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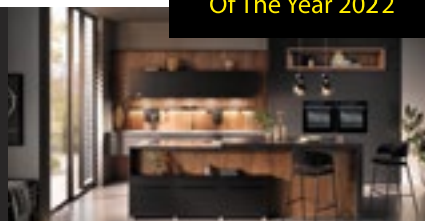
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TV star creates A Place in Tandridge

By Louise D'Costa

You may recognise her from *A Place in the Sun*, *This Morning* and *Dancing on Ice*, but you are now almost as likely to spot presenter Laura Hamilton in your local high street as you are on the television, after her move to Tandridge in 2022. We caught up with Laura to ask why she has chosen to live in the district, and to find out more about her latest - and extremely personal - renovation project, as well as her new clothing range.

Laura began renovating property across Surrey, Kent and London

when she was just 1: this one is her 19th project, and is also her own home. Originally part of a manor house, it has a 16th Century folly with a well, and Laura has kept this period feature as part of her new design.

"This is probably one of my most ambitious rebuilds to date," she explains. "Partly due to the fact that the property is partially off-grid, and also because it was so important to me that it had sustainability as the focus. I've installed an air source heat pump, solar panels, a water treatment plant and an electric car charging port, among other things."

The process of turning a run-down wreck into a much-loved home is

something Laura gets a real buzz from: "I love everything about it, from creating the floor plan through to designing the interior. And this one is particularly rewarding of course, because I'm creating somewhere special for my family to live."

Choosing Tandridge to move to was an easy decision for Laura: "I love that there is such a rural feel, yet there are lots of amenities that are easily accessible, plus the airports and London, both of which are crucial for my work. My family and I love the green outdoor spaces as well as the woodlands, and Tandridge

Continued on page 2



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Letter from the editor

I think it's safe to say now that summer has finally arrived! I've been using my garden as my office recently, as it's been the perfect way to work on this month's paper.

The holidays are just around the corner - have you started planning for them? We've visited some fantastic places so we can share them with you for inspiration. There's climbing walls, axe throwing, plays, films, duckpin bowling, high ropes, a zip wire, horse riding, swimming, workshops and sports...in short, lots of ideas to keep your children busy!

There's also Godstone Farm's recently opened playbarn: three stories of indoor adventure fun, and that's before you even get to the animals! And the Festival Theatre has some classic stage shows for kids over the coming weeks, and Hever Castle has donated a brilliant family pass for one of our lucky readers.

Our front page features local celebrity Laura Hamilton. I enjoyed meeting her at her Tandridge home, and we chatted about sustainability and her new clothing range, which launched this month. (After a sneak preview, I couldn't resist ordering a dress or two for some summer events!) Laura is working with luxury brand Verity & Me, and they are giving one of you the chance to win a £50 voucher to redeem against anything in the Laura X range.

We've got expertise from our regular columnists, and reporter Rosalind has been on her second Tandridge fire station visit. She spoke to the on-call crew about their routines, and how they differ from Godstone, a station that's manned 24/7.

Lord Roberts on the Green in Purley, is offering you a free coffee when you order a meal from their extensive menu - see page 8. And check back with us soon for more news about their Lebanese evenings too.

Finally, we have exciting news (drumroll please....)! We will be launching our new website on Monday, 10 July and, with it, some new opportunities for both residents and businesses. Please make sure you're following us on socials to find out more.

See you in August, when we'll have more ideas for some grown-up summer fun!

(PS. I'd like to say congratulations to Caterham's The Lost Sheep, which has just won Best Lifestyle Store in the 2023 Muddy Stiletto awards!)

Louise D'Costa



Laura Hamilton's at home in Tandridge

Continued from front page

offers us the opportunity to explore nature and discover new areas all the time. It's the perfect place to unwind and relax!"

Entrepreneurial Laura, who cites travel as one of her big passions and is on the way to gaining her pilot's licence, recently added another string to her bow with the launch of her clothing range, Laura x.

As co-director, along with luxury women's fashion and lifestyle brand Verity & Me, she has designed brightly-coloured dresses, jumpsuits, swimwear and nightwear, and she was keen to ensure her eco-ethos was applied to these, too:

"Our intentions were to use as many recycled fabrics as possible, although this is difficult when you are ordering in small quantities as you are relying on the importers. We had found what we wanted but a larger supplier got in front of us and bought the entire consignment, so we had no alternative but to buy normal base cloths.

Going forward, we will be switching to eco and recycled fabrics where possible as we are going to switch our supply route, and get our styles made in sustainable fabrics at source. Needless to say, all our packaging



Photo credit: Sarah
Olivia Photography

Laura talks to editor Louise

is recyclable, and our current factory is Sedex-approved, which is an international certificate covering labour standards, health and safety, environment and business ethics."

Laura's new range, Laura x, launched at the beginning of July and she is offering one of our readers the chance to win a £50 voucher to spend on it. All the entry details are on this page - good luck!

This month's competition

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Good luck!

Please note that by entering the competition you are agreeing to your name being published on our website, paper and socials if you are a winner. Your email will also be added to our mailing list. You can ask to be removed at any time.

Get to know: Lingfield Fire Station

By Rosalind Brookman

In the second of our series looking at Tandridge's fire stations, this month we visit Lingfield. Unlike Godstone, the only 24/7 station in the district, Lingfield's operational hours are nights and weekends, but the role is the same.

The firefighters' skill sets, training and development programmes are equal to their wholtime counterparts, as is the pay, albeit the latter is on a pro-rata basis and has an additional turn-out fee per shout. The main difference is that the Lingfield fire-fighters are not based at the station but are on-call from home, available to respond over an average of 54 hours a week, with 24 of those at the weekend. While this may seem a big commitment, especially as they balance this with regular jobs, it is also a flexible one, as their availability can be submitted several weeks in advance to suit.

Lingfield's crew must live close by: their target is for the appliance to be ready to leave the forecourt no more than five minutes after their alerters have gone off. This may prove tricky in October as the station is being given a £6.25m makeover, and they will be moving out for a year. At the time of printing, they are waiting to hear where they will be based while the refurbishment is done.

Their work is varied: while there has been a marked reduction in more serious call-outs as fire safety advice becomes widespread and vehicle safety improves, others, such as



Lingfield firefighters (left to right) Ben Wimble, Leo Wells, Mark Turner, James Harley, David Stevens and Keith Wood.

fires involving electric scooters, have increased. They complete regular drills and checks and undergo development training at Lingfield but are often drafted in on standby at other stations. They also go out on Surrey Fire and Rescue Service's Safe and Well visits, drop in at schools and fairs and hold open days.

Finding camaraderie and purpose

David Stevens is Lingfield's watch commander, and was a wholtime firefighter before retiring and rejoining in an on-call capacity:

"I've always wanted to help people, and that's why I initially joined. I was a squaddie before that and loved the teamwork and camaraderie: I found that again here."

Many of the crew have followed in the footsteps of friends or relatives.

Mark Turner's uncle was an on-call firefighter at Lingfield: "He got me involved when I was 18. I was here for five years, left for a while to pursue other things and then rejoined again ten years' later. Now I've been here for 15 years in total!"

A friend of Keith Wood started in the service in 1993: "We were going to join together but I was starting up

my own business at the time, so I told him I'd join the next year. I did, and I've been here ever since."

Leo Wells is currently training to be a firefighter: "A friend of mine was already here, and I took an interest in the job through him."

James Harley's grandad was in the fire brigade: "He told me stories about it when I was a kid. For me, the job is about the purpose, and the crew. We're all here for each other."

If you would like to find out more about becoming an on-call firefighter, you are invited to drop by and meet the crew at their Saxby Lane station (Monday evenings 19:00 - 22:00).

News from Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions Club

By Peter Drysdale

On 13 May, the Lions Club of Caterham, Oxted & Godstone held its annual Charity Swimathon at De Stafford School in Caterham. Fourteen teams took part, from local organisations such as Whyteleafe Guides, (including 6-year-old Abbie!), Whyteleafe Cubs, Purley Cubs, scouts from Woldingham and Caterham, Taekwondo Seniors and Juniors, Future Gymnastics (who entered three teams), Little Kickers and, of course, the Lions, with the help of two gallant volunteers. The number of lengths achieved varied from Taekwondo Seniors (67) down to the team with disabilities from Bletchingley Skills Centre, who achieved a wonderful 40 lengths, and the various Cub teams, who all came in at 30-some-

thing lengths. Their sponsorship money will be collected and divided between their charities and the Lions Club. There was enthusiastic participation from everybody involved, with all the teams commenting on how much they had enjoyed the event. They hoped the Lions would hold it again next year, with even more teams entering. Our grateful thanks go to Epps Electrical, Specsavers Caterham, Crystal Carpets in Caterham and Paul James Jewellers, Oxted, for sponsoring the event.

Tickets sold out very quickly for a trivia quiz night held on 17 June in Godstone's White Hart Barn - always a popular social and fundraising evening. There will be another one later in the year.

Six of us enjoyed a taster session at Godstone Bowls Club recently. There is a lot more to it than just

bowling a ball down! Our champion bowler on the night was Lion Tony G, who seemed to know exactly what to do. Our thanks go to their secretary Geoff for showing us the ropes. If anyone is interested in trying bowls, they are always up for new members.

Want to meet the Lions? You'll find us at the fete on Godstone Green on the August bank holiday: we'll be selling burgers, popcorn, candyfloss and cold drinks etc. Why not drop by to say hello and sample what we're offering?

If you would like to know more about your local Lions Club, call Lion Tony,

on 01883 741809. The Lions also have a minibus available for hire: speak to Lion David on 01342 893353.



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News In Brief

Master Park events

Oxted's Master Park charity will be holding its AGM in the pavilion on Wednesday, 12 July at 19:30.

Oxted Festival is on Friday, 7 (16:00 - 23:00), Saturday, 8 (12:00 - 23:00) and Sunday, 9 July (12:00 until 20:00).

Harp in the Park, with local harpist Mark Levin, will take place on Sunday, 30 July at 15:00, to help raise money for the park.

Solar power help

Surrey County Council and its district and borough councils are working with Solar Together Surrey to help homeowners install solar panels at a lower cost. This greener energy deal includes solar photovoltaic (PV) panels only, or solar PV panels and battery storage together.

Battery storage only is also available for those who already have solar PV panels.

Register at solartogether.co.uk/surrey by 11 August.

Insect identification

Ponds, rivers and streams around Tandridge are teeming with beautiful damselflies and dragonflies. Surrey Wildlife Trust is offering you the chance to learn some clever techniques for identifying them. The session takes place at Merstham Community Hub (am) and Nutfield Biodiversity Park (pm) on Friday, 14 July, from 10:00 to 15:00. Visit surreywildlifetrust.org/whatson to book.

New pharmacy in Godstone

The Lloyds Pharmacy in Godstone High Street has been taken over by independent, family-run Godstone Pharmacy. Opening hours will be 9:00 - 18:00 on weekdays, and 9:00 - 13:00 on Saturdays (closed on Sundays). The new owners will be providing services such as flu vaccinations, ear wax removal, blood pressure monitoring and a travel vaccination clinic, and are looking forward to providing a high quality service to the Godstone community.



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New chairmanship in Whyteleafe

By Dr. Marcus Jones

Outgoing chairman of Whyteleafe Village Council

Whyteleafe Village Council has achieved so much over the last two years, and is continuing to work with the Whyteleafe Community Hub, other groups, and volunteers to bring people together and enhance the quality of life in our village.

At the council's annual May meeting I stood down as chairman, and the councillors elected Deano Cline as the new chairman, and John Moffatt as Vice-Chairman.

I will now dedicate more time to specific issues such as the Tandridge Electoral Review to try to ensure that the proposals are fair and do not disadvantage residents of Whyteleafe. For information about the review visit the official website: lgbee.org.uk/all-reviews/tandridge.

I would like to thank the council's clerk Simon Bold, and my fellow village councillors for their excellent work over the last two years. Additionally, I would like to give my special

thanks to the Whyteleafe Community Hub volunteers for delivering great street parties, for their tireless efforts in feeding those in need, befriending, litter picking and supporting the garden group volunteers who are working hard to make our village more beautiful.

Thanks also to Rev'd Annie Kurk and the kind parishioners of St. Luke's Church for their support, generosity, and great work in the community. And finally, a big thank you to all the residents of Whyteleafe for the tremendous support you give too.

To find out more about the village council, including details of our meetings, visit our website (address below). If you wish to raise a council-related matter, please contact the clerk via email: clerk@whyteleafevillagecouncil.gov.uk, or telephone 07939 403414.

If you would like to join the volunteers who are already involved in the many exciting projects across our community, go to the Whyteleafe Community Facebook page for lots more information.

www.whyteleafevillagecouncil.gov.uk

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Investing in parks and open spaces



By Catherine Sayer

Leader of Tandridge District Council

Improving our parks and open spaces is a key priority for the council. Our own funds are limited, but we have managed to obtain funding of £1m from the government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), which we are intending to use across the district to improve facilities and encourage more people to use the open spaces we have.

Some of the money will have to go on rather unexciting things like more dog and litter bins and some on unfortunate necessities like addressing vandalism, damage to play equipment and other anti-social behaviour. The rest is targeted for positive developments such as encouraging wildlife and biodiversity and making the open spaces more attractive, welcoming and user-

friendly, to stimulate greater usage.

Parks and open spaces are the green oases that beautify our environment, particularly if you live in a built-up area. They are one of our most used publicly-funded services. They often form the heart of community life, providing space for residents to exercise, to improve their physical health and mental wellbeing and to relax.

The council has put together a plan called the Open Space Strategy, which sets out how we intend to manage and improve our open spaces throughout the district. The aim is to make it easier to focus priorities so that resources can be targeted to what's important, such as access to open spaces, maintaining their quality and management, and maintenance to meet the needs of residents and visitors into the future.

For the Open Space Strategy, we came up with 249 projects and programmes, but the cost of delivering them all would be £4.7m, so we have

If you have any comments/questions, please get in touch at: Cllr.Catherine.Sayer@tandridge.gov.uk

Letter from Claire Coutinho, MP for East Surrey

I want to start by addressing the recent inflation figures. I know many of you are worried about your mortgages and family finances.

The chancellor has agreed a new Mortgage Charter with the nation's largest lenders. Anyone worried about repayments can contact their lender for help and guidance from highly trained advisors without any impact on their credit file. Customers who are up-to-date with payments can switch to a new deal at the end of their fix, without another affordability check.

Signatories to the charter, including Barclays, Natwest, Lloyds, Nationwide, HSBC and Santander, have agreed to go further, with extra protections for homeowners at risk of repossession and extra chances for customers to lock in fixed-rate deals up to six months ahead of their fix coming to an end. They will also allow up-to-date customers to switch to interest-only payments for six months or extend their term to reduce monthly payments. Although it remains a challenge, these steps

will give homeowners a little more breathing space.

We are also ensuring we remain focused on your priorities, including the NHS, where we've reduced the number of patients waiting over 18 months by more than 90%.

Our 15-year plan to train and retain more staff is the largest expansion of workforce training in NHS history. It will make it easier for them to move from classroom to clinic, and mean that we train more of our own doctors rather than relying on attracting talented people from overseas. This will secure the NHS's future and make sure it can continue to look after future generations.

Locally, the summer season is well and truly here, which means looking ahead to many wonderful fairs, fetes and summer festivities. I've already judged the dog show at the Limsfield Chart Fair and over the summer I'm looking forward to meeting our local farmers at the Edenbridge & Oxted Agricultural Show. They do a tremendous job keeping us fed and maintaining the landscapes that

make Tandridge such a beautiful place to live.

I recently held a meeting at John and Sally Nicholas' Tandridge farm, organised by the National Farmers Union and attended by farmers from across East Surrey. It was really useful to hear local perspectives on the Sustainable Farming Incentive: a new way of supporting farmers with payments for things that contribute to the public good, like planting trees and improving biodiversity. We had a great discussion about how we can ensure fairness in the food supply chain to keep prices as sensible as possible for families. I'll be taking their suggestions back to Defra ministers.

Finally, I want to celebrate a fantastic local school I visited recently: Oxted's Moor House. They're a specialist school and college for children and young people with speech and language disorders, and I was given a tour of their brilliant facilities.

Pupils often arrive with real communication difficulties, but with dedicated support from the Moor

House teachers and on-site speech & language therapists, they grow into confident and capable young adults. The school has a wonderful atmosphere and it was clear how much the students felt supported in their studies.

I have responsibility for special

educational needs in my ministerial role, so it was great to see a wonderful example locally. The pupils asked me some fantastic questions during our Q&A, including whether there are any aliens in Parliament – something I can neither confirm nor deny...

Claire Coutinho MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR EAST SURREY

Since I was elected, I've held regular surgeries with local residents to talk about the issues that matter to them.

I've also been holding regular remote surgeries by telephone, so if you need any help or want to raise an issue of importance to you, please don't hesitate to email or call me to set up a meeting.

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Proposed changes to Tandridge's dog-walking rules spark concern

By Safiyyah Choudry

Professional dog walkers have reacted with concern to Tandridge District Council's (TDC) proposed new measures for dog walking, which could include reduced limits on the number of dogs allowed to be walked at the same time, mandatory use of leads, and the creation of dog-free zones. Currently, licensed businesses can walk up to six dogs in public areas.

The issue was brought to the public's attention after dog walker Natasha Johnston was killed while walking eight dogs in Caterham in January. In response, TDC began looking at ways to increase the safety of dog walkers and ensure a similar incident does not occur again.

Hayley Hamilton-Herbert is the founder of Simply the Pets, a professional dog walking and pet sitting agency serving Warmingham and the surrounding areas. She has been in the industry, which is currently unregulated, for 15 years, and attended TDC's Community Services Committee meeting on 16 June, where she spoke out about the importance of the council consulting those working in it when considering these changes.

She expressed dismay about the likely financial impact of the proposals: "If we were to reduce from six dogs to three, that's a 50% cut in income for somebody currently operating at that number. That doesn't make sense, especially during a cost of living crisis. It also punishes those already doing the right thing and operating safely with a licence."

It doesn't help, Hayley said, that each council has its own rules: "It's confusing for owners and dog walkers, and it comes across as unfair. You go to one area, and you can walk six dogs.



Hayley with her clients

You go to another and can only walk four." She explained that it is "less about the numbers" and "more about how we ensure people are operating safely. It's very different walking six Bichon Frisé that are all well-trained and under control, than it is six big unruly Dogue de Bordeaux that aren't as well-behaved."

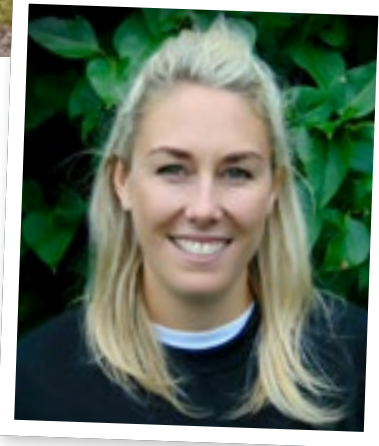
Hayley highlighted the value in creating a unified licensing scheme, so dog walkers and owners have a supportive network. The dog walking licence needs to be "something to be desired, because as it currently stands it offers very little to dog walkers in terms of support, and there's little incentive to get it."

Developing a public list of recommended walkers would be beneficial, Hayley believes, as would introducing a star rating system based on dog walk-

ers' experience and qualifications. This would incentivise walkers to invest in personal development, further training and provide clearer guidelines for clients. She also mentioned the need for a handbook that details good practices and ensures consistency.

Finally, Hayley suggested a few actions dog owners could take to ensure they find the right dog walker: "Ask questions and find out how they operate. What do they do, what qualifications have they got, and what does their day look like? That way, they're going to make sure they get the walker that suits them."

TDC has agreed on a six-week consultation period on their draft public space protection order to safeguard dog walkers and ensure proper regulation and support for the dog walking industry.



Hayley Hamilton-Herbert

What's your opinion on the proposed changes? Email newsdesk@tandridgeindependent.com.

Accessible drama workshops launched

Oxted-based charity Head2Head Sensory Theatre has unveiled a series of summer drama workshops that will create new routes into the performing arts for children and teens with disabilities.

Suitable for children and young adults with moderate learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities from 7 to 19+, the workshops will use drama games, role play and improvisation to encourage the participants to learn new drama skills, make friends and have fun in a friendly, accessible and safe space.

Head2Head founder Anni Rhodes Steere believes that everybody should have equal access to the performing arts:

"We understand how important drama tools can be to awaken the senses, encourage communication and sociability and build self-confidence. We want to give everyone theatrical opportunities in a nurturing environment."

The workshops are the next step for the charity on their mission to create pathways into theatre for children and young people with special needs. They already have a successful work experience programme for young students.

The drama sessions will take place every Thursday in August at Drews-hearn Barn, Crowhurst Lane, Oxted. More information can be found at h2hsensorytheatre.com.

Puma Fest '23

Caterham Pumas held their annual presentation weekend and celebration festival Pumas Fest at the end of June, to say thank you to all their players, parents, supporters and volunteers.



Mindful moodboards



By Deborah Smith

Menagerie Interiors

This weekend, I visited my allotment. After I had watered my vegetables, I took a break and sat for a while, just contemplating life! It's a beautiful, quiet spot and it provides the perfect environment to be still and mindful.

I also have several areas for contemplation in my home, where I can sit and look out the window, relax with a magazine and ponder the week ahead.

In a time of constant change and worrying developments, it is so important to have a space where we can relax and unwind, and become inspired or positively energised. When I design interiors for my clients, the most important part for me is that the end result resonates with them, and I achieve a unique look where they feel happy to be in their home environment. I like to call this authentic styling.

When you are considering renovating or redecorating, ensure you answer some key questions. How do you want to feel in that space: energised or calm? What sort of environment do you want to create: sophisticated or casual? When putting together your visual moodboard, col-

lect pictures that reflect the feeling you want to achieve, as well as the colours and patterns you're drawn to.

So what inspires you? The aim of the design game is to surround yourself with things you love.

I've shared lots of thoughts on natural materials and neutral palettes, but maybe you're drawn to vibrant colour and bold patterns? Injecting colour to your home can really help your energy levels. Check out Lusthome.com for very bold, on trend wallcoverings. Or charlottetegaissford.com for bright colourful fabrics and wallpapers with a slightly more dainty design approach.

And don't forget to add art to your moodboard! Artwork is an essential element that brings your creative scheme together, while also providing a source of inspiration. Ever lost track of time staring at a piece of artwork?! Gallery walls are also a great way to bring your personality into a home. If you are curating your own and want to achieve the eclectic look, do have fun mixing traditional and contemporary, detailed and simple, but try to keep a common thread for the gallery to really work. For example, use the same colour/material frames, or pictures that have similar colours or subject matter.

Here are some of my current favour-

ite art sources and artists:

- Modern, black and white photography: Adamclutterbuckphotography.com
- Affordable original art: @atelierbleu
- Contemporary art: Trowbridgegallery.com
- Flora and fauna: sallyoasispaintings.co.uk

If you're passionate about art, head to London for the Affordable Art Fair in Battersea (there is usually an event every spring and autumn) for some amazing affordable artwork from new and emerging artists. Happy shopping!

Deborah Smith is the founder and design director of Menagerie Interiors. Visit menagerieinteriors.co.uk or email her on deborah@menagerieinteriors.co.uk. Find her on Instagram: @menagerie_interiors.



Caterham Festival scarecrows

Residents of Caterham were asked to design, make and display scarecrows as part of the Caterham Festival, and they didn't disappoint! From the top: Harry (left) and Oscar (right) with Bob; Westway Centre visitors were met by Stewie; Edie's scarecrow is ready for summer; Cole Cleaning Ltd's Amy Shinehouse





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Kenley care home donates medical equipment to Ukraine



Rokewood Court's wheelchair in Ukraine

Rokewood Court in Kenley has donated vital medical equipment to Surrey-based volunteer organisation Ukraine Mission, which was set up in March 2022 by Rhys Wheeler, Beth Lempriere and Harrison Silver.

The care home provided a wide range of equipment, including 10 zimmer frames, walkers, a wheelchair, nebulisers, blood pressure monitors and a stethoscope. These were safely delivered to a foundation in north-eastern Ukraine, named 'Palms of Peace' or

Rhys said: "These items were desperately needed, and have now been safely delivered to Kharkiv Oblast. Some of the equipment is now being used at hospitals which had no access to such supplies, and other items were delivered to Ukrainians in nearby villages who were displaced or those who have remained at their homes during the conflict. We can't thank Rokewood Court enough for generously donating so many items."

Shaun Matthews is the general manager at Rokewood Court, part of the Cinnamon Care Collection: "When we were approached by Ukraine Mission we were keen to help. We were thrilled to hear that Rhys and his team managed to safely deliver all the items to where they were most needed. We were even sent a photo of a Ukrainian woman



Rokewood Court's maintenance manager Bob Singfield (left) with Rhys Wheeler from Ukraine Mission

using the wheelchair: she is now able to move freely around her home and leave her house more easily, which previously wasn't possible due to her mobility issues. Ukraine Mission is an incredible organisation. We wish them every success with their future missions and hope to continue to support them when we can."

Ukraine Mission has so far dis-

tributed more than 40 tonnes of aid, working in collaboration with trusted partners in Poland and Ukraine. Their next trip, which will be their tenth, is scheduled for 6 August, and they are still in need of various items including medical equipment, medication, sleeping bags and head torches. For the full list, or to make a financial donation, please visit ukrainemission.co.uk.



Dessert parlour aims for a large scoop of the market

The doors of The Scoop Company may only have been open for a few weeks but owners Maria and Andy Grey have already received fantastic support from the Warlingham community. This comes, in the most part, from the energy and enthusiasm they have put into creating a uniquely stunning and fun location filled with delicious treats, but also because they are locals themselves, having lived here for six years and with friend and family connections to the area for many more before that.

The Scoop Company has been a natural career progression for Maria: she was a regular behind the counter of her dad's ice cream van from a young age, thriving on the interactions with customers. And a third generation may one day head into the business too, as the couple's two sons, 12 and 6, are, unsurprisingly, always keen to spend time at their parents' new venture!

Despite the focus on ice cream - 36 flavours and counting - The Scoop Company is a fully-fledged dessert parlour with a large range of freshly baked goods (most of which come from local bakers) design-your-own milkshakes, sorbets, gelatos and more. They use a local roaster for their speciality coffee, and there's even doggie ice cream for canine visitors!

Maria says that their priority is making sure that there's something for everybody:

"We can't bear to see anybody

miss out because of dietary requirements or allergies, so we've always got dairy-free, gluten-free, soya-free and vegan options, and we have a counter that is nut-free from factory level as well."

Looking to make the business as eco-friendly as possible, Maria explains: "Our coffee cups, lids, straws and trays are compostable and we also sell reusable cups. Whenever we source something new, we look for the most sustainable choice, and we recycle everything we can."

The Scoop Company will soon feature on food delivery sites such as Just Eat and Deliveroo, allowing the in-parlour experience to come to you if you are unable to get to them. The couple are currently working with a designer to create packaging that will not only keep your desserts at the perfect temperature, but will also look beautiful when it arrives at your door. Andy says they try to source UK suppliers for projects like this:

"It's important for us to support the country's economy, as well as to reduce our carbon footprint as much as possible."

The couple have innovative plans to update the menus throughout the year to reflect the changing seasons.

"For example," says Andy, "when you think of autumn, your mind turns to warmer colours, like reds and oranges. So our menu from October may include ice cream flavours such as chocolate orange, pumpkin pie and cinnamon, and we'll change up our cookie doughs and candy flosses to match."

Maria adds: "In winter there might be gingerbread, apple crumble with infused custard, and warm, runny chocolate to pour over ice cream, perfect for those colder days!"

Customers will also notice



Photo credits: Sarah Olivia Photography

Review: A Scoop of Excitement

By Jack Allen, 12

Everyone's been talking about the new dessert parlour in Warlingham: The Scoop Company. Maria, daughter of a local gelato man, together with her husband Andy, has created an amazing new place to make marvellous, magical memories in. With chatty and friendly staff, you can order whatever your heart desires from their mouth-watering menu. There is a large choice for those with allergies and dietary needs as well.

They have been busy as bees, making everyone's orders. Maria and Andy say they created The Scoop Company to give the public a special space they can enjoy and make moments in. Their idea started eight weeks before they opened, with a fantastic brainwave in the early hours of the morning. Within four hours the plan of the parlour, together with a colourful mood board, had been completed.

The duo have designed a beautiful cherry blossom theme, which came from their shared love of the pink flower. There are marble tables, comfy pink seats, and you can eat in or takeaway.

The new edition to Warlingham has caused excitement amongst the public:

"Thank you for all the love and support on social media," said Maria and Andy, when I spoke to them.

As the amazing pair carry on making their customers' dreams come true, I wish them the best of luck and hope they have a big stock of ice cream!

Jack

"We can't bear to see anybody miss out because of dietary requirements or allergies, so we've always got dairy-free, gluten-free, soya-free and vegan options, and we have a counter that is nut-free from factory level as well."

Keep up-to-date with The Scoop Company by following them on Instagram: @thescoopcompany_

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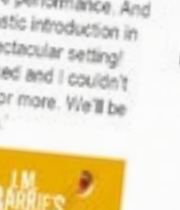
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Junior archaeologists digging for treasure in Queen's Park

Digging up Caterham's past

By Peter Connolly

Curator of East Surrey Museum

It was great to see so many budding young archaeologists and their families out in the sunshine in Queens Park in June for The Rod Stead Archaeological Dig. Organised by East Surrey Museum, and supported by Caterham Rotary and the Bourne Society, the dig has been a regular feature of the annual Caterham Festival.

On hand to help were archaeology officer Wayne Weller from Surrey Community Archaeology, who opened up the one-metre test pits, supervised the dig and showed examples of earlier finds, and Rich-

ard Joly, a local metal detectorist, who found a number of interesting items and gave the visitors a flavour of this fascinating hobby.

Among the finds made were dozens of coins (from the 1860s to the present), lots of bottle tops and ring-pulls, someone's lost door key, a beautiful enamel brooch/badge, some WWII shrapnel from anti-aircraft shells and a whetstone to sharpen tools. As the dig progressed through the topsoil, several pottery shards were found, which Wayne identified as both medieval and post-medieval, indicating an early settlement nearby. All the finds will now be cleaned up and put on display in the museum in the next couple of weeks for all to see.

Tandridge Past: Fetes and fairs

By Clare Corcoran

East Surrey Museum

This month, the museum is looking at local summer fairs and fetes.

To this day, a number of towns and villages across East Surrey organise an array of summer fairs and fetes. Tandridge Fete and Warlingham Fair both took place in June, with the latter also celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. But the right to hold a fair in Godstone dates all the way back to 1251, and this picture from the museum's collection shows the fair in 1906, held on the Green. The present-day fete dates back to 1943, with 2023's event scheduled for the August bank holiday,



Godstone Fair in 1906

Advertiser

the same day as Chaldon Fete. Historically, Lingfield also held a summer fair, although this tradition now seems to have morphed more into regular antiques events.

Also in the collection we hold an intriguing, stylised flyer from the Caterham & Warlingham Urban District Festival 1951. The flyer's distinctive logo – featuring a helmeted figurehead atop a four-pointed star, with bunting around the horizontal axis – links this local event to the famous Festival of Britain. This cultural celebration, described as a 'tonic for the nation', which was undergoing reconstruction after World War II, was mainly focused on London's South Bank. But villages and towns around

the nation were also invited to hold their own festivities.

Caterham and Warlingham held a 'Three-in-One' show in Queen's Park on Saturday, 28 July. A souvenir programme priced 3d was printed, with all proceeds going to the 'Festival Memorial Fund'. The main festival itinerary included a gala dance, a fancy dress carnival and sporting events. For some, the extravagance of the festivities was too much, particularly after wartime and some continuing austerity. Surrey Heritage details 'letters of opposition' to costs, as well as religious objections to events scheduled for Sundays. It is noted that even composer Ralph Vaughan Williams cautioned on the danger of 'overdoing things', preferring a steady extension of the 'keep calm and carry on' mantra of the preceding years, with a just shot or two of appropriate vigour: keeping spirits up without excessive indulgence.

The restraint of the 1951 festival contrasts with today's events, even though there has been a trend towards rediscovering the crafts and simpler pursuits of the last century and previously. But, in the light of the challenging years from which we have just emerged, it might be argued that a new nationwide tonic is needed.

Long Covid sufferer successfully completes rehabilitation programme



Sarah Parker (left) with Jennifer Godber, occupational therapist at First Community Health and Care.

First Community Health and Care has helped East Surrey resident Sarah Parker to successfully complete a Long Covid rehabilitation programme, allowing her to resume normal daily activities and return to full-time work.

In November 2020, Sarah contracted Covid-19, which was complicated by regular chest infections and an underlying asthma condition.

In February 2021, after struggling with symptoms such as severe headaches and shortness of breath, Sarah's GP referred her to First Community's Long Covid Rehabilitation Team. She began a series of physiotherapy sessions, firstly focused on exercises to improve her breathing and then moving onto physical exercises aimed at progressing mobility, movement and strength.

Sarah also completed a virtual fatigue management course, which provided lots of useful tools and techniques to support and manage her symptoms.

She is delighted with the positive outcomes she's had: "When my symptoms first started it felt like the worst flu in the world. All I wanted to do was sleep. I couldn't walk down the stairs without sitting halfway, or stand long enough to make food, and as I continued to have trouble breathing, I knew something wasn't quite right.

The physiotherapists worked with me at a slow pace, adapting exercises to how I was responding. I learnt breathing techniques and it's really helped with my asthma too.

I'm continuing to take one day at a time and use all the tools and techniques I learnt during the programme. I still get some symptoms, including brain fog when I'm tired and lack of taste and smell, but I can now breathe properly which is such a positive step for me.

I'm thrilled to feel well enough to be back at work and I feel I'm almost back to where I was before I had Covid. Being able to walk up and down the stairs without having to stop to catch my breath has made such a difference.

All the physiotherapists and occupational therapists who cared for me were amazing. Their support gave me everything I needed, and I can't thank the team enough."

First Community is part of the NHS, delivering community healthcare services in East Surrey and the surrounding area. They provide high-quality nursing and therapy services, children and family services as well as a community inpatient ward and minor injury unit at Caterham Dene Hospital. Its Long Covid Rehabilitation Service launched in May 2019.

Visit firstcommunityhealthcare.co.uk for more information.

Friends of Queens Park Caterham

If you're interested in keeping informed about issues and plans with the park please take a look at our new Facebook group. It's a new committee and group made up of local people that care about the preservation and improvement of Queens Park for everyone.



A vintage paradise at Lingfield Racecourse

Lovers of all things retro were in their element when Love Fairs' Antiques and Vintage Fair returned to Lingfield Park Racecourse in May.

Founded in 2015 and taking place six times a year, the fair had more than 180 indoor and outdoor stalls, featuring an enormous selection of fascinating objects to browse through.

Whatever your interests, there was something for you - whether it was ceramics, glass, jewellery, silver, clothes, homeware, clocks or furniture - and the atmosphere was buzzing as the many people there enjoyed seeking out treasures from among the thousands of items on display. They

were also able to talk to the friendly dealers, who were happy to give them the benefit of their in-depth knowledge and years of experience.

After walking around the stalls, visitors were more than ready to stop by the cafe for a drink and a bite to eat.

While there, they were entertained by the vocal talents of swing singer Steve Conway, who soon had them tapping their toes and joining in with some much-loved classics.

The next Antiques and Vintage Fair will take place at Lingfield Racecourse

on Sunday, 23 July between 9:30 and 15:30. Entry is £5 from 9:30 or £4 from 10:30 onwards (under-16s go free). There is plenty of free parking and dogs on short leads are permitted. For more information visit lovefairs.com or call 01293 690777.



Photo credits: Sarah Olivia Photography



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Jenny Lomas in action

Caterham lacrosse player to represent Wales

Local schoolgirl Jenny Lomas has been selected to represent Wales at the upcoming European Lacrosse Federation's Women's U21 Championships. Jenny, who is a pupil at Caterham School and also plays for Caterham Cougars Lacrosse Club, is following in her mum Natalie's footsteps, as she also played lacrosse for Wales. The championships will be held in Prague from 2 to 9 July, with 11 countries taking part.

Players wanted for Premier U16's team



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Can you help Fay achieve her Paralympic dream?

By Rosalind Brookman

When Fay Hart was introduced to the Paralympic sport boccia (pronounced 'bot-cha') at school, she wasn't particularly taken with it. It was only after she had moved out of her family home and into her own Hurst Green flat in 2016 that she decided joining her local boccia club would be a good way to get out and meet people. Little did she know it would soon become much more than a hobby.

Specifically designed for athletes with disabilities affecting their locomotor functions, boccia - which is similar to bowls - is played from a seated position, making it an ideal sport for Fay, who was born with cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair.

Games take place on an indoor court, and players are divided into four classifications, depending on their disability and functional ability. Competitors, either individually or in teams, take turns throwing, kicking or using a ramp to aim their six red or blue leather balls at the white jack ball. Once all the balls have been used, points are awarded to one player or team for every ball nearer to the jack than their opponent's closest ball.

"When I started I found it difficult as I couldn't even throw the ball, and without my first coach Katie Gatt I don't think I would have even got past the starting point," says Fay. "However, I was determined to succeed, working really hard for years and finally reaching a level where I could compete."

Selected by charity Boccia England for their Talent Pathway, through which it finds and develops future Paralympic athletes, Fay trains under the guidance of experienced coach Barry Bowden.

"He is helping me become the best I can be. We work really well together, and we have a laugh too."

After winning bronze and silver



Fay won a silver medal at the Boccia England Cup qualifiers in March

medals at the recent Boccia England Cup Qualifiers, she has now been picked to represent them at the Para Sport Festival in Swansea in July. Her long-term goal, however, is to become part of the ParalympicsGB boccia team.

"Boccia England has said I have the potential. They've given me a plan of what I need to do to get there, but sport

is expensive. Even more so when you have a disability."

As well as her boccia kit, Fay regularly competes across the UK, and has to pay for travel, accommodation in hotels with disabled facilities, and a support worker to accompany her. The cost of living crisis has also threatened to limit her progress:

"If I have to choose between turning the heating on or doing the sport I love, then obviously the heating wins."

Fay says she has been fortunate to receive several grants in the past, and her recently established Go Fund Me page (gofundme.com/f/fay-harts-boccia-fund) will help her with some costs, but she is now looking for a long-term sponsor:

"Having that financial support would be perfect. I would be able to focus on my goal of reaching the ParalympicsGB boccia squad, instead of worrying about whether I can afford to do it. I'd love to find somebody who will come on that journey with me."

If you are an individual, business or organisation who would be interested in helping Fay, please contact her through Instagram: @Fays_boccia_journey.



Fay in training

Matt's Big Run 2 Paris raises £100k for leukaemia charity

By Rosalind Brookman

In 2012, Matt and Debbie Gaut's son Harry was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. After three years of treatment, they were told it had developed into acute myeloid leukemia, with the only chance of recovery coming from a stem cell transplant. Although

Harry received the transplant, he developed severe symptoms of graft-versus-host disease and in 2016, eight days after his sixth birthday, he passed away.

Matt, who lives in Caterham, said: "After Harry died, I knew I wanted to do something worthwhile in his name. I was introduced to the charity Cure Leukemia by Harry's godfather Kevin

Hoskins, who knew the CEO, James McLaughlin, and we started raising money for them by holding events such as sponsored runs and an annual golf day at Surrey National Golf Club."

In 2022, Matt completed the London to Paris bike ride - choosing to run the leg from Greenwich to Folkestone before cycling the rest of the route - which gave him his next idea: 'Le Big Run 2 Paris'.

"I emailed James with the proposal that I would run the entire way from London to Paris," said Matt. "I knew I would need five days instead of the four days the cyclists take, and I was aiming to raise £100,000 for the charity."

Matt assembled his support team: brother Simon and niece Molly, who flew in from Australia, physio Rhian and friends Richard Stefanski, Paul Reader and Harry's godfather Kevin. The four men took turns running alongside Matt, while Molly helped with the logistics of the challenge.

The group set off from Greenwich Park on the evening of Tuesday, 6 June; one day before the official cycle race began. Matt ran through the night, and on Wednesday afternoon they reached Folkestone. Once in Calais, he set off again, adding on an

extra run to balance out the miles they'd spent on the train in the Channel Tunnel!

Matt's 242-mile epic run (equivalent to nine marathons), which took him via Abbeville and Beauvais, saw Matt taking 449,555 steps, burning 23,000 calories and hitting his fund-raising target of £100k just before he reached the finish.

When Matt and his crew reached the Eiffel Tower on 11 June, he was cheered across the line by wife Debbie and around 160 cyclists who had also undergone the journey on behalf of Cure Leukaemia:

"Everybody was going bananas as we ran past them: it was absolutely incredible!"

All the money Matt has raised is going to help Cure Leukaemia launch a paediatric trials network, which will connect children with potentially life-saving treatments.

Matt and his wife Debbie, who also



Harry Gaut

have son Oliver, 10, say Harry was a happy, loving and brave little boy, who never complained about his illness:

"We are so very proud of him. Cure Leukaemia's CEO James said that the paediatric trials network will be Harry's legacy, which is a wonderful thing for us to have."

Matt's total now stands at £103,000, and you can still donate: visit justgiving.com/campaign/LeBigRun2Paris.



Matt (3rd from left) at the finish line

Titsey Brewing Co opens new brewery and taproom

Advertorial

The Titsey Brewing Co began life in 2017 as a microbrewery, run by founder Craig Vroom out of a small shed at Botley Hill Farmhouse. A successful crowdfunding campaign in 2018 enabled him to purchase a bigger brewing kit, grow the business and move into a bunker originally built during the Cold War. Most recently, a 2021 investment by the Titsey Estate Company has helped fund not only their expansion into a larger, purpose built site on Clarke's Lane Farm in Tatsfield, but also the opening of a taproom serving Titsey Brewing Co beers and a delicious menu.

Alongside their core beers such as Gower Wolf (bitter), Gresham Hopper (pale ale), Leveson Buck (IPA) and Innes Lager, you can also sample Titsey's seasonal beers, along with some taproom exclusives like their new non-alcoholic beer, and their cider, Marmaduke, which they have produced in partnership with Kentish Pip. Their bar also stocks a small selection of local spirits, wines and soft drinks.

The taproom's chef has created a menu, using locally sourced ingredients, which includes smashed patty burgers and buttermilk chicken, along with vegetarian and vegan options. There's also speciality dish peri-peri



rotisserie chicken, served with sides such as Asian slaw, barley salad and rosemary salted fries.

Located at the highest point of the North Downs Way, the stunning views and plenty of indoor and outdoor seating make it the perfect place for walkers (four-legged ones are welcome

too!) and cyclists to stop and enjoy a cold beer. It's open from Thursday to Sunday, with coffee and brunch served from 9:30 every day except Thursday.

Brewery tours will soon be available, and you will also be able to purchase a selection of merchandise and bottle packs to enjoy at home.

"This is a huge next step for Titsey Brewing Co.," says founder and head brewer Craig. "Up until now, we haven't been able to offer our supporters the opportunity to come in, chat to us and see what we do and how we do it. This new site changes that, and we're excited to be able to give



our customers, local residents and visitors to the North Downs a great space to enjoy Titsey beers and a fantastic food menu, all with a brilliant view. In addition, the new brewery is much bigger, so fans of Titsey can also expect to find us in more pubs across Surrey and Kent as we're now able to brew more, as well as try out new, exciting brews."

Find more information and opening hours visit titseybrewingco.com. For table bookings & taproom enquiries email info@titseybrewingco.com. Follow them on Facebook and Instagram: @titseybrewingco

Green Tips: Herbaceous perennials - save the bees

By Neil Miller

Head gardener at Hever Castle & Gardens

It's July and the flowers of the herbaceous borders, from the tall coneflowers and the exuberant day-lilies to the open-faced achilleas, are calling out to us to come and linger awhile and enjoy the buzz of the bees as they busily collect their nectar.

Like all gardeners, we know the importance of our pollinators and how our survival depends upon our bee friends. Sadly, according to the World Wildlife Fund, the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, and the loss of our wild spaces means that bees do not have the nature they need to thrive.

What more can we do to prevent further depletion of bee numbers?

We need to start locally: looking at our back gardens and beginning to include more bee-friendly plants that flower from March to October.

Hever Castle and Garden's Long Border in July is a paradise for bees. You can guarantee you'll hear them buzzing before you round the corner and see these incredible pollinators enjoying the digitalis, blue hardy geraniums, nepeta and the alchemilla mollis.

The bees at Hever love the open flowers of the asters and you can usually find a bloated honey-bee fill-

ing its sacks on the top of a tall pink echinacea.

It's vital that we plant bee-happy specimens. Chicory and echinops are fantastic perennials, as are echium and hypericum for attracting and sustaining your bee garden population.

Since the Second World War we have lost 97% of our wild meadows. If there's an area of your garden that you can let 'go wild' you will be helping to chip away at this sad statistic.

Rarer bumblebee species, like the Carder Bee family, need roughly 20 square kilometres of wild habitat to support their population, and at the

moment it looks like their stomping ground is being eaten away by humans at an incredible rate as we build out.

To boost rarer numbers ensure you leave some wild corners, and why not plant some coneflowers or cornflowers among their wilder cousins? Herbs

like wild garlic or corn mint are good for us, and they're good for our UK bee population too, so also make space for these fragrant beauties.

It's not just perennials that support our bee population - our trees and shrubs provide essential habitats too. Both the crab apple and edible apple trees are great for bees, who in turn help the tree produce fruit. Honey-suckle is a great climber whose scented

flowers provide nectar to attract the longer-tongued bumblebee. And ivy plants, like our Boston variety that reddens in the autumn, is a fantastic habitat for the ivy bee.

If you want to find out more, the BBC created a series of podcasts on the topic of bees - just go to BBC Sounds and look for the 'Let it grow' series.

And finally, if you find a tired bee in your garden, did you know you can revive it with some sugar? If you mix a little granulated sugar with a little water and drip it onto the flower the bee is resting on, this will revive the bee.



Top: Hever's Long Border Above: Tall echinacea;



A salvia maroon bee

Retelling the story of the Boleyn women

By Rosalind Brookman

A career as an art historian, a husband with Tudor connections and many years of reading and research provided novelist and playwright Ann Henning Jocelyn with the inspiration for her novel *The Sphere of Light: Secrets of the Boleyn Women*. Endorsed as accurate by Tudor historians, she has now adapted it into a play, which premieres at The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle in August.

Swedish-born Ann, is married to Robert Jocelyn, the 10th Earl of Roden and a descendant of Anne Boleyn's sister Mary. They live in County Galway, Ireland, and the portraits of his ancestors hanging from the walls of their home sparked her initial interest in the family. A discovery, at Clonony Castle, of a gravestone bearing the names Mary and Elizabeth Bullyn then led to Ann uncovering the, until then, untold story of George Boleyn, who became her protagonist, leading the reader and audience through the tale like a detective and dispelling myths about the women's behaviour, ambition and sanity.

"Over the years I've read many



Ann Henning Jocelyn Credit: Aoife Herriott

biographies of Anne and her female relatives," says Ann. "We are told that they acted in a certain way, but with no reasons why, or at least with explanations that suit the various political or personal agendas of the time. They totally exclude the women's point of view, and when I started looking at that instead, a totally different story emerged."

Ann has worked hard to ensure that not only is *The Sphere of Light* is entertaining - it features humour, music and singing - but that the audience will take something home with

them as well:

"As a playwright, I aim to give people a wonderful time but also have something to think about when they leave."

The Sphere of Light: Secrets of the Boleyn Women is being performed at The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle on Friday, 4 August (20:00) and Saturday, 5 August (14:00 and 20:00). Anne's book will be available to buy, and groups of eight or more, who buy tickets together, will each receive a complimentary copy. Visit heverfestival.co.uk.

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Licensing Act 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO VARY PREMISES LICENCE
by Titsey Brewing Company Ltd

Titsey Tap Room, Clarks Lane Farm, Clarks Lane,
Westerham, TN16 2JU

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an application has been made to the Licensing Authority of TANDRIDGE DISTRICT COUNCIL to vary a premises licence.

Details of the application are as follows:

Extend the Licensable Hours Monday to Sunday for alcohol sales
Monday – Sunday 0900 – 2200

A copy of the application may be inspected between 09:00 & 16:00
Monday to Friday at the address shown below.

Any person wishing to make representations on this matter must submit them in writing to the Licensing Section, Tandridge District Council, Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0BT or licensing@tandridge.gov.uk by not later than 14th July 2023 stating the grounds on which the representation is made.

Please note that it is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

Licensing Act 2003

NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR THE VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

Notice is hereby given that Shepherd Neame Ltd of 17 Court Street, Faversham, Kent, ME13 7AX have applied to the Licensing Authority at Tandridge District Council to vary the Premises Licence for Old House at Home, 63 West Street, Dormansland, Lingfield, RH7 6QP as follows:

To include an outbuilding in the licensed area and operate an outside bar, until 10.30pm daily. All other current hours and activities to remain. Details of the application may be inspected by appointment at Tandridge District Council, 8 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0BT. Any interested party or responsible authority may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to Licensing Team at Tandridge District Council, 8 Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0BT. This notice remains in force for 28 consecutive days; the last date for objections is 4th July 2023. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000



Stars in Surrey awards open for nominations

Surrey County County (SCC) has opened the nominations for its Stars in Surrey awards for a second year, following its launch in 2022.

Residents of the county are encouraged to nominate people who have 'demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment and service to the benefit of Surrey - including council staff, partners and community heroes'. The five categories are:

- Team Award for Outstanding Customer Service
- Championing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Award
- Greener Future Champion Award (Enabling a Greener Future)
- Frontline Worker of the Year (No One Left Behind)
- The Make It Happen Community Hero Award (Empowering Communities)

Last year, Irina Garmash Creeger won the Make It Happen Award for her work as the founder of Ukraine UK Unity. She said: "Although the award was given to me as an individual, I wanted to share it with my team. It recognises the vital role that community groups play in helping people, spreading kindness, compassion, help and knowledge."

Tim Oliver is the leader of SCC: "Everybody knows a local hero, and we want to hear about the amazing things they do in our county, so please nominate your heroes this year and help us celebrate the incredible people who help make Surrey such a wonderful place."

You can nominate somebody using the online form by visiting surreycc.gov.uk and searching 'Stars in Surrey'. The closing date for applications is Friday, 28 July at 17:00.

The Miller Centre Theatre Company presents:

Saturday, 1 July
Free open day
(10:00 - 15:00)

Thursday, 29 June - Saturday, 8 July
Persuasion by Jane Austen
Daily - 20:00
Matinee - **Saturday, 8 July** - 14:30

Friday, 21 - Saturday, 22 July
Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare, performed by the Young Players
Friday and Saturday - 19:30
Matinee - **Saturday** - 14:30

Book online
themiller.net
Box office: 01883 349850

The Miller Centre
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Caterham, CR3 6RA

Does my child have a say in who they live with?

By Megan Milburn

EJ Coombs Solicitors

If you have separated from your spouse or partner and have children together, you may be questioning whether a child can have a say on who they live with. It is important to have this conversation as early as possible and discuss arrangements for the children as often as needed.

What if my ex and I can't agree on arrangements for our child?

There are options available if you are unable to agree arrangements. Mediation, if appropriate, may assist you in opening a forum for discussion, where an unbiased and expert third person will discuss your circumstances with you both, to try to reach a solution.

If you are still unable to agree, then you may decide to take the case to court.

Can my child choose where they live?

A child may not want to choose which parent they wish to live with, or might answer with what they think the parent asking the question wishes to hear.



Older children may have clear views on what it is they want to happen, but those could also be based on other influences.

If you are considering mediation, children can be included in the process if it is suitable to do so. This may give your child a voice and the opportunity to speak freely to someone independent.

If an application to the court is made

to determine living arrangements, a child will usually be spoken to by a Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) officer as part of the proceedings. They will look at what is best for the child and advise the family courts. When the court considers what Orders to make in the child's best interests, it will take into account the ascertainable wishes and feelings of the child, relevant to

their age and understanding. This is different to a child's expressed wishes and feelings, which is what a child puts into words. While some weight may be placed on a child's expressed views, this can be limited as the court may approach this with some caution. In some circumstances, what a child says might not always be a true reflection of their underlying views, particularly if they have been influenced by either parent. A report will then be prepared by CAFCASS after the meeting with the child and/or parents which forms part of the case.

Unless there are safeguarding issues which may put a child at risk of harm, most family courts prefer that the parents have some sort of shared care arrangement, so as to ensure that a child maintains a full and meaningful relationship with both parents. This would have to be in the child's best interests, taking into account various factors that may have an impact on their life.

If you need help with any of the issues mentioned, visit ejcoombs.co.uk or email gina@ejcoombs.co.uk.

Are all accountants qualified?

By Chantal Baker

Champ Consultants

Many people are not aware that the word 'accountant' is not protected in our industry: anyone can call themselves an accountant. There are a number of people out there who sell themselves as being an accountant but actually have no qualifications for the role.

It takes several years to qualify as an accountant, and a practising certificate must also be obtained, enabling you to operate as an accountant in practice. This means that you are regulated by an accountancy body, you are following professional ethics and have professional indemnity insurance.

If you are unaware that your accountant is unqualified, it may only come to light when you need something they cannot provide. The things that a qualified accountant can do that an unqualified one cannot include the following (these are just a few):

- Certify passport photos
 - Provide a mortgage reference
 - Sign off accounts for companies
 - Sign off accounts for individuals
 - Provide independent examiners reports for charities and societies
 - Save you their fees in time and money
- In my experience, I have seen non-qualified accountants provide services for their clients where they



have NOT claimed all relevant expenditure or have treated allowable expenditure incorrectly. This means they have actually cost their clients, as they may have ended up paying unnecessarily high tax bills.

When you engage an accountant to work with, you must always ensure they are qualified (look for red flags, such as low fees that seem too good to be true) - it will save you heartache in the long-term.

If it is not immediately obvious whether they are qualified, you can ask them which accountancy body they are regulated to and then check their registration directly with that accountancy body.

Please always seek professional advice before taking any action. We are happy to answer questions in future issues. Send your questions through the Contact Us page on our website: champconsultants.co.uk.

Chantal Baker is the director and founder of Champ Consultants Ltd, an accountancy and tax consultancy practice in Caterham. Please follow us on the various social media channels.

advertising@tandridgeindependent.com 01883 818 191

Summer signings for the Leafe

By Adrian Van Aalst

After last month's end of season review, I thought my AFC Whyteleafe reporting duties were over until the new season began. But then I received a message from the Tandridge Independent saying 'Well, what else is happening at the club? Do you have any news?' And, my answer was a resounding 'yes!'

We have had to say goodbye to the players released over the summer, which is one of the hardest things to have to do in football. Those decisions are even harder to make when the player is one of our 'originals', somebody who started this crazy journey with us and gave their all to get us where we are now. Their contribution will always be remembered.

On to our summer signings. First up sees the return of Helge Orome, the former Ivory Coast U21 international and current England 6-a-side player, to Church Road. He will provide our midfield with leadership, bite, guile and goals.

Antone Douglas is also back, on a dual reg with Sevenoaks. The classy centre back will add experience and a high level of technical ability to our back line.

Both players could have remained at a higher level, but chose to drop down a few leagues, such is their love for the club and this project. Both were part of that incredible Harry Hudson side that were, in my opinion, robbed of a promotion to Step 3 by Covid a few seasons ago. With the acquisition of Aaron 'Azza'

Watson and Jamie McGeoghegan at the tail end of last season, that means we now have four of that memorable team in our current squad.

Our next signing is Callum Hart: essentially a right winger but has the attributes to play as a 10 too (in my humble opinion). A direct player always looking to go forward, he has the potential to become an instant fan favourite. The standard at training was unbelievably high in the first session back but 'Cal' still managed to stand out, with numerous whippers of 'who is that guy?' being heard pitchside. Cal made it to the FA Vase quarter finals with his former club Peacehaven last season and is definitely one to watch.

The final new player (at the time of printing) is Kleon James. A touch of the Aaron Wan Bissaka about this lad as he rarely (if ever) gets beaten in a one-on-one. The young right back joins us from Edgware & Kingsbury, where he was their Player of the Season two years running.

There may be a further addition or two still to come but with the aforementioned 'incomings' we already have a squad that has the ability to compete at the highest level in this league. I don't like to make predictions but I do think something special might just happen at Church Road this season so buckle up and enjoy the ride!

If you can't wait until August to catch a glimpse of our new and existing players in action, you are in luck. We have a couple of 'Summer Blockbuster' friendlies taking place at Church Road: on 8 July we take

on Balham FC, and on the 22nd we welcome Eastbourne Utd, both 15:00 KOs. We've also got the return of the 'Battle of Tandridge' (well, kind of), as our U23s take on our newly promoted friends Oxted FC on Monday, 7 August at 20:00 - it should be a cracking game. Details of away friendlies are on our social media, so check there for times, locations and latest news.

The season fixture list is expected around the middle of July, and season tickets are now available via commercial@afcwhyteleafe.com.

Become part of the Leafe family

We are looking for local businesses for an array of sponsorship opportunities to suit all budgets, from main shirt sponsor to matchday programme and pitch side advertising. We are one of the country's best supported clubs at this level and can offer great exposure to the local community and beyond.

We are also calling on parents, teachers, friends and family to nominate someone who is deserving of being a Leafe matchday mascot. This can involve a pre-match team photo, a fun penalty shootout, walking out with the players, presenting the referee with the match ball and receiving a small Leafe gift. It's a great afternoon for the nominated youngsters.

Please contact commercial@afcwhyteleafe.com for more details.



The hidden tennis club with a warm welcome for all

By Rosalind Brookman

Partially concealed from view by trees and the original walls of Caterham Manor's kitchen gardens, you would be forgiven for not knowing that Caterham & Whyteleafe Tennis Club (C&WTC) is there, in a beautifully secluded area of Manor Park, accessible from Burntwood Lane.

Although it enjoyed long spells of popularity during the last century, membership had dwindled greatly in recent years. So, when much-loved committee member Adrian Nash passed away just before the pandemic, fellow member Judy Blackett decided that the best tribute they could give him would be to revitalise the club in his memory. She, along with the rest of the committee, began looking at ways they could bring it back to life.

Grants from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA), Whyteleafe Village Council and Cllr Jeffrey Gray (via Surrey County Council's Your Councillor Community Fund), plus a private donation, helped their project get off the ground. Starting with the courts, which were transformed from dull grey to the vibrant Wimbledon colours of green and purple, the revival of C&WTC began.



Cooper Tennis in the Community was brought on board to facilitate coaching. Peter Cooper, an LTA Level 4 accredited coach, is a well-known face in the district, with over 30 years experience and connections with many local schools. The club now has an extensive junior programme running on weekday afternoons, on Saturdays, and during the holidays, as well as individual and group adult coaching.

It also provides the Youth Start scheme, a low-cost LTA initiative aimed at introducing tennis to children from three to 11. For £34.99, each child gets six group coaching sessions, a racquet and ball set, and a t-shirt, plus a follow-on offer to encourage them to continue playing.

The phrase 'hidden gem' is over-used, but it fits this little community-focused club perfectly. No matter your age or ability, or whether you

are competitive or casual, there is something here for everyone.

The extremely affordable memberships means anybody who wants to play, can. A season's full adult membership is just £100 (there's a reduced fee for young adults), while junior memberships range from £1.00 to £28.00, depending on age. Court time is easily booked online (non-members can 'pay and play'), a variety of fun themed sessions are available every

week and there is free parking too. Club secretary Vibeke Noyé Gibson (Vibi) says the next stage of C&WTC's evolution will be the installation of a covered area that will provide shelter for players when not on court. They have also submitted a planning application for floodlights so playing time can be extended in the autumn and winter months, but are still waiting to hear back from Tandridge District Council on the outcome.

Peter says: "Although we're open all year round, there comes a point when our juniors can't use the courts after school as it gets too dark to see. We don't want them to lose out during those months: floodlights would enable them to continue the sport they love."

The committee has put in a lot of hard work over the last couple of years to raise awareness of their club, and it is paying off. There has been a steady rise in memberships and they now have a calendar full of events, including tournaments and social functions.

C&WTC may be small, says Vibi, but it has a big heart: "We are a true community club: where anybody with a love of tennis, even if they have never played before, feels really welcome." To find out more about membership and coaching options, visit clubspark.lta.org.uk/CaterhamWhyteleafeTennisClub.



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