

A Happy
New Year
to all our
readers

The Caterham and District INDEPENDENT

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New Year
to all our
readers

No. 32

January 2009

CIRCULATION: 17,000

ESTABLISHED 2006

FREE

When will power cut misery end?

Croydon Road traders are up in arms over continued power cuts that are causing thousands of pounds worth of lost business. In a letter to The Caterham and District Independent (see page 11) Ian Schofield of The Amber Room hairdressing salon said: "Since May/June 2008 the central area of the street has been suffering repeated power cuts. In each case the businesses and residents have been given excuses, ranging from the weather, sub-station faults, fuses, and cracked cables in the street". (Continued on p2)



Corinne Lacaze, co-owner of The Amber Room hairdressing salon, is just one of the angry and frustrated Croydon Road traders whose businesses are suffering from the continued power cuts.

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www.caterham-independent.co.uk

Circulation: 17,000

Croydon Road power cuts

(Continued from page 1)

The outraged traders and residents have formed themselves into the Caterham EDF Action Group hoping that as an organised pressure group their voices will be heard.

As well as writing to The Caterham Independent, organiser, Ian Schofield has written to East Surrey MP, Peter Ainsworth and the Energy Ombudsman, calling for an investigation.

At the time of going to press, the traders heard that EDF has finally conceded that the cable needs replacing and work will commence on 5th January.

Ian Schofield commented: "I'll believe they are finally replacing the cable when I see it. It's good to know that our pushing may finally have achieved results. The bad news is that the work will take about a month during which time pedestrians will have to navigate the holes in the pavement!"

Can you help with Caterham Valley 'Design Statement'?

To the great relief of Caterham Valley Parish Council, the Government Inspector has decided that Tandridge District Council's Core Strategy is sound. This means that overall planning policies for the next 20 years or so have now been agreed.

The old 'Harestone Valley Policy' (BE5) is saved and still applies for the time being, but needs to be replaced by an up-to-date Design Statement for the whole of Caterham Valley. The Parish Council will be working with Tandridge DC to produce this as soon as possible but it is likely to be at least a couple of years before this process is completed.

If anyone would like to help, please write to the Clerk to the Council, Bill Ridley at 5 Reid Avenue, Caterham CR3 5SL, particularly if you have an architectural or planning background and/or have the time to help produce the document.

A New Year's Honour for local TA veteran

Caterham resident, Maurice Byrne, is to receive The Queen's Volunteer Reserves Medal in recognition of his long and meritorious service to the Territorial Army.

Maurice joined the regular army at the age of 15 and served in the Far East and the Middle East before joining the Territorial Army where he has continued to serve for over 30 years. During his time with the TA's Maurice has been sent all over Europe, his most dangerous assignment being as Foreman of Signals for Communications in Bosnia. "I come from a military background as my father was in the army,"



Maurice Byrne

explained Maurice. "We moved from Germany to the Guards Depot in Caterham in 1952 when I was a young child and it has been home ever since."

Maurice will receive his award from Princess Anne during a ceremony to be held at Buckingham Palace later this year.

Marie Curie - the latest
The Marie Curie hospice is still on course for closure in March and a decision as to what replacement services will be provided by Surrey PCT is expected to be announced next week. Full details will be announced in the February edition of The Caterham and District Independent

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Any TV or Film editors, who would like to assist with the film festival, please contact us.

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Bunny Fun Run 2009

The morning of Sunday, 5th April 2009 will see the second annual Rotary 1k Easter Bunny Fun Run and 5k race setting off from Queen's Park, Caterham-on-the-Hill. The theme is Easter Bunnies and it is hoped that many competitors will dress up in appropriate outfits. The

Caterham Independent is proud to be sponsoring the event again this year, along with other local businesses including Catax Taxis and Barclays Bank. Member of Caterham Rotary Club, Richard York, said: "We want to encourage as many people as possible to join in the fun, get some



Enthusiastic youngsters set off on the 2008 1k Fun Run

exercise in pleasant surroundings and raise money for charity. Despite the appalling weather last year, we had over 250 entries and raised over £2,000 and we hope to beat these numbers this year."

A registration form and fee is required for each runner. The fee (non-refundable) is £5 for the 5k race and £2.50 for the 1k fun run. Entry forms may be obtained from 'Rotary Runs', 1 Eglise Road, Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9SE, telephone 01883 622305 or by e-mailing: rotaryruns@aol.co.uk.

It was intended for the proceeds to go to the Marie Curie Cancer charity and Marden Lodge School. In the light of the forthcoming closure of the local Marie Curie Hospice, Caterham Rotary would like to ask readers if they believe the money should still be earmarked for Marie Curie or whether it would be more appropriate to donate the money to a different local charity. Please post or e-mail your views to the address above.

Tree of Goodwill

The Caterham Rotary clubs and Round Table Christmas Tree of Goodwill toured the streets of Caterham and District in the days preceding Christmas 2008. The Christmas street collections raised around £3,896 and this total will be slightly reduced once final costs are known and deducted. The recipients will be the League of Friends of the Dene Hospital, Clifton Hill School and the Guides. Everyone involved in this year's collection would like to thank all residents who kindly supported these local worthy causes. For more information about the clubs please contact Peter Lyons on 01883 345389.

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In the Spotlight

In the Spotlight this month is Woldingham resident and Sky Sports commentator, John Salako. Former professional footballer John was part of the Crystal Palace team that reached the FA Cup Final in 1990.



Birthplace:
Ibadan, Nigeria.

Marital Status:
Married.

Children:
Charlotte 12, Lewis 11 and another on the way!

Cars:
BMW, Porsche Cayenne.

Pets:
Two Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and Chihuahuas.

Childhood Hero:
Daley Thompson.

Favourite Food & Drink:
Italian, Chinese, red wine.

Pastimes:
Golf, reading, cycling.

Likes: All sport.

Dislikes: Rude people; people dropping litter; swearing (in public).

Favourite TV Show:
Friends.

Biggest influence on your life: My wife.

Proudest moment:
Becoming a father.

Favourite song of all time:
'Endless Love' by Luther Vandross.

Favourite Books:

The Lord of the Rings trilogy by JR Tolkien; The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown.

Favourite holiday destination:
The Caribbean.

Most embarrassing moment:
Every time my mum tells stories about me when I was young!

Where would you most like to live:
The South of France.

Who would you most like to meet?
Nelson Mandela.

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

Share the money with my family and friends; Go on holiday every school holiday; Go shopping in Harrods; I've always wanted a Ferrari (the 599 will do); Invest wisely.

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Celebrating Christmas with the Guides

by District Commissioner, Charley Formosa

Another year in Guiding drew to a close with the usual round of parties, get-togethers and carol singing. The District (with greatly reduced numbers thanks to the recent virus) sang at the switching on of the Cedar Tree lights at the end of November; it was a fairly miserable evening weather wise, but we still managed to enjoy the event. The Parish Council made a very generous donation to District funds for which we would like to thank them.

On yet another cold and wet day we gathered outside Morrisons for our annual carol service, and were absolutely delighted to raise £111.23p. Many thanks to not only those generous souls who stopped to make a donation or wish us a Merry Christmas, but also to Shelley Filippi, the manager of Church Walk, who allowed us to hold the event.

Apart from the usual end of term parties, leaders celebrated by having dinner and an overnight stay in a Brownie House in Cudham. A four course meal was followed by a variety of very silly



Carol singing in Church Walk

games and a 3D jigsaw puzzle. The evening proved that age is no barrier to fun and friendship with many of the party being made up from our Young leaders, the youngest of whom is 14. Age certainly was a factor at bedtime though - we older members of the party retired at a reasonable hour and left the youngsters to their own devices. Strangely enough, they were not quite as lively and cheerful when we woke them up at 8.00am! it was just like being at camp!

Caterham District Girlguiding would like to wish everyone a very merry and peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year. If you would like to know more about Guiding, please contact Charley Formosa, District Commissioner on 01883 653356.

Wrap up in beautiful Beretta clothing this winter

To keep snug in the freezing outdoors this winter, the latest range of Beretta country clothing is in store at Barretts of Caterham and by all accounts has been selling really well. Proprietor, Bob Barrett, said: "The top quality Beretta range has been selling more than the cheaper clothing because of its reputation. Beretta is the best - without a shadow of a doubt!"

Tear-proof and water-proof garments designed to protect against obstacles such as brambles, tall wet grass and mud are available alongside authentically Italian classic clothing that is the emblem of a country gentleman such as the Maremmana Jacket (pictured right).

"The women's KVJ range in particular is brilliant," commented Bob. The waterproof and wind-proof hunting jacket has a fleece lined high collar with leather inserts, two roomy cargo pockets, handwarmer pockets with fleece, rear gamleather shooting pad, preformed elbows and adjustable cuffs as some of its features.



The iconic Maremmana Jacket in Duca Visconti di Modrone stretch corduroy.

The Beretta footwear collection is manufactured using innovative materials for waterproof and breathable lining and with comfort inserts available in different rigidities. The top-of-the-line range of natural rubber boots have a double-thickness non-slip sole and specially cushioned heel that are extremely soft, warm and comfortable.

To experience the quality of the Beretta range first-hand, call in to Barretts of Caterham at 20a High Street, Caterham on the Hill.

Burtenshaw's Beat

By Tandridge Neighbourhood Inspector, Elaine Burtenshaw



Here we are 2009 has started for what I hope is a busy year for my team working with the community and partners to further reduce crime and disorder.

This year will see an improved way of contacting your local neighbourhood team officers. We are going to have one number for each of the neighbourhood stations in Tandridge: Caterham Police Station - 01483 630305 (Caterham, Warlingham et al officers); Oxted Police Station - 01483 639948 (Oxted, Hurst Green); Lingfield Police Station - 01483 639941 (Lingfield, Smallfield, Bletchingley) and the Tandridge Community Safety team - 01483 639679.

The neighbourhood team, with partners Surrey County Council Trading Standards, and Woldingham Parish Council are currently working together to reduce the levels of distraction burglary and doorstep related crime within east Surrey. One of the initiatives under consideration is the imple-

mentation in February of a 'No Cold Calling Zone' in Woldingham Village. These Zones have shown great reductions in this type of crime by raising residents' awareness and empowering them to be more confident when dealing with unwanted doorstep callers. If you do have views or comments then visit nccz@surreycc.gov.uk Finally I would like parents and carers to give some thought and consideration when collecting children from school. Officers have to regularly carry out patrols outside schools because of parents or carers who not only block local access and residents' driveways but scramble for car parking spaces at the end of the school day. So please just give wider consideration and if you have to park further away see it as a positive move towards getting fit and not as a negative!

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Tots' Nativity 2008



Babies and toddlers from Tots' Village Nursery assembled in de Stafford School for their Nativity play last month. Relatives and friends were entertained by the youngsters and then had the opportunity to socialise over festive refreshments afterwards. A raffle took place during the afternoon to raise money for the Royal Marsden Hospital.

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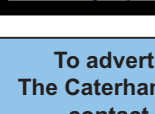
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Walkers raise nearly £2,000 for cancer charity



Mr Richard Dawson of the Prostate Cancer Charity was the guest of honour at a presentation ceremony in Caterham-on-the-Hill last month. A group of army cadets, members of the Caterham Royal British Legion and regulars from the Tally Ho pub had braved the pouring rain to complete a 10 mile sponsored walk last August, raising £1,918 for the charity. On receiving the cheque, Mr Dawson (pictured far left in photograph) said: "I'd like to

thank everyone who helped to raise this fantastic sum for prostate cancer. The charity helps to save lives by educating men about the disease which can be successfully treated if diagnosed early on. I think it's terrific that there are people in the community willing to participate in events like this to help others." For more information about the Prostate Cancer Charity call their Helpline on Freephone 0800 074 8383 (mobile charges may vary).

Kids' Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our December Kids' Competition and sent in their super drawings of Father Christmas. It was very difficult to choose a winner but the judge finally chose Adam Bennet's Santa because she liked his big Christmas smile! We are sorry we couldn't publish all the entries for our readers to enjoy.

This month sees another chance to win a £20 gift voucher in our January Kids' Competition. To enter, send your answer to the following question to: 'Kid's Competition', The Caterham and District Independent, 33 High Street, Caterham CR3 5UE. Entries must arrive no later than Friday, 23rd January. Entrants must be aged 14 or under. Only one entry per child.

When does this year's Rotary Bunny Fun take place? (Clue - look at page 3!)

a) 5th February; b) 5th March; c) 5th April.



The winning entry by Adam Bennett, age 9



Jay Earnshaw, age 10



Camellia Kelly, age 10



Miles Fisher, age 9



Rebecca Cameron, age 9

Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

Happy 'New' Year!

With 2009 now upon us "New" is the theme for these five:

1. In 1893, who composed his 9th symphony which he entitled "From the New World"?
2. Of the fifty states of the USA how many are "New"?
3. "I'd like to teach the world to sing" was the biggest hit in both Britain and the USA for which Group?
4. Who wrote the book "Brave New World"?
5. Which commonwealth country is known as "The Land of the Long White Cloud"?

Answers:

1. Antonin Dvorak; 2. Four
2. New Zealand.
3. The New Seekers; 4. Aldous Huxley;
4. The New Yorkers; 5. The New Zealanders.

What's On

St. John Ambulance Quiz Night

A quiz night is being held on Saturday 24th January at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road. Tickets cost £9 each to include a buffet supper. Tickets from Juliet Riddle, telephone 01883 342917.

Munch with Music

Award winning harpist Keziah Thomas, introduces the beauty of the harp and its repertoire at the next Munch with Music event on Wednesday, 4th February at St. John's Church, Clareville Road, Caterham Valley. Doors open 12.15pm. Please bring your own sandwiches.

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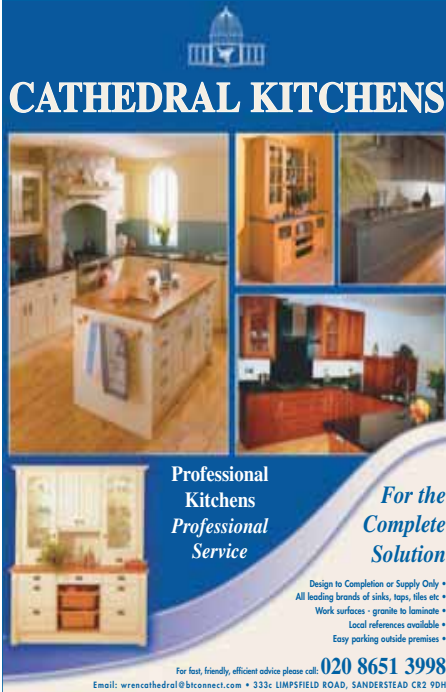
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Eating Out

A Bengalian treat at The Curry Leaf

Review by Julia Church

Curry connoisseurs have found another excellent Indian restaurant close to Caterham - the Curry Leaf in Old Coulsdon, just past the Tudor Rose. How many times had I unwittingly driven straight past this exciting restaurant on my way down to Coulsdon, before a recent visit planted it firmly on my gastronomic map! This modern restaurant with its deep red walls, wooden floor and modern lighting provided a welcoming and lively atmosphere, enhanced by the laughter and chatter of its patrons.

The food served is South Indian style and Bengalian, I was informed by the owner of the Curry Leaf, Mr Ali Uddin. For

starters I had a lovely hot Meat Samosa while my friend had the Prawn Puree which came with plenty of prawns that were spicy, but not too hot.

For my main course, I rather liked the sound of the Special Sizzler Juliet with lamb, one of the most popular Tandoori dishes at Curry Leaf. The dish was served with succulent aubergine and I chose the Special Rice as the side dish. My friend ordered one of the restaurant's 'Specials', the Murgi Masala - half a spring chicken cooked with minced meat and had Mushroom Rice and Sag Paneer (Spinach with Cheese) to go with it. The Sag Paneer had a delicious hint of coconut and the



Murgi Masala was, I was assured by my friend: "Beautiful, hottish, spicy and not in a wishy washy sauce. The chicken is so tender!"

The very generous portions ensured there was more than enough for the two of us but we did our best not to waste any of course. To book a table at The Curry Leaf or to order a takeaway, call 01737 558899/556644.

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Readers' letters

Power Cut Misery

I am writing as a representative of the traders, business owners and residents of Croydon Road in Caterham, Surrey.

Since May/June of 2008 the central area of the street has been suffering repeated power cuts. In each case the businesses and residents have been given excuses ranging from the weather, substation faults, fuses and cracked cables in the street. In November we suffered the longest interruption yet with the power being off for 29 hours!

The utter despair and frustration felt by the affected people is immense. Croydon Road is the main shopping area in Caterham and comprises primarily small, privately owned businesses who are suffering greatly. The power cut of 17th December cost my hairdressing salon £290 in lost business. If you take that loss as typical, our losses to date are approximately £2,322 (not including the money lost by our staff who are on commission per client). This money comes out of our pockets at a time when all businesses can least afford it. Other stories include:

- A café owner losing £350 of frozen food.
- A shop owner due to install a system with car batteries to keep his till running so he can keep trading.
- Panic among the clients

of a travel shop who thought the office had ceased trading because the phones were all dead.

- Residents left in the dark with cold water for washing when electric heating boilers failed.

- A restaurant without power to its kitchen during a busy evening.

- An estate agent suffering during a difficult market having problems compounded by being out of contact when computers and telephones switch off.

What happens when you call EDF? You may be lucky enough to receive a £50 voucher which does little to restore the lost business. My recent letter to them following the last power cut called for immediate and continuous action to replace the cables that they know are old and have faults. They know the fault will not magically repair itself but still they keep on just turning the power back on and turning their backs on the people they are supposed to be supplying. I have requested a representative from EDF to come and explain themselves in front of the people whose lives are being made a misery and whose businesses and livelihoods are being destroyed. I think that this is the very least that we deserve from them. The phrase 'banging your head against a wall' could have been designed with EDF in mind. While I am waiting for their reply to my letter I am preparing a letter to the Energy Ombudsman calling for an investigation and have contacted our

MP, Peter Ainsworth to ask for his support.

Ian Schofield

For and on behalf of Caterham EDF Action:

The Amber Room; Café Bambino's; ID Chinese Restaurant; MP Electricals; Chesterman Florists; Anthony Jones Photography; Cubitt & West; Rayners; Expose Travel; Colourschemer; JJ Browne Jewellers; Caterham Newsagents; Subway; The Queen Elizabeth Foundation; Thomas Cook Travel; Caterham Nail Care; All at Flat 22a; All at Flat 20a; Gerard Hairdressing; Motorworld.

Sea Cadets Xmas Fundraiser

Thank you to all the residents of Caterham Valley for generously supporting The Caterham Sea Cadets during their carol singing evening on 6th December. The cadets turned out in the icy cold weather to give the residents some Christmas cheer, raising £156.90. The cadets would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy New Year.

**Helen Haggard
Unit Management
Committee**

Caterham Sea Cadets

Please send your letters to:

**Julia Church,
The Caterham
and District
Independent
33 High Street
Caterham CR3 5UE
or e-mail:**

**Editor@caterham-
independent.co.uk**

Who wants to be a volunteer?

by Marion Piggott



78 year-old Harry was in an awkward position. He didn't want any upset but he desperately wanted to make his own financial arrangements. Staff at his residential home preferred cash handling to be managed by them. His son favoured another system entirely but Harry knew he could look after his own funds.

Then Janet, a volunteer Citizen Advocate, came into Harry's life. She listened, appreciated his dilemma and suggested a solution. Harry wrote a letter, with Janet's support, diplomatically outlining his views. Harry's son, and the staff, embraced his wishes - no-one took offence. Harry is now Chairman of a self-advocacy group.

The closure of her supported house left Heather, who has multiple sclerosis, feeling like an awkwardly shaped parcel, slotting into someone else's idea of what was best. Heather's distress went unobserved - no-one thought she might have her own views. Choosing Heather's new home became fun once

Citizen Advocate, Chris, pitched in. They visited and took tea in other supported housing schemes. Chris slowed everything down to Heather's pace and her move, when it came, was joyous and relatively stress free.

Citizen Advocates such as Janet and Chris make it possible for people to speak up and get their views heard. Advocates are ordinary citizens who become involved in the life of someone in our community who's vulnerable.

If you can complain about a meal in a restaurant, get something done and remain on good terms, then please consider becoming an Advocate. Training starts in February.

Want to know more? Please ring me, Marion Piggott, at the Volunteer Centre, 01883 344444, email: caterhamvc@owen29.wanadoo.co.uk, or visit our website: www.surreycommunity.info/tvsc/

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Catax employs local people and all new drivers have to undertake a Criminal Record Bureau check, have regular medicals and are tested as to their standard of driving. To book a taxi or to ask for a quote, call one of the numbers listed on the advertisement on the facing page, or you can book online by visiting www.caterhamtaxis.com



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Caterham Cricket Club Colts Section by Ian Orrick

It's getting to that time of year again when cricketers start to think about dusting the old willow down and heading towards their indoor nets and Caterham Cricket Club, especially their Colts, are extremely eager to start!

Caterham Cricket Club's Colt section had another memorable year in 2008, with strong runs in both the league and cup competitions.

The Under 10s, who were not participating in a league, had an 80% win rate as they won four of the five games they played quite comprehensively.

The talented Under 11 team went all season unbeaten in the league, securing the league title. Sadly, the one game they did lose, the cup final against Oxted and Limsfield, denied them what would have been a well deserved league and cup double.

Eight of this remarkable team were also involved in securing another trophy: that of a six-a-side tournament held at Capel in the height of summer. Despite the Under 12s narrowly losing out on the league title to Reigate Priory, they triumphed in the cup, defeating Capel by 28 runs in an excellent performance.

The Under 14s had a difficult season, with a lack of availability at key points resulting in a first round cup exit and a fourth place league finish.

Caterham Cricket Club are looking for more Colts of all standards to join and be part of the fun and winning formula.

With qualified coaches and a friendly atmosphere, Caterham's set up is an extremely beneficial one for young cricketers to learn their trade. Junior winter nets for Under 8s to Under 12s start on Sunday 11th January and take place between 12.30pm and 2.30pm. Senior nets, for Under 14s, 15s and 16s begin on Sunday 15th February

and takes place between 2.45pm and 4.45pm. All the sessions are held at the Caterham School sports centre in Harestone Valley Road. For further information please visit our website at www.caterhamcc.com and leave a message at the 'Contact Us' page.

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Spacious 1 bedroom ground floor apartment in exclusive development close to station. Stunning kitchen & bathroom. Large lounge with balcony. Available unfurnished.

**CATERHAM VALLEY £825 pcm**

Spacious 2 double bedroom split level apartment in sought after area and close to town centre & BR. Large lounge. Fitted kitchen. Bathroom upstairs. Available unfurnished February.

**CATERHAM VALLEY £850 pcm**

Excellent ground floor furnished 2 bedroom apartment within converted manor house. Sought after location. Full of period features. Ample parking.

**COULSDON £875 pcm**

Character 2 bed semi-detached cottage in quiet position yet within minutes of Coulsdon town centre and Farthing Downs. Garden to rear. Parking for 2 cars. Available unfurnished.

**CATERHAM £925 pcm**

Newly built stylish 2 double bed 1st floor apartment close to Caterham town centre & BR. Large lounge with access to balcony. Secure underground parking. Available unfurnished.

**CATERHAM £950 pcm**

Newly built first floor apartment close to town centre in quiet development. Spacious lounge with Juliet balcony. 2 bedrooms. Neutral floor. Available unfurnished.

**OLD COULSDON £1 100 pcm**

Newly renovated 3 bedroom and office/retail house in convenient location. Lounge & separate living room. Newly fitted kitchen & bathroom. Garden to rear. Available unfurnished.

**WOLDINGHAM £1 295 pcm**

Spacious 3 bedroom semi-detached house in sought after location. Open style lounge/living. Fitted kitchen. Garden with self-contained shed. Parking. Available unfurnished.

**CHALDON £1 300 pcm**

Character 3 bedroom semi-detached property in quiet location down country lane. Large country style kitchen. Level garden. Parking for 2 cars. Available unfurnished February.

**CATERHAM ON THE HILL £1 400 pcm**

Newly built executive home in quiet cul-de-sac location near BR & shops. Lounge & conservatory. Stylish kitchen. 3 bedrooms. Parking for 2 cars. Available unfurnished.

**NETHERNE ON THE HILL £1 500 pcm**

Stylish 4 bedroom detached property set over 3 floors in popular development. Stylish fitted kitchen. 2 bathrooms. Parking and garage. Available unfurnished.

**WARLINGHAM £2 095 pcm**

Immaculate 4 bedroom detached property set in 1/2 acre of own grounds in quiet & desirable area. Large kitchen/breakfast room. 2 reception rooms. 2 bathrooms. Double garage/parking for several cars. Available unfurnished.

**CATERHAM £2 200 pcm**

Stunning character 6 bedroom newly refurbished semi-detached house close to town centre and train station. Lounge & living room. Courtyard garden to rear. Available unfurnished.

**WARLINGHAM £3 000 pcm**

Brave new large 6 bedroom detached house in convenient location for station & shops. Huge kitchen/living room. 2 further reception rooms. 3 bathrooms. Available unfurnished.

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