of artist Mark Rothko is told by the Cellar Door company when **Red**, by John Logan, is performed on Oct 20 & 21 at the cornerHOUSE. Rothko said: "There's only one thing I fear in life. One day, the black will swallow the red." Directed by Brittany Rex, it stars Surbitonians Richard Williams and Finton McCluskey, and follows Rothko's commission to create murals for New York's Four Seasons restaurant, working with his young assistant, Ken. It develops into an exploration of ambition and vulnerability. Tickets £14. Eventbrite.com (search Red by John Logan)

● There's still time to submit to the **oneACTS** festival at the cornerHOUSE. The Douglas Road centre needs new plays (15-30 minutes) for a showcase in May next year. Submit by Tue, Oct 31, to cornerhouseoneacts@gmail.com



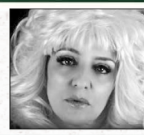
● Children's favourite **Cressida Cowell**, creator of the How to Train Your Dragon series, is part of September's Surbiton Literary Festival. The ex-children's laureate will discuss her new book, *Which Way Round The Galaxy*, talk about inspiration, give writing and drawing tips, and sign books at the cornerHOUSE, Wed, Sept 27, 5.30pm.

Then on Thu, Sept 28 at 7.30pm, meet bestselling author **Heather Morris**, writer of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *Cilla's Journey* and *Three Sisters*. She'll talk about her new creation *Sisters Under The Rising Sun*, answer questions and sign books. Book at ticketsource.co.uk/thecornerhouseevents

● Susan Campanaro brings her new musical **Doing Time with Lavinia** to the cornerHOUSE. The New York performer plays Lavinia Draper, pictured, a boozy fallen socialite and one-time understudy of Broadway star Betty Buckley. Lavinia is eternally chasing her pipedream of becoming an entertainer – but ends up behind

bars after her ambitions are torpedoed... mainly by her own actions.

Written and performed by Campanaro, with an original score by Lynn Portas, it plays at the arts centre in Douglas Road, on Sat, Sept 16 at 8pm. Directed by Christopher Scott. Tickets £15 (£12 concs) from wholelottacomedy.com



Berrylands driving instructor Andy Langford has revised his 2021 book **Drive On When You're Ready**; a useful read for learners. He's now working on a follow-up, *Driving On – Are You Really Ready?*, aimed at recent test passers. Visit andylangford.org



The new **Thames Concerts** season starts with a bang and a toot! At 7.30pm on Sat, Oct 21, the Percussion Ensemble of London (above) perform an eclectic programme including Salzedo's Percussion Concerto. It's nearly 10 years since the ensemble last performed in the concert series. Earlier, at 10.30am at St Andrew's church, Maple Rd, there's a free market-day concert by brass ensemble Freedom Pulse, made up of Ukrainian musicians living and working locally.

"They're dynamic and entertaining," said artistic director Ben Costello, who is steadily expanding the range, scope and number of concerts in a chamber music series that began in 1961.

The bar opens for the monthly evening concerts at 6.45pm. For ticket deals: www.thamesconcerts.com

● **Surbiton Symphony Orchestra** performs works by Mozart, Strauss and Mahler at St Andrew's, Maple Road, at 7pm on Sat, Nov 4. Conducted by Peter Le Tissier, the centrepiece is one of Richard Strauss's final works, the Oboe Concerto of 1945, with oboist Sasha Puller. It's bookended by Mozart's tragic-comedy *Don Giovanni* and Mahler's 4th Symphony. Tickets from £5 via eventbrite.co.uk (search for Surbiton Symphony Orchestra) or buy on the door.

● **Poetry nights** at the cornerHOUSE are popular, despite being chaired by Good Life editor Tim Harrison. On Fri, Sept 29 (bar opens 7pm) shape poems feature, plus themes of Pets, Heatwave and Freedom to inspire the centre's home-grown bards. The £6 entry includes a cheese buffet & vegan alternative. Feel free to recite, or just sit and marvel.

● Antonia Thomas stars in a reworking of an Ibsen play at Kingston's Rose, Sep 29-Oct 21. **Shooting Hedda Gabler**, by Nina Segal, is about making a film version of the Norwegian playwright's work. Book at rosetheatre.org

Charting the Pharaoh's dynasty

With uncanny timing, Surbiton sports journalist Tony Banks has written a book on the Mohamed Al-Fayed era at Fulham FC just as news broke that the former Harrods boss has died at 94.

Tony, who lives a Mark Schwarzer goalkick from Berrylands station, interviewed many at the club from 1997 to 2013 (including Roy Hodgson, Lawrie Sanchez, Chris Coleman and Ray Lewington) to piece together what really went on behind the scenes in Al-Fayed's time there.

"I've always loved Fulham; I've followed them since the early 70s and thought the Al-Fayed era was a fascinating period in the club's history, and a story that needed to

be told," said Tony, who worked on local papers in Kingston before a 35-year career on the nationals, ranging from *The Sun* and *Express* to the *Star* and the *Mirror*.

Al-Fayed bought the club in 1997 for £6.25m, pledging to make the Premier League in five years. He did it in four. Along the way Fulham had two promotions, 10 managers, put up a bizarre statue of Michael Jackson, and travelled an amazing journey to the Europa League final.

The tycoon, dubbed the Phoney Pharaoh by *Private Eye*, died at his mansion in Oxted, Surrey, on Aug 30.

The Great Adventure: Al-Fayed's Rollercoaster Ride with Fulham FC is published on Oct 2, £18.99, by Pitch Publishing. Stockists include the Regency Bookshop.

THAMES CONCERTS™

Promoting world-class music in the borough since 1961

2023-24 concert series: St Andrew's Church, Maple Rd, Surbiton
Concerts start at 7.30pm. Artistic Director: Ben Costello

Saturday 21 October

New season launches with the return of The Percussion Ensemble of London, featuring distinguished percussionists John Rockliffe, Sebastian Guard, Emily Ivo and Chris Nall, plus special guests.

Saturday 11 November

Pianist Antonio Oyarzabal leads a programme entitled *La Muse Oubliée*, a celebration of women composers including Clara Zucka, Amy Beach, Florence Price and Mel Bonis.

Saturday 9 December

The acclaimed Cantabile (The London Quartet) sing seasonal songs + Mike Pratt (bass) and Ben Costello (piano).

Further concerts will be held on 20 January, 3 February and 17 February.

Market days: Free coffee concerts
Enjoy free 50-minute coffee concerts at St Andrew's at 10.30am on 21 October (Ukrainian Brass), 16 December (Kingston Music Service) and 20 January (Southborough School).

www.thamesconcerts.com

KING GEORGE FIELD INDOOR BOWLS CLUB

Try bowls for **FREE** with **FREE** coaching.

Every Tuesday 6 to 7 pm Every Sunday 10 to 12pm.

No need to book just turn up with flat soled shoes.

020 8397 7025

kgfbc1971@outlook.com

www.kgfindoorbowlsclub.co.uk



HIGHER EDUCATION at Kingston College

Subject areas include: Art & Design, Business, Counselling, Early Years, Engineering, Health & Social Care, Performing Arts and Sport Science.

stcg.ac.uk/undergraduate



Part of the South Thames Colleges Group

healthwatch
Kingston upon Thames

Share your NHS experience with us

Contact us: www.healthwatchkingston.org.uk - 0203 326 1255 - info@healthwatchkingston.org.uk

Involved in something arty? Let everyone know. Email thegoodlifesurbiton@gmail.com



SCAN ME

Walkers turn into bowlers

Members of Kingston Elders Nalvaalvu ('wellbeing' in Tamil) walking group so liked their visit to the King George Field Indoor Bowls Club that they plan to return. "We enjoyed it, and we'll be coming back for more," said one.

A recent trial at the club in Jubilee Way was part of a drive to attract newcomers. Ladies captain Vicki Harris said: "Bowls is often seen as a game for older people, but it's for any age. It requires less rapid movement than many sports, but it exercises different muscle groups and improves balance and co-ordination."

"We're trying to dispel the myth that bowls is just for the elderly by reaching out to community groups to experience the fun and skill, and see the physical and mental health benefits," said Vicki.

Email kgfbc1971@outlook.com or visit kgfindoorbowlsclub.co.uk Equipment is supplied.



Casuals launch women's team

Corinthian-Casuals now have a women's team, playing in the Greater London Women's Football League, Div 2 South & Central.

The Tolworth team are using Kingston Uni's Tolworth Court sports ground off Old Kingston Road to play most home fixtures.

The next home game is against CB Hounslow United Reserves on Sun, Sept 24, at 2pm.

View all fixtures and start times at fulltime.thefa.com Search for Corinthian-Casuals FC under their division and league.

Paul Mitchell, general manager of the women's team, said: "After the World Cup we hope to inspire more girls to watch their local women's team. We'd love the local community to get behind us."

Interested in a trial for the team? Email Paul at mitch@ccfcld.co.uk



I'm afraid it's all downhill from here



Might you be Surbiton's fastest skier? Strap blocks of ice to your feet and set off down St Mark's Hill in the Surbiton Ski Sunday challenge... like Laura Brackenbury, left.

Race against the clock as an individual or as part of a team. Last year 150 spectators lined the course outside the shops just up from the station to watch 30 daredevils. The free-to-enter event on Sun, Oct 15, starts at 11am.

Safety equipment is provided, but you're urged to bring your own gear and wear plenty of padding!



Cyclists reach Lake Malawi on a previous Pedal Power challenge

Joining the cycle of life

A sponsored bike ride will help impoverished children and vulnerable adults in Malawi.

The 500km ride through the central African country's stunning scenery will include a day's safari viewing lions, cheetahs, elephants, buffalo, zebra, hippos, birds and other wild animals, and a day feeding majestic fish eagles at Lake Malawi.

There's also a chance to see cave paintings and cycle down a spectacular escarpment, visit the projects your bike ride will help fund, and even attend the Lake of Stars music festival at the end.

Every penny of Pedal Power Malawi will go to help the most marginalised in one of the world's poorest countries. "Come and join in the fun - it's not a race but an experience," said Surbiton-based charity founder Heather Palmer, who grew up in Malawi.

The trip is in May next year. Email Heather at heather.palmer@africanvision.org.uk phone 07798 695287 or visit [africanvision.org.uk](http://africanvision.org.uk/events/pedal-power)

Email Heather at heather.palmer@africanvision.org.uk phone 07798 695287 or visit [africanvision.org.uk](http://africanvision.org.uk/events/pedal-power)



Blues make strong start

Chelsea Women beat Italian champions AS Roma 3-2 in a clash of title winners at a Kingsmeadow pre-season friendly on Sun, Sept 3.

Academy product Aggie Beever-Jones flicked home an extra-time winner. "My debut goal," she said with a grin.

The squad spent last week at an Algarve training camp; their first full reunion since the summer's World Cup.

Manager Emma Hayes was pleased her side played well against top European opposition, but was most chuffed about the return



Aggie Beever-Jones

to fitness of striker Fran Kirby. "That's probably the big plus point," she said. Yankee debutante Mia Fisel, 22,

said of her first outing in Royal blue: "New connections, new team, dream club; I'm excited."

Fellow newbie 28-year-old Canadian midfielder Ashley Lawrence added: "I definitely enjoyed myself. The crowd was great, and being able to get the first game here at Kingsmeadow was an amazing feeling."

"Getting the win right at the end was even better! We want to win, we're competitive but at the same time we know it takes a team. Everyone has been so welcoming."

Chelsea's key targets are a fifth consecutive Women's Super League title... and lifting that elusive Champions League cup.

The friendly saw the first use of VAR in a WSL stadium, disappointingly reversing a Blues penalty award!

Tim Harrison



YOUR HOME AWAY FROM HOME

... GYM, TENNIS, SQUASH, PADEL, SOCIAL

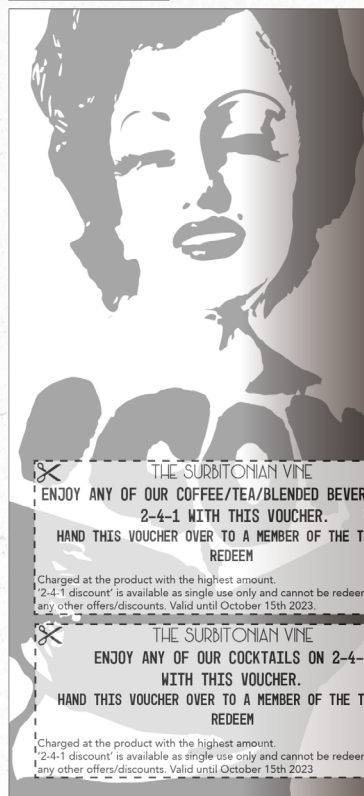
- Join our family friendly, relaxed & sociable multi sports club in Berrylands, Surbiton

- Visit the website below and become a member today!



JOIN NOW AT WWW.SURBITON.ORG/JOIN

Berrylands, Surbiton, KT5 8JT | info@surbiton.org | 020 8399 1594



THE SURBITONIAN VINE

DESIGNED TO GIVE THE DESERVING PEOPLE OF SURBITON A VENUE THAT CAN BE ENJOYED ALL DAY

By day enjoy our unrivalled coffee experience, with all of your favourite drinks accompanied by a selection of fresh pastries and hand-crafted sandwiches.

By night, a carefully curated wine list is complemented by expertly made cocktails and a great selection of draught beers.

Look out for exciting developments as we look to introduce a modern brunch menu and tapas-inspired dishes to accompany your evening drinks.

We've ample space for those looking to escape working from home and are happy to take enquiries for venue hire and Christmas parties.

WHAT MORE COULD YOU WANT?

Well maybe 2-4-1 on coffees and selected cocktails until the 15th October?... Oh go on then! Use the vouchers attached in store - T&Cs Apply

Located at 12, Claremont Rd, Surbiton, KT6 4QU



FIND US AT THESURBITONIANVINE

GET IN TOUCH INFO@THESURBITONIANVINE.COM



FOR BOOKINGS, PLEASE DROP US A MESSAGE VIA OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS OR POP BY IN-STORE