



DITTON

GAZETTE

Spring 2024



SATURDAY 1ST JUNE 2024

**THIS YEAR AS WELL AS ENJOYING LOTS OF GREAT
MUSIC**

**WE WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGING AND CELEBRATING
TWO SPECIAL ANNIVERSARIES**

**80TH ANNIVERSARY OF D DAY
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**



YOUR COUNCIL

Ditton Parish Council	
Clerk to the Council - Nicola Greenaway Ditton Parish Council Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road Ditton, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 6AH Tel: 01732 844749	clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/dittonparishcouncil www.facebook.com/thekilnbarn
Business Administrator - Sally Craig finance@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Community Centre Admin - Selena Gardener admin@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Open Spaces & Amenities - Beth Benn osa@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Chairman – Nigel Newman nigel@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk	
Your Parish Councillors	— David Adlington
[all can be contacted via parish office]	James Cox
	Lisa Cox
	Jackie Dearden
	Adam Laidouci
	Dan Markham
	Tony Mulcuck
	Kim Nash
	Anne Throssell
	Mike Porter
	Adrian Waters
Your Borough Councillors	
Rob Cannon	Robert.cannon@tmbsc.gov.uk
Steve Hammond	Steve.hammond@tmbsc.gov.uk
Colin Williams	Colin.williams@tmbsc.gov.uk
Your County Councillor	
Andrew Kennedy	Andrew.Kennedy@kent.gov.uk
Your MP	
Tracey Crouch	Tracey.crouch.mp@parliament.uk
To report highways matters e.g. salt bins, potholes, lights, road signs, abandoned road signs, call 03000419191 or report online at: www.kent.gov.uk/roads-and-travel/report-a-problem .	
For recycling collections, fly-tipping, council tax and other local services, contact Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council on 01732 844522 or visit www.tmbc.gov.uk	

Chairman's Message

A year of community events in Ditton

As we start approaching Summer (and the warmer temperatures [hopefully], longer evenings and the joy of colour with gardens and wildlife coming to life), we are looking forward to a year of a range of events taking place within the village.

We have already seen the Bobby Davro Charity Comedy Night and Wrestling in Ditton Community Centre and we are looking forward to more events planned by a range of local groups and organisations. The Ditton Twinning Committee hosted another popular Barn Dance which was attended by a group visiting from our Twin Town of Rang du Fliers. Of course there is more to come starting with the Community Concert held on the Community Centre grounds on the 1st June.

In fact the Community Centre is always full of local groups offering a range of activities and events and we are highlighting in this edition many of the different activities that take place at the community centre.

In relation to the Parish Council, we were delighted that Kim Nash joined the council in January. This means that we have just one council place available for anyone who wishes to join.

I hope you enjoy our latest issue showing just some of what the village has to offer.

WHAT DOES A PARISH COUNCILLOR DO?

A councillor's primary role is to represent their parish and the people who live in it. As part of a local council you will work with Council staff to:

- run local services such as our open spaces and recreation facilities
- influence the long term development policy and comment on planning applications in the parish
- improve the quality of life and the environment in our local area
- identify issues which are important to residents
- improve the lives of residents by providing local community projects, lobbying other service providers and working in partnership with other parishes, community groups and agencies.

ELIGIBILITY

You must:

- be a British, Irish or EU citizen
- be over 18 years old
- live in the parish of Ditton or within 3 miles of it or have your principle place of work in the parish of Ditton.

If you think this is something you can do please contact the Clerk via e-mail clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk for more information.



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28TH APRIL 2024



At this year's Annual Parish Meeting we were very grateful to have a talk from a representative of North & West Kent Citizens Advice on how they can help with general problems and energy issues. This was followed by a very interesting talk from Maralyn Mulcuck of the Ditton Heritage Centre on their history and achievements so far. It was amazing to hear all that has been accomplished and note that the Heritage Centre celebrates it's 10th Anniversary of it's official opening on 12th May this year. The previous year's minutes were agreed and the financial statements for the previous year noted. Reports were then given by the Committee Chairs and the Chair of the Council on the varied work of the Council over the last year. The Chairman was also very honoured to make a special presentation to Cllr Tony Mulcuck. Tony was awarded the KALC [Kent Association of Local Council's] Community Award in grateful appreciation of his loyal and dedicated 53 years' service to Ditton Parish Council and for his enthusiasm and commitment to many of the village groups and events. **Congratulations to Tony - very well deserved.**

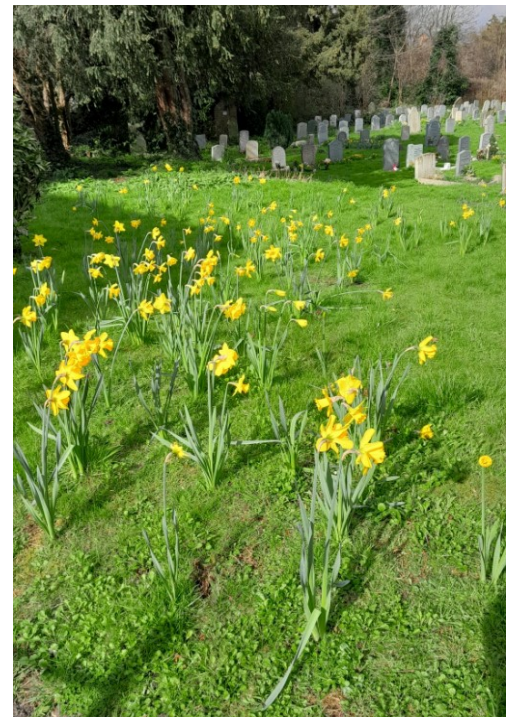
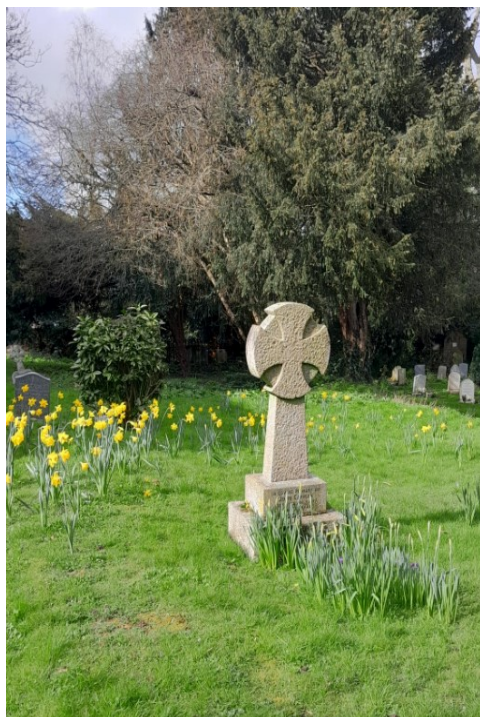


L: Nicola [Clerk], Tony, Nigel [Chair]

Below: Tony with his family



SPRING VIEWS OF THE CHURCHYARD AND VILLAGE GREEN TAKEN BY CLLR JACKIE DEARDEN



PROPOSED PLANNING APPLICATION IN DITTON

Latest update

As many of you are aware, we are facing the biggest housing proposal in modern times for the village of Ditton. We are facing 1,300 additional homes, shops and even a school being built next to the Ditton Local Nature Reserve and Kilnbarn Road going across to Hermitage Lane in Aylesford/ Barming.

Ditton Parish Council has taken a lead on objecting to this proposal – we have already held our public meeting on the 15th April with 250 people from the village and surrounding areas attending.

This was the final part of the initial work completed by the council to object to the plan. The meeting presented the detailed objections that the council has prepared to submit within the 21 day statutory window the council had to make its objections. Members of the public were given a detailed booklet highlighting the objections that the council has made and were asked to give feedback on the objections. These comments were heard and adjustments were made. The public also spoke directly to Cllr Matthew Boughton – Leader of the Council at Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council, who will be reviewing the application.

Whilst we appreciate most of the village will want the plan not to go ahead, we have to make sure we provide credible evidence to support our objections.

You can find a copy of the objection made by Ditton Parish Council on our website and on the Tonbridge and Malling Planning Portal. Please make sure you raise your objections to the plan. We have been strongly advised that petitions will not work – we need individual objections to be made.

Since the meeting

The initial objection is only going to be the first part. As discussed at the meeting we will need help from the public. We are grateful for already receiving data and evidence on the traffic movements in the village and the roads that are proposed to be changed.

Please can you help provide evidence of traffic patterns on Ditton local roads – any jams, issues would benefit from photographic evidence to submit in the next round of objections.

The council has received the first independent traffic assessment report and this has been submitted to support our objections. We are also fighting the planning adjustments requested by the developer of the Orchard Mill development on Kilnbarn Road to allow houses to be occupied without the planned road improvements to the A20. We need to make sure that we are showing that the roads are simply not suitable for the amount of houses being proposed.

The council is also taking professional advice on how to object to the application. We will be consulting the Woodland trust in relation to the proposed damage to the trees that are on the plan. We believe that the damage to nature is just as significant to objecting to the application as well as traffic.

We have also seen other parish councils provide their own residents with public meetings to highlight the concerns that they have. We will support our neighbouring councils as their objections are made.

This will be a long fight and whilst I appreciate that some members of the public feel that this is a pointless exercise, the council want to put the best possible objection – we feel strongly that this is the application that must be stopped.

The council will update the residents as further developments take place.

Nigel Newman

Chairman, Planning Committee



DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

We have a large car park for 140 vehicles, with 11 acres of public open space including children's play areas and a nature reserve.

The Oaken and Don Carmen Hall both have a kitchen area and a licensed bar.

Wheelchair friendly access.

Our friendly caretaking staff will set up the hall to your requirements and are always on hand during your hire.

We have 3 different halls of varying size:

Oaken Hall Approximately 60ft by 100ft and can accommodate a maximum of 350 guests.

Don Carman Hall Approximately 50ft by 30ft and can accommodate a maximum of 100 guests.

Acorn Room Approximately 28ft by 15ft and can accommodate a maximum of 40 guests.

**HALLS AVAILABLE TO HIRE FOR WEDDINGS, PARTIES,
SHOWS, DANCES, CONFERENCES, SOCIAL AND
COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS**

FOR FURTHER DETAILS PLEASE CONTACT
The Parish Office, Ditton Community Centre, Kilnbarn Road, Ditton,
Aylesford, Kent ME20 6AH
Tel: 01732 844749
E-mail: admin@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Community Centre Toilet Refurbishment



Great News During February the main toilets in the centre have been refurbished. The work is now complete and the new facilities are much appreciated by our hirers.

.... Before

After



We are very pleased with the fabulous re-furb carried out by JPS Group.

JPS Group has also very kindly offered to help sponsor the Music Event on 1st June.



T: 0300 303 3136
E: enquiries@jpsgroup.uk
W: www.jpsgroup.uk



THE DITTON QUARRY LOCAL NATURE RESERVE



Butterflies to look out for on your walk around the quarry?



HOLLY BLUE

ORANGE TIP



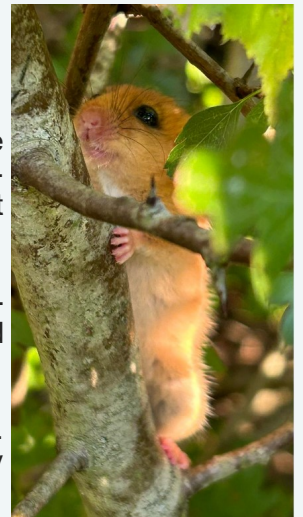
Saving our ancient woodland

[Photo of dormouse in Oaken Wood by Allison Sweetman]

Friends of Oaken Wood are a community group campaigning to raise awareness of the rich biodiversity and history of Oaken Wood (also known as Barming Wood). The woodland is of huge ecological importance and contains a site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Oaken Wood is a category of ancient woodland known as a 'plantation on ancient woodland site (PAWS)'. It spans across three constituencies: Maidstone, Tunbridge and Malling, and Aylesford.

For centuries, the woodland has been managed as traditional Kentish rotational coppice. This has contributed to the survival of its remarkable flora and fauna, including legally protected species such as dormice, nightjar, turtle dove and viviparous lizard.



124 acres (50 hectares) of the woodland are under threat from the proposed expansion of Hermitage Quarry. That's an estimated 70,000 trees. 32 hectares were lost to the previous quarry expansion in 2013.

"The loss of ancient woodland from this scheme could be greater than the losses from HS2 and the Lower Thames Crossing combined."
The Woodland Trust.

The area is also important to the local community and well-loved by local walkers, cyclists and horse riders. The over-development of the areas surrounding the woodland means it is more important than ever to protect it, for this generation and the next.

Kent County Council will make a decision on the proposal later this year and we need your support.

There are lots of ways to get involved, from contacting your local councillors and MP to recording your wildlife sightings.

We also hold regular community walks, which are open to everyone.

If you'd like to support the campaign, join a walk or find out more then please get in touch:

Email
friendsofoakenwood@gmail.com

Facebook
Join our SAVE OAKEN WOOD! group

Instagram
Search 'Friends of Oaken Wood'



Ditton Infant School

Although the Spring Term is traditionally very short, we have packed a lot of events into the last few weeks.

We wore pyjamas to school and raised money for homeless veterans in support of the RBLI Great Tommy Sleepout. This was followed by our 'Around the World Book Week' which included World Book Day. Children visited different classes each day and took part in activities relating to stories from around the world. Photos of some of the activities are available to see on the gallery page of our school website. We held a book fair and parents were invited in to share books with their children.

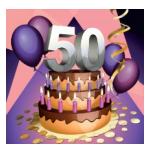
On Friday 8th March we promoted an initiative called 'Let Girls Play' with a fun filled football themed Friday lunchtime and a 'design a football kit' competition which will be judged by Tracey Crouch at the end of term. 47 of our girls decided to try some of the activities which included a crossbar challenge and football drills.

The Family Trust treated the children to an Easter themed puppet show and we are also planning to welcome a Kent community cricket coach to deliver some cricket workshops for the children in Year 1 and Year 2. In line with our Sports Premium Plan we also renewed and refreshed our outdated playground markings to encourage more physical activity at lunchtimes and playtimes.

Finally, we are now also the proud owners of a long awaited fully accessible toilet and new wellbeing room as our building work is now complete.

With best wishes,

Mrs C Lewer



50 Years of Ditton Community Centre



We are asking for your photos and stories of events that have taken place since the creation of Ditton Community Centre. From the Village Fete days, It's a Knock Out, Jubilee Celebrations – we would like to collect and display the memories that the centre has had for those within our village.

If you have anything to share, please pop in to the parish office, or email clerk@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk




DamARA-Ditton & Malling Active Retirement Association:

DamARA have been busy during the last few months with their activities including, Ten Pin Bowling at the Maidstone Bowling Centre, monthly walks visiting interesting places around Kent (These include future visits to such places as South Darenth, Chetney, Hythe and Faversham. New Age Kurling at the Community Centre and their monthly meeting which included their Christmas Party when they were entertained by a lovely chap called Trevor Styles who played some lovely 50 & 50's music for us.

Why not visit DamARA on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Ditton Community Centre at 1.00pm and see if you would like to join our ranks. We have variety of speakers at our monthly meetings and several special times when we will provide a lunch and some entertainment plus a lively Christmas Party with dancing. Or why not just give a ring to our Chairman Derek Usherwood on 01622 297150 Email: j.usherwood2@btinternet.com who will give you all the details.

Organised by Sandra & Caroline, we had a great afternoon tea at the Friars Aylesford which was enjoyed by everyone and was one of the best teas that our members had enjoyed. On the 11th March we went away for 5 days to Warners at Bodelwyddan Wales for a Spring break.



TWINNING

We have just held our latest twinning event. This was a Barn Dance, which took place at Ditton Community Centre, in the Oaken Hall, on Saturday 27th April 2024. Like last year, we danced to the Climax Ceilidh Band with Kerry Fletcher as caller. We were pleased to welcome a group of people from Rang-du-Fliers (our twin village) to be with us. It was a really great evening. Thank you to all that attended and supported us - we hope you enjoyed it.

On Saturday 5th October 2024 we plan to have another Quiz Night. These are always enjoyable evenings so look out for more information nearer the time.



Ditton Twinning Association has been organising twinning activities for nearly 30 years. We are eager to keep the relationship between Ditton and Rang-du-Fliers alive and thriving. Unfortunately, during the last few years, the number of people on the committee has decreased. We feel that organising events such as the Christmas Fayre or exchange visits between clubs can be of value to everyone in our community, whether they be young or old. However, we really do need some new committee members with fresh ideas to help us. Although being able to speak French could be an advantage, it is not a necessity. If you are interested and think that you could help you would be very welcome. Please contact us for more information on 01732 844292 or email us on stanleycol@aol.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jo Paris

Principal/Founder

Paris Performing Arts

www.parisperformingarts.com

Established in 2005, by founder Jo Paris (AISTD & AABD), we are a thriving, successful Performing Arts Academy and Talent Agency, offering young people aged 4-18, a wide variety of classes and performance opportunities. Classes include Ballet, Modern, Jazz, Tap, Contemporary, Musical Theatre, Street, Acting & Vocal Training. We encourage pupils to study various subjects, training them to become all round performers. The school maintains a strong ethos of encouragement and learning, offering high quality, professional training. At Paris Performing Arts we strive to offer outstanding teaching by employing professional and highly qualified teachers who both work and perform in the industry. Our students have a 100% pass rate across the Associated Board of Dance Examination Board.

Tea Dance

Hello , my name is Chris Housley & I organise & Host the Sunday afternoon Tea Dances at Ditton Community Centre in the Large Oaken hall. We run these mostly once a month on a Sunday Afternoon from 2pm till 4.30pm with a variety of music for Ballroom/Latin & popular sequence dancing and we get a very friendly crowd of dancers. The price of £8.50 includes refreshments during our interval. Our next dance is Sunday 26th May . For further details you can contact me on 07889302217 or by E-Mail Chousley105@gmail.com



MOVE IT OR LOSE IT

Move it or Lose it, exercise classes for older adults, have been running in the Don Carman Hall at Ditton Community Centre since January, and are already proving to be very popular. Our classes are fun and friendly, with music, and will improve Balance, Confidence, Mobility, Flexibility, Strength and Independence. Our group recently kicked off the winter blues with a February Summertime special. If you would like to join us for a free taster session contact

Lance.fermor@moveitorloseit.co.uk
or phone Lance on 07948 131928.



TAILS OF SUCCESS



We are Tails of Success Kent. A dog training school that caters for everyone. We run agility, puppy, junior and adult obedience classes, scent training, fun off lead sessions, group walks and reactive/ anxiety classes.

If you would like to join our family, using fun games and positive reinforcement to build a bond between you and your four legged friend, please contact me at tailsofsuccesskent@gmail.com Facebook Tails of Success Kent or call 07557148060.



NEWS FROM DITTON JUNIOR SCHOOL

It has been an incredibly busy time here at Ditton Juniors since Christmas. Children from the school choir have represented the school at both the O2 at the Young voices concert and performed at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend before the Easter holidays.

The children in year 5 completed their Easter show, the children who take part in rock-steady all took part in their second concert with all bands performing well and all the children will have taken part in the Easter services at the church.

We have celebrated book week, with all children taking part in retelling stories to the children in the infants and a very successful dress up day.

All children between now and the end of the year will or have already, taken part in a cookery workshop, we have an action packed sports week lined up in May, a poetry and art week and lots of fundraising for our Shaun the Sheep, who will be appearing in Maidstone this summer.

News from St Peter's Church



COME AND JOIN US FOR
THIS YEARS OPEN AIR
SERVICE

ON THE VILLAGE GREEN

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE

11 AM



News from St Peter's Church



Fear

Fear is something we all face in life. It would be a fantastic thing if someone was with us whenever we were afraid! Reassuring us. Dispelling that sickening feeling inside us.

No matter how tough, calm or measured we think we are, some things will frighten us.

So what frightens you? Spiders? The Dentist? Large crowds ? Small spaces? Heights? Some fears are rational and understandable- others may be less so but are still very real. We may fear not having what we want , not having enough, or being alone. We may fear being found out- haunted by the past. We may be fearful of what lies ahead.

All of us will have known that feeling of fear. Maybe you have been physically threatened, or threatened with legal action. You may have realised when its almost too late that you have got yourself into a dangerous situation. Maybe it was a diagnosis of a life changing condition.

For many of us fear of death - or the process of dying is the biggest fear. But this is one fear we generally hate talking about. We don't even use the word death! We prefer to say someone has passed away - we even miss out the word away and just say ' they've passed '!

Maybe we have some sympathy with the words of Woody Allen "I'm not afraid of death , I just don't want to be there when it happens " Yet however we describe it, we are all heading towards it.

That is why Easter is such good news. The bodily, physical resurrection of Jesus from the dead, which the Bible asserts is a witnessed, attested, reliable event in history should transform our fear of death. When Jesus walked out of the tomb that first Easter Day it meant that the reign of death had been conquered. The Grave is no longer a dead end. It is only the resurrection of Jesus that makes any sense of the transformation of his earliest followers from cowering wrecks to bold and clear proclaimers of his triumph over death.

That is the message of Easter. Jesus Christ has pioneered a way through death - he has blasted a hole right through it, death's terror has been neutralised. In the words of Psalm 23, "even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear not evil" because there is someone who has been there and been through it. He has been the other side of it. He has conquered it and blazed a trail right through it. So he can be with us whatever fear we face and see us through.

Ross Terranova
Rector of Ditton

KENT FEDERATION OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

Founded 1938 (Affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society)

www.kentfed.com

All welcome to come and see our **SUMMER SHOW 2024**



SUNDAY 30 JUNE

1.45 - 4.30pm

**Sweet Peas, Roses, other Summer Flowers,
Vegetables, Fruit, Baking, Preserves & Crafts.**

**ENTRY by donation at the door - Ample free parking
Refreshments - Raffle – Produce sales**

DITTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Kiln Barn Lane, Ditton, Maidstone ME20 6AH

More information from 01732 844071 rich.kfhs@gmail.com

KENT FEDERATION OF HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES - UPCOMING EVENTS

SUNDAY 30TH JUNE - SUMMER FLOWER & VEGETABLE SHOW - FULL DETAILS ON POSTER

SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER - AUTUMN SHOW 2024

Do come and see the show if you like growing Vegetables, Fruit, Dahlias, Chrysanthemums, other Flowers, Baking, making Preserves or Craftwork. Incidentally, all of the vegetables and fruit on display must be very fresh and ready to eat!

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC from 1.45 to 4.30pm in the large hall of **Ditton Community Centre**,

This is the sister show to our Summer Show also held in the large hall on 30th June this year. This is a large show, with entries from individual gardeners all over Kent.

ALSO to enjoy – Refreshments, Produce Stall, Raffle and Gardening Advice.

ENTRY is free to everyone but a donation at the door towards Federation funds is welcome. Ample **FREE** parking just outside the hall.

See you there! www.kentfed.com 01732 844071 rich.kfhs@gmail.com



Pre-School Deputy Manager/Leader of Learning

Required to work 8.30-4 Mon/Tue/Wed/Thurs term time only.

We are looking for a highly motivated individual, with at least two years' experience working in an Early Years setting and holding a full and relevant Early Years qualification to at least Level 3.

**Ditton Church Pre-School,
Church Centre,
New Road, Ditton
ME20 6AE**

Candidates should have sympathy toward the Christian faith as they will be working in a Church Pre-School.

**For further information or for an application form please contact:
Wendy Caldicott, Pre-school Supervisor on 07845 921621 or email
info@dittonchurchpreschool.org**

The successful candidate will be required to complete a DBS application.

Ditton Church Pre-School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. As an employer, the school expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. In line with recent legislation including the Children Act 2004, Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education Guidance DFES/04217/2006, The Independent Schools Standards Regulations 2007 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, the school takes very seriously its duty of care for all pupils. In order to help safeguard and promote the welfare of all its pupils the school is committed to a thorough and consistent Recruitment Policy.

Latin Fever Dance

We are so proud to be celebrating our own anniversary of 10 years at Ditton Community Centre and congratulate them on the wonderful venue they have provided us throughout that time.

We run a monthly Ballroom, Latin and Sequence Social Dance with special Dances at Valentines and Christmas which are a wonderful excuse to dress up! We welcome adult dancers with some dance experience, with couples joining us from Medway, Maidstone, Sevenoaks and the surrounding areas.

You can find out more about us at www.latinfeverdance.co.uk.



DITTON SHORT MAT INDOOR BOWLS CLUB



Ditton short Mat Indoor Bowls Club meet from 1.00pm to 3.30pm, Monday and Friday, in the Oaken Hall at Ditton Community Centre. (bank holidays excluded) We have some experienced members, but we also welcome people that are new to the game and would enjoy some gentle exercise in a friendly, sociable environment. Tea and biscuits are served during the break and there are occasional social gatherings outside the club. Prospective members can take advantage of three free trial sessions and we have bowls you can borrow to get you started. Should you then decide to join us the subscription is £42.50 a quarter, which works out at less than £4.00 a week, a particularly good deal for those who attend both sessions. Anybody who is interested can just turn up, or for further information ring Moira on 07939975533



D'ARCY STAGE SCHOOL

D'Arcy Stage School runs classes at Ditton Community Centre in ISTD Ballet, ISTD Tap, ISTD Modern, Musical Theatre, LAMDA, Singing, Stretch, Acro, Street and Lyrical for students aged 2-18 years old. Georgia D'Arcy who trained at Italia Conti and Laine Theatre Arts has been running DSS for 10 years now and in those 10 years students have enjoyed 100% pass rate for their ISTD exams and the school has seen students accepted into The Royal Ballet, Central School Of Ballet, Tring Performing Arts, London Childrens Ballet, English Youth Ballet, National Youth Ballet, Sam Stanley Associates, Miskin College, Push Associates, Elite Associates, West End Kids and children have performed in the West End! Each year all DSS students perform at The Stag Theatre a full show! This year is 'Charlie And The Chocolate Factory' on 16th November! We also have a summer showcase and a Christmas showcase in the hall each year and perform locally at Christmas light switch on's. We have a performance troupe that performs locally twice a year and DSS gives all students the chance to perform in a variety show in The West End! This year we will be performing as a school troupe at The Shaftesbury Avenue on 23rd December! If you wish to come along for a free trial please contact Georgia: georgia@darcystageschool.co.uk and visit our website for more info: www.darcystageschool.co.uk and follow our Instagram and Facebook pages. Georgia D'Arcy



Ditton Pétanque Club - looking for new members

Our playing area is next to the Ditton Community Centre children's Playground We meet on Monday afternoons at 2:00 pm and the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month at 12:00 noon We have a team that plays in the Kent Pétanque League on Wednesday evenings Whether you want a social game or something more competitive you would be welcome to join us

Please contact 01732 844292 or stanleycol@aol.com





Ditton Bowls Club

Kilnbarn Recreation Ground
Kiln Barn Road
Ditton
ME20 6QR

Outdoor lawn bowls taster session

Have you ever wanted to try your hand at playing bowls? - if so, now is your chance to give it a try. At Ditton Bowls Club we are offering you the opportunity to have a free trial on Saturday 25 May between 10am and 1.00pm, so come along, meet some of our members and enjoy a game of bowls. All equipment will be provided on the day, we just ask you to wear flat shoes.

The main objective in lawn bowls is to roll the bowl to try to end up as near the target as possible. The target is a small white or yellow ball called a jack. Before the match starts, the jack is rolled out on the green where the match will be played, and it becomes a target for the game.

When a player rolls a bowl, it moves in a curved path. This forces the player to roll his bowl in an outward direction at an angle to try end up near the target. This is not easy and takes practice.

Each player will try to roll their bowls as close to the jack as possible. Sometimes a player's bowl will hit the jack, which can result in the jack moving from its original spot. The player's bowl which is nearest to the jack is awarded the point.

We hope to see you there! If you would like more information please contact the club secretary Karen Boorman, email dittonbowls@gmail.com or chairman, Richard Baker on 01622 715898 or 07840 973766.

ATTENTION ALL SPORTS CLUBS

Do you need somewhere to train?

There are currently vacancies in the floodlit
multi-sports facility at
Kilnbarn Recreation Ground ME20 6AH



Please call Beth at the Parish Office on
01732 844749 weekdays between 10am -
4pm or email
osa@dittonparishcouncil.gov.uk



DITTON HERITAGE CENTRE

The Heritage Centre committee are now having a base laid for a storage container to stand on, we are running out of room for all the papers and artifacts that have been donated to us. We are not complaining about this, in fact we are overjoyed that we have had such a response over the last 10 years to our requests for donations. The latest donation was from a couple who live in London road and it was a book cabinet, over 100 years old and made of oak. A wonderful gift to us and it now stands proudly in the centre.

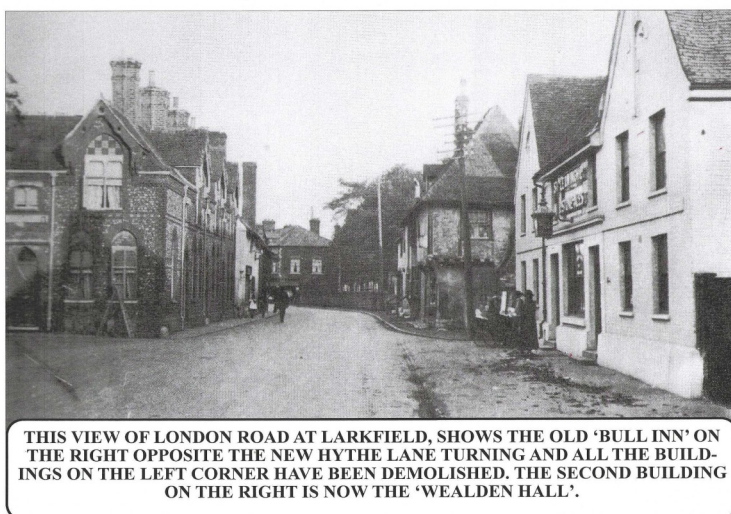
If you have any papers, photographs of bye gone days in Ditton or the surrounding area why not donate them to us for safe keeping or let us photo copy them.

If you wish to visit the Heritage Centre or perhaps join us as a Friend of Ditton Heritage Centre (£10 per year) please contact our secretary Maralyn Mulcuck on 01732 844195 or Email: mulcuck.anthony@sky.com



We believe this is a photo of some evacuees who came to live in Ditton during WW2. If you have any information regarding those dark days please let us know

Here are just two of the enormous number of photographs etc we have at the Heritage Centre, why don't you drop in on one of our Open Days and spend some time looking around and learning about the history of not just the Parish but of the individuals who lived here, maybe there is a relative of yours recorder somewhere in our archives?



THIS VIEW OF LONDON ROAD AT LARKFIELD, SHOWS THE OLD 'BULL INN' ON THE RIGHT OPPOSITE THE NEW HYTHE LANE TURNING AND ALL THE BUILDINGS ON THE LEFT CORNER HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED. THE SECOND BUILDING ON THE RIGHT IS NOW THE 'WEALDEN HALL'.



THE COLOURFUL HOP PICKING INDUSTRY AROUND THE AREA ENCOURAGED THE EDWARDIAN PHOTOGRAPHERS TO CAPTURE SOME OF THE SCENES FOR THE POPULAR POSTCARDS OF THE DAY. MANY OF THE HOP PICKERS WERE FROM LONDON AND EVERY SEPTEMBER THEY WOULD LEAVE THE CAPITAL BY ONE OF THE SPECIAL TRAINS AND SPEND FOUR OR FIVE WEEKS IN THE HOP GARDENS OF KENT.

DATES OF OUR OPEN DAYS

SUNDAY 12 MAY

SUNDAY 9TH JUNE

(D. DAY DISPLAY)

SUNDAY 14TH JULY

SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST

SUNDAY 8th & 15TH SEPTEMBER

(National Heritage Week)

SUNDAY 27TH OCTOBER

All from 10am till 3pm

Tea and biscuits available



2374 (Ditton) Squadron Air Training Corps

We would like to present to you all, the Squadron's new badge which has been approved officially.

We were able to collect it in person from the College-of-Arms in London for this unique historical occasion.

I hope you all agree this is a unique badge that we can all be proud of which has many connections to the local area of Ditton community.

The blazon (official description in heraldic language) is: Issuant from a Saxon Crown Or on a Grassy Mount proper set with Poppies Gules a representation of the Ditton War Memorial proper.

The Motto : is CUSTODIANS OF THE FUTURE

The Saxon crown : is a reference to the Saxon foundation of the village of Ditton.

The war memorial is a noted landmark in the village that is also a focus of remembrance for the nearby former RAF Station West Malling.

The Motto CUSTODIANS OF THE FUTURE acts as oblique reference to the motto of RAF West Malling PORTAM CUSTODIMUS (We guard the gate).

The red poppies on the grassy mount are an allusion to the nearby Royal British Legion Village.

The war memorial was unveiled on 26th September 1920 by General Sir Archibald Murray and dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Rochester. The design was suggested by Mr B W Tolhurst who also donated the land for the memorial. The architect for the memorial was the renowned Sir Giles Gilbert Scott. Ditton war memorial is composed of a Bath stone calvary which is within a coursed Kentish rag stone canopied structure, and there are railings at the entrance to the memorial. The World War I and World War II inscriptions are detailed in lead lettering on stone plaques at the base of the monument. The memorial is Grade II listed.

Flight Lieutenant M Long





**ROYAL
AIR FORCE**
AIR CADETS
the next generation

JOIN US!

2374 (Ditton) Sqn ATC

Do you want something worthwhile to do in your free time?

Social Nights

Flying/Gliding

Parades



Activities

Camping

New Friends

Join us for an evening, to find out more email the contact details below.
Army Reserve Centre, London Rd, Aylesford ME20 6DB

CONTACT US

oc.2374@rafac.mod.gov.uk



07519

850070

MUST be aged between 12 (in school year 8) and 17

Parade nights Tuesdays and Thursdays 19:00-21:30

TOURNAMENT SPONSORSHIP



OPPORTUNITIES

Support a Local Community Grassroots Football Club



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

Increase
Brand
Visibility

Build
Brand
Reputation

Generate
New
Leads

Develop
Community
Engagement

Be a part of one of the biggest grassroots football tournaments in Kent & Medway

With over 3000 people attending on the 22nd-23rd June at Ditton Community Centre, you will have maximum exposure to the grassroots community and all those affiliated with it. Sponsoring the Ditton Football Tournament will support you in your business goals whilst developing a local club inspiring people of all ages to access the beautiful game.

Bronze - £50

Your logo on the tournament website

Your logo included on our main website, providing a quality backlink to your website to help with SEO (over 500 hits a day).

Logo on Tournament
Scores and Fixtures
screen

Silver - £100

All of the bronze benefits +

A medium advertising space on our tournament website (which will be seen by all visitors)

A feature post on our social media channels explaining your business (over 1200 impressions from followers alone)

Gold - £300

All of the Silver benefits +

Our biggest advertising space on our tournament website

Your logo printed on our tournament banner system (used for team photos with trophies, and displayed over the whole weekend)

Contact: partnerships@dittonminorsfc.co.uk



ANNUAL **2024** TOURNAMENT

June 22nd - 23rd

REGISTER NOW



SCAN ME

£

45

Per Team

LIMITED SPACES
LIMITED SPACES

SATURDAY

22

AGE

7

9

11

10

SUNDAY

23

AGE

8

12

13

14

Facilities



Ditton Community Centre
ME20 6AH



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL

PLAYERS WANTED

DITTON MINORS FC
U12S
U13S IN SEPTEMBER

ALL POSITIONS CONSIDERED

**TIME FOR A
NEW
CHALLENGE**



**BRING THE FUN
BACK INTO
YOUR GAME**

**Wanting a fresh start, or
maybe a change for the
coming season?**



ACCREDITED
PART OF ENGLAND FOOTBALL



Contact James on: 07341251070

Contacting Kent Police

Report a crime:



To report a non urgent crime visit
www.kent.police.uk/report



Talk to us on LiveChat – available 24/7:
www.kent.police.uk/contact



In an emergency, if crime is in progress or life is in danger,
call **999**



If you have a hearing or speech impairment, use our textphone
service 18000. Or text us on 999 if you've pre-registered with the
emergency SMS service.



For news and advice visit www.kent.police.uk

News, information and advice:



Find your answer online. Browse the national Ask the Police
question finder www.askthe.police.uk



Email your local policing team.
Visit www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Follow us on Twitter @kent_police or find your local
account at www.kent.police.uk/yourarea



Find us on **Facebook**



Follow us on Instagram @kentpoliceuk



Kent Police

www.kent.police.uk/contact

A NEW GROUP FOR DITTON

Are you one of our residents who are fed up with seeing so much litter on our streets & footpaths? If so, why not come along to the Community Centre on Thursday 23rd May in the Acorn Room 7pm—9pm to find out what the proposed new group will do about it?

Parish Councillor Tony Mulcuck would like to organise a group that will take this task under their wing and hopefully make our Parish a much tidier place.



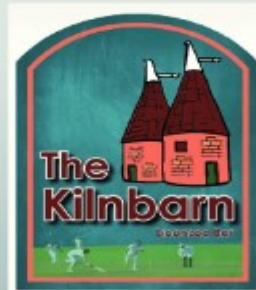
**KEEP
DITTON
TIDY**





The Kilnbar

Situated at the rear of Ditton Community Centre facing onto to recreation ground.



OPENING HOURS

MONDAY - THURSDAY
3:30PM - 8:30PM

FRIDAY
2PM - 11PM

SATURDAY
12MIDDAY - 11PM

SUNDAY
12MIDDAY - 10PM

2024

THE KILNBARN

**Saturday Night
Entertainment**

From 8pm

20th January	DJ Mark
17th February	Amy McCarthy
16th March	DJ Mark
13th April	The Great Mates
11th May	Jenni Em
8th June	DJ Mark
6th July	Lucy Wild
17th August	DJ Mark
14th September	Nikki Aston
12th October	Ami Harman
9th November	DJ Mark
7th December	DJ Mark



MUSIC *in the* PARK

BRING A PICNIC AND ENJOY
LIVE MUSIC IN THE PARK

Saturday 1st June 2024

Kilnbarn Recreation Ground

Kilnbarn Road, Ditton ME20 6AH

12.00 - 8.30pm

Live Music from 12.00(midday) featuring:



rachel h taylor

**BEATS
WORKIN**



Billy Pettinger

**LOÖKIN'
BACK**

Licensed Bar, Food & Ice Cream