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A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

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Rugby legend, Matt Dawson MBE, opens new pavilion in Caterham

On Monday 27th November, World Cup-winning England Rugby star and Strictly Come Dancing finalist, Matt Dawson MBE, visited Caterham to open Caterham School's brand new sports pavilion. Before opening the pavilion, Matt met all Year 9 and 10 pupils at a special assembly, during which he reviewed

the highs and lows of his international career. He offered invaluable advice on combining study and training, plus how to cope with tough times and success. The new facility is based at the school's Hill Fields site in Park Avenue, Caterham-on-the-Hill. The site is also a base for local sports clubs including Old Caterhamians

Rugby Club and Caterham Cricket Club. On opening the new pavilion, Matt Dawson said: "I have been incredibly impressed with the pupils I've met today and the fantastic facilities I've seen at Caterham. More than that, this new pavilion represents a unique link between the School and the local community, between school sport and club sport, which is fantastic and is to be encouraged."



Celebrations in front of the new pavilion with Matt Dawson MBE (centre).

See page 16 for the exciting plans ahead for Caterham's ancient church of St. Lawrence's

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Helen Rujbally wins Westway by-election

On Thursday 30th November, Liberal Democrat candidate, Helen Rujbally, won a decisive victory in the Westway by-election, called following the resignation of popular Caterham councillor, Caroline Warner. Helen won both the District and Parish council seats that she contested, winning the District Council seat with over 50% of the vote, and beating local Conservative Councillor Eithne Webster to win the Parish Council seat.

Cllr. Helen Rujbally said: "I would like to say thank you to everyone that has supported and voted for me. I am over the moon and ready for the next chapter for both myself and Caterham-on-the-Hill. "The biggest issue I found on the doorstep was the issue we have with street lighting. People don't understand why huge amounts of money can be given to an art gallery, but there is not enough money for streetlights, and to be honest,



Cllr. Helen Rujbally

neither can I. People need to know that these are the choices that the Tories are making." George Dennis, Liberal Democrat Parish Councillor for Westway Ward said: "It is brilliant to have such a hard working addition to the team. I look forward to working with Helen on the many challenges we all face together here in Westway".

Caterham mourns death of popular ex-councillor, David Gosling.

Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council were shocked and much saddened to learn that one of its most influential former councillors had died, suddenly, from a heart attack on Sunday 12th November. David Gosling had served as a Parish Councillor for 12 years from 2004-2016. He had been Chairman of the Council in 2008-9 and had been Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for several years. He was also a District Councillor on Tandridge District Council for the same ward, Westway ward, for eight years from 2008 until 2016. David was very involved with all of the Parish Council's key decisions and was the 'expert' on public transport. He pushed the Parish Council to finance the extension of the hours of operation for the 541 bus service to aid residents getting to and from the railway station when

the service was cut. He was always at every parish event, quietly working in the background to ensure success. A very private, quiet and gentle man, he always found time to help others and most residents will have seen him constantly out running as he kept himself extremely fit. He was a senior officer in the Home Office, working with the Borders Agency, and it was due to work commitments that he stood down from both councils in May 2016, although he still volunteered to help at community events. His parents and brothers are still coming to terms with his unexpected death and the Parish Council and residents



David Gosling

offer their sincere condolences and gratitude that they shared David with us. His funeral was held on 14th December in Eltham.
By Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Councillor, John Orrick.

The Caterham and District INDEPENDENT

The Caterham and District Independent
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Concern grows over part-night street lighting in Surrey

Last January, Surrey County Council ("SCC") turned off 40,000 streetlights between midnight and 5am to save £210,000 a year following cuts in funding from central government.

Concerned that the switch-off has resulted in an increase in crime figures, Surrey residents John Lazenby and Paul Steynberg, along with many other residents, have been bombarding the leader of SCC, Cllr. David Hodge and the other elected councillors with letters and emails demanding that the lights be turned back on. Following a disappointing response to the complaints, a Facebook campaign: "Surrey CC Put Our Streetlights Back On" was launched in April, which now has nearly 4,000 members (see facebook.com/groups/1008027575995026).

Last October, John Lazenby launched a petition* that has been signed by nearly 7,000 people who wish to see the streetlights switched back on.

John said: "Despite a very

obvious steep increase in crime in Surrey and Surrey Police now admitting that crime, and in particular burglary, has increased, Cllr. Hodge and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner, Mr David Munro, continue to insist that there is no correlation between streetlights and crime."

A Surrey County Council spokesman said: "Research carried out by Surrey Police found that when streetlights were turned off in the early hours, there was no corresponding increase in crime and when we made the tough decision to turn them off to save money because of ever-increasing demand for services, we worked with the police before making any decisions."

Following the launch of the petition, Surrey County Council have moved back the time of the switch-off from midnight to 1am.

In a recent statement to residents, the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Munro, said: "The decision



John Lazenby.

with regard to whether to switch on, or off, street lighting, is one for Surrey County Council. I have raised the issue of street lighting with the Chief Constable and other officers such as Borough Inspectors and they have told me that to date they don't consider the switch off of street lighting to be of a concern to police. In response to concerns made by residents, I additionally asked Surrey Police for a proper statistical analysis of the issue and that was provided to me and is now public (www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk/2017/11/street-lighting-report-november-2017). "In response to comments from residents made on that

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analysis, I have asked for a further report on any correlation. This is awaited and I will make it public once I have received it. At all times I have followed the evidence which up to now has failed to provide a link between the switch-off and increasing crime. If there is evidence that changes this view then of course we will consider this."

Mr Munro added that the new

report, when completed, will be passed to SCC so they can decide whether it affects their decisions on street lighting.

Any new evidence and a link to the new report will also be published in The Caterham and District Independent and The Warlingham and District Independent.

*www.change.org/p/surrey-county-council-surrey-cc-put-our-street-lights-back-on.

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Rose and Young - a Compulsory Purchase Order is now "unnecessary"

On Tuesday 12th December, a report by Tandridge District Council's Chief Planning Officer, Piers Mason, was submitted to the Council's Resources Committee to update them about the progress towards the development of the derelict Rose & Young site in Croydon Road, Caterham.

The Council had withdrawn its Compulsory Purchase Order ("CPO") for the site at the end of August because the purchasers of the site, Clarion Homes, had confirmed they were close to exchanging contracts with the

site's owners, Caterham Properties Ltd.

Mr Mason's report stated that contracts have now been exchanged and the Council's legal advisors considered that a possible CPO action was now unnecessary.

Following the meeting, a spokesman for Tandridge District Council said: "We have been liaising closely with the owner and the purchaser of the former Rose and Young site and both are very keen to complete the sale as soon as possible. The purchaser has work in place to allow them to complete the sale in late January/early February. The Council has maintained its position that if progress does not continue to be made it will again use its CPO powers."



The Rose & Young site in December 2017.

Caterham residents have their say at Draft Caterham Masterplan consultation

The first exhibition event for the Draft Caterham Masterplan Consultation took place on Thursday 14th December in Church Walk Shopping Centre. Councillors, council officers and representatives from Nexus, the planning and regeneration consultancy, were on hand to guide visitors through the plans and answer their questions.

The responses to the Church Walk event and the two further events being held in January* will help shape and deliver an ambitious regeneration plan for Caterham town centre and Caterham-on-the-Hill over the next ten years.

Councillor Michael Cooper, Chairman of the Caterham Town Working Group, said: "We are very proud of the work we have done on the plans for the future of Caterham and now we need to hear from our residents so we can create a united vision. All comments received during the consultation will be reviewed and will help us shape the final version of the Masterplan before



Paul Landsberg, Associate Director, Nexus Planning and Zena Foale-Banks, Senior Planner, Nexus Planning, at the Caterham Masterplan Consultation.

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fore it is adopted by the Council."

The full Draft Caterham Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document and feed-

back forms are also available to view on the website www.caterham-masterplan.org.uk.

*See details in advert on page 7.

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Councillors work cross-party in support of local schools

Tandridge District Councillor for Chaldon, Pat Cannon, and Surrey County Councillor for Caterham-on-the-Hill, Chris Botten, are working together with Sam Gyimah MP to support St. Peter and St. Paul Infant School in Chaldon develop into an all-through primary school and St. John's CoFE Primary School in Caterham to close down its Year 3 entry. However, Surrey County Council are resisting the proposals, as St. John's would not be able to guarantee local places for children from St. Peter and St. Paul at the end of Year 2. A Surrey County Council spokesman said: "Due to rising demand we need to provide thousands of extra school places across Surrey in the coming years, despite facing severe funding pressures. Children from St. Peter & St. Paul need to be provided with a school place at Year 3 so our view is that St. John's should continue to accept them." Cllr. Botten said, "Pat and I are working very closely together, along with our MP, Sam Gyimah, to bring about the right solution, which we know the parents all want. We are lucky to have such good schools for our community and developing St. Peter and St. Paul into a full primary school will serve our community even better. We recognise that there are many issues to overcome but by working together we are confident we can overcome them." The Chair of Governors of St. John's



From left: Cllr. Pat Cannon; Cllr. Chris Botten; Head of St. John's CoFE Primary School, Mr Rob Veale and Mr Oliver Hanmer following a recent meeting at St. John's.

CoFE Primary School, Mr Oliver Hanmer, said: "The Governors of St. John's are committed to ensuring the best education for children at the school whilst at the same time supporting the local community. Past decisions taken by the local authority have created a challenging financial position for the school. We are encouraged that the future of the school, and that of St. Peter and St. Paul, is supported by local councillors and politicians." Sam Gyimah MP said: "I am so pleased that Pat Cannon and I have worked across party lines with County Councillor, Chris Botten, in support of these changes. We need long-term planning for our schools and a key part of this is ensuring the number of pupils across our schools are manageable." Cllr. Botten is hopeful that discussions with the Cabinet member for Education at Surrey County Council, Cllr. Mary Lewis, will help lead to a positive outcome for the schools.

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QUICK QUIZ

by Alec Herbert

Happy New Year! Five
"Happy" theme questions:

1. Which is the UK's most sung tune? There is thought to be half a million renditions daily.
2. "Happy Talk", a UK No.1 for Captain Sensible, is from which musical?
3. "Happy Valley", one of the world's leading racecourses, is located in which former British colony in Asia?
4. In the TV series "Happy Valley", who won a BAFTA for her portrayal of policewoman "Catherine Cawood"?
5. True or false - in the tale of "Snow White", "Happy" is the only dwarf without a beard?

Answers:

1. Happy Birthday to You;
2. The King and I; 3. Hong Kong; 4. Sarah Lancashire;
5. False. (Dopey is the only beardless dwarf).

In the Spotlight

This month we feature Caterham resident, Helen Rujbally, the new Lib Dem Parish Councillor and Tandridge District Councillor for Caterham's Westway ward. Helen is also a founder member of the Caterham-on-the-Hill Flood Action Group.

Birthplace: Kent.

Marital Status: Married.

Children: Son James, married to Ameerah, the parents of my two grandchildren, Iyaz (5) and Maya (nine months); Daughter Shameen.

Cars: Mazda CX5.

Pets: None.

Childhood hero: My dad.

Favourite Food & Drink: Meat soups and white wine (now and then!).

Pastimes: Spending time with my grandchildren.



Helen Rujbally.

Likes: Walking in woodlands with my grandson.

Dislikes: Conflict.

Favourite TV show: Blue Planet and Tipping Point.

Favourite book: I'm not a book reader.

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? It would have to be Trump or Theresa May.

Favourite song of all time: "Dance With My Father" by Luther Vandross.

Favourite holiday destination: Mauritius.

Biggest influence on your life: My dad and my dear husband Jimmy.

Proudest moment: Becoming a nanny.

Most embarrassing moment: I was diving in the sea in Mauritius - when I got to the surface I jumped up and was waving my arms about to the family watching me. I did not know that my bikini top had come off very embarrassing!

Where would you most like to live? In the countryside with a big garden.

Who would you most like to meet? David Attenborough.

If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it?

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Be a Mad March Hare at the Easter Bunny Fun Run!

by Dave Barrett, the Rotary Club of Caterham.

On Sunday 25th March, the Rotary Club of Caterham is holding the eleventh Easter Bunny Fun Run in Queen's Park, Caterham, with a 1k Fun Run starting at 10am and a 5k Race starting at 10.30am.

Runners/walkers may choose to raise money for their own charity or for Rotary charities. Every finisher is given an Easter egg, with the prize-winning best-dressed bunnies and fastest runners getting larger eggs.

We encourage charities (schools or local youth groups) to put together their own teams to take part in the race and raise much needed funds for themselves. In previous years group teams have raised about £2,000 each, having great fun doing it.

Last year nearly 500 participants took part. Come and join us in 2018 and help increase the many thousands of pounds raised for good causes since the first event back in 2008.

The theme is Easter Bunnies and many competitors in the 1k and some in the 5k dress up in a wide

variety of Bunny outfits. The 1k Run is in Queen's Park and along Wood Lane, with no roads to cross and marshals at each turn. The 5k Race is over an undulating course of grass, pathway and track through Chaldon and Caterham on the Hill. The route has been slightly altered for this year's event to make it safer. The course record is 16 minutes 56 seconds, achieved by Patrick Canavan last year. A registration form and fee is required for each runner. The registration fee (non refundable) is £6 for the 5k Race and £3 for the 1k Run. Registration taken out on the day is double the pre-registration cost. Registration reserves a place at the start of the race and the finisher's egg.

Enter online or request forms via the website www.rotaryruns.co.uk, by email request to rotaryruns@gmail.com, by post to 'Rotary Runs', 11a Queen's Park Road, Caterham, CR3 5RB, or by telephone during business hours to The Caterham and District Independent on 01883 346641.

Caterham Rotary is very pleased to have the support of local sponsors who help keep our costs to an absolute minimum: The Caterham and District Independent, CATAX Ltd, Ross Cycles, Surrey National Golf Club, The Vet on the Hill, North Downs Hospital, First Community Health and Care, Tandridge District Council and Bunny Hop Dance and Fitness.

To learn more about Caterham Rotary Club please take a look at our main website www.caterhamrotary.org.uk.



Draft Caterham Masterplan Consultation Have your say

Help shape the exciting plans for Caterham including new shops, leisure and improving the streets and public spaces. The plans will boost the town's economy and deliver new homes and jobs for the area over the next ten years.

Take part in the consultation which will run from:

**9am Monday 27 November 2017 to
5pm Monday 22 January 2018**

To view details of the Draft Caterham Town Masterplan Supplementary Planning Document, please visit the website www.caterham-masterplan.org.uk or one of the exhibition events below to find out more.

Venue	Date	Times
Caterham Hill Library, Westway, Caterham CR3 5TP	Friday 12 January	2pm to 6.30pm
Caterham Hill Library, Westway, Caterham CR3 5TP	Saturday 13 January	10am to 1pm



www.tandridge.gov.uk



5K RACE & 1K EASTER BUNNY FUN RUN



BUNNY FUN RUN



SUNDAY 25TH MARCH 2018

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I wish to run in the 1k Easter Bunny Fun Run or the 5k race

Name:..... Age (if under 14):

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Contact Tel No: e-mail:

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A Registration fee and signed form is required for each runner. Please make cheques payable to "Rotary Club of Caterham" and send to 'Rotary Runs', 11a Queens Park Road, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5RB.

Registration fee (non-refundable) is £6 for 5k race and £3 for the 1k Fun Run.

REGISTRATION ON THE DAY IS DOUBLE

Extra forms via www.rotaryruns.co.uk, email to rotaryruns@gmail.com or **01883 346641**

I will not compete in a run unless I am fit enough to complete it. I am taking part at my own risk, and the promoters or any person involved with the organisation of the event are not responsible for my well-being.

The runs take place in a public space and I understand that photographs and video are likely to be taken.

I consent to my photograph being used in promotion of the event in future. I have no objection to my details being held on a computer by The Rotary Club of Caterham for the sole purpose of the organisation of the event and notification of future events.

Woldingham School celebrates its 175th anniversary

On Friday 8th December, Woldingham School celebrated its 175th anniversary, with the whole community coming together for a day of activities that encapsulated the school's wide array of interests, talents and opportunities.

The morning began with a Mass of Thanksgiving and continued with song, dance, art and sport, before culminating in a silent disco and huge enjoyment of the largest cake ever seen in the valley!

The carousel of activities

that took place after Mass referenced the community of Sacred Heart schools that has grown extensively since six nuns and two children set up the first school in England on December 8th 1842.

Each of Woldingham's Houses chose a country from the Sacred Heart network – India, Colombia, Kenya and Australia – and learned one of its songs and dances, which they later performed to the rest of the school. Students also expressed their personal identity and

connection to the school by decorating tiles that will form a permanent "175" display.

Founded in 1842, Woldingham is one of the oldest girls' schools in the country.

Headmistress, Mrs Alex Hutchinson, said: "We have much to celebrate in our momentous 175th anniversary year. The school is situated in a beautiful location and we are very proud of our outstanding facilities and extensive extra-curricular opportunities.

"175 years ago, our founders began their pioneering work of educating young women and Woldingham School has sought to adapt and move forward from the moment it was founded. Not only are we immensely proud of that fact, but it is work that we continue every day, transforming our students' lives through an outstanding holistic education. Woldingham very much has an eye on the future, but this has been a wonderful day to stop, look back, and celebrate our long history."



Woldingham girls celebrate the cutting of the enormous 175th anniversary cake.



The Mass of Thanksgiving.

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Tandridge Community Fund grant supports mental health arts project

On Friday 8th December, the Chairman of the Tandridge Community Fund, Mike Moss MBE, was delighted to present a cheque for £1,000 to Beth Wood, Artistic Director of Prospero Theatre. Prospero is a Community Company based in Caterham and the grant will be helping to fund their latest project

- a festival of one-act plays on mental health. On receiving the cheque from Mike, Beth said: "A big thank you to Mike and all at the Tandridge Community Fund for this generous donation. It will be helping to fund a very worthwhile local project that will benefit many people in our local community." The purpose of the Tandridge Community Fund is to offer financial support to small organisations in Tandridge that could benefit from a grant. For more information visit <http://www.cfsurrey.org.uk/fund/tandridge-community-fund/>.



Mike Moss MBE presenting the cheque to Beth Wood during one of Prospero Theatre Company's rehearsals for the festival of one-act plays. For more information about Prospero Theatre visit prosperotheatre.com.

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Caterham gets into the festive spirit

by James Highsted

Christmas came to Caterham Valley on Saturday 25th November with plenty of events, stalls and festive treats to get people into the holiday spirit.

Children had the chance to meet Santa Claus in his grotto at the Christmas Fair in the Soper Hall and visitors sampled the culinary delights of the Christmas Market in Croydon Road.

A number of worthy causes had stands in Church Walk including Cancer Research UK and SSAFA - The Armed Forces Charity, and there was plenty of entertainment to be enjoyed including a DJ and festive face painting.

The next day, Sunday 26th November, saw the traditional switching on of the lights on the magnificent Cedar Tree in Caterham-on-the-Hill. Due to the growing popularity of the event, the High Street was closed to accommodate the crowds who gathered to enjoy the special occasion.



A Christmas bear, Rudolph and a polar bear visit Church Walk.



Jill Morris's "Greener Greens" stall in Croydon Road.

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Lucky Lochlan receives a present from Santa in the Soper Hall.



The crowd beneath the illuminated Cedar Tree.



Paul Gregory's solid wooden toy stall at the Soper Hall Christmas Fair.



Santa giving presents to children beneath the Cedar Tree.

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St. Lawrence's Christmas Tree Festival winners

The Christmas Tree Festival that took place in St. Lawrence's Church last November raised a grand total of £1,695.61 for repairs to the church, much to the delight of the Festival organisers.

The joint 1st winners in the Business category were Ida's House and The Ballet Box; The winners in the Community Groups category were 1st - Caterham and District Horticultural Society and 2nd - U3A Glee Club. The winners in the Children's Groups category were 1st - the 9th Caterham Guides, 2nd - the 9th Caterham Brownies and joint 3rd - Hillcroft School and Essendene School.

After the Festival, event organiser, Mary Mountain, said: "The community came up trumps and the 27 groups produced the most creative and clever trees imaginable. The public also played their part by coming, sometimes for the very first time, to this lovely, thousand year old church. In fact St. Lawrence's Church is really the main winner and on behalf of the Guild of Friends Of St. Lawrence's Ancient Church I would like to say a very big thank you to all who came."



The Ballet Box.



Ida's House.



9th Caterham Brownies.



Caterham and District Horticultural Society.



On Saturday 2nd December, a large crowd congregated outside the home of Tracey and Matt Gould in Manor Avenue, Caterham-on-the-Hill, for the switching on of their impressive display of thousands of Christmas lights followed by a short firework display. The total amount the display has raised so far for Crisis at Christmas is an amazing £600!

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Yulefest lights up Coulsdon

by James Highsted

'Twas the season to be jolly in Coulsdon on Saturday 2nd December, with the fifth annual Yulefest and the festive lights switch-on.

Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist Jonny Awsum entertained the crowds with his unique brand of musical comedy before switching on the Christmas lights.

Visitors were treated to a variety of stalls which included artisan food and arts and crafts, with a live stage showcasing local musical talent including school choirs and dance acts.

Yulefest organiser Chris Thairs said: "This year we have had a steady pace of people all day long, which we have never had. That is perfect, exactly what we wanted."

"Our charity partner this year is FND Action and they advocate for a disease called Functional Neurological Disorder. It is a rare but debilitating brain disease, a mixture of Parkinson's, epilepsy and multiple sclerosis all rolled into one, of which I am a sufferer myself."

"The intention next year is to go bigger again. We are looking at the possibility of other local celebrities switching on the lights again."

"We are looking at more stall holders and enlarging our children's entertainment area. The idea is to grow year upon year and make it bigger."

For more information on FND Action visit: www.fndaction.org.uk



Local police getting into the festive spirit.



Jonny Awsum switching on the festive lights (right) with organiser Chris Thairs.



Bungee Fun for the youngsters.



Students from I-Play Music Academy performing at Yulefest. Photos by James Highsted.

Ladies lead the way at Whyteleafe FC

by Clive Davis

After a hugely successful first season, that included a league and cup double, Whyteleafe Ladies FC's second season is shaping up to be just as successful.

The team is currently unbeaten in the Greater London Women's Football League Premier Division, including wins against QPR and Tottenham Development teams.

Building on the success and interest in the WFC Ladies team, the club is launching an after school session every Tuesday 5pm-6pm from January 9th for girls aged 7 - 11 who want to learn more about football, improve their skills and more importantly have fun.

Held on Whyteleafe FC's FIFA rated 3G artificial pitch, the sessions will be delivered by the Manager and Assistant Manager of Whyteleafe FC Ladies. Just turn up on the day or contact Charlie Bickell on 020 8660 5491 for more details.

Meanwhile, after a brilliant start to the season saw Whyteleafe FC 1st XI briefly top the Bostik League Division One, the team has it all to do in 2018. Following the shock departure of Manager Leigh Dynan and several key players in October, the team has struggled to find a winning formula. But under new joint Managers John Scarborough and Paul Dale, fans will



Whyteleafe FC Ladies Midfielder, Georgia Dunn (left).

be hoping the team pick up points at home on Boxing Day against local rivals Chipstead FC and on December 30th against Sittingbourne.

In January the team will be at Church Road on January 13th v Horsham and January 20th v Corinthian Casuals.

For details of coaching, after school clubs, matches and events at Whyteleafe FC go to www.theleafe.co.uk or telephone the club on 020 8660 5491.

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Eating Out

There's something to suit all tastes at Sweet & Savoury Waffles by Julia Church



Sweet & Savoury Waffles at 28 Croydon Road, Caterham, opened last summer and has proved very popular with clientele of all ages and food tastes. The appetising menu offers a great range of treats, from a crisp, healthy salad to an indulgent gelato in addition to the sweet and savoury waffles, paninis, milkshakes and hot drinks.

When I visited with my friend Geraint we started with a savoury waffle each - an Avocado, Feta Cheese, Cherry Tomato and Rocket waffle for me and a Chilli Con Carne waffle topped with Cheddar Cheese for Geraint. My waffle was lovely and filling and Geraint commented on how light the waffle was, beneath his generous topping of Chilli Con Carne and cheese.

The friendly and welcoming owner of Sweet & Savoury Waffles, Said Yasici, said that their waffles were freshly-made every day and were as healthy as it is

possible to make a waffle i.e. not greasy or fatty like waffles sometimes can be. Said's partner, Sevinc, who creates the dishes, is vegetarian so the menu features some very appetising vegetarian salads and savoury waffles.

Although we were pretty full up after our waffles, Geraint and I each had a dessert, purely for research purposes! Geraint could not resist when Said recommended the White Belgian Chocolate, Strawberry, Almond Flakes, Strawberry Sauce and Whipped Cream waffle and I thought it would be nice to include the Ferrero Rocher and Vanilla gelato in my review. Topped with whipped cream, drizzled with chocolate sauce with a chocolate curl and a heart wafer and crushed roasted hazelnuts, the gelato tasted as dreamy as it sounded.

Caterham is very lucky to have this exciting new addition to its dining venues.



The Avocado and Feta waffle.



The White Belgian Chocolate and Strawberry waffle.



The Ferrero Rocher gelato.

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Skate along to the new lounge at Skaterham

by James Highsted

On Saturday 9th December, there was much excitement at Skaterham skate park in Caterham as their brand new lottery funded lounge area was unveiled.

Skaterham received a £15,000 grant from the National Lottery's "Awards For All" initiative, which provides funding for community projects, as well as donations from local Tesco and Co-op branches.

Many of the skaters' parents made generous contributions. Some of them are skilled tradesmen who helped to install the electric wiring, a 50 inch TV, flooring and an exposed heating and air-conditioning system worth £10,000, all for free.

Darren Barnes, manager of Skaterham, said: "We wanted to build a lounge because parts of the skate park can be really cramped, a bit of a bottleneck."

"We have so many parents coming in with their kids and they do not want to just turn up and freeze. They want wi-fi, cappuccinos and heating.

We have to look after the parents so they can look after the kids who come here.

"Skaterham is not just a skate park, it's a youth centre. We do football sessions here. It's also just a drop-in centre for those who don't skate and want to get out of the rain. It's a bit of something for everybody."

Skaterham was founded in 1999, moving into the chapel of the former Caterham army barracks in 2002, and now has almost 30,000 members. For more information about Skaterham and its upcoming events, visit: www.skaterham.com.

Photos by James Highsted.



One of the Under 11s about to take flight.



Another camera angle of the new lounge at Skaterham.



Darren Barnes with members of the Under 11s group in the new lounge.

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Santa rests Rudolph to help the Dial-a-Ride team!

by David Hodgson, East Surrey Dial-a-Ride.

On Friday 8th December, Santa rested Rudolph and his fellow reindeer and drove an East Surrey Dial-a-Ride ("ESDAR") bus for the day, with co-driver "Snowy" the Snowman. The festive duo were taking ESDAR members to and from their destinations in Tandridge, a departure which was enjoyed by their many passengers. Naturally, Santa was mobbed by young children wherever he stopped and had a busy time fielding

their questions. Although the presence of Santa and Snowy could not be guaranteed, it was after all a busy time for them, East Surrey Dial-a-Ride drove its members to and from the Christmas Lunches arranged at the Douglas Brunton Centre in Caterham during December. They also transported diners to the "Churches Together Christmas Lunch" on Christmas Day at the Douglas Brunton Centre, an annual event which is run entirely by volunteers.



Santa with the ESDAR bus outside headquarters at the Douglas Brunton Centre in Caterham.



A festive surprise for two ESDAR members.

Do you live in CR3 or CR6?

If you are unable to use conventional public transport and would like to become a member of East Surrey Dial-a-Ride and live in the CR3 or CR6 postal districts, please call 01883 346547 or e-mail esdar@btclick.com for details.

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BASED IN WARLINGHAM

Ancient Caterham landmark to provide new arts venue

by Mary Clair Kelly

When St. Lawrence's Church in Caterham was built over 900 years ago, it was a vital centre for the community, and with your help it will be again with the launch of a community project fund aimed at preserving this beautiful local landmark and providing a valuable community resource. Martha Ellison, Church Warden, explains: "The space has been used by local artists and musicians in the summer and afternoon teas attract many local people, including some who are isolated at home and for whom this may be their only social contact."

Martha and the Guild of Friends of St. Lawrence would like to see this beautiful space used all year round, but being an old building there are limitations. The food storage and preparation area needs to be improved and new heating and toilet facilities are essential. (Visitors currently have to cross a busy main road to use the toilet in St. Mary's Church.) The fund has had its first big boost with the Christmas Tree Festival in November, which raised over £1,600 towards the £20,000 needed. Not only that but it has been chosen as a local cause by the Co-op supermarket in Caterham-on-the-Hill. Bec a member there and, as well as giv-



St. Lawrence's Church.



Visitors enjoy afternoon tea and entertainment inside the church.

ing you back 5% of your spend on own label products, if you nominate St. Lawrence's Community Project we will receive a further 1%. If you would like to support the fund directly or to find out about progress and fundraising events, please go to the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/StLawrencescaterham.

Matt Dawson MBE opens new pavilion *(continued)*

Caterham School Headmaster, Ceri Jones, said: "Today has been a special day for all of us here, particularly the pupils and our sports staff, with the opening of our fantastic new pavilion. We are incredibly lucky to benefit from superb sports facilities and grounds both at the main school campus and at Hill Fields.

Our new pavilion and upgraded pitches are wonderful for the School, but the most important aspect is what the regeneration of Hill Fields has already begun to do for the local community – notably the town's rugby, cricket and lacrosse clubs."

Chairman of Old Cats Rugby Club, Steve Dagleish, said: "The opening of this great new facility has made the links between the community and Caterham School even stronger. In addition to the new pavilion, the School is also upgrading the pitches, which will serve the School and local sports clubs who use them, well into the future."



Matt Dawson MBE with Mr Ceri Jones (centre) and VIP guests at the opening of the new pavilion.



Steve and Agnes Dagleish seize a quick photo opportunity with Matt.



Mr Ceri Jones photographs the plaque commemorating the opening of the pavilion.



Matt poses for a photo with Caterham School students and staff.



Matt speaking to the students during school assembly.



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CATERHAM HILL

OIEO £325,000

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