New Year’s Resolution

‘Damage limitation’ for local businesses hit hardest by the pre-Christmas snow  by Julia Church

Local businesses are hoping that residents will resolve to shop locally this year, as many of them struggle to overcome the effects of heavy snow during the run-up to Christmas. Andrew Browne of JJ Browne Jewellers, who is Chairman of the Caterham Business Partnership, said: “The worst day of all was Saturday 18th December when takings were down by 75%. It was simply awful. It should have been our busiest day of the year but the snow came at 9am and that was that. I hope most businesses can ride it out but for some it might be the final nail in the coffin.

Fortunately, despite taking a sharp drop in sales with the arrival of the snow, trade picked up for many as local residents decided not to risk travelling to big shopping centres in the icy conditions. However others, such as restaurants, were badly affected by Christmas parties being cancelled or reduced in size due to the weather. Ali Uddin, owner of The Curry Leaf Indian restaurant in Old Coulsdon, said: “It has been very difficult. Our deliveries could not reach us and it has been impossible to deliver take-aways to many locations. The area is very hilly and many of the side-roads have been impossible to get down.”

A few businesses, such as pubs and convenience stores, even saw a sharp rise in trade, being amongst the few places people ventured to during the worst of the weather. (Continued on page 2)

Aldo Floris, owner of Aldo@TheArc restaurant, is just one of the many business owners hit hard by the snow this Christmas. He said: “It’s been terrible, like a kick in the stomach. It has cost us thousands because of cancelled Christmas parties. The Arc itself has suffered too because people cannot get here. All we can do is look to the future and make a fresh new start in the New Year.”

Bunny Fun Run 2011
Make it your New Year’s resolution to get fit for the Rotary Bunny Fun Run and raise cash for a great cause! See page 3 for more details.
New Year’s Resolution
Continued from page 1

Rita Henry, owner of Four Seasons Floral Design in Whyteleafe, said: “Everyone said I was mad when I opened up the shop in all the snow, but I did a roaring trade in Christmas trees! The flower sales have been down, and we have not been able to guarantee delivery while the snow is around. Luckily I had stocked up with Christmas trees and local people who couldn’t travel to work came and bought a Christmas tree instead.”

Traders hope that the situation will help to raise awareness about the variety of shops there are in the local area and residents will continue to shop locally long after the snow has disappeared.

Back in the ‘good old days’...

This photograph taken during the winter of 1946-47 was posted on the Caterham Facebook page by Caterham resident, Clare Addison. It shows the road outside 33 High Street, Caterham-on-the-Hill before the days of high-powered snow ploughs and gritting lorries.

High Praise for ‘Creative Communities’ project

Tandridge Leisure is celebrating after the ‘Surrey Creative Communities’ project won high praise for a two-year project designed to bring communities together across Surrey.

One of the highlights was the Caterham Film Project where school children interviewed local elders and turned their stories into drama pieces which were recorded on film and premiered at last summer’s Caterham Festival.

The Creative Communities project, developed in partnership with Farnham Maltings, sent artists into nine boroughs to empower and encourage people to explore the arts. Its positive impact has led to a high commendation from the South East Empowerment Awards where it was nominated as one of the four finalists.

Each community, which also included Ash, Haslemere, Epsom, North Holmwood, Elmbridge and Addlestone,
The Rotary Bunny Fun Run 2011

It is the New Year, the days are starting to get longer, and plans are in full swing for the annual Bunny Fun Run at Queen's Park in Caterham-on-the-Hill on Sunday, 17th April. Nearly 400 people took part in last year's event and the organisers are hoping they will return and bring their friends to this year's race. Catax Taxis, BCL Systems, Ross Cycles and The Caterham and District Independent are sponsoring the event again this year, which will be in aid of St. Catherine's Hospice and other Rotary charities.

Runners can take part in either the 1k Fun Run or the 5k race and all runners will receive an Easter Egg afterwards.

Entry forms are being distributed with this newspaper and extra copies can be requested by e-mailing rotaryruns@gmail.com or calling The Caterham and District Independent on 01883 346641. For more information go to www.rotyruns.co.uk, where entry forms can be downloaded.
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Parish Council honours Peter McNeil

Last month, at a meeting of Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council, local resident Peter McNeil was awarded ‘Citizen of the Year’ and presented with a special tankard for his work in the community. Originally from Manchester, Peter was stationed at Caterham Barracks from 1948 when he was in the Irish Guards and decided to settle in Caterham when he left the army in 1953.

Peter is an active member of the Caterham branch of the Royal British Legion and Ex-Servicemen’s Club, and offers practical help and financial assistance to ex-service personnel. After receiving his award Peter said: “I was surprised and a bit embarrassed - I thought Jeremy Beadle was going to jump out at any moment! “I would like to add that I was given a lot of support by my first wife Kay and now by my partner, Barbara.”

Burtenshaw’s Beat

by Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector Elaine Burtenshaw

Welcome to 2011. 2010 finished with the weather and icy roads causing problems across the District. In the main everyone heeded the ‘Road Closed’ signs, understanding they were there for everyone’s safety; unfortunately some felt it necessary to move a number of these signs causing motorists to become stranded and creating potential for more collisions. My staff check the roads daily as they also want them open. In December I presented a Drive Smart report to the Local Committee on the year’s activities in Tandridge. The main highlights were the neighbourhood team, response and roads policing officers combined made 13,000 interventions including use of mobiles, vehicle defects and antisocial driving. The Community Speedwatch volunteers put in an extraordinary amount of hours monitoring speed in their areas, undoubtedly making roads in Tandridge safer. Thank you.

I retire from Surrey Police on 31st March 2011 having completed almost thirty two years’ service. With three columns left I will attempt to summarise a decade a column, starting in 1979 and through the eighties. I remember my first night on the beat in Redhill wearing a cape and carrying a handbag. Trousers were only allowed on night duty but only if the Divisional Commander agreed. Typewriters and carbon paper were the order of the day, not computers! During the miners’ dispute, male colleagues assisted other forces on ‘mutual aid’ while female officers remained policing Surrey, working long hours to maintain service. I became a tutor constable training officers to put the theory learned in training school into practice. In 1985 I became Schools Liaison Officer for Reigate, visiting schools, youth groups etc. I ran Police Courses as part of the Duke of Edinburgh scheme and assisted with expeditions which involved many a cold night on Dartmoor! I also made a video with Rolf Harris on child safety, went to St James’s Palace, walked the 80 mile South Downs Way in a weekend and met a number of pupils who subsequently joined Surrey Police. One is now a Detective Inspector, one a Detective Sergeant and one is my NSO, Leesa Crouch. I left that role for the birth of my son Dean in 1980. Next month I will continue with my return to work at the end of the ‘80s.
Celebrating a ‘first’ for Whyteleafe

by Adam Pescod

Christmas officially arrived in Whyteleafe on Wednesday December 8th as the lights on the tree in the middle of the town’s round-about were switched on.

A crowd of over 100 braved the icy conditions to witness the event, including local residents and members of the congregation of St. Luke’s Church and Whyteleafe Free Church.

Carols were led by Reverend Bob Wealdon, the curate of St. Luke’s, whilst the watching crowd consumed mince pies and mulled wine, before fireworks brought an end to a successful evening.

Tandridge District Councillor for Whyteleafe, Sakina Bradbury, said: “This is the first time in the history of Whyteleafe that we have had a special ‘Switching On’ ceremony for the Christmas lights. It is fantastic. People will see that we are getting a real sense of community in Whyteleafe. I am so happy!”

The event was organised by the Whyteleafe Business Association with the help of Whyteleafe Parish Council, and in particular Tom Dempsey, the landlord of the Whyteleafe Tavern and the host for the evening.

The Association was set up in the spring to raise the profile of Whyteleafe and its businesses and enable networking amongst its members. More information is available at www.whyteleafebusinessassociation.co.uk, including a link to the association’s first newsletter.

Children - Problems?
- Bed wetting
- Difficulty concentrating
- Dyspraxia
- Asthma
- Dyslexia
- Growing pains
- Eczema
- Nightmares

Where would you most like to live?
- I love living in Whyteleafe.

Biggest influence on your life:
- My father.

Most embarrassing moment:
- Not being able to remember my pin number when paying the bill in a tapas restaurant.

Proudest moment:
The recent switching on of the Christmas Lights in Whyteleafe.

Who would you most like to meet?
- Nelson Mandela.

If you won the Lottery, how would you spend it?
- The pub would become a self-service bar and free for all! No worries about the VAT increase.

Tardigrade Pubwatch scheme.

Chairman of the North Tandridge Pubwatch scheme.

Tom is also a member of Helping Hands. A local charity that provides free transport within Whyteleafe and the surrounding area. The Association also runs a number of local events to raise funds for the community. Members are from Whyteleafe and the surrounding area.

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Funds for Youngz

A new committee called Funds 4 Youngz is offering voluntary groups for young people in Caterham the chance to apply for up to £2,000 funding. The committee which is based at Street youth centre has over £20,000 to allocate. The committee is made up of 15 young people from Street and CR3 Soldiers who will vote on how much applicants receive.

The money is from this year’s Youth Opportunity Fund and the remaining money from last year’s fund. Organisations are invited to apply by 12th January 2011 and applicants will then be asked to give a presentation to the committee at Street, where they will be able to explain more about their organisation and how they would use the money.

If you run or are part of a voluntary group or organisation for 11-19 year olds in Caterham and would like to apply, forms and detail packs are available to pick up from 8th December at Street youth centre, de Stafford Sports Centre, Skaterham, Caterham Village and Caterham Valley and Caterham Hill libraries or online at www.funds4youngz.co.uk. For more details call Jane Wilson on 07990 676717.

Sam Gyimah MP attends Democracy Fair at Warlingham School

East Surrey MP, Sam Gyimah, attended Warlingham School’s Democracy Fair on Friday 26th November to meet with students and discuss their views on a range of important political issues. The fair was intended to give students from all years a positive experience of engaging with democracy and its ideals, whilst also providing a welcome platform for students to highlight their advocacy and representation skills.

Mr Gyimah was asked to give his opinion on a number of issues – including, amongst others, voting systems, the power of lobbying groups, and the reasons for having democracy itself – and was asked to indicate whether he was for or against each particular proposal.

With over 30 stalls at the Democracy Fair, each subject could only receive the briefest discussion, but what came through strongly was the sense of deep thought that had been put in by the students on each and every subject.

Mr Gyimah commented: “It’s clear from the final pitches that all the students have shown considerable research skills in coming to a distinct position on their particular subject. They’ve coupled this with good project management, teamwork and an ability to get their points across in an articulate and persuasive manner. I was thoroughly impressed all round!”. Not only were the students able to debate and discuss these issues with their local MP, the projects also counted towards the completion of a sizable chunk of their GCSE Citizenship coursework.

Mr Gyimah said: “Whether it was debating the place of the internet in a democracy, the role of the EU and UN in global politics, or giving the vote to 16 year olds, all the students presented serious, well-thought-out arguments which gave one food for thought. Real debate and dialogue is what engages people, and these students have got some great ideas to big questions we’re facing at the moment.”
Sponsors needed for Beavers' 25th Anniversary celebrations

Caterham District Beaver Scouts will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary next year and plans are under way for a special celebration on Saturday, 14th May 2011.

Assistant District Commissioner for the Beaver Scouts said: "The event will be a one-off and I want it to be memorable so that the Beaver Scouts tell their own children about it one day. There will be exciting outdoor activities that the youngsters don't normally get to do at their weekly meetings in the Scout huts. The activities will include all sorts of sporting events such as wall-climbing and maybe even a bit of archery!"

There is lots of work ahead to ensure the day is a success, including finding a suitable field with access to a water supply and raising the funding that is needed. Simon said that he estimates the cost of running the event will be £5,000 and £3,000 is already being paid for by the Beaver Scouts themselves. One of the ways Simon hopes to raise the extra £2,000 is by inviting local businesses to sponsor the event.

Simon said: "My own company Caterham Communications will be one of the sponsors and I hope other local businesses will join us in supporting this very special occasion."

The benefits to sponsors will include publicity for their business at the event itself and in the local press. For more information about sponsorship packages call Simon at Caterham Communications on 01883 348333 or 07500 444200.

Please send news from your local youth group to editor@caterham-independent.co.uk or call 01883 346641.

Making a splash at the King and Queen Winter Fayre

Freezing cold fun was the order of the day at the King and Queen Winter Fayre in November. On Saturday 27th November, the pub hosted the event, held in the pub car park for the Tandridge Community Fund (TCF), raising nearly £325 for the charity. Those that braved the cold weather to attend the Fayre enjoyed mulled wine served by members of Caterham Rotary Club and tried their hand at traditional side-shows such as 'Catch the Rat' and Hoopla. Visitors could make a splash by aiming wet sponges at brave volunteers in the stocks and browse the craft stalls, before going into the warmth of the bar for some traditional pub food.

TCF Chairman, Mike Moss, said: "We are very grateful to Sally and her staff at the King and Queen for hosting this Fayre for us. Thank you also to the customers of the King and Queen and other visitors who generously supported the event."

Oasis Academy: Coulsdon

Sixth Form Open Evening
Thursday 3rd February 2011
7.00pm – 9.00pm

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"Staff and students treat each other with respect and enjoy a good humoured relationship" - (Osted 2010)

Principal's presentation: 7:30pm
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More pedal power for patients at the Caterham Dene

Physiotherapy patients at the Caterham Dene Hospital have a smart new piece of kit for their exercise routines thanks to Caterham Harestone Rotary Club. The Club held a Bingo and Quiz Night in October which raised the money to purchase the Tunturi F20 exercise bike for the department.

Physiotherapy Team Leader, Ali Loughran, said: “We are very grateful to the Rotary members for buying this exercise bike for us. Equipment like this helps our patients with their general fitness and decreases their back pain. When the patients finish with their one-to-one sessions with the physiotherapist they come to classes here including a Back School, where this bike will get plenty of use!”

IT Open Day for older residents

Tandridge District Council has made a successful application for £4,000 from Get Digital, a government project to fund computer equipment and digital skills training for older people in England living in sheltered accommodation.

The money will be used to supply and install two computer workstations with internet access for residents at Uplands sheltered scheme in Eden Way, Warlingham, as well as for older people in the local area to use. Apart from the IT equipment, there will also be one-to-one training available covering the basic aspects of computer and internet use.

There will be an open day on Tuesday 4th January 2011 for sheltered scheme residents and older people in the community to find out more.

For more information contact the Uplands Scheme Co-ordinator, Steve Baker, on 01883 624934, or e-mail communitysupport@tandridge.gov.uk.

The show must go on!

Four-year-old Finn Williams takes centre stage during the Little Treasures performance of ‘The Bossy King’ this Christmas. Despite the adverse weather spoiling Christmas activities for many, the show still went on, delighting the packed audience of mums and dads. 30 under-fives took part in the performance at the nursery in The Village, Caterham-on-the-Hill, making the weeks of preparation and rehearsal all worthwhile.

For more information about Little Treasures nursery, call 01883 343678.
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For more local stories, events and photos go to www.caterham-independent.co.uk
Eating Out

Try the new ‘Fine Cuisine’ at the Royal Tandoori
Review by Julia Church

After the recent switching on of the Christmas tree lights in Whetstone, on a freezing December evening, one of the warm havens to go to nearby was the welcoming ‘Royal Tandoori’ restaurant. Situated on the Godstone Road, the restaurant is easy to get to, with parking spaces on the road outside or in the car park just yards away in Station Road. The restaurant is just as stylish on the inside as it looks from the outside, with the décor and layout giving the restaurant a feeling of quiet sophistication. When we dined there on a snowy Thursday evening recently, my partner and I soon felt warm and relaxed.

The Nalli Rogan Josh, it, as they were so delicious and crispy. My Butter Chicken was a very nice change from the usual creamy dishes I like, with a lovely nutty taste and mildly spiced. Keith was delighted with his chicken spiced very well.”

Mr Quadir, the owner of the Royal Tandoori, is particularly proud of their new Fine Cuisine dishes, so Keith chose the ‘Kalmee Kebab’ lightly spiced chicken starter and the ‘Nalli Rogan Josh’ lamb shanks for his main, both from the Fine Cuisine section of the menu. I opted for a regular choice of ‘Onion Bhajee’ to start with, followed by one of the Chef’s Choices, ‘Butter Chicken’. We also ordered one vegetable dish (‘Brinjal Bhajee’, lightly spiced aubergines) one portion of Special Rice and one Garlic Naan to share. The quantity we ordered turned out to be more than enough. I love my starters, but had to leave half of one of the ten-ball-size Onion Bhajees, because I wanted to save room for my main course! It seemed a shame to waste...
A very Happy and Healthy New Year to all our customers!

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Get along to a Wedding Day Extravaganza at The Arc!

For the first time in 2011, The Arc (Caterham’s exciting community arts project), located on The Hill close to Tesco’s, will be hosting a fabulous Wedding Fayre.

The fayre on Sunday 30th January will feature a huge range of local exhibitors, cake makers, florists and bride and groom wear providers. You can enjoy listening to vocalists and seeing local entertainers, choose an outfit for the mother of the bride or speak to photographers. There are many exciting stands to cover every aspect of your wedding day.

All exhibitors are local. They have great knowledge and experience in the wedding market and will be available on the day to demonstrate their products and to answer any questions you may have to help with ideas and assist in your planning. Entrance on the day will be £1 per bridal party.

The fayre has been organised in partnership with Lisa Barson of www.yourseventually.co.uk – Local Wedding and Event Planner, who said: "I am really excited by this fayre and think The Arc is a fantastic venue. It’s a great place for a wedding and hopefully people will see its potential as they come to the fayre". Associate Director Andy Edmeads also said: “This is the first fayre of 2011 and we are delighted to be offering something new and different to what’s been on our programme before. We hope to have more and more fayres and exhibitions and with Lisa on board planning all these in-house for us, we hope to deliver top quality and enjoyable days out”.

For more information on this fayre please call The Arc on 01883 330380 or email info@the-arc-caterham.co.uk

Bloomin’ Arts comes to The Arc

’Bloomin’ Arts', a performance arts organisation for adults with learning disabilities, are holding ‘Introduction to Drama’ sessions in the New Year at The Arc in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

For ten weeks starting on Monday 17th January 2011 we will be running sessions in movement, mime, acting and stage skills. If you would like to apply for this group please contact Patricia on 07946 354365. The cost is £50 for a ten-week term.

The ‘Big Bash’ Party - Friday 14th January

Drama, Stand-Up Comedy, Dance, DJing, films, visual art, music - We’ve got something for everyone so come and join us for a day of fantastic fun. In the afternoon we will be running taster workshops for anyone who would like to join in with ‘Bloomin’ Arts’ in performing at the party later on in the evening. There will be workshops in DJing, stand-up comedy, dance and drama. From 6pm-10pm ‘It’s Party Time’ offers a chance to let your hair down and join in the fun. Along the way there will be contributions from the stand-up comics, the dancing group and the drama group. If you feel bold enough it could be your chance to shine when we have ‘Open Mike’. You could sing a song, tell a joke or two or show us your funky moves.

If you are feeling peckish, delicious Italian snacks are available from Aldo’s brasserie in the foyer.

Tickets for the party cost £3.50 and are available from The Arc Box Office on 01883 330380. Tickets for the taster workshops cost £3.50.

For more information contact Patricia on 07946 354365 or e-mail bloominarts@fsmail.net.
Panto stars support appeal for local volunteers

Cinderella Panto stars Basil Brush (Buttons) and film icon Shirley Ann Field (Fairy Godmother) took time out from their busy Christmas show schedule recently to support Marie Curie Cancer Care’s appeal for volunteers. The stars, who have been performing in the pantomime at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon, were joined by fellow cast members Gemma Bissix (EastEnders and Hollyoaks) as Cinderella and actor Spencer K Gibbons (New Faces), playing Baron Hardup.

The cast took part in the charity photo shoot to encourage people to give up some of their spare time into free nursing care and volunteering for Marie Curie’s flagship Daffodil Appeal and helps out in whatever way they can. You really can make a difference by making a commitment to the charity. Every £20 raised will provide an hour of nursing care.

If you have any time to donate to Marie Curie’s Great Daffodil Appeal, you can join your local team of volunteers by calling Marie Curie Cancer Care now on 0845 601 3107. Volunteer videos can be viewed at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil

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Panto stars support appeal for local volunteers

Cinderella Panto stars Basil Brush (Buttons) and film icon Shirley Ann Field (Fairy Godmother) took time out from their busy Christmas show schedule recently to support Marie Curie Cancer Care’s appeal for volunteers. The stars, who have been performing in the pantomime at the Ashcroft Theatre in Croydon, were joined by fellow cast members Gemma Bissix (EastEnders and Hollyoaks) as Cinderella and actor Spencer K Gibbons (New Faces), playing Baron Hardup.

The cast took part in the charity photo shoot to encourage people to give up some of their spare time into free nursing care and volunteering for Marie Curie’s flagship Daffodil Appeal and helps out in whatever way they can. You really can make a difference by making a commitment to the charity. Every £20 raised will provide an hour of nursing care.

If you have any time to donate to Marie Curie’s Great Daffodil Appeal, you can join your local team of volunteers by calling Marie Curie Cancer Care now on 0845 601 3107. Volunteer videos can be viewed at: www.mariecurie.org.uk/daffodil

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Poppy Appeal raises over £14,000 in Caterham

Organisers of this year’s Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Caterham are delighted to announce that the total raised this year was over £14,000. Barbara Henning of the Caterham branch of the Royal British Legion and Ex-Servicemen’s Club said: “The Caterham collection raised £11,500 last year so I am very pleased to say we have raised more this year.”

Loved ones are remembered at special service at All Saints Church

On Thursday, 16th December a special Christmas Memorial Service was held at All Saints Church in Warlingham attended by members of the Hamsey Green Support Group and others who have been bereaved. The service, which is an annual event, was conducted by the Reverend Alan Middleton.

Diane Pink, Chairwoman of Croydon District of the National Association of Funeral Directors, said: “It is a lovely service, a mixture of laughter and tears. It is not solemn and sad.” After the service the congregation enjoyed refreshments of coffee and mince pies in the vestry. Members of the congregation wrote messages in memory of their loved ones on stars for a Christmas tree that went on display at Pinks in Hamsey Green following the service.

Diane founded the Hamsey Green Support Group in 2001 for anyone who has been bereaved and the group is sponsored by Pinks Independent Funeral Directors. “Our members are people we have carried out funerals for and any other members of the public who want to come,” explained Diane. “Everyone is welcome and we arrange transport for those who have difficulty travelling.” The group meets on the first Thursday of each month. For more information call Diane on 020 8657 9922.

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The Oaklands site, Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey CR3 5YA

to shape the future of the Oaklands site in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

We would like all feedback to reach us by Friday 21st January please.

If these dates are not convenient, please call Emma Stevens on 01483 561119 who will comment forms at the engagement sessions; or you can return them by post.

Representatives of Surrey and Borders and its development partner, Langham Homes, together with architects and consultants, will be on hand to discuss ideas for the future development of the site.

We wish to hear your views and have your feedback. We will ask you to complete comment forms at the engagement sessions; or you can return them by post.

If these dates are not convenient, please call Emma Stevens on 01483 561119 who will post a paper copy of the engagement details and comment form for you to complete or email Emma on emma@housegroup.co.uk if you would like to receive the information by email.

We would like all feedback to reach us by Friday 21st January please.

Thank you for your involvement in this process and in helping us to shape the future of the Oaklands site in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust

Public Engagement

The Oaklands site, Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey CR3 5YA

Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Langham Homes are delighted to invite you to a Public Engagement regarding the future redevelopment of the former land and buildings, in Meeting Room 5 at Oaklands House, Coulsdon Road, Caterham-on-the-Hill, Surrey CR3 5YA.

Opening Times

Wednesday 12th January 4.00pm – 7.30pm including presentation and workshop at 4.30pm and 6.30pm
Saturday 15th January 9.30am – 1.00pm including presentation and workshop at 10.30am

Representatives of Surrey and Borders and its development partner, Langham Homes, together with architects and consultants, will be on hand to discuss ideas for the future development of the site.

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Thank you for your involvement in this process and in helping us to shape the future of the Oaklands site in Caterham-on-the-Hill.
A ‘Festival of Trees’ lights up St. Lawrence’s

On the 11th and 12th December, St. Lawrence’s Ancient Church in Caterham-on-the-Hill held a Festival of Trees featuring a dazzling array of Christmas trees. The brightly decorated trees were sponsored by local businesses and organisations, including the Scouts and Guides, Caterham Floral Club, St. Mary’s Bell Ringers, the Beautiful Box Company and the Caterham branch of the Royal British Legion. The Guild of Friends of St. Lawrence’s Church organised the event assisted by Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council. This was the second Festival of Trees and it is hoped the Festival will continue to take place every two years.

Inside St. Lawrence’s Ancient Church. Photo by Jonathan Mountain.

Who wants to be a Volunteer?
by Marion Piggott

Everyone has a view about snow. Love it or hate it most will agree about one thing - fresh on the ground it is a magical sight. For one group it is the crunch underfoot, the sudden exquisite silence, or that tang of fresh chill air they are more likely to enjoy. I am referring, of course, to the increasing number of people with some sort of visual impairment. Last late year I visited SAVI, the Surrey Association for the Visually Impaired; a visit that changed my perceptions. It seemed to me that the focus of the staff and volunteers is to safeguard and develop independence for their service users. Practical adaptations for the home, well-designed equipment and good computer software feature among the help and support they provide. Their dedicated Volunteer Coordinator, Dennis Saunders, described how volunteers make a huge difference. Dennis told me: “We need help in so many ways, especially from people with IT skills. They can help service users with emails, online shopping or learning to use visual impairment software. We also need Home Visitors, Drivers and Low Vision Volunteers, who visit clients at home to ensure specialist or adapted equipment meets their needs. All our volunteers are trained in any additional skills needed.”

For more information about this and all volunteering opportunities 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, meet us every first Friday of the month in Warlingham library 10.30 -11.30 a.m.

Meantime, a happy and peaceful New Year to you all.

For more local news keep up for our weekly e-newsletter at www.caterham-independent.co.uk
Whyteleafe FC
by Andy Runacres

There is little to report for the last month with only three matches having been played since the last update. The wintry weather has decimated fixtures, much like it did at the same time last year and the consequent fixture backlog could prove troublesome. In the games that were played, Leafe drew 2-2 with Eastbourne Town when a win would have been a more just result; Fleming having scored what to everyone looked like a goal, everyone that is apart from the officials who waved play on. The television pundits always say that this kind of luck evens itself out and if that is the case Whyteleafe are due an awful lot of good luck through the rest of the season, as they have been on the wrong end of some terrible decisions so far. The next game saw us entertain Ramsgate, but the home hoodoo reared its head and after an even but fairly uneventful first half, Ramsgate ran amok in the second. But for the heroics of Leafe keeper O’Hara, Ramsgate would have had many more than the single goal they eventually registered. There was then a break of two and a half weeks before the next game which was away at Walton Casuals. The Leafe actually started brightly and took an early lead courtesy of Agyei. They had a chance to double their lead only after when awarded a penalty but it was missed. Indiscipline then saw Leafe reduced to nine men and the inevitable surge from Walton saw them put four unanswered goals through the Leafe net. January will hopefully see both an improvement in weather, and form. Home matches are scheduled v. Bognor Regis on the 22nd. Details can be found on Leafe.co.uk, Facebook and Twitter.

A recent shot of the Whyteleafe FC pitch in Church Road.

Support your local team Whyteleafe FC -v- Godalming Town Saturday 8th January 2011
For more information call 020 8660 5491

Distributors needed for The Caterham and District Independent in Kenley.

Call 01883 346641 or e-mail info@caterham-independent.co.uk for more information.
BIRCHWOOD LANE, CHALDON £535,000
Brand new detached 2/3 bedroom chalet bungalow of some 1401 sq.ft. with kitchen/breakfast room, sitting room, en suite to master bedroom and further shower room. Views over Green Belt fields. Call for an appointment to view.

HIGHLAND ROAD, PURLEY £795,000
Reside Developments’ site is now complete with this final stunning 5 bedroom home now available to purchase. Offering some 2,800 sq.ft of contemporary living. Internal viewing is highly recommended. Call for an appointment to view.
A Happy & Prosperous 2011 from Martin & Co!

It’s set to be another busy year, so Landlords contact us if you want your property let FAST!
### WHYTELEAFE

- **£220,000**
  - A two/three bedroom detached bungalow with driveway and no maintenance rear garden conveniently situated for local transport links and shops. No onward chain.  
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### CATERHAM

- **£350,000**
  - A three bedroom semi detached house with garage and landscaped rear garden situated in popular residential road. Viewing highly recommended.  
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- **£350,000**
  - A well presented three bedroom semi detached house recently refurbished throughout conveniently situated for caterham valley town centre and offered with no onward chain.  
  - **UPC0636**

- **£379,950**
  - A three bedroom detached period house with stunning conservatory and larger than average rear garden offering panoramic views over Caterham Valley. Viewing highly recommended.  
  - **UPC0605**

- **£185,000**
  - A well presented two bedroom first floor purpose built flat with two allocated off street parking spaces situated on the popular hambledon park development and offered with no onward chain.  
  - **UPC0637**

- **£234,950**
  - A two bedroom end terrace property in our opinion offered in excellent order with the benefit of two off street parking spaces.  
  - **UPC0365**

- **£265,000**
  - A detached two bedroom bay fronted bungalow with boarded and carpeted loft space with windows to front and rear, occupying a secluded, elevated position with views to front in a private cul-de-sac.  
  - **UPC0635**

### CATERHAM VALLEY

- **£219,950**
  - A well presented two bedroom semi detached house with driveway, garage and landscaped rear garden situated on the popular Village development. Viewing highly recommended.  
  - **UPC0603**

- **£185,000**
  - A three bedroom detached house of character situated on a corner plot and set in mature secluded gardens in this sought after lane.  
  - **UPC0598**

- **£550,000**
  - A four bedroom detached house situated on a corner plot and set in mature secluded gardens in this sought after lane.  
  - **UPC0598**

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For those looking for a spacious property then look no further! This extended semi detached older style property has been carefully enlarged by the current owners and offers 3 double bedrooms.
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CATERHAM £149,000
Within ½ mile of Caterham main line train station is this well proportioned top floor apartment. benefitting from no ongoing chain and offering the opportunity for any buyer to put their own stamp on the property
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A 2 bedroom purpose built spacious ground floor apartment located in a quiet location. Comprising lounge, dining, kitchen, bedroom and shower room.
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CATERHAM £149,000
A 2 bedroom purpose built ground floor flat located in a quiet location. Comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and shower room.
Caterham Office • 01883 622244

CATERHAM £800 PCM
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