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Following the ABC 'A Better Caterham' survey last summer, a leaflet describing the overall feedback and recommendations from 2,000 people throughout Caterham will be distributed throughout the area shortly. The 'Health Check Interim Report' will be used in a bid to secure funding for a range of improvements to our town. For a preview of what's to be found in the leaflet, see page two for an article by ABC Chairman, Chris Windridge.

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See pages 9 and 11 for two fabulous chances to win a bottle of Champagne!

ABC - the next stage

by ABC Chairman, Chris Windridge

As reported last month in The Caterham Independent, the Healthcheck Interim Report identifies six areas for further effort, to make improvements to living and working in Caterham which are: To preserve local landscape and character; Improve youth and other community facilities; Improve traffic flow and parking; Enhance the town's appearance from 'shabby' to 'smart'; Attract new businesses, and maintain the impetus generated by the Healthcheck.

Two projects in particular have been selected to work on in more detail and volunteers are forming teams to help create any necessary plans. These will be used to apply for funds and gain consensus on chosen approaches.

The first project has been called 'Shabby to Smart'. It will concentrate on shopping areas in the Valley and the Hill that could be upgraded to make Caterham a more attractive place to visit. Other towns have achieved excellent results by working with Local Authorities, Highways, Retailers, Service Providers and Residents to create a less cluttered,

better looking area, yet with pavement spaces for greenery and seats. Neighbouring Reigate is part way through a scheme to upgrade 15 street areas and has just completed one at Woodhatch.

A second project will work with Surrey County Council and Tandridge District Council, over the needs and potential provision for community facilities in the Hill and Valley. ABC is looking again at schemes to upgrade and retain the Soper Hall, as part of this exercise.

As you will expect, these types of projects take time, with many interested parties to work with. However, we hope this gives you an idea of the kind of projects that ABC intends to carry out. If you are interested to help please get in touch, either by letter to 'ABC Project, c/o Tandridge Voluntary Services, Soper Hall, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, CR3 6YN' or email to caterham-ABC@mac.com.

Other activity is going on in the background, including a focus on the derelict Rose & Young site - please look out for the leaflet for further details.

Residents win first stage of fight to remove unsightly fence

Last month we reported that residents in the Harestone Ward of Caterham were determined to get an ugly, illegal security fence in Gravelly Hill removed. On 10th January, the Development Control Committee of Tandridge District Council refused the Retrospective Planning Application by Surrey Police for the existing fence. This is good news for the environment of Caterham, but what next?

Before the meeting of the Development Control Committee, Mr Bob Evans, Head of Planning, had recommended refusal of the application, saying that he considered it would be

more appropriate to relocate the fence back from the highway which would have regard for the trees within the vicinity.

Commenting after last month's meeting, Mr Evans said:

"We have had a meeting with Surrey Police and their agents who have said they will soon be putting in a new Planning Application to reposition the fence away from the roadside. In the meantime, we are progressing an Enforcement Notice on the existing fence in order to ensure Surrey Police and their agents progress this matter as soon as possible".



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For the full story and a corker of a competition, turn to page 9!

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Rotary Music Evening

Caterham Rotary club organise a charity Music Festival every two years and this year's event will be held on Friday 29th February at Woldingham School in their state of the art auditorium. As in past years the evening will feature local schools Woodlea, Woldingham, Warlingham, de Stafford and Clifton Hill. Students from the Orpheus Centre will also be performing and the evening's compere will be local TV and radio entertainer Richard Stilgoe, the Orpheus Centre founder. Well-known West End Producer Dougie Squires will produce the evening. The first part of the show will consist of choral items and then six individual performances by each school. The second part of the show will then have each school portraying six individual Rotary projects such as Water Aid, land mines clearance and Kids Out (days out for disad-



Richard Stilgoe

vantaged children) etc. The finale will see all children on stage performing the Richard Stilgoe song 'Rotary the World Over'. Tickets cost £8 each and will include a glass of wine or soft drink in the interval. The charity concert is in aid of the Orpheus Trust in Godstone and the War Wounded Orphanage and School in Sierra Leone. The event is being organised by Rotarian David Hodge and he can be contacted on 01883 337881 for tickets.

Unexploded grenade scare

Shortly before 2pm on Thursday, 24th January a fully intact WW2 hand grenade was calmly handed in to Caterham Police Station. The device was immediately moved to a bunker away from the main building. A cordon was put up around the area and the army's Explosives and Ordnance Division was called to make the device safe and remove it. Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw said: "At no point was anyone in any danger and I would like to thank our front counter staff and officers on site for the prompt and professional way in which the situation was dealt with. However, I would urge anyone who finds such a device, whether it be amongst a loved one's belongings, as this was, or outside in a garden or public area, not to touch it. Any device should be left in situ and the police should be called who can then take steps for it to be dealt with and disposed of safely."

The Bishop of Croydon visits Marie Curie patients

Patients and staff at the Marie Curie day care centre in Harestone Valley Road were delighted when the Rt Revd the Bishop of Croydon, Nick Baines, came to visit them last month. The visit took place on Monday, 28th January,

following an invitation from Spiritual Co-ordinator, Sue Clarke. The Bishop spent some time chatting with everyone present before going to the North Downs Hospital to meet the patients at the Marie Curie In-bed Unit.



The Rt. Revd. the Bishop of Croydon, Nick Baines, with staff and Marie Curie day care patients

Ofsted Inspectors find de Stafford to be 'a rapidly improving school'

After visiting de Stafford School at the end of last year, Ofsted Inspectors wrote a letter to the students thanking them for making them feel so welcome. The letter stated that they found the school, in Burntwood Lane, Caterham, to be a 'rapidly improving school providing a satisfactory level of education'. Inspectors judge different aspects of a school from 1-4, 1 being 'Outstanding', 2 'Good', 3 'Satisfactory' and 4 'Inadequate'. Out of the seven areas judged, four were judged 'Good' and three 'Satisfactory'. In their report, the Inspectors commented that in Years 7 to 9 standards have been improving over the last few years and achievement is now broadly satisfactory - better than in previous years when it was inadequate. Their report said that staff at all levels are now using data on students' performance more effectively to identify underachieving students at an early stage and implement effective intervention. This, in conjunction with improved teaching, has resulted in most students, including those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities making satisfactory progress and being on track to

meet their academic targets. Students' personal development and well being was one of the areas judged 'Good'. The inspectors reported that the students enjoy their education and make a significant contribution to the positive atmosphere felt throughout the school. Leadership and Management was also judged 'Good', with the Inspectors saying that the dedicated headteacher has set high standards and developed a shared vision that has positively changed the culture of the school. Mrs Ros Langham, Chairman of the Governors, said: "We were very pleased with the Inspectors report. We are conscious that we still have to work at things but we are well on our way on the journey. We are optimistic that this summer our GCSE results will reach the national average. The Inspectors were absolutely staggered with the change in the school - the governors and staff have done a terrific job. Our headteacher Mr Phillips has turned the school around in the last four years and we are really thankful to him." To read the full report visit www.destafford.org.uk

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Our Ofsted Inspection visit

by Mark Phillips

Head teacher of de Stafford School

As many of you may know, we had an Ofsted Inspection before Christmas - you can read the report via the de Stafford website. The experience is very intense and totally unlike the process of review that goes on in other working environments.

Schools are only given forty-eight hours notice of the inspection, and are expected to provide a wide range of documentary evidence for the visiting team. As well as close scrutiny of paper evidence, the inspectors observe lessons and interview students, teachers, governors and parents to help establish an accurate picture of the school and how effective it is.

Our inspection happened at the worst possible time of year; two weeks away from Christmas, Year 11 sitting exams and the

wettest and windiest days of the year! However, the outcomes were extremely positive. The inspection team found a school that they were able to describe as 'rapidly improving' and in which they saw well behaved young people who are proud of their school, making a positive contribution to school life and making good progress in their lessons. I was especially pleased that the report recognised how hard the staff work at de Stafford. I have written before about the range of additional opportunities offered to our students, and the inspectors were able to see the impact these have on student achievement.

I am mightily relieved that this is an event that only occurs every three years, and know that everyone was exhausted at the end



of it. However, it is great to have a report that validates all the effort that has gone on over the last three years to make de Stafford a school that the Caterham community can feel proud of.

On a completely different note, I would like to remind you that the Caterham Adult and Community Learning is now based here at de Stafford.

The courses on offer are run by East Surrey College and we are keen to see a growing number of adults taking up the chance to extend their skills and interests through the programme. If the course that you would like to see offered is not currently in the programme, please write in and let us know.

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SCHOOLS!

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Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk

Party in the Park

Marden Lodge Primary School in Croydon Road, Caterham Valley, is organising its first Party in the Park to be held this summer on 10th May.

As beneficiaries of this year's Caterham Carnival, the school has teamed up with the Carnival Committee to showcase local bands. Mark Jones, one of the organisers, said: "We wanted to organise an exciting event for families where they can have a good time without spending a fortune!"

As well as musical entertainment there will be a barbecue, beer tent, sideshows and popular radio station Heart 106.2 will also be in attendance. If you belong to a local band and would like more information, telephone Mark Jones on 07841 065845



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Bunny Fun Run Bulletin

Plans are haring ahead for Caterham's first ever 'Bunny Fun Run' organised by Caterham Rotary Club. The Caterham Independent is one of the proud sponsors of the event, along with Nestle, who are generously donating the Easter eggs that every runner will receive on completion of their run (provided they are registered!)

The 1km Fun Run will start at 10.00 a.m., and there will be a 5km race for runners aged 14 and above who would like something more challenging. Prizes will be awarded in each race (for under 14's only in the Fun Run), as well as for the 'Best Dressed

Bunny' competitors. "The registration forms are starting to come in now and some of them are from children as young as four!" said Richard York, one of the organisers of the event. "We hope that everyone will enter into the spirit of the run, especially as it is for such a good cause."

The money raised this year will be donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care and other Rotary Charities. The Rotary Club would like to encourage all individuals, as well as teams from local organisations and businesses, to take part. "There will be plenty of refreshments available to purchase on the day from Queen's Park Pavilion, including home-made cakes," said Richard. "We are also planning to organise games for all the



Rotary Club of CATERHAM

family as an added attraction."

To take part, complete the registration form below and send to 'Rotary Runs', 1 Eglise Road, Warlingham, Surrey, CR6 9SE. Registration forms can also be picked up from Bib & Tucker Dry Cleaners in Croydon Road, It's a Pet's Life pet shop in Chaldon Road, J. J. Browne & Son Jewellers in Croydon Road and Godstone Road and de Stafford Leisure Centre in Burntwood Lane, or simply telephone The Caterham Independent on 01883 346641.



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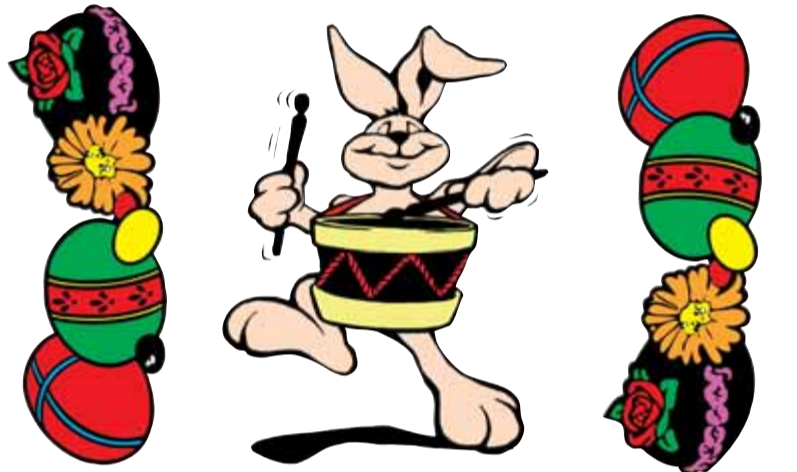
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Address:

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Postcode:Tel No:

e-mail:.....

I wish to compete in the 1k Easter Bunny Fun Run
or the 5k Race

A Registration Fee and Signed Form is required for each runner.
Registration Fee (non-refundable) is £5.00 for the 5k race and £2.50 for the 1k Easter Bunny Fun Run. Registration on the day is double.
This reserves your place at the start and your finisher's egg.

Please make cheques payable to
"Rotary Club of Caterham"
and send to 'Rotary Runs', 1 Eglise Road,
Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9SE.

I will not participate in the Run unless I am fit enough to complete it. I am taking part at my own risk, and the promoters or any persons involved in the organisation of the event are not responsible for my well-being.
I have no objection to my details being held on computer by The Rotary Club of Caterham for the sole purpose of the organisation of the event and notification of future events.

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In the SPOTLIGHT

Each month we put a local personality or resident in the spotlight. This month we feature District Councillor and Parish Council Chairman Hilary Turner.



Birthplace: Bristol.

Moved to Stroud at age six

Marital Status: Married - Forty Years Plus!

Children: Three grown-up sons

Cars: My beloved Morris Minor

Pets: In the past, Border Collies

Favourite Food: Something different every day - variety is the spice of life

Favourite Drink: Mornings - really strong coffee; Evenings - my husband's elderflower wine

Pastimes: Sewing, knitting, garden wall building (no longer)

Likes: Being out of doors

Dislikes: Doing nothing

Favourite TV and Radio shows: Anything that laughs at politicians

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? Answer censored because I don't want to get one back!

Favourite book: Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

Favourite music: Mood Indigo played by Duke Ellington or anything sung by Janet Baker

Favourite holiday destination: Bonn, where two of my grandchildren live

Biggest influence on your life: My university years taught me to widen my horizons

Proudest moment: Being elected as a District Councillor in 1995 by just 27 votes

Most embarrassing moment: My speech after getting elected

Where would you most like to live? If not the Surrey Hills, then the Cotswolds where I was brought up

Who would you most like to meet? Ian Hislop of Private Eye

If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it? I don't do the Lottery as I'm happy with my life as it is

Frost Camp

by District Commissioner
Andy Parr

Last month, 33 Scouts from Caterham joined 240 others from around the Surrey area on the annual frost camp. The camp is held every January and is aimed at teaching the youngsters how to camp in cold conditions. But, as is often the case with advanced planning and completely against the weather forecast, it was dry and warm. In fact it was drier and warmer than the centenary Scout camp held on the same site at the end of May last year! The youngsters took part in various Scouting activities, including fire lighting, shooting, a camp fire, orienteering, archery, climbing and abseiling, as well as go-karts and a film show and disco. Last year was a lot colder, but that didn't put the youngsters off, many came back again this time. For many it will be good training for the District incident hike taking place this month. The skills learnt will help the teams find their way around the district at night, carrying their own camping equipment. The Scout Fellowship is a group of adults who have one thing in common - a wish to support Scouting. There is no need to have been involved in Scouting



Making tent pegs at the annual Frost Camp

before. All that is required is a willingness to give some of your time to Scouting. In return you will make friends and be able to join with others doing whatever you decide. We normally meet monthly (without the youngsters) and have good fun. We have done things like playing skittles, learning to paint and have been to France. Next month we are going on the London Eye, and in July we will be on a guided tour of historic pubs. Last month we had our Christmas dinner dance, and many members came from various parts of the country for the occasion. We also support the Groups on occasions such as camps, or with transport. Like all hobbies, Scouting is fun! Your skills will be of great use to many people. Please consider offering them. For more information on helping Caterham Scouts, please call Andy Parr on 01883 340561.

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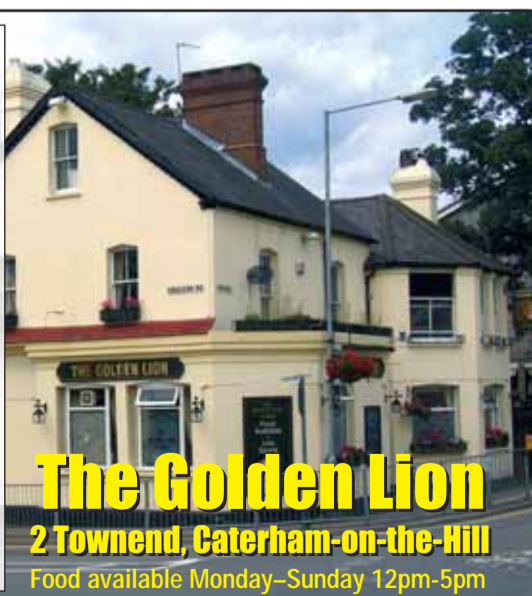
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An experience of a lifetime

On Saturday 26th January Caterham Overseas Aid Trust (COAT) hosted a talk by Robin Bacon who had recently returned from Kenya. Robin was on a two-year assignment as a VSO (Voluntary Services Overseas) volunteer working as a horticulturist and was sponsored by COAT. After one week's training in Nairobi, Robin went to Gatonye Farm, seven kms from Eldoret, which has recently been in the media spotlight due to the political disputes centred on the area. "I come from a farming background, and my task was to teach the local farmers how to cultivate the land they owned in the most efficient way," said Robin. "The farmers already had land, irrigation and fencing but it was a bit like having a piano and not knowing how to play it. They simply didn't know how to implement systems to maximise the yield of

their crops." Robin was soon able to put his farming experience to good use, and taught the farmers more efficient methods, but all the new ideas he introduced would have to be done by hand using locally available tools. As well as teaching the farmers new systems and methods of cultivation, Robin showed the farmers how to compost, the best ways to harvest and how to record results. Although the work was hard and there were moments of disappointment and depression, Robin said that the experience made him feel very alive. "My impression of Kenya was that the people were very happy, despite having very little. You can throw your watch away - time is of no importance! The scenery was stunning and it was great to relax in the evening after a hard day's work with a drink and



Robin Bacon

watch the sun go down."

In Kenya Robin could live very well on just £200 a month. His accommodation was comfortable, although he had no running water. "During my time in Kenya I met many interesting people from all sorts of backgrounds and we would have some very interesting conversations," said Robin.

By the time Robin had to leave, the crop production had quadrupled on the farms. "It's a great moment when you realise that people believe in themselves and have self-confidence," said Robin. "Before I left I trained people to carry on teaching the farmers and I keep in regular contact with them to make sure they are still keeping up the methods I taught them during my stay. Making a good profit will enable the farmers to send their children to secondary schools, which you have to pay for in Kenya. I think about them all the time, but I feel confident that the farmers will continue to implement what they have learned."

COAT recently launched an urgent appeal to help their volunteers in Kisumu rebuild the offices of TEMAK, the Teenage Mothers Association of Kenya, which was destroyed in the recent violence. If you would like to make a donation please telephone COAT Secretary, Phil Saville, on 01883 342272 or e-mail: secretary@overseasaid.org.uk

Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw



Sadly January saw bogus callers and rogue traders operating in the Caterham, Whyteleafe and Warlingham areas. It's a fact these fraudsters specifically target elderly and vulnerable members of our community taking advantage of their good nature. I am urging the local community to keep an eye on elderly and vulnerable neighbours. If you see someone behaving suspiciously that you don't recognise ask them what they are doing or call Surrey Police.

My Safer Neighbourhood Team has been working really hard advising residents what to do when a stranger calls. But the community can play their part too and I would encourage anyone with elderly or vulnerable neighbours to make sure they remain vigilant against bogus callers.

We are also warning residents against cold-callers who offer to carry out work on your property then charge an extortionate amount of money for relatively minor work.

Two elderly victims parted with a total of more than £30,000 for a wall to be painted and a gutter repaired. These workmen

falsely represent work they carry out, often undertake work that is not necessary, then charge thousands of pounds. These men are very persuasive and can intimidate their victims into parting with their life savings. My neighbourhood officers are engaging with the community about these offences and detectives at Caterham CID are working with Trading Standards to catch those responsible.

Surrey Police is still hunting a sex attacker who struck in December last year, his victim was just 19 years old. I appealed to readers of The Caterham Independent last month but I want to reiterate my plea to anyone who has any information regarding this assault to contact DI Parker at Caterham CID on 0845 125 2222. Someone out there has the information which can unlock this investigation enabling detectives to arrest the man. Although residents of Tandridge have been victims of some unpleasant and nasty crimes recently I want to reassure the community that Surrey remains one of the safest places in the country.



The farmers learned new systematic methods of cultivation that quadrupled production in two years



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Change at the top for Tandridge Leisure

Tandridge Leisure is pleased to announce the appointment of Mark Symons as its new Managing Director from 31st January 2008. Mark has been a senior manager with the company for many years and has been Acting Managing Director for most of 2007. With a background in finance he has also been responsible for Business Development. Paul Clark, the outgoing MD had a big impact on Tandridge Leisure during his stay of office and staff and customers wish him well in his new role at England Netball.

After a challenging 2007, Mark and the Senior Management Team, have put together a business strategy for 2008 which will focus on enhancing the

customer experience, recognition for being an employer of choice, attracting and inspiring new audiences to leisure and culture and continuing to develop Tandridge Leisure's profile and relationships within the community.

Visitors to de Stafford Sports Centre in Caterham and Tandridge Leisure Centre in Oxted will be able to benefit from a scheduled plan of reinvestment into the facilities starting early in 2008 and staff envisage very little inconvenience to customers during refurbishments. Tandridge Leisure Centre's studio has been one of the first areas this year to benefit which, together with the exciting new programme of group



Mark Symonds (left) and Paul Clark

exercise classes, has resulted in plenty of positive customer feedback already.

New MD, Mark, said: "I'm excited to take up this challenge to lead Tandridge Leisure into a new era of improving the customer experience at our centres, to keep our existing users happy and draw in new users. I will be working closely with our partners to deliver a quality service to the community. Tandridge Leisure will be moving on to make 2008 an exciting year." For more information about Tandridge Leisure visit www.tandridgeleisure.co.uk



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The Missing birdfeeder

by Adele Brand

Anyone who has set out to feed the birds that visit their garden will be aware that not all of the food ends up in avian stomachs. Indeed, a sizeable industry has developed around the science of keeping squirrels away from birdfeeders, with varying degrees of success.

Like many people in this beautiful part of Surrey, I have an amazingly diverse garden bird list, from handsome Great Spotted Woodpeckers to tiny migratory Warblers. Sparrowhawks and Kestrels fly overhead, and on occasion a Treecreeper or Marsh Tit can be seen. Squirrels frequently visit of course, usually in the unwilling company of other squirrels. Nevertheless, when an entire solid metal feeder recently went missing, my suspicions went elsewhere.

The response of wildlife to surplus food is rooted in instincts that are the product of an unpredictable, competitive natural world. In our society, we are not accustomed to worrying whether or not there will be food on the supermarket shelf tomorrow. Yet some of the wild animals around us are compelled to live as though future meals are uncertain. Even when a large food source suddenly becomes available, there is a risk that natural competitors will take advan-



tage of whatever the animal is unable to consume in one sitting. Caching - burying surplus food - is a common solution to this dilemma. Squirrels are experts at caching, and are especially visible displaying this behaviour during the food-rich autumn months. Birds in the crow family (Corvidae) are also famous for caching; it has been estimated that each Clark's Nutcracker, a Canadian relation of our Magpies and Jays, can cache 33,000 seeds!

My missing birdfeeder, as I had rather suspected, turned out to have been cached by a fox in a flowerbed next door! It seems to have been an unsuccessful venture for the fox, for it had not succeeded in emptying the feeder when it was recovered. Perhaps squirrel-proof feeders are fox-proof too.



A rare white squirrel caching some surplus food

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Premiership Trophy comes to Caterham



Football fans were in for a treat last month when the Barclays Premier League Trophy was put on display at the Caterham branch of Barclays Bank. A steady stream of visitors took their turn having their photograph taken next to the trophy, and by the end of the day the queue was reaching several yards along the Godstone Road! Branch Manager, Wesley Farnell, said: "We are delighted to have the trophy in our branch today. We have had visits from school parties and representatives from other organisations and we hope to keep up those links with the local community long after the trophy has left Caterham". Two security officers were on hand to protect the priceless trophy which was cast in 2004 from solid sterling silver by Asprey



Branch Manager, Wesley Farnell (left) and Local Business Manager, Rob Burchett, with the priceless trophy

and Garrard, the Crown Jewellers. The crown is cast from 24-carat silver gilt, to a depth of half a millimetre. The founder of Asprey Jewellers, Charles Asprey, used to live in Stafford Road and his family tomb is in St. Mary's churchyard. In 1890 he donated a fountain to the town. The 'Asprey Fountain' is situated nowadays by the roundabout just across the road from Barclays Bank.

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IN WHICH YEAR WAS THE BARCLAYS PREMIERSHIP TROPHY CAST?

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The name of the lucky winner will be published in the March edition of The Caterham Independent.

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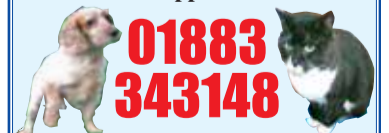
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The Inn place to visit!

Review by Julia Church

The Village Inn, in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, has been turned into a fantastic gastro pub by its owners, Steve Kirk and Peter Percy. They now have on board top chef, Mark Champion, whose last position was as Sous Chef at London's Oxo Tower restaurant. Mark takes immense pride in his work and prepares the meals using daily delivered fresh ingredients. When my friend Jill and I dined there for the first time recently, our first impression was of a spacious modern restaurant with a relaxing atmosphere and a great welcome. For starters, I chose 'Breaded hallumi cheese with tomato salsa' (£4.95) and Jill chose the 'Spiced smoked haddock fishcakes with homemade tartare sauce' (£5.50). My hallumi cheese starter was deliciously warm and creamy and Jill was very impressed

with the tasty chunks of fish in her fishcakes. Both starters were beautifully presented. "This is wonderful," said Jill between mouthfuls. "I feel like I could be in a top London restaurant!" For our main courses, I selected 'Glazed lemon chicken, mange tout and chilli noodles' (£8.95) and Steve Kirk, one of the owners was delighted that Jill decided to have the 'Seabass fillet, caper and lime crushed potato with chilli butter sauce' (£9.95) - Mark's signature dish which is so popular 30% of customers order it. My meal was beautifully cooked with a refreshing combination of flavours with the lemon and chilli tingling my palate and accompanied by perfectly cooked, crunchy mange tout. Jill said that her Seabass was the best fish she had ever eaten. The fish had been caught 3.00 am that morning which



Chef Mark Champion with two of the friendly bar staff

would account for its firm texture and wonderful flavour. For dessert, Jill ordered the 'Vanilla cheesecake with a raspberry coulis' - another firm favourite with the customers - and I had the 'Strawberry Bavarois', a light creamy mousse on a biscuit base. Both desserts provided the perfect end to a memorable meal. Every Sunday The Village Inn serves it's legendary Sunday Roast for £8.95, with a choice of four meats, and is usually fully booked two weeks in advance. Mark has created a special menu for Valentines night at £29.95 (see advert below). To book a table at Caterham's newest hotspot, call 01883 341871.

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Featured on these pages are all the ingredients for a truly romantic Valentines Day. You will see special deals at jewellery stores, where to buy flowers for your sweetheart and a choice of fabulous local restaurants for a special meal for two. You'll want to look and feel your best so why not have a pamper session at the Village Beauty Spa to get in the mood for love! 2008 is a leap year which means the ladies can 'pop the question', so we even have some wedding fayres for when he says 'Yes'!

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We have a bottle of champagne, kindly donated by Barclays Bank in Caterham, to give away to the winner of our special Valentines Competition! To enter, simply count the number of heart shapes on this page and send the answer, along with your name and contact details to,

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The winner will be drawn from the correct entries on Valentines Day and the lucky winner's name announced in the March edition of The Caterham Independent.

Don't Forget Valentines

Book a table for you and your special someone at The Village Inn, for Thursday February 14th.

Come and check out the great menu our chef has created especially for you, for just £29.95pp.

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Samba band to lead Carnival

The Caterham Carnival Procession is to be led by the dazzling, Bloco Fogo Samba band this year, filling both Caterham Valley and Caterham-on-the-Hill with exciting rhythm and colour. Carnival Committee member, Gerald Mills, said: "We had a samba band last year which was very good so we have booked another one for this year, but this time to lead the parade. We want to invite everyone to dress up and walk behind the band or enter a float into what promises to be a very colourful procession. The parade provides the per-



Bloco Fogo

fect opportunity to promote your club or organisation to the thousands of local people who attend the Caterham Carnival". This year's event takes

place on Saturday, 14th June. For more information about entering a float telephone Gerald Mills on 01883 345706 or e-mail gfmills@hotmail.co.uk

How green is your office?

Surrey councils have joined forces with TV presenter Oliver Heath to offer Surrey businesses the chance to win a stunning yet sustainable workplace makeover and a totally free waste audit. The competition is part of Surrey's 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' campaign, which aims to encourage residents and businesses in the county to cut down on the amount of waste they generate. Oliver is an ex-BBC Changing Rooms regular, celebrity interior designer and expert in environmental and sustainable design, and a passionate green advocate. He will work with the winning company to create an inspiring design for either a reception area, recycling centre or café/breakout area of their offices which will be renovated by him and his team. For further information about how to enter this competition visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/businesswaste.

nesswaste or by post to Matt Smyth, Surrey County Council, Room 415, County Hall, Penryhn Road, Kingston Upon Thames, KT1 2DN. The makeover designs are subject to winner's approval before implementation. Closing date: 5.00pm on Friday 22 February 2008. No entries received after this time will be accepted, including postal entries. Only fully completed forms will be considered. The judging panel will consist of members from SCC's business waste minimisation team, Oliver Heath and 3Monkeys Communications. The winner will be announced on www.surreycc.gov.uk/businesswaste on 29 February 2008. There will only be one winner. The three categories are included only as areas of the workplace to consider. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The winner will be contacted on 27th February 2008 by

phone and e-mail. The winner will need to be available for a makeover planning meeting w/c 3rd March 2008. The makeover will take place week commencing 24th March 2008. The prize consists of:
- A free makeover as agreed with Surrey County Council, Oliver Heath and the winner;
- A free waste audit. There is no cash alternative and the prize is not transferable. No employee of Surrey County Council, Blustin Heath Design or 3 Monkeys Communications are eligible to enter. Any personal information collected from entry to this competition is used only to respond to enquiries and to monitor site usage. We use cookies on survey and e-shop pages, but no personal information is disclosed to third parties (unless specifically stated otherwise) and is held under the provisions of the Data Protection Act.

Terms and Conditions:

The entrant must have authority to enter this competition on behalf of their employer and to sanction the makeover. Entries can be accepted online at www.surreycc.gov.uk/businesswaste.

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A packed programme for guides

By Charley Formosa, District Commissioner

With Christmas a distant memory, the New Year has started with plans for a number of events within the Districts. Rainbow Guides (for ages 5 to 7) celebrate their 21st birthday this year, with a themed party for all the Rainbows in Caterham and Tilburstow. There will also be a competition to design a commemorative badge. In March, the Districts will be celebrating Thinking Day at Godstone Farm which will bring together all members of Guiding in the area. There are also holidays, trips out, national events and trainings so 2008 promises to be a very busy year.

As ever, we need more adult volunteers to help with running the different units, so if you feel that a

role in Guiding might be for you, and you would like to have an informal chat about it, contact me on the number below.

9th Caterham and 1st Woldingham Guide units have been accepted as beneficiaries of the Caterham Carnival and are busy with preparations for the big day. They are running a quiz night at de Stafford School on Friday, 29th February as part of the lead in to the Carnival. If you would like details, please contact either me or Janette Ralph on 01883 349366.

If you would like any details about Guiding in Caterham or Tilburstow District, contact me, Charley Formosa, on 01883 653356.

To advertise in The Caterham Independent telephone 01883 346641



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Advocacy Partners encourages applications from all sections of the community especially people with disabilities. Charity Reg. 802342

“G’day” to North Downs’ new owners

A local independent hospital celebrated Australia Day last month to mark the change to their new Australian owners. Staff at North Downs Hospital in Tupwood Lane, Caterham, donned their cork hats to enjoy an Aussie themed lunch and watch top orthopaedic consultant and Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee, Mr Khalid Drabu go head to head in a ‘Bush Tucker Trial’ chocolate Russian Roulette game with The Kangaroo King (alias Mark Gorton the Hospital’s General Manager). North Downs came under the ownership of top Australian private health operator Ramsay Health Care when they bought the Capio Healthcare UK group in November 2007. The leading Caterham private hospital dropped the

‘Capio’ from their previous name and used Australia Day to officially relaunch with a glossy new look that is now reflected in signage, patient information and advertising. The group has also launched a brand new website at www.ramsay-health.co.uk, with information on how NHS and private patients can access services at Ramsay’s wide range of facilities across the UK. Mark Gorton said: “We thought it was important to celebrate Australia Day as we are very proud to have become part of Ramsay Health Care, Australia’s biggest private health care group. North Downs Hospital has enjoyed a strong reputation in the local community for over 30 years, and will continue to develop as part of the Ramsay group. Our

staff do a really fantastic job in caring for our patients, and were keen for an Aussie-style celebration to mark the beginning of our new era. I just wish we could have some Aussie-style weather too!” During the afternoon, a cheque for £520 was presented by the hospital to Marion Unsworth, the headteacher of Clifton Hill School for children with special educational needs. The money was the proceeds of the staff Christmas Raffle. North Downs Hospital will continue to treat NHS patients as well as patients who have private medical insurance or who choose to pay for their own treatment. For more information please contact Karen Semmence on 01883 337439 or karen.semmence@ramsayhealth.co.uk



Senior Healthcare Assistant, Carole Wardle, presents a cheque to Marion Unsworth, headteacher of Clifton Hill School

Mr Khalid Drabu (left) and Mark Gorton go head to head in the game of chocolate Russian Roulette



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FT Praises COGS

In a survey carried out by the Financial Times in July 2007, Lions Club International was rated as the ‘Best non-governmental organisation’ worldwide with which companies liked to work. The survey assessed 34 global organisations ranked by 445 companies who worked with international agencies and organisations. Lions Club International was rated most highly and ranged first for programme execution, communication, adaptability and accountability in the fast growing world of charity marketing. The assessment highlights companies’ growing interest in long term partnerships to tackle an expanding range of social issues. Lion Lesley Reid, PR Officer for Caterham Oxted & Godstone Lions (COGS) said that she was delighted to see that the organisation was so highly regarded by business in general, and commented

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that businesses in the Tandridge area were always fast to help Lions when asked for help in community projects. For further information about how you or your business could help COGS Lions call 0845 833 7852.

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Choir raises cash for Cancerhelp

On 22nd December the South East Cancerhelp Centre choir sang carols in Church Walk shopping centre, raising £222.13 for the charity. A special permit was granted to Diana Boulton, a member of the Cancerhelp Centre, to run the event. Geoff Down, Volunteer Fundraiser for the charity, said: “We would like to thank the people of Cater-



ham for their kind generosity during our Christmas collection. We would also like to thank the management of Church Walk for allowing us to sing carols in Church Walk.” The sole expense incurred by the choir was £30 for the pianist meaning the total profit raised was £192.13.



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What's On

Rotary Music Evening

Caterham Rotary Club are holding a charity Music Festival on Friday 29th February at Woldingham School. Tickets cost £8 each to include a glass of wine or soft drink in the interval. For tickets phone Rotarian Hodge on 01883 337881. (See article on page 3 for further information.)

Easter Concert

The East Surrey Choral Society are holding an Easter Concert at 7.30 pm on Saturday 15th March at St. John's Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon. The Society will be performing 'The Crucifixion' by Stainer and 'Misa Criolla' by Ramirez with soloists from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. The conductor is Ian Kennedy. Tickets cost £10 to include programme and refreshments. Please call the Box Office on 01883 344373.

A Chaldon Quiz Night

The quiz night is being held on Friday 14th March at St Peter & St Paul School, Chaldon. 7.30 for 8.00pm start. Teams of six to eight but if you don't have a team we can join you with others. Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles. Tickets cost £5 and entrance is by advance ticket purchase only. Proceeds will go to Chaldon Church. To book tickets, ring Janet on 01883 330785 or She-lagh on 01883 348327.

W.I. Open Meeting

At 2.00 pm on Wednesday, 13th February, Chaldon Women's Institute will be holding an open meeting with well-known local academic, Professor Edward Howard, speaking on the subject of Florence Nightingale. The Chaldon W.I. have two open meetings a year, when men as well as non-member women can at-

tend. Visitors are asked to pay £2 for which they will get tea and cakes and hear an exceptional speaker. The friendly and lively Chaldon W.I. would like to invite Caterham residents to join them. The group has interesting speakers, go on varied outings, enjoy trips to the cinema and pub lunches.

Bedrock

Local rock band, Bedrock, will be performing in aid of Caterham Overseas Aid Trust (COAT) in the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Essendene Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Saturday March 1st from 8.00 p.m. Bedrock are a very popular local live band who play all those great songs you want to hear again and again! Come and dance the night away and help COAT at the same time. Please don't bring your own drinks as there will be a great bar. Tickets cost £10 each. Call Phil Saville on 01883 341063 or Margaret Deards on 01883 380104 or e-mail secretary@overseasaid.org.uk.

Quiz Night

The Caterham Carnival Committee is holding a quiz night on Friday 29th February at 7.15 for 7.30 pm. Teams of up to eight are invited to attend. Tickets cost £7.50 (under 14's £4.00) which includes a hot and cold buffet. Please bring your own drinks and glasses. Please book early by telephoning Marion Tait on 01883 344797 or Jeanette Ralph on 01883 349366.

Tandridge Photographic Society

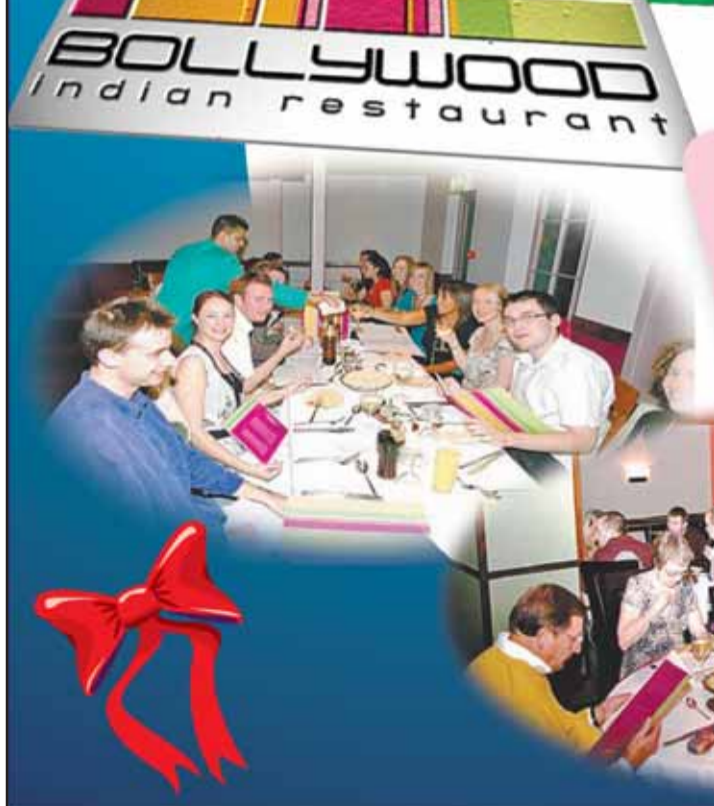
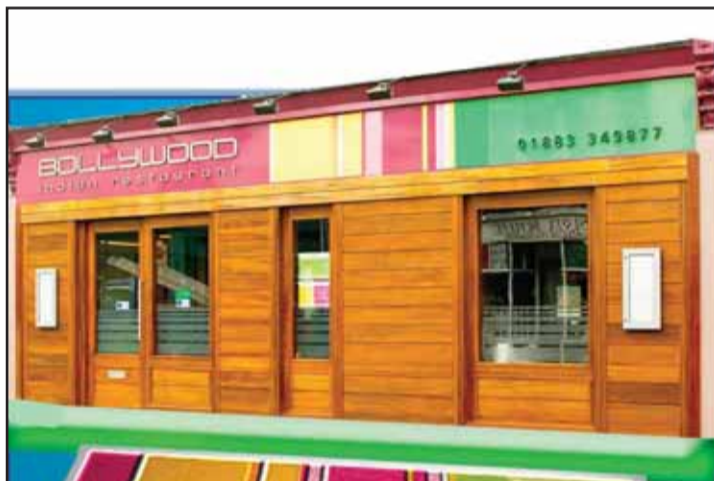
There will be a showing of The Royal Photographic Society (RPS) travelling roadshow 'RPS Colour Group Exhibition Images' at Tandridge Photographic Society (TPS) on Thursday, 14th February at 8.00pm. At 8.00pm on Thursday 28th February TPS is hosting an audio visual presentation, 'Phun of Fotography' by Jim Gaines. TPS meets in the Small Hall at the rear of the Community Centre, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Contact Steve Elms on 01883 349646.

Michael gets short listed for award

Local greengrocer and photographer, Michael Hewett is delighted to have had his book, 'Monaco Grand Prix', short listed for the prestigious 'Best Illustrated Title' Award at the 2008 British Sports Book Awards. Michael's superb book is packed with stunning images of the Monaco Grand Prix taken by Michael over a span of forty years. Next month Michael will attend the Awards Ceremony at the Cafe Royal as a guest of J Haynes, the Managing Director of Haynes Publishing, the publishers of Michael's book.



Michael and his book as featured last summer in *The Caterham Independent*



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Readers' letters

Salted at last

I am an 81 year old Caterham born resident and for the last 50 years I have made occasional enquiries of various local Councillors with regard to obtaining a grit bin for my road, Ninehams Close in Caterham-on-the-Hill. Ninehams Close is a cul-de-sac of over 200 yards in length with an adverse gradient, which receives no snow or ice clearance in winter-time. An article in the Winter 2006 issue of the Surrey County Council magazine, 'Surrey Matters', gave one central telephone number for over 40 services and gave an 'Ask and it shall be given unto you' impression. Interested, I decided to make my request regarding a grit bin. When I called, in December 2006, I was given a reference number and placed on a list. Having heard nothing, I phoned the Council again in February 2007 to be told

there was no funding for the project. When I called again three months later I was told that in summer-time this work was not considered a priority. Grit bins formed part of the winter work programme starting in October and if I had not heard anything by 31st October I should call again. Having not heard anything by 31st October I called the Council on 1st November to be told that winter work was about to start. Nevertheless, after further calls I was told on 12th November that the 'project funding' was still under discussion. After keeping up my pressure on the Council, supported by my local Councillor, Mr Peter Langham, a second-hand grit bin was finally installed on 3rd January 2008, and was gloriously filled with rock salt on Friday 11th January. It had taken 14 months, 16 telephone

calls, the support of my local councillor and dialogue with at least six different people at the Council to achieve.

Ken Sayers, Ninehams Close, Caterham

Poppy Appeal

I would like to thank all the kind people in and around Caterham for their generous donations to the Poppy Appeal last November. The total collection raised £8,400 for the Royal British Legion. Thank you also to all the collectors and helpers who made this possible.

Barbara Henning, Poppy Appeal organiser

Please send your letters to:

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Life Time

by Anna Martin



Open your heart

There are many romantic gestures to show loved ones you really care about them, such as spending a fortune on gifts, going out for a meal, showering them with attention, or even by naming a rose or a star after them. Yet none of these ideas will mean all that much if you are unable to express love on a basic level. If you find it difficult to look in the mirror and love what you see every day, you will experience a problem showing that love to anyone else. You're not expected to wear rose-tinted glasses permanently however. Accepting yourself and your faults is also part of being a lovable human being. Awareness of your different qualities is part of understanding how to relate to other people. Taking time to listen to your own wants and desires will enable you to identify anything you don't feel comfortable about; whether it is a self-confidence issue, a self-belief dilemma or a general sense of being stuck in a rut. Paying close attention to how you 'feel' about yourself will arm you with the knowledge you need to make positive changes. Forget for the moment that February is tradition-

ally the month of grand romantic gestures and view it as an opportunity to shower yourself with thoughts of abundance. Go on, indulge yourself for a while! Pamper yourself freely - have a candle-lit, scented bath, eat chocolate, watch a romantic movie...relax your mind and go with the flow. How do these subtle indulgences make you feel? Chilled and relaxed? Loved and pampered? Carefree and confident? Whatever the emotion is enjoy it and endeavour to create those feelings on a regular basis. Defining any issues that appear to be blocking your ability to create a regular feeling of abundance will help you to stay focused on expressing love for yourself. This new-found confidence in yourself will attract interest from the people around you, and will encourage them to send warm, harmonious feelings of love back in your direction. What could be nicer than that?

For a free, introductory, confidential Life Coaching session, please contact Anna at www.mylifesupport.com email: anna@mylifesupport.com Tel: 07886 130454

Viva Las Vegas!

by Round Table member, Andrew Browne

On Saturday 19th January Caterham & District Round Table held one of their now famous January balls. This year the theme was 'Viva Las Vegas'. Over 635 people enjoyed an evening of fun and entertainment laid on by a small committee of the Caterham Round Table and past members who have organised ten of

these events over as many years. On the night there was a diamond draw, where guests had the chance to win a diamond; there was a Spin the Wheel game and a raffle. For the first time this year there was also a charity auction where guests paid up to £2,600 for items that were put up for sale.



The night raised in excess of £15,000 for the Round Table charity 'Children's Wish', a charity based in Bournemouth which grants wishes to terminally ill children. Who knows what next years themed ball may be....."

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It's time to get the New Year under your control

by Dizz Tutt, Energy for Life

I would like to dedicate this month's article to my business partner, friend, but most of all, my darling wife. For those of you who read our fitness articles and know of us, Diz is currently very ill and we all wish her a speedy recovery. Get well soon, love from us all.

I would like to stress that the thoughts of this month's article are from Diz. Steve Robinson.

The celebrations of the New Year are truly over, finally the house and family are coming back to some sort of normality, so now is the best time to reflect on your lives over the past year and try to either make changes or to improve the coming year.

As Steve explained last month, don't make your aims too difficult. Remember, little achievements at a time! Its time to make your life as positive as you can. Never think: "I can't do that,"

but think: "I will try for that." Believe in yourself. Also remember to look after yourself over the next few months as the weather tries to make up its mind weather to rain, shine, blow a gale, be cold or be warm. Keep your inner body warm, and make sure you take plenty of fresh walks. Fitness and good diet is still the key.

Wrap up and venture out, clear those cobwebs and feel good in yourself. Give yourself plenty of positive energy. Enjoy warming foods such soups (home made if possible) stews and roasts.

Spring is just around the corner where new beginnings and fresh starts happen, but you must allow yourself to reflect and release all your negative energies. Don't waste energy on things that don't work but focus on the things that do.

Life is too short, so as the cliché says: "Live for the



moment." Nothing is set in stone and you as a person can always change. For many of us change is too scary - we like our comfort zone, but remember, there is lots to do and explore - embrace it!

Five ways to help take control

1. Reflect, be positive, and keep your ideas and aims simple.
2. Let go of your non realistic aims - don't waste energy.
3. Take control of your health, eat healthily and exercise.
4. Clear your mind, do what makes you happy, look after yourself then you can look after others.
5. When things go bad be strong. Turn it around and be positive. Things are not nearly so bad when you think positively.

For more information telephone 01883 650100. www.energyforlife.uk.com

Caterham Carnival Darts Tournament

On 1st February the first Caterham Carnival 2008 fundraising event took place, a Darts Tournament held at the British Legion Club in Caterham-on-the-Hill. 18 teams took part raising £363. The Master of Ceremonies was Martin Vaux, Chairman of the Caterham Carnival Committee. Afterwards, Martin said: "This year's tournament was the busiest ever. I'd like to thank John O'Neill for all his hard work organising the event and J.J. Browne & Son Jewellers for donating all the trophies. Thanks to everyone's support we have made a great start to our fundraising efforts this year. The winning team were The Old Gits and the Runners Up were Sweet Fanny Anne. The winners of the Plate (best of the losers of the first round) were The Woodman.



The winning team, 'The Old Gits'



The Runners Up, 'Sweet Fanny Anne'

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'The Godfather' comes to Caterham

World famous physiotherapy consultant and inventor Eddy Anderson has held a two-day day conference and workshop on Rebound Therapy in Caterham.

Eddy is the founder of Rebound Therapy which he started developing in the 1970s. The phrase describes the techniques of using the moving surface of a trampoline to provide therapeutic exercise and recreation for severely disabled people. Now 70, Eddy still travels the world giving lectures and

running workshops. He is known in the world of physiotherapy as the Godfather of Rebound. He also won the 1993 Toshiba Inventor of the Year award for his Floatation device which allows severely disabled people to experience the benefits of swimming whilst having complete body support. Delegates from all over the UK, and three from Portugal, attended the workshop, held at Saturn V's Rebound Hall, which is the UK's only full time Rebound Therapy centre.



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Eagles kick off Great Daffodil Appeal 2008 at Selhurst Park

Marie Curie Cancer Care nurse, Wendy Hutchinson, took to the pitch on Saturday, 2nd February and posed with players to launch the Great Daffodil Appeal 2008.

The charity is inviting everyone to make a donation to Marie Curie Cancer Care in return for a daffodil pin. Every donation for a daffodil will help the charity towards their target of £5.5 million to help

give thousands of people free specialist end-of-life care from Marie Curie Nurses.

Marie Curie Nurses make a real difference to thousands of terminally ill people and their families by caring for them in their own home or one of the charity's ten UK hospices. They have cared for 375,000 patients over the past 60 years - the equivalent of filling over 14 Sel-

hurst Parks. Fundraisers will be out collecting throughout March and daffodil pins can be picked up from thousands of local stores, schools and Marie Curie Shops across the UK.

Thanks to Yellow Pages' support, the money raised through the Great Daffodil Appeal goes directly towards funding the thousands of Marie Curie Nurses nationwide.



Marie Curie Cancer Care nurse, Wendy Hutchinson (far right) poses with Marie Curie volunteers and Eagles players to launch the Great Daffodil Appeal 2008

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Andy steps down as Scout DC

Andy Parr, the Caterham & Warlingham Scouts District Commissioner, is standing down next month after 11 years in the position. His spell as DC culminated in leading the District Scouts during the Scouting movement's Centenary Year in 2007. The year saw lots of extra events being organised to celebrate the Centenary, making it Andy's busiest year in the role. Gwen Hoare, District Secretary, said: "Andy has been a very hands on District Commissioner and has managed, despite other commitments, to visit most camps, group activities, attend AGMs, present awards and support Scouting in Caterham, often as a leader. He will be greatly missed for his enthusiasm and energy and will be a hard act to follow. In many ways one has to sympathise with the in-coming District Commissioner but



Andy at the East Surrey Museum recently which is hosting a display of fascinating local scouting memorabilia. The museum is open every Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

I am sure he will find his own style. All members of the Scout Movement in Caterham wish Andy every success in the future and hope that he now finds the time to finish 'Parr Towers!' I am sure another job will find Andy within Scouting; we can't let a good man go!" Commenting on the end of

his term as DC, Andy said: "I am sad to go, I've thoroughly enjoyed being District Commissioner, working with a terrific bunch of youngsters and their leaders. I don't think I'll be sitting around though - I've got plenty to keep me busy and of course I'd still like to be involved with scouting."

1st Whyteleafe Scouts celebrate 100 years

The 1st Whyteleafe Scout Group is 100 years old this year and the Group has a number of activities organised to celebrate the occasion. The main event this year will be a rededication service and reunion at St. Luke's Church, Whyteleafe on Sunday 13th July 2008 at 3.00 pm. Were you connected with the 1st Whyteleafe Scout Group in any capacity and any period? Were you a Beaver Scout, Cub Scout, Scout, Venture Scout, Leader, Helper, Parent or Friend? If so, you are

invited to take part in this celebration of the Group's history.

John Andrews, the Acting Group Scout Leader, is trying to build up a history of the group and would very much like to beg or borrow any memorabilia. He would also appreciate any anecdotal information or memories.

If you have any items to loan to the Group, or would like to speak to John about the Centenary year, you can contact him on 01883 731592 or e-mail: j-andrews@sky.com

If you belong to a local charity or non-profit making organisation, why not see how you can promote your activities through The Caterham Independent
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If you have always dreamed of living in a house that still evokes the grandeur of a bygone age, then maybe 'Hunters End' in Burntwood Lane, Caterham, is the house for you? Hunters End (pictured right) was originally the imposing stable block for nearby Burntwood House at 106 Burntwood Lane (see picture below). Burntwood House was one of the very first big houses built in Caterham by



Burntwood House

George Drew JP (1789-1862). Caterham Railway Station opened in 1856 giving easy access to London, and when George Drew bought the Caterham estate in the mid-1800's he became a director and solicitor for the Caterham Railway Company. Burntwood House, with its chapel, lodge and stable block is on record from the 1861 census. In 1869 its rateable value was £93/10 shillings.

The 1861 census records that 72 year old George was living in Burntwood House with his wife Mary, his 27 year old son, Richard and three servants. Records show that over the years many interesting people lived in the house with their servants including a Chinese merchant and a retired member of the Horseguards Royal Engineers. One of the wealthiest occupants

was 36 year-old Ernest Coles who lived in the house with his wife, two sons and five servants. In about 1900 he rebuilt the stable block into the coach house for his coachman and family to live in, in much the same shape is Hunters End is today. Ernest was president of the Caterham Choral Society, Treasurer of the Horticultural Society and presented the site for the Rifle Club. In 1915 The Weekly Press announced the opening of a War Hospital under the British Red Cross at Burntwood House which was intended to accommodate 25 beds.

Mrs F. Hurst, a local resident, described a pathway that ran from Croydon Road over the level crossing and over the slopes above Stafford Road, through the woods at the top of Burntwood Lane and 'Upper Caterham'. During



Hunters End

the latter part of the 1914-18 war these slopes were a favourite haunt of the wounded soldiers who were being nursed back to health at Burntwood House and their blue hospital uniforms made a splash of colour on the green slopes.

For more details see the Park & Bailey advertisement on the back page.

With thanks to local historian Gwyneth Fookes of the Bourne Society for providing the information for this article.



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