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Is the end in sight for the Rose & Young 'eyesore'?

by Julia Church

Building contractors, GB Development Solutions have announced that they are progressing proposals for the redevelopment of the long derelict Rose & Young site on Croydon Road, Caterham. In a statement sent to The Caterham and District Independent, the developers said that they recognise the site has become a matter of great local concern and are keen to progress their scheme which envisages a four-storey residential block in a distinctive

design at this important gateway site to the town centre. Glenn Mills, MD of GB Development Solutions said; "Tandridge District Council has a clear objective to encourage redevelopment plans for Caterham. They have responded positively to our initiative and we are working with them towards the submission of a Planning Application. This is in the knowledge that the Council would, subject to a risk assessment, be prepared to support a

Compulsory Purchase Order procedure should the owner remain unwilling to negotiate with us regarding our desire to acquire the site and deliver a satisfactory scheme which has planning approval." The news has delighted the members of the Rose & Young Action Group who met with the Planning Officers of Tandridge District Council back in December 2009 to discuss the Council's Core Strategy from October 2008 in which it stated that: "The Council will actively pursue the development of the Rose & Young site."

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The old Rose & Young building in Croydon Road, Caterham.

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Rose & Young

Continued from page 1

The January 2010 edition of The Caterham and District Independent reported the meeting between the Rose & Young Action Group and the Planning Officers, when Bob Evans, Head of Planning at Tandridge District Council said that given their Core Strategy, the Council's priority would be to encourage redevelopment in any way that contributes overall to this part of Caterham. No specific preconditions on schemes would be likely to be an obstacle.

Mr Evans added that he would welcome informal discussion with any groups with potential schemes. Following last January's article, Mr Evans was pleased to hear from various developers seeking to discuss possible schemes for the site, including a scheme put forward by GB Development Solutions.

Following the building contractor's recent press announcement Bob Evans said: "We very much welcome the interest shown by GB Development Solutions in this site. We are heartened by their commitment to bring forward proposals and look forward to sharing details of their scheme with local residents and businesses as soon as a planning application is made." The timing of the Planning Application will depend on the outcome of negotiations with the current owners of the site in respect of the acquisition by GB Development Solutions, and detailed pre-application consultations with Tandridge District Council and other interested parties.

Tandridge District Councillor for Caterham Valley, Jane Ingham, who sits on the Planning Committee, said: "This building has for far too long been a blight on our town and has

had a negative affect on both the business and residential community. Without prejudice to any proposals I look forward to examining the scheme when an application is made, and to hearing the opinions of the local community."

The Rose & Young Action Group, now part of the Caterham Community Partnership, has continued to be in dialogue with the Planning Officers of Tandridge District Council since their meeting in December 2009. A spokesperson for the Action Group said: "We are very pleased with the news that an interested developer has come forward with a viable proposal; this is a long-awaited and exciting opportunity that will be very good news for the Caterham Community. The site has been derelict for 18 years and a new development will bring much-needed regeneration for this end of town. We hope that a planning application will demonstrate good environmental practice, be in keeping with the town and provide suitable amenities. Pursuing a CPO may not be necessary if the current owner is willing to consider selling the site to the developers, which would see a much speedier resolution to this situation."

Surrey County Councillor for Caterham Valley, Sally Marks also expressed her reaction to the news, saying: "I am delighted to hear that we have a group interested in developing this infamous local eyesore. The current situation is appalling and frankly almost anything would be better than what we have now. What I cannot understand is why the previous and current owners of the site could not have provided the town with much needed parking space over the last 20 years - this would have been so simple and an income stream for the owners. Instead they have ignored pleas from the community to do the decent thing and just 'mothballed' this ugly building, making it a health and safety hazard and ensuring that the town's fortunes are severely compromised."

Please send your views to *The Caterham and District Independent* - see our contact details at the bottom of the page.

The Caterham and District Independent were first to report this news via our E-newsletter issued on Friday 21st January.

To sign up to our E-newsletter mailing list, visit www.caterham-independent.co.uk

Views sought on Council's Planning Policies

Tandridge District Council is seeking residents', businesses' and community groups' views about new planning policies and the Green Belt settlements, as part of a consultation starting on Friday 28th January.

The consultation documents can be viewed on the Council's website www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning/PlanningPolicy/planningpolicyconsultations.htm. Copies of the documents are also available for inspection at the Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted (Mondays to Thursdays 8.30am to 5pm Fridays 8.30am to 4.30pm), as well as at Caterham Valley and Oxted libraries during normal opening hours.

The consultation runs from Friday 28th January until Friday 11th March 2011. Com-

ments should be sent to the Director of Planning at the Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted RH8 0BT, e-mail LDF@tandridge.gov.uk or via the Consultation Portal which can be found on the website www.tandridge.gov.uk/Planning/PlanningPolicy/planningpolicyconsultations.htm. Councillor David Weightman, Chairman of the Planning Policy Committee, said: "These documents are an important next step in preparing the planning framework for the district. We would encourage local residents, community groups and businesses to get involved and help us draw up these important documents. Residents in the villages will be particularly interested in the discussion paper about the Green Belt Settlements, as this will affect what level of development will happen in their communities in the future."

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Frustration as Council defers decision on the future of Caterham's Soper Hall until June

At a meeting on Monday 24th January, the Resources Committee of Tandridge District Council ('TDC') decided to defer its decision about the future of the Soper Hall in Caterham until June.

In a statement issued after the meeting TDC said: "The options regarding the Soper Hall included transferring the building to either the Soper Hall Community Centre Ltd. ('SHCCL') or Caterham Baptist Church. Both of these options would make the hall available for community use. TDC has agreed to provide up to £100,000 matched funding over two years to either organisation, to help with a transfer and on the understanding the Caterham and Warlingham Citizens Advice Bureau, Tandridge Voluntary Service Council and Lions Talking Newspaper would continue to be based at the building.

"The Committee decided more information is needed before a final decision is made to ensure whatever

happens is in the best interests of the local community. More details will be requested around the resilience and robustness of the SHCCL's business plan and clarification of the Church's proposals for community use and any restrictions it may place on users."

The decision came as a disappointment to the Soper Hall Group, who, as the SHCCL, put forward a comprehensive plan for a multi-function community centre. Chairman of the Soper Hall Group Graham Tapley said, "This is not only extremely disappointing for the Group, but also for the many residents of Caterham who have shown their support. Our main message was 'Support the asset transfer of the building to a Community Group, for the widest possible benefit of the community.'"

Caterham Baptist Church is looking for new premises to develop its activities as its Beechwood Road site is not



Resolving to continue the fight! Members of the Soper Hall Group, clockwise from top left: Chris Windridge, Andy Parr, Graham Tapley, Anne Bell and Terry Servant.

large enough. While the building would be primarily used for church activities, it would also accommodate other users of the building and community use.

TDC said: "Each group will be invited to a special challenge session to discuss their proposals in more depth with the Chairman of the Resources Committee, Councillor Martin Fisher, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Simon Ainsworth, the Chief

Executive, Stephen Weigel and other council officers. In addition, Surrey County Council has approached TDC and would like to explore the potential for setting up a public services Hub in the building, similar to the one in Oxted."

Chairman of the Resources Committee, Councillor Martin Fisher, said: "We are looking for the best solution for the community and the Council, so we need to consider the proposals in more depth at the challenge sessions before we make a final decision. I am pleased the debate at last night's meeting had cross party support. While it is not financially viable for the Council to keep the building as it is, we must make sure that the outcome benefits our residents."

Caterham resident, Tandridge District Councillor and member of the Soper Hall Group, Michael Cooper said: "TDC has £80,000 which should have been spent on the maintenance of the Soper Hall, but the council has spent none of it on the building. They have allowed it to get dilapidated and spent nothing on advertising its facilities for at least two years, which is why it is

so difficult to hire out." Graham Tapley added: "We backed up our bid with a comprehensive and detailed 91 page business plan which we worked exceptionally hard to produce, within a very tight timescale set by the Council in mid-October, and delivered by mid-December. We believe the report complied with all that was required by the Council including internal building work, potential new uses and users, cash flow, management and funding sources.

"As it was a closed committee meeting, held in secret, and with a County Councillor and District Councillor asked to leave the chamber, we do not know what further information is required, but undoubtedly strong community support is a major factor in seizing this unique opportunity of getting a truly vibrant community centre for use, by all. The reason for such secrecy on a matter of great local public and community interest is baffling."

The group has vowed to continue its campaign to 'Save the Soper Hall'. For more information about the group go to www.soperhall.org.uk



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by Roger Easter, Caterham Rotary Club.

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This year the campaign - Focus on the Crocus - which is part of the largest worldwide public health campaign in history, continues at pace! In October, Rotarians and young people from 20 schools planted 20,000 purple flowering crocus bulbs supplied to Rotary by Knights Garden Centre. Very soon the crocuses will start to pop their heads through the soil in Queens Park, local schools, The Village, The Dene Hospital, Church Hill and Town End.



Hillcroft School pupils planting crocus bulbs in Queen's Park.



de Stafford pupils helping to design the Crocus Maze.

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To become a founder sponsor of The Queens Park Crocus Maze or to make a contribution to help eradicate polio you can go to www.caterhamrotary.org.uk and make a direct donation through our Virgin Money Giving link or e-mail us on caterhamrotary1@gmail.com for more details. Or simply phone us on 020 8763 9077. You can follow both Caterham Rotary Clubs on Facebook and Twitter and to gain more information on how to become a member of Rotary email caterhamrotary2@gmail.com. Our thanks go to the corporate sponsors who have kindly funded this page for us and have contributed further funds towards 'Focus on the Crocus'.



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In Queen's Park 7,000 bulbs were planted in the form of a maze which will be flowering for many years to come. The design of the maze which has over 100 sections was carried out in conjunction with pupils from de Stafford School who had an active role last year in raising funds towards seeing the end to polio. The sections of the Queen's Park Crocus Maze are now being offered for founder sponsorship at £15 or more and available for the first 100 persons to apply. Our target is £1,500 and again with support from the Gates Foundation this total will mean we can save 75,000 young children overseas from the crippling effects of polio. The names of all the founder sponsors will be included on a special plaque to be erected in Queens Park.

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Will the drains take the strain?

Concerns expressed over proposed new development in Caterham-on-the-Hill.



The entrance to the Oaklands site in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

On Wednesday 12th and Saturday 15th January, Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SABP) and Langham Homes held a Public Engagement to discuss the future redevelopment of the former land and buildings at the Oaklands site on Coulsdon Road, Caterham. Over 170 visitors, including local councillors, attended over the course of the two days when they had the opportunity to put their questions to SABP and Langham Homes.

160 properties consisting of

affordable housing and family homes are proposed for the site, alongside the retention of some of the existing social care homes for people with learning disabilities. One of the main concerns expressed by local residents was that the local infrastructure such as the roads, schools and old sewerage system could not cope with the demands of another large development.

In a statement made following the Public Engagement,

Langham Homes Director, Martin Redman, said: "We have been able to hear local residents' concerns in respect of the potential effect on local schools and health-care facilities. Through Section 106 contributions we will be giving a sum of money to Surrey County Council (SCC) in order to fund any new facilities needed. It is SCC's responsibility to decide where the money is spent."

During the Public Engagement, a local resident pointed out that the antiquated sewerage and drainage system is at bursting point and the town had an old electrical system. He said: "The community is cynical and sceptical about promises of new infrastructure because we have been let down by the council in the past."

Surrey County Councillor and Parish Councillor for Caterham-on-the-Hill, John Orrick, said: "Through Section 106 a considerable sum is likely to accrue for SCC to spend on the infrastructure. We need to decide the best place to spend it. Some of the money will most likely go to schools to create new

places and there could be improvements to road junctions. These would be real improvements. Inevitably there will be re-development but it has to fit in with the requirements of the community and the new residents. One of the things that is a plus is that they have planned to keep the outside the same so people won't see that it is a housing development. So long as the density of the housing is right and we have the benefits to the community that is what will be acceptable."

On the subject of density, Mr Redman stated: "We advised residents that we would be proposing lower densities than the neighbouring sites, reflecting the transition to the greenbelt." To read Mr Redman's full statement regarding the proposed development go to www.caterham-independent.co.uk

For a copy of the Public Engagement information and a feedback form, call Emma Stevens on 01483 561119 or e-mail Emma at emma@housegroup.co.uk The closing date for feedback is Monday, 7th February.

Church offers free financial advice sessions

Caterham Community Church is challenging people to be brave and take control of their finances in 2011. Church members Stephen Bidwell, John Bowdery and Carlo Helvadjan have been trained by money experts from 'Christians Against Poverty' to help local people get back on track with their money. The three sessions will take place at Caterham Community Church in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Thursday, 24th February, Thursday, 3rd March and Thursday, 10th March. Stephen said: "So many of us are guessing at our finances. We are hoping for the best while continuing to spend, without knowing what we have available. Finding the truth about our finances can be the first step in feeling better about our lives."

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Ridge Radio

Final preparations are under way for the launch of Ridge Radio this spring. Mark Jones, who first presented the concept of a new local radio station for Tandridge at a meeting at The Arc in Caterham three and a half months ago, is delighted with the progress that has since been made.

"The idea has become a reality and it would not have happened without the huge support we have received from the local community and press," said Mark. "Already it is like one big happy family! We have people from all walks of life involved including doctors, vets and fishermen. We have also accepted work placements from de Stafford and Warlingham schools and are currently in talks regarding an after-school club for students interested in Media Studies." Ridge Radio, which is based



Dave Roberts, soon to be presenting music on Ridge Radio.

in The Village, Caterham-on-the-Hill, has over 30 DJs preparing to present shows including local resident, Dave Roberts, who is completely new to radio. "I was excited about the idea right from the start," said Dave. "I have been transferring my vinyl tracks onto CD and will be playing 'music for adults' - from Burt Bacharach to Black Sabbath and everything in between! If I can influence some people to listen to the music I play, then that would be nice."

Others taking to the airwaves include Carlo Atzeni, who will present music from the '80s onwards; Chris Medhurst, who will be playing club classic type music and Bob Wilson with music from the '50s to '80s.

Anyone wishing to get involved, either with DJing or on the admin side, should e-mail Mark Jones at info@ridgeradio.co.uk or call him on 07841 065845. Ridge Radio is also on Facebook, where you can keep up to date with their latest news.

Why not get along to the Ridge Radio Community Quiz on Friday 4th February - see page 18 for details.

Your buses, your say ...

by Emma Berry

Concerned residents voiced their opinions regarding the proposed changes to local bus services at a meeting held at Caterham-on-the-Hill Library on Saturday 15th January. Surrey County Councillor John Orrick and Tandridge District Councillor Chris Botten, both members of Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council, outlined the proposed changes which include cutbacks to the 409 between Godstone and Chelsham and the withdrawal of the 540 bus from Caterham to East Surrey Hospital. The changes are part of Surrey County Council's review of the bus service to save money by cutting back on less popular routes. Cllr. John Orrick said: "This is another assault on the least advantaged in the commu-

nity. The buses are vital for people who can't drive and cutting bus services will cause them to become isolated."

Local resident Mrs Reynolds said: "For teenagers the buses are the only way to get around and go to school. What will my children do if the bus routes are abolished?"

The final decision on these proposed changes will be made at the end of March. To view the Phase 2 proposals go to www.surreycc.gov.uk, search for 'Surrey Bus Review' and click on 'Your buses your say'. The consultation period ends on 31st January but after that date you can still e-mail your views to Cllr. John Orrick at john.orrick@surreycc.gov.uk



Cllrs. Chris Botten and John Orrick speaking at the meeting on 15th January. Photograph by Emma Berry.

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Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge
Neighbourhood Inspector
Elaine Burtenshaw

Firstly I am pleased to be able to reveal that Inspector Angie Austin will be my replacement when I retire at the end of March. Angie is currently leading a response team at Reigate that also covers Tandridge. Angie is no stranger to the area having previously been a Neighbourhood Sergeant here. I know she is very much looking forward to returning here as the Neighbourhood Inspector and meeting you all. She will join us at the beginning of March for a handover. There have also been some changes to your local policing team and I am pleased to welcome PCSO Hemonie (known as Henri) Pilbrow who has replaced PCSO Nick White (Warlingham East). Nick has joined Surrey Police as a Constable. Good luck Nick in your new career! Henri is an experienced PCSO, joining from



Leatherhead SNT. As a local person she is looking forward to combining her experience and local knowledge here in Tandridge. Two additional members to the team are Roads Policing Community Support Officers Kerrie Anne Skeet and Stuart Wren. They have joined us from the Roads Policing Unit and their primary task will be to work alongside your Neighbourhood officers providing support, particularly around vehicle related anti-social behaviour and road related priority issues. They will undertake daily patrols and tasks providing valuable specialist support. They will focus on road related neighbourhood priority issues, intelligence

gathering, community engagement and long term collaborative problem solving.

Following on from last month, in this column I reach the middle decade of my career, the 90s - the decade of computerisation. For the first five years I was a child protection officer investigating reports of abuse against children. This was another extremely rewarding period of my career working with partner agencies and young people and their families.

In 1995 I became Vulnerable Persons co-ordinator for the Force where I had responsibility for force-wide training and policies relating to child protection, domestic violence, domestic abuse and vulnerable adults. During this time I also visited Slovenia five times where I ran training courses for judges, social workers, police and charities for vulnerable persons. What an experience and opportunity!

Next month my last column will be my final decade including my promotions and my move here to Tandridge.

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IT training for the elderly comes to Warlingham

Elderly Warlingham residents demonstrated that it is never too late to learn a new skill, when they took part in an IT training session at Uplands sheltered accommodation in Warlingham on Tuesday, 4th January. Two computer workstations have been installed at Uplands, thanks to a grant obtained by Tandridge District Council from Get Digital, a government project to fund computer equipment and digital skills training for older people in England living in sheltered accommodation. The £4,000 grant paid for the installation of the workstations as well as one to one training covering the basic aspects of computer and internet use. Additional training will cover more advanced IT skills, such as using digital cameras and games consoles. The Uplands Scheme Co-ordinator, Steve Baker, said: "The residents have been looking forward to learning how to use the new IT equipment. We would like to involve members of local



'Get Digital' Tutor Steve Collis introduces Warlingham residents Peggy Knock and Kathleen Sailes to IT.

groups such as bowls clubs in the scheme and invite schoolchildren in to provide links across the generations."

Olga Salenius, Community Support Manager for Tandridge District Council said: "The sessions are designed to give the residents a gentle introduction to computer skills. We are hoping there will be more money available from February to enable us to introduce the service in other areas of Tandridge."

For more information about the IT training contact Steve Baker, on 01883 624934, or e-mail communitysupport@tandridge.gov.uk.

Plenty of delights to sample at the Frost Fair!



Wine tasting with David Kelly of Greatwinesdirect.co.uk



Sarah Goodwin of The Yarn House at her spinning wheel.

When the Essendene School Christmas Fair had to be cancelled due to the snow, the organisers renamed the event the 'Frost Fair' and held it on



Scholarship 7+ exam for entry into Year 3 September 2011

Monday 21st March 2011, 9am till 12 noon.

This morning will also give prospective pupils the opportunity to meet our school community.

For further details and an application form please contact Alison Fortune (Bursar) on 01883 348349



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Saturday January 15th. Visitors packed the hall where craft stalls and other attractions proved very popular and the event raised nearly £1,200.

Jane Hard of the PTA said: "We are really pleased the Fair has been such a success and would like to thank everyone who came for their support."

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The Arc turns scary!

With February half term fast approaching, the Team at The Arc in Caterham are pleased to announce details of a varied and jam-packed week of activities and events for all to enjoy. There's a Sci-Fi and Fantasy theme throughout the week with everything from Soft Play to Drama and Dance all embracing the theme! See our advertisement for times and prices of the classes.

The fun kicks off on Friday 18th February with a Disco and Games night for kids of all ages and their families. Adults are welcome to sit and wait in the bistro or stay and join in with the madness and mayhem and get in free with each paying child.

Monday 21st February is a supervised art day with an Alien Mask Making class for 4-7s. The 8-12s can make their own Alien Creature and all materials are provided.

On Tuesday 22nd, we are running three separate music workshops in which children and young performers can bring their own instruments and write their own songs.

Wednesday is Dance day at The Arc and half term is no different! 4-7-year olds can come dressed as their favourite Superhero and learn some Superhero moves set to music. Plus there's a prize for the best dressed!

For the 8-12s there's the chance to learn dances inspired by the hit musical "Return to the Forbidden Planet".

For all the budding actors and actresses, Thursday 24th is Drama day where 4-7 year olds can time travel with a Doctor Who inspired workshop and 8-12s can take part in the War of the Worlds themed drama class with a whole host of exciting happenings and adventures.

Don't forget on Friday 25th February, we are holding Tandridge Star Factor, a talent contest to find Caterham's newest and best singing star. Audience tickets are £5 with half the money going to the Get Kids Going charity.

All week in The Arc soft play there are exciting and free things going on throughout the day. These include Sci-Fi storytelling, free 15 minute dance sessions where you can learn the Monster Mash or Time Warp, a Fancy Dress Parade with prizes for the best dressed Alien or Sci-Fi Creature as well as Alien Colouring In and Poem competitions.

For more information and to book an activity, call The Arc on 01883 330380, or email info@the-arc-caterham.co.uk.

The arc
Out of this World
Sci-Fi & Fantasy Week
February Half Term
21st - 27th Feb 2011

Friday 18th
 6.30-8.30pm: KAOS Disco in Soft Play!
 DJ John Lazenby plays great tunes and games whilst you play in the soft play under LED lights!
 Tickets: £5 in advance or £8 on the door

Monday 21st
 11am - 11.45am noon: 4-7's Alien Mask Making
 1-2pm: 8-12's Make your own Alien Creature!

Tuesday 22nd
 Music Workshop: bring your instruments and write your own songs with Music Industry professionals Amanda Neale & Sam Dunthorn!
 11-12noon: 4-7's • 1-2:30pm: 8-12's • 3:30-5pm: 13-16's

Wednesday 23rd
 11am-12 noon: 4-7's Dance
 (Come dressed as your favourite Superhero and learn some Superhero moves! With a prize for the best dressed!)
 1-2:30pm: 8-12's Dance - Learn the moves from Return to the Forbidden Planet!

Thursday 24th
 11am - 12noon: 4-7's Drama - Time travel with the Doctor!
 1-2:30pm: 8-12's Drama - War of the Worlds!

£6 per class - Discounts for Members!
 Join now for just £25 a year and get a whole host of discounts and benefits!

Friday 25th
 10am: Tandridge Star Factor!
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Sam Gyimah MP visits Le Personne Homes in Caterham

On Friday 21st January Mr Sam Gyimah MP attended a reception at Le Personne Homes in Banstead Road, Caterham to officially open the newly-refurbished and extended East Wing. The event marked the completion of the second phase of the refurbishment of the West Wing in 2009. The homes were originally set up in 1939 by wealthy Caterham resident, Louis le Personne, in memory of his wife Henrietta Frances to provide accommodation for elderly ladies.

The East Wing now comprises three new flats and six refurbished flats as well as replacement central heating boilers for the whole building. The project was funded by a grant from the Homes and Communities Agency and a loan from the Co-operative Bank. Trustee of Le Personne Homes, John Rawlings, said: "I would like to thank Rob Richards for masterminding getting the funding



(From left) David Bolton, The Co-operative Bank; John Rawling, Trustee of Le Personne Homes; Sam Gyimah MP, Brian Perkins, Vice Chairman of Tandridge District Council.

for this project. The project progressed as smoothly as the refurbishment of the West Wing, finishing on time and on budget." Before going on a tour of the East Wing, Mr Gyimah said: "I would like to congratulate the trustees for

the foresight they had in getting the funding for this phase of the project. There has been a lot of hard work going on behind the scenes to make this possible." For more information call Graham Small on 01883 343685.

To advertise in the March edition of The Caterham and District Independent, call 01883 346641.

Get a new look for your kitchen this spring with Dream Doors

Since its grand opening last August, the Croydon branch of Dream Doors has steadily been building up a strong base of customers and franchise owner, Roy Easthope, is delighted with how things are going: "I am very pleased to say that word is getting around about Dream Doors, and we are keeping very busy, despite the recession! It has been a steep learning curve, but I enjoy the pressure. What's more, I get to work alongside my wife and see much more of my family."

Prominently located beside a pedestrian crossing on the busy Shirley Road, the showroom benefits from good passing trade.

"The busiest time is between four and five in the afternoon, when hundreds of cars must see our shop front," said Roy. "Local awareness has been steadily building and Dream Doors will soon be as well known here as it is in all the other areas that have had shops for six or seven years."

If you are thinking of smartening up your kitchen this year, not only will a facelift from Dream Doors



The Dream Doors team with Cllr. Avril Slipper, the Mayor of Croydon at their Grand Opening last August.

save you £1000s, but you will not have to suffer the stress, upheaval and mess that comes with a traditional re-fit. A member of Roy's team will come and show you samples of their huge range of doors in the comfort of your own home and give you an exact price with no hidden extras. You can even choose handles, worktops and accessories at the same time, and be given a computer-designed plan so you can visualise the finished result. Dream Doors is currently offering 10% off all its kitchens, so now is the ideal time to get a free quotation. Pop over to their showroom at 159 Shirley Road in Croydon or call Roy on 020 8656 7987. For more information go to www.dreamdoorsltd.co.uk



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Sombreros and salsa at 'Las Delicias'

by Julia Church

Local cab firms could find themselves getting busier, once word gets around about the delicious cocktails at Las Delicias! Fortunately, the selection of cocktails includes alcohol-free or low-alcohol choices so no-one misses out on the treat. I visited this colourful new Mexican restaurant in Coulsdon with my friend Ann, and the cocktails were the start of a very pleasant evening in the company of Andrea, the owner. "My customers are my friends," said Andrea. "... I was up until 3am the other night chatting to two of my customers!"

Andrea explained that he believes a restaurant is not just about the food it serves, the customer should enjoy the whole experience, and leave their troubles behind them when they walk through the door. The ambience is bright and cheerful, and after a couple of sips of our cocktails, Ann and I had shaken off the January blues for the evening. The starters were substantial, a plateful of Nachos topped with guacamole, salsa and sour cream for me. Ann had Quesadilla, tortillas filled with cheese and bacon. We shared the starters, and I would highly recommend the Quesadilla if you have never had it before.



Ann with Andrea, the owner of 'Las Delicias' in Coulsdon.

Andrea said he would have liked us to try 'Swamp Thing' a starter consisting of real alligator with a cajun dip but sadly it was off the menu when we visited.

My main course consisted of a large serving of Enchiladas with rice and salad. The corn tortillas were filled with chicken and topped with more salsa and sour cream. Ann had chosen what Andrea described as the 'healthy' option, a Sizzling Fahita, with strips of steak in a tasty marinade, presented on a plate for Ann to wrap in flour tortillas, with all the trimmings of course. We had a lovely evening and thoroughly enjoyed our meal.

During February, Andrea is welcoming diners with a free bottle of wine with their meal. See their advertisement for further details.

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Benny Valentine

It's Valentine's Day on Monday, 14th February, time to buy a special gift, order a beautiful bouquet or book a romantic meal out if you want to treat your sweetheart!

Local restaurants are looking forward to a busier-than-usual Monday night, with some of them serving special set-price Valentine's Day menus to celebrate the occasion.

Florists are preparing for one of their busiest days of the year, so order your flowers early if you want them delivered on 14th February!

We are offering a romantic meal for two for the winners of our Valentine's Day Competition below, so don't forget to send your entry in to us by the 7th February. *Happy Valentine's Day!*



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Valentine's Competition

We are giving one lucky winner and their partner a romantic meal for two at **The Comodor restaurant in Caterham on Valentine's Day, Monday 14th February.**

To enter the competition, simply count the number of hearts on this page and post your entry to: 'Valentine's Competition', The Caterham and District Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5UE. Please tell us how many heart shapes are on this page, your name and day-time telephone number. Alternatively you can e-mail your entry to: Editor@caterham-independent.co.uk.

The closing date for entries is Monday, 7th February. Only one entry per person. The prize is a meal for two, inclusive of drinks, at The Comodor restaurant in Croydon Road, Caterham Valley on Monday 14th February. The time of the table reservation is to be arranged with the restaurant by the winner. The meal cannot be transferred to an alternative date.

Good luck!

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New members welcome at the Caterham and District 'U3A'

Since it started in the early 1980s the U3A (University of the Third Age) has been bringing people together to share their interests and experiences outside of the more formal learning environments offered by local authorities. The idea has been hugely successful with groups starting up all over the UK for retired or part-time workers. The branches are run entirely by members on a voluntary basis and the Caterham and District U3A (C&D U3A) has members and activities in Caterham, Warlingham, Coulsdon and Kenley. Helen Mouldsley of C&D U3A said: "Our group has grown slowly and steadily and anyone who wants to set up a class or group can do so. The participants decide on the shape of the class or activity with no curriculum to adhere to or targets to meet." The group also organises outings and social activities. This month, their two art groups are exhibiting some



Caterham U3A Membership Secretary, Ron Giddens. of their work at Caterham Valley Library in Stafford Road from the end of January until the 5th February and in Caterham-on-the-Hill Library in Westway from 8th-19th February. On the 28th February, the C&D U3A is hosting an illustrated talk entitled: 'The Dollar Princesses Save the Stately Homes of England' at the United Reformed Church, in Harestone Hill, Caterham Valley. The lecture is being given by Nigel Guest, who has recently founded the Chartwell branch of The Churchill Centre. Nigel will be taking questions and joining the group for tea afterwards. Non-members are welcome and entrance is £1. For more information visit www.caterhamu3a.org.uk or call Ron Giddens on 01883 346760.

Preparations in full swing for Rotary Charity Golf Day

Caterham Rotary Club is inviting people to take part in their Charity Golf Day being held at Bletchingley Golf Club on Monday, 9th May. Last year the event attracted over 100 competitors, raising £3,500 for charity. The proceeds from this year's event will be divided between St. Catherine's Hospice and other Rotary charities. Previous beneficiaries have been Prostate Cancer, Surrey Air Ambulance and the Back-Up Trust. Caterham Rotary are inviting teams of four players at a cost of £220 or individually at £55, to include bacon rolls on arrival, a two course lunch and an 18 hole golf competition, with the best two Stableford scores to count. The club would be delighted to hear from anyone willing to sponsor a tee or donate a prize for the auction or raffle. If you would like to support the event, please contact David Monk on 01883 341109.



Golfers at last year's charity event at Bletchingley Golf Club.

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Happy 1st birthday to 'Admire'!

On the 1st February 2010 Rachel Dale opened the doors of 'Admire', her new hairdressing salon in Old Coulsdon. One year on, Rachel said she feels so at home, she cannot imagine being anywhere else! Rachel said: "My clients here in Old Coulsdon are adorable. I would like to say a big thank you to them for their support during our first year of business."

Rachel worked at 'Rush' hairdressers in central Croydon for twelve years, before deciding to follow her dream of owning her own salon. She said: "Starting the business has been really hard work and I couldn't have done it without the support of my friends and family, but it has been worth it - I am so happy here!" Rachel offers a wide-ranging service for men and women, including cuts, colouring and other professional treatments such as 'hair up' for special occasions.

To celebrate their birthday, Admire are offering a free treatment with every hair appointment in February. Call Rachel on 01737 557222.



Rachel Dale in her salon in Old Coulsdon.

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Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

Five questions on one of the cinema's true legends, Walt Disney.

1. In which Disney film is Thomas O'Malley?
2. Who is the only actress to win the Best Actress Oscar for her appearance in a Disney film?
3. What type of birds taught Dumbo to fly?
4. Who voiced Mickey Mouse in the film Fantasia?
5. Disney died in 1966 just before the completion of one of the most successful of all Disney films. Which one?

Answers:

1. The Aristocats; 2. Julie Andrews (Mary Poppins); 3. Crows; 4. Walt Disney; 5. The Jungle Book.

Whyteleafe FC

by Andy Runacres

The last month has seen a further decimation of the fixture list due to continuing bad weather. We may have lost the snow but hard frosts alternating with heavy rains have since become the order of the day. All this has meant the club has only managed to play two games in four weeks.

The first of those was a league game on the New Year's Day bank holiday when Leafe travelled to play Corinthian-Casuals. It was an important game with both sides struggling at the wrong end of the table and Leafe started as though they meant business with Agyei opening the scoring early on. However, as has been their wont recently, the defence then went missing and the Casuals scored three goals in very quick time to go in 3-1 up at half-time. Leafe rallied straight after the break and pulled a goal back through Gunner but alas the rally could not be sustained and the game was lost 3-2.

A few weeks later we played Woking in a much rearranged Surrey Cup 2nd round tie and a very impressive performance saw the Leafe beat their Conference South opponents by 3-1,



Lee Stripp, left and Alec Brown at the Surrey Cup match against Woking last month.

a scoreline that certainly did not flatter the home side who put in one of their best performances of the season. Goals from Brown and then Stripp gave Leafe a 2-0 half-time lead. Woking rallied briefly in the second half and pulled one goal back, but their rally quickly faded and O'Flaherty scored to restore the two goal lead, leaving Leafe to play out time for a comfortable win.

February will see home games against Walton and Hershaw (5th), Godalming (8th), Fleet (15th), Woking (18th) and Dulwich Hamlet (22nd). Updates and further news can be found on www.theleafe.co.uk and via Facebook and Twitter. Come and join the Leafe Army!

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What's On

'Chicory Tip' night

'Chicory Tip', famous for their hit song, 'Son of My Father' in the 1970s are returning to The Village Inn in Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill on Saturday 19th February. This fundraising event is in aid of the Caterham Pumas youth football team who are raising funds for their new clubhouse. Tickets cost £10 and are available from Lynette Thomas on 07748 574114. Book your tickets early!

Art Exhibition

Caterham Art Group are holding an exhibition in the Miller Centre in Croydon Road during February, ending on Tuesday 1st March. A coffee morning is being held

from 10.30am-12pm on Saturday 19th February to which visitors are warmly invited. On weekdays the Miller Centre is open for visitors from 10am-4pm.

RSPB Talk

At 8pm on Wednesday 9th February, East Surrey RSPB is holding a talk at the White Hart Barn in Godstone, entitled 'A Celebration of Birds', recollections with film clips by Peter Holden of his 40 years' work for the RSPB.

Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children. All are welcome.

Munch with Music

'Munch with Music' lunchtime events resume at St. John's Church, Caterham Valley on Wednesday 2nd February with a selection of songs from the

works of Gilbert and Sullivan by baritone, Jon Fox. A historical commentary will be given by Peter Diggins. Admission is free. Light refreshments are provided at 12.15pm. The performance is from 12.45-1.30pm. You are invited to bring your own 'Munch'.

Big Community Quiz

The 'Big Community Quiz' to raise funds for the new local radio station, Ridge Radio, is being held on Friday, 4th February at 7.30pm at The Arc in Weston Drive, Caterham-on-the-Hill. Tickets cost £10 per person to include an Italian buffet provided by Aldo Floris and live entertainment during the buffet. Up to eight people per team please.

To book tickets call Mark Jones on 07841 065845.

Beechwood Women's Club

On Tuesday 8th February, local resident and historian, Norman Skinner, will be giving a talk entitled: 'Don't You Know There's a War

On?' at the Beechwood Women's Club, in St. Mary's Church Hall, Church Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill. The talk starts at 8pm and non-members are welcome.

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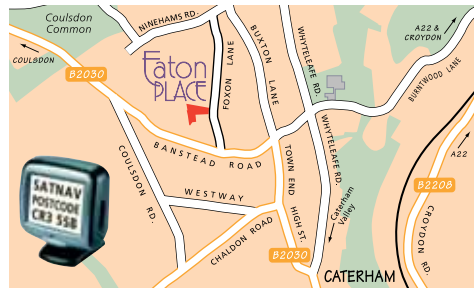
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Impressive property with large entrance hall, spectacular vaulted lounge with minstrel gallery & large inglenook fireplace. Modern fully fitted kitchen. Sep dining room. 4 double bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. Sep 1 bedroom self-contained flat. Gardens & lake. Double garage. Avail u/f or Furnished

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**Netherne Village - £1250pcm**

Stunning first floor furnished apartment located within Netherne Village. Fully fitted modern kitchen. Two double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and en-suite shower room to master bedroom. The apartment benefits from one allocated covered parking space.

**Caterham - £1550pcm**

Spacious 3 bedroom town house set over three floors in convenient position. Huge living room with patio doors opening onto garden. Modern kitchen. Lounge and dining room or a 4 bedroom family house. Patio with spacious multi-level garden. Private parking for 2 cars. Avail u/f



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CATERHAM



A four bedroom detached family home with driveway and integral garage situated on the popular Yorke Gate development and offered with no onward chain **UPC0590**

£399,950

CHALDON



Beautifully presented det house with 5 reception rooms & integral double garage, in highly sought after village, with views to front over surrey national golf course. Viewing highly recommended **UPC0640**

£500,000

WHYTELEAFE



A four bedroom detached house of character situated on a corner plot and set in mature secluded gardens in this sought after lane. Open Day by appointment Saturday 5th February. **UPC0598**

£525,000

CATERHAM



A two bed first floor purpose built flat with communal grounds and garage.

UPC0618

£149,950

CATERHAM VALLEY



3 double bed semi det Vict house in good decorative order, in popular residential road within walking distance of caterham valley town centre and offered with no onward chain **UPC0647**

£237,500



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A two bedroom house with level rear garden and allocated parking space situated on the popular Yorke Gate development and offered with no onward chain **UPC0638**

£215,000

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A rarely available two bedroom ground floor purpose built maisonette with direct access to private patio area and allocated off street parking space **UPC0643**

£199,950

TANDRIDGE



A two bedroom ground floor apartment of a grade II listed country house set in 13 acres of private grounds owned and maintained by residents offered to the market with no onward chain **UPC0648**

£229,950

CATERHAM



A four bedroom detached house with driveway, integral garage and level rear garden situated within a sought after cul-de-sac location **UPC0607**

£429,950

CATERHAM



A four bedroom detached family home offered in the agent's opinion in excellent decorative order throughout occupying a level plot in a sought after residential road. Viewing highly recommended **UPC0628**

£330,000



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CATERHAM-ON-THE-HILL £565,000

4 bedroom detached family home, in need of modernisation, extension potential STPP, Living Room, Dining Room, Study, Kitchen/Breakfast Room, WC, and 2 bathrooms. Level plot, OSP, garage, possible in/out driveway. Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM-ON-THE-HILL £199,950 LH

Hidden away in this secluded well-managed development is this rarely available two bedroom maisonette. Further benefits include LONG LEASE, double glazing, gas central heating, garage and use of acres of communal grounds. Viewing highly recommended. No onward chain. Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM-ON-THE-HILL £650,000

5 double bedroom, 3 reception detached family home in sought after private road. Kitchen/breakfast, master bedroom with e/s bathroom, double garage, OSP. Ideal for mainline station and local schools. Caterham Office • 01883 347446



SOUTH GODSTONE £394,950

An extended & beautifully presented 4 bedroom 2 bathroom semi-detached family house with integral garage and landscaped south facing rear garden. Internal viewing highly recommended. Godstone Office • 01883 744344



CATERHAM-ON-THE-HILL 0100 £360,000

Stunning 4 bedroom semi det in immaculate condition. Refurbished inside and out. Rewired in 2006. Level plot with OSP and approx 120ft rear garden with large summer house to the rear with power and lighting. Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM VALLEY £315,000

A beautifully presented 3 bedroom Victorian property near Caterham railway station and shops, with off street parking for several vehicles and approx. 90ft rear garden. Internal viewing strongly recommended. Caterham Office • 01883 347446



CATERHAM £1800 PCM

A 4 bedroom detached dormer house set in mature landscaped grounds, presented and decorated to a high standard throughout with ample parking to front. Some gardening included. Caterham Office • 01883 622244



CATERHAM £1595 PCM

A 3 double bedroom detached bungalow with ample parking and good size front and rear gardens. Convenient for Whyteleafe South station. Caterham Office • 01883 622244



COULSDON £1495 PCM

A 4 bedroom detached house with garage, parking and good size rear garden in a pleasant position close to Farthing Downs and in a convenient location for Coulsdon South station. Caterham Office • 01883 622244



GODSTONE £1400 PCM

A 4 bedroom semi detached double fronted family house, extensively modernised over the last few years, with a large level rear garden, in a desirable cul de sac location close to the Green. Godstone Office • 01883 744344



CATERHAM £875 PCM

A 2 double bedroom top floor purpose built with far reaching views, allocated parking and garage, in a convenient location for town centre and station. Completely refurbished throughout. Caterham Office • 01883 622244



CATERHAM £775 PCM

A 2 bedroom first floor purpose built flat accessed from the ground floor with allocated parking and situated in a convenient position for the town centre with its shops and station. Caterham Office • 01883 622244



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