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No. 128

January 2017

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Thieves wipe out Christmas fundraising for South Godstone RSPCA

by Julia Church

The Friends of South Godstone RSPCA have suffered a serious blow to their fundraising efforts following the theft of the generator they hired for their Christmas Fair that was held on Saturday 19th November. They were due to return it to the hire company the following Monday morning but when staff arrived at the centre they discovered the generator had been stolen.

Trustee of the Friends Group, Paul Munro, said: "The thieves

had broken through the gates to the centre, ripped open our marquis with a knife and broken the chains that were securing the generator in order to remove it. The garden centre on the A22 opposite the RSPCA also had £2,000 worth of tools taken the same night."

Brandon Hire in Crawley had kindly provided the generator at a reduced rate of £100 plus VAT but the Friends are now faced with a bill of £7,600 to replace it. To

make matters worse, two other major fundraising events, the Summer Boot Sale and Summer Fair both had to be cancelled due to torrential rain in June making the field waterlogged.

Paul's wife, Celia, who is also a member of the Friends Group, said: "The Christmas Fair raised £2,000 but the financial loss incurred by the theft of the generator is huge, and the effort made by all our volunteers has gone to waste".

Money raised by the Friends Group goes towards the cost of the centre's valuable work, such as funding expensive operations



Celia and Paul Munro with RSPCA staff member, Hannah Hawkins and Rosa the Staffordshire Bull Terrier.

that may be needed by the animals. The Friends also spent ten years raising funds to make a contribution towards the cost of the state-of-the-art new kennel block that opened in January 2015.

For more information about becoming a Friend of South Godstone RSPCA visit www.rspca-friends-of-southgodstone.org.uk or e-mail Celia and Paul at friends-of-southgodstone1@sky.com

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Residents and agencies form Project Group to tackle flood issues

On Monday 5th December the Flood Action Groups of Caterham and Old Coulsdon met representatives from Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council, and Croydon Council as well as representatives from Thames Water and the Environment Agency, to discuss the issues raised by the floods of 7th June.

Mary Alston, Chairman of the Caterham-on-the-Hill Flood Action Group, said: "The meeting was very positive and the attendees followed an action plan collated by the Flood Action Groups in response to the issues and concerns raised by the residents across Caterham and Old Coulsdon.

"The agencies guaranteed their commitment to listen to our issues and concerns, and agreed that there were still gaps in their knowledge. The Flood Action Groups are able to provide this information and will continue to contribute to their meetings. The agencies have formed a Project Group which our groups will be part of.

They are undertaking a feasibility study and although this will take time, the agencies recognised the urgency and likelihood of further flooding."

Julie Blackburn, Chairman of the Old Coulsdon Flood Action Group, said: "Having been passed from pillar to post for the past 16 years by Croydon Council regarding local flooding issues in Old Coulsdon, I was pleasantly surprised by the positive attitude from the authorities - it was not the heated debate I had expected. It is reassuring that finally, historical local knowledge will be addressed and I am delighted that all parties are taking the matter very seriously..... with the exception of the London Borough of Croydon who sent along a junior member of staff to the meeting who was not adequately prepared."*

The Chairman of Tandridge District Council and District Councillor for Chaldon, Pat Cannon, said: "We have taken a quantum leap forward but if we do not do something about flooding we will just have to be re-active instead of pro-active. We have to take measures in some way to minimise the effects of heavy rainfall. The way forward is to work with the Flood Action Groups that

are highly regarded by Surrey and Tandridge.

"The stark reality for me was visiting the homes of the people affected. It brought it home how devastating it is for families and cannot be ignored. Although things are starting to happen we are a long way from fixing the problem so we must keep our pedal on the metal and see this through to the end."

Mary added: "Pat Cannon, as well as the Chairman of Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council, Chris Botten, and other parish councillors have been very supportive.

"We are planning to hold a public meeting in February to provide residents in the area with an update and useful information about insurance renewal and flood resilience." The Flood Action Groups will be starting a website and using social media to keep people informed but in the meantime please e-mail caterham.floodactiongroup@yahoo.com for further information.

Residents who do not use e-mail can also call The Caterham and District Independent on 01883 346641 for more information.

*A statement was requested from Croydon Council with regard to the flooding problems in Old Coulsdon but at the time of going to press a statement

Residents express concern over potential development of allotments

On Saturday 26th November, allotment holders and residents of Sunny Rise and Heath Road in Caterham-on-the-Hill gathered on the Heath Road allotments to see what they can do to protect the area from development. The allotments are one of the sites identified in the Local Plan Site Survey as potentially developable by Tandridge District Council.

A spokesperson for the local residents said: "We are concerned about the potential loss of this

well used, tranquil area which provides exercise and recreation for almost 200 people, as well as providing food and being a haven for wildlife. Local residents are particularly concerned that with the loss of this cultivated area, which soaks up excess water, flooding will increase and their homes will be affected."

Increased levels of traffic and a lack of available spaces in local schools to cater for a growing population were further issues of concern. Tandridge residents have been expressing their views about the possible development of this and other sites across Tandridge by participating in the consultation that ended on Friday 30th December.



Local residents and councillors at the Heath Road allotments.

The Caterham and District INDEPENDENT

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Lib Dem candidate, Dorinda Cooper, wins Caterham Valley by-election

On Thursday 24th November, the by-election took place for the vacancy created by Jill Caudle's resignation from her post of District Councillor for the Valley Ward in Caterham.

Dorinda Cooper from the Liberal Democrats won with 444 votes which was 52% of all votes cast. Jeffrey Bolter of the United Kingdom Independence Party received 145 votes; Paul Shipway, of the Conservative Party received 215 votes and Mark Wood of the Labour Party received 57 votes.

After the votes were counted, Dorinda said: "I'm thrilled to have won. It was such a surprise as I had such big shoes to fill. Everyone I spoke to on the doorstep all spoke so highly of Jill. I hope I can live up to their expectations. Now the hard work starts. We need to be clear on the plans for Timber Hill Park and to ensure Tillingdown Park is safe."

Jill Caudle, who also attended the count, said: "I'm so glad to hand the baton on to someone who I know will work hard for the people of Caterham. I have left you all in good hands."

Alun Jones, who also represents the Valley Ward in Caterham, said: "It



From left: Ex-Tandridge District Councillor for Caterham Valley, Jill Caudle, Cllr. Dorinda Cooper, Cllr. Alun Jones and Cllr. David Lee.

has been a hard fought campaign. It would be lovely to have a little rest, but there is the switching on of the Christmas lights this Saturday in Caterham Valley, at which we are helping out."

David Lee, Parliamentary spokesperson for the Liberal Democrats in East Surrey and the District Councillor for Whyteleafe, said: "I would like to say well done to all of the candidates who stood in the election. Sticking your head above the parapet can be daunting for some people. It was nice to see all candidates shake hands at the declaration."



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Citizens' Advice Bureau moves to Caterham Valley Library as part of new Community Hub

From Tuesday 3rd January, The Caterham and Warlingham Citizens' Advice Bureau ("CAB") and Tandridge Voluntary Service will be part of a new Community Hub at Caterham Valley Library in Stafford Road for all local and community information.

The CAB are moving from the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road into a refurbished space in the library. The project, which started in December, has converted the first floor of the library

into office and meeting space for the CAB, with non-fiction library stock moved downstairs. The local history section on the ground floor has been moved into an expanded space in what was previously an unused store in the staff area.

For more information about opening times and services available at Caterham Valley Library, visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/people-and-community/libraries.



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St. Luke's holds special service to celebrate 150 year anniversary

On Sunday 4th December, Revd Tim Goode of St. Luke's Church in Whyteleafe, welcomed a packed congregation to the Service of Celebration to mark the 150th anniversary of its dedication on 4th December 1866. The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, attended the service, along with

other members of the local team ministry. After giving the sermon, the Bishop dedicated the new Nave Alter in memory of the ministry and service of Mike Smith and the new Lectern in memory of Gladys Brown. During 2016 the church has been reordered, the ceiling replaced and some original features uncovered, as a fitting tribute to the 150th anniversary. Following the service, nearby Whyteleafe School kindly hosted refreshments for members of the clergy and congregation.



The Rt Revd Christopher Chessun, Bishop of Southwark, with local clergy and members of St. Luke's Church after the 150th anniversary service.

Entries invited for the Caterham Rotary "Young Photographer Competition"

Caterham Rotary Club is reminding local youngsters that the deadline for submitting an entry to their Young Photographer Competition is fast approaching. This time the theme is: "Seasonal Scenes in Surrey".

There will be three prizes of £100 awarded to the winners of the following age groups: Junior: Up to and including Year 6.

Intermediate: Up to and including Year 11.

Senior: Age under 19. (All categories are based on a qualifying end date of 31st August 2017.)

Photographs can be in colour or black and white and must measure 6" x 4" in jpg format and submitted by email.

Full details of the competition, including an application form and terms and conditions, are on Caterham Rotary's website: www.caterhamrotary.org.uk.

The deadline for submitted photographs with a completed application form is Wednesday 1st February 2017.



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To kick off the New Year, Thread Bear will have 15 classes and workshops running during the spring term, ranging from quilting courses lasting several weeks to one-day knitting and crochet workshops.

Don't miss their January Fabric Sale - customers who buy material left on a bolt of fabric will get 25% off! What better time to start a new craft project?

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5050 or visit www.threadbear.co.uk

Discover the joys of Nordic Walking

Two months ago, 89-year-old Michael Meller from Whyteleaf took up Nordic Walking as a new form of exercise and is so impressed with it he wants to start up a local Nordic Walking Group.

Michael said: "Due to various health issues I needed to exercise regularly, so I used to go for a walk every two to three days but I just trudged along. Then I saw an item on Sky News about Nordic Walking and thought: Good Lord, that is something I can do!"

Michael invested in some Nordic Walking Poles for £25 that he bought online (not to be confused with trekking sticks), and an instruction book. He also watched online tutorials and taught himself the technique of Nordic Walking.

Michael said: "I love it, it is absolutely fantastic. I feel like a

50 year-old now, not 89. Instead of trudging like I used to, I stride along with my sticks and feel so much fitter, in just two months."

Michael has been looking for a local Nordic Walking Group to join, but the nearest one he could find was in the South Downs.

Michael is inviting anyone interested in Nordic Walking to contact him with a view to starting up a group, initially to walk around Kenley Airfield once or twice a week. Michael will discuss the best days and times to meet with anyone who is interested in joining the group or giving Nordic Walking a try.

Michael said: "I have some spare sticks and can offer tuition to anyone who wishes to give it a try, so they would be very welcome to come along." Anyone interested in joining Michael to start a Nordic Walking Group can contact him by e-mail at m.meller@sky.com or calling 020 8668 0522.



Michael Meller.

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Santas and Elves support St. Catherine's

On Sunday 27th November, Santas and Elves went head-to-head in a competitive fun run at Caterham School in Harestone Valley Road, to raise funds for St. Catherine's Hospice.

Runners of all ages dressed in Team Santa or Team Elf T-shirts to run a 4km route through the school grounds before heading back to find out whether it was their team that had snowstormed to victory. As an elf crossed the finish line first, a cheer rang out as Team Elf were announced Caterham's first ever Santas vs. Elves champions.

After assembling for a fun warm up ahead of the 10am start, Team Santa and Team Elf runners queued up on the start line as MP for East Surrey, Sam Gyimah, opened the event.

Once runners crossed the finish line, they were rewarded with a medal and mince pie before taking selfies with Santa at the selfie station.

Amongst the runners was Alison Addy, who is Head of Community Engagement at Gatwick Airport, who also



Santas and Elves warming up before setting off on the fun run for St. Catherine's Hospice

sponsored the event. Alison competed as part of Team Santa and said: "Santas vs. Elves was really great fun and I'm definitely feeling festive now! It was so lovely to see all ages coming together and clearly having a great time while supporting their local hospice. I'm really proud to have played my part in raising money to help local terminally ill people this Christmas."

Michaela Clements, Events Fundraiser at St. Catherine's, said: "It was great to see

people enjoying our first ever Santas vs. Elves fun run. Their donations will go a long way towards providing care during the festive season. Our four Santas vs. Elves Runs are on target to raise an estimated £30,000, which is amazing! I'd like to say a huge thank you to all our Caterham runners and to Gatwick Airport for their generosity in sponsoring the event."

To find out more about supporting St. Catherine's, please visit: www.stch.org.uk

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Prospero Theatre launches new Mindfulness project

Caterham-based theatre company, Prospero Theatre, is thrilled to announce a new educational project for 2017. The project is called Mind Fit and Creative and Prospero will be working with over 30 schools across Surrey, including 15 from Tandridge.

Director, Beth Wood, said: "The Mind Fit and Creative project is funded by The Community Foundation for Surrey and Gatwick Trust. We have been doing Mindfulness and emotional literacy work in schools since May 2015. We are now in term three of our work with Sunnydown School in Caterham, which has been incredibly rewarding. A year ago we began working with cognitive specialist Andy Barker

and our Mind Fitness work now combines Mindfulness and CBT, REBT and a few aspects of Drama Therapy.

"It is acknowledged that stress and anxiety in young people are reaching critical levels. This is a programme which teaches young people how to manage their emotions and bring their anxiety under control. It also works to release creativity and potential."

Prospero also does Mind Fitness work for Corporates and for Performers, working with forward-looking businesses and many of the top drama schools and training academies. For details about any of the work please contact Beth on bethwood@prosperotheatre.com



Beth Wood conducts a Mindfulness class at Lingfield Notre Dame School.

SEEKING A SCHOOL GOVERNOR

Sunnydown is a small Surrey secondary school in Caterham. It caters for boys with special educational needs and it has recently been rated as Good by Ofsted.

The governing body is seeking individuals who would be prepared to devote some of their time to becoming a school governor. We are looking for people with a wide range of skills including, but not limited to, experience in finance, data analysis or education. This is an ideal opportunity to get involved in the local community and join a group of dedicated volunteers who work closely with the Head Teacher to improve outcomes for pupils.

If you would like to find out more about the role please contact the Chair of Governing Body
Teresa Parkinson at tparkinson@sunnydown.surrey.sch.uk.

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Bunnies, are you ready?

by Richard York, Caterham Rotary Club.

Have some exercise, maybe join in with some friends and seek sponsorship for charity, then reward yourself with an Easter egg on Sunday 9th April in Queen's Park Caterham. The Rotary Club of Caterham is holding the tenth Easter Bunny Fun Run with a 1k Fun Run starting at 10am and a 5k Race starting at 10.30am.

Runners/walkers may choose to raise money for their own charity or for Rotary charities. Every finisher is given an Easter egg with the prize-winning best-dressed bunnies and fastest runners getting larger eggs.

We encourage charities (schools or local youth groups) to put together their own teams to take part in the race and raise much needed funds for themselves. In previous years group teams have raised about £2,000 each, having great fun doing it.

Last year nearly 400 participants took part and enjoyed the party. Come and join us

in 2017 and help increase the £23,000 raised for good causes since the first event back in 2008.

The theme is Easter Bunnies and many competitors in the 1k and some in the 5k dress up in a wide variety of Bunny outfits. The 1k Run is in Queen's Park and along Wood Lane with no roads to cross and marshals at each turn.

The 5k Race is over an undulating course of grass, pathway and track through Chaldon and Caterham on the Hill and while the last competitors have been known to come in hand-in-hand munching biscuits after well over an hour, the course record is 17 minutes 19 seconds. It's there to be beaten! Emily of Bunny Hop Dance and Fitness will be leading the warm up for both runs. The Chair of Tandridge District Council, Pat Cannon, will be attending to start the runs and present the prizes.

A registration form and fee is required for each runner. The registration fee (non refundable) is £6 for the 5k Race and £3 for the 1k Run. Registration taken out on the day is double the pre-registration cost. Registration reserves a place at the start of the race and the finisher's



The Easter Bunny warming up at last year's Rotary Bunny Fun Run.

egg. Enter online or request forms via the website www.rotaryruns.co.uk, by email request to rotaryruns@gmail.com, by post from 'Rotary Runs', 11a Queens Park Road, Caterham, CR3 5RB, or by telephone during business hours to The Caterham and District Independent on 01883 346641.

Caterham Rotary is very pleased to have the support of local sponsors who help keep our costs to an absolute minimum: The Caterham and District Independent, CATAX

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Ltd, Ross Cycles, Surrey National Golf Club, The Vet on the Hill, North Downs Hospital, First Community Health and Care, Tandridge District Council and Bunny Hop Dance and Fitness. To learn more about Caterham Rotary Club please take a look at our main website www.caterhamrotary.org.uk.

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5K RACE & 1K EASTER BUNNY FUN RUN



BUNNY FUN RUN



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A Registration fee and signed form is required for each runner. Please make cheques payable to "Rotary Club of Caterham" and send to 'Rotary Runs', 11a Queens Park Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5RB.

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I will not compete in a run unless I am fit enough to complete it. I am taking part at my own risk, and the promoters or any person involved with the organisation of the event are not responsible for my well-being.

The runs take place in a public space and I understand that photographs and video are likely to be taken.

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On Saturday 26th November, Father Christmas glided into Church Walk Shopping Centre in Caterham with his elf driven sledge and Christmas cheer for the annual switching on of the Christmas lights. Children then had the opportunity to have their photographs taken with Father Christmas in his sledge and he left with a list of who had been good throughout the year. School choirs from Caterham School and Marden Lodge entertained the shoppers along with The Baptist Church Choir and Caterham's Rock Choir. This year the event was supported by local community and charity stalls including Caterham and District Horticultural Society, St Catherine's Hospice, the 3rd Caterham Scouts and the Breck Foundation. Centre Manager, Lyne Boyd, said: "This year was the busiest yet; it was lovely to see such a huge crowd of people visit the Centre and we hope everyone enjoyed the event. There was so much support from the local community groups, without whose help we could not put on such a show. We hope everyone has been enjoying the lights, including the new ones on the lamp posts in the mall and the Christmas tree donated by Knights Garden Centre.



Santa and his elf arrive in Church Walk.



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The 26th November also saw the switching on of the beautiful Cedar Tree lights in Caterham-on-the-Hill, organised by Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council. Buxton Building Contractors kindly made their car park available to host the event which this year attracted an even bigger crowd. Visitors enjoyed mulled wine provided by the parish council and carols sung by local schoolchildren.



Jean (left), Pauline and Santa at the League of Friends Christmas Fayre.

On Saturday 3rd December the League of Friends of Caterham Dene Hospital held their Christmas Fayre at the United Reformed Church in Caterham Valley, raising over £2,000. The money will go towards installing WiFi at the Hospital, together with a couple of tablets for patients to use.



Martin with hand-made knitted items made by members of the League of Friends.



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Skaterham is proud to fly the new official Caterham Flag!



Members of Skaterham with the new Caterham Flag.

Skaterham, Caterham's indoor BMX, inline, scooter and skateboard park, was proud to be the first venue in Caterham to fly the new Caterham Flag when it was put up on Saturday 26th November.

The flag is the first of many that will be appearing on local school and other public buildings following the launch of the flag last November.

Skaterham occupies the

Guards Chapel on the old Caterham Barracks site, an important part of Caterham's military heritage. The flag is at the back of the building, clearly visible from Coulsdon Road.

Skaterham always welcomes new members, with sessions for youngsters aging from eight and under to over-17s. For more information about facilities and opening times visit www.skaterham.com

Come to The Ballet Box for dancewear, sheet music and lots more

A sprinkling of Christmas magic came to The Ballet Box in Caterham-on-the-Hill for its Open Afternoon on Saturday 17th December. A ballerina, en-poinette and complete with beautiful tutu, visited the shop to meet customers at the special pre-Christmas event.

Local young, trainee dancers and cheerleaders flocked to the shop to have their photo taken with Lily the ballerina, join in the Christmas Mouse treasure hunt and enjoy refreshments.

In addition to dancewear and sheet music, The Ballet Box has also been stocking up on a range of gift items for the festive season.

Sarah Goodwin, owner of The Ballet Box, said: "Our gifts have been selling well and recently I started to sell cheerleading items including hand-made cheerleading boots and boots made to order. I have also broadened my stock of pointe shoes. A lot of par-



Ballerina, Lily Webb, with, from left: Elisa Greene-Lavonte, Sarah Goodwin and Freya Nicolaou at The Ballet Box.

ents used to go to Covent Garden for shoes but I now have a good stock here for them to choose from."

Sarah sells all types of dance shoes, from ballet to jazz, and also sells gymnastic clothes. Above all, Sarah prides herself on offering an excellent, personal, service.

She said: "I really enjoy customer service and providing a friendly welcome. I have lots of lovely customers, including musicians and music teachers who come in to buy sheet music."

For more information and to view Sarah's opening hours visit www.theballetbox.co.uk

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Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

Days of the week

1. Which day of the week featured in hit songs for "The Mamas & Papas, The Boomtown Rats and The Bangles"?
2. On which day was the 2016 Presidential Election in the U.S.A.?
3. Also in the U.S.A., on which day is "Thanksgiving Day" celebrated?
4. Man Friday was the companion of which literary character?
5. 1994 was the last time the Epsom Derby was run on which day of the week?

Answers:

1. Monday (Monday, Monday, Monday; I Don't Like Mondays; Manic Monday);
2. Tuesday;
3. Thursday;
4. Robinson Crusoe.
5. Wednesday.

New community orchestra performs its first Christmas concert

by Daniel Goss, age 12.

On Sunday 4th December, the North Downs Community Orchestra officially opened the Christmas season with an assortment of wonderful Christmas Carols at St. Mark's Church in Reigate to really get you in the Christmas spirit. The mix of the orchestra playing and the audience participation was what made the atmosphere so special, with singing accompanied by jingle bells. Once the final Carol was played, people from the audience were given a chance to

have a go at playing Barney the Bear's violin. Overall, I think the concert was a huge success and the large audience was very pleased with the mix of old and new Carols. The North Downs Community Orchestra was formed in March 2016 and is aimed at adults of any age, whether they are accomplished players returning to their instrument or just learning. Everyone is welcome to join us at rehearsals every second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Endeavour Scout hut in Godstone. We are very grateful recipients of support from the Hazelwood School Community Fund, enabling us to hold separate sectional rehearsals once a month. More information can be found at www.the-funorchestra.co.uk/.



North Downs Community Orchestra performing at St. Mark's Church in Reigate.



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Eating Out

Enjoy a curry cooked "just how you like it" at Bollywood

Review by Julia Church

It is always a pleasure to dine at Bollywood Indian Restaurant at 19 Godstone Road, Caterham Valley, and on this latest occasion I visited at lunchtime for a pre-Christmas lunch with my friend Mandy who works at Evergreen Joinery in Caterham-on-the-Hill. We were given a warm welcome by Khan, the manager of Bollywood and we received excellent service throughout our meal from Kam our waiter.

Mandy chose the Onion Bhajis for her starter while I chose a starter I had not had before, the Sev Pappi Chut, a combination of chick peas and potatoes with a coriander, mint and tamarind sauce topped with crushed papadom. I thoroughly enjoyed the crunchy papadom and creamy sauce mixed with the other ingredients, it made a lovely change. Mandy enjoyed her Onion Bhajis which she said were not dry, as she finds they can be sometimes.

For our main courses, Mandy



The stylish interior of Bollywood Indian restaurant.

asked for Khan's recommendation because she normally orders either Chicken Dansak or Chicken Madras. So Khan suggested Mandy try the Chicken Karai, described as a dish "highly flavoured with herbs and spices".

I ordered the Sabzi Hariali from the Vegetarian Main Course options, on Khan's recommendation, (fresh vegetables cooked with mint and coriander). We shared a Kashmeri Aloo Jeera side dish (potatoes cooked in thick spicy sauce with fried cumin seeds and onion) and a coconut rice. My Sabzi Hariali had potatoes, green beans, sweetcorn,

peas, onion and carrot and had a lovely flavour. It was just the right level of spiciness for me, as Khan said he knows what I like. What a fantastic personal service! Mandy was delighted with her Chicken Karai because, she said: "I love onions and I love peppers, which this has!"

We shared a nice warm Peshwari Naan bread and by the end of the meal we were both very full, with no room for dessert.

Indian restaurants are Mandy's favourite and she said that although she lives in Warlingham, she will definitely be popping back to Caterham to dine at Bollywood again.

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Nature Notes

by Adele Brand

Ever heard of a 'righteous red waxy cap'? Even under its more common name of 'scarlet waxcap', it might still cause some blank faces, which is a shame because it is truly one of the most beautiful residents of old grasslands. It's not animal, plant or mineral: it is a species of fungi. To be more exact, waxcaps form a genus called Hygrocybe. They're sometimes called the orchids of the fungi world because they appear in such spectacular colours, from green to bright yellow and even flamingo-pink. Waxcaps are more than just a colourful addition to our countryside. They are very sensitive to disturbance and artificial fertiliser, and can take decades to recolonise a damaged site. Waxcap-rich grasslands are in steep decline across Europe, and the UK now has an international responsibility to conserve them. Unfortunately, unimproved grassland is one of our most threatened habitats - it is rapidly disappearing due to overdevelopment and agricultural changes.



Scarlet Waxcap by Adele Brand.

We are fortunate in our area to still have old, undisturbed fields complete with a splash of waxcap colour. Parrot, snowy, scarlet, and golden waxcaps are amongst those recorded locally. As the Local Plan consultation continues, it is useful to remember that ancient grassland is just as important as ancient woodland. Our biodiversity needs both.

What's On

RSPB Talk

On Wednesday 11th January at 8pm, East Surrey RSPB are hosting a talk entitled: "Walking with Bears" by Andy Skillen at the White Hart Barn in Godstone. There will be refreshments at half time and the meeting finishes at 10pm. The fee is £3 for adults and £1 for children. All, including non-members of the RSPB, are most welcome. For more information visit www.eastsurreyspsb.co.uk.

Munch with Music

The first Munch with Music concert of 2017 is taking place on Wednesday 1st February at St. John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham. The concert will feature "Duo Asteria" - Corrina Hentschel on violin and Giulio Poggia on piano. Corrina and Giulio are recent alumni professionals from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music.

Coffee and biscuits will be served at 12.15pm and the performance takes place between 12.45pm-1.30pm. Admission is free, donations welcome. Please bring your



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own "munch".

Real Lives Week

Oakhall Church are holding a week of inspirational talks during "Real Lives Week", 4th-12th February, including one by award-winning comedian, John Archer on Saturday 4th February at de Stafford School in Caterham and child prodigy cellist, Pete Sampey, on Thursday 9th February at Oasis Academy, Old Coulsdon. For more information and to book tickets visit www.oakhallchurch.org.uk/ realives or phone 01883 349627.

CATERHAM JOB CLUB

Out of Work?

WHERE: Caterham Community

Church, Coulsdon Rd, CR3 5NF

WHEN: Every Wednesday

12.30 - 2.30pm

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OIRO £600,000

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