

The Caterham and District
INDEPENDENT

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Hopes dashed for new church premises

Members of a local church are bitterly disappointed that their dreams of a new place of worship have been thwarted by local planning regulations.

Oakhall Church has served the local community in Caterham for the last 115 years and has been holding its Sunday services in de Stafford School in Burntwood Lane since the congregation outgrew their premises in Francis Road. When the church set about purchasing Garrod House, an empty office building in Chaldon Road, the Planning Committee of Tandridge District Council agreed the change of use from an office building to a church but with ten restrictions attached.

Oakhall Church member, Andy Mayo (pictured on page 1, far right) said: "We were happy to compromise and accepted seven of the ten conditions but three of them would make it unviable for us to move into the building. The first was that we could not occupy the building after 10pm; the second was that we could never use the outside of the building after 6pm and the third was that we could not have music of any sort, not even a child banging a toy drum, outside the building at any time. Tesco backs onto houses in Grove Road and yet has full permission to function 24 hours a day. Surely we cannot have one rule for big business and another for a local charity and church?"

At a public meeting on Thursday, 27th August, the Planning Committee refused to lift the restrictions.

Planning Committee member, Councillor Matthew

Groves from Caterham, said: "Tandridge Council's Planning Committee approved the change of use for Garrod House to allow Oakhall Church to turn the office block into a large church where many community activities and youth events would take place. Everyone is aware of what a good job Oakhall Church do for the community. One of the key issues of the planning policy is to limit the impact made on the local community. I was able to persuade the committee to amend one condition so that the church can stay open to the early hours a couple of times a year, perhaps around Christmas and Easter. I'm pleased the committee supported my motion to relax the condition."

Tandridge District Councillor for Chaldon, Pat Cannon, said: "This building has remained vacant for a number of years and to a lesser extent is becoming an eyesore in the same way another building in the Caterham area has been for too long an embarrassing time. Having a religious building in an area can only be good for the community whatever the denomination, and I believe it brings with it additional core activities that serve to enhance that community."

Andy added: "The site opens onto a main road with nobody to disturb and the school opposite fully supports our application. The parish council also fully supports the removal of these restrictions which would be difficult to observe and could easily be inadvertently broken. They would be a constant source of anxiety to us as trustees and we therefore cannot go ahead with the purchase."

Have you Shopped Smart yet?

Following its successful launch last month, Caterham's new Shop Smart loyalty scheme has more than 550 members enjoying the discounts and other offers available through the scheme. Six more businesses have signed up to be Shop Smart outlets, bringing the number to 37. The new entrants in Caterham-on-the-Hill are: Westway Butchers in Westway, It's a Pet's Life in Chaldon Road, Cheveux by Toni in the High Street and Olivish Mediterranean restaurant, also in the High Street. The new Caterham Valley businesses are The Floral Gallery in Station Avenue and La Fiaba Italian restaurant in Croydon Road.

Chris Windridge, who originally introduced the idea of a loyalty scheme in Caterham, said: "The launch has gone really well. Shoppers have been really enthusiastic about the scheme and are keen to back our initiative to support local businesses. Most of the shops think it's a great idea and we hope to have even more



shops on board soon. We are really pleased that the Shop Local scheme has got off to such a strong start."

The scheme is supported by grants from Surrey County Council, Tandridge District Council, and Caterham Valley and Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Councils.

Application forms are available in participating shops and Caterham Hill and Caterham Valley libraries, or can be downloaded by visiting the Shop Smart website: www.caterhamshopsmart.co.uk

A competition to win a drive in a Caterham 7 Superlight R 500 is being held to celebrate the launch, with entry forms at all participating outlets. The competition will run until the third week of September.

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New Rapid Assessment Centre for Caterham Dene Hospital

East Surrey residents requiring urgent medical assessment can now be seen at Caterham Dene Hospital following the opening of its new Rapid Assessment Centre last month. Dame Christine Beasley, Chief Nursing Officer of England, was the Guest of Honour at the opening ceremony on Monday 10th August, when she unveiled a plaque to commemorate the event.

Speaking about the hospital's new centre, Dame Christine said: "I am delighted to be here for such an important occasion for Caterham Dene Hospital. It is so important for cottage hospitals such as this to keep up with the times - things have changed so much over the last 20 years and some hospitals get stuck in the past which is not good for the community."

The new service has been set up to provide residents with fast access to senior medical and nursing opinion, on-site diagnostic equipment and physiotherapy services. Its main aim is to prevent acute hospital admissions and Accident and Emergency attendances.

Nurse Practitioner, Paula Deadman, explained: "Our role is to investigate, diagnose and institute the correct treatment regime and for the patient to remain in the community, in their own homes. To this end we can assist with providing supportive care and equipment to help patients remain independent."



Chief Nursing Officer, Dame Christine Beasley, cuts a celebratory cake to mark the opening of the Centre with Dr. Anthony Mercer of Surrey Community Health.



Lead Nurse Practitioner, Alison Cass of the Rapid Assessment Centre at Caterham Dene Hospital.

The centre has access to X-ray services, ECG tracing and can screen for infection, anaemia, renal function, oxygen status and warfarin levels on-site, with the most commonly seen conditions being possible deep vein thrombosis, chest infections and falls. The staff are also able to give blood transfusions and intravenous infusions.

Lead Nurse Practitioner, Alison Cass, said: "We are delivering a service to the community that we are very enthusiastic about. I feel very strongly about services being accessible and with

the frail and the elderly this has not always been the case. The type of patient we see is someone who has been referred, where the doctor has concerns about the person's health and fairly immediate attention is required over the next couple of days. This is not a walk-in centre for people with injuries and illnesses - they are still going to East Surrey Hospital or their GP. We will be gradually expanding our services according to the community needs - we want to deliver a service that is led by the community."

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'A Better Caterham' - ready to take on bigger things!

This summer saw the ABC 'A Better Caterham' steering group transition into a company limited by guarantee, known as the 'Caterham Community Partnership'. The ABC group was originally formed three years ago to co-ordinate the 'ABC Healthcheck' survey of local residents. Since the survey, the ABC group has worked hard to secure funding and implement improvements to the town in accordance with the issues highlighted as a result of the Healthcheck. Spin-offs have included the launch of the Shop Smart loyalty scheme, a Meet Caterham Business event at Surrey National golf course and help with co-ordinating the

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first ever Caterham Festival earlier this year. The transition to a limited company will give the group a more permanent basis and help to secure funding for improving the town through bids to grant providers such as the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA).

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In the Spotlight



Birthplace: Westmeston, Sussex.

Marital Status: Single.

Children: None.

Cars: 1989 Vauxhall Cavalier.

Childhood hero: Legendary Surrey and England Cricket Captain, Peter May.

Favourite Food & Drink: Fresh Vegetables and Young's Ordinary; Tea.

Pastimes: Collecting postcards; historic research; watching county cricket.

Likes: English landscape and historic buildings; farm animals; Jane Austen; Classic FM; Test Match Special; old photographs; local history; cricket.

Dislikes: Mindless vandalism; council tax.

Favourite TV show: I don't have a tv.

Favourite books: Well illustrated local histories; Larkrise to Candleford; Wisden.

Who would you most like to throw a custard pie at? Cheating politicians.

Favourite song of all time: 'Good Old Sussex by the Sea'.

Favourite holiday destination: Cotswolds/West Country.

Biggest influence on your life: Purley County Grammar School.

Proudest moment: Working with Sir John Major on his book.

Most embarrassing moment: Being asked to do 'In the Spotlight'!

Where would you most like to live? Caterham or Sussex/Kent.

Who would you most like to meet? Daphne Strachan (National Trust).

If you won the Lottery jackpot, how would you spend it? I would share it between my five nieces.

The Merlins strike again

Report by Ken Sayers of the Royal Air Forces Association - Kenley & Caterham Branch



The standard of Kenley & Caterham RAFA flanked by the ATC banners of 450 squadron, Kenley and 66 Squadron, Selsdon.

On a bright sunny afternoon on Sunday 16th August there was a familiar sound of Merlin engines above Kenley Aerodrome.

At 2.35pm a Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight flew over the Kenley Tribute to commemorate 'The Hardest Day' (18th August 1940), when RAF Kenley was almost destroyed by enemy action.

A party of Air Training Corps cadets from Selsdon (66 Squadron) and Kenley (450 Squadron) were present

and the Standard of Kenley & Caterham RAFA flanked by the two ATC Banners were dipped in salute as the three aircraft passed over.

Veterans of 615 Squadron who were based at Kenley in August 1940 hold their Annual Reunion on the nearest Sunday to 'The Hardest Day' at the Portcullis Club as guests of the local RAFA Branch.

Club members and veterans shared memories and happily chatted until the day finished at approximately 5.00pm.



The Spitfire, Lancaster and Hurricane

Volunteer gets top award



Julia Sayers, left, retired Air Marshal Sir Freddie Sowers and RAFA Branch Secretary Rosemary Stewart.

There was another special event at Kenley Aerodrome when Julia Sayers, long standing Associate Member of the RAFA Kenley & Croydon Branch, received a coveted Brooch and Certificate in recognition of over 30 years of hard work and enthusiasm in raising funds. The award was presented by Branch Secretary Rosemary Stewart and visiting retired Air Marshal Sir Freddie Sowers on the occasion of the Annual Reunion of 615 Squadron R Aux AF at Kenley on 16th August.

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Mile of Pennies

The Building Fund of St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Chaldon has been given a boost following an innovative fundraising event held earlier this summer. The 'Mile of Pennies' took place on Saturday 18th July to help raise money for the new extension at the church. Local residents took their small change to lay along a mile-long trail that had been laid out in the church grounds. Secretary of the St. Peter and St. Paul Fundraising Committee, Patricia Johnson, said: "We were delighted with the turn-out. So many people have been saving their small change which they brought along for the children to line up on the path to the church."

The pennies ran out after half a mile but the event still raised £401.13 for the Building Fund. The church is now over halfway to meeting its target of £326,000 for the extension that will provide a



Reverend Gill Reeves places her pennies on the line

room for meetings and education facilities, a toilet, a kitchen and level access into the church for those with mobility problems. Patricia added: "Thank you to everyone who supported us including friends at Glebe House and St. Luke's Church and the Guides - especially the Rainbows who had been collecting for weeks in a very heavy pot!" The Fundraising Committee are always pleased to receive pledges and donations. Please collect a form from St. Peter and St. Paul's Church or visit justgiving.com/chaldonchurch.

Put your best foot forward for Marie Curie!



Crystal Palace players at the recent launch of this year's Marie Curie Happy Valley Walk with Karen Green from Marie Curie

The Marie Curie Happy Valley Walk takes place on Sunday September 13th, beginning at The Fox public house on Coulsdon Common, Old Coulsdon. The Happy Valley Walk is a perfect day out for people of all fitness levels, and all funds raised will make a real difference to the lives of terminally ill patients in the area.

Walkers can choose to do either a three mile walk for

light strollers or a seven mile walk for the more adventurous. Registration on the day takes place between 9.30 am-12 pm. The registration fee (that includes a free t-shirt) is £20 for a family of four, £10 for adults and £5 for children under 16. For more information call 08070 240 1021 or visit www.mariecurie.org.uk/walking to download a registration form.

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Oakhall Church, Caterham Autumn Special Events...

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We meet together each Sunday morning at 11am at de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham.

Oakhall Church Office:
"The Oaks" 57 Tupwood Lane, Caterham,
Surrey, CR3 6DB - 01883 349627

www.OakhallChurch.org.uk

Oakhall
CHURCH WELCOMES YOU

Putting Parenting to Bed - 21st Sept, 28th Sept & 5th Oct

A series of three parenting seminars by author Ann Benton - 8pm, Oakhall Church, Francis Road, Caterham.

Oakhall Café - 27th Sept

Interviews and music from artists David and Yvonne Lyon - 11am, de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham.

Christianity Explored - 6 week course starting 15th Oct

The Oaks, 57 Tupwood Lane, Caterham - please call for more details.

Some of our Regular Events:

Open House (Parents and Toddlers) - school term time, Wednesday mornings from 9:30am at Francis Road.

Friendly Hour (Event for senior folks) - Thursdays 2:30pm at Francis Road.

Youth Group - a dynamic programme! - Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays... call for more info!

"Adventurers" (Sunday School) - Sundays 11am

All-Age Service - Sundays 11am at de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane.

Communion Service - Sundays 6:30pm, Francis Road.

Small Bible Study Groups - throughout the week in homes across Caterham - call for your nearest venue.



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Burtenshaw's Beat

by Tandridge
Neighbourhood Inspector,
Elaine Burtenshaw

Last month I mentioned the arrival of Sergeant Dave Coomber. I now have more staff changes to tell you about; two of my Neighbourhood Officers, PC Martin Bassom (Caterham Valley and Whyteleaf) and PC Jo Clarke (Warlingham East, Chelsham, Farleigh and Tatsfield) will be swapping areas as from Sunday 13th September 2009.

Martin and Jo have been the neighbourhood officers for their areas for eighteen and twenty-four months respectively. Importantly each will be on hand to provide in-depth knowledge of the respective areas. This move does not mean that you will have seen the last of the officers because if something occurs when they are on duty, if no-one else is available then, as with all



my staff, they will respond in order to reassure and combat crime within Tandridge.

Early August saw PC Jo Clarke and PCSO Nick White along with colleagues from CID carry out a drugs raid at an address in West Parkside, Warlingham following the issue of a warrant under the Misuse of Drugs Act. A search of the property found substances believed to be Class B cannabis which were seized along with a quantity of money and drug paraphernalia. An 18-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of pos-

sessing a Class B drug with intent to supply.

In the same week swift action from PC Bassom with colleagues from the 24/7 response team led to the arrest of five suspected burglars within minutes of a break-in. Sometime between 4am and 5.30am, burglars broke into a sports clubhouse in Harrow Road causing more than £700 worth of damage before stealing 30 bottles of spirits, beer and wine as well as a cash-till and a small amount of cash. The burglars were seen running from the scene by a member of the public who contacted Surrey Police. Local officers quickly attended and located items matching those that had been stolen. Five men were arrested on suspicion of burglary and attempt to steal. These two instances illustrate that we do respond to and act on information from the community. Your information is invaluable in the fight against crime and I urge you to continue to contact us. Thank you!!

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A Golden Opportunity

The St. Catherine's Hospice Golden Opportunity Campaign is getting underway to encourage people to donate unwanted items of jewellery to raise money for the hospice.

Anything of value will be carefully assessed and sold appropriately to maximise income for the hospice. Other pieces can be sold or even 'recycled' into new and more modern items and even broken gold items can be sold and used.

Chairman of the Fundraising Steering Group (Tandridge) for St. Catherine's Hospice, Councillor Sally Marks, said: "All items will be gratefully received. We have some very clever people who are able to transform pieces of jewellery that look a bit old fashioned or 'tired' into things that are more attractive in today's fashion conscious world. I have already been given a very old gold watch, a string of beautiful, never worn, freshwater pearls and

bracelets, necklaces and ear-rings of all shapes, sizes and quality. Single but beautiful ear-rings have also been given - that is fine as they can be re-used in other ways. I have even been given some topaz stones!"

It is easy to donate items for the Campaign. They can be sent to:

'Golden Opportunity' St Catherine's Hospice FREEPOST Licence No CY 930
Crawley RH10 6BR

Sally added: "Another idea might be for people to host a coffee morning or a lunch and instead of asking for a donation ask guests to bring some item from their trinket box or similar. Then all the items could be sent together to St Catherine's."

For further information please contact Sally Marks on 01883 653134 or email: sallymarks100@hotmail.com. Alternatively you can contact St Catherine's Hospice direct on 01293 447333.

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de Stafford goes from strength to strength

Thursday, 27th August was GCSE results day and once again de Stafford School students have made excellent progress. The school is able to report another set of record breaking results, with 63% of students achieving five or more A*-C grades, a figure which only four years ago was 32%. Head Teacher, Mark Phillips, said: "I am delighted with the results and thrilled to see so many students so well prepared for the next stage of their education. Our results represent huge progress and a lot of hard work by teachers and students."

Twin brothers Alex and Stuart Davies both achieved 11 A* and A grades and there were also outstanding performances from Jack Fuller, Neil Fuhrman, Katie Gemmell and Katrina Fernando. Ros Langham, the Chairman of Governors, said: "Its great news. The most im-



Delighted with their grades, Emma Powell (left) and Emma Bainbridge.

portant thing is that we are now at the national average level and I am really pleased. It is marvellous that everyone has worked so hard to get us here and to see everybody smiling! It is the very hard work by our wonderful staff and the students headed by Mark's leadership that has got us here."



The smiles say it all - "We did it!"



Above centre, one of the highest achieving students, Katrina Fernando with twin sisters Charlotte (left) and Rachel

Martin - all three will be celebrating their great results before getting back to their studies next term.

Adult Education Courses in Caterham

Caterham WEA is starting two new courses in September. 'Culture and Society in the 1930s', a ten-week course with tutor Anne Milton Worsell, commences Thursday, 17th September at Caterham Baptist Church, Beechwood Road, Caterham Valley. The two-hour classes start at 10am and will consist of lectures and discussion about this important decade. The course fee is £68.00.

'Creative Writing: Ways with Words', is a 20-week course for everyone interested in writing, from absolute beginners to published authors, run by tutor Stella Stocker. It will be held at the Community Learning Centre, de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham-on-the-Hill and will begin at 10am on Wednesday, 23rd September. Students' work will be read and discussed at the two-hour meetings and everyone will feel encouraged by the friendly atmosphere. The fee is £136 which can be paid in two instalments. Enrolment can take place at the first lecture. For more information call 01883 343289, or email berrybaker@btinternet.com.

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Record results at GCSE for Warlingham School

Year 11 students at Warlingham School achieved their best ever results at GCSE and smashed all previous records with 78% of students achieving five or more A-C GCSE passes and 64% of students gaining five or more A-C GCSE passes including Mathematics and English Language. There were some excellent individual successes with Sarah Cross achieving nine A*s and three As. Bethany Souter, Jasmine Collins and Michael Wyllie gained seven A*s and two, three and five A's respectively plus some B and C grades. Head Teacher, Alison Woodhouse emphasised how students had applied themselves so positively in the lead-up to the public examinations and stated: "Students have worked tirelessly with their teachers to achieve the best results. As a school we have very high expectations for our students to do well and I am delighted that they have

achieved such amazing results." Warlingham School looks forward to these and many other successful GCSE students joining its 'outstanding' (Ofsted 2008) Sixth Form in September and going on to accomplish even greater results at Advanced Level.



Two successful Warlingham School students, Jasmine Collins and Ryan Burke with their GCSE results



Head Teacher Alison Woodhouse and Assistant Head Teacher, Steve Day with some very happy students in front of the school.

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The Fitness Place

Tandridge Leisure's Fitness Place gyms have stepped up to the mark on two fronts. Firstly equipment has been replaced and upgraded and secondly another gym instructor has passed the qualification to enable him to join the team of personal trainers at Tandridge Leisure Centre.

Both centres in Oxted and Caterham have made improvements to their service delivery by providing and upgrading new equipment within the Fitness Place. Equipment includes a new top of the range Life Fitness Smith Machine which enables a smooth motion whilst performing a range of exercises.

"My workouts are now really benefitting from training with brand new equipments," said one customer. Michael Roots has joined the personal training team of instructors at Tandridge Leisure Centre having just passed his Level 3 Personal Training course with YMCA Fit.



The new Smith machine

"I really enjoyed the course and can't wait to get started in my new role as a Personal Trainer," said Michael. "I'm really keen to help as many people as I can achieve their goals, whether it is to get in shape for a holiday or simply for added motivation."

For more information please email fitness-tlc@tandridgeleisure.co.uk or phone the Tandridge Leisure Centre on 01883 716717 to book a free consultation.

Sea Cadets refurbish vandalised HQ

Caterham Sea Cadets were not to be defeated when, in 2007, vandals caused significant damage to the front of their headquarters in Caterham-on-the-Hill. After an appeal in the Caterham Independent, Caterham Round Table donated the money for repairs only for the criminals to strike again three days later. Undeterred, Caterham Sea Cadets decided to embark on a building project which would repair the damage once and for all, whilst improving fire safety and disabled access to the building.

Speaking about the project, the Commanding Officer Aaron Clarke said: "This was a major project for such a small charity, and though we are open to young people aged 10 to 18, we struggled to accommodate disabled children or even elderly or disabled parents. The huts are years old and weren't built under such strict fire or disabled legislation. We undertook to bring ourselves into the twenty-first century."

The project, costing £10,200, is nearing completion with only some internal work to be done. It has involved fitting a state-of-the-art fire alarm system, emergency lighting, cooking facilities, disabled ramps and improved fire exits, as well as internal door widening. It was funded by a Surrey Grass Roots grant, a grant from the Marine Society and an innovative Sky Dive by one of the



(Left to right) Commanding Officer Aaron Clarke, Able Cadet Matthew Watson, Cadet Alisha Sessions and Cadet Ryan Turner at the new disabled access to the Unit's HQ.

Unit's 17 year-old cadets. Direction Fire Ltd also donated a fire alarm system worth almost £5,000 when they heard of the ambitious project.

Unit Chairman, Tony Skilbeck, said "This is a huge step forward to enable inclusion of all in our Unit's activities. We have lots of further improvements in mind to make the building a safer and more pleasant and practical environment. We are looking to increase our cadet numbers and expand the activities on offer. There is a real buzz about the place now."

Caterham Sea Cadets is open on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7pm to 9.30pm and young people are encouraged to get involved.

Visit <http://units.ms-sc.org/caterham> for more information.

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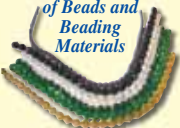
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EATING OUT

Traditional home-cooked fayre at 'The Harrow'

Review by Julia Church

If you haven't discovered 'The Harrow' yet in Stanstead Road, Chaldon, then a trip to this popular country pub is well worth a visit. David and Becky, the owners, have established a great reputation for traditional, home-cooked food whether you fancy a light lunch-time bite in the garden or a cosy three-course evening meal in their rustic restaurant.

It was the latter that my partner Keith and I enjoyed on a recent Friday-evening visit, and after a hectic working week it was lovely to chill out in the garden with a glass of wine before going inside for dinner. My choice for starter was the Homemade Soup of the Day which was mushroom. The soup was thick and creamy and came with some warm crusty bread - real comfort

food! Keith ordered the Deep Fried Whitebait and said that it was: "Whitebait as it should be - spot on!" David recommended one of the day's 'Specials' for my main course, the 'Slow roasted pork with apple mash, gravy and fresh vegetables'. A very generous portion of sliced pork arrived on a bed of creamy mash with a side serving of vegetables. The pork was beautifully succulent and went perfectly with the apple mash. Keith chose another Special, the 'Tuna Steak cooked pink and seated on a bed of rice and garden peas, topped with lemon mayo', which he said



The beautifully-presented tuna steak.



The garden at 'The Harrow'.

was delicious and a nice, light alternative to steak. Other choices on the menu included Freshly Battered Cod with chips, mushy peas and tartare sauce, Honey and Mustard Glazed Ham with egg and rustic chips, and Rump Steak marinated in a red wine and mushroom sauce. The Harrow also offers a wide choice of salads, Ploughmans and light bites such as jacket potatoes, sandwiches, baguettes and panini for lunch, and a choice of mouth-watering desserts. *The Harrow is holding its first-ever Beer Festival next month! See advertisement for more information.*

the harrow

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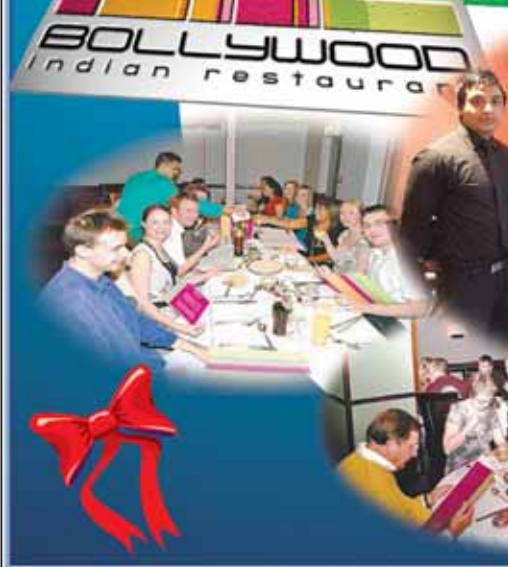
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Rotary 'Frugal Lunch' raises funds for Motor Neurone Disease



President of Caterham Rotary, Jim Burton (left) and Bill Ridley with their lunch of bread and cheese.

Members of Caterham Rotary tucked in to a 'Frugal Lunch' of bread and cheese recently in place of the more elaborate two course lunches they normally enjoy at their regular Thursday meetings.

The Rotarians were so impressed by a presentation given to them by Simon Edmands, Chairman of the MND East Surrey Branch,

that they decided to donate the proceeds of their Frugal Lunch to the charity. The lunch, held at Woldingham Dene, next to Knights Garden Centre, raised a total of £440 for the charity which the club will be presenting to Simon Edmands at a future lunch.

For more information about Caterham Rotary, visit www.caterhamrotary.co.uk

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Alexanders - one step beyond



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The menu du midi is also available each lunchtime and provides a superb local alternative to the franchise and pub menus that are on offer in the area. Added to the fact that this all happens in the most wonderful surroundings and is provided by the highest quality professional waiting staff, it is little wonder that old clients are flooding



back and many new customers are trying the culinary and service experience of a kind not readily available within reasonable travelling distance.

The finest quality A la Carte menu, in addition to full tasting menu, continues to be available on Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sundays, traditional roasts are tantalisingly blended with A la Carte cuisine to satisfy every taste. Whenever you decide to join us, you can be assured of a warm welcome and an unrivalled menu selection all at very realistic and competitive prices.



Alexanders constantly strives to bring new and innovative dishes to the table and uses only the finest quality produce and ingredients in the process. Only the finest cuts of meat, poultry and the freshest fish and seafood is purchased by the Head Chef for use in every dish.

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In the garden

by Alec Herbert

As we move rather too rapidly into the autumn months many gardens are now taking on a rather tired looking appearance. Roses have become brown looking, dahlias seemed slow to start, whilst sunflowers and gladioli are almost non-existent.

Remember the few hot days at the time of the Wimbledon tennis championships which prompted the met. office forecast of 'a barbecue summer'? This, of course, did not materialize leading to the met. office issuing another statement saying that the media wanted "a headline forecast" and long range forecasting always carries a risk!

Leaving that aside, the dull, damp conditions which have prevailed over most of the summer have provided good growing conditions for shrubs which rely on their foliage for display, but the lack of sunshine has had an ad-

verse effect on blooms – the hydrangea excepted. Hydrangeas, as outlined in detail last month, like plenty of water and have been well accommodated this year.

The garden can be freshened up in the weeks ahead by cutting back summer perennials which have finished flowering and forking over borders prior to planting spring flowering bulbs. Cut back ground cover geraniums which will significantly improve their appearance and probably produce a second flush of flowers.

A number of shrubs whose main flowering is earlier in the year may also produce a second flowering, so resist the temptation to prune too hard and give them just a light trim. Harder pruning can then be carried out in late October or, in many cases, next spring.

September is a good month to divide irises and transplant evergreens. Let's just hope for a dry autumn.

Happy gardening.

Quick Quiz

by Alec Herbert

The garden article dwelt on what seems to be the English favourite topic, the weather. The five questions this month also have a 'weather' association.

1. What was the author Margaret Mitchell's only novel?
2. Brian Wilde, who died in 2007, played which character in Last of the Summer Wine?
3. What is the nickname of snooker player Jimmy White?
4. Which children's TV show featured Bungle, Zippy and George?
5. What was the title of the film for which Barry Levinson won Best Director and Dustin Hoffman Best Actor Oscars in 1989?

Answers:

1. Gone with the Wind;
2. Foggy Dewhurst;
3. Whirlwind;
4. Rainbow;
5. Rain Man.

Readers' letters

In support of Marie Curie

I am writing in response to the letter published in the July 2009 issue of The Caterham and District Independent entitled 'A shop for St. Catherine's'.

Although the Marie Curie Cancer Care Hospice, Caterham has closed, Marie Curie continues to deliver free home nursing care to the residents of Caterham, and the rest of Surrey. This includes 23 Marie Curie Nurses who will care for approximately 645 patients this year in Surrey. The income from the Marie Curie shop in Caterham helps to fund this local nursing service, meaning that patients with terminal cancer and other illnesses can be cared for in the comfort of their own home, surrounded by their loved ones. Any donations and purchases the local community make in the shop will help local Marie Curie Nurses to continue this vital work.

John Jones,
local resident

A moving tribute

I wonder how many residents noticed or even queried the reason for the

flypast of the Battle of Britain memorial squadron on Sunday 16th August?

The three 1940 aircraft flying line abreast brought tears to my eyes. The Spitfire and Hurricane returned to make their salute over the Airman's Corner, St. Luke's churchyard in Whyteleafe and then a very noisy Lancaster followed them.

Each year brings back memories of that fateful day in August 1940 when the German airforce bombed Kenley Aerodrome. It was frightening for a ten year-old to be in an air-raid shelter and then see all the black smoke billowing over the airfield. Long may the recognition of those who lost their lives on that day be observed.

An elderly Whyteleafe resident

Readers' letters can be

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Guides celebrate their centenary

by District Commissioner, Charley Formosa

Guiding is now gearing up for its Centenary which starts on the 5th September, a hundred years to the day when the first Guiding Rally was held. Who might have thought, all those years ago, that such an organisation would survive the massive social changes that have occurred in the past one hundred years? The way in which girls and women now live their lives has changed beyond what most people could then have imagined. Somehow, however, the wish to experience new challenges, make new friends, have fun, help others and be part of a community has remained and is the thread that links us today with the girls and women of long ago. The girls of today enjoy many of the things that were popular with the girls of yesteryear, especially camping and outdoor activities and a sing-song around the campfire is as popular now as it has always been.

Together with these traditional activities, the girls now do very modern things, ranging from zip wires and rock climbing to the 'Chocolate' badge - a favourite with everyone! During the next year there will be a number of events across the country starting with Centenary Launch events on the 5th September. There will be camps, holidays and activity days and the Centenary year will come to an end with members of Guiding renewing their Promise at 20.10pm, on the 20th October, 2010. I hope that everyone in Guiding gets a chance to take part in something that will make the year memorable for them. We are still looking for a leader for 1st Caterham Rainbows and helpers are needed with other units, so if you are over 18 and female and are able to help in any way with Guiding, please contact Charley Formosa, District Commissioner on 01883 653356.



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Lions European Music Competition 2010

Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions (COG's) are currently on the lookout for a classical guitarist to take part in the Lions European Music Competition. Candidates who are under 23 on the 1st January 2010, are at least to a Grade 8 standard and who are interested should contact the club for more details. The South Eastern heat takes place on January 4th so we are keen to find a suitable young person in plenty of time. Each entrant will be asked to play an imposed piece: Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750): Prélude, Gavotte I + II from the suite for lute, BWV 995 and a second piece from a choice of ten. This is a wonderful opportunity for any musician and a chance to follow in the footsteps of Caterham flautist Julie Groves who went all the way to the European final in 2006. For more information about Caterham Oxted & Godstone Lions please visit our website www.cogslions.co.uk

Dolland & Aitchison says 'Thank you'

Husband and wife team, optometrist, Debbie Griffiths and Dolland & Aitchison Manager, Ernesto Gomez, were delighted to raise £150 at their recent event to promote the work of the charity Vision Aid Overseas. Afterwards, Ernesto said, "I'd like to thank everyone who popped in and bought raffle tickets and donated money that will help to train nurses in third world countries to perform eye tests."



Debbie and Ernesto by the display stand at their recent Vision Aid Overseas event.

New bus route from Caterham to Oxted

This month sees the launch of a brand new bus service from Caterham-on-the-Hill. The bus route number 494 operated by Southdown PSV will run Monday to Friday initially, leaving Tesco's at 09.55, 10.55, 11.55, 12.55, 13.55 and 14.55 and will travel clockwise via Banstead Road, Burntwood

Lane, Marden Lodge, Croydon Road, Caterham Valley, Godstone Road then via the A22 & A25 to Station Road East in Oxted Town centre. The journeys from Oxted to Caterham-on-the-Hill will leave Station Road East at 09.30, 10.30, 11.30, 12.30, 13.30 and 14.30. The route is 100% commercial with no funding from central or local government. For more information and bus timetables visit www.southdownpsv.co.uk

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The Chaldon Fete



Carla Jacob tests her balance at the MGM Pilates stall.

The annual August Bank Holiday fete at St. Peter and St. Paul School in Chaldon was a soaring success again this year. The late summer sunshine and the promise of plenty to entertain attracted hundreds of people to the event, which made £5,500 last year for local charities. The popular Fun Dog Show had record numbers of entrants of various shapes and sizes - all looking well brushed and glossy and on their best behaviour. The Polygon Dixieland Jazz Band provided the music for the afternoon and

local Tandridge District Councillor, Pat Cannon and other volunteers kept everyone fed with a steady supply of delicious hot dogs and burgers. Amongst the attractions were a number of stalls representing local organisations, including the Chaldon Amateur Dramatic Society, the Bourne Local History Society and the Chaldon Footpaths Committee, all keen to promote the wide range of activities on offer in and around the village.



(From left) Josh Skinner (4), Lauren Foster (6), Chloe Foster (10), and Paige Skinner (7).



Jacky Ward from Warringham with Tyler the Yorkie, winner of the Whistle, Stop and Sit.



Deputy Chairman of Tandridge District Council, Robert Hall, and his wife Yvonne, pause at the Tandridge Community Fund 'Pick a Peg' stall.



Ernie Chalkley manning the Chaldon Footpaths Committee Treasure Hunt.



Pam Mathieson from Warringham with nine year-old Crystal, winner of the Best Veteran.

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There are two sides – the 1st XV are in Surrey 2, the AXV competes in the Surrey Merit League, comprising beginners, Upper Youth Academy and Veterans and forms a great social backbone to the club. Training every Tuesday at 7pm.

WOMEN:

The Cats women's team is very successful having won the league five times in its seven years of existence, and continues to build from strength to strength. Training every Wednesday at 7.30pm Girls Youth at 7pm (13-18 year-olds)

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Old Cats Youth Academy provides specialised training to help develop youngsters from 13 to 18 ready for a smooth transition into the senior game. Many of the youth players coming through the Youth Academy are given the opportunity to represent Surrey in the county squad.

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A View from the President



Our Club, having played its first match in September 1928 is just about to embark on its 82nd season and I, having joined in September 1960, will be starting my 50th year with the Club in one capacity or another. My continuous involvement since then has therefore put me in the unique position of having known almost every player who has turned out in the black, amber, silver and mauve kit designed by Laurence Beauvais who at that time taught art at Caterham School. The black and amber reflects the School colours and the mauve or purple addition represents (as it did in Classical times) those who have moved on to maturity.

The Club grew quickly, over the years increasing to four the number of senior sides regularly fielded on a Saturday, and with a growing reputation for the rugby traditions and the friendliest of welcomes to newcomers. We were also noted for innovation, being one of the first 'junior' clubs to host an Annual Seven-a-Side Competition which will celebrate its 50th Anniversary before long. For many years, too, we capitalised on the rugby tradition for song and socialising by initiating the erstwhile annual (serious) singing competition.

In recent years, a reduction in the number of regular senior sides has been compensated for by our hugely successful mini-rugby and youth enterprise and, indeed, the further innovation of a talented Women's XV. It could be said, therefore, that rugby is not simply a game played by men with funny shaped balls but is an activity that finds a place for everyone either as players or in running all the activities that make the Club tick.

We are a true community activity. Join us and enjoy the fun of all our endeavours, on and off the field.

Bill Broadhead, President, Old Cats RFC



I was first introduced to the Old Caterhamians in 1989 where my son had started playing at the age of 7.

When I walked through the clubhouse doors it immediately felt like home to me and 20 years on it still does.

My interest in the sport took me to coaching through the mini and youth sections over 18 years. This has brought great memories of both serious playing side and the fun side of the game, including many memorable tours through the youth section and seeing players mature.

I now find myself as Chairman of the Old Cats; a community rugby club that is run by volunteers for the benefit of all who want to be involved in the game of rugby whether on or off the field of play from the age of 5 years.

The Old Cats provide a safe, qualified coaching through to the senior game where the spirit and enjoyment expands.

Steven Dalgleish, Chairman



I started playing rugby at University and then joined Old Cats during the first year it started its ladies side. I was Vice Captain for two years and am now in my Third Year as Captain. I am a PE teacher at a local school and have been encouraging girls to become involved in rugby.

We had a new coach last year who has moved us from strength to strength. We are all looking forward to the coming season and cannot wait to get back on the pitch!

Fiona Tamplin, Ladies' Captain

Whyteleafe FC

by Andy Runacres



Watson scores!

Welcome to our new regular column following the fortunes of Whyteleafe FC, through the 2009/10 season in Ryman Division 1 South.

Pre-season saw a completely remodelled Leafe side with only a handful of familiar faces remaining from a disappointing last campaign. Results were unsurprisingly mixed as manager Stuart Massey tried to find a group of players that gelled. The final week saw a spirited

0-2 defeat to a Crystal Palace XI, followed by an impressive 4-0 win over Tilbury, so hopes were raised leading into the first league game, which saw us up against a usually strong Sittingbourne side. The 'Leafe Army' travelled with hope and the optimism that a new season brings, but unfortunately despite dominating a large part of the game we left Sittingbourne empty handed. The first half was goalless, but Leafe did

enough to suggest that we could get a result. However hopes were quickly punctured in the second half when our hosts scored direct from a free kick on the edge of the box. Watson then quickly replied, levelling the scores with a towering headed goal from a Kember corner. At that stage the game looked ours for the taking, but despite a fair amount of pressure Leafe conceded a silly penalty in the last ten minutes, which was duly converted, condemning us to a 2-1 defeat. The following Tuesday saw us entertain a fancied Ramsgate side at home, and an accomplished team performance saw the first three points of the season collected, with a 25 yard screamer from Butler sealing a 1-0 win. The season was finally underway!

We always welcome new support, so if you fancy taking in a game pop down to the ground which is in Church Road, Whyteleafe. You can check fixtures at www.theleafe.co.uk.

Who wants to be a Volunteer?

by Marion Piggott



As fans of Springwatch will know, the team heartily recommends time outdoors for anything that ails you. Whether observing wildlife, discovering new places or rediscovering favourite haunts, it's a chance to unwind, switch off and breathe in good fresh air.

But did you know that in our part of Surrey there has been a 21-year conservation project specifically designed to make the countryside accessible? Almost 200,000 hours of voluntary help have been devoted to improving our local countryside since the Downlands Project began in 1988.

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are ready to welcome newcomers. Teamworking is an enjoyable and essential part of this opportunity.

So if you like the outdoors and want to make it accessible to others this is the voluntary role for you. "Exercise, new friends, a sense of achievement, and the feeling that you have done your bit for nature," is how one team member described it. Furthermore, it's great experience for anyone planning a career in countryside management.

For more information please ring me, Marion Piggott at the Volunteer Centre on 01883 344444, email: caterhamvc@owen29.wanadoo.co.uk, or visit our website: www.surrey-community.info/tvsc/. Alternatively, come along to Warlingham Library, on the first Friday of each month, between 10.30-11.30 am.

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New Captain at Old Cats

20-year-old Alex Skinner has broken all previous records after being named the youngest ever captain of Old Caterhamians RFC. The youngster has promised to rejuvenate the Park Avenue outfit after relegation to Surrey Two last season. Old Cats will be looking to rebuild this season and lay the foundations for a future return to the London leagues. The club is currently looking for a new head coach and is on the recruitment trail for new players. Former Old Cats captain Ewan Turney, who previously held the record, said: "It is fantastic to see Alex break the record. I am sure he will do an outstanding job. He is just what the club needs — the eagerness and

passion of youth, as well as being a terrific player on the park. He has been one of the leading lights over the past couple of years." Alex Skinner added: "It is a great honour to be captain of this great club. Unfortunately we have had a tough couple of years but I truly believe that we can turn things round. "We have far too many good, strong, committed players already at the club not to be aiming for a return to the big time. "It is a friendly club and we are looking for players of all standards to come and join us." He added: "Most of all we are looking for an ambitious coach to turn a talented group of players into a successful team."



Alex Skinner

The Old Cats is offering the prospective head coach the chance to set the playing agenda throughout the club from first team to minis. The club has already secured the services of qualified fitness coach Charlie Webster. All new players are welcome at training, which takes place every Tuesday from 7.15pm at Park Avenue, Caterham. Anyone interested in the coaching position or coming to play should email gameel_thabet@hotmail.com.

Tandridge Youth Triathlon -

The great personal challenge

Tandridge Leisure is pleased to announce they will be running a Youth Triathlon event at de Stafford Sports Centre on 30th October 2009. The event, the first of its kind in Tandridge, will happen between 10am and 2.30pm and is open to children aged between 11-14 years inclusively. Aside from the customary swimming and running of traditional triathlons our event will have a twist, as the third event is fencing rather than the usual cycling. The idea is that children will compete to be the best of their ability in a 100 metre swim and 2000 metre run in the morning. Then in the

afternoon, they will have the opportunity to experience the exciting sport of fencing in the sports hall. The registration fee for the event is only £3.50 and each entrant will receive a Triathlon personal challenge sports pack, including T-shirt and other goodies. All entrants will also receive a certificate of entry, including their times, as a record of their day. To get involved and register for the Tandridge Youth Triathlon Great Personal Challenge and try your hand at fencing, please call de Stafford Sport Centre on 01883 344355 or visit our website www.tandridgeleisure.co.uk for more information.

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GODSTONE RD, WHYTELEAFE £575 pcm
Refurbished one bedroom maisonette.
Good sized lounge at front. Double bedroom.
New bathroom with bath & shower. Kitchen & utility area.
Small garden accessed by steps off kitchen.
Avail Sept u/f



WHYTELEAFE £650 pcm
1 double bedroom ground floor flat.
Fully fitted kitchen. Bathroom with bath & shower.
One allocated parking space. Avail Sept u/f

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CATERHAM VALLEY £695 pcm
Well positioned 1 double bedroom flat.
Fully fitted modern open-plan kitchen.
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CATERHAM ON THE HILL £700 pcm
Modern and well presented 1 bedroom maisonette with
easy access to shops and bus links.
Good sized lounge. Fully fitted kitchen.
Garden to rear. Avail u/f



KENLEY £700 pcm
Well presented 1 bedroom first floor flat in close
proximity to Kenley train station. Fully fitted kitchen. New
stylish bathroom. Spacious lounge with balcony.
Allocated parking bay. Avail u/f



CATERHAM £750 pcm
Newly built and stylishly presented 1 bedroom
apartment in close proximity to supermarket and bus
routes. Spacious lounge with fully fitted kitchen.
Double bedroom with fitted wardrobes.
Parking. Avail u/f



WHYTELEAFE £795 pcm
Spacious 2 bedroom first floor maisonette
conveniently located for 2 mainline train stations.
Good sized lounge. 2 double bedrooms.
Fully fitted kitchen. Garden to rear. Avail u/f



CATERHAM VALLEY £800 pcm
Stylish exclusive 1 bedroom apartment within
converted manor house. Newly renovated.
Fitted kitchen. Spacious lounge with balcony and views.
Bathroom. Parking. Avail furnished



CATERHAM £850 pcm
Spacious 2 double bedroom top floor flat with views of
the valley. Fully fitted kitchen. Spacious lounge.
Bathroom. Parking. Avail Sept u/f



CATERHAM £900 pcm
Spacious 2 double bedroom apartment in sought after
area. Close to town centre & BR. Completely refurbished
to a high standard. Fully fitted kitchen. Spacious
lounge/dining room. Parking. Garage. Avail u/f



CATERHAM VALLEY £925 pcm
Recently refurbished first floor 2 double bedroom
apartment. Spacious lounge with Juliet balcony. Modern
fully fitted kitchen with integrated appliances. Master
bedroom with fitted wardrobes and ensuite shower
room. Stylish good sized family bathroom. Avail u/f



CATERHAM £1050 pcm
Stunning and spacious top floor 3 bedroom apartment.
Character filled apartment with 2 double bedrooms and one
single bedroom. Large lounge with dining room furniture and
sofa. Fully fitted kitchen. Bathroom with corner bath. Use of
communal gardens. Allocated parking. Avail part-furnished



CATERHAM £1100 pcm
Newly built stylish first floor apartment. Spacious lounge
with extra dining area. Separate attractive fully fitted kitchen.
Master bedroom with wardrobes and ensuite shower room.
Family bathroom. Furnished to a very high standard.
Allocated parking. Avail now



OLD OXTED £1250 pcm
Stunning 2 bedroom ground floor apartment. Spacious lounge
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A well presented 4 bedroom detached chalet style property in a quiet location convenient for Upper Warlingham & Whyteleafe stations, with panoramic views across the valley.

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WARLINGHAM £1200 pcm

An individually designed 2 double bedroom detached bungalow with garage and far reaching views and convenient for Whyteleafe South station.

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REIGATE £1,100 pcm

A very spacious 3 double bedroom period property, recently re-decorated, being probably one of the oldest buildings in Reigate and having the benefit of parking and patio area to rear. Suitable for 3 professionals or for family use. Available now.

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Recently built ground floor apartment set in gated prestigious location. Close to Reigate station and town centre. The property comprises 2 double bedrooms, spacious living and dining room, fitted kitchen, and family bathroom.

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SOUTH NUTFIELD £875 pcm

A 2 bedroom purpose built ground floor maisonette, being one of only two in the building, convenient for South Nutfield station and local shops. Re-decorated throughout with new carpets and having the benefit of veranda style patio garden, garage and parking.

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GODSTONE £800 pcm

Modern terraced 2 bedroom property close to the centre of Godstone with parking. Benefiting from spacious living room, separate dining room, modern fitted kitchen, and lawned garden with patio.

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WARLINGHAM £795 pcm

A very spacious first floor 2 double bedroom flat with own garage and far-reaching views. Convenient for stations at Upper Warlingham and Whyteleafe.

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GODSTONE £575 pcm

A 1 bedroom first floor conversion maisonette with some period features set in the heart of Godstone village, close to shops and Green.

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HORLEY £750 pcm

A modern 2 bedroom mid terrace property comprising of a fully fitted kitchen, a spacious lounge and dining room, laminate floors with doors to lawned rear garden. The 1st floor has 2 double bedrooms, and a bathroom with shower attachment.

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CATERHAM £750 pcm

Ground floor, purpose built 2 bedroom flat. Property includes garage, visitor parking, and communal grounds.

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CATERHAM HILL

A five bedroom detached family house with drawing room, dining room, open plan kitchen/breakfast/family room, utility room, cloakroom, recently built conservatory, master suite with dressing room, guest suite and in our opinion offered in excellent order situated in sought after cul-de-sac location and offering no onward chain. UPC0285

£675,000**CATERHAM VALLEY**

A stunning five bedroom detached house with two receptions, kitchen/breakfast room, master and guest bedrooms with en-suite, family bathroom, integral double garage and views to rear over valley. UPC0326

GUIDE PRICE £555,000**CATERHAM VALLEY**

A four bedroom mock Tudor detached house situated in a sought after location set in established grounds with sitting room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, study/family room, master bedroom with en-suite and views to rear. UPC0292

£575,000**CATERHAM HILL**

A one bedroom retirement flat with wardens office, residents lounge, laundry room, lift service, double aspect lounge/dining room, fitted kitchen, shower room and views over private courtyard setting offered with no onward chain. UPC0250

£137,500

Sometimes
the
GRASS
really is greener

CATERHAM VALLEY

A two bedroom semi detached house lounge/dining room, kitchen, bathroom and offered in the agents opinion, in good decorative order and situated within a popular road close to Caterham town centre. UPC0313

£209,950**CATERHAM VALLEY**

This three bedroom semi detached house with kitchen/breakfast room, lounge/dining room, conservatory, family bathroom and single attached garage is situated in a popular residential road and offered to the market in our opinion, in good decorative order throughout. UPC0323

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£179,950**KENLEY**

A Georgian style four bedroom detached house with lounge, dining room, study, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, master bedroom with dressing area & en-suite, 3 further double bedrooms and family bathroom situated in an exclusive cul de sac in the heart of Kenley. Vendor suited. UPC0316

GUIDE PRICE £475,000**CATERHAM HILL**

A four bedroom detached Georgian style house with I-shaped lounge/dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, family bathroom, shower room and situated in a highly sought after cul de sac offered with no onward chain. UPC0305

GUIDE PRICE £469,950**CATERHAM HILL**

A Charles Church built four bedroom detached house with lounge, stunning conservatory, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, study, master bedroom with en-suite, family bathroom, landscaped rear garden and double garage. UPC0302

£450,000