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No. 141

February 2018

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New Oakhall Church is on schedule to open for the community this autumn

Construction of the new Oakhall Church is continuing apace in Chaldon Road, Caterham, and is scheduled to open its doors this autumn with the aim of providing a buzzing hub for church and community life. The site will feature a café, a space for sports and all-age events run by the church for the community - as well as a meeting

space for Sundays. Oakhall Church began in Caterham in 1894 and its "home" has always been in Caterham-on-the Hill. Currently meeting in Francis Road and de Stafford School, this growing church community has run out of space in the venues currently being used and this large new building will be the solution.

Andy Mayo, one of the church leadership team, said: "We are grateful for the support of the community of Caterham as we continue to work towards transforming this once-dilapidated corner of the town. We look forward to welcoming many here when the building opens in the autumn." Look out for more news about the week of opening events that are scheduled for the autumn, including tours of the new building along with free coffee for locals!



The site of the new Oakhall Church in Chaldon Road.

See a range of local traders advertising in Classifieds on page 14 and local jobs in Recruitment on page 13.

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Chaldon residents hear details of proposed big change to popular village school

On Thursday 11th January, a public meeting took place at St. Peter and St. Paul School in Chaldon to present and discuss the proposal to extend the upper age range of the school from 4-7 to 4-11, thereby changing the school from an infant-only to a full primary school.

Head teacher, Mrs Stephanie Bailey, explained to the audience: "The catalyst for the change is that St. John's C of E Primary School in Caterham Valley, where the children normally feed into, want to reduce their intake in Year Three, so we need to come up with a solution that is for the benefit of both schools. The worst case scenario would be for St. Peter and St. Paul's to close down and as one of the key centres of the village, it would be a great loss if it

was no longer here. However, we have good support from the Southern Diocese and the parents' view is strongly in favour of expansion."

Expanding the school would give the children a seamless transition from Key Stage 1 to Key Stage 2 and would save parents of KS2 children driving down to St. John's and back up again, twice a day, which would have a positive impact on the local environment. However, increasing the current 90 places to 210 would require extension of the existing school building onto Green Belt land and managing the traffic and parking issues that would result from expanding the school.

The Chair of Governors of St. Peter and St. Paul's, Cllr. Bob Milton, said: "Surrey County Council ("SCC") will have the final say but Cllr. Chris Botten has had a very positive meeting with the leader of SCC and we hope the council is behind us.



From left: Rev'd. Tim Goode, Cllr. Bob Milton and Mrs Stephanie Bailey.

"I am confident we can put a strong case together. I know there are problems but we will work very hard to resolve the problems."

A petition with 700 signatures in favour of the expansion was put before cabinet at SCC on Tuesday 23rd January.

The next stage of the process will be a formal consultation period and the school website will be updated with progress. Visit: www.stpeter-stpaul.surrey.sch.uk.



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

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Joint circulation of both publications: 26,000.

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Local residents in the school hall for the meeting.

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Freedom Leisure merges with Tandridge Leisure to operate local sports centres

On Thursday 4th January, a special celebration took place at de Stafford Sports Centre in Caterham-on-the-Hill to mark the merging of Tandridge Leisure Trust with Freedom Leisure to ensure the future of leisure centre provision in Tandridge.

Ivan Horsfall-Turner, Freedom Leisure Managing Director, said: "de Stafford Sports Centre is a much loved community facility and the only sports centre in the area, making it a jewel in the crown for both the school and the town of Caterham. Thus it is our aspiration to deliver a locally-focussed service which caters for the needs of both the pupils and local residents. We hope that our operational expertise, coupled with the experience of the existing centre team, will mean that the services will go from strength-to-strength."

Freedom Leisure have also



Freedom Leisure's Director of Operations, Matt Hunt (left) and de Stafford School Head Teacher, Jeremy Garner shake hands outside de Stafford Sports Centre.

taken over the running of Tandridge Leisure Centre in Oxted and the Village Health Club in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

Freedom Leisure has committed to over £2million of improvements across Tandridge, including upgrading kit, enhancing facilities and adding extra studio space.

Ivan Horsfall-Turner added: "As a not for profit organ-

isation, we reinvest all surpluses into our centres in support of the objectives we share with our partners, so we look forward to working with Tandridge District Council to deliver improvements to the facilities and services to enable people in the district to be more active, more often."

For more information about Freedom Leisure visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk.



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Learning is fun with 'My Own Tutor'

A new business is emerging in the local area called My Own Tutor North Surrey, whose aim is to enhance their pupils' learning in a fun, interactive and educational way. The teaching method used will greatly enhance pupils' chances of doing well in English and Mathematics and will build confidence, understanding of the subject and be an extra resource pupils can use during their school years.

The tuition is affordable, costing £10 per week for full on-line access to English and Mathematics (and other exercises in most of the subjects studied at school). Pupils have access 24/7 so they can watch the lesson and then do the exercises at any time they want to.

Parents and pupils can be assured that the programme complies with the National Curriculum. Parents receive weekly reports for their child, detailing the time spent doing tasks/lessons by subject, as well as a monthly report on their overall progress. The homework helpline is manned



by qualified teachers who are available six days a week, 9am to 9pm. Education Consultant for My Own Tutor North Surrey, Tony Baker, says: "This is a unique offering in terms of an additional learning resource and can be used by anyone in the UK or anyone living abroad who follows the National Curriculum. The programme of study is intended for any pupil from Year 1 to GCSE, home-schooled children, cared-for children, children unable to attend school and can also be used by apprentices or businesses as part of their apprentice programme." Options for the programme are self-paced learning, lessons on-line with qualified teachers or attending a Tuition Centre with qualified teachers. Please contact Tony for more information on 07949 927851 or send an email to tony@myowntutornorthsurrey.co.uk.

Can you help Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal?

Marie Curie is appealing for local volunteer Collection Box Co-ordinators to be recruited and inducted in time for the Great Daffodil Appeal in March, their biggest campaign of the year. The new recruits will help look after boxes in East Surrey that are on display in shops, newsagents, chemists, pubs and doctors' surgeries and also place collection boxes in new locations.

Sharon McKenna, Marie Curie Community Fundraiser, said: "As a volunteer Collection Box Co-ordinator you will help to raise vital money and awareness for Marie Curie. It is a role that can fit in around your current commitments, and will only take a few hours each month. The money raised from the boxes will help Marie Curie to provide vital care and support to people living with a terminal illness and their families, when they need it most." Marie Curie Collection Box Co-ordinators need to be aged 16 or over. For more information contact Sharon on 01883 832621.

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“Elf Takeover” is a huge success!

Hundreds of children popped into shops and businesses in Caterham Valley in the run up to Christmas in search of mischievous elves. And four lucky youngsters have now been chosen as Elf Trail winners.

The town's first ever Christmas Elves Takeover brought great excitement as families hunted for the 20 handmade characters hidden in shop windows in a bid to win prizes. The free family event, organised by the Caterham BID (known as Caterham Valley For You) also proved a big hit with local businesses, who were inundated with little elf hunters eagerly ticking off their trail sheets.

“The Elf Takeover brought hundreds of people into the town and we have had amazing feedback from families and businesses in Caterham Valley,” said Chairman of Caterham Valley For You, Andrew Browne.

“This initiative has been a great way for people to get to know their way around Caterham Valley and to become more familiar with the wonderful shops and the facilities we have here.”

More than 100 completed trail sheets were submitted to the special elf collection points based at the town's library and Caterham Valley



Winners of the Caterham Valley For You Elf Trail, left to right: Jake Connor, Mia Brown, Seren Cunningham and Arthur Hopkins.

Computers and four winners were chosen to receive WH Smith vouchers. They are Arthur Hopkins, aged four, Mia Brown, aged five, Seren Cunningham, aged eight and Jake Connor, 12. All live in Caterham. Caterham Valley For You brings together the town's businesses, from independent boutiques and specialist retailers, to household names and national corporations, to help make Caterham a better place to shop, work and visit.

Events for 2018 include another family fun trail for Easter and the Caterham Elf Trail will be back later this year.

For more information, visit the Caterham Valley For You website at www.caterhamvalley.co.uk.



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QUICK QUIZ

by Alec Herbert

Five for Fun - A "Fruity" selection:

1. Which company was founded in California in 1976 by Steve Wozniak, Steve Jobs and Ronald Wayne?
2. Which King William, who reigned from 1689 to 1702, was known as William of Orange?
3. Leigh Francis, a stand-up British comedian, created which fictional character who has appeared in many ITV and Channel 4 programmes, including "Celebrity Juice"?
4. By what name is the Linden Tree also known?
5. Which Premier League football club is nicknamed "The Cherries"?

Answers:
 1. Apple; 2. William III; 3. Keith Lemon; 4. Lime Tree; 5. Bournemouth.

In the Spotlight

This month we feature **Kirsty Simpson**, owner of Thread Bear haberdashery and fabric shop in Hamsey Green, who are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

Birthplace: Mayday Hospital.

Marital Status: Married.

Children: Nope.

Cars: Ford Fiesta.

Pets: African Pygmy Hedgehog.

Childhood hero: Dame Maggie Smith.

Favourite Food & Drink: Steak and chips and strawberry milkshake (not together though).



Kirsty Simpson.

Likes: Hiking, drawing.
Dislikes: Noise and crowds.
Pastimes: Historical re-enactment with Historia Normannis.
Favourite TV show: Vikings.
Favourite book: The Hobbit.

Favourite song of all time: "Love Exists" by Amy Lee.
Proudest moment: Buying Thread Bear.
Biggest influence on your life: My Parents.
Favourite holiday destination: The Lake District.
Most embarrassing moment: Tripping over my own feet in front of a large crowd.
Where would you most like to live? In a cottage in the middle of nowhere.
Who would you most like to meet? If time travel were possible, Eleanor of Aquitaine.
If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it? I would give some to my parents as they've given me plenty in my lifetime, then I would invest in Thread Bear.

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Popular local vicar moves on to pastures new

On Tuesday 3rd April, the Reverend Canon Duncan Swan, Team Rector for Caterham, is starting a new job as Deaneries Development Advisor based in the Diocesan office near London Bridge. Rev'd. Duncan and his wife Penny will move to Merton to be closer to Duncan's new role. The relocation will also be more convenient for Penny who works as the librarian at the historic Grey Coat Hospital School close to Westminster.

Rev'd. Duncan and Penny came to Caterham with their two young sons 12 years ago, when Duncan became vicar of St. Mary's. George and James Swan are now aged 18 and 21 and both are at university. Rev'd. Duncan will be taking his last service as Team Rector at St. Mary's on Sunday 4th February. He said: "Caterham will always feel like home for us because this is where our boys grew up. Thank



The Reverend Canon Duncan Swan and his wife Penny in St. Mary's Church, Caterham.

you to those who have supported us over the years. Thank you particularly to those at St. Mary's and the other churches in the Caterham team who made being the rector such a pleasure."

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Tue 13.30-14.30 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Fri 09.30-11.30 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Fri 13.00-14.00 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
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Tue 16.00-21.30 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Tue 19.00-21.30 Active Air Fitness - Pole Fitness
Tue 19.30-21.30 Aikido
Wed 09.30-10.30 Pilates (Adult Class)
Wed 16.00-22.00 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Wed 17.30-20.00 Pro Karate Academy
Wed 18.30-20.30 Caterham Gymnastics Academy
Wed 19.00-21.30 Active Air Fitness - Pole Fitness
Thur 16.30-19.15 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Thur 18.30-20.00 Tomodachi Karate
Thur 19.00-21.30 Active Air Fitness - Pole Fitness
Fri 16.00-21.30 Zodiac Gymnastic Club
Sat 10.00-13.30 Zodiac Gymnastic Club

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Wed 16.00-18.00 Kumon - English & Maths for young people
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Phone: 07739 832977
Pro Karate Academy
Contact: Ross Pryce
Email: rap_ross_14@hotmail.com,
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Shops and lots Caterham-on-the-Hill



Local merchants, from left: Stefan, the store this year) and Martin.

...to numerous independent shops, personal service to the town's quirky variety of shops and restaurants are well worth a visit 'close by'. If you have 'Caterham-on-the-Hill' has to offer, resolve to a visit in February!



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Thread Bear celebrates its 25th birthday this year!

2018 is a very special year for Thread Bear haberdashery shop in Hamsey Green, who are celebrating 25 years since the business first opened near Sanderstead Station as a simple needlework shop in 1993.

The original owners, Jan, Jen and Val, moved the business to Hamsey Green in 2005, when it was bought by Steph and Kate who began selling patchwork fabric and wool and offering classes.

The current owner, Kirsty Simpson, bought the business in 2012 and increased the range of fabrics to include dressmaking fabrics and brought in Dylon dyes and Butterick dress patterns.

Kirsty gave the shop a facelift by decorating throughout and launched a new website selling a comprehensive range of haberdashery products online.

Kirsty said: "We are having a big sale in February to celebrate our anniversary, with different deals each week. We are also hoping to introduce



a subscription craft box so customers can receive a little box of craftmaking treats each month in the post."

Kirsty is bringing the shop in to the 21st century by ensuring Thread Bear has a vibrant internet presence, so Thread Bear can now be found on Facebook, Instagram and Pinterest!

New classes and workshops on offer include a variety of patchwork, embroidery and crochet sessions. These are in addition to the monthly "Knit 'n' Natter" sessions held on the second Friday of each month from 7pm-9pm. For more information visit www.thread-bear.co.uk. Cut out the Thread Bear advert above to receive a 10% discount in the shop throughout February.



Kirsty Simpson (right) and friends enjoying a Knit 'n' Natter session at Thread Bear.

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TGS celebrates 50 years of Italian students visiting Caterham

by Rosslyn Hill

Caterham residents have been welcoming young Italian students, aged 13-15, into their homes every summer for nearly half a century. This cultural partnership was first initiated by Father Dino Berti in 1968. Each morning the group of approximately 30 students meet at the Sacred Heart Church, Essendene Road. Before their English lessons they gather around their priest for a short inspirational devotional talk. Teaching Christian values is a very important aspect of TGS, who are affiliated to the Salesian Youth Movement. Afternoons are often spent at Queen's Park, where the committed and passionate young volunteer leaders seek to promote social and personal development through sport and team games.



Italian students having fun in Queen's Park, Caterham.

After an action-packed day, students make their way back to the homes of local families, where they have a chance to practise their English whilst enjoying a meal together. Host families play a key role in this amazing cultural experience. Due to the care and interest shown to the young people, the relationship strengthens throughout the three week stay, often resulting in life-long friendships. Saturdays are spent in London and students also

have the opportunity to visit other local places of interest. Our aim is that the students will return to Italy having been enriched spiritually, socially and culturally and that this unique experience will encourage them to become respected and valued members of society. If you are interested in hosting our students, please contact me, Rosslyn Hill, for more information on 01883 381082, or e-mail rosslynhill@hotmail.com or tgseurogroup.it/en.

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Eating Out

Try some new dishes at Dewan-E-Am this spring

Review by Julia Church

My friend Roz and I love Indian food but we are both guilty of sticking to our favourite dishes when dining out. However, we thought we would kick off the New Year by trying something different for a change, which proved a great success on our recent visit to Dewan-E-Am Award-Winning Fine Indian Restaurant in January.

The restaurant, situated in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, offers a very warm welcome to its customers, and the service was excellent during our visit.

We shared a plain and a spicy papadom with accompanying chutnies and dips whilst we browsed the menu, and ordered a bottle of refreshing Pino Grigio to share.

For our starters, Roz selected the King Prawn Butterfly and I ordered the Paneer Tikka.

Roz said that her King Prawn Butterfly had gorgeous, spicy Indian flavours running through the batter but she could still



taste the delicate prawn flavour. My mildly-spicy Paneer (Indian cheese) was also a very pleasant starter, perfect for vegetarians. For our mains, instead of her usual Chicken Tikka favourite, Roz chose a traditional Indian fish dish, Mach Bhaji, and I asked Sam, the restaurant owner, if I could have a vegetarian version of the Chicken or Lamb Korai that was on the menu. He said it would be no problem - a Korai works very well with vegetables instead of meat. Sam recommended the Saag Mushroom (mushrooms with spinach) to go with our main course, along with a portion of Ginger Rice. Roz and I also shared a Vegetable Parata instead of a Naan bread. The



The Vegetable Korai.

Ginger Rice and Vegetable Parata were also a change from the norm for both of us and were a great success - the perfect accompaniment to our superb main courses. The overall verdict was that we were both delighted with the new flavours we had tried and will continue our resolution to try exciting new things when we eat out!

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- Flexible working hours
- Pay starts from £9.40 per hour + mileage
- Full training provided
- Car drivers essential

PLEASE CALL

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What's On

Hobbies Event

Warringham Church Hall in Limpsfield Road, Warringham is hosting a Hobbies Event on Saturday 3rd March from 11am-3pm. For more information about the list of exhibitors visit www.bransby.com.

Jumble Sale

Caterham Methodist Church in Coulsdon Road, Caterham is holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday 17th March at 2pm.

Come and Sing

The Downland Chorale invite you to join them for a day to sing George Shearing's Shakespeare Songs on Saturday 17th February from 11am-6pm (registration 10.30am) at de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham. No experience required. Tickets cost £12.50. Please bring your own packed lunch. For more information call 07729 618226.

Caterham Art Group

On Wednesday 28th February, Caterham Art Group are hosting a demonstration of oil painting with a palette knife by Fiona Hooper at the United Reformed Church, Harestone Hill, Caterham, starting at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome (£4 fee applies).

For more information visit

Beauty Therapist Required, Caterham Beauty Spa

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www.caterhamartgroup.org.uk.

Tandridge Photographic Society

At 8pm on Thursday 1st February, Tandridge Photographic Society ("TPS") are hosting a talk by Ken Scott, who will share his photographic memories of his walk along the entire length of the British coastline last year. The talk will take place at the White Hart Barn, Godstone. Entrance is £5 for non-members. For more information about TPS visit <http://tandridgephotographicsociety.org.uk>.

East Surrey RSPB

On Wednesday 14th February, East Surrey RSPB are hosting a talk entitled: "Reptiles and Amphibians" by Des Sussex at the White Hart Barn, Godstone. Entrance is £3 for

adults and £1 for children.

For more information visit www.eastsurreyspb.co.uk.

Munch with Music

The next Munch with Music at St. John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham takes place on Wednesday 7th February, entitled "Double Duos" - repertoire from the Golden Age of Shows from the '20s to the '50s. Tea/coffee will be served from 12.15pm and the performance is from 12.45-1.30pm.

Snowdrop Time at Gatton Park

On Sunday 4th February, Gatton Park, Rocky Lane, Reigate RH2 0TW is open to view the snowdrops from 1-5pm. Entrance is: Adults £5, children free. For more information about Open Events during February visit www.gattonpark.com.

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Readers' Letters

Rotary Christmas Collection

The Rotary Clubs of Caterham and Caterham Harestone would like to thank the residents of Caterham, Whyteleafe and Warlingham who contributed so generously to our Christmas house-to-house collection in December. The total net collection was £5,391.

We would also like to thank Waitrose Caterham, Caterham School 6th Form, Tandridge Volunteer Service and Caterham Round Table, who supported us with volunteers during the ten nights that we were collecting with Father Christmas.

The collection will go towards helping a number of causes including The Bletchingley Skills Centre and Shooting Star Chase, a leading children's hospice charity.

Andy Parr MBE, President, Caterham Rotary Club.
Graham Woodcock, President, Caterham Harestone Rotary Club.

Hammers to play at Whyteleafe FC

by Clive Davis

With three wins in December and January, the Whyteleafe FC 1st XI is back in the top half of the Bostik League Division One. To see if they can reach this season's play-offs, come to one of this month's home matches at Church Road, Whyteleafe, on February 3rd v Ramsgate FC and February 24th v Walton Casuals.

Also playing with some consistency is the Whyteleafe Ladies team who, as we went to press, were unbeaten in the Greater London Women's Football League Premier Division, just two points off the top of the table and with a game in hand. The team's biggest game since its formation just last season will be at home on January 31st, when they play West Ham United in the semi-final of the Isthmian League Women's Cup. Kick-off is at 7.45pm and entrance is just £3.

Building on the success and interest in the WFC Ladies team, the club has launched an after

school session every Tuesday 5pm-6pm for girls aged 7-11 who want to learn more about football, improve their skills and more importantly, have fun.

Held on Whyteleafe FC's FIFA rated 3G artificial pitch, the sessions will be delivered by the Manager and Assistant Manager of Whyteleafe FC Ladies. Just turn up on the day or contact Charlie Bickell on 020 8660 5491 for more details.

For those of you who prefer your sport indoors, the club is launching a darts night. Every Monday from 8pm in the clubhouse there will be an evening of social darts - bring your arrows or borrow ours and join others on the oche free of charge.

For details of coaching, after school clubs, matches and events at Whyteleafe FC go to www.theleaf.co.uk or telephone the club on 020 8660 5491.

A trio of awards for the Caterham U3A Christmas trees

The three beautiful trees put on display by Caterham U3A in St. Lawrence's Christmas Tree Festival last November proved to be a hit with the public who visited the colourful display of 27 trees. The Caterham U3A trees were voted joint first place (with Caterham Horticultural Society), third (after the joint winners) and fourth. Caterham U3A also made a £25 donation to St. Lawrence's for hosting the Festival, which will go towards the upkeep of the church.

Our apologies go to the members of Caterham U3A for not fully reporting their success in last month's article about the St. Lawrence's Christmas Tree Festival.



A close-up of the first-placed U3A Christmas tree.



The splendid six-foot Caterham U3A tree adorned with hand-painted Christmas and art-themed decorations that was voted joint first place with the Caterham Horticultural Society tree.

Peter Pan "a sensation" in Chaldon

Christmas cheer certainly came to Chaldon in December 2017 when the Castrey Theatre Arts and CADDYS production of Peter Pan flew into The Chaldon Hall. Seven performances were staged to packed audiences, who were amazed at "the fantastic cast, energetic singing and dancing and of course, Peter

Pan actually flying!" with many branding the panto as 'the best they have ever seen'. The production was also able to support Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

Musical Director, Madeline Castrey, said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to support the production. Our next show will be a re-run of 'Forward March' this autumn, which was originally staged in 2014 to mark the passing of 100 years since the start of World War One. Watch this space for more details!"



Anna Davies as "Wendy" and Tim Sheehan as "Nana" in CADDY's production of Peter Pan.



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KENLEY

OIEO £700,000

A delightful three/four bedroom detached chalet style bungalow occupying a beautifully maintained plot within one of Kenley's finest private residential roads. Viewing highly recommended. EPC Rating: D UPC2129



CATERHAM VALLEY

Guide Price £595,000

A four bedroom detached house with driveway and garage occupying a prime position boasting stunning panoramic views over Caterham Valley and offered to the market with no onward chain. EPC Rating: E UPC2115



CATERHAM HILL

£575,000

The property is a charming grade II listed period house built circa 1465 and occupies a prominent high street position incorporating a well known distinctive shop front with level rear garden and ample off street parking to rear. EPC Rating: E UPC2114



CATERHAM HILL

Guide Price £525,000

A modern three bedroom detached house with driveway, garage and level rear garden situated on the popular Hambledon Park development. EPC Rating: D UPC2107



CATERHAM HILL

OIEO £500,000

A well presented three bedroom town house with balcony, level rear garden, allocated parking space and garage en bloc situated on the unique Village development. EPC Rating: C UPC2054



CATERHAM VALLEY

£375,000

An opportunity to acquire a two bedroom lower ground floor retirement flat occupying a prime position with direct access to paved terrace conveniently situated for Caterham Valley town centre with local shops and transport links. EPC Rating: C UPC2125



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