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SEE PAGE 5 FOR OUR EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH NEW CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE, SAM GYIMAH.

Traders angry at closure of post box



Local trader, Andrew Browne, next to the sealed-off post box in Caterham town centre that is causing such a stir - for full story see page 2.

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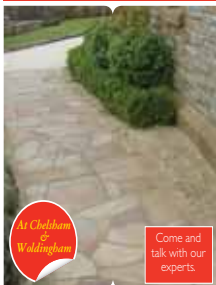
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Post box closure

Continued from page 1

Angry Caterham traders have been pleading with Royal Mail to provide a new post box in Station Avenue that has 24 hour access. The post box in the entry lobby to the Post Office was closed last year following incidents of vandalism at night due to its concealed position. Consequently, once the Post Office closes at 5.30pm, mail cannot be posted there. A Royal Mail spokesperson said "Unfortunately due to repeated vandalism the post box had to be moved inside the branch and while we had hoped to re-site the box outside, an underground survey revealed the presence of pipes and cables. Consequently we have had to move the final collection time to 5.15pm in line with the branch closing time. However there is a postbox in the nearby Morrisons supermarket which has a 6.45pm collection." Andrew Browne of JJ Browne Jewellers in God-

stone Road and chairman of the Caterham Business Partnership, said: "Using the post box in Morrisons is not practical for most businesses as it is at the far end of the shopping centre and not accessible at all out of Morrisons trading hours. I can't believe that there is not a suitable site in the town centre where a post box could be situated for us to use 24/7. Better still, why can't they simply re-open the existing one?" Caterham Business Partnership member and local resident, Pamela Windsor, suggested: "Maybe the Post Office could create access to the existing post box from the road like at the Post Office in Oxted. Surely that wouldn't be too difficult?" Andrew added: "The only other post box is by the sorting office in Godstone Road but again that is not practical for most businesses. For a town the size of Caterham there should be a post box open 24/7 in the centre of the town." Complaints to the Post Office can be sent to: 'Royal Mail Customer Services, Freepost, RM1 1AA' or call 08457 740740.

Sea Cadets SOS

Caterham Sea Cadets are desperately trying to raise the last £5,000 it needs to replace their old minibus which failed its MOT 'catastrophically' recently. For nearly two years the cadets have been raising money for a new bus, by holding house-to-house and street collections and fundraising events including a sponsored sky-dive. So far they have raised £15,000 but are still £5,000 short of their target. Sub-Lieutenant, Aaron Clarke, said: "The boating season is fast approaching but without a bus we will not be able to get to all of the activities our cadets are involved with, nor be able to tow our boats back and forth each parade night. We are going to be beneficiaries of this year's Caterham Carnival, but unfortunately that



The old bus during happier times.

will be too late to provide the funds we need now. We were hoping our old bus would last us a few months longer, but the cost of repairs would be phenomenal so it has gone to the big garage in the sky. Our success this season rests with us securing donations this month."

If any individual, business or organisation would like to make a donation to the Caterham Sea Cadets minibus fund, please telephone Sub-Lieutenant Aaron Clarke on 07834 827654.

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The Street Party is back and looking for more bands!



After the success of last year's Street Party in Caterham on the Hill, organisers have decided to hold another one. The Street Party was just one of over 70 events in the first ever Caterham Festival. This year, it will be even bigger, with more games for the children, more stalls, more entertainers and more music areas. Last year over 200 jelly and ice creams were given out, and this year, around four times as many will be prepared. Chairman of the Festival

Andy Parr said: "I think that this is one of the best events ever to happen in Caterham. Over 4,000 people attended last year and there was no trouble. On 30th May this year we expect even more people to come along". The committee are now looking for local bands, entertainers, musicians or buskers to entertain people on the day as well as stewards and helpers. If you would like to be considered, please call Andy on 01883 340000 or email info@caterhamfestival.org. The Festival will start on 29th May and run through to the end of June. Many exciting new events are being planned, as well as repeating some of the more popular events. Some dates are: Open Caterham will be on 5th and 6th June, Caterham Carnival on 12th June, a Teddy Bears picnic on the 13th June and the music festival, De Fest, will be on 19th and 20th June.

Keep your eye on the web site www.caterhamfestival.org for more details.

Something for everyone at the first ever 'DeFest'

Plans are now in place for another event of the Caterham Festival, 'DeFest', taking place at de Stafford School in Caterham on 19th-20th June. Chief organiser, Mark Jones, said: "I must say I am overwhelmed with the response and support from the community to make this project a fixture for Caterham. Everyone is getting involved including local businesses, youth groups, Rotary clubs, carnival and festival members and not forgetting local schools that have put forward talent. It should be a truly magical weekend." On Saturday 19th June the audience will see not only live bands but also dance acts and the 'Tandridge has got Talent' showcase. There will also be the finals of the 'Miss Festival' competition, with the girls arriving in true style courtesy of Mercedes Direct in Caterham. Sunday is set to be one of the most



relaxing Sundays Caterham will experience with a great line up of blues and jazz-all while enjoying a nice portion of traditional fish and chips from one of the many vendors on site. Mark said: "I would welcome anyone wishing to take part, should it be a jazz or blues band for the Sunday or a local stall holder or even a local charity to contact me." Help would be welcome in the form of donations of raffle prizes, sponsorship and help at the event. If you wish to get on board contact Mark on 078410 65845 or email info@defest.com. You can also follow DeFest on Twitter for regular updates. Tickets will be going on sale shortly and can be purchased direct from the website or at several shops throughout Caterham. The fee for online bookings will be donated to Oxfam.

Countdown to this year's Rotary 'Bunny Fun Run'



The line-up at last year's 1km Fun Run

The third Rotary Bunny Fun Run is being held in Queen's Park, Caterham on Sunday 28th March. Registration costs £5, or £10 on the day. To register for the 5km race or 1km Fun Run, call 01883 346641 for a registration form or visit www.rotaryruns.co.uk. Proceeds will go to St. Catherine's hospice or the charity of your choice and all registered participants will receive a free Easter egg!

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**Getting to know
our new Conservative
parliamentary candidate**

by Julia Church



Following the selection of Sam Gyimah as the new Conservative Parliamentary candidate for East Surrey on Saturday 13th February, The Caterham and District Independent was the first to announce the news on our website, on Monday 15th February. The same day, Mr Gyimah gave an interview to editor Julia Church, of which the following is an excerpt. You can read the full interview on our website, www.caterham-independent.co.uk

As the new Conservative Parliamentary Candidate for East Surrey, 33 year-old Sam Gyimah hit the ground running after his selection on Saturday 13th February; within 24 hours he was on the campaign trail, knocking on doors and introducing himself to his constituents.

"I received a very positive response," said Sam. "People wanted to know more about me, my background and my aspirations for East Surrey. I have been getting to know the issues facing East Surrey during the run-up to the selection process and I now have an understanding of a whole range of issues concerning local people."

Sam currently lives in Hampstead, but will be moving to live in East Surrey before the General Election.

"One of the main issues is that East Surrey is 90% green belt and there is

a need to balance affordable housing with protecting the green belt," said Sam. "I think the solution is for local officials, who have a better understanding of local needs, to have more say. I want the government to give more power to local officials instead of key decisions being in the hands of central government representatives. "....I was not born a Conservative, but I just found out that was what I was as I grew up. It is the whole idea of hard work and aspiration; if you work hard and take responsibility you get rewarded for it, that was what my parents ingrained into me. I believe you improve yourself through working hard with support and encouragement from your parents and sometimes also with support from the state. My parents also instilled a sense of service in me. I grew up wanting to serve, as it was always very much drilled into us. I cannot serve in the same sense as my parents did as medical professionals, but I can serve in other ways. Being a politician is about passion; it is about energy and it is about hard work."



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Six years ago knitting expert Sheelagh Kendra opened 'The Yarn House' in the High Street, Caterham-on-the-Hill, fulfilling her dream to own her own wool shop.

"I have always been a passionate knitter," said Sheelagh. "There used to be a wool shop on the Hill which had closed and since then there was no-where in the area to buy wool. A couple of years after I opened The 'Yarn House' knitting became very fashionable because all the Hollywood stars were knitting, which was more luck than judgement for me and my shop!" Sheelagh, who always wears one of her own creations, is a walking advertisement for the wool she sells.

"I like luxury yarns and the top designer wools but I cater for everyone, including those who are returning to knitting after a break of many years. I like the whole atmosphere of working here, helping my customers and getting new knitters started."

As well as brands such as Sirdar and Rowan, Sheelagh also stocks a good selection of Fair Trade and organic yarns as well as knitting needles and other accessories.

Sheelagh has had some unusual requests, including a grandmother who needed wool to knit a dinosaur for her grandchild. Football scarves are also a popular 'grannies knit'!

"There is a sock-knitting craze sweeping the country at the moment, so we have a massive collection of sock wool. Some of my customers are commuters who like to knit socks on the train into work," said Sheelagh.

'The Yarn House' also stocks haberdashery including a huge selection of designer fabrics, buttons and ribbons which are very popular with patchwork and quilting enthusiasts.

So if you are thinking of taking up knitting this spring, pop along to The 'Yarn House'.



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From mochas to marathons

by Matthew Savage

A casual remark to a customer led a local café owner to take on the challenge of the Virgin London Marathon this April.

Paul Colairo, owner of 'Coffee Bay', in Station Avenue, Caterham Valley said: "Chatting to a customer, I mentioned how I admire those who run the marathon. A week later the customer came back into the café and said I was in!" The customer, Mike Callanan, worked for 'Housing Justice', a charity for the homeless that Paul will now be raising funds for. Unfortunately, Mike passed away on a business trip some weeks later of a heart attack but has continued to be the inspiration behind Paul's challenge.

"I now have an even greater goal in completing the challenge in Mike's memory and most of all for all the hard work he's done for the charity," said Paul. Paul's training has meant a change in lifestyle and re-



Paul Colairo with his two young assistants, Faye and Dee

flects how seriously he is taking this challenge: "Since I have started I have lost a stone, another reason to keep going! My diet has completely changed...cakes have gone out the window!" Paul, who hopes to finish around the 5-hour mark said: "I'm not a professional runner, I just want to finish for such a worthwhile cause." Paul needs to raise a minimum of £1000 and a generous donation from Catax has helped to kick start his sponsorship fund.

If you wish to find out more about the charity 'Housing Justice' visit: <http://www.housingjustice.org.uk/>. Donations gratefully welcome at: <http://www.justgiving.com/paulcolairo>

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The CR3 Soldiers march on!

On Thursday, 4th February, the CR3 Soldiers youth group were visited by Elizabeth Toulson, the High Sheriff of Surrey who formally unveiled an air hockey table which her charity had provided for the club.

Having sought and found, thanks to Dick Moran of the Barracks Trust, a venue for their weekly club in the Pavilion on the Barracks Site, Caterham-on-the-Hill, the five young people driving the club, Sophie, Liam, Joe, Charlie and Bethany, have now received three awards for their efforts and have secured sufficient funds to guarantee their operation for the first year and beyond.

"We are really grateful for the awards we have received from the High Sheriff, who donated £1,000 from her fund, from the Henry Smith charity and now from the Surrey Youth Opportunity and Capital funds," said Sophie Aldous, the Leader of the Soldiers.



Councillor Jeremy Webster, left and High Sheriff of Surrey, Elizabeth Toulson with some of the CR3 Soldiers by their new air hockey table.

"We provide entertainment every Thursday for young people aged 11-17 who want somewhere safe to hang out and socialise." Sarah Wilson, who is helping the young people to run the club, said: "The young people have responded really well to the challenge so far. In time, we will look to open, maybe, on a second day of the week."

Councillor Jeremy Webster, who is acting as Chair for the CR3 Soldiers said: "I am proud to be associated with this group of young people,

who are doing it for themselves and showing the true power of volunteering and what it can achieve. They have come a long way since I first met them eighteen months ago, when having a place of their own to run was just a dream."

The CR3 Soldiers needs adult volunteers to help in various roles with the running of the club. If you would like to help please contact Jeremy Webster on jeremy.webster1@btinternet.com or call him on 07725 818629.

Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge
Neighbourhood Inspector
Elaine Burtenshaw



Caterham Valley and Harestone residents will see a new face out on the beat as the Tandridge team welcomes PC Wayne Stephens. PC Stephens is taking over from PC Jo Clarke, who has now moved on to CID. I wish Jo every success in her new role and I know Wayne is delighted to be on the beat getting to know the community.

This month I appeal for your assistance where an elderly lady became the victim of a distraction burglary. It happened between 11am and 2pm on Thursday, 18th February, in Westway, Caterham-on-the-Hill. A man approached her as she was unlocking her front door, said that he was there to install her loft insulation. The lady allowed him in and he spent approximately three hours at the property before requesting £120 for the work. A short time later a second suspect claiming to be a police officer arrived stating he was returning £120 to her from a suspected robber he had just caught. After quickly showing the elderly lady what she thought was a warrant

card she allowed him into her property to carry out a search. The second suspect then stole approximately £2,000 and left.

The first suspect is described as a white man, aged approximately 30 years-old, 5ft 8' to 5ft 10' tall, of slim build and short hair. He was softly spoken with a slight Irish accent. He wore a mixed coloured top, dark trousers with brown shoes.

Suspect two is described as a white man, age 30 to 35 years-old, approximately 5ft 5' tall, tubby/broad build, short mousy coloured hair, with a local southern accent, wearing a dark blue waist length jacket, a round neck brown and blue jumper with a T-shirt underneath and dark jeans.

If you have information or recognise the suspects' descriptions, please contact Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222 quoting reference TD/10/799 or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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restaurant

Guides remember popular leader

by District Commissioner, Charley Formosa

About 125 girls and Guiders (past and present) gathered at St Mary's Church, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Sunday, 21st February for a very special Thinking Day Service.

As part of the celebrations, a bench was dedicated to the memory of Karen Booth, a Caterham Guider who died last year. We were very pleased to welcome some of Karen's family to the event, and hope that the bench will serve as a permanent reminder of a very popular and much missed person.

The dedication of the bench was undertaken by the Rev Frances Baldwin (herself a past Guider and District Commissioner) and Rev Duncan Swan led the proceedings in the church. Our thanks go to them, and Mr Baldwin who played the organ, for making the event so special.

9th Caterham Guides provided refreshments in the hall afterwards which proved to be very comforting and welcome on what was a cold and wet day. It was a good opportunity for past Guiders to catch up



The guides and brownies with their standards in St. Mary's Church.

with everyone in the District and we were very pleased to be joined by many old friends. As with all good Guiding events the day finished with a sing-song, albeit impromptu, by a group of Brownies whose enthusiasm was contagious, and in the end a Young Leader and a couple of Guiders joined in. It was a great end to what was a very enjoyable and memorable day.

If you would like more information about Guiding, please contact Charley Formosa, District Commissioner, on 01883 653356.

New Maths and ICT Suite for de Stafford School



Standing by the plaque commemorating the opening of the new classroom, from left: Jim Burton, President of Caterham Rotary Club; Caroline Longhurst, the incoming Head of de Stafford; Mark Phillips, Head teacher at de Stafford and Bill Ridley of Caterham Rotary Club.

Last month saw the opening of a newly refurbished Maths and ICT suite in de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Caterham Rotary Club donated £5,000 towards the refurbishment and re-equipment of the suite which is one of a number of new classrooms that have been kitted out with the most up-to-date resources.

Last year the school was granted Specialist School status in Maths and Computing enabling them to invest a substantial amount of additional money into equipment and staff training. To be eligible for the £100,000 of government funding, de Stafford had to raise £50,000 from the local community.

In addition to helping the pupils at de Stafford, the extra funding will provide courses for adults in the local community who lack skills and qualifications in Maths and ICT.

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The ARC is back open for business!

Birds of a Feather actress, Linda Robson, was guest of honour at The ARC in Weston Drive, Caterham last month, when it held an Open Day to celebrate its re-opening. After spending two hours looking around and signing autographs, Linda said: "I wish there was a similar centre near where I live in Islington!" Dick Moran, Chief Executive of the Caterham Barracks Trust, is delighted that Linda decided to support the venture further by becoming a shareholder.

Visitors to the Open Day were delighted The ARC had reopened after closing suddenly in March last year. The soft play area was in full operation while mums and dads took the opportunity to try out the new cafe run by Aldo Floris, the restaurateur and chef from 'La Fiaba' Italian restaurant in Caterham Valley.

Children had the opportunity to join in free theatre workshops and dance classes in the studio and there were further entertaining activities to enjoy in The ARC's gallery. Visitors were invited to buy shares in The ARC, which is currently being run by a team of enthusiastic volunteers, to secure the future of the popular arts and recreational centre. On Sunday 21st February, the celebrations continued with a dinner dance in the performing arts studio hosted by Aldo and his wife Marcia. Frank Sinatra tribute singer, Ian Gallagher entertained the 62 guests with a superb medley of hits throughout the afternoon which raised £660 for the second stage of the restoration programme.

Afterwards, Dick Moran said: "It's great to have Aldo involved with The ARC. He has equipped the kitchen at his own expense in order to provide a cafe service in our soft play area. He has such enthusiasm and along with Marcia, has worked

hard to help us make a success of the project. I'm very grateful to him for donating the proceeds of today's lunch to our restoration fund."

For information about forthcoming activities at The ARC, call 01883 330380.



Linda Robson with her share certificate (Photo by Jon Harrison)



A youngster celebrates the special occasion (Photo by Jon Harrison)



Aldo Floris (right) presenting the cheque for £660 to Dick Moran.

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Wedding photos by Anthony Jones Photography

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www.petergroomjewellery.co.uk



All photographs courtesy of Anthony Jones Photography, Caterham. www.anthonijonesphotography.co.uk

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Fayres Open 11am - 4pm Fashion Shows 12.30 and 2.30pm
Organiser Tel: 01558 650857 www.hfpromotions.co.uk
Photo www.karenb.co.uk

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Eating Out

Take a trip to 'The White Bear', Warlingham.

Review by Julia Church

For classic olde worlde charm 'The White Bear' 16th century inn ticks all the boxes. This fascinating pub restaurant is situated in Fairchildes Lane, Warlingham, just a 15-20 minute drive from Caterham. The Inn was originally a row of terraced cottages which have been converted into one, large building with a number of inter-connecting rooms with flagstone floors, oak beams and inglenook fireplaces.

When I visited recently, with my grown-up daughter, Jenny, our table was situated inside an old inglenook fireplace, which felt just as unusual as it sounds. It was interesting to view the room from the perspective of what would have been, for centuries,

the main focal point and heartbeat of the room.

We visited on a Thursday evening, and although the restaurant was busy, because of all the separate dining areas, it had an intimate feel to it. There was no background music, just the sound of people having a good time.

Our meal was excellent. For my starter, I chose 'Topped Flat Mushrooms' filled with bacon, onion and tomatoes and topped with melted stilton, which tasted as good as it sounds. Jenny had the Homemade Soup of the Day, which she described as 'lovely' - praise indeed from someone who doesn't normally eat soup at home! When I had a taste I was pleasantly surprised by its spicy kick.

For our main courses, Jenny chose the 'Lamb Shank' - slow roasted in a rich vegetable and red wine gravy, and I had one of the 'Specials' from the blackboard, 'Medallions of Pork' in a



creamy sage sauce; both meals came with mashed potato and vegetables.

The meals were perfectly cooked, nice and hot and filled the plate - I had three thick slices of pork and the sage gravy had a wonderful flavour. Jenny was equally impressed with her Lamb Shank. Many of the main courses cost less than £10. The Inn opens at 9am serving breakfast and there is an extensive selection of lunchtime light meals from £5 upwards.

'The White Bear' offers the best of both worlds, with its cosy fires in the winter, and large garden to enjoy in the summer. For more information and to book a table, call 01959 573166.



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Sunday 14th March

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Gio seeks sponsors for London to Paris cycle ride in aid of Leukaemia research

On the 24th June Gio Gonzalez, owner of Casa Lola Spanish restaurant in Caterham and Las Fuentes in Purley, will once again be riding 321 miles from London to Paris as part of the Geoff Thomas Foundation Team.

Last year Gio raised £1,900 for the charity which was set up by Ex-England and Crystal Palace footballer, Geoff Thomas, an old friend of Gio's. Geoff, who is in remission from leukaemia, set up the Foundation in 2007 to ensure that all patients with leukaemia and other blood cancers will have access to potentially curative treatments.



From left, John Salako, Gio and Geoff Thomas after last year's ride.



Gio is cycling to raise money for leukaemia research. Please sponsor him by visiting www.justgiving.com/giogonzalez

www.justgiving.com/giogonzalez



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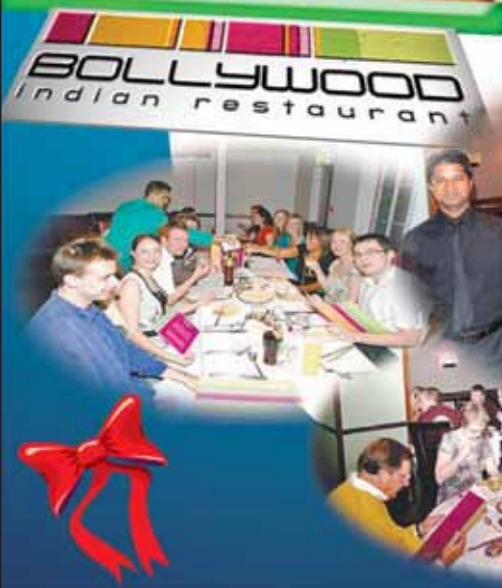
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Readers' letters

Rotary Christmas collection

We would like to thank the people of Caterham, Warringham and Whyteleafe for their great generosity in supporting our house to house collection prior to Christmas. We collected £3,466.07 despite losing a day's collecting due to snow. This money will be split between Dormers care home for the elderly, including the St. Catherine's facility there, and the new youth centre in Caterham Valley.

The Rotary Clubs of Caterham and Haretone.

By-pass eyesore

I had a thought as I was driving along the Caterham Bypass. What exactly do the people on community service do? I think it would be a good idea if they went along the bypass and cleared up all the paper and rubbish that has accrued. Lots of it I must admit is

down to the council who fail to empty the bins and as they are overflowing all the rubbish then gets blown everywhere making it a real eyesore.

Margaret Hart, Chaldon.

Thank you

Thank you from all of us at Oakhall Church for your great support as we seek to obtain the AON building (Garrod House) for our future church and community activities.

In addition to an encouraging level of local interest and support, we are grateful for the support of local councillors too. We are continuing to carefully liaise with the Planners in order to reach an acceptable planning agreement.

As we have served the community of Caterham over the last 115 years, we look forward to fresh opportunities in the years to come. Thank you for your ongoing interest in our progress. We have a great programme of activities for all ages in the lead up to Easter. Do check out our invitation below.

Oakhall Church

Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

This month the answers are all four letter words!

1. The alcoholic drink "slivovitz" is distilled from which fruit?
2. The River Effra runs under which London sporting venue?
3. Led by Robert Smith, which group has had hits with "Lullaby", "Friday I'm in Love" and "Love Cats"?
4. Who is the Greek Goddess of Victory?
5. The clown, Nickolai Poliakoff, was known by what name professionally?

Answers:

1. Plum; 2. The Oval; 3. The Cure; 4. Nike; 5. Coco.

What's On

Jumble Sale

The 3rd Caterham St. John's Scout Group are holding a jumble sale at their Scout Hut at 105 Godstone Road, Caterham on Saturday, 27th March from 2-4pm. Entrance 20p. For more information call 08702 219266.

Regatta Race Evening

The Caterham Sea Cadets are holding a Regatta Race Evening in aid of the Caterham Carnival on Saturday 20th March at 7.30pm at TS Zephyr, The Grove, Caterham CR3 5QD. Free nibbles; bring your own drinks. Entry by ticket (£4 each). For more details or tickets call Tony Kilbeck on 01883 335945.

Rock 'n' Roll Evening

Jive and stroll to live music at the Rock 'n' Roll Evening being held at the Ex-Service-men's Club in Townend, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Saturday 20th March. Tickets cost £6 from 'Cootchy' tel. 01883 340577 or from the Golden Lion, 07503 380811.

Theatre at The ARC

The Act Theatre are presenting 'Red Noses', directed by Beth Wood on Saturday 13th March at 7pm. To book tickets telephone 01883 330380

An Evening with Jonathan Aitken

Oakhall Church are hosting an Evening with Jonathan Aitken at The ARC in Weston Drive, The Village, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Thursday, 25th March at 8pm, with live jazz, coffee and desserts. Tickets £5 from Andy Jack on 01883 332892.

LIVELY, INTELLIGENT VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR CATERHAM HILL YOUTH CLUB

Currently running twice per month (14-18s) but hoping to add two more sessions for 11-13s very soon.

For information see caterhamhillyouthclub.vpweb.co.uk
Great youngsters and fun to be with!

Email CHYC@live.co.uk or phone Christine on 01883 620003.

A Week of Activities...

Monday 22 March - Sunday 28 March 2010

Monday 22 March

Quiz Night: 8pm The Village Inn, Coulsdon Road, Caterham, CR3 5NF
A fun evening of general knowledge questions...

Wednesday 24 March

Cross Examined: 7.45 - 9.45pm Costa Coffee, Church Walk, Caterham, CR3 6RT
Looking at why Jesus died...

Thursday 25 March

Friendly Hour: 2.45pm for 3pm Oakhall Church, Francis Road, Caterham, CR3 5NR
Come and enjoy a Christian message, songs, and a light tea...

An Evening With Jonathan Aitken: 8pm The Arc, 39 Weston Drive, Caterham, CR3 5YX
An evening of live jazz, coffee, desserts and a talk by Jonathan Aitken...

Friday 26 March

Resurrection Reality: 7.45 - 9.45pm Costa Coffee, Church Walk, Caterham, CR3 6RT
The fact that the resurrection is a reality and that it changes everything...

Saturday 27 March

Men's Breakfast: 9 - 10.30am The Village Inn, Coulsdon Road, Caterham, CR3 5NF
An opportunity to meet for breakfast and listen to a short talk about Easter...

Easter Family Fun Day: 2 - 4pm The Oaks, 57 Tupwood Lane, Caterham, CR3 6DB
An afternoon of fun activities including songs from Audley School Choir...

Sunday 28 March

Resurrection Rock: 11am de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham, CR3 5YX
Join us for a musical presentation of the Easter story...



For more details about any of these events and for individual flyers contact...

Andy Jack at the Oakhall Church office 01883 332892
andy.jack@OakhallChurch.org.uk www.OakhallChurch.org.uk

Oakhall a passion for life
CHURCH SERVING GOD'S KINGDOM

Property Matters

by Graham Hathaway



Graham Hathaway

Uncertainty is often worse than bad news – when we know that something has gone wrong, then we can deal with it: not knowing is destabilising, and we then defer action. One serious legacy from the Blair/Brown years is that we mistrust public information and statistics, so we are uncertain about the economy and by extension the property market.

We do know that interest rates are artificially low, and must increase; taxation is increasing; a General Election is looming; housebuilding has ground to a halt – after several years of building too many flats and not enough houses; and locally there is what estate agents describe as a “chronic” shortage of houses for sale.

Also we know that the banks remain short of capital to lend; mortgages are still difficult to obtain, most notably for the self-employed. HIPs add nothing but cost to the house sales process, and stamp duty levels are prohibitive to purchasers. The nation is in a desperate financial position and unemployment remains a problem. Please don't jump off the roof!

What we don't know is what this means to the local property market.

For sales, my best guess is that prices and interest rates will stay pretty much as they are for 2010, which is fine; but transactions may remain at low levels and uncertainty for the future at a high level, which is not so fine.

For property rentals, we have seen local people letting out their homes here, and renting in new locations; also families renting out their homes in London etc, and becoming tenants in this area – partly to make sure that they are taking the right decision and partly to defer the buying/selling process in such uncertain times: back to my first comment.

I will be testing the local property market myself in the next few weeks – watch this space for honest feedback!

Whyteleafe FC

by Andy Runacres

After January's long lay off due to weather problems, February has seen an improvement in the numbers of games played, although the weather has still been playing it's part, and with only two months of the season remaining, clubs are going to be playing two or in some cases three games a week in order to get the fixtures finished in time.

On the field Whyteleafe have had a couple of local derbies to contend with. The first of these resulted in a 2-0 away win over big spending Croydon Athletic, who following Folkestone's loss of 10 points for going into administration (yes it even goes on at this level!), find themselves top of the table. Manager Massey got the tactics spot on for this one, and goals from McDowell and ex-Croydon player McCann, left the Leafe army with bragging rights over their rivals for another season. This game was also notable as being the last for Whyteleafe's top scorer Sam Butler, who has



Match action again Chipstead FC

moved on to Woking. Whilst this will undoubtedly weaken the team we do wish Sam the best of luck for the future.

The following Saturday we entertained Chipstead, but this time we lost 2-0 in what was a pretty dire game. All the other games in the last month have resulted in draws. 2-2 both at home to Ashford, and away to Ramsgate and a creditable 0-0 draw away to Burgess Hill where the Leafe keeper was sent off early in the second half and with no substitute keeper

on the bench, centre half Royston took over to great effect.

Off the field the Whyteleafe supporters are arranging a sponsored walk to the away game at Merstham on Easter Monday, in order to raise funds for some necessary repair work to the floodlights.

For more information about Whyteleafe Football Club, including fixtures and results, visit www.theleafe.co.uk

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Old Cats look for Easter Sunday

by Old Cats Chairman
Steve Dalgleish

Old Caterhamians Rugby Club are preparing for this year's Easter 7s competition on Saturday April 3rd with a hope of sunshine. Previous Easter competitions have had a variety of conditions thrown at them but rugby always wins on the day.

Clubs from around the area, along with touring sides, gather at the club's ground in Park Avenue each Easter weekend to compete in the men's and ladies annual event, watched by club members and public alike, with no entry charge for spectators.

The club are looking to expand on the event next year as it is their 50th anniversary of the 7s tournament. Old Cats are always keen to support the community and worthy causes.

With this in mind they are planning a day of rugby on Saturday April 17th in aid of Help for Heros. The day will



Fun in the snow at the 48th Easter 7s held on 11th April 2009

include rugby games from all their sections (Minis, Youth, Youth Girls, Senior Mens and Ladies), followed by a dinner in the evening. Again, spectators will have free entry on the day and any public organisations are welcome to contact them if they would like to have input to the event.

For more info on these events or the club in general please contact Chairman Steven Dalgleish on mobile 07729 591256.

Email dalgleishsteven@hotmail.com

Or visit the website
www.oldcats.co.uk

Darts Night kicks off the Caterham Carnival 2010 events

by Martin Vaux



The winning team, 'Just 4 a Laugh'.

Photo by Jon Harrison

Sixteen teams of six and their supporters packed into the Ex-Servicemen's Club on the 12th February to compete in the annual Caterham Carnival darts competition. The teams comprised of the usual mix of groups, societies, families and friends across a wide age range. Highlights of the night included a team of husbands beating their wives and then losing to their children. 'Humphrey United' won the plate while 'Just 4 a Laugh' beat 'Lanky's Midgets' in the final of the main competition. Many thanks to JJ Browne and Son for donating the trophies and to all who attended the successful event.

Who wants to be a volunteer?

by Marion Piggott



What is it that every successful charity, large or small, must have? The answer isn't immediately obvious. It's a team of dedicated, talented volunteers who make up the Executive Committee or Board of Trustees.

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Committees usually meet just six or so times a year and have one principle objective. It is to guarantee a continuation of the valuable work their charity supports. This is a volunteering role for people with the maturity to question in a constructive way. Trustees need to be innovative and pro-active in seeking solutions, possessing the ability to appreciate and motivate their team of committed volunteers and in some cases paid staff.

Do you have the skills local charities need? Do you have experience in project management, marketing, finance, HR or legal knowledge? Are you blessed with common sense? You could do so much for your local community by sharing your know-how.

Want to know more? Please ring me, Marion Piggott, at the Volunteer Centre, 01883 344444, email: caterhamvc@owen29.wanadoo.co.uk, or visit our website: www.surreycommunity.info/tvsc/. Alternatively, come along and meet us every third Friday at Warlingham Park Bowls Club; next session is Friday 19 March, 10.00 - 12.00 am. This is in addition to our sessions every first Friday in Warlingham Library - held next on 7th May 10.30-11.30am, after their refurbishment.

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classes around their busy schedules. Until this year they ran local school, EsSENDENE Lodge. Steve said: "We have been working as a team for seven years so we know how well we work together and we are really excited to be building something from scratch. Soph stepped down as Deputy Head at the end of last year after giving birth to our son, Leo, and that has worked really well as

she has been able to start up CrossFit classes in the day while I am at work." Sophie added: "Coaching CrossFit and teaching children are both essentially about bridging the gap between what a person can do and what they want to be able to do. The reward is the same whether teaching a child to write their name for the first time or helping someone get their first pull up!" To find out more about Crossfit classes, visit www.crossfitsurrey.co.uk



CrossFit family - the Bradshaw-Haydocks.



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A 1 bedroom first floor purpose built flat situated close to stations and local shops. property comprises a modern fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bathroom with shower attachment, entrance hall, spacious living room and allocated parking.

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CATERHAM £750 PCM

Split level 2 bedroom flat in process of being converted situated in heart of Caterham Valley with all the local amenities including station and shops.

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CATERHAM £725 PCM

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WESTERHAM £1250 PCM

A luxury 2 double bedroom ground floor apartment with secure underground parking for 2 cars & own private terrace, in semi rural location but close to Westerham town centre.

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A 1 bedroom purpose built top floor flat, recently re-decorated, in a convenient location for town centre and station and benefiting from parking.

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CATERHAM VALLEY

A rarely available purpose built two bedroom ground floor maisonette with direct access to private rear garden.

£179,950**KENLEY**

A stunning three bedroom detached house with garage and garden backing directly on to Kenley Common.

£389,950**KENLEY**

A stunning detached bungalow set in secluded grounds in a sought after road in Kenley.

£499,950**WHYTELEAFE**

A deceptively spacious five bedroom detached house with integral garage and well established garden with views to rear conveniently situated for Whyteleafe and Upper Warlingham railway stations.

£437,500