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Santas get running for St. Catherine's Hospice

Caterham School welcomed over 140 Santa lookalikes to their Caterham Santa Run on Sunday 22nd November. Runners of all ages dressed in free Santa suits and hats to take on a 3km route around the school grounds to raise money for St. Catherine's Hospice, which has a day hospice in Foxon Lane as well as a main hospice base in Crawley. Runners assembled for a 10am start and were rewarded with a well deserved

medal on crossing the finish line. Amongst the runners was St. Catherine's Director of Care Services, Penny Jones and St Catherine's nurses who provide care in the Caterham area. Penny said: "We are lucky that we had a wonderful, sunny day for the Santa Run. I'd like to thank our wonderful fundraisers for putting on such a fantastic, festive event; Caterham School for hosting the run; Chairman of Surrey County

Council, Sally Marks; Sam Gyimah MP; Caterham Rotary Club; Tandridge Friends of St. Catherine's and all the other people here today for supporting us so we can continue to provide our care." Cameron, aged seven and Freya, aged five, also took part in the Santa run and raised £108 in sponsorship. Cameron said: "We raised the money so that people can have a better Christmas."



The Santas perform a dance routine to get warmed up for the St. Catherine's Santa Run at Caterham School. Photo by Robin Lord.

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Caterham Valley councillors express anger over change of use for Beechwood Road development

Local councillors in Caterham Valley have been expressing their anger and disappointment over the change of use of the 32 new properties that are under construction at the old Adult Education Centre site in Beechwood Road.

The developers, London & Quadrant ('L&Q') originally stated that the properties would be for sale on the open market as there were not enough properties being built to make a low-rent, affordable housing scheme financially viable.

Having campaigned for over two years to reduce the number of proposed properties from the original 72 units down to 18 x three bedroom houses and 20 flats, the residents believed they were about to get much-needed market housing for first time buyers which is in such short supply in Caterham.

However, last December Tandridge District Council ('TDC') agreed with L&Q, without first consulting with Caterham Valley councillors or residents, that the whole site will now be low-rent accommodation with none of the units available for first time buyers to purchase. Sally Marks, County Councillor for Caterham Valley and Chairman of Surrey County Council, said: "Planning permission was granted on the basis that it would be 100% market housing. L&Q persuaded us that the units would be for sale or shared ownership. I feel they are culpable for not consulting with

the public on this and should be held to account - why did they feel it was OK to consult on the size of the development but not on the use?"

In response, a spokesperson for L&Q said in a statement: "Changing the tenure of the Beechwood Road development to affordable rent will create 38 new safe, warm, quality and affordable homes for people on lower incomes in Tandridge. A change of tenure was made to ensure that the development remained financially viable, which does not require planning permission, and will help us to meet our targets to provide social housing and tackle the housing crisis."

Jane Ingham, TDC councillor for Caterham Valley and member of TDC's Housing Committee, said: "I am extremely disappointed that the new homes are not being offered to young people in shared ownership. I am also sorry that this decision was taken without any consultation with councillors and without the knowledge or residents who worked so



From left: Councillors Sally Marks, Jane Ingham and Jenny Gaffney.

hard. The decision was also taken without the knowledge of the Housing Committee. It is not that we do not want any rental units at all but it should have been a mix of low rent homes and homes for sale. This precludes local residents from buying their own home. This government at its conference made very specific note that it wanted to encourage young people to buy their own home and this flies in the face of it. It is a Conservative led council who should be listening to government policy and more than that they local should be listening to the local

residents."

A spokesperson for TDC said: "The planning permission for the site, which belongs to London & Quadrant, does not contain a requirement for affordable housing. L&Q is free to provide whatever type of housing it wants to. L&Q has offered an all affordable rented scheme to the Council, which we have accepted, as it is in line with our stated policies and priorities. Affordable rent is our greatest identified housing need and this new development means we will be able to nominate applicants from our Housing Register."

"We have 1,719 households on the Housing Register, of which 32 families are in temporary accommodation. 213 of these families are considered to be in urgent housing need and 798 require two or three bedroomed homes. In comparison, the number of local people registered for shared ownership is low. There are currently 22 applicants with enough income registered for shared ownership, who live in Tandridge and want two or three bedroom homes. Another 12 applicants work in Tandridge."

Caterham Valley Parish Councillor and Beechwood Road resident, Jenny Gaffney, said:

"By reaching a secret agreement with London & Quadrant to turn the whole of the Adult Education Centre/Social Services site development in Caterham Valley into low-rent social housing, Tandridge District Council have not only displayed a complete disregard for the opinions of local residents and councillors, they have also displayed their contempt for the role of local democracy."

"Whilst we do not argue against the need for affordable housing, to have all 38 properties as rented accommodation is worrying and shows, in our opinion, not just poor judgement but also contempt for the residents of Caterham. TDC's complete lack of understanding or empathy with the residents of Caterham and their disgraceful failure to involve the local councillors makes us wonder what the next decision will be for this area, which has had over 60% of the development in Tandridge over the last number of years"

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STREET youth centre welcomes Alexia

The youngsters at STREET youth centre are gearing up for Christmas with a new leader at the helm, Youth and Community Worker for Tandridge, Alexia Sibthorpe, who has replaced the outgoing leader, Donna Ware.

Alexia is very excited about taking over the role. She said: "I am making changes to the centre to try and make it more homely and inviting to youngsters, such as moving the furniture around and taking down the partition at the entrance to the centre which I find very restrictive. Everyone has said it is good to have new and fresh ideas. My passion is for dancing so one of the things I am doing is starting Street Dance classes."

Alexia's 'Urban 8' Boys Street Dance class takes place from 4.15pm-5.45pm on Tuesday evenings at the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road, Caterham. The classes cost £1.50 and are for 14-18 year old boys only, at this point. Both boys and girls get the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme at STEET and the centre is looking for potential sponsors who can help fund them through the award.

Other activities at STREET include cooking, make-up tutorials, listen-



Alexia, centre, with some of her new friends at STREET youth centre.

ing to music, playing PS3, watching movies or just relaxing on bean bags.

With Christmas approaching there will be arts and crafts sessions including painting decorative pebbles, making Christmas baubles and Christmas card making.

Alexia said: "I don't think the young people realise how lucky they are to have this safe, warm environment where they can take part in all sorts of activities."

STREET, at 7 Godstone Road, Caterham, is open from 6.30pm-9pm every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday for 14-18 year-olds. For more information about the activities taking place at STREET, pop down to visit the centre during opening hours or e-mail Alexia at alexia.sibthorpe@surreycc.gov.uk



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Caterham Foodbank - helping those in need this Christmas

Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions ("COGS") visited Caterham Foodbank recently to present Caterham Foodbank Project Manager, Gill Bailey, with a cheque for £1,000. The foodbank will be using this money to supply Christmas hampers to needy people in the local community. The hampers will contain Christmas treats such as Christmas puddings and mince pies as well as essential food like pasta and baked beans. Last year the foodbank gave over 150 Christmas hampers to local people, again with financial help from COGS.

Gill said: "Most of us take food treats for granted but for many people these are luxuries that they cannot afford. One client last Christmas expressed their gratitude by simply saying "Thank you, I can't begin to tell you how much this means to me"."



From left: COGS member, Peter Drysdale, Caterham Foodbank Project Manager, Gill Bailey and COGS President, Lesley Day at Caterham Foodbank.

Caterham Foodbank works with over 50 agencies who refer people facing crisis situations to the foodbank for help. The foodbank has been open for two years and in that time has fed over 1,300 people.

For more information about Caterham Foodbank visit caterham.foodbank.org.uk

Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

Thank you for reading the Quick Quiz through the year and Merry Christmas to you all!

1. On what day is St Steven's Day?
2. Which king ordered the first recorded census of England & Wales in 1085, in what became known as the Domesday Book?
3. Norway presents an annual gift of a Christmas tree which is erected where in London?
4. Which Cambridge College is the setting for an annual carol concert broadcast by BBC TV on Christmas Eve?
5. Three recordings of "Do They Know it's Christmas" have been Christmas No.1, the first of them in which year?

1. 26th December.
2. William I: 3. Trafalgar Square; 4. Kings; 5. 1984.

Whyteleafe FC Football Academy seeks local talent

Talented teenage footballers can take their first shot at stardom at one of Surrey's leading football academies.

This December, Whyteleafe FC Football Academy is holding trials for boys and girls, giving youngsters aged 16 to 18 the chance to combine full-time education with developing their soccer skills and knowledge as part of a full time training programme.

The two-year programme will be at Whyteleafe FC, where academy players will work in the classroom towards a Level 2/3 Diploma in Sport and on the pitch towards playing at first team non-league and professional levels.

Academy Director, Ken Fisher, said: "This is a unique opportunity to develop as a footballer under the guidance of professional UEFA A and B licensed



coaches and to study a variety of nationally recognised qualifications taught by experienced teachers. Youngsters who are offered a place will train and play on Whyteleafe's FIFA star rated 3G artificial playing surface, including home league matches."

Places on the programme starting September 2016 are offered based on playing ability.

The trials take place on Tuesday 22nd and Tuesday 29th December from 11am to 1pm for girls and 2pm to 4pm for boys at Whyteleafe FC, Church Road, Whyteleafe, Surrey. To register, visit www.wearscf.co.uk or contact Ken Fisher on 07782 476691.

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Tandridge honours those lost in conflict at Remembrance Day parades

On Sunday 8th November, many Remembrance Day services were held across Tandridge District to commemorate the soldiers, sailors and airmen killed and injured in the two World Wars and all the conflicts since then.

Chairman of Tandridge District Council, Councillor Rose Thorn, attended the Remembrance Day service at St. Mary's Church in Oxted accompanied by her consort Keith Thorn, Chief Executive Louise Round and Sam Gyimah MP.

The Council's Armed Forces Champion and Vice-Chairman, Councillor Pat Cannon, laid a wreath at St. Luke's Church in Whyteleafe on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

Tandridge District Councillor, Geoffrey Duck, representing the Chairman, laid a wreath at St. Lawrence's Church in Caterham and Councillor Glynis Whittle laid a wreath at Warlingham War Memorial.



St. Lawrence's Church, Caterham. Photo by James Highsted.



The Surrey and Sussex Drum and Bugle Corps lead the parade round to St. Lawrence's Church. Photo by Jon Harrison.

Localeventphotos.co.uk

View photos by local photographer, Jon Harrison at **Localeventphotos.co.uk**



The memorial at St. Luke's Church in Whyteleafe.



Children laying a wreath at Warlingham Memorial. Photo by Paul Brown.



The children of Warlingham Village School get ready to lay their wreath. Photo by Paul Brown.

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In the Spotlight

This month, as a Christmas special, we feature Caterham resident, three-year-old Charlie, a pedigree Lemon Beagle who lives with Julia Church, editor of The Caterham and District Independent.

Birthplace: Sussex.

Marital Status: Single.

Children: None, thanks to a visit to the vet when I was one year old.

Cars: Frequent passenger in rear of black Vauxhall Vectra.

Pets: Not yet, but I am hoping for a puppy friend for Christmas.

Childhood hero: Snoopy.

Favourite Food & Drink: Spaghetti Bolognese; water.

Pastimes: Guarding the house; begging for titbits; following scent trails when I am let off the lead.



Charlie.

Likes: Food; walks; friendly dogs and people; Birchwood Lodge Kennels in Woldingham; the King and Queen pub in the High Street; sleeping.

Dislikes: Waiting for food; loud fireworks; cigarettes.

Favourite TV show: I never watch TV.

Favourite book: Not learned to read yet.

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? The local cats.

Favourite holiday destination: My Aunty Rosemary and Uncle Roger's in Old Coulsdon who look after me

sometimes; Windermere in The Lake District.

Favourite song of all time: 'Hound Dog' by Elvis Presley.

Biggest influence on your life: Meal times.

Proudest moment:

Winning third place for 'Best Trick' at the Fun Dog Show at this year's Godstone Donkey Derby. I performed my 'roll over' trick and demonstrated my 'beg' which wowed the judges. The dogs that came first and second were just show-offs.

Most embarrassing moment: Being made to wear a Rudolph jumper and antlers to amuse the family last Christmas.

Where would you most like to live? Caterham of course!

Who would you most like to meet? A cool, single, beagle bitch.

If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it? They won't let me play the National Lottery but I have everything I need anyway.

Caterham Art Group holds its 63rd Annual Exhibition

From Thursday 29th October until Sunday 1st November, the Soper Hall in Caterham became the venue for Caterham Art Group's 63rd Annual Exhibition. A steady stream of enthusiastic visitors came to view the many different works of art ranging from oil, watercolour, acrylic and pen and ink

paintings to a beautiful display of stained glassware. The display included many paintings by 11 members of the club who were exhibiting for the first time.

Chairman of Caterham Art Club, John Ward, said: "Art is all about enthusiasm, not just skill and we have a lot of enthusiasts in the club. It is the process involved that is important rather than the product."

New members are always welcome at the club. For more information visit caterhamartgroup.org.uk



A selection of paintings by members of Caterham Art Club who were exhibiting for the first time.

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Warlingham lights up for Christmas!

On Saturday 21st November record crowds turned out in Warlingham for the switching on of the spectacular Christmas lights around the Green. Lucky draw winners, Tracey Read from Caterham and her seven-year-old daughter Caitlin, had the privilege of switching on the lights after a resounding countdown by the crowd led by Master of Ceremonies, Jeremy Pursehouse. The event had been preceded by the traditional lantern parade around the Green, featuring the Warlingham Flute Band and Father and Mother Christmas.

After the lights were illuminated, children from Warlingham Park School, Warlingham Village School, Hamsey Green School and Whyteleafe School sang a rousing medley of Christmas songs to get everyone into the festive spirit. Many visitors took advantage of the late night opening to do some early Christmas shopping in the shops around the Green.



Santa greets the crowd. Photo by Paul Brown.



The cast of Jack the Ripper in Warlingham Church Hall.



The beautiful Christmas Tree on Warlingham Green.



Children taking part in the lantern parade. Photo by Paul Brown.

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de Stafford celebrates results of Ofsted inspection

de Stafford School in Burntwood Lane, Caterham, is celebrating receiving a 'Good' judgement in its recent Ofsted inspection. The school was delighted that the report recognised the significant progress made since it was deemed 'Requires Improvement' when last inspected in December 2013.

Last October a team of four inspectors visited the school to observe lessons, scrutinise documents and policies and meet with staff, members of the governing body, a representative of the local authority, and groups of students. Feedback was also received from parents and staff during the intensive two-day process. The report comments on the strong leadership, which has resulted in significant improvements in the quality of teaching and students' outcomes since 2013. The behaviour of the students was also commended.

Headteacher, Jeremy Garner, said: "To be judged good in all areas of our provision is a testament to the hard work and



Head teacher, Jeremy Garner, with some of the proud de Stafford students, from left: Year nine student, Georgia Pitts; Year 11 students: Deputy Head, Morgan Tregellas; Deputy Head, Matthew Gubby; Deputy Head, James Hurcomb; Head Girl, Elise Miller and Year nine student, Tom Ford.

dedication of the staff here at the school, who work tirelessly for the benefit of the students. I am really pleased that the report comments explicitly on the extent to which staff care about students' achievement and personal development because it is a real strength of the school. The positive relationships that staff and students have ensures learning takes place within a calm, happy and purpose-

ful environment and I am delighted that this was clear from the outset to the team of inspectors.

"I would like to thank the students, parents, staff and governors for the role that they have all played in ensuring de Stafford is now quite rightly considered to be a 'good' school by Ofsted."

Visit www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofsted to view the full report.

Toddler Group celebrates 30 year anniversary

On Tuesday 27th October, there were birthday celebrations taking place at Caterham Community Church in Coulsdon Road, Caterham on the Hill, as its Toddler Group reached its 30th anniversary. The party was a great success with over 100 children and their families enjoying a bouncy castle, face painting, creative activities, pass-the-parcel and party food.

Marion Matthews, who ran the Toddler Group in her home for many years, travelled up from Bognor Regis



The 30th anniversary cake.

to attend the party, and other members and volunteer helpers from previous years joined in too.

There is always room for more members at the Group - just turn up on Tuesday mornings from 9.30am-12pm during term time. For more information visit the Facebook page "Toddler Group."

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Warlingham gets into Halloween spirit with new event

by James Highsted

Ghouls, mummies and vampires prowled the streets of Warlingham during the Spooky Walk on Saturday 31st of October. Hundreds donned fancy-dress costumes, with light-up pumpkins in hand, to take part in the walk which was making its debut in the Warlingham social calendar. The walk started from the 1st Warlingham scout hut, down Limpfield Road to the John Fisher Sports Club.

The walk ended with the Community Firework Display, which had a haunted house, funfair rides and a live music stage.

Co-organiser, Jeremy Pursehouse of the Warlingham Events Team, said: "I thought the event went well. We were amazed because we did not know how many people would come, as this is the first time we have done it.

"There seemed to be a large number of people and I was

very pleased. We know villagers like living here because we get lots of positive feedback about the local events such as the crowning of the May Queen, Blanchman's Summer Fair, the Christmas Lights and now the Spooky Walk; it all helps to project Warlingham as a vibrant community."



Marc (left) and Mason Gillman in their spooky costumes. Photo by James Highsted.



From left: Sue, Sunny and Grace Matthews; James, Elle-Louise and Sara King. Photo by James Highsted.



Victoria (left) and Imogen Nevard. Photo by James Highsted.

Caterham Round Table Fireworks raises over £10,000 for local charities

On Saturday 7th November nearly 4,000 people attended this year's Caterham Round Table Firework Display held in the Dene Field in Caterham-on-the-Hill.

Around 1,000 people took part in the torchlight procession before the Display, that started from Caterham Hill Library and continued along the High Street to the Dene Field led by the Redhill Corp of Drums.

The enormous bonfire which was said to be the biggest ever for the Round Table display, was topped with the prize-winning Guy made by Luke and Max Orchard from Merstham who go to Furze-field School. Luke and Max won a cash prize of £50 for their Guy.

The display raised over £10,000 for local charities. Over the last couple of years Caterham Round Table has bought equipment for the local scouts and guides, donated money to



Luke Orchard (9) and his brother Max (7) with their prize-winning Guy and parents in the Dene Field.

Hillcroft Primary School for its new Darwin Trail, bought diving gear and a boat for the Sea Cadets, bought a special car seat for a disabled child, bought instruments for a youth band and sponsored the Street Party. Caterham Round Table has also given many thousands of pounds to The Orpheus Centre in Godstone, Childrens Wish and Tadworth Childrens Trust charities.

For more information visit caterhamroundtable.co.uk

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Tandridge Magazine Winter 2015

Full of news and information, the latest Tandridge Magazine is currently being delivered to residents and businesses in the district.

The cover features members of the Douglas Brunton Centre enjoying a game of bowls. Inside there are details of the residents' survey carried out earlier in the year, the Local Plan, Universal Credit, the Oxted Business Improvement District, Christmas holiday information, along with how the Council is preparing to deal with any severe weather, health and housing news and the Men in Sheds project.

There are also articles covering the Harestone Valley display at the East Surrey Museum, the Caterham Car Service and volunteering, plus details about the recycling and waste service, including Christmas holiday collection dates.

Anyone who has not received a copy of the magazine by 1st December should contact Customer Services on 01883 722000, or e-mail customerservices@tandridge.gov.uk

Learn award-winning baking techniques at Tim's Pastry Club

Review by Julia Church

I recently learned how to make delicious Panna Cotta, mouthwatering Shortbread and lighter-than-air Lemon Drizzle Cake at one of Tim Fisher's baking classes at the Oasis Academy in Old Coulsdon. Tim is an award-winning chocolatier and pastry chef who works in top London restaurants during the week then shares his expertise at his newly launched Pastry Club on Saturday mornings. The three-hour sessions cost £40 which includes the weighed-out cake ingredients, recipe sheets and Tim's expert, personal tuition.

When I attended one of Tim's November classes with my mum, Pam, we were soon chatting to the other students and drinking coffee together like old friends as we got ready for the class with eager anticipation. I had seen some photos of Tim's wonderful creations on the 'Tim's Pastry Club' Facebook page

and could not wait to see if I, under Tim's expert guidance, could create something anywhere near so professional.

To begin with, our group of six students watched as Tim expertly prepared the Vanilla Panna Cotta, carefully explaining the process every step of the way.

After pouring the mixture into the serving dishes to chill in the fridge, he then ran through the technique for making the Lemon Drizzle Cake. We returned to our cooking stations and followed Tim's instructions with Tim close by to offer us guidance every step of the way. Before long, our cakes were all baking in the ovens and we went back to Tim's demonstration area to learn how to make the perfect shortbread mix.

During the course of the morning we learned invaluable tips and tricks of the trade to ensure our cakes were all a success. As well as giving us advice on cooking techniques, Tim also recommended cooking utensils to use to get the best results.

I could tell that we were a 'mixed ability' group, but Tim's lovely, patient nature ensured that none of us felt

left behind and we all enjoyed the class. Before we went home with our freshly baked Lemon Drizzle Cakes and Shortbread, we sampled the creamy Panna Cottas, now perfectly set, with our shortbread biscuits.

The verdict was unanimous, the result was gorgeous and we all went home feeling like domestic goddesses! Tim was an inspiration!

See the advert below for details of how to enrol for Tim's classes and be sure to visit the Facebook page to view photos of Tim's amazing cakes.



Tim offers some guidance to one of his students.

Tim's Pastry Club

Tim Fisher award winning pâtissier and chocolatier is now teaching pastry, dessert, chocolate and baking classes at:

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Chaldon resident launches calendar to raise funds for PSPA

Chaldon resident, Martin Bergs, has launched a fun calendar featuring 'Bonnie Bogle' to raise funds for the PSPA charity that supports those suffering from Progressive Supranuclear Palsy. Martin's wife, Maija, suffers from this condition, a terminal, degenerative brain disease.

Bonnie Bogle was one of 16 Bogles that appeared mysteriously at Stonehenge one icy morning in 1966.

The custodians of Stonehenge immediately burned the life-size wooden figures, and no-one owned up to the prank. Two of the Bogles were rescued by photographer, Austin Wilson. After Austin died his wife donated the Bogles to Salisbury Museum, who wanted to find out who had made them.

It was discovered that the delivery of the Bogles to Stonehenge had been part of an elaborate rag stunt by Manchester University students!



The PSPA 2016 Calendar

Martin Bergs was the ex-Manchester University student who owned up to the stunt, decades after the initial Bogle invasion of Stonehenge.

Martin has created a colourful calendar featuring photos of Bonnie, one of the surviving Bogles. Calendars, available for a donation of £5 or more to the PSPA charity, can be ordered by e-mailing Martin at martin@mbztechnical.com

Crowds pack Soper Hall for third annual Caterham Beer Festival

On Friday 20th and Saturday 21st November, over 800 people attended the third annual Caterham Beer Festival that took place in Caterham's Soper Hall, organised by Caterham Round Table.

The guests drank about 3,000 pints of beer and cider, raising approximately £6,000 for the Round Table. Beer experts and casual drinkers enjoyed many of the humorously named and unusual beers and the first beer to run out was 'Island Hopping'.

Following the event, Caterham Round Table member and event organiser, Glen O'Dwyer, said: "The event was a resounding success! The atmosphere was very friendly and all of our guests thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is great to be able to raise such large amounts of money for charity in such an enjoyable way.

"I would like to thank our team of 25 volunteers and especially our sponsors for their support."



Four members of the Beer Festival team, from left: Tricia and Barry Louvel, Jason Gordon and Mike Stephens.

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Volunteers needed for Christmas Day treat for the elderly

For many years the Churches Together of Caterham have supported the Christmas Dinner at the Douglas Brunton Centre in Caterham on the Hill, a joyous event for the elderly and isolated residents of the local parishes. Last year over sixty people attended to eat, drink and share Christmas with a small group of volunteers.

The volunteers collected and entertained the guests before taking them back home with a small present and goodie bag of snacks for them to enjoy in the evening.

One of the Churches Together team, Pete Dommett, said: "This year the group of volunteers is growing smaller and the event is approaching a possible crisis. Without more help there is a risk that the dinner may fail not just for this year but for future years.

"Last year I found the experience moving, exciting, challenging and very reflective of the Christmas message."



Santa and his helper at last year's Christmas lunch.

The organisers particularly need people who drive and can collect or drop off guests either between 11am and 12 noon and/or 4pm to 5pm. Helpers at the venue are also needed from 9am to set up, 12 noon to help with the meal and from 4pm to clear up. If volunteers can spare just half an hour there is always something to be done from laying tables to stacking chairs.

Anyone interested in offering assistance on Christmas Day can contact Pete at caterham-christmaslunch@gmail.com

Caterham Rotary Reach Out 2015

by Roger Easter

Over 150 senior citizens from Caterham, Whyteleafe and Warringham were invited to Caterham Rotary Club's 22nd annual Reach Out celebration on Thursday 29th October at the Surrey National Golf Club.

Following a two course lunch they were entertained by local singer John Lazenby.

Homemade cakes were served towards the end of the afternoon and the event was rounded off with songs from Caterham Rotary's "Sing Song" team.

One of the guests, Margaret Brown, said: "We have really enjoyed ourselves here this afternoon and are very grateful to Caterham Rotary Club for all their hard work in making this possible."

Rotarian Stephanie Barrett, who organised the event, said: "One of the main aims of Reach Out is for us to identify those pensioners who do not get the opportunity very often to go out and be entertained as well as being able to talk with other like-minded people. It was evident from the smiles on their faces again this year that everyone had a good time."



John Lazenby serenades guests at the Reach Out event.



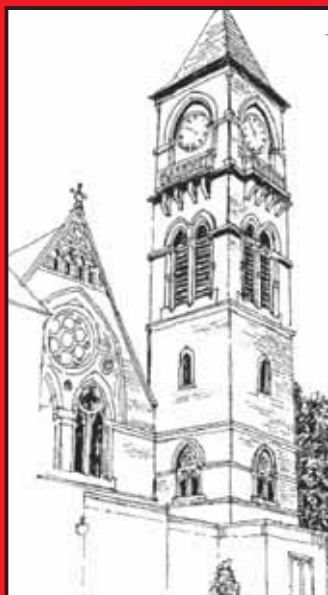
Guests Maggie (left) and Linda enjoying themselves on the dance floor.



John has a twirl with Stephanie Barrett of Caterham Rotary Club.



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Eating Out

Enjoy South Indian food in South Croydon at Fushia

Review by Julia Church

With its hundreds of restaurants, bars and cafés, South Croydon has become the official restaurant quarter of the town but Fushia Indian restaurant, with its interesting heritage stands out from the crowd.

Originally a cinema, the premises then became a comedy club, then Scott's Diner, before being converted into a colourful South Indian restaurant offering a great range of authentic, freshly-cooked food. The restaurant is large and ideal for big get-togethers and has a banquet hall available upstairs for private hire.

In addition to its Indian food choices, the restaurant offers a good selection of dishes from Malaysia and Sri Lanka.

When I visited with my son Andrew, we shared the Vegetarian Chicken Tikka and the Onion Bhajjis for our starter. Andrew was very impressed by the veggie Chicken Tikka which was made with soya. The

texture was lovely and it was nice and spicy without being too hot. The crispy Onion Bhajjis simply melted in the mouth and went well with the Tikka.

For our main courses Andrew chose the Fushia Special Bhuna Gosh - boneless lamb cooked in Bhuna style. Andrew said that he was pleased with the nice, decent chunks of lamb and it was spicy enough to suit his taste, which is higher up the spiciness scale than mine!

I chose one of the vegetarian mains, the Vegetable Kolhapuri, a traditional dish made with desiccated coconut and a medium spicy sauce. It contained cauliflower, potatoes, peas, beans and carrots and was very tasty and perfect for dipping my naan bread into. Andrew and I shared a Pilau Rice to accompany our main dishes, and also a Masala Dosa, an Indian crepe made from rice batter and filled with a lovely potato filling. Andrew had never had a Masala Dosa before, a dish that Fushia are especially proud of, and he was very impressed first by its size and by the dips it was served with - a tomato chutney, coconut chutney and 'Samba', a vegetable chutney - all South Indian specials.

Fushia is now taking bookings for Christmas parties and it is the perfect place to dine



The restaurant interior.



My Vegetable Kolhapuri.

before going on to one of Croydon's nightspots to celebrate the party season. It's extensive menu offers something to suit all taste and the excellent service is the icing on the cake.



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GMTV's Dr. Hilary Jones visits Le Personne Homes

On Wednesday 28th October, the ladies of Le Personne Homes in Caterham on the Hill were thrilled to receive a visit from Dr. Hilary Jones of GMTV fame. He came to discuss with the ladies how technology can help to maintain independence for people who are of "diminishing youth". The discussion was filmed for showing to other supported-living residents and care professionals throughout the country. During the filming the ladies

explained how living at the Homes has given them the confidence to live independently, with the knowledge that they have the security of a manager on site, backed up by TeleCare24's technology alarm system, 365 days a year. The ladies told Dr. Hilary how the well-maintained one-bedroom flats, provided by Le Personne Benevolent Trust, are a warm and friendly place to live with neighbours who care about each other. Dr. Hilary also joined the ladies for lunch in the beautiful lounge at Le Personne Homes, chatting informally and answering all their questions.



Dr. Hilary Jones with the lady residents of Le Personne Homes in Caterham on the Hill.

1st Caterham Scouts get ready to deliver the Christmas post!

1st Caterham Scout Group are fundraising for their new Scout hut roof, delivering Christmas cards to CR3 post-codes, for 30p per card. Each card will be stamped with a unique Scouts post mark, delivered in time for Christmas. Until Sunday 13th December, special 'Scouts Postboxes' will be at the following locations in Caterham:

- St Mary's Church, Church Road.
- Computer Solutions, 5b High Street.
- Michael Lord Butchers, 22 High Street.
- Caterham Baptist Church, Beechwood Road.
- Caterham Hill Library, Westway.
- Douglas Brunton Centre, Park Road.
- St John's Primary School, Markfield Road.
- NatWest Bank, Croydon Road.
- Caterham Valley Library, Stafford Road.
- Floral Gallery, 18 Station Avenue.
- The Royal British Legion,



The 1st Caterham Scouts with their Christmas postboxes.

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are recruiting Christmas warehouse operatives to work at their Caterham facility on a regular, ongoing basis from November through to Valentine's Day.

Broad-minded, local applicants are most welcome. No experience is necessary and full Picking training will be given.

There are two main shifts from 6am to 2pm and 2pm to 10pm often with extra hours available on a daily basis.

The working week will be flexible and shall be 5 days from 7 and will include some weekends.

The pay rate is £7.51 per hour inclusive of Holiday Pay.

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What's On

Friends of Chaldon Church

The official launch event of the Friends of Chaldon Church is taking place at the church in Church Lane, Chaldon, on Saturday 5th December at 10.30am. There will be a talk on the church's history at 11am. Refreshments will be available.

Membership costs £15 per year and for more information and an application form e-mail friendsofchaldonchurch@gmail.com

CAB AGM

Caterham and Warlingham Citizens Advice Bureau is holding its AGM on Thursday 3rd December at 8pm in the Soper Hall, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham CR3 6YN. The guest speaker will be the Chairman of Surrey County Council, Cllr. Sally Marks. All are welcome.

Downland Chorale

On Saturday 12th December, the Downland Chorale is presenting Christmas Music from Handel's Messiah, J.S. Bach's Christmas Oratorio and a selection of Christmas Carols with The Beacon School Choir at St. John's Church, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon CR5 1HA.

Tickets cost £10 for adults and £5 for children. Contact Downland Chorale on 07729 618226.

Munch with Music

On Wednesday 2nd December, St. John's Church in Clareville Road, Caterham is hosting a concert presented by senior students from Caterham School. Coffee is served at 12.15pm and the concert takes place from 12.45pm-1.30pm. Free admission. Donations welcome. Please bring your own 'Munch'.

RSPB Talk

On Wednesday 9th December, East Surrey RSPB is holding its Christmas Meeting at the White Hart Barn in Godstone. The meeting will include members' tales and photographs and festive refreshments at halftime.

Entrance is £3 for adults and £1 for children. All, including non members of the RSPB, are most welcome.

For more information visit www.eastsurreyspb.co.uk/

East Surrey Choral Society

ESCS is holding its Christmas Concert at the United Reformed Church, Caterham CR3 6SX at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th December. The programme includes Britten's

Ceremony of Carols, Finzi In Terra Pax and carols for choir and audience. Tickets, costing £10 to include a programme and refreshments, are available on the door or at www.escs.org.uk.

Christmas Gospel Concert

On Friday 11th December, Caterham-based charity International Needs are presenting a Christmas Gospel Concert by the famous IDMC Gospel Choir at the Oasis Academy in Old Coulsdon. The doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. All proceeds will go towards building a maternity unit in Burkina Faso, West Africa. Tickets cost £5 from Helen on 01883 331332 or book online at www.ineeds.org.uk/

For further details visit http://www.ineeds.org.uk/christmas-gospel-concert/4588205083

Company Club

Croydon-based 'Company Club', a social club for the over 45s from Croydon and the surrounding area, is holding a New Members evening on Thursday 3rd December at The Builders Arms pub, Leslie Park Road, Croydon CR0 6TP. For more information about the evening and the range of activities contact Linda on 020

BOOT SALE

Saturday 5th December
Open for sellers at 7am
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8668 1382 or visit www.companyclub.co.uk.

Old Coulsdon Camera Club

On Tuesday 1st December, Old Coulsdon Camera Club is hosting a talk on Photoshop for Beginners by Jack Casement ARPS at 7.45pm for 8pm at Cameron Hall, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon. Entry for visitors is £3 (refunded on joining club).

Whyteleaf School Christmas Fair

On Saturday 5th December, Whyteleaf School at Whyteleaf Hill, CR3 0AA are holding their Alice in Wonderland-themed Christmas Fair from 11.30am-2.30pm. Amongst the many attractions will be a Santa's Grotto. Admission 50p. Children free.

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Schools sought to take part in Five-O Project

St Catherine's Hospice is calling on schools across Sussex and Surrey to support their local hospice by taking part in an exciting enterprise challenge, the Five-O Project.

The Project challenges them to take on a Spring Term project putting on fundraising activities using an initial £50 investment. All funds raised from the project will then be used to support the vital end-of-life care provided by St Catherine's.

Participating schools are asked to put together a team of six students to create a business plan, events or ideas that will raise a minimum of £1,500.

Sponsored by NatWest, each school that takes part in the Five-O Project will be allocated team mentors from NatWest. Mentors will provide support and guidance on students' business plans, offering a unique opportunity for students to gain invaluable insight and advice from business professionals whilst having fun.

For more information about participating in the Five-O Project call 01293 447376 or email comfun@stch.org.uk.



Participating Schools from 2014's challenge, top row from left: Farlington School, Tanbridge House School. Bottom row: Last year's winners, Hazelwick School (left) and Millais School.

Marie Curie appeals for Christmas collection volunteers

With Christmas fast approaching, Marie Curie is looking for volunteers to give a couple of hours of their time. Numerous collections are taking place in town centres throughout the local area.

Volunteers can make a huge difference locally by raising vital funds and awareness of the work done by Marie Curie to give people with terminal illnesses the best quality of life.

Every £20 raised for Marie Curie will provide one hour of vital nursing care, at no cost to the patient or their family.

For more information on how to get involved visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/collections or call Emily Akeroyd on 01883 832642.

Please note the deadline for advertising in the January edition of The Caterham and District Independent is Friday 11th December

Christmas volunteering

by Helen Hammer

Will you have some free time over the next few weeks to do something for someone else? This could be an ideal opportunity to do some Christmas volunteering without a long term commitment.

Cards for Good Causes have pop up card shops and the QEF charity shop in Caterham is the local one. They are seeking volunteers who can help but must be able to use the till. Loveworks run foodbanks in Merstham and Reigate and each year they make a goodie bag for isolated or vulnerable people. This year they hope to make 140 and they are looking for volunteers to help.

Fareshare organise food that would otherwise go to waste and redistribute it to charities. They are specifically looking for volunteers to hand out 'shopping lists' to customers in Tesco or to collect the donations from the supermarket.

Churches Together hold their Christmas Day lunch

at the Douglas Brunton Centre in Caterham. Volunteers are needed to sort the tables, run the coffee bar, prepare and cook the food, serve and wash up, run cloakroom/front desk, sort presents/goodie bags and help with entertainment. (See article on p13.) The Winter Night Shelter runs for three months from 15th December, based each night at a different location including Warlingham, Redhill and surrounding areas. They need lots of volunteers to help cook, do laundry, sleepover and supervise each shift to run the floating shelter.

If you like the idea of volunteering occasionally, then join 'Team Caterham.' Members receive an email listing local events and where volunteers are needed. The tasks can be from making paper lanterns to being a marshal on a road closure.

If you can help, please call the Volunteer Centre on 01883 344444.

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Caterham Valley

OIEO £425,000

A stunning three bedroom semi detached house with landscaped front and rear gardens, driveway and attached garage offering further potential for extension, subject to planning permission. Situated in a sought after residential development. EPC Rating TBC. UPC1696



Caterham Hill

OIEO £350,000

A three bedroom semi detached house offered in good decorative order throughout with larger than average well established landscaped rear garden directly backing onto parkland, situated in a popular residential road. EPC Rating D. UPC1692



Whyteleafe

£495,000

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Caterham Hill

OIEO £400,000

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