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No. 138

November 2017

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Alex and Sarah say goodbye after 18 years at Caterham **High Street's Post Office**

Alex and Sarah George are looking forward to their first holiday in 18 years when they retire from running Caterham-on-the-Hill's Post Office in the High Street at 5.30pm on Monday 6th November.

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Londis at 51-55 High This will not af-Street. fect the public consultation that is taking place until Friday 17th November to enable customers and interested parties to give their comments on the move.

Speaking about their time at the Post Office, Alex said: "I would like to say a big "thank you" to the commu-

Tupwood Gate

nity. It has been an honour for us to serve them. We are grateful for all of their kindness. We are so happy the Post Office service is going to stay on the High Street.

"Soon after we retire we are going to Egypt to visit family and will do some travelling around Africa because we have not taken a holiday in 18 years. We have been completely responsible for the Post Office, so we did not feel we could leave it with anyone else to run during our absence - we would worry about it!"

Submissions for the consultation can be made by via e-mail to comments@postoffice.co.uk or via the Customer Helpline on

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By-election to be announced following resignation of Tandridge District Councillor for Westway Ward, Caroline Warner

On Friday 13th October, Caroline Warner, District Councillor for Westway Ward in Caterham, announced her decision to resign.

Caroline said: "My family and I have made the difficult decision to move away from the area and, as much as I may wish to continue, I feel that I can no longer represent the community to the level they deserve.

"I have loved the time that I have spent serving my community and it has been such a pleasure to meet so many fabulous people. I am very proud of the achievements that we have made together. Most notably, I was both honoured and humbled to have had the opportunity to support the victims of the terrible floods of 2016. Together as a community, we convinced the administration at Tandridge that it was right to offer full Council Tax relief for the period of time that families were unable to live in their homes.

"In the days after the floods, I visited as many households as I could. I was moved to see neighbours supporting one another during a very dark hour. I met one lady who moved me to tears. When I first saw her, she was hugging one of her neighbour's children tightly as the girl sobbed and telling her how everything would be alright. This woman has since campaigned tirelessly to ensure that the authorities keep listening to the people who were affected. Her name is Helen Rujbally and Caterham Hill Liberal Democrats have selected her to stand for election to replace me as your Councillor." The date for the upcoming by-election will be announced by Tandridge District Council shortly.





Helen Rujbally.



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Editor: Julia Church Tel: 01883 346641

E-mail: Editor@caterham -independent.co.uk www.caterham-independent.co.uk Circulation: 19,000

Circulated to Caterham, Kenley, Netherne-on-the-Hill, Chaldon, Old Coulsdon and Godstone.

Sister paper: The Warlingham and District Independent

Circulation: 7,000 to Warlingham, Hamsey Green, Farleigh, Chelsham and Whyteleafe.

Joint circulation of both publications: 26,000.

To advertise in both editions call Julia Church on 01883 346641 or e-mail julia@caterhamindependent.co.uk



Library users learn new skills during "Get Online Week"

As part of the national "Get Online Week" from 2nd-8th October, Caterham Valley Library in Stafford Road held a Digital Buddy event offering free, one-to-one digital learning sessions.

Those who took part in the sessions could bring their own iPads or laptops so that they could learn how to get the best out of their devices.

Gemma Jane, Library Liaison Assistant, said: "People don't always know how to use the internet to its full potential. We have free WiFi here, so we can show people how to use the internet and set them up with an e-mail account. We can also show them how to have faceto-face chats with distant friends and family using Skype. It especially helps people who may be socially isolated." Kelly Saini Badwal, Senior Manager, Customer Network, Surrey Library Service, added: "We have Digital Buddy sessions here every other Saturday and we are always looking for more volunteers to help with teaching people. Our volunteers enjoy coming here and being productive."

Visit Caterham Valley Library and talk to the staff for more information about the Digital Buddy sessions and to book an appointment for a one-toone session.



Kelly Saini Badwal (centre) and Gemma Jane (right) at the Digital Buddy event.



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Development of former

Rose & Young site moves one step closer

has learned that the owner of the former Rose and Young garage site in Croydon Road, Caterham and Clarion Housing Group ("CHG") have exchanged contracts for the sale of the

In their statement, TDC said: "Clarion Housing Group is a company committed to providing affordable housing. They have planning permission for 48 dwellings, with a supermarket on the ground floor. The exchange of contracts is a significant step forward in the Council's ambition to get this valuable town centre site back in use and contributing to the

"The Council will be monitoring the progress of this scheme carefully and is fully committed to securing the timely redevelopment of the site.' At a recent meeting of the Resources Committee it was agreed that if insufficient progress was made by CHG, the Council will take any necessary action to ensure redevelopment takes place, including using another Compulsory Purchase Order in Decemher

Councillor Simon Ainsworth, Chair of the Resources Committee, said: "The exchange of contracts between the owner of the Rose and Young site and a major house building company is very much welcomed and a major step forward. We and Caterham residents have been waiting a long time for the development of this site and we will continue to do everything in our power to ensure development progresses. At this stage we don't think we will need to use a Compulsory Purchase Order, but we remain in the best position to serve another one if it is needed."

1st Caterham Scouts Christmas Post

1st Caterham Scouts are fundraising for their new scout hut roof, delivering cards to CR3 postcodes for 30p per card. Each card will be stamped with a unique scouts postmark, delivered in time for Christmas. From 23rd November until 14th December, special Scouts Post boxes will be at locations in Caterham including: St. Mary's Church, Church Rd.; Computer Solutions, High St.; Cater-

ham Hill Library, Westway; Douglas Brunton Centre, Park Rd.; NatWest Bank, Crovdon Rd.: Caterham Valley Library, Stafford Rd.: The Miller Centre, Godstone Road and the King and Queen, High St.



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Royal Naval Parade marks 75 years of Caterham Sea Cadets

On Friday 20th October, Caterham Sea Cadets and Royal Marine Cadets held their bi-annual Royal Naval Parade, which also celebrated their 75th Anniversary. Commander Trevor Price, RN, Southern Area Officer, attended to inspect the Unit ("T.S. Zephyr"). Another VIP guest was 90-year-old Lt. Cdr. Les Mc-Carthy, who was a former member of staff and one of the original Cadets from 1942.

Following Cdr. Price's inspection of the Unit, the Cadets gave entertaining presentations with a nautical theme to the parents and quests in the audience.

Afterwards, Officer in Charge of T.S. Zephyr, Sgt. John Wood, spoke about the Unit's recent achievements, including coming third in the country in a national rowing competition.

In his Address to Ship's Company at the end of the evening, Cdr. Price said he was very impressed with the Unit and would be recommending they receive the accolade of a Bhurjee ensign to display in their headquarters, in recognition of the excellent progress the Unit has made this year.



Cdr. Trevor Price giving his Address to the Ship's Company at the end of the Royal Naval Parade.



Sgt. John Wood presents a commemorative mug to Lt. Cdr. Les McCarthy.



From left: Cdr. Trevor Price, Lt. Cdr. Les McCarthy and Sat. John Wood.





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by Alec Herbert All the answers contain the name of an English county.

1. Who was the lead singer with the Group "The Seekers" whose hits include "I'll Never Find Another You", "Morning-town Ride" and "Georgy Girl"?

2. Who is the alter-ego of Superman?

3. Usually performed as the second number in the show, which song from Oklahoma has an English county in its title?

4. For which film did Daniel Day-Lewis win his third Best Actor Oscar?

5. Which actress played Emily Bishop (formerly Nugent) for many years in Coronation Street?

Answers:

5. Eileen Derbyshire. Fringe on lop; 4. Lincoln; Kent; 3. The Surrey with the 1. Judith Durham; 2. Clark

Diary of a Plantaholic

by Sue Baines

With still so much to do, daylight diminishing and the weather unpredictable, my priority has to be making sure all tender plants are protected. The dahlias are safely stored in the garage in my "shoe-hangers" although the ones from the front garden, which had been in situ for the last seven years, were absolutely enormous. I tried to gently pull them apart but this only worked with a few. They had several layers of newspaper covering them, held in place with large rubber bands and a label saying where they would be best placed next year to add height and colour. I kept the shortened stems (4") upside down to try and

prevent winter rot. Many of the Aster (Michaelmas Daisies), Phlox and Penstemon that I bought as starter plants the previous year have done brilliantly. I took a few Penstemon cuttings earlier, as they can be susceptible in a very cold winter, which is why I never cut



Sue Baines.

them down until frosts are over the next spring.

The pond foliage has been cut down, and a couple of balls put in at either end to enable gases to escape if the pond gets frozen for any length of time. A fine mesh net placed over the pond catches any falling leaves.

The upside-down turves we removed earlier from the top lawn are now covered, and are starting to rot down, but I won't have time to use them until next year. Hopefully they should produce excellent soil. I am refilling my blue pots with spring bulbs, and doing a couple for Christmas presents. It's the end of another gardening year, but it won't be long before their cheery blooms greet the spring.



Netherne youngster, Jack Lakin, completes Channel Swim Challenge in just three weeks

On Monday 11th September, 12year-old Jack Lakin from Netherneon-the-Hill embarked on the Channel Swim Challenge to swim the distance of crossing the English Channel (approximately 21 miles) in 12 weeks. However, Jack wanted to set himself a personal challenge to complete the swim in four weeks or less, and completed it in three. Jack swam over 22 miles in just 18 swim sessions, mostly in Donyngs swimming pool in Redhill.

Jack, who goes to Oasis Academy Coulsdon, has raised £577 so far for the charity Aspire, that helps people affected by spinal cord injuries.

Jack's proud mum, Sally, said: "When Jack told me he wanted to do the challenge I was proud of him for wanting to give up his time and raise money for such a worthwhile charity. Watching him swim every day and witnessing the dedication he gave to the Challenge was truly inspirational. He is already looking into raising money for other worthy charities through his love of swimming. I could not be prouder of him."

Jack enjoyed the Challenge so much that he is now "swimming



Jack with his crystal trophy after completing the Challenge.

back" and completing the 22 miles back to England.

Jack will be receiving his medal and certificate in December but in the meantime his proud grandparents Nigel and Christine Chapman had a crystal trophy made especially for him to congratulate him on his success. The Challenge does not end officially until Monday 4th December, so there is still time to sponsor Jack. To make a donation, visit Jack's Just Giving page at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jack-lakin-2017-channel-swim-20694.

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Local youngsters take part in the **Woldingham Junior Choir Festival 2017**

St Francis' Catholic Primary, Caterham and Woodlea, Woldingham, were among seven Junior School Choirs, and over 200 children, welcomed by Woldingham School on Tuesday 10th October for its second Choir Festival. Woldingham's music teachers took the pupils through a carousel of musical sessions to develop voice, rhythm and

performance skills. The choirs were enthusiastic participants, bubbling through water in unison, humming as though at a Formula 1 race and responding to each other through clapping.

Each school was accompanied by some of Woldingham's Music Scholars, who acted as guides and support.

The event culminated in a performance to parents, schools and Woldingham's teachers in the 600 seat auditorium.

Adjudicator, Ian Belsey, who has spent over 40 years in show business and is one of the world's leading performers

light opera, selected in Hornsby House as this year's winners. Their performance of Coldplay's "Fix You" was chosen for its beautiful tone and control.

After the Festival, Wolding-School's Director of ham Music, John Hargreaves, said: "I was amazed by the breadth and depth of musicianship displayed by the Junior Choirs and delighted to see over 200 young singers at our school. I hope that the Woldingham Junior Choir Festival provided inspiration, guidance and enjoyment to all participants."



The Woldingham Junior Choir Festival.



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Sunnydown School celebrates the opening of its new Rebalancing Suite

On Thursday 12th October, Sunny-down School in Whyteleafe Road, Caterham, unveiled its brand new Rebalancing Suite (Sensory Room). The school supports young men with communication and interaction needs (CoIN), often associated with autism, and the Rebalancing Suite will help students to actively engage in their learning process and tackle anxieties. The new £20,000 Suite features an interactive floor, a bubble tube, dancing curtain, LED immersive interactive images, disco lights and a resonance platform. The Wooden Spoon charity, following an application submitted by the school's Art Teacher Helen Havibor. funded the majority of the project.

Before the grand opening of the Suite, guests, including members of the Wooden Spoon charity and school governors, mingled with staff and students from the school council.

One student from Year 8 said: "It's exciting. The school is always trying to do new things to help and support us. I can't wait to use it more!"

Sports personality John Inverdale, Honorary President for the Surrey branch of the Wooden Spoon, attended the whole school assembly, where he spoke about Wooden Spoon and how proud they were to be able to support Sunnydown School. Following assembly,



Paul Jensen during school assembly.

John Inverdale (centre) with Sunnydown students in the new Suite.

Mr Inverdale performed the official opening of the new Suite.

Afterwards, Head Teacher, Mr Paul Jensen said: "Sensory realignment for our young men is of paramount importance and the Rebalancing Suite will facilitate this. I, the staff and students of Sunnydown School, thank the Wooden Spoon for making the addition of this wonderful resource to our school possible. We hope this will support not only the young men of Sunnydown School but the students from other local schools."

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The Soper Hall in Caterham is licensed for weddings and is now taking bookings for 2018/2019. The beautiful Victorian building has modern facilities, making it an ideal venue for both the wedding ceremony and reception.

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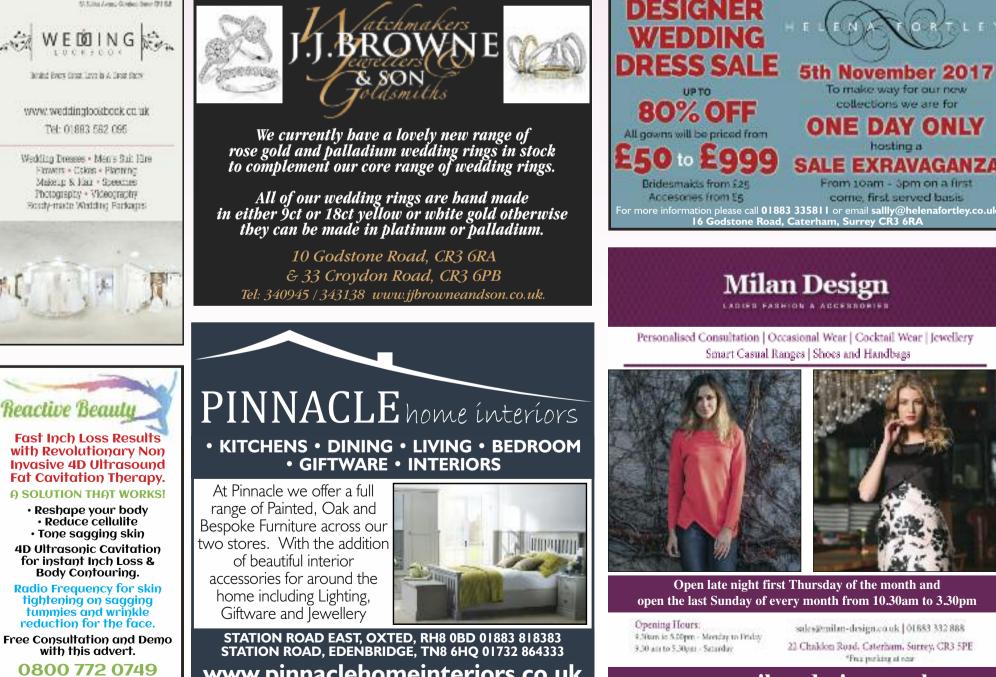
The mother of the bride, wearing a stunning outfit from Milan Design, 22 Chaldon Road, Caterham. *Photo by*

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Marie Curie say "thank you" to Karen

Volunteer. Karen Green, celebrated 15 years of volunteering for Marie Curie UK with a spe cial event on Monday 25th September at the Purley Bury Tennis Club in Purley, South Crovdon.

60 friends, family, colleagues and acquaintances joined Karen for tea and cake to say a huge thank you and well done for her dedication and support of the charity over the past 15 years. Local bakery owner, Sean Coughlan, donated an amazing cake in the shape of a daffodil and Floral Gallery donated plants as thank you gifts.

A surprise at the event was a video recorded by Alfie Boe and Michael Ball congratulating Karen on her 15 years of volunteering and inviting her to the recording of their TV show. Karen started volunteering for Marie Curie after her mother passed away. It was important to Karen that her mum was able to stay at home rather than go into a hospital. Thanks to Marie Curie her mum Elsie Sands was provided with one to one care in her own home. Karen said: "The nurses were pure angels. They were wonderful at helping mum with her symptoms and gave both of us much needed emotional support at a difficult time.

The Caterham **Round Table Beer** Festival is back!

The Caterham Round Table Beer Festival promises to be bigger and better than ever this year, with the chance to sample more than 50 different real ales and cider and enjoy their Prosecco Bar.

The event is taking place on Friday 17th and Saturday 18th November in the Soper Hall in Harestone Valley Road, Caterham Valley. Tickets are lim-ited, so the organisers recommend purchasing them online to ensure entry.

For more information and to book tickets, go to www.caterhambeerfestival.com



Pint-pulling at last year's Beer Festival.



Karen at her celebration event with, from left, Sean Coughlan, Eric Richard (The Bill) and Kevin Day (comedian and writer).





Don't miss these **Christmas events** taking place in **Caterham during November!**

Caterham is gearing up for its day of festive fun to mark the switching on of the Christmas lights in the town centre and Church Walk on Saturday 25th November.

In addition to the many stalls and Christmas music entertainment in Church Walk, there will be a Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto in the Soper Hall and a Christmas Market taking place in Croydon Road. There will be lots of Christmas goodies for sale in the shops as well, so please remember to support your local traders!

On Sunday 26th November the beautiful lights on the Cedar Tree in Caterham-onthe-Hill are being switched on, with mulled wine and car-This popular annual ols. event, organised by Caterham-on-the-Hill Parish Council, will take place between 5.45pm and 6.30pm and the four friendly pubs and two restaurants on the High Street will provide a warm welcome afterwards.



Santa in Church Walk.



The Soper Hall Christmas Market.



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ristma comes to Caterham Saturday 25th November

Soper Hall

Croydon Road

Christmas Fair 10.00 - 4.00

Santa's Grotto 11.00 - 3.30

Carol Singing from Local School Choirs

Hog Roast

Christmas Market 10.00 - 5.00

Carol Singing from Local School Choirs

DJ

Lantern Parade - Asprey Fountain 4.30

Turning on of Christmas Lights by Father Christmas Crovdon Road 4.40 Church Walk 5.00

Free parking in Morrisons, Waitrose and Croudace Homes (opposite P.O. Sorting Office)

Church Walk

Community Stalls 11.00 - 6.00

DJ

Face Painter

Baptist Church Choir 4.00

Carol Singing from Local School Choirs

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Eating Out Classic Indian food with a pinch of **Bollywood dazzle!**

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For a beautifully-cooked, classic Indian meal with a bright, modern twist, Bollywood in Godstone Road, Caterham ticks all the boxes for a great night out.

The popular restaurant, which is proud to have been awarded the prestigious Five-Star Hygiene Rating from Tandridge District Council again this year, offers an excellent selection of dishes to suit all tastes, that can be adjusted to meet customers' individual requirements by their expert chefs.

When my friend Hilary and I dined there recently, Khan, the restaurant manager made us feel very welcome and was happy to guide us through the menu to assist us in our choices. He recommended the Sula Salmon starter for Hilary (charcoal roasted salmon cooked with peppers and onion in a clay oven) and the Sev Papdi Chatt for me, an exciting vegetarian starter I had not tried before. It was lovely, with chick peas and potato topped with natural yoghurt, sweet chilli sauce and crushed popadoms - a wonderful combination. Hilary enjoyed her salmon, and particularly liked the "quite hot" coriander, mint, green chilli and yoghurt sauce that came with it as well as a red sauce made with tomato, chilli and carrot. Khan recommended I have two small portions of different vegetarian main courses,



The spacious and stylish interior of Bollywood restaurant. Photo by Khan.

instead of one full size one, which sounded like a good plan to me. So I had a portion of the Sabzi Hariall (fresh vegetables cooked with mint and coriander) and the Sabzi Roshney (vegetables cooked with tomatoes, green peppers and onions with garlic and green chilli). Hilary chose one of the Chef's Specialities, the Loknai Gosht for her main course (tender chunks of lamb covered in a rich onion and tomato sauce), which the chef made a bit milder for her as it is normally a fairly hot dish. We shared a portion of coconut rice, a

naan bread (essential to mop up the juices!) and a vegetable side order of Spicy Bindi (fried okra). The variety of flavours worked beautifully and Hilary was particularly impressed with how tender her lamb was. Thank you Khan for your expert guidance - our meals perfectly hit the spot!

Bollywood is the perfect venue for a Christmas party but book soon to avoid disappointment.

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National Service (RAF) Veterans catch up on old times at The Caterham Arms

Following their appeal in The Caterham and District Independent last month, the Kenley branch of the National Service (RAF) Veterans received 12 enquiries from prospective new members, nine of whom attended the Group's carvery lunch at The Caterham Arms on Wednesday 18th October. The remainder hope to get along to the next lunch, scheduled for December. "It was a very special day, with plenty of chat and a very nice atmosphere. It was wonderful to meet other veterans and we look forward to meeting more new members at our next lunch."

One of the highlights was the memorabilia table that displayed fascinating artefacts including pay books, an RAF Police armband, individual and group photos and a signed copy of the Official Secrets Act. For more information call Tony on 01883 342652.

Branch Chairman, Tony Waters, said:

A

(Far right) Founder of the Group, Peter Stimpson, next to the event organiser, Tony Waters, and all the new members and their friends at The Caterham Arms. Photo by Roger Lewis.





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Concert raises £1,800 for the League of Friends of Caterham Dene Hospital by Geraint Jenkins

On Saturday 7th October, Caterham Community Choir held a highly successful concert at de Stafford School in Burntwood Lane, Caterham in aid of the League of Friends of Caterham Dene Hospital.

A capacity audience enjoyed the variety of talented performances, which included a choir from Whyteleafe Primary School; harpist Emilia Oliphant-Bobr; the Caterham U3A Recorder Group; Len Quinnell playing the ukulele; "Flounders and aka Swoon" Ben and Geraint; Sarah and Katie Rose and the Caterham Community Choir.

Jean Mallory, the concert organiser and member of the choir and the League of Friends, would like to thank everyone who supported the concert and the local businesses and individuals who donated raffle prizes.

The concert raised over £1,800, which will be put towards the purchase of a liver machine for Caterham Dene Hospital.



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Caterham Community Choir performing at de Stafford School.





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Nature Notes

by Adele Brand

Everyone has their own way to measure autumn's approach. Nature is full of signposts: trees tinged with red and gold, the pale peace of the sky after storms relent, fungi popping up on the verges - and foxes changing their calls. I note this last one partly through the number of hits on my YouTube fox sounds video, which tend to spike a bit at this time of year. Little wonder; there is a lot of fox chatter going on throughout our woods and streets.

So what does the fox say? Whatever the pop group "Ylvis" believe, foxes don't make much effort to keep their voices a secret! But as the nights darken, their families change. Many - though not all - young foxes leave their parents in autumn and set out into the wide world looking for territories and mates of their own. They squabble with siblings and adults as they trespass and explore; that is the shrieking, often very theatrical with the fox flattening itself on its belly and turning its ears sideways. Contrary to popular myth, courtship calls are quite different: a soft triple-bark or a



strange guttural sound known as gekkering. It has been compared to stones being knocked together.

Those who watch their garden foxes can expect changes in the next few weeks. Some will leave forever, and young males from other families are likely to drop by for a day or two on their way through. Autumn is an exciting and challenging season, but rewarding for everyone who notes the dramas unfolding in the world outdoors.

To purchase Adele's recentlypublished book: "Fox - A Biography of Britani's Natural Neighbour" for £7.99 from Amazon, visit www.amazon.co.uk/dp/B0765F3B6T.

What's On

Cedar Christmas Tree Lights

The switching on of the Cedar Tree Christmas Lights is taking place in the car park of Buxtons, High Street, Caterham-on-the-Hill, on Sunday 26th November from 5.45pm-6.30pm. There will be complimentary mulled wine, Christmas Carols and a visit from Father Christmas.

St. Mary's Christmas Fair

St. Mary's Church, Church Hill, Caterham, are holding their Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November from 11am-3pm. In addition to craft, gift and food stalls, tombolas, musical fun, raffle and refresh-ments, there will be the opportunity to meet Santa. **Elvis and Beatles Night**

On Saturday 18th November at 7.30pm, Caterham Harestone Rotary Club are presenting The Beatles and Elvis tribute acts at de Stafford School, Burntwood Lane, Caterham CR3 5YX. Tickets £20 to cost include fish/chicken and chips (vegetarian option available). There will be a licensed bar and a raffle. Proceeds from the event will go to South East Cancer Help Centre and Rotary Charities. To book tickets call 01883

345678 or e-mail beatle@ harestone-rotary.co.uk. League of Friends Ouiz Night

The League of Friends of Caterham Dene Hospital are holding a Quiz Night at 7pm for 7.30pm at The New Caterham Arms, Coulsdon Road, Cateron Wednesday 8th ham, November. Entry is by ticket only (£10) which includes a hot buffet. To book tickets call Geraint Jenkins on 07835 303522. Please book beforehand as there will be no tickets available on the night.

RSPCA Christmas Fayre On Saturday 18th November, South Godstone RSPCA on the Eastbourne Road, RH9 8JB, are holding their Christmas Fayre from 11am-4pm featuring games, crafts and Santa and his elves. Admission to Santa's Grotto costs £3 to include a gift. All proceeds to the Animal Centre, Dogs welcome, Sacred Heart Christmas Market

On Sunday 26th November, Sacred Heart Church is holding a Christmas Market in the Centenary Hall, Essendene Road, Caterham CR3 5PA from 11.30am-3pm. The attractions will include arts and crafts, tovs, cakes, decorations, light lunches and snacks and a bar.



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shelley@ owlandbrothers.com

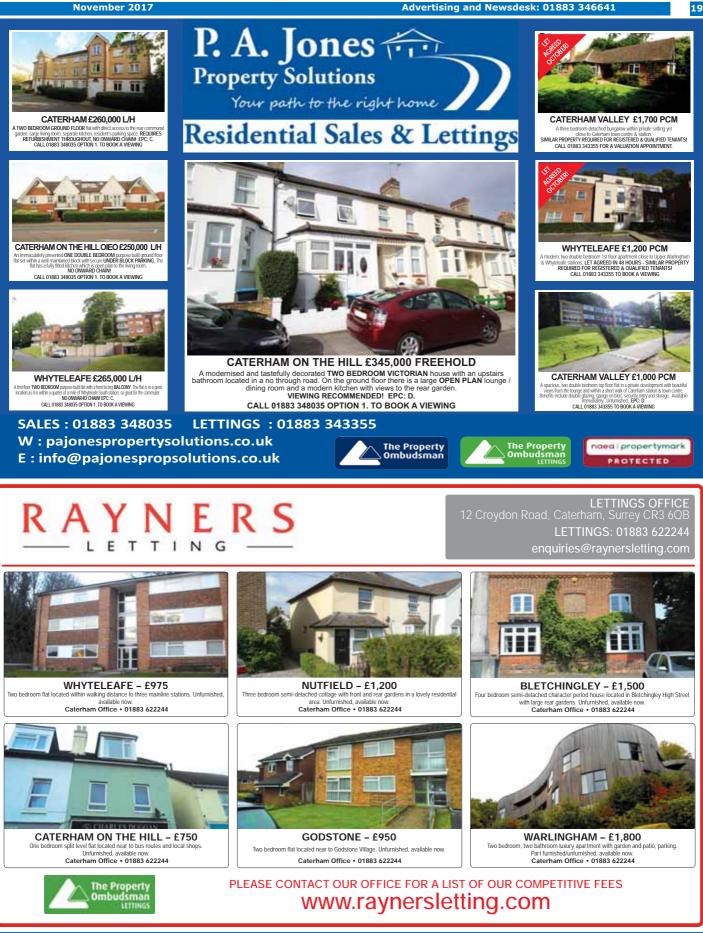
Old Coulsdon Camera Club On Tuesday 7th November at 7.45pm for 8pm, Old Coulsdon Camera Club are present-ing a talk entitled: "Mainly ing a talk entitled: Mono" by Max Adelman at Cameron Hall, Canon's Hill, Old Coulsdon. Entrance is £5 for visitors (refunded on joining the Club).

Christmas Tree Festival

St. Lawrence's Church, Church Hill, Caterham are holding a Christmas Tree Festival on 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th November from 10.30am-5pm. Entrance is by donation and all proceeds will go to the upkeep of the church. Continued on page 18.







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