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Board celebrates as Soper Hall gets license to hold wedding ceremonies

The Soper Hall Community Centre Ltd. ('SHCCL') Board is delighted to announce that the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, is now licensed as a wedding venue. This news means that couples who would prefer to have a non-religious service can be married at this historical building in the centre of Caterham. Built in 1911 as offices for

Caterham Urban District Council, 100 years later Tandridge District Council agreed to transfer ownership of the building to SHCCL for use as a community facility. Chairman of SHCCL, Councillor Beverley Connolly, said: "The Board of Directors of SHCCL are absolutely thrilled that we now have our wedding license. It has

been one of our aims ever since we took over the management of the hall and we are so happy that we will now have local couples getting married in our beautiful heritage building. "The Hall is well linked to rail and road networks and can seat up to 120 people in glorious wood panelled surroundings. Indeed, this means that you can get married and have your reception all at the same location!" For more information about the Soper Hall visit www.soperhall.org.



A bride and groom outside the grand entrance to the Soper Hall.

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North Tandridge residents voice their concerns over Local Plan

February saw hundreds of concerned residents of Caterham, Chaldon, Whyteleafe and Warlingham attending public meetings to voice their concerns over the first draft of Tandridge District Council's Local Plan. The consultation period for the Local Plan ended on Friday 26th February, giving residents the opportunity to have their say on important local planning matters included in the Local Plan and its corresponding technical assessment documents. One of the first meetings took place at Chaldon Village Hall on Saturday 6th February. An estimated 310 people packed the hall and neighbouring St. Peter and St. Paul School, which had a live video stream of the proceedings. Chaldon Village Council hosted the meeting in response to the local outcry at the village being identified as having 'developable' land with an Estimated Site Yield of 1,315 new homes on Green Belt land in the Local Plan. Tandridge District Council's Chairman of Planning Policy, Cllr. David Weightman, was the main speaker at the meeting. In response to the residents concerns he explained that as part of the plan making process the government requires local councils to do a 'Call for Sites' and the Green Belt sites are part

of that process. Any sites put forward by landowners that are in the Green Belt have to be considered along with all the other sites. Cllr. Weightman emphasised the importance of residents taking part in the Consultation in order to give sound reasons why sites identified in the Local Plan are unsuitable for development. He said: "It is an ongoing Plan and the council is only at the first stage. It will take until at least the end of 2017 to complete the process and there will be more consultation with the residents before the council makes any deci-

sions."

Other speakers at the meeting included Surrey County Councillor for Caterham-on-the-Hill, John Orrick, Chairman of the CR3 Forum, Cllr. Geoff Duck and local resident, Andy Tindall.

On Friday 12th February, residents packed Hillcroft School hall in Caterham-on-the-Hill to hear representatives of the CR3 Forum explain how the CR3 Neighbourhood Plan will help to influence future planning decisions made by Tandridge District Council (see article on page 3).



Chaldon residents at the meeting in Chaldon Village Hall.

On Monday 15th February, Cllr. David Weightman repeated his reassurances about the Local Plan at a lively Question and Answer session at the Soper Hall in Caterham, organised by Caterham Valley Parish Council.

The Portley Residents Alliance and Hambledon Park residents also formed two smaller action groups within Caterham to help raise awareness of development issues in their neighbourhood, following the publication of the Local Plan.

In their official response to Question 4 of the Local Plan Consultation, Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council stated: "We conclude that, while the 'deliverable' or 'developable' housing site figures within the Parish seem relatively low, large sites close to the Parish boundary entail that over 40% of the prospective future allocation within the District would be located within or bordering



Cllr. David Weightman speaking at the Soper Hall.

Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish. Our comments on HELAA Appendix 3 indicate that many of these site allocations would be vigorously opposed by the PC and, no doubt, by adjoining Parish Councils, local groups and residents."

All the comments submitted to the recent Local Plan Consultation can be viewed at the Local Plan portal at www.tandridge.gov.uk

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The Caterham and District Independent
The Officers' Mess
Coldstream Road
Caterham CR3 5QX.

Editor: Julia Church
Tel: 01883 346641

E-mail: Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk
www.caterham-independent.co.uk
Circulation: 24,000

Circulated to Caterham, Warlingham, Hamsey Green, Kenley, Whyteleafe, Netherne-on-the-Hill, Chaldon, Old Coulsdon and Godstone.

CR3 residents are urged to have their say on the Neighbourhood Plan

On Friday 12th February, Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council held a public meeting at Hillcroft School, Chaldon Road, attended by members of the CR3 Forum, who were speaking about the Neighbourhood Plan. Due to the widely-held concern felt locally over Tandridge District Council's Local Plan the school hall was full, with standing room only. Parish Council Chairman, Chris Botten, explained that the meeting was being held to launch the first draft of the new Neighbourhood Plan that covers Caterham, Chaldon and Whyteleafe, which is a much more positive story for local people. The Neighbourhood Plan has been produced by local residents and volunteers working on behalf of the four parish councils and is about the issues and priorities for the CR3 area. Once finally approved it will have legal standing and give local people a greater say in the planning process. It covers topics such as business and employment, health and education, housing, leisure and community, natural environment and heritage, and transport. The framework and policies it sets out will help shape the future of our communities. Geoff Duck, District Councillor for Queens Park ward and Chair of the CR3 Forum, urged everyone to support the Neighbourhood Plan and to submit their comments on local priorities during the public consultation period that runs until Saturday 16th April. The volunteers want to



CR3 Steering Group members, from left: Chris Windridge, Annette Evans, Cllr. Sarah Burningham, George Dennis, Mary Mountain, Dave Evans, Cllr. Chris Botten, Jon Mountain and Cllr. Geoff Duck.

hear local residents' opinions before finalising the Neighbourhood Plan. Caterham resident and CR3 Forum Steering Group member, George Dennis, said: "Tandridge District Council's Local Plan has caused upset and anxiety, with its suggestion of building on our remaining Green Belt. The launch of the new Neighbourhood Plan at Hillcroft was much more positive. It is by local people, for local people, about local priorities. The Neighbourhood Plan gives us an alternative at last. Our communities can have more say in their own future. Everyone should get behind it." The Neighbourhood Plan can be viewed at www.cr3forum.org.uk where there is information on how to send in comments. Hard copies of the Neighbourhood Plan are also available to view at the libraries in Westway and Stafford Road in Caterham.

Local company offers specialist fitness training to Whyteleafe FC Under 21s

Caterham-based My Club Fitness is one of the UK's fastest growing HIIT (High Intensity Interval Training) companies, and they have recently joined forces as sponsors with local football club, Whyteleafe FC. As specialists in their field of sports and fitness, My Club Fitness will be supporting Whyteleafe FC with one of their unique training programmes.

'X-Treme HIIT' is a cardiovascular and strength fitness training programme which is highly effective at improving speed, strength, agility, stamina and flexibility. My Club Fitness will be working with the Whyteleafe FC football coaches for

the Under 21s Academy to complement their training programmes, delivering HIIT training to up and coming football athletes. Steve Robertson, MD of My Club Fitness, has over 30 years' experience in the fitness industry. He said: "We are looking forward to working with Whyteleafe FC, growing and supporting local talent and also working with the highly qualified coaches. It is an exciting time for both our organisations." My Club Fitness courses (X-Treme) are designed for adults and children from the age of four, and the company is accredited with 1st4sport and Skills Active. It is the only organisation in the UK with this endorsement to be able to deliver Level 2 qualifications for HIIT for children and adults. For further information of any My Club Fitness courses, please contact enquiries@myclubfitness.co.uk.



Steve Robertson, centre right, with Lisa Eccleston, General Manager, My Club Fitness and Ken Fisher, Director, Academy Team, Whyteleafe FC and the players.



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Get your dog microchipped!

by Vet-on-the-Hill,
Ian Mathers.

There are many benefits to having your dog (and cat) microchipped, but from the 6th April 2016, it will be compulsory for all dogs in England to be microchipped. Pups must be microchipped by eight weeks of age. Owners will also be required to keep their details up to date, and register the details of any new owner before a dog is sold or given away.

A microchip is a tiny electronic chip (about the size of a grain of rice), which is implanted under the skin, usually by a vet or veterinary nurse. The microchipping procedure takes a few seconds, doesn't require an anaesthetic, and is comparable to your dog having a vaccination. The microchip contains a unique number that can be read using a handheld scanner. The dog owner's details are then logged, along with the number, on a central database. Microchipping ensures that if your dog gets lost and is brought into a rescue centre, police station,



Ian Mathers.

dog warden or veterinary clinic, the chip can be scanned and the owner quickly informed. The reason for microchips becoming a legal obligation is primarily in an attempt to reduce the number of stray dogs. Government figures suggest that more than 100,000 dogs are dumped or lost each year at a cost of £57m to the taxpayer and animal welfare charities. The new law will also make it more straightforward to prove ownership, and subsequently prosecute in cases of animal cruelty and dangerous dogs. For more information contact your local vet surgery. Most animal charities (for example The Blue Cross and The Dogs Trust) will also help, and some are offering a free microchipping service.

The Mardens - Caterham's best kept secret

This is the time of year when kennels and catteries are busy advertising their services. The Mardens in Tupwood Lane, Caterham, is somewhat unique. The family business on the North Downs has been operating for over 50 years purely on recommendations.

Run by Richard Breach, The Mardens, whose tag is: 'Boarding with a Caring Reputation', is laid out as a village. This underlines how the establishment is known by its customers as a country retreat rather than a kennels and cattery. In fact, the cattery represents the village pub 'The Cat's Whiskers', while the village store houses the pet foods, biscuits, feeding bowls and other necessary items.

Richard has a long history of animal welfare. The original RSPCA cattery at South Godstone was based on the layout of The

Mardens cattery. Also, at one time Richard had 16 cats of his own, though now he has just two - Toffee and Treacle. On the dog front he also has two companions - Pumpkin and Igor.

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Firefighters save historic building for redevelopment

On the night of Thursday 28th January a huge fire caused extensive damage to the Grade II listed Officers' Mess at Kenley Airfield. Despite heavy winds, firefighters managed to save the outer walls of the building. Police believe the fire to be of 'suspicious origin' after the emergency services were called to the blaze at 11.30pm. Tandridge District Council has spoken to Comer Homes, the owners of the site, who, as specialists in the field of converting historic buildings,

are aware of their responsibility to restore the building. The Chairman of Kenley Airfield Friends Group, Alan Morgan, said: 'We are saddened such a thing has happened to such an important building, particularly in the light of just being awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £880,000 to commence what will be a fantastic project to conserve the airfield. However, we hope Comer will honour their responsibility to restore the building in line with its Grade II listing and press on with the conversion into luxury flats. "The fire brigade did a very brave job and thanks to their efforts we have not lost the whole building."



The charred facade of the Officers' Mess after the fire.

QUICK QUIZ

By Alec Herbert

This month, five questions on television:

1. Which TV quiz features Ann Hegarty and Jenny Ryan?
2. Charlie Carson, played by Jim Carter, is the butler in which series?
3. "Welcome to the places of my life" features which fictional DJ?
4. Which year saw the first broadcast of Casualty on BBC1?
5. The piece of music "Drag Racer" is used by the BBC to introduce which sport?

Answers:

1. The Chase;
2. Downton Abbey;
3. Alan Partridge;
4. 1986;
5. Snooker

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Diary of a Plantaholic

by Sue Baines

I did have a long list of jobs planned through February, but with one storm after another this year, it has proved difficult to get too far ahead. Priority has been to sweep up the ash keys, which have deluged the front garden. I rather thought the trees were on the way out as they have looked unhappy for the last few years with what appears to be "Ash die back", but it certainly hasn't affected their harvest. If I leave any, they will quietly grow up through hedges, prized plants, and paving, until they present quite a problem. I also try to be careful not to compost any either.

Each year the frogs have their own agenda, but whenever they decide to spawn, I must make sure they all have access to the big pond, which had been covered in fine netting since the autumn. Frogs return to the pond where



Sue Baines

they were spawned, and we usually have lots. How this winter's mostly mild weather will affect them I don't know. I love having frogs though, as they keep the slug numbers down, and reach hard to access places.

Most of my roses have now been pruned, and any dead bits on clematis that flower after mid-summer have been removed. If I am not sure when they flower, they just get a very light tidy up, as I don't want to spoil any early blooms. All that remains is to give them a feed and, where room, a nice dollop of home made compost, which is full of worms and nicely moist after all the rain this year, and hopefully full of goodness.

Message in a Bottle

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Lion Tony Skilbeck with one of the bottles designed to hold vital medical information.

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Warlingham Park Junior Choir joins Young Voices at the O2

On Thursday 28th January, Warlingham Park School's Platinum award winning sing-up Junior Choir joined forces with the world's largest children's choir organiser at the O2 in London.

Young Voices provides children with the opportunity to sing alongside renowned artists and has a greatly positive impact on the children involved. Working with their friends around them for support, Young Voices helps with self-belief, confidence and ability to communicate as part of a team.

The school's choir prepares for this event through much of the autumn term, learning a variety of vocal repertoire written in several parts and sometimes in different languages. By the time they arrive at the O2, the children know everything by heart and are able to enjoy the singing experience with



Warlingham Park students at the O2.

over 7,000 other young children and their teachers.

There is a massive sense of achievement gained from rehearsing over so many months and finally being able to perform in one of the world's largest arenas. This is further amplified when their parents are able to share the experience as part of the audience when they join them for the evening performance.

The programme was a real mixture of contemporary, traditional, pop and musical theatre, with numbers from

Madness to Gospel. The musical numbers were interspersed with actions and high energy dance routines from Street Dance legends, Urban Strides. This year's special guest artists were Tom Millington and BBC2's Chorister of the Year Winner, Laura Wright. Head teacher, Mike Donald, said: "Warlingham Park School is committed to the Performing Arts and giving every child the opportunity to perform in order to instil confidence and self-belief. Music and singing in particular enhances learning, and participating in Young Voices every year is one of the ways it enables our pupils to really enjoy, understand and develop with music."

Calling young snappers!

Caterham Rotary Club have launched their first ever 'Young Photographer Competition' to encourage local youngsters to get out and about with their cameras this spring.

There will be three prizes of £100 for the winners of the Junior (up to Year 6), Intermediate (up to Year 10) and Senior (under 19) categories. Entrants in the Senior category must be under 19 on August 31st 2016.

The theme of the competition is 'Springtime in Surrey' and the closing date for entry is Friday 6th May 2016. The competition is being sponsored by Caterham Photography in Croydon Road, Caterham.

Caterham Rotary Club member, Roger Easter, said: "We are delighted to sponsor this event, which is open to all young people

in the Caterham area. It's a great opportunity for us to help and encourage young people to show off their photographic skills and who knows, some of them might decide to become professionals in the future!"

To enter e-mail Marianne Woods at mrsmariannewoods@aol.com.

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Author, Dan Freedman, inspires creativity at Marden Lodge School

Pupils at Marden Lodge School in Caterham enjoyed an English lesson with a difference recently, where the subject of the day was football – or more specifically, writing about it.

Football journalist turned children's author, Dan Freedman, creator of the Jamie Johnson series of books, visited the school as part of the half-term 'News-flash' project. He spoke to the children about his life as a writer, his love of words and how he goes about creating his best-selling series of books, which are currently being made into a series for broadcast on CBBC later in the year.

Year Six teacher, Rachel Nicholls, said: "Dan was the ideal visitor to have at the school because he presented the subject in such an accessible way, which caught the attention of absolutely everyone."

"His approach is very simple – he writes the sort of books he would have liked to read when he was younger – but



Author, Dan Freedman, at Marden Lodge School.

it's incredibly effective. The children couldn't get enough of listening to his stories about his career, the places he's been, the people he's met and how it all goes into his work. We invited Dan into the school to make the children realise the importance of using your imagination, and the places that it can take you. He certainly did that, and everyone across the school gained a lot from his visit."

SCHOOL in a BAG

46 bags packed with school lesson equipment are making their way to children in poverty across the globe, thanks to the efforts of the 1st Whyteleafe Brownies and Guides. Caterham Rotary Club introduced the girls to the 'School in a Bag' charity and over a two year period the girls ran various activities to raise the funds needed to provide the bags, including grocery packing afternoons at local supermarkets, and running a disco.

Liz Foy from 'School in a Bag' recently visited the Brownies and Guides and talked to them about the bags and why they are so important, before the bags were carefully packed ready for transportation. The Brownies and Guides will be able to track each individual bag to identify its eventual destination and owner.

For more information visit www.schoolinabag.org

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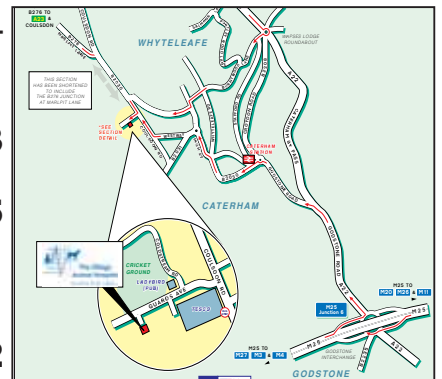
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Being a Parish Councillor

by Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council

Have you ever thought of being a Parish Councillor? Do you care about your community?

Do you have some spare time in the evenings? There are two common misunderstandings about Parish Councillors:

1. Parish Councillors are not employees or volunteers - they are elected representatives who volunteer their time to work on behalf of their communities. In some parishes the councillors receive an allowance, but in Caterham-on-the-Hill the councillors decided that public money was better spent on delivering local services.

2. Parish Councils are nothing to do with the Church - they are the most local tier of local government, covering a small geographical area - in our case Caterham-on-the-Hill.

Parish Councillors have a dual role:-

- They represent the views and concerns of the residents of the parish to the Parish Council itself and, through it, to the district and county councils;

- They report back to residents on issues affecting the parish.

The Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council is less party political than Tandridge District or Surrey County councils and decisions are generally not made on party political lines. Parish Councillors come from all walks of life because it's about representing the community, not yourself.

Speaking about the role of being a Parish Councillor, Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Councillor, Sarah Burningham, says: "I have been a Parish Councillor in Caterham-on-the-Hill since its inception in 2000 which came about after a local vote in favour of setting up this level of local government on the Hill and other local parishes. I had lived here since 1978, all my children had gone to school here and I thought this was a great place to live. The chance to become more involved with making the Hill a nicer place to live just appealed to me.

"I like being a Parish Councillor because it is a chance to actually get things done

Caterham on the Hill



where I live. I have been proud to work with many fellow councillors over the last 16 years on many projects."

Parish Council elections take place every four years - the next one will be in May 2016. If you are interested in standing for election next year please contact one of the councillors (see www.caterhamhillparish-council.co.uk).

If you would like to come along to a Parish Council meeting to see what it is like, you will be very welcome - there is a public forum at the start of every council meeting where members of the public can raise any concerns.

Dates of meetings are on the website at www.caterhamhillparishcouncil.co.uk.

AGM launches Caterham Festival 2016

On Thursday 18th February the Caterham Festival AGM took place at The Arc in Caterham-on-the-Hill. During the meeting Andy Parr MBE was re-elected as Chairman, Gwen Hoare as Secretary and Jill Caudle as Treasurer. Peter Dommett was elected into the new role of Vice-Chairman. Richard Snell was appointed as the Caterham Jester to tell jokes and perform circus tricks throughout the Festival. Andy reported on last year's Festival events and outlined some new events planned for this year's Festival including a Jazz Festival.

The Best of Fest Awards for last year's Festival went to Another Way Theatre for Best Supporting Group, Town Crier Sonia Hunt for Best Bellringer, Julie Groves for Best Innovative Idea with her Memory Tree in St. Lawrence's Church, Liz Parr for Best Festival



Chairman of Surrey County Council, Councillor Sally Marks, presented Phil Charrington with the Surrey County Council Award for Volunteering during the AGM.

Supporter and The Royal Oak pub for Best Place for Creative Inspiration/Idiotic Ideas! The date of the Street Party in Caterham-on-the-Hill was set for Sunday 5th June and the DeFest Music Festival will take place on the weekend of 28th-29th May. A full programme of events will be published later this spring.



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Readers' Letters

St. Lawrence's War Memorial

I am pleased to say that we have now raised enough funds to go ahead with the project to clean the WWI War Memorial at St. Lawrence's Church in Caterham-on-the-Hill. It is hoped the cleaning will take place this spring to coincide with the 150 year anniversary of the dedication of St. Mary's Church. The celebrations will include a Rededication Service for the Memorial.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people in the parish who made personal donations, also the War Memorial Trust, Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council and Caterham Community Church who were the main donors.

I would also like to thank Mrs Pauline Harrison who spent time persuading people to part with their money. Also, my wife, who spent many hours correcting my spelling and grammar on the many letters I wrote.

Contributions to the cleaning project can still be made to: Memorial Fund Treasurer, 32



St. Lawrence's War Memorial.

Birch Avenue, Caterham CR3 5RU or St. Mary's Church.

Any funds that are left over from the initial cleaning will be put into a fund for future maintenance of the Memorial.

**Mike Homewood
Caterham-on-the-Hill.**

Please send your letters to:

**The Caterham and District Independent,
The Officers' Mess
Coldstream Road,
Caterham CR3 5UX
or e-mail editor@caterham-independent.co.uk**

Council confirms CPO for Ninehams Gardens

On Thursday 11th February, Tandridge District Council confirmed its Compulsory Purchase Order for 1-20 Ninehams Gardens in Caterham-on-the-Hill and will take ownership in the summer. It is now in the process of serving the required notices on all the relevant parties. The council agreed the £7 million redevelopment of the site back in November 2014 in partnership with Durkan construction company and Circle Housing Mole Valley.

The Council has used these powers so the redevelopment can proceed, but says it is aware of the impact on the existing residents. Council officers have been discussing housing options with the leaseholders, and most have already reached agreement to sell their flats on a voluntary basis.

A planning application has been agreed for a scheme of 35 new houses and flats. The proposed new homes will be a mixture of affordable rent and shared ownership and will be owned and managed by Circle Housing Mole Valley. A legal agreement is in place to ensure the



Ninehams Gardens.

new homes will be available to people on Tandridge Districts council's housing register.

Councillor Simon Ainsworth, Chairman of the Housing Committee, said: "We have been working with Circle Housing Mole Valley, which has already bought a number of the flats back from residents. The Compulsory Purchase Order is necessary to ensure the development goes ahead, if we are unable to reach agreement with all the leaseholders. We have been seeking to redevelop Ninehams Gardens for a number of years, so it is great news the new scheme is coming to fruition."

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What's On

Jumble Sale

Caterham Methodist Church in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill is holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 19th March starting at 2pm. Entrance is 30p. To make a donation of jumble please call 01883 344198.

Old Coulsdon Camera Club

On Tuesday 15th March, Old Coulsdon Camera Club is hosting a talk entitled: 'Creative Photoshop (part 2)' by Jack Casement ARPS at 7.45pm for 8pm in Cameron Hall, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1HA.

East Surrey Choral Society

East Surrey Choral Society: Easter Concert, Saturday 19th March, 7.30pm, St. John's Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon, CR5 1HA.

ESCS will be joined by soloists and full orchestra from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama to perform two popular C major settings of the Mass, by Schubert and Beethoven.

Tickets from the box office (01293 786358), at the door or online at

www.escs.org.uk cost £12 each to include a programme and light refreshments. Children 14 or under free. All are very welcome.

Easter Extravaganza

Friends of Grange Park are holding an Easter Extravaganza at Grange Park in Old Coulsdon on Saturday 26th March from 11am-3pm. The attractions will include an Easter Egg Trail, bouncy castle, face painting, arts and crafts, refreshments and the chance to meet Grange Park's Easter Bunny.

Munch with Music

On Wednesday 2nd March at St. John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham, Angela Jones will perform a varied repertoire of hand bell solos with piano accompaniment. Coffee will be served at 12.15pm and the performance will take place from 12.45pm-1.30pm. Admission free. Donations welcome.

Tandridge Photographic Society

On Thursday 10th March, Tandridge Photographic Society are hosting a talk entitled "Travels" by Roger Reynolds and on Thursday

31st March, the Society is hosting a talk entitled "A Wildlife Photographer's Year" by John Buckingham. Both meetings start at 8pm and take place at the White Hart Barn next to the White Hart Pub in Godstone.

Historical Talk

A presentation entitled "My Grandmother was a Suffragette" is being given by Eleanor Radshaw at Beechwood Women's Club, held in St. Mary's Church Hall, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Tuesday 1st March at 8pm.

Quiz Night

Whyteleaefe Football Club are holding a Quiz Night on Friday 4th March at 7pm. Free entry. Teams of up to six. Licensed bar. Food will be available.

RSPB Talk

On Wednesday 9th March at 8pm, East Surrey RSPB is hosting a talk entitled: "Birds of Coast, Stream and Wetland" with photographs, by Brian Pettit, at the White Hart Barn in Godstone. Refreshments at half time. Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children. All, including non-members of the RSPB, are welcome.



"New Year New York" by Old Coulsdon Camera Club member, Phillip Dann.

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JJ Browne and Son celebrates 30 years in Godstone Road

On Tuesday 5th April, local family-run jewellers, JJ Browne & Son will be celebrating the 30th anniversary of the opening of their Godstone Road branch in Caterham Valley.

Andrew's grandfather, John Joseph Browne, opened the first branch of JJ Browne Jewellers back in 1921 when the shop was located at 39 Croydon Road. Andrew's grandparents ran the shop until Andrew's father Bill joined the business in 1955 and served his apprenticeship in clock and watch making for five years.

In March 1965 the shop relocated to its current location at 33 Croydon Road. Andrew joined the business in 1984. Then, on 5th April 1986, Andrew opened the second shop at 10 Godstone Road. The Godstone Road premises specialises in vintage and antique jewellery as well as cultured pearls and silver gifts. They also have a beautiful range of precious and semi-precious stone-set new gold and silver jewellery. The store has re-



Andrew Browne with his assistants Karen (left) and Christine.

cently started selling the lovely enamelled Sheila Fleet range of silver jewellery and always has a good selection of second-hand watches, which are great value for money.

Andrew's brother Jim joined the business in 1990 and worked in the Croydon Road shop with his father until Bill retired in 2005. Sadly Bill passed away in January 2009 aged 69.

Andrew said: "In my 30 years of working here, what I particularly enjoy is seeing things that are different and unusual all the time. Every

day is a different story, with people coming in with a bag of jewellery for us to sort through. Instead of selling, some people prefer to part-exchange their old jewellery or use some of the stones to make new jewellery. They can update what was fashionable in the '60s and '70s but is not fashionable now. It all follows a trend."

Call in to the Godstone Road shop on 5th April to join in the 30th anniversary celebrations and enjoy a complimentary glass of wine or a coffee as well as some great in-store offers.

With Mother's Day on Sunday 6th March, we have some beautiful gift ideas like silver ear rings, bracelets and bangles as well as some lovely pendants.

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Eating Out

'Wood & Stone'- Wood oven pizzas arrive in Coulsdon

Review by Julia Church

My first impression of the new pizza restaurant, Wood & Stone, in Coulsdon, was that it is very homely and cosy. It has limited seating, so it is definitely best to either arrive early or book a table. If you wish to consume alcohol remember to bring a bottle, because Wood & Stone does not sell alcohol, and they do not charge corkage.

The friendly atmosphere strikes you straight away and my daughter Jenny and I enjoyed wonderful service throughout the evening from our waiter, Baba, on our recent visit. Their menu features a range of starters including Spicy Garlic Bread with Cheese, Classic Bruschetta and Potato Wedges. Jenny selected BBQ wings - a portion of four fresh from the wood oven, which came with plenty of salad for £2.99. I chose Caprese Salad (Buffalo Mozzarella, fresh tomato, basil and olive oil) for £5.49. Both starters looked great and I was very impressed with the generous quantity of Buffalo Mozzarella in my Caprese Salad.

The restaurant specialises in its

wood oven pizzas, with a large selection to choose from in either 5" or 12" size (priced from £1.49-£2.49) or 12" size (priced from £4.49-£8.99). The owner, Salman, explained that the dough is made 48 hours in advance so it rests before being used, to produce a beautifully light pizza base.

There are also meaty and veggie wraps available and a selection of salads.

Jenny and I both chose 12" pizzas as we knew we could take our leftovers home in a box for a midnight feast later, or lunch tomorrow. Jenny chose the Mexicana (San Marzano Tomato, Mozzarella, Pepparoni, Spicy Beef, Mixed Peppers and Green Chilli for £6.99) and I chose the Vegetarian (Tomato, Mozzarella, Mixed Peppers, Mushroom, Aubergines, Courgettes, Fresh Basil and Extra Virgin Olive Oil for £5.99). They were both excellent and filling, but not at all heavy on the stomach. Jenny said the crust was the best ever!

We both saved some pizza for taking home so that we still had room to share a Nutella and strawberry topped mini pizza for dessert. We were both intrigued by the prospect of having pizza for pudding and it was a lovely sweet treat. There is also a banana version which we will try next time.

I must not forget to mention the delicious soft drinks we had - a wonderful Ferrero Rocher Milkshake for Jenny and a Tropical Skin Cleanser Smoothie for me. Gorgeous!



The impressive wood oven at Wood & Stone.



The 12" Vegetarian Pizza.

The restaurant also does a takeaway and home delivery service. See their advertisement for more information.

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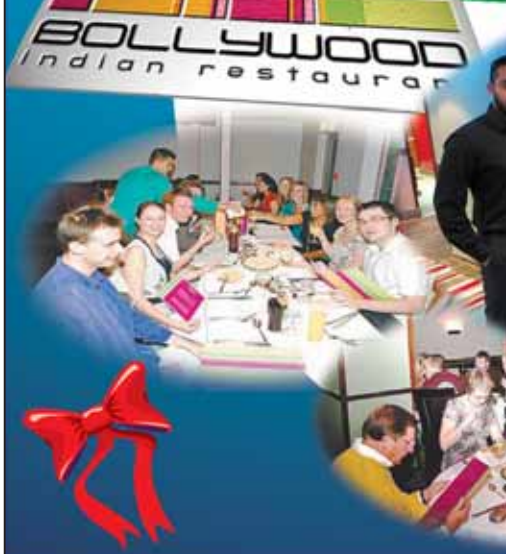
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Enjoy great home cooking at Caterham's latest eatery - Eddie's Cafe
Review by Julia Church

Another new dining establishment that Jenny and I have visited is Eddie's Cafe in Chaldon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. The cafe is in an ideal location in a bustling spot opposite Hillcroft School and close to the shops, with plenty of free parking nearby. The cafe is bright, airy and spotless, with plenty of seating and prompt, friendly service. The family-run business is owned by Eddie and Shelley Mehmet who have been working hard for months to get the cafe opened for the New Year. When Jenny and I popped in for lunch there was a variety of diners including a mum and her young daughter, a trader from a neighbouring shop who says he has already become a 'regular' and a couple of builders from a nearby housing development. Their menu is extensive, with a whole page given to breakfasts including a choice of four different All Day Breakfasts that include a slice of bread and tea or coffee for



Eddie's Cafe in Chaldon Road.



Shelley and Eddie.

£4.95. For those with a larger appetite there is Ed's Big Breakfast - egg, sausage, bacon, mushrooms, tomatoes, chips, beans and one slice of bread, with tea or coffee for £6.75. There are plenty of traditional English favourites on the menu including Steak and Kidney Pie and Pork Chop, and a selection of omelettes, jacket potatoes, salads, desserts and soft drinks. Jenny and I were both peckish so Jenny chose the Mixed Grill (£6.95) and I had a Veggie Burger (£3.00). Our meals were both nice and filling, represented excellent



The Mixed Grill.

value and were cooked just right. One tip - Saturday brunch times are extra busy, so get there early for a seat. The cafe is open 6.30am-3pm Monday to Saturday and from 8am-3pm on Sundays.

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Nature Notes

by Adele Brand

What is a food chain? A diagram that over-simplifies nature, perhaps. As a mammalogist, I've studied some of the world's largest prey species: bison and Canadian elk. I've also tracked wild hunters: jaguars in Mexico, wolves in Poland, and, of course, foxes in Surrey – the graceful leap of a hungry fox upon a vole is a nature calendar staple.

We have two species of vole here. Bank voles have rustic brown coats and large ears. Field voles are scruffy, placid little creatures which always look like they haven't had enough sleep, and are found in rough pastures and meadows. Theirs is the classic food chain: grass is eaten by the vole, which is eaten by the fox. It may sound like the vole has the bad deal in this equation, but they are one of the UK's most successful species, far outnumbering both foxes and us. You probably walk past a vole on every country walk, and may never see one; they live deep within the grass stems, running down



Bank Vole.

grass-tunnels until a fox, weasel or owl intervenes. Voles explain fox behaviour, to a point; on chilly winter mornings, voles tend to be active in daylight, and foxes and barn owls emerge into the sunshine to seek them. But what explains vole numbers? We've all been schooled to think that predators control prey populations, but it's not always the case. Even the hungriest fox cannot regulate the UK's estimated 75 million field voles. What does affect them is livestock – too many sheep means an overgrazed meadow unsuitable for small wildlife. Even so, they are still abundant, and that is a good thing for Britain's wild carnivores. The next time you see a fox, buzzard or a kestrel, remember the little rodent which supports them.

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Welcome to the Drawing Room opened in Woldingham in September 2012 to provide a place to meet and paint for pleasure. Whether you are a complete beginner or a more experienced artist, Welcome to the Drawing Room offers you the opportunity to indulge in a little 'me' time. The watercolour classes are friendly and relaxed, and each two week task has a step-by-step worksheet which accompanies the class demonstrations.

Tracey Bengeyfield, who launched The Drawing Room, believes the great thing about watercolour is that it is so accessible. She said: "All you need to start is a good brush, a palette of colours, some paper and a jam jar." Due to popular demand Tracey has added a further watercolour class, which will run on Wednesdays from 12.30pm-2.30pm. Tracey said: "I am delighted that art is becoming an increasingly popular pastime. You can't help but notice how the colouring book craze has really taken off. People are



Welcome to the Drawing Room students with their paintings.

beginning to see the value of art and how it can bring enjoyment and relaxation into our busy lives."

The two-hour watercolour classes are on Wednesdays, 10am-12pm or 12.30pm-2.30pm and Thursdays, 10am-12pm. The 'Just Drawing' class runs on Thursday afternoons from 12.45pm-2.45pm.

Bookings are for a minimum of a half term (usually six weeks) or a full term (12 weeks). Students that sign up for a full term can enjoy two weeks free. For more information visit www.WelcometotheDrawingRoom.com or contact Tracey at info@WelcometotheDrawingRoom.com



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St. Catherine's is hoping to raise £80,000 from the event to help them continue to provide their vital end of life care to local people in Caterham and beyond. What better reason to sign up for something different on a



summer's evening?

Louise Brown, Events Fundraiser at St. Catherine's, said: "Our Midnight Walk is one of the highlights of our year. It's always really lovely to see so many local women come together and enjoy a fun night with their friends, while raising vital funds to help us support local people with a life-limit-

ing illness."

If you would like to take part in the Midnight Walk, please visit: www.stch.org.uk/midnight-walk or call the Events Team on: 01293 447364. Entry is £25 per person but if you register before Friday 29th April, with the exclusive discount code MNW1, you can take part for just £20.

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HAMPTONS
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Philip Knight collects his award from Matt Dawson MBE

Hamptons International Awarded Best Large Agency for the Fourth Consecutive Year

Hamptons International took home Gold for Best Large Agency for the fourth consecutive year at the Estate Agency of the Year Awards 2015 in association with the Sunday Times and The Times, held at The Lancaster London Hotel on Friday 4 December.

The event is recognised as one of the most prestigious events in the industry calendar and attracted stiff competition from agents across the country. It was once again supported by The Sunday Times and The Times, with the winners presented with their awards, by International rugby star and MBE Matt Dawson.

Awarding Hamptons International with Gold for Best Large Agency for the fourth year in a row, the judges commented: "Hamptons International is a leading residential property company which offers unrivalled customer service from committed and inspired people. Clients using Hamptons will receive expert advice from highly trained, professional and enthusiastic staff. The valuers and negotiators are switched on, and are increasingly proactive in terms of progressing the sales efficiently and in a considerate manner. The culture is people oriented and the executive team has worked hard to entrench this philosophy internally and externally, so the team and the clients feel valued and appreciated. They understand that the right values are a mind-set so recruit those whose attitudes mirror those of the business, and seek to reinforce this with thorough and robust training of the technical skills of estate agency, which is aligned to the business goals. It has grown its international presence and now has partnerships with over 7,000 overseas offices. Hamptons International is a professional and polished brand whose ethics and standards have led to extraordinary levels of repeat and referral business. It is a worthy winner of the gold in this category for the fourth year running."

Hamptons International also scooped Silver for Best Training and Development and Philip Knight from Hamptons International's Caterham branch won Best Valuer. Award winners were decided following a rigorous and thorough judging process by a panel of 20 industry experts. The judging process was overseen by The Property Ombudsman, Christopher Hamer and Gerry Fitzjohn, VP of The Property Ombudsman acted as Arbiter.

Marc Goldberg, Head of Sales at Hamptons International, commented: "We are delighted to have been recognised for the fourth consecutive year as the UK's Best Large Agency at the prestigious Estate Agency of the Year Awards.

Throughout the year we have been working hard to grow our business share, invest in our staff and above all else provide our clients with outstanding customer service. To be acknowledged for these efforts by a group of industry experts is extremely rewarding and is testament to the hard work and dedication of our employees.

Alongside Gold for Best Large Agent, Hamptons International scooped Silver for Best Training and Development, acknowledged for our committed approach to training every employee in the business from new starter to senior director.

We are also extremely proud of our star performer, Philip Knight who received the highest of accolades taking home Best Valuer. Philip was commended by the judges for his relationships in the local community and his excellent commitment to service.

To win these categories from a competition pool of more than 6,000 estate agency offices from around the country is an enormous achievement."

PARK & BAILEY

All about people & property

Caterham Lettings **01883 340024**



Caterham on the Hill

£2,200 pcm

A four bedroom detached house offering versatile living with an ultra modern finish. Large open plan kitchen / dining / family room. Additional first floor lounge, shower room and two bathrooms all fitted in 'Porcelanosa' fittings and tiling. EPC Rating B.



Warlingham

£1,450 pcm

A three-four bedroom semi detached in a semi rural location. The property has a lounge and kitchen/breakfast room on the ground floor. To the rear there is a large patio off the kitchen, area of lawn and substantial timber built den. EPC Rating D.



Whyteleafe

£1,025 pcm

A well presented two bedroom ground floor apartment with garage, within walking distance of both Whyteleafe and Upper Warlingham train stations. EPC Rating D.



Caterham Valley

£1,650 pcm

A very well presented three bedroom extended semi detached house providing a stunning refitted kitchen / breakfast room. Lounge has a feature fire place with wood burning stove. Walking distance to Caterham Town Centre and train station. EPC rating D.



Whyteleafe

£1,550 pcm

A three bedroom detached bungalow in easy walking distance of both Upper Warlingham and Whyteleafe train stations. The property has undergone complete redecoration and had new carpets fitted throughout. Garage is included. EPC Rating E.



Caterham on the Hill

£1,595 pcm

A beautifully appointed four bedroom town house set over three floors with patio, garden and two parking spaces. Modern kitchen with integrated washer, dryer, dishwasher and fridge/freezer. EPC Rating C.

All about people & property



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Caterham Sales 01883 342205



Caterham Hill £395,000

An opportunity to acquire a larger than average three bedroom semi detached house with black paved driveway and level rear garden situated in a popular residential road and offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC Rating D. UPC1724



Caterham Valley £325,000

A two bedroom purpose built luxury apartment situated in a highly sought after gated development with off street parking conveniently located for Caterham Valley town centre with main line train service into central London and offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC Rating B. UPC1731



Kenley Guide Price £600,000

A well presented four bedroom detached family home with driveway and attached double garage occupying a prime position within a highly sought after and rarely available private cul-de-sac in the popular village of Kenley. EPC Rating TBC. UPC1735



Caterham Hill Guide Price £300,000

A well presented two bedroom Victorian house with south west facing level rear garden situated in a highly sought after residential road. Viewing highly recommended. EPC Rating D. UPC1734



Caterham Hill Guide Price £239,950

An opportunity to acquire a one bedroom ground floor luxury apartment with allocated off street parking situated in a prestigious private road with views towards Queens Park to front and offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC Rating C. UPC1732



Caterham Hill OIEO £600,000

A three bedroom detached bungalow with large driveway providing ample off street parking and integral garage occupying a well established level position, situated in a highly sought after residential road offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC Rating TBC. UPC1736

RAYNERS

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CATERHAM
£274,950

Split level maisonette with 2 double bedrooms, living room/diner, communal gardens, residents parking, garage en-bloc and sold with share of freehold. EPC D

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



WHYTELEAFE
£350,000

Modernised 3 bedroomed semi-detached house with double-length reception room, garage and off-road parking. EPC D

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM
£279,950

Split level maisonette with 2 double bedrooms, living room/diner communal gardens, garage en-bloc and sold with share of freehold. EPC D

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM
£395,000

Refurbished 3 bedroomed semi-detached home with 2 reception rooms, downstairs bathroom and upstairs shower room, rear garden and off-road parking. EPC E

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM
£425,000

Offered to the market with no ongoing chain, this 3/4 bedroomed detached house is set over 3 floors within close proximity of Caterham train station, shops and amenities. EPC D

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM
£379,950

3 bedroomed semi-detached house set over 3 floors with spacious kitchen/diner, downstairs WC and utility room, useful study and enclosed garden with views. EPC E

Caterham Office • 01883 347446



SOUTH CROYDON
£450,000

Semi-detached 3 double bed chalet bungalow within walking distance of local shops and transport links. Level rear garden. Detached garage/off-street parking. EPC tbc

Warlingham Office • 01883 622258



SOUTH CROYDON
GUIDE PRICE: £550,000

Attractive detached 3 bedroom chalet bungalow with tandem garage within a mile of Sanderstead shops and amenities. EPC D

Warlingham Office • 01883 622258



WARLINGHAM
£625,000

Luxury, spacious 3 bed/2 bath g/floor apartment located at the superb Greatpark gated development, stunning parkland grounds. Underground parking. No onward chain and ready to move into! EPC C

Warlingham Office • 01883 622258

Residential Sales • Land & New Homes

Caterham Branch
Godstone Branch
Warlingham Branch

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