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November 2008

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## Croydon Road floods yet again ...



The flood at the junction of Mount Pleasant Road and Croydon Road at 4pm on Saturday 1st November, four days after the Surrey Highways drain cleaning operation. **Photo by Anthony Jones Photography**

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... for the 28th time this year, despite a recent 'deep clean' by Surrey Highways. The maintenance works took place on the night of the 27th October and during the day of the 28th October, after having requested hundreds of local residents and business owners not to leave their vehicles parked on the roads during this time. The expensive exercise included making contingency parking arrangements and putting advance warning signs on the affected roads.

*Continued on page 2 ...*

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**Contents**

<b>Home Sweet Home</b>	<b>6-7</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>8-11</b>
<b>Kids' Competition</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Burtenshaw's Beat</b>	<b>10</b>
by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector, Elaine Burtenshaw	
<b>Eating Out</b>	<b>12-13</b>
<b>Rose &amp; Young</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>What's On</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>In the Garden</b>	<b>14</b>
by Alec Herbert	
<b>Letters</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Record Breaking Calvacade of Hearses</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Interview with firefighter, Phil Charrington</b>	<b>16</b>
by Katie Barker	
<b>Energy for Life</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Old Cats RFC</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Classifieds</b>	<b>18</b>

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## The great Caterham washout

*(Continued from page 1)*

For the last several years, each time it has rained heavily in Caterham Valley, Croydon Road floods over the pavements near Mount Pleasant road. The opposite side of the road near the bus stop also floods, leading to the strong possibility that several parts of the surface water drains in that area have a connected problem. The objective of the recent gully cleaning operation was to ensure that the flooding problem was not simply a lack of proper cleaning. However, the problem remains. On the night of Thursday, 30th October the heavens opened and the street was flooded again. Caterham ABC has been campaigning for over a year for action on this problem and it is a necessary step in their proposals for improvements to the Valley and Hill shopping areas that are currently being finalised. A local weather site has contributed rainfall records, showing that we have had at least 28 days of similar levels of rainfall since last December demonstrating that these are not extreme

levels. However, each time the rainfall has resulted in floods.

ABC Chairman, Chris Windridge, said: "We now have clear evidence that maintenance will not solve the flooding problem and it is in a part of Caterham that we want to improve. It is time to investigate the cause of this flooding and hopefully any solution can be included with other improvements we are proposing. The Caterham Valley Business Partnership has also been campaigning for action and we all feel the case for investigation and fixing the problem has now been made."

To make matters worse, any further investigation of the problem will be hampered by the fact that there are no plans of the drainage system in existence, the information being stored solely in the heads of engineers who are no longer with us. On hearing the news that the drains had flooded again, Derek Poole, Head of Highways at Surrey County Council, said: "As we have done a thorough clean of the existing infrastructure and the problem is still persisting, any further work would need significant capital expenditure. I am very keen to solve the problem but it now has to be a funding decision."

## Bunny Fun Run 2009

The second Caterham Rotary Bunny Fun Run will take place on Sunday, 5th April next year, so dig out your bunny ears and get in training in plenty of time for the event!

The basic format will be the same, with a 1k Fun Run at 10am and a 5k race at 10.30am with prizes for the winners in both categories and for the best dressed bunnies. There will also be extra prizes for teams of three generations of the same family in both runs and for 'club' teams of five or more. Every finisher will receive an Easter Egg and The Caterham Independent will once again be sponsoring the event. Despite the torrential rain, 151 people took part in last year's run which raised over £2,000 for charity. If you would like your company to sponsor a banner, the finishing post or the numbers for the runners, please contact Julia Church at The Caterham Independent on 01883 346641.

## Stafford Road STOP PRESS!

On Friday, 31st October the Appeal made by Village Developments plc to demolish the buildings at 135-164 Stafford Road, Caterham, and erect 83 dwellings on the site (Appeal A) was dismissed by the Planning Inspectorate. The appeal made by Village Developments plc to demolish buildings at 184-198 Stafford Road, and erect 39 dwellings (Appeal B) has been allowed, subject to the conditions set out in the Formal Decisions in the Appeal Decisions document. Jill Caudle, Tandridge District Councillor for Caterham Valley, said: "I am delighted that the Inspector has comprehensively dismissed the appeal on the larger site saying that development on this scale would not be in character with the area. Additionally, Tandridge's Core Strategy has now been adopted, with its tougher planning policies. I therefore very much hope that Village Developments will now consider that they have built enough new houses and flats in Stafford Road, and not put in any new applications for this site."

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## TechniSPA - a revolutionary way to treat cellulite

For years, women of all ages, shapes and sizes have agonised over how to reduce the appearance of cellulite using various creams, exercises and diets in the quest for a firm body and a toned skin. Cellulite can build up if the lymph system is not working 100% which causes fat cells to enlarge. Tissue forms a fibrous net around the enlarged fat cells, which then hardens and inhibits circulation. There are many factors that contribute to the development of cellulite, for example, a hereditary tendency, hormonal imbalance, insufficient water intake, stress, lack of exercise and smoking. To combat the resulting cellulite build-up, Guinot has created the high performance TechniSPA treatment. The procedure works by performing three slimming actions at the same time - 'Vacuflux', which breaks down cellulite; 'Ionisation' which dissolves cellulite and 'Stimulation' which drains toxins. To prepare the body for the treatment, the skin is first gently exfoliated before the application of the anti-cellulite treatment gel. The innovative 'Sculptor' device is applied which performs a relaxing sub-dermal massage as it glides over the



The 'Sculptor' device being applied to the skin.

skin. The ionization helps the gel penetrate more deeply into the skin while the rollers stimulate gentle muscle contractions. This action helps to drain toxins and fatty deposits, firm tissue and stimulate oxygen flow to the blood, resulting in a firmer, more toned appearance. The whole process ends with the application of a body cream, to leave the body feeling soft and refreshed.

A one-off treatment at the Village Beauty Spa costs £64.00. The salon also offers a course of three treatments before a special occasion, a course of ten treatments for a specific concern or a course of 20 treatments for total body conditioning. Why not get along to the Products Launch at the Village Beauty Spa on Wednesday 12th November from 5-9pm to learn more about this revolutionary new treatment!

To advertise in the December edition of The Caterham Independent, call 01883 346641

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## New 'Tandridge Community Grassroots Fund' has successful launch

The new Tandridge Community Grassroots Fund (TCF) got off to a strong start last month, with a good turnout of guests braving the torrential rain to attend the launch on Monday, 20th October at the Oxted Community Hall. The donations made on the night, which included a generous sum contributed by TCF Chairman, Mike Moss, together with £160 raised at the Oxted Carnival, amounted to over £5,000. Together with Gift Aid and, hopefully, the 50% from the Government's Grassroots Initiative, this figure will grow to nearly £10,000 - a figure "Not to be sneezed at," in the words of Mike Moss!

In his welcoming speech at the launch of the fund, Chairman Mike Moss explained how he got the idea of starting a District wide Community Fund from three sources: "I had the good fortune to hear Wendy Varcoe, Executive Director of Surrey Community Foun-

ation, give a talk in which she extolled the virtues of having a 'fund in perpetuity', the interest from which would go to 'good causes'. This led me to think of Rotary International Foundation which has enormous capital and the interest spent on one project alone, the eradication of polio world-wide, has meant that polio now exists in only two or three countries and will, hopefully be eliminated there as well. The final source came through LINK, the group which does so much good in the Oxted, Limpsfield and Hurst Green area - again providing help from the interest earned from capital."

By being part of the Surrey Community Foundation, TCF can benefit from its 'Grassroots' funding from government that is providing match funding of £1 for every £2 received. "If we can build up a big enough District-wide fund, the interest on the capital



Mike Moss, left, explains the benefits of the new fund at the launch event in Oxted last month.

could go to help many local groups," explained Mike. "If I sound overly enthusiastic about the project, it's because I believe in it. It can work and with the help of the Tandridge community it will work. This could grow into something big so please give it much consideration!"

If you would like more information about making a donation to this new community fund, please call TCF Chairman Mike Moss on 01883 713322.



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## Happy 5th Birthday Caterham Linens!

Caterham's local linen shop is celebrating its fifth year in business and would like to thank the local community for their continued and loyal support, as the store goes from strength to strength. The wide range of goods available in this 'Aladdin's Cave', includes many varieties and sizes of bed linen, with suitable hypoallergenic alternatives for people with allergies or asthma. "We stock the lovely 'Microdown' duvets and pillows because they provide all the comfort of naturally-filled duvets and pillows, without causing problems for allergy sufferers," explained store manager, Freddie Wahid-Staw. "They last almost twice as long as a hollow-fibre duvet because they are cased in 100% cotton. They really are one of our most popular lines."

Alongside the bed-linen is a seemingly endless supply of towels in a variety of sizes,

quantities and colours – certainly plenty to choose from! Enthusiastic cooks can dress their kitchens with matching co-ordinates – including aprons, oven gloves and mittens, tea cosies, seat pads and even tablecloths, napkins and placemats. "In the run up to Christmas we are incorporating all manner of seasonal goods into our range, including Christmas ornaments, table-

cloths, napkins, advent calendars and Christmas stockings," said Freddie. "In addition, as it's our fifth birthday, we are offering a free gift-wrapping service for any purchase above £20!"

Finally, Caterham Linens have introduced Gift Vouchers which can make a much-appreciated present. The friendly staff at Caterham Linens look forward to seeing you in the store at 6 Godstone Road in Caterham Valley in the run up to Christmas and for many years to come!



## ADVERTISERS!

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## COMPETITION

We have two £10 gift vouchers for Caterham Linens to give away to the two winners of our competition.

To enter, simply tell us the name of the hypoallergenic duvets and pillows stocked by Caterham Linens. Are they:

a) Microsoft b) Microdown or c) Micropore  
 Please send your answer, with your name and telephone number to: 'Caterham Linens Competition, The Caterham Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham, CR3 5UE' or e-mail: [Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk](mailto:Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk) by Friday, 21st November when the correct entries will be entered into a draw. Only one entry per person. The winners will be announced in the December edition of The Caterham Independent.

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They also supply quality reproduction surrounds, baskets and inserts, specialising in made-to-measure fires.

**'My fireplace looks perfect in my living room. I'm glad I chose the Fireplace Shop!'**  
Margaret Jones.

"As we are Stone and Marble Masons by trade, we can offer our clients a made-to-measure service which allows us to make almost any design of fire you may have in mind," explained proprietor, Chris Wright.

The Hamsey Green showroom boasts a wide range of stunning fires, ranging from modern fires in



**The Corbel surround**

stone and timber to beautiful old period fires for all types of rooms, and authentic-looking reproduction fires.

**'Thank you very much for doing such a good job. We are very happy with the restoration - it looks great.'**  
Annmarie. London SE20.

The Fireplace Shop have their own, highly trained fireplace fitters who are able to cope with all jobs, to ensure a smooth installation once you have ordered your new fire. For more information, call in to their Hamsey Green showroom or give them a call on 020 8657 6606.



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# Education

## St. Francis School welcomes concert cellist Anup

The pupils of St. Francis RC Primary School had a music lesson with a difference recently, when they were visited by world class concert cellist, Anup Kumar Biswas. Chair of Governors, Paul Hooper, visited Calcutta in 2005 and was so impressed with the children of the Mathieson Music School he decided to help the school with its fundraising. Concert cellist Anup is the founder of the school and Paul decided to fund a visit to St. Francis by Anup through his company Route22Ltd. Wednesday, 22nd October saw Anup spending the whole day running workshops for the children to teach them about the differences between Indian and Western music and giving them the opportunity to



play Indian instruments such as the tabla drums. In order to supplement the Mathieson School fundraising, Anup performed a concert at the Sacred Heart Church where around 70 people enjoyed music by Anup and other local musicians. "It was a fantastic day," said Paul. "The children enjoyed themselves and learned loads about Indian music. The concert was also a great success and everyone appeared to enjoy it very much. Best of all, we raised well over one thousand pounds for the Mathieson Music School which helps the many poor children in Calcutta."

## Warlingham Park pupils limber up with Danny

On Tuesday 14th October, Olympic hopeful Danny Lawrence visited Warlingham Park School to help put the pupils through their paces in a sponsored fitness event. Danny encouraged each child to complete a circuit made up of sets of Star Jumps, Spotty Dogs, Leg Drives and Press Ups.

During a well deserved rest the children gathered to watch Danny give an awesome display of his gymnastic talents. Basic but brilliantly executed moves such as forward rolls and cartwheels progressed through to back flips and twisted somersaults before Danny finally, and much to everyone's amusement, leapt through the air over the outstretched bodies of three children and a teacher.

Warlingham Park School Head Teacher, Mike Donald, commented: "The Sports for Schools challenge is a fantastic event. The children loved joining in all the activities and were fascinated by Danny's display, plus it's great that the money raised goes to support the nation's young hopefuls working towards the London 2012 Olympics". For more information on Sports for Schools see www.sportsforschools.org or call Mike Donald, Head Teacher of Warlingham Park School in Chelsham on 01883 626844.

## Kids' Competition

This month we are giving away another £20 gift token to the winner of our 'Kids' Competition'! To enter, tell us who your favourite teacher is with a few words explaining why. Send your entries with your name, school, age and telephone number, to: 'Kids' Competition, 33 High Street, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5UE or e-mail: Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk by Friday 21st November. Only one entry per child who must be age 14 or under. The winning entry will be published in the December edition of The Caterham Independent.

### Congratulations!

To six year-old Zoe Kirk who won our October competition. In answer to our question: 'Who do you think would make a good Prime Minister and why?' Zoe wrote: "Julie Andrews would make a good PM because she's always kind and helpful in all her films." A great answer. Well done Zoe!

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## Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector, Elaine Burtenshaw



It is hard to believe this month is the first anniversary of Burtenshaw's Beat. I hope you have found it an interesting way of making you aware of what your local officers have been doing and what has been happening in the area. The local team have been busy arresting offenders over the last month; just to mention a couple, Pc Bassom arrested four people suspected of using false plates and going equipped to steal. Another man was arrested on suspicion of taking fuel from petrol stations across Tandridge and Reigate on many occasions and not paying for it. The Shopwatch system assisted my officers and their colleagues from the British Transport Police in arresting four people suspected of stealing items from local stores. I am aware that traffic issues are of concern to you all, including parking, speeding, drivers using no through roads and temporary traffic lights. I am also aware the temporary traffic lights on Church Hill have been faulty. I went up there

myself one morning to carry out traffic control as I knew this would have impact on the traffic flow. It is with dismay that I have to report that despite doing this, my team and I were subjected to abuse not only from passing motorists but also pedestrians. We are out there to assist you so please be more friendly if you see me, or my officers directing traffic again. This can be an extremely busy period for us - Halloween and Bonfire night. I know last month I spoke about this but I want to re-iterate that the Tandridge Safer Neighbourhood Team is taking a zero-tolerance approach towards the increase in criminal damage and anti-social behaviour that can be associated with these events. Finally, this period culminates in myself and many of the team attending Remembrance Day parades/services across the district to show our respect to servicemen and women. We hope to meet many of you at these services.

## Stay With Me and Play With Me!

Last September, Kestrels Children's Centre at Marden Lodge School in Croydon Road launched their 'Stay With Me & Play With Me' toddler sessions and already the attendance is showing that people enjoy all that is on offer.

Kestrels Manager, Linda Smith, said: "The lovely new room we use for the sessions is very baby and toddler friendly with under-floor heating making it nice and cosy during these winter months. The room has large windows on two sides so it's bright and cheerful. We have an open access policy here so the parents can use our kitchen area to make drinks and heat bottles etc - we are very happy for everyone to share our resources." Tara and Margaret who run the sessions are happy to interact with the group and are able to offer advice and information on everything from childcare to benefits and from job seeking to games ideas. Margaret recently qualified at level 2 as a nursery nurse so she loves playing with the babies and her confidence is such that you might hear her burst into song when the moment is right, so be prepared for the occasional sing-along-session! Tara achieved her level 3 qualifica-



tion just over a year ago and is now attending a 'Working with Parents' course in Guildford. She loves to share her knowledge of child development with the parents and what she doesn't know she can find out by calling on her wide network of professional friends and colleagues - at Kestrels the answer to any question is never far away. "We are very proud of our new group which is proving very popular," added Linda. "It provides a safe and comfortable environment for young children to play together and socialise, while the parents can make new friends too!" As a Sure Start Children's Centre it is important to everyone at Kestrels that the local community feels able to use their facilities. Why not go along and see what they have to offer. The sessions take place every Monday and Wednesday morning from 9.30-11.30am.

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For more information call 01883 348641



## New Initiatives at Kestrels

### Stay With Me & Play With Me

Every Monday from 9.30-11.30

### Bumps & Babes

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### Make a Mess & Cut The Stress Sessions

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# Eating Out

## An evening of authentic Indian Cuisine at Vojan

Review by Julia Church

You may think that the location of the Vojan Indian restaurant would be a disadvantage to its owners, situated as it is at the bottom of Shepherds Hill on the A23 heading towards Merstham, with very little pedestrian passing trade. But the secret of the restaurant's success lies in its reputation for tasty, authentic food, and word soon spreads fast when a restaurant is discovered that serves up top quality food at very reasonable prices.

When I dined there recently for the first time, I decided to plump for a starter, rather than diving straight into the main course as I usually do when eating in an Indian restaurant. My appetite was whetted with a tasty Sheek Kebab made

with minced lamb, while my partner opted for the Mili-Juli, a combination of chicken tikka, sheek kebab, samosa and magic mushrooms served beautifully hot - the ideal starter for anyone who can't make up their mind!

By now completely relaxed thanks to the serene atmosphere, excellent service and Cabernet Shiraz, we were ready for our main courses - the Butter Chicken (the chef's recommendation!) and Lamb Karahi, accompanied by Brinjal Bhaji (aubergine), Saag Paneer (spinach with cheese), Pilau Rice and Peshwari Nan. The Butter Chicken was creamy and mild and the sauce went very nicely with the coconut-flavoured Nan bread, resulting in a dish wiped clean by yours truly. The lamb provided a nice contrast, with a subtle blend of spices without being hot and with plenty of flavour. Being authentic cuisine, the food was served without



being drowned in sauce which can so often hide the true flavour of the meat or vegetables.

Deciding to pass on dessert we finished our meal with coffee. I asked for an Irish coffee, a favourite of mine, if it is served correctly. Maybe it's slightly unfair to request an Irish coffee in an Indian restaurant, but I was not disappointed. The coffee, like the meal, was delicious and provided the perfect end to a very pleasant evening.



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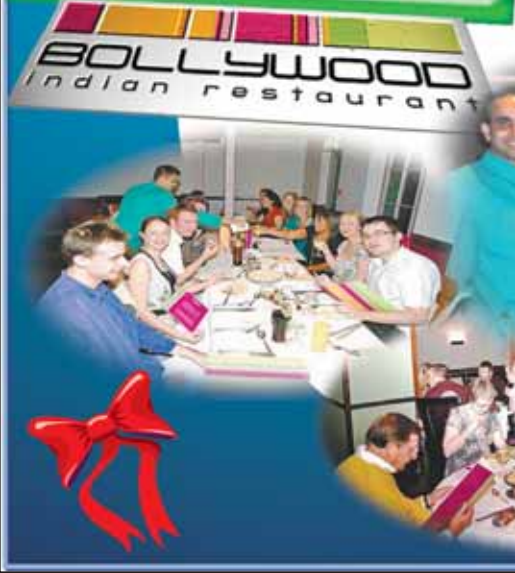
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## Rose & Young revelation prompts latest action by Council

Since last month's lead article in The Caterham Independent regarding the non-payment of business rates by the owners of the unsightly Rose & Young site in Croydon Road, Mrs Julie Holden, Head of Revenues and Benefits at Tandridge District Council has written to the Valuation Officer asking why the property was taken out of the Rating List on 1st September 1997. The reply received by Mrs Holden simply elaborated on the fact that the property had fallen into considerable disrepair and it would be uneconomic to repair it, thus making it not eligible to pay business rates. On hearing this, Andrew Brown, Chairman of the Caterham Valley Business Partnership (CVBP), said: "Owners of other properties in the same state, in other parts of the country, are paying business rates and as a way of avoiding payment they are demolishing the building, which in the case of this old Mercedes showroom would be the first step in improving Caterham! CVBP members are appalled that the owners of the site are not paying business rates when the rest of us have to, and we are ready to take any action necessary to get something done with this blight on Caterham. If that means protest-



ing at the Valuations Office then that is what we will have to do!" Michael Cooper, Tandridge District Councillor for Harestone Ward, said: "We were shocked to hear that the owners are not paying business rates because we assumed that they were. We are very disappointed with the response of the Valuations Office who don't seem to have done a decent review of the situation, so I will be raising it again with our Chief Executive, Stephen Weigel. I shall also be liaising with the business community to decide our next course of action. A Compulsory Purchase Order would be very difficult because it would cost millions of pounds which Tandridge Council simply don't have. The best way forward would be for us to work in partnership with Surrey County Council as they are more likely to have the funds available to invest in this site."

## What's on

### Firework Display

The 2008 Round Table Firework Display takes place on Saturday, 8th November in the Dene Field, Church Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. The gates open at 6pm and the torchlight procession leaves Westway Common at 6.30pm. Entrance £5 for adults and children.

### Festival of Christmas Trees

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

### Musical

St. Mary's Church is presenting 'Wildfire', a musical by Roger Jones on Sunday, 16th November at 6pm in St. Mary's Church, Church Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Admission is free - donations to the work of the church gratefully received. Refreshments will be served afterwards.

### Barn Dance

The Caterham Overseas Aid Trust (C.O.A.T.) is holding a Barn Dance on Saturday 15th November at 7.30pm in the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Tickets cost £10 to include a

sausage and chips supper and dessert. Bar available. Please phone Margaret Deards on 01883 380104 for more information.

### Miller Centre Open Day

The Miller Theatre & Club at 30 Godstone Road, Caterham is opening its doors to all who wish to attend on Saturday, 8th November, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

It will be a unique opportunity to see 'behind the scenes', meet Players and Members and also to join and participate in the various activities available, such as scrabble, crafts, lunch clubs, table tennis, Pilates, yoga and painting to name but a few.

### Cedar Tree Lights

Caterham-on-the-Hill residents are being invited to sing carols under the Cedar Tree on Saturday 29th November, when the Cedar Tree lights will switch on during the carols. The event, organised by Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council, will take place from 6pm to 6.30pm in Buxton's car park on Saturday 29th November. Please bring a torch.

### Quiz Night

The next de Stafford Quiz Night takes place on Friday, 28th November at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 to include a buffet supper. Bring your own drinks. To book a table call Marion Tait on 01883 344797.

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## In the garden

by Alec Herbert

Gardeners tend to fall into one of two camps at this time of year. There are those who welcome the extra time available due to not having to mow the lawn regularly or water baskets and pots and use this time to keep going whatever the weather. Others will have a tidy up for the winter and restart when the weather becomes warmer next spring.

If you find the second option infinitely preferable, then try to ensure the garden is relatively weed free and cut back border perennials. Whilst winter pruning of shrubs will have its benefits next year, it is worth considering that hard frosts, or snow, always looks attractive on old wood which leave striking patterns in the garden. Any further pruning can then be carried out in the spring. Tall roses and other similar shrubs should be reduced by around half to reduce 'wind rock' which will loosen and probably damage the root system.

Clearing fallen leaves is important. Where these appear to have engulfed the garden, prioritise clearing the lawns as leaving them leaf covered through the winter

could cause a fungal disease which will damage or even kill the grass. When spring arrives, there will be enough to do without having to re-lay the lawn!

Rockerries and borders should also be cleared and, for safety's sake, steps and paths. Also, remove any stray fallen fruit before it rots or is trodden into the ground. Incidentally, I suggest you do not compost for leaf mould leaves from horse chestnut trees which may have become diseased. In this area, many of these trees have had an autumn appearance since late July with the leaves looking brown and curled and even scorched. No, this is not due to the excessive amount of sunshine we have experienced this summer, but because of insect attacks by egg laying female aphids. Fortunately, it appears little harm is done to the tree itself, other than taking away some of its natural green beauty when the tree is in full growth in mid summer. Nonetheless, the fallen leaves should be disposed of rather than composted as the whole heap could then become infected.

Finally, dig over the vegetable plot and add some well rotted manure. Any rough dug area will benefit from the winter frosts which help break up the soil. Happy Gardening!



## A funeral march into the record books

Anyone out and about on the Purley Way on Saturday, 25th October may have had an unusual surprise as a record breaking cavalcade of hearses took to the streets. The procession of magnificent hearses in all shapes and sizes was organised by Adrian Pink, co-owner of A&D Pink Funeral Directors, as part of the conference marking the end of his year in office as the President of the British Institute of Funeral Directors. Amongst the 31 vehicles that took part in the procession were vintage Rolls Royces, Volkswagen Campers, Land Rovers and motorcycles with coffin-carrying side-cars. "I wanted to do something completely different before stepping down as Presi-



Local funeral director, Adrian Pink, next to one of the more unusual hearses that took part in the record-breaking procession through Croydon last month.

dent," explained Adrian. "Getting into the Guinness Book of Records is something that will make this conference weekend extra memorable for everyone." The route took the vehicles

along the Purley Way, across the Old Town flyover in Croydon and around Thornton Heath Crematorium, watched by a Guinness World Records representative.

## Readers' letters

### Rose & Young

There follows a copy of a letter sent to Peter Ainsworth, MP by a Caterham resident in response to our October article about the old Mercedes Garage eyesore in Croydon Road (Rose & Young):

Dear Mr Ainsworth  
I refer to the Rose and Young issue in Caterham. It seems extraordinary that despite prior pressure from local councillors (one presumes), the excellent campaign by the 'The Caterham Independent' and your own undoubted intervention, that only now that it

emerges that the owners have been exempt from business rates for 10 years. Why has Tandridge Council tolerated this for so long and kept this specific issue of non-eligibility of rates so quiet? What questions have local councillors (not) been asking for so long and to who for this only now to emerge?

Various conclusions emerge from this not least the apparent ineptitude or ineffectiveness of our local councillors on this issue. More disturbing is the complacency and inefficiency of Tandridge Council in its representation of Caterham residents on this key local issue. It is nothing less than a betrayal. However, even more disturbing is the consideration that this could

only be allowed to happen in Caterham and would not be tolerated in say Oxted. It seems to me that Oxted, where TDC HQ is located and presumably where most of the staff live, seems to benefit from strong council sponsored resistance to planning development, far better state schools, better town centre facilities, better town centre law and order and much less evidence of neglect. It would seem that only in Caterham we get yet more fast food outlets foisted upon our town centre (Kentucky Fried Chicken), inconvenient long term road repairs (affecting both major north bound exits from the town at the same time!) and an issue like Rose and Young allowed to run and run. Issues like this almost make one think TDC believes Caterham is part of Croydon, or just doesn't care about Caterham apart from collecting our council tax.

Please could you continue to use your influence to bring some resolution to the Rose & Young issue at least. Thank you.

**Mark Lewis,  
Caterham-on-the-Hill.**

Please e-mail your letters to:  
[editor@caterham-independent.co.uk](mailto:editor@caterham-independent.co.uk)  
or write to the address on page 2

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## Ten medals for firefighter Phil!

The Beijing Olympics gave Britain some well-deserved sporting pride this summer, but it was a different sporting event that provided Caterham with its very own gold medal winning athlete. Phil Charrington of Newstead Rise was in Liverpool this summer competing at the World Firefighter Games, and he came away with an amazing ten medals; two golds, three silvers and five bronzes across various sports. His most successful was swimming, winning gold in both the 4x50m medley relay and the 4x50m freestyle relay. He took silver in three individual swimming events, the 50m backstroke, 100m butterfly and 50m butterfly. Of his five bronze medals three were for swimming, one was for cycling and one for kayaking.

Phil took part as a Grand Master, as the games are divided into age categories. "For the 4x50m relays we had to have a combined age of over 200!" explained Phil.

Although he attributes most of his success to his age category, Phil's fitness regime played a part too, and it would put most 20 year olds to shame! This year's event was the tenth World Firefighter Games, which are held every two years across the globe, and saw Phil competing for the third time. The 2006 games were in Hong Kong and the 2010 games are planned for Korea, showing they are a truly international event.



Caterham firefighter, Phil Charrington with his collection of medals

Phil emphasised the atmosphere was one of camaraderie before competition, although there were some extremely talented athletes competing. Phil said: "I made lots of international friends and even had offers of accommodation if I ever visited their country - that's the spirit of the games!" Phil is already busy planning his trip to the 2010 Games in Korea and hopes to combine it with a longer holiday to visit relatives in New Zealand.

## Could your school help the Rotary 'Aquabox' appeal?

The most urgent single problem facing relief agencies when disaster strikes is the provision of a supply of safe drinking water for the survivors. The solution is the Aquabox, a robust plastic tank with water purification tablets packed with essential welfare items for a disaster situation. Once the welfare contents have been removed for use, the Aquabox can then be used as a storage tank to purify

up to 1100 litres of polluted water - enough to supply a family of four people for about four months.

The Rotary Club of Caterham has purchased some of the standard Aquaboxes and is looking for schools or other groups to fill them with useful emergency contents - a typical list comes with each box.

Loughborough High School has responded to the recent Burma Cyclone disaster and Chinese earthquake appeal by working with Rotary International to fill 25 Aquaboxes. That is an amazing effort but in Cater-

ham we are being less ambitious and asking schools to take on filling just one box each. Recently a container full of Aquaboxes was shipped to Myanmar (Burma) for distribution within the Irrawaddy delta. They arrived in Yangon harbour in October and are being distributed to the many victims of the floods in the area. Could possible helpers please phone Jon Mountain on 01883-344744. The Club will help schools that have difficulty finding any items and will collect the boxes from schools when they are ready.

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## Who wants to be a volunteer?

by Marion Piggott



Question: "At a party would you rather sit next to David Beckham, Jonathan Miller, or a good man called Smith who delivers meals on wheels?" This was originally posed by Cosmos Landesman, writer, journalist and film critic. "So, Norman," I asked. "Who would you choose?" Norman's our Administrator at TVSC (Tandridge Volunteer Service Council). "I love football," he told me, "but I'm not sure I'd choose Beckham, nice bloke though he seems. Miller's probably too highbrow so although I don't know Smith I bet we'd have more in common."

Sharon, our new volunteer at Oxted Volunteer Centre, immediately plumped for Smith. "I'd be more relaxed and he'd have some great anecdotes," she explained. Since I felt the same way, a straw poll of TVSC favours the volunteer. Celebrity, it seems, has its limitations.

Socialising is certainly more agreeable if the conversation is amusing, interesting and flows in a relaxed atmosphere. I imagine Sue Mitchell, Volunteer Coordinator at the Orpheus

Centre, had this in mind when she emailed me about their volunteers from overseas.

Sue explained that last year's group told her that they missed family life, and meeting with local families would have helped. Sue asked me whether I thought someone might consider inviting an overseas volunteer to say, Sunday lunch. I told her I didn't know, but I'd ask.

Incidentally, I'm also looking for a chess lover to partner a gentleman at a local residential home.

Want to know more? Then please ring me, Marion Piggott, at the Volunteer Centre, 01883 344444, email: [caterhamvc@owen29.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:caterhamvc@owen29.wanadoo.co.uk), or visit our website: [www.surrey-community.info/tvsc/](http://www.surrey-community.info/tvsc/)



Rotarian Ian Todd with one of the life-saving Aquaboxes



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## Recycle for Marie Curie!



Church Walk Manager, Shelley Fillipi (centre) and Marie Curie Cancer Care volunteers put on a colourful show last month to encourage us all to take our old mobile phones, inkjet printer cartridges, laser cartridges, or printer cartridges to the Marie Curie shop for recycling to generate vital funds for the charity.

If you have returned from holiday and don't know what to do with all that foreign currency, the Marie Curie shop collects foreign notes, coins of any currency and old currency no longer valid in Europe too. Just pop along to the Marie Curie shop with your donation and remember your unwanted items can help fund Marie Curie nurses.

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## Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

Five for fun - all with flowers in the question or answer.

1. Which programme on BBC television features Hyacinth, Rose, Violet and Daisy?
2. Which famous horse won the 1989 Cheltenham Gold Cup?
3. In Greek mythology, who was the goddess of the rainbow?
4. What is the common name of myosotis - something easy to remember?
5. The sweet pea is believed to have originated on which Mediterranean island?

Answers:

1. Keeping up Appearances
2. Desert Orchid
3. Iris
4. Forget-me-not
5. Sicily

## ANY NEWS?

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## Well done Jack!

Young Netherne-on-the-Hill resident, Jack Lakin, is the toast of his family, having achieved his 50 meters swimming certificate and badge last month at the age of just three years and ten months!

Jack's mum, Sally said: "Jack had to swim two and a half lengths of the pool unaided and without stopping to get his certificate. Everyone is amazed he has done it so young, but he has always loved swimming. We are so proud of him!"



Three year-old swimmer, Jack Lakin with his proud mum, Sally.

## Save money and stay fit

by Anna Brunton and Steve Robertson, Energy for Life

We are all feeling the pinch and tightening our financial belts during the dreaded current credit crunch, trying to work hard to please the boss or taking on extra hours of work to make ends meet, and all this stress can make one feel tired, unmotivated and negative.

Exercise plays an important part in coping with workloads and achieving targets. "So what creates this wonderful feel good factor?" we hear you ask, "... and where can I get some?"

Exercise releases happy hormones called endorphins but in times of financial hardship 80% of us give up our gym membership or exercise and recreation activities. Reducing activity, especially during the winter months, can make one feel lethargic and lacklustre. We become more susceptible to illness and injury therefore making it harder to perform well at work,

and resulting in more sick days being taken - not good for impressing the boss!

Exercise and wellbeing remains a constant. Unlike a variable interest rate, it always gives the results and benefits you expect. Investing in your health is invaluable, a safe bet in creating a healthy body balance.

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At Energy for Life Ltd we have already cut prices by 10% on personal training and we are giving a further 10% discount to anyone who books a block of six sessions. At the Holt we are also offering three exercise classes for the price of two - so come on - we are committed to you, are you committed to us?

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## Old Cats RFC

Old Cats put out a combined Seconds and Ligers team for the Merit Shield game against Becs Old Boys on Saturday 11th October. The game was played with true rugby spirit in the autumn sunshine at their home ground in Park Avenue in Caterham-on-the-Hill. The game was well contested from both sides with the home team opening the scoring with a strong run through the opposition from Andy Chamberlain to score between the posts, converted by Alan Bryan. Becs replied shortly after by scoring in the corner, but with the conversion missed the home side held advantage at 7-5. More more strong forward play and two



The Old Cats in action during the Merit Shield game

more tries from the Cats brought the half time score to 19-5 in favour of the Cats. The second half started with Charlie Webster scoring between the posts, with another Alan Bryan conversion putting the Cats in control at 26-5. Old Cats forwards continued to dominate the mid field when flanker Chris Mayell collected the ball and drove over to score for a debut try in his first senior game for

the club. A further converted try was added by Gareth Norris and the Cats were enjoying their home game in the sunshine with a comfortable lead at 38-5. The younger players in the Old Cats team then took control of the pace of the game with left wing Matt Pacey cutting inside the stretched defence to score under the posts and drop kick the conversion himself. A second try by Matt and another drop kick conversion brought the end score to a triumphant win for the home side at 52 -5. Chris Mayell who has played through the youth sides of the club to date was awarded Man of the Match for his positive play and strong tackling throughout his second half debut for the Seniors.

## Youngsters get stuck into The Big Team Read



Last summer, primary school-age children from Caterham took part in The Big Team Read organised by Caterham Hill and Caterham Valley libraries. Pictured are some of the proud youngsters with medals and certificates that were presented to them recently at Caterham Hill library.



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