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December 2008

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The end of an era

Dismayed staff are told the Caterham Marie Curie hospice is set to close in the spring



Marie Curie Cancer Care is restructuring its services in Surrey and its plans include the closure of the hospice in Harestone Drive, Caterham Valley in March 2009. The hospice closed its beds three years ago but since then the charity has funded four beds at the North Downs Hospital in Tupwood Lane for patients requiring end of life care in a hospital. The restructure means the closure of the four beds in North Downs hospital, but alternative provision will be available in St. Catherine's Hospice in Crawley.

Continued on page 2

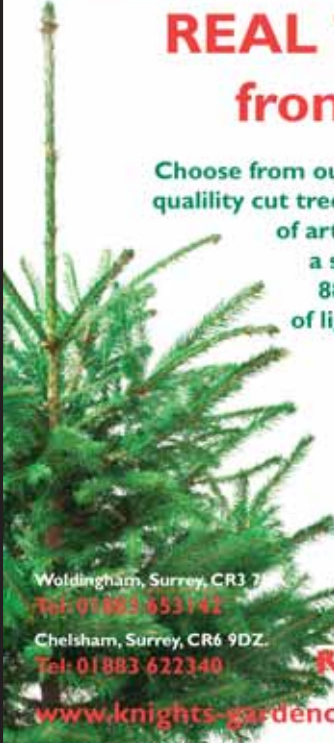
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Contents

Royal Chicken & Pizza competition	3
In the Spotlight Featuring Gerald Mills	4
Burtenshaw's Beat by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector, Elaine Burtenshaw	5
Education	6
New Youth Facility for Caterham	7
Kids' Competition	9
Eating Out	14
Readers' letters	17
Only a Winter's Tale? by Jerry Connor, Kenley Financial Ltd	17
In the Garden by Alec Herbert	18
What's On	18
Classified ads	21
Old Cats Rugby Club	23
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Restructure of Marie Curie nursing care

(Continued from Page 1)

Currently, around half of all cancer deaths in the county occur in hospital but research by the Marie Curie Cancer Care charity shows most people in the UK would wish to die at home if they had a terminal illness. Earlier this year, the charity made a commitment to double the number of people being cared for at home at the end of life by Marie Curie Nursing staff.

As well as the closure of the Caterham Hospice, the charity is also reviewing the current Community Supportive Care Service and the Specialist Palliative Care team. It is currently talking with its staff and Surrey and Croydon Primary Care Trusts about its proposals and how best to support more patients and their



The Marie Curie Hospice in Harestone Drive

families in the future through the delivery of more home nursing care. Susan Munroe, Director of Nursing and Patient Services at Marie Curie said: "If we are able to invest more in the local Marie Curie Nursing Service we believe we will be much better placed to help more people achieve their wish to die at home."

The beds at North Downs Hospital closed last week and patients requiring in-

patient palliative care will go to either St. Catherine's Hospice in Crawley, St. Christopher's Hospice in Sydenham or the Caterham Dene Hospital. East Surrey MP, Peter Ainsworth, said: "I recognise that, as an independent charity, Marie Curie is perfectly free to make its own decisions; however, I believe that they need to do a great deal more to convince local cancer sufferers and families that

their plans are in the best interests of our community."

If you would like to express your views to the charity whilst they are at the consultation stage you can write to:

Susan Munroe,
Director of Nursing and Patient Services,
Marie Curie Cancer Care,
89 Albert Embankment,
London SE1 7TP

STOP PRESS!

The Caterham Independent has increased its circulation and is now delivered door to door in Caterham Chaldon, Netherne, Warlingham, Woldingham and Hamsey Green.

For enquiries about advertising, please telephone 01883 346641

We're back in business!

Caterham traders and residents are hugely relieved that the roadworks on Church Hill have finished for the time being, bringing a welcome end to the traffic jams and chaos of the last few months. Andrew Browne, Chairman of the Caterham Valley Business Forum, said: "We want to ask everyone to come back down to the Valley to do their shopping now that the road is clear again. It took a lot of pressure and media cover-

age for us to get this result in time for the Christmas shopping period. Trade went down by 25% during the roadworks as shoppers avoided the town centre and went elsewhere. We understand the reasons why, but things are back to normal now."

The bad news is that there is still three weeks' worth of work to complete but it is hoped the roadworks will not resume until the end of January 2009.



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desserts so there is plenty to choose from if you are our lucky winner! To enter, send your answer to following question along with your name and telephone number to: 'Royal Chicken & Pizza Competition, The Caterham Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham, CR3 5UE or e-mail: 'Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk'. Only one entry per person. Entries must be received by Wednesday, 24th December.

Question: How many pieces of chicken are there in a Royal Party Bucket?

a) Four; b) Six, or c) Eight.

The name of the winner will be published in the January edition of The Caterham Independent. Good Luck!

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Mark Jones

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In the Spotlight

This month we feature Caterham resident Gerald Mills. Gerald works for an International Medical Rescue company and helped to repatriate Caterham resident Martin Vaux earlier this year when Martin was taken seriously ill whilst on holiday abroad. He is a member of the Caterham Carnival Committee & Chairman of Caterham Old Boys FC.



Favourite Food & Drink: Chinese and Beer.

Pastimes: Watching football, walking and darts (albeit not very good though!).

Likes: People who give up their time to help others.

Dislikes: Mobile phones being used on trains!

Favourite TV show: Only Fools & Horses.

Favourite books: 'Under the Wire' by William Ash and 'Before the Bells have Faded' by Mark Potts.

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? Bruce Forsyth.

Favourite song of all time: Glad all Over (Palace fans will know why.)

Favourite holiday destination: The Greek Islands

Biggest influence on your life: My Dad.

Proudest moment: Being at the birth of my sons.

Most embarrassing moment: Being so drunk I rang my dad up to try and find out where I was!

Where would you most like to live? On the Kent Coast.

Who would you most like to meet? David Bowie.

If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it?

Buy a Ferrari and a big house, a box at Palace, sponsor Caterham Carnival, then look after my friends and family.

Birthplace:

Redhill General Hospital.

Marital Status: Married to Hilary (32 years).

Children:

Two boys, Ryan and Adam.

Cars: Almera & Polo.

Childhood hero: Brazilian football legend, Pelé.

Pets: A cat, 'Leo'.



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all about you

Highways investigate the Mount Pleasant floods

Surrey Highways have been swift to take action, following the continued flooding of Caterham Valley since the recent 'big clean'. During the clean-up over 15 tons of silt, and 180,000 gallons of water was extracted from the systems. Chairman of the Transportation Select Committee at Surrey County Council, David Hodge, said: "Although the operation was highly successful it did not clear the problems in Croydon Road and Mount Pleasant Road where flooding still occurred after the clean-up operation.

"I brought this matter to the Highway Officers' attention and it was agreed to make arrangements for County Contractors 'Conways' to undertake a complete review of the drains and gullies and to use camera technology to check all the drains to en-



ABC Chairman, Chris Windridge (left) and Surrey County Councillor, David Hodge discuss the flooding problem with a highways engineer from Conways.

sure they were in good condition."

The formal report from Conways is expected to show that there is a 'fall' difficulty with the rainwater at the junction of Croydon Road and Mount Pleasant Road as it flows to the link on the opposite side of Croydon Road. As the gradient levels out at the bottom of Mount Pleasant Road, the flow of the water slows down, causing flooding.

"Once Conway's have com-

pleted their full report and Highway Officers have digested the full implications of the findings then I will arrange for a formal report to be brought to the Surrey County Council Local Committee at Tandridge when councillors can assess what needs to be done," explained Mr Hodge.

The Caterham Independent will keep readers updated with the findings of the report and further progress in this matter.

Help keep Christmas crime free

Surrey Police is reminding everyone to be on their guard at this time of year as thieves target motorists and householders with the aim of relieving them of their precious goods.

Shoppers are urged not to leave their purchases on view in their cars. Thieves target car parks, particularly in the lead-up to Christmas, watching and waiting for people to off-load parcels and bags in their cars before going off to do more shopping.

Shoppers are also reminded to be wary of pick-pockets - and to keep purses and wallets secure and out of sight.

Opportunist thieves may also be tempted if they can see a pile of presents under a tree, so householders are advised not to leave those beautifully wrapped gifts on view to passers-by, and to always ensure doors and windows

are shut and secure when leaving the house, even if just popping out for a few minutes. The average burglary takes only five minutes to carry out from start to finish.

Even at home a few simple precautions can help ensure a happy Christmas for everyone except the villains! Police advice is never to leave car keys near an open window or even by the front door - opportunist thieves have been known to steal people's car keys by hooking them out through the letterbox with a stick, and calmly driving away the family saloon parked outside the house.

Surrey Police Force Crime Reduction Advisor Jamie Robinson says: "It is important for people to be particularly vigilant at this time of year, both at home and while out shopping. And after Christmas it's worth remembering not to leave the empty boxes of high value presents such as TVs, X boxes, Wiis and iPods outside the house as these could also act as an invitation to burglars."

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Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector, Elaine Burtenshaw



I would like to start with positive news around Halloween patrols. The lead-up to the festival was quiet and on the night itself my team received 27 calls which is certainly quieter than last year. Thank you to those that were out Trick or Treating in Tandridge for entering into the spirit of the night, to the members of the community who contacted me to thank my team for their presence out there and my team for changing shifts and ensuring it was an evening that could be enjoyed by all.

You may have read recent reports about robberies in Caterham; I would like to reassure all of you this kind of crime is very unusual for Caterham and for Tandridge as a whole. This year in Tandridge, an area of 110 square miles, we have had just 11 personal robberies. This type of crime, along with all crime, we want to reduce further and my team are working with detectives to identify suspects. If you have any information at all then please call us or Crimestoppers if you wish to remain anonymous.

You should have received your

Neighbourhood Policing letters through your door with the news in your area and details of future panel meetings. We have used these letters to launch Country-watch in Tandridge and I would ask that you support this scheme which is about preventing and detecting crime to business and personal property in rural areas.

I would ask that everyone is alert to reports being received about bogus cold-callers operating in Tandridge and elsewhere claiming to either represent charities or even purporting to be Police or Fire Officers. These bogus callers are attempting to get residents to part with their money by offering advertising space in various publications or by asking for charitable donations. Services would not carry out such cold calling. If you have suspicions about anyone that comes to your or your neighbour's door then please call us.

Finally I would like to wish you all a very merry but safe Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

Looking Glass Gallery revealed in new light!

The Looking Glass Gallery at The Arc in the old Caterham Barracks site, Caterham-on-the-Hill, is proud to unveil its newly commissioned gallery lighting, designed by local metalwork artist Harri Harrison. Created by recycling discarded polytunnel supports with new and used lighting fixtures, Harri has created a very flexible and effective set up that has enhanced the arcade feel of the gallery.



Paintings on display in the Looking Glass Gallery

In recent weeks the gallery has been host to numerous artists including Farnham-based painter Carole Cunningham Jones and very recently the Old Coulsdon Art Society has returned for their annual exhibition. The December programme starts with Caterham watercolourist, Lynda Clarke and photographer Mike Yardley exhibiting from 2-12 December. This is followed by the final week

this year of 'Collaborative Weeks', a unique scheme to encourage artists that have small collections, to work together to fill the gallery. Access is between 10am - 6pm and entrance is free. Information on gallery events and the extensive programme at The Arc can be found by logging on to www.tandridgeleisure.co.uk or phoning The Arc on 01883 320000.

Rotary and Round Table are coming your way

The annual Rotary Christmas Tree Collection has been running in Caterham and District for approximately sixty years and is a joint venture between Caterham and Harestone Rotary clubs and Caterham Round Table. Last year's event made £3,500 for local worthy charities and the members will soon be out with Santa hoping to collect an equally impressive sum this Christmas. The collections will be taking place in Whyteleafe on 8th December, Caterham-on-the-Hill on the 10th, 12th, 15th, 16th and 17th of December, Caterham Valley on 9th December and Hamsey Green on 11th December.

In addition to the street collections Caterham Rotary will be collecting at Knight's Garden Centre in Chelsham during every weekend in December.

Hillcroft pupils bounce to support toy appeal

Hillcroft Primary School pupils are supporting the Salvation Army's Christmas Toy Appeal for the third year running. This year they held a fund-raising bounce with Salvation Army captain, Chris Sandford, joining in the fun (pictured right).



Gifts donated to the appeal will be distributed to children in need in our community by the Salvation Army's network, so Christmas morning will be

special. Please leave unwrapped gifts at Tots 'n' Weenies or Superdrug in Church Walk or the Centre Manager's office. Please avoid giving cuddly toys as the Army is usually inundated with them!

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Education

Oasis Academy hosts Business Breakfast

The Oasis Academy in Coulsdon hosted a Business Breakfast on Friday 14th November 2008 attended by local businessmen that had been invited by Principal, John Murphy. The audience heard a keynote address by Reverend Steve Chalke, MBE, on 'Investment for the Future' during the event that preceded the start of National Enterprise Week on 17th-21st November. Explaining the objectives of the event, John Murphy said: "Business and Enterprise underpins every part

of our curriculum. It is so important that we fully prepare our students for the workplace and we have modelled our student leadership team on business lines. We want to engage with businesses and harness their expertise. Our students are the workforce of the future, we want them to experience how a business works and understand how the subjects they are learning at the Academy relate to the real world; it will be a powerful motivational force to help them become the leaders of tomorrow." Afterwards the delegates were able to learn more about the work of the Academy with Lead Prefects on



Lead Prefects Hannah Cook and Ethan Coates - two of the Year 11 students that helped out at the event.

hand to guide them around the classes and answer their questions.



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Local school helps to smash world record

Children from Warlingham Park School took part in the Big Sing 2008 recently and helped break the Guinness World Record for the biggest simultaneous sing along. At precisely 2.45 pm last Thursday, 28th November, the school joined hundreds of other schools from around the country to sing Des'ree's worldwide smash hit 'You Gotta Be'. The latest estimates suggest that a total of 600,000 children took part in the challenge, beating the previous record of 293,978 singers.

The senior members of the Warlingham Park School choir travelled to the O2 Arena in London to take part in the World Record challenge while the rest of the school congregated in the School Hall and linked up by mobile phone. Head of Music at the school, Debbie King who was at the O2 arena in London to take part in the World Record challenge while the rest of the school congregated in the School Hall and linked up by mobile phone. Head of Music at the school, Debbie King who was at the O2 arena in London to take part in the World Record challenge while the rest of the school congregated in the School Hall and linked up by mobile phone. Head of Music at the school, Debbie King who was at the O2 arena in London to take part in the World Record challenge while the rest of the school congregated in the School Hall and linked up by mobile phone. Head of Music at the school, Debbie King who was at the O2 arena in London to take part in the World Record challenge while the rest of the school congregated in the School Hall and linked up by mobile phone.

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New youth facilities for Caterham town centre

Surrey County Council has agreed terms in principle to secure local facilities in Godstone Road for youth services.

This will mean that some youngsters who need a bit more support and help will once again have a centre in Caterham. It is also hoped to provide a Youth Cafe on the same site, which will be a vibrant, safe and appropriate place that will welcome all young people in the town. Sally Marks, member for Caterham Valley, said; "I am delighted that after several false starts Surrey County Council will now be able to provide facilities for youth in the town centre. It has been very disappointing to me that following the closure of the previous site we have not been able to provide local facilities that meet

the needs of the local community. This has been due to some of the options we have considered, not being suitable due to such things as poor disabled access or affordability and value for money to taxpayers. I am hoping that, subject to planning consent being granted by Tandridge District Council and the fit out of the facilities, the service will be opening its doors in the first half of next year.

Given that the provision of such services has remained a high priority to me and to many others, I am hopeful that any planning application for this site would be looked on favourably by the Planning committee at Tandridge District Council and am sure that the application will receive support from the Caterham Valley Dis-



Councillor Sally Marks trict Councillors - and hopefully the Parish Councillors too. I am also hopeful that as part of the scheme we will be able to provide a 'Youth Cafe' that will be a welcoming place for our youngsters. It will be vital to work closely with partners and community groups over the next few months to maximise the potential for this exciting new venture".

Kestrels Children's Centre

Marden Lodge School, Croydon Rd, Caterham CR3 6QH 01883 348641

Would you like a career opportunity with a Sure Start Children's Centre Team?

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Public Land, Caterham on the Hill including; High Street, Town End, Church Road, Chaldon Road, Westway, Recreation Ground, Westway Common, & Queens Park.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the Licensing Authority of TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL for a premises licence.

Details of the application are as follows:

The provision of Regulated Entertainment

A copy of the application may be inspected between 09.00 & 16.00 Monday to Friday at the address shown below.

Any responsible authority or interested party wishing to make representations on this matter must submit those representations in writing to Licensing Section, Tandridge District Council, Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0BT www.tandridge.gov.uk by no later than 29th December 2008 stating the grounds on which the representation is made.

Please note that it is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application and, on summary conviction for the offence, a person is liable to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale (currently £5,000).

Kestrels Children's Centre

Marden Lodge School, Croydon Road, Caterham CR3 6QH



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*The Hillcroft Surestart Centre holds a Stay and Play every last Wednesday of the month 9.30-11.30am for local registered childminders. Hillcroft School, Chaldon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill

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10am-2pm**

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Give me a call - Jackie Bolton 01883 625255



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Examination and interviews in February 2009.

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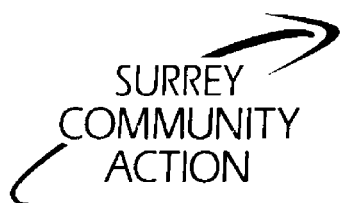
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Grassroots Grants supporting local communities

Surrey Community Foundation is delighted to have awarded £160,000 to 47 community groups. This is the total amount awarded so far from the three year Grassroots Grants programme, which aims to support small voluntary groups who are making a big difference to their local communities. Grassroots Grants is funded by the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) and administered nationally by the Community Development Foundation (CDF).

Surrey Community Foundation is managing Grassroots Grants for Surrey and has awarded over £90,000 this month alone to 26 local voluntary groups. This included a grant of £5,000 awarded to 1st Godstone Scout Group to fund a refit of their headquarters, which will provide a storage space for the club's equipment. This will then provide the group with the space to accommodate more



members. Surrey Community Foundation will award over £1 million in grants over the three years of the programme (2008-2011) to support community and voluntary groups to build stronger and more active communities. Professor Patrick Dowling, Chair, Surrey Community Foundation said "We are absolutely delighted with the excellent projects which Grassroots Grants have been able to support so far. We would encourage other small voluntary organisations locally to contact us for details on how to apply for a grant."

To find out more about Grassroots Grants, please contact Surrey Community Foundation on 01483 555640 or email: grantsadmin@surreycommunityfoundation.org.uk

The memories of a Caterham scout

by Andy Parr

Some readers may remember Les Hayley, now age 92 whose parents ran Hayleys stores in the Valley, where the HSBC bank now stands. He returned to Caterham recently to show his daughters where he grew up.

As a child he had been a Wolf Cub in the 1st Caterham Cub Pack, who were then based next to the Methodist Church in Coulsdon Road. He then became a Scout in the newly formed Valley Troop, now the 3rd Caterham. He was unable to come up and see the exhibition that was held earlier this year at the East Surrey Museum, or to attend the centenary of the 1st Caterham, but was interested in seeing some of the articles.

He was able to identify over half the people in a 1928 photo of the 1st Caterham at camp. He could also identify the leaders and some of the youngsters in a lorry at the 1930 Fire Brigade Carnival, and thinks it is a picture of him in a 1929 edition of the Scouter magazine, hanging onto the side of Warlingham Scout swimming pool - he still can't swim.

It was great fun talking to him, and I learnt a lot about Scouting



92 year-old veteran scout, Les Hayley, takes a trip down Memory Lane during his recent visit.

in the 20's. He talked to the cubs, and Neil Burtenshaw presented him with a 1st Caterham Centenary Scarf.

I also introduced him to Vi Mattock, (nee Waters) at 103 years old, Caterham's oldest resident. They hadn't seen each other for about 70 years, but amongst other things, remembered playing in the park together as children.

Were you a Cub or Scout in the early years? Can you remember anything else? please contact Andy Parr on 01883 340561 if you can.

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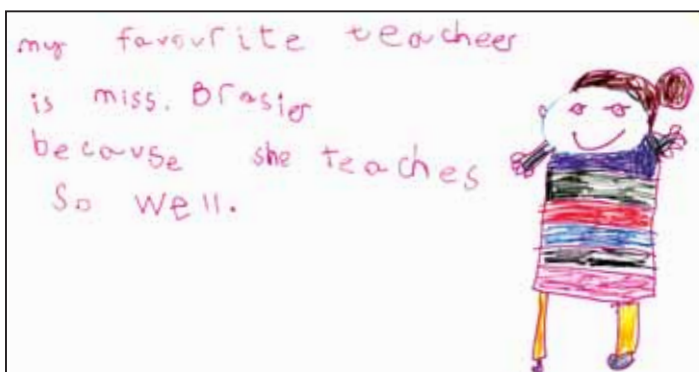
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Competition winners!

Congratulations to the winners of our November competitions. James Harper-Williams and Niamh Devaney were the two winners of our Caterham Linens Competition and Five year-old St. John's Primary School pupil, Jaya Davey, won our Kids' Competition. In answer to the question: "What is the name of your favourite teacher and why?" Jaya said: "My favourite teacher is Miss Brasier because she teaches us so well." We think you have earned some extra team points there Jaya!

Kids' Competition

There is another £20 gift voucher up for grabs for the winner of Christmas competition! To enter, get out your colouring crayons, draw a picture of Father Christmas and send it to the address below. The winning entry (and maybe some of the other best entries) will be printed in the January edition of The Caterham Independent. Please send your entry with your name, age and telephone number to: 'Father Christmas colouring competition, The Caterham Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham, CR3 5UE, to arrive no later than 24th December. Only one entry per child who must be aged 14 or under.



The Tandridge Team gets tough

The Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team joined forces with partner agencies to carry out the largest operation in the area to crackdown on anti-social driving and dangerous vehicles.

The road safety initiative, which took place along the A22 at Whyteleafe on Wednesday, 26th November, was in response to concerns raised by the community at recent neighbourhood panel

meetings about the volume of speeding traffic in the area.

A multi-agency operation, lasting five-hours, was co-ordinated by Caterham Valley Neighbourhood Specialist Officer (NSO) PC Martin Bassom. Forty-nine vehicles were stopped throughout the afternoon and early evening and one man, a 28-year-old from Caterham, was arrested and charged for possession of an offensive weapon and driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Nineteen vehicles were deemed un-roadworthy, ten motorists were reported for not having tax, four motorists were issued with Fixed Penalty Notices and six motorists were issued cautions by the Environment Agency for not having appropriate waste licences. PC Bassom said: "Speeding and anti-social driving is a genuine concern for residents particularly at this time of year and operations such as this prove that raising issues at panel meetings really can make a difference."

Remembering our unsung heroes



Sunday 9th November saw uniformed groups from around the District taking part in the Remembrance Day Parades with young cadets and scouts marching alongside a number of war veterans. The above photograph shows the Caterham Sea Cadets parading along Townend in Caterham-on-the-Hill towards St. Mary's Church for the laying of the wreaths and Remembrance Service, attended by several hundred local residents and dignitaries. President of the Royal British Legion, Peter McNeil, led the veterans who returned to the club after the service with the uniformed groups to enjoy refreshments.

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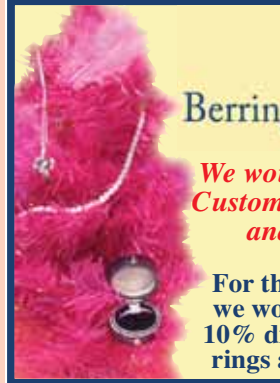
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Eating Out

A Chinese feast at Blossom House

by Julia Church

I travelled to the near east for a delicious Chinese meal recently, just three miles from Caterham to Hamsey Green to be precise! It was the first time I had the pleasure of dining at Blossom House, and I was very impressed by the friendly staff, relaxed environment and deliciously cooked food. Mr Lau, the owner, recommended a set dinner for my dining partner and I - the Peking Feast, one of a choice of three set meals at £18.00 per head. The Peking Feast is a best seller amongst Mr Lau's customers, with generous portions of a selection of favourite dishes, offering better value than when

chosen separately from the menu. To start with we were served with Peking Mixed Appetisers, consisting of Sea weed, paper wrapped prawns and saté chicken. Despite their description, the prawns were wrapped in mouth-watering pastry rather than rice-paper, and the saté chicken was beautifully moist and tender. This was followed by Crispy Duck served with pancake, fresh vegetables and hoi sin sauce - a firm favourite of mine. Having let the first two courses go down, we were then served our main course of Deep Fried Chille Beef, Chicken and Cashew Nut in yellow bean sauce, King

Prawns with fresh seasonal vegetables in garlic and Special fried rice. The Chilli Beef was lovely and crispy while the combination of chicken and cashew nuts with yellow bean sauce was pleasantly sweet - a very nice combination. With the juicy King Prawns and the rice there was more than enough food for the two of us - a genuine feast indeed!

The alternative set dinners are the Blossom House Feast - a sizzling favourite amongst families with youngsters, and the Szechuan Feast, for those those who prefer their food more highly spiced. With its great food and helpful staff, this contemporary Chinese restaurant is well worth travelling east for! To book a table call Mr Lau on 020 8651 4723.



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Mamma Mia - What a night!

Review by Julia Church

Hen nights, special birthday celebrations, works outings – they were all there, dancing the night away at the Abba Night at the Rayon D’Or in Purley Way, Croydon. If you haven’t discovered the Rayon D’Or yet, then get along soon for a night to remember! This sophisticated venue at Airport House provides all the ingredients for a celebration with good food, friendly service and top-class entertainment. The theme for the night when I visited Rayon D’Or recently was Abba, and the girls performed to a packed restaurant full of happy diners, eager to get onto the dance floor as soon as the show started. The doors to the suite opened at 7.45pm, allowing plenty of time for everyone to get seated at their tables and enjoy the buffet before the ‘Abba Girls’ took to the stage shortly after 10.00pm. At £22.50 per ticket, the evening offered excellent value, with a delicious selection of hot food to feast upon before the entertainment kicked off. The main courses included Beef Pot Roast with tomato sauce, Seafood and Vegetable Pie,



Chicken wrapped with Graadvalax in white wine sauce, Braised Lamb Steak covered in rosemary and garlic sauce and Poached Dressed Salmon, with rice/vegetable/salad accompaniments. Dessert consisted of Chocolate Brownies, Fresh Fruit Salad and Baked Cheesecake. The only problem was deciding what to choose, with such a tempting range of dishes on offer. The Rayon D’Or has a packed programme of themed Party Nights for 2009, including such favourites as Tina Turner, Elvis Presley, Simply Red and Lionel Ritchie. They are now taking bookings for New Year’s Eve when you can enjoy a buffet and dance to the theme of the 70’s and 80’s for £65. For more information call 020 8781 1816.



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A Bollywood Banquet

Review by Ann Highgate

My dining partner and I were made very welcome into this very warm, cosy and friendly restaurant for their special Wednesday Banqueting Night at £10.95 per person.

The buffet comprised five courses with a wide range of choices for each course. All the food is freshly prepared and can be adjusted for the individual to taste from mild to very hot.

We were seated and offered papadoms (always a good start to a curry), but these are not included as one of the courses. We had a bottle of Cabernet Sauvignon (£14.95) to accompany our meal, which was an excellent choice.

For our first course we selected Chicken Chat (juicy pieces of chicken in a spiced sauce with a fresh garnish of salad) and Shish Kebab (freshly cooked tender minced lamb with a

fresh garnish of salad). We followed this with Chicken Jalfrezi (chicken cooked with a slightly hot prepared sauce, garnished with onions and green peppers) and Dum Pukht Gosht (subtly flavoured lamb cooked with saffron and brown onions). I normally go for a Tikka dish but chose this dish on the recommendation of the waiter and it was lovely and tasty - the lamb was so tender and the creamy sauce very smooth. Our third course consisted of Sabzi Curry (fresh vegetables cooked with a little spice) and Saag Aloo (spinach and potatoes), a favourite of mine! Our fourth course was Garlic Naan and Pulao Rice.

By this time, we were very full, so chose a coffee for course five although we could have opted for two



scoops of ice cream. The Wednesday Banqueting Night is very popular with diners, and the restaurant was soon packed with couples and groups of friends. At the table next to us we met Stephen Bull from South Croydon and Gary Sharpe from Purley. They are regular visitors to Bollywood, dining most Wednesdays, and said they come back time after time for the excellent food and the very accommodating owner and staff!

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Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

"Alright Dave?" – Dave is in all the questions or answers:

1. In only Fools & Horses, who regularly asked "Alright Dave"?
2. David Cameron represents which constituency?
3. Salem House is the school, Mr Creakle the headmaster, and Doris Spenslow and Agnes Wickfield were his wives. Who is the title character of this novel?
4. Who was BBC TV's Sports Personality of the Year in 2001?
5. Which character had the Christian name David – Starsky or Hutch?

Answers

1. Triggler, 2. Witney (Oxfordshire), 3. David Copperfield, 4. David Beckham, 5. Starsky (Ken Hutchinson).

Only a Winter's Tale?

by Jerry Connor, Kenley Financial Ltd.



When David Essex topped the charts at Christmas 1982 with 'Winter's Tale', the UK was in the grips of a deep period of recession. Inflation hit 13% and interest rates a dizzy 10%. Unemployment was rising and people were worried about Sterling. We had just fought a war several thousand miles away (The Falklands) and people were pretty much down in the dumps. Does any of this sound familiar? Gordon Brown had said that boom and bust had been abolished. I think maybe he got that wrong! But how do things really compare this time around? As we approach 2009, many people are worried about the spectre of losing their jobs, homes and businesses. This time we have rising unemployment because of faltering demand but interest rates are lower and retail prices will be coming down. There undoubtedly will be winners and losers in this current financial climate. Savers will be amongst the losers. Despite what is reported we are a nation of savers and there are six times as many savers as borrowers. Over the next few months the credit squeeze between banks will ease and interest rates for savers will come down markedly. The recent cut in interest rates to 3% was in reality a 33% drop in potential income

stream. So please act quickly as securing good rates will be harder to do in the New Year. National Savings have also signalled a move to reduce the return on their accounts and even Premium Bonds. The winners will include those with large mortgages and stable employment. Next year the proposed tax breaks and falling mortgage rates will signal better times ahead if you fall into this bracket. Hopefully this recession will prove shorter than some fear; the statistics do not on the face of it seem as bad as in 1982. We could do with some good news, a rising stock-market and more stability in general. Things did get a lot better after 1982 so let us hope history is repeated. Have a great Christmas and a prosperous new year!

Readers' letters

Rose & Young - Chief Executive of TDC's response

I refer to the letter from Mark Lewis that appeared in The Caterham Independent in November, concerning the former Rose & Young site and other matters affecting Caterham. Mr Lewis alleges the Council has tolerated and kept quiet the fact the Rose & Young site is not eligible to pay business rates. Your readers may not appreciate that a central government body, the Valuation Office Agency (VOA), not the Council, is solely responsible for deciding which properties are liable for business rates. We collect the money due, but have no say in who is eligible or the amount they pay. In addition only 35% is kept by Tandridge. Accordingly, the Council had no control over the VOA's decision to remove the Rose & Young site from the rating list in 1997. To imply the Council and its councillors have been at

fault over this is wrong. However, I do sympathise with the strong views of Caterham traders and residents who feel aggrieved about this issue. Despite the government's recent initiative to abolish empty rates relief, to try and help stimulate the development of empty property sites, this move does not affect the Rose & Young owner, as the property has no rating liability in the first place. We asked the VOA to clarify the position and its response has been reported in your newspaper. As the Rose & Young premises is privately owned, the Council's powers to force a redevelopment are limited. Compulsory purchase order (CPO) powers can only be exercised by public bodies when the owner of a site is found to be blocking the way to a regeneration or improvement scheme. Ideally, a commercial development partner would come forward, willing to invest in a financially viable scheme to transform the Rose & Young site and help revitalise the Croydon

Road end of the Valley, but the reality is no such partner, or scheme, has emerged to date. Compulsorily acquiring a private site without a viable commercial development to implement would be likely to incur substantial costs and risks and would result in Council taxpayers taking on a significant financial liability. Nevertheless the matter is being kept under review should a viable worked up proposal come forward and there remained a blockage to it being implemented. Without these pre-conditions we cannot consider a CPO for the site with all the accompanying costs and uncertainties and the possibility the government would not confirm any such order should an objection be made. We have had many meetings with the owners and prospective developers to discuss the site's development. These meetings have been carried out with a flexible approach to appropriate new uses, which are reflected in our planning policy for town centres. **(Cont. on page 20)**

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In the garden

by Alec Herbert

Around the middle of November, I was asked if it was too late to scarify the lawn and give it an autumn feed. I feel it is and certainly by the time you read this article it will be. The lawn needs time to recover from being de-thatched and scarified and as growth is now more or less stopped such recovery will be more difficult. I would now be inclined to leave the lawn until the spring, then rake out the moss and dead grass, aerate and use a spring feed, thus encouraging new growth. Through the winter, try to keep off the grass, especially when it is wet as walking on it will compact the ground and restrict new growth later

on. Winter is a good time to plan and implement changes to the garden. If an established plot contains many perennials, they may have become overcrowded or straggly looking. Tackle one area at a time and if possible lift everything out and ensure all weeds are removed. Dig over the ground, adding as much organic matter as possible, then replant either the complete clump, or healthy young sections from around the edge of each clump. A decent mulch around each area will assist in suppressing any remaining weeds. Try interspersing winter flowering cyclamen, pansies and primroses as most will flower through to spring giving colour through the dark months of winter.

Pots and patio containers which have been planted with summer flowers do not have to remain empty. Plant these up using small upright conifers, small skimmias or choisyas, trailing ivies and winter flowering heathers. Keep in mind that the heathers will require an ericaceous based compost. Finally it is an ideal time to check plant stakes and supports for climbing plants. Many will have become damaged by the wind, overweight plants or simply rot. If this is so replacement is so much easier whilst the plants are relatively dormant. Try to keep off very wet or frosty ground and enjoy the slightly different challenges that winter presents to the gardener. Oh, and by the way, a very happy Christmas.

Celebrity launch for Downlands Trust



Conservation charity, the Downlands Trust, got off to a great start recently when it was launched at the Coulsdon Manor Hotel last month. Over 120 guests attended the launch that was attended by actress Susan Hampshire who formally introduced the Trust. There were also presentations by guest speakers Alan Law from Natural England and Graham Precey, Legal & General's Head of Corporate of Social Responsibility. The new charity has been set up and will be run by volunteers to support the countryside management work in the Downlands Project area (Northeast Surrey and South London). It will assist the Project in promoting the conservation and improvement of our natural environment. For more information, telephone 01737 737700

Caterham Baptist Church Christmas Services

Wednesday 17th December

Evening Carols at 8.00pm and refreshments

Sunday 21st December

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What's on

Festival of Christmas Trees

A Festival of Christmas Trees is being held in St. Lawrence's Ancient Church in Caterham-on-the-Hill over the weekend of 6th-7th December from 10am to 5pm. Come along and see the trees exhibited by local clubs, societies and businesses. Entrance free.

Tandridge Photographic Society

On December 11th at 8.00pm Tandridge Photographic Society (TPS) is holding an evening of members' digital audio-visual presentations, giving members a chance to experiment with imaginative interpretations of images and music. TPS meets at the rear of the Community

Centre, High Street, Caterham on the Hill For further information, please contact Steve Elms on 01883 349646.

Carol Concert

The East Surrey Choral Society is holding a Carol Concert with audience participation at 7.30pm on Saturday 13th December at Caterham Valley United Reformed Church. Tickets cost £5 from the box office, telephone 01883 344373, or on the door.

Munch with Music

The next event in the series of Munch With Music concerts at St. John's Church, Caterham Valley, is on 3rd December when the Farthingdown Choral Group will present items with a seasonal flavour. The doors open at 12.15pm with music from 1.45-1.30pm. Please bring your own sand-

wiches. Admission free.

St. Mary's Concert

A 'Concert for a Festive Celebration' is taking place on Saturday, 6th December from 7.00-9.00pm at St. Mary's Church, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Performing will be the Band of the Surrey Yeomanry and the choir and organ of St. Mary's. Tickets cost £3.50 for adults and £1.50 for children and OAP's, available on the door.

Cinderella

Woldingham Pantomime is presenting 'Cinderella' at the Woldingham Village Hall, directed by James Peacock. The evening performances take place at 7.30pm on 30th December and, 2nd/3rd January and the matinee performances take place at 2.30pm on the 1st and 3rd January. Call 01883 653040 to book tickets.



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Readers' letters

(Continued from p15)

Regarding the Council's approach to planning issues, Caterham is an area subject to considerable development pressures reflecting the prevailing view that it is an attractive place in which to live and conduct business. Planning officers apply policies consistently to ensure development within Caterham, as elsewhere in the district, reflects its distinctive local character and resist inappropriate development. Our newly adopted Core Planning strategy will greatly help in this.

On a specific point the opening of Kentucky Fried Chicken is cited as evidence of more fast food outlets. However, planning permission was not required, as the restaurant just replaced an existing restaurant (Pizza Hut). Evidence the Council actively supports local moves to improve Caterham is also found in our strong

efforts to help the 'A Better Caterham' group in its excellent work on initiatives to promote environmental improvements. This support has been given through much expert officer and councillor advice and attendance at many meetings. We remain willing to make a financial contribution when the group puts in a detailed bid to the Development Agency.

I hope these comments are helpful to provide a more balanced assessment around the Rose and Young issue and some other concerns expressed in your newspaper. **Stephen Weigel, Chief Executive of Tandridge District Council**

A resident's viewpoint

It was with great pleasure I read Mark Lewis's letter printed in your November issue. He mirrors, I feel, what the majority of us agree with in the Valley. We have a council that has been inactive not only with regard to the Rose & Young site but also the

state of our drainage, with continued flooding in Croydon Road and with the state of our pavements. I am one of the pensioners that have been drawn to Caterham and with the continued planning permission given to developers to build more homes for the elderly should we not expect more? We have on the horizon the dreaded increase in our council tax and for what I ask? Tandridge and Surrey County councils have a duty to improve our environment in the Valley but continue to fail us. Where are our councillors, in what is common knowledge the failures of these two organisations? We all know what to do during the next round of elections.

Gordon Frith, Caterham

Congratulations!

Congratulations on The Caterham Independent! At last a local paper that shows an interest in Caterham and its more important issues.

Julia Cook, Caterham.

Guy Fawkes winners



Well done to the winners of the Round Table's 'Build a Guy' competition which was judged on 8th November. First place: Eight year-old Dylan Thomas from Marden Lodge School (pictured right with his sister Megan); Second place: Seven year-old Emma Garrett from Hillcroft School (centre); Third place: Luke and Ben Cunningham aged nine and six from Audley School (left).

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Get fit to the core!

by Steve Robertson,
Energy for Life

It's that time of year again when some of you will be thinking of your skiing holiday for Christmas. The rest of us still need to keep our training regime in tip top condition so for the benefit of all of us we will look at core strength and balance. Core strength refers to the strength and stability around your abdominal, lower back and hip muscles and as skiing incorporates a lot of twisting and rotating, it plays a critical part in controlling the movements on your skis. The stronger your core, the easier it will be to perform more challenging manoeuvres and maintain good form. It will also help reduce the risk of injury. Balance is also critical for skiers. Good balance will enable you to land tricks easier and crash less. Here are some examples of exercises from our training program at Energy for Life.

Russian Twist

- Lie on a stability ball with your feet on the floor, knees at right angles. The ball should be nestled around your shoulder blade area. Keep your abdominals pulled in to support your back and help engage your core.

- Hold a weight

plate/medicine ball above your head and roll to the side until the tip of your shoulder is on the ball, and then repeat to the other side.

Stability Ball Bridge

- Support your weight with your toes on the ground and place your forearms on the ball, creating a bridge with your body. To increase the intensity, instead of using your forearms place your hands on the ball as though you were doing a push up.
- Draw in your abdominals towards your spine and hold this throughout the exercise for a specific time.

Add these to your training program and you will soon improve your core and your balance. If you would like to revitalise your training program come and see the team at Energy for Life to see how we can improve your performance.

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Change to Museum opening times

The opening times at East Surrey Museum have been reviewed with immediate effect and the museum is now open from 10.00am to 17.00pm on Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday and will no longer be opening on Sundays. Museum Curator, Katy Newton, said: "We hope that our new extended opening times will allow many more of you to visit and we look forward to seeing you in the near future."
Please e-mail enquiries to: eastsurreymuseum@btconnect.com or call the museum on 01883340275.

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A shining example

Martin & Co, the UK's Number One letting agent, has just been honoured as 'Best Franchisor' at The Negotiator Magazine awards ceremony at the London Park Lane Hilton Hotel. The award recognises excellence in the property services sector, and was presented by TV celebrity, Rory Bremner. The judges were 'most impressed' with Martin and Co, which since 1986 has remained a family owned business, and now has over 150 franchised offices throughout the UK, including Martin & Co on the Godstone Road, Caterham. They highlighted the company's passionate approach, along with its commitment to professionalism, customer service and training, which were described as 'exemplary' and a 'shining example' of a progressive lettings agency that 'has a formula for success'. "It was Martin & Co's first time of entering the awards and was prompted by the upbeat feedback we consistently receive from franchisees, landlords and tenants," commented Managing

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Director Ian Wilson. "We fully recognise the responsibility everyone in our organisation has to enhance the letting experience. This comes at a time when many new landlords are entering the market and require the security of a competent approach from a committed and professional letting agent. "We are proud to play a major role in driving lettings standards upwards, and we are already campaigning for regulation in the industry at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime, this award will hopefully provide our clients and prospective clients with the assurance that they have chosen the letting agency that our own industry has recognised as the one that receives the highest level of support from its franchise operator."

Awards for St John volunteers

The annual Transfer of Colours and Presentation of Awards Ceremony for St John Ambulance Surrey took place at St Mary and St Nicholas Church, Leatherhead on 26th October.

The awards recognise an outstanding achievement of community service with St John Ambulance and were presented by Lady Hamilton of Dalzell DL, former President of Surrey St John Ambulance (pictured right). There were 44 awards for individuals each giving 500 hours of volunteering, 12 for people giving 750 hours and 22 awards for people who put in a staggering 1,000 hours last year. Volunteers also won long service medals and bars representing up to 50 years of service each – a grand total of 835 years! Divisional President Stuart Latham clocked up a remarkable 50 years of volunteering for St John but was unable to attend the ceremony.

The Colours, which feature the eight pointed cross of St John, were passed from the custodianship of Leatherhead to Weybridge Division for the coming year.



Caterham Divisional Officer, Philip Greenfield, receives his award for serving 750 hours with St John



Caterham Division volunteer, Mark Peters, receives his 12 year award

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Old Cats RFC

by Old Cats Chairman, Steve Dalglish

The Old Caterhamians, your local community rugby club, is approaching mid-season with all sections of the club enjoying their sport.

The mini section, which caters for players from the age of five through to 12 have over 100 members training every Sunday morning at the club grounds under the watchful eyes of qualified coaches and enjoying friendly games with local opposition sides.

The youth sides of the club are also building numbers in each age group, playing friendly and league games within the Surrey Competition. The U13 squad of 30+ players have played local sides in friendlies and recently started their league games.

The U14/15 combined squad are attracting players from local schools as far away as Oxted and are training every week, play-

ing friendly matches later in the season.

The Under 17s have a squad of 27 players and started their league season on November 23rd with a home game against Sutton & Epsom. This is a strong age group with two of their players already having played in senior matches. The U18s league season does not start until January 09 with their first league game away to Cobham on January 11th. The squad of 26 players are looking to follow a successful season from last year and are continuing to build strength in their final youth year.

The Ladies senior squad have won two of their four league games so far with a further three games having been postponed so far this season. They are hoping to play future players from our developing youth sides that train



The mini section in training

alongside them on a Wednesday evening.

The men's first team have had mixed results in their league and are yet to settle into their season having suffered injuries to key players from the start of this season. The club's A and Ligers teams are playing friendly and merit shield games and looking to develop new players through them for the first team.

Anyone interested in playing, spectating, helping out or coaching at the club will be warmly welcomed into this friendly family environment. For more information go to: www.oldcats.co.uk

New garden waste service

From spring 2009, a new garden waste service is being introduced by Tandridge District Council to help residents compost their garden waste, instead of burying it in landfill sites.

Residents will be able to take out an annual subscription for a fortnightly service which will take away grass cuttings, hedge trimmings, leaves, plant prunings, weeds and old or used compost in a special bin.

Bins will be provided as part of the subscription, which is expected to cost around £40 a year. The new service, which will be carried out by Biffa Waste Services, will start in spring 2009.

Initially it will be available for up to 6,000 households in the Caterham, Oxted and Warlingham areas. These areas have been selected as this is where most of the current garden

waste sacks are sold. Residents fill up these sacks with their garden waste, which is collected by Biffa and taken to landfill.

As part of the new service, Biffa will be taking the collected garden waste to a dedicated composting facility in Kent.

Chairman of the Community Services Committee, Councillor Glynis Whittle, said: "We are very excited about the new service. It will provide a much greener way for residents to recycle garden waste and will also reduce the amount of rubbish being sent to landfill. We have decided to offer a subscription service, because not all residents will want their garden waste collected, especially those who are already composting theirs."

More details about the service will be available after Christmas.

Rayners

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A four bedroom detached character house convenient for local shops in Caterham on the Hill, set back from the road, with garage and ample parking.

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Four bedroom immaculately presented detached modern property with garage and parking in quiet cul de sac, close to town centre and station.

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