

Parish Council News

Autumn 09

INVITATION TO THE CEDAR TREE LIGHTS SWITCH-ON CEREMONY



The Parish Council continues to work hard for the community and some very exciting initiatives are under way. We have worked hard to secure the new evening bus service to the Valley and are supporting the Shop Local and Shabby to

Smart schemes. Our new Parish Warden is already making a huge contribution to getting potholes, hedges, verges and street defects sorted and residents and visitors will see an even better display of Christmas lights and hanging baskets. There was another very successful "Hill in Bloom" competition this year and we supported the Caterham Horticultural Society by again sponsoring the Hanging Basket Award.

Because of our local knowledge, and the intelligence you supply to us, we are able to respond very quickly to act and advocate on your behalf, and continue to respond robustly where appropriate to planning applications and other important matters which might affect life in our community. Councillors are active in many local organisations, and do all they can to ensure that the voice of local residents is heard as loudly as possible.

The people of Caterham on the Hill are very community minded, and the support for local initiatives is always very pleasing indeed. An army of volunteers is always on hand to do things and improve the quality of our lives, and that makes us ever keener to support local organisations where we can. We manage a relatively small budget as carefully as we can on your behalf, using limited funds to pump prime projects, award grants, develop local infrastructure and support local initiatives. Of the £1482.78 each Band D Council tax payer pays annually, we only take £7.57. As we are all unpaid volunteers, and we keep our expenses to an absolute minimum (a part time Clerk and a very part time Warden) I believe the Council gives very good value to the community- and we are all committed to ensuring that we continue to do so in the future.

Our Council meetings are open to the public, our website is a useful reference point, and our bulletins are informative and much valued.

Most of all though, the support, information and ideas we get from our treasured community help make this Council as effective as it is, and it is a privilege for us to serve on it.

As Christmas and the New Year beckon, which we will mark by a tree lighting ceremony on 28th November, may I wish you all, on behalf of all our members, a happy Christmas and a prosperous, community minded New Year.

Chris Botten, Chairman of the Parish Council

Join us under the Cedar Tree on Saturday 28th November at 6pm

This year we are also serving mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies. Please come along and join the Guides, the Parish Council and Father Christmas for the official switching on of the tree lights. The Parish Council would like to thank Buxton Homes for allowing the use of

their car park for this event and supplying the power for the Cedar Tree lights throughout the winter.

We hope to see you under the Cedar Tree on the 28th. Please bring a torch.



Christmas Festivities

As well as the switching on of the Cedar Tree Lights, this Christmas the Parish Council will, again, be involved in many seasonal activities.

Our newly refurbished lights will go up towards the end of November to brighten our various shopping areas.

Many local businesses have decorated their premises in past years and we are inviting them to do the same this year. Prizes will be awarded for the best displays in recognition of the contribution made towards the festive appearance of the town. We also hope to acknowledge efforts made by residents in the decorating of their homes. Please look at our notice boards for further details in December.

Cllr Sarah Burningham, Chairman of the Parish Amenities Committee



Winners of the commercial class

HILL IN BLOOM

Another successful Hill in Bloom competition came to a conclusion with the prize giving at Hillcroft School.

The competition is run by Caterham on the Hill Parish Council to encourage residents to make the Hill more attractive.

The winners were:

Commercial class:

First prize: Audley School

Second Prize: Hillcroft School

Third prize: Caterham ex Serviceman's Club

Residential garden class:

First prize: Rita Paul

Second prize: Mr and Mrs Hanley

Third prize: Mr and Mrs Simsion

Containers:

First prize: Mr and Mrs Wyatt

Second prize: Sheila Vaux

Third prize: Rita Paul

Judge's Prize:

Mrs Greaves

SHOP SMART / SHOP LOCAL

The Shop Smart/Shop Local campaign which was launched in early August is proving to be a great success. It is run by the Caterham Community Partnership (CCP) and is supported by both Parish Councils.

The numbers of shops and shoppers is continually increasing but at the last count there were about 1000 members which is excellent for only 6 weeks. About 40 businesses have now joined the scheme, in fact so many since the original details and map went out that they have had to redesign the information to include the newcomers. Each business decides what incentive they can offer to the shoppers. This varies from straight discounts to different special offers.

The Hill businesses are well represented with the High Street, Westway and Chaldon Road all included. Businesses are reporting a steady increase in footfall and one quote from a lady doing the Trail Competition summed up one of the aims very nicely. She had "never realised how many different types of businesses there were in Caterham".

If you haven't joined yet please do so and support your local shops.

Cllr Mary Mountain

BEATING OF THE BOUNDS



The first Caterham on the Hill Parish Council Circular Walk took place on Sunday 17th May 2009.

The day started with torrential rain and we were in some doubt as to whether or not the walk should go ahead when, as if miraculously, the clouds parted and the sun shone through. It remained fine for the complete walk!

The intrepid walkers covered the 6+ miles following as closely as possible the new parish boundary, redrawn in 2000. We congregated in the car park by St. Mary's Church at 11.30a.m. and started the walk by the white blossom tree, planted in 1997 by the 1st Caterham (St. Mary's) Brownies. The tree was purchased with money they had won at the Caterham and District Horticultural Spring show of that year. It is now beautifully established. The walk was made even more interesting by the historical notes kindly provided for us by local historian Mr. Roger Packham.

Approximately half way round we made a slight detour and stopped for a pleasant lunch at the Fox Public House. Here, some people left the walk while others joined, and we continued refreshed and in good spirits. The walk finished back at St. Mary's Church by William Garland Soper's Grave, 'Father of Modern Caterham', restored by The Bourne Society, in 2008, the centenary of his death. A most pleasant time was had by all, and we hope to repeat the event again next year; possibly as part of the Caterham Festival.

Cllr Jean Pidgeon & Cllr Pat Groves.

ALLOTMENT



Winners of this years allotment competition were:

Fruit and Veg category

1st - plot 13 Westway

2nd - plot 2 Westway

Mixed category

1st - plot 41 Heath Road

2nd - plot 15 Heath Road

The judge also awarded a judge's prize to PLOT 41 HEATH ROAD as it was the best allotment he had seen all year in all his judging in Tandridge and other areas.

A Better Caterham



Presentation to CCP by C. R. Dick, High Sheriff of Oxfordshire for winning "Partnership and Strategic Working" category of Market Town Awards 2009

Since our last newsletter ABC (A Better Caterham) has become a company limited by guarantee, the Caterham Community Partnership (CCP). It is now in a position to bid for grants to fund the improvements we would all like to see in Caterham. To this end we have applied to the South East England Development Authority (SEEDA) and we have recently learned that our bid was successful.

In the meantime, Caterham Hill has had a successful street party in the High Street which

marked the start of the Caterham Festival. This too was a success partly because of the excellent weather.

Once we receive the money we are ready to start improving the street scenes on the Hill and Valley, one of the most important points brought out by the Health check. Things are about to happen. Watch this space.

Cllr Mary Mountain

PARISH WARDEN



Dear reader I would like to introduce myself and my services to you the residents in the Parish of Caterham on the Hill.

My name is Stephen Butler and I patrol the Parish looking for problems that may impede your day to day enjoyment.

I report to the Parish Council on issues such as graffiti, litter, pot holes, blocked drains, broken benches, railings etc. The Parish Council then reports them to the relevant authority such as Tandridge District Council, Surrey County Council or the local constabulary.

To enable us as a community to improve our environment I invite you to tell me what your issues are and what you would like to happen; I can't promise to action all your wish list but I will certainly present your point of view to the Parish Council!

Contact: caterhamhillpc@msn.com or telephone 01883 382151

Alternatively speak to me personally when you see me in your area.

Stephen Butler, Parish Warden

REPORT IT



Graffiti

Over the past 12 months there has been a dramatic increase in graffiti in Caterham on the Hill, particularly in Coulsdon Road, Banstead Road, Chaldon Road, Burntwood Lane and Whyteleafe Road.

Tandridge District Council and Surrey Police are asking residents with information about graffiti vandals to call 0800 068 2070. They could get a reward of up to £500 for information leading to a successful prosecution.

If anyone witnesses someone damaging property with graffiti, they should phone 999 or 112 immediately, with as much information as possible. To report graffiti after the incident call Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222.

Tandridge District Council aims to remove non-offensive graffiti from Tandridge District Council property within 28 working days of any sighting or report, and 24 hours for offensive graffiti sightings or reports.

If the graffiti is on private property the owner will usually need to try and remove it themselves. Both Tandridge District Council and the Parish Council loan out graffiti kits free of charge. Call 01883 732988 (TDC) or 01883 382151 (Parish Council).

Pot holes and overgrown hedges

It is the responsibility of Surrey County Council to maintain the roads and pathways. To report problems with roads, paths or hedges contact Surrey County Council on line at www.surreycc.gov.uk or report to the Parish Warden on 01883 382151, email caterhamhillpc@msn.com.

Faulty street lights

Surrey County Council state that they will attend and evaluate the fault within three working days and in most cases effect an immediate repair. Faults can be reported on-line at www.surreycc.gov.uk. Most street lighting items are marked with a number, usually found above the base section. Please quote the number if known as it will help speed up the process. These can also be reported to the Parish Warden on 01883 382151, email caterhamhillpc@msn.com.

Antisocial behaviour

Antisocial behaviour is behaviour that caused or is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons ...” (Crime & Disorder Act, 1998).

If you are witnessing antisocial behaviour and are in fear of a persons safety or property then call 999 or 112. If the incident has happened or is not urgent call Caterham Police Station on 0845 125 2222. This will enable the police to create an incident number and pass the information on to the local neighbourhood officer.

INVITATION TO POLICE NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL MEETINGS

Residents living in Caterham on the Hill are invited to come along to their next Police Neighbourhood Panel. These meetings are held at The Linden Homes building, Guards Avenue (in the former Barracks), Caterham Hill.

The next meeting is to be held on Tuesday 24th November 19:30 - 20:30

NEW BUS SERVICE

Following a survey conducted last year by the Parish Council a clear message was received that residents in Caterham wanted a bus service between Caterham Valley and Caterham Hill that ran later into the evenings. This service is now up and running.

Working with Surrey County Council and Caterham Valley Parish Council, Caterham Hill Parish Council is 50% funding a pilot that extends the 541/542 Caterham Villager bus service up to 8.30 pm Monday to Friday.

The County Council has also arranged for Buses4U to operate a timetabled, no booking required, bus service along the same route until 10.30pm.

These additional services should be useful for commuters, shoppers, adult evening studiers and young people.

Adult Fares are £1.40 single and £2.20 return. For queries on the service, please contact Metrobus on 01293 449191 or go to www.metrobus.co.uk

This is a one year pilot. Continued funding by Caterham Hill Parish Council, and others, will be dependent on the level of use made by you and other Caterham residents over the next twelve months. Please give the service a go.

Cllr David Gosling

Kenley Airfield Update



The Parish Council is indebted to the City of London Commons for the following information. New co-ordinated safety signage has been designed and is being erected around the airfield. This includes 20mph speed restriction signs for vehicles within the airfield. The concept of signage to indicate when the airfield is active has been agreed and work is in hand to design a suitable sign. The yellow line around the perimeter track is being repainted. This will help to ensure the crowd control barriers are sited to allow sufficient room for leisure users to access the outer part of the perimeter track whilst the airfield is active. Whilst the crowd control barriers are only temporary, the MoD and Surrey Hills Gliding Club report that they are proving effective at reducing the number of incursions during gliding operations.

A damaged drainage pipe to the north of the runway has been repaired and the drainage in several of the blast pens has been repaired.

An interpretation panel was erected near the Tribute in time for the memorial fly-past in August. This is part of a Kenley Common Heritage Trail that the City of London is working on in partnership with the Kenley Airfield Friends Group, MoD & English Heritage.

Support your local hospice

St Catherine's Hospice is the new main provider of end of life care in Tandridge, providing high quality individualised services free of charge. These services include their new day hospice, located in Foxon Lane where patients come together for group social support, complementary therapies and practical assistance, and a team of community nurses who visit people in their own homes, providing specialist care to patients and families. They also provide beds at the hospice in Crawley for those requiring input from the whole multi-disciplinary team.

This year St Catherine's needs to raise £4.7m of voluntary income in order to continue supporting local people and their families, friends and carers.



Girlguiding Centenary

Saturday, the 5th September saw the start of Girlguiding's Centenary year with celebrations taking place all over the country. Units from Surrey East went to Lingfield Park Racecourse for a party which included crafts, outdoor activities, music, a display of old uniforms and a fantastic fireworks display which finished the day off with a bang.

Guiding started when a number of girls waylaid Lord Robert Baden-Powell at a Scout Rally in 1910 and demanded that they be allowed to join Scouts. Baden-Powell insisted that Scouting was for boys only, but saw the need for an organisation for girls; he asked his sister, Agnes, to head such an organisation and the Guiding movement was born. One hundred years on, it remains a popular and active movement and is still just for girls.

Much has changed in the world during the past one hundred years, but the ethos of Guiding remains the same; to do one's best, to love one's God and serve the Queen, and to help others. The girls may now participate in very different activities and badges – the Chocolate badge being a firm favourite – but they still do many of the things that girls of long ago enjoyed such as camping and cooking. They work both in groups and as individuals, and many make firm and lasting friendships with girls they might otherwise have never considered as friends.

Caterham has a long history of Guiding and at present there are nineteen units operating in the area, with many units having long waiting lists. Sadly, we have a lot of girls wanting to join Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, but not enough adult leaders. If you are female, aged 18 – 65 and would like to be part of the largest female voluntary organisation in the world, please contact Charley Formosa, District Commissioner, on 01883 653356

DisabledGo Unique online access guide launched

A unique guide, designed to empower thousands of disabled residents to get out and about, has been launched.

DisabledGo and Tandridge District Council have worked with hundreds of shops, pubs, restaurants, theatres and other public venues so DisabledGo - Tandridge can provide access details for a huge number of goods and service providers. This information can make a huge difference for people with hearing, vision or mobility related access concerns. The guide may also be useful for older people and those with pushchairs. By logging on to www.DisabledGo.info, people can check, whether a pub is accessible to a wheelchair user, a cinema can offer a hearing loop, a hotel offers adapted rooms and a restaurant offers menus in large print or Braille. A printed version will be available free from Libraries.

Please help St Catherine's by supporting their forthcoming events in Caterham:

Autumn Concert

On Saturday 21st November, at Caterham URC, internationally renowned musicians Julie Groves and Yuki Negishi will perform chamber music for flute and piano. Tickets are £8. Please call the Ticketline on 07985 361665.

Santa Run

On Sunday 13th December, the hospice's first ever Santa Run



will take place in Caterham! This fun, festive family event will take place at 10.30am in Queens Park and individuals, families and companies are welcome to enter. Runners will complete three laps of the park but the emphasis is on fun so it's not a race. All participants will be given a free Santa outfit (hats for children under 4). To register, visit www.stch.org.uk or contact 01293 447376.

Collections

Friday 11th December - Tesco Caterham
Sunday 20th December - Caterham Valley High Street
St Catherine's are looking for people who can spare an hour to help with these collections. If you can help them in this way, please contact Victoria on 01293 447376.

For further details about these events and other ways you can get involved, please contact Victoria Lawrence on 01293 447376 or at victorialawrence@stch.org.uk. Thank you.

PORTLEY WARD

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