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Queens Park celebrates 125th anniversary

By Rachel Starling

Chair, Friends of Queens Park

Queens Park in Caterham celebrates its 125th birthday this year. It opened on 23 May 1900 and was created as a tribute for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

Parish councils were encouraged to find fitting projects to commemorate her reign and Caterham Urban District Council agreed that a park would be built and named after her. Within three years, the land had been secured and two pavilions and the fountain constructed. The opening was a huge celebration, with the majority of local residents thought to have been present. The day included speeches around the fountain followed by races, competitions and displays.

Since the park opened, the fountain and circle area have been a focus for large celebratory events; most notably in 1919 to commemorate the end of the First World War and again in 1953, on the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The Clock Tower was erected in the 1950s, designed to reflect the architecture of the original pavilion. The current pavilion was opened in 2004, after the previous one burnt down.

The park is much loved by the Caterham community. The Friends of Queens Park undertook a survey in 2023, and one of the aspects most enjoyed is the range of park features. Football, bowls, croquet, tennis, rugby, yoga, badminton, taekwondo, baby ballet, and running all regularly take place in the park and the pavilion. The variety of the gardens is also much loved, along with the long range view of the numerous trees.

In the 1980s, the Play Safely charity campaigned for improved playground facilities and the Queens Park playground was modelled as a state-of-the-art playground. It continues to be popular today and recent funding will upgrade it, along with access improvements, other enhancements and tree planting. New toilets and flood alleviation measures are also being provided by the parish and county councils.

As we mark this remarkable milestone, we not only celebrate the history but also the local community that continues to use the park and make it special. While it is a time of change, we look forward positively to the next phase in the park's development.

The Friends of Queens Park are holding an event to celebrate this historic anniversary on Saturday, 5 July between 14:00 and 17:00. It will seek to emulate the original opening, with a ceremony of thanks taking place at 14:30. Activities will include an exploration of park history, a BBQ, a Pimm's tent, live music and Victorian games, as well as opportunities to trial games and sports played in the park regularly.

Come and join in the fun!

Visit fqpcaterham.org.uk for more information.



Romesh Ranganathan kicked off the first Coughlans comedy night at the Oxted branch of the bakery in May. See page three for our review!



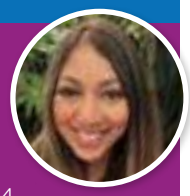
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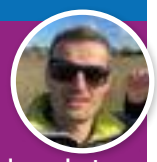
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Welcome to June's edition of the Tandridge Independent!



There has been lots going on at the Tandridge Independent headquarters over the past month, and we've filled our June issue with lots of community news for you to catch up on.

Our front page story celebrates Queens Park's 125th anniversary. Built to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, this wonderful space in Caterham provides a beautiful backdrop for all kinds of community activities. The Friends of Queens Park will be holding an event in July in honour of this special time - they'd love to see you there, so pop along and see all it has to offer.

Deputy editor Rosalind and I treated ourselves to an evening of comedy at Coughlans bakery in Oxted a few weeks ago, courtesy of its inaugural Romesh Ranganathan & Friends event. It was a really fun night - read deputy editor Rosalind's review on page 3, and make sure you're following Coughlans on Instagram so you don't miss out on the next one!

I was also lucky enough to attend The Surrey Awards 2025 at G Live in Guildford - it was great to see all the Tandridge businesses who had been nominated there.

Most recently, my family and I had lots of fun at the Caterham Street Party, which marks the start of the Caterham Festival - for more information and to see all the other fabulous events, visit caterhamfestival.org.

Our columnists bring you their usual mix of information, education and amusement - Kim Cooper from KC Travels has been to Spain, Dr Seyan from the Well Life Clinic in Oxted talks about the issues faced by new fathers and Farmer Patrick recounts how he was emotionally blackmailed into taking on a flock of orphaned lambs…

The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle has a fantastic programme this year, and we're thrilled that the team behind it has offered our readers the chance to see one of their shows for free. Make sure you enter our competition (on this page), and you could win a family ticket to The Elvis Years - The Story of the King, on Sunday, 13 July.

And finally, I recently decided to put some time aside for myself and join Emma Marsh's ELMFIT community. Emma has helped me create a plan which is tailored specifically to me and allows me to focus on living a healthier lifestyle through sensible eating and exercise. You can follow how I get on via our Tandridge Independent Journey Instagram page!

See you next month!

Louise D'Costa



The common spotted orchid is the most widespread British orchid, and varies in colour from almost white, through a range of pinks to lilacs and purples. These, which were captured by Martin DeFreitas, aka the Urban Countryman, can be found in June on our local chalk downlands, such as Caterham Viewpoint and Woldingham's Long Hill.

See more of Tandridge's beautiful nature through the eyes of the Urban Countryman on Facebook: @urbancountryman.

This month's competition

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a family ticket to see The Elvis Years - The Story of the King on Sunday 13 July at Hever Castle.

T&C's apply (see website)
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Festival Theatre at Hever Castle

To enter our draw please email your name to competition@ tandridgeindependent.com

The closing date is 18 June and the winner will be announced on 20 June.

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.

Review: Romesh Ranganathan & Friends at Coughlans Bakery

By **Rosalind Brookman**





(Left) Romesh with Chantal and Limahl Romesh; (Above) Tom Davis;

I've left comedy gigs with many things before - aching sides from laughing hard and an overwhelming regret I didn't commit to those pelvic floor exercises to name but two - but never, until now, a loaf of bread.

Still, that is one of the perks of a comedy night in a bakery. Coughlans in Oxted to be precise. It is part of the chain that Romesh Ranganathan now co-owns, alongside Sean Coughlan, director of the family business. They came up with the idea of holding an early evening gig as a new way of bringing comedy to people (specifically the middle-class people of Surrey who like to be back home by 10pm), while also raising money for charity - in this case, the Teenage Cancer Trust and CALM. The bread, which was handed out by cheerful Coughlans staff as we left, was certainly a most acceptable if odd way to finish a show. Take note The Comedy Store.

The whole night was slightly surreal, if I'm honest. Romesh opened the evening from behind a microphone stand (normal) but in front of a fireplace straight out of a 1970s living room (not that normal, and which also led me to spend a considerable amount of time wondering why the bakery had said fireplace in the first place). I was also sitting in an audience largely made up of people drinking coffee and eating sausage rolls.

However, it was Romesh Ranganathan - comedian, actor, presenter, podcaster and, more recently, marathon runner - holding the mic, so I knew we were definitely in for a laugh. Which we got immediately, followed by plenty more.

Romesh was great, as always. It's not the first time I've seen him live, and I'm a big fan of his. He had the audience on side from the start and it only took a minute for his humour to drown out my thoughts about fireplaces.

His aforementioned 'friends' were Tom Davies, Chantal Nash and Limahl Germain. Tom, who is an established comic, actor and writer, as well as the co-presenter of the Wolf and Owl podcast with Romesh, put in a solid set about life as a father of a small child. Then came confident turns from relatively new comedians Nash and Germain. They were both incredibly engaging and really funny and I could have listened to them for a lot longer.

I did have a couple of niggles. Bright strip lighting is fine in a shop selling baked goods, but doesn't really hit the mark for a stand-up set. The joy of small comedy gigs often comes from the intimacy that dim lighting provides, and there were times when this one had the ambience of a council meeting. I'm a big laugher but a self-conscious one, and it took me a while, feeling that exposed, to do more than giggle behind my hands, even when the jokes were hilarious.

I also wondered how less assured comedians would cope when confronted with the facial expressions of every single person in the audience. It must be hard enough being on stage when you can hear an audience failing to laugh at your jokes, but at least you can't normally see every unsmiling face too…I found there were moments sitting on that front row when I felt compelled to smile inanely even when there weren't any jokes, as I couldn't bear the idea of the act being put off by my resting bitch face.

And, if I'm totally honest, there was also something slightly unsettling about listening to Romesh's d**k jokes while seated eye-level with, and about 30cm from, the d**k in question but without standing up and asking all the other rows to shuffle their seats a few yards backwards, there wasn't much I could do about that.

But overall, I was really impressed by the whole night: congratulations to Sean and Romesh for setting up what could quite possibly be the most eccentric setting for a comedy night that there has ever been. A big thank you goes to Tom, Chantal and Limahl for keeping the laughs coming, and lots of respect to the Coughlans staff who worked late and handed out the delicious bread to audience members as we left.

The room being too bright, and the closeness of comedic genitals are things that I'm sure can be sorted out for future gigs, and they certainly didn't spoil my enjoyment of watching the four acts. And Limahl enjoyed himself too:

"I got to tell jokes and eat yum yums. Might have been the best night of my life. It's all downhill from here," he said afterwards. "It's weird…when the set up and the vibes are right, you forget you're even in a bakery. To me it just felt like a great place to do comedy. Big up Romesh, Coughlans Bakery and all the people that came out!"

As for me? Well, I laughed a lot and left with aching sides and the ability to make some cracking toast when I got home - I'll definitely be back for the next gig.

Follow @coughlansbakery on Instagram.

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News In Brief

Donate to charity shops 'the right way'

Tandridge District Council is urging residents not to leave donated goods outside charity shops when they are closed. Volunteers have to spend time clearing them instead of helping customers, and items that get wet or damaged cannot be sold. Leaving things outside a shop can also be classed as flytipping, which can lead to fines or prosecutions - and many towns are covered by CCTV.

Items that are broken can be taken to your local community recycling centre.

Your Councillor Community Fund is open

Surrey County Council's Your Councillor Community Fund is now open for residents to apply for cash grants to improve their local area. Every year, the county's 81 councillors allocate £5k of funding to their local communities, ensuring the funding is targeted to the areas where it can make the biggest impact.

Last year the fund supported over 371 community projects through Surrey county councillors, totalling £403, 344.

Visit surreycc.gov.uk and search 'your councillor community fund'.

Carers urged to come forward

Action for Carers Surrey is encouraging Surrey's 120,000 unpaid carers to come forward and receive the help they are entitled to. The charity provides a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support, helping carers to feel less alone, better informed and more positive about their future.

Carer's Week takes place from 9 - 15 June. Visit actionforcarers.org.uk for more information.

Cows return to Farthing Downs

Sussex cows and their calves are now back on Farthing Downs, along with new bull Monty, who will play an important role in growing the herd. The cattle are there to take part in conservation grazing work across the Coulsdon Commons. Members of the public encountering the cows are asked to ensure that they are given plenty of space, and that dogs are kept on the lead.

Letter from Claire Coutinho, MP for East Surrey

Last month we commemorated the 80th anniversary of VE Day, marking the end of conflict in Europe in 1945 after six gruelling years. We remember how Winston Churchill told jubilant crowds that 'VE Day marks what is not a victory of a party or of any class, but a victory of the great British nation as a whole'. A huge well done to all the volunteers who helped to organise the many fantastic events across East Surrey – from our parish councils to the Royal British Legion, to community groups and everyone in between.

Elsewhere, Marden Lodge School in Caterham unveiled a wonderful new library and sensory room. Creating a space where children can foster a love of reading has been a real passion project for the dedicated teachers. Over 1,000 books now line the shelves, from Harry Potter to The Very Hungry Caterpillar - all chosen by the pupils and generously donated by the Shanly Foundation and The Siobhan Dowd Trust. The Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions Club and Surrey County Council also funded the nature-themed decor. Alongside the library, the sensory room – nicknamed The Cosy Cave by the pupils and proposed by the school's special educational needs teachers – offers a calm, relaxing space for children who feel overstimulated during the school day. This was a huge project, so well done to all the staff at Marden Lodge for bringing their vision to life.

In support of East Surrey's hardworking farmers, Alexia Lescure's first farmers' market was held in the glorious sunshine a few weeks ago to great acclaim. Local farmers will be selling cheese, flowers and crafts at Lingfield Primary School from 9:00-13:00 on Sunday, 8th June – so please pop by if you get the chance.

In December, Claire visited the Caterham Delivery Office after residents raised concerns about poor mail delivery, especially vital NHS letters. We returned last month and spoke with the Regional Operations Lead, who assured us that changes in management and a streamlined sorting process are improving delivery times. It is also positive that, following a public consultation, Ofcom – Royal Mail's regulator – confirmed that a new NHS-specific barcode will be introduced to help make sure NHS letters arrive on time. As this was a key concern raised by Caterham residents, it is encouraging to see action being taken.

In Claire's rail survey, many residents called for the return of the direct Caterham to London Victoria service. This has been a key request in our discussions with Govia Thameslink Railway. A key factor is the planned onward transfer from GTR's upgraded Great Northern fleet to Southern and Southeastern. Once additional carriages become available – expected from May 2026 – one option is to bring back direct peak time services between Caterham and Victoria.

While GTR have highlighted other potential uses for the extra carriages, we have made it clear, thanks to feedback from the rail survey, that East Surrey residents see this service as a priority. GTR has agreed to include the rail survey findings in discussions with the Department for Transport. We will keep up the pressure to bring this important service back.

Finally, a huge well done to everyone involved in AFC Whyteleafe's journey to Wembley. They put up a great fight, and though Whitstable Town edged a goal in extra time to win 2-1, it was an incredible achievement to make it all the way to the final.

As always, we are here to help while Claire is on maternity leave. If you are having trouble with anything and you could use our help, please don't hesitate to get in touch on Claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.

- Team Claire



Tandridge District Council select new chair and vice-chair



New vice-chair Deb Shiner and chair Mike Crane (Credit: James Highsted)

By **James Highsted**

A new chair and vice chair have been selected by Tandridge District Council (TDC) at council offices during their annual meeting in May.

Independent councillor Mike Crane, who has represented Godstone Ward since 2021, will be the new chair for the coming year, replacing Sue Farr. His partner Nina will accompany him as his consort.

He will be joined by Cllr Deb Shiner as his vice-chair, who represents Oxted South ward as part of the Residents' Alliance.

Mr Crane has been a member of the Strategy & Resources, Audit & Scrutiny and Licensing committees. He is also chairman of the South Godstone Residents Association.

Both the chair and vice-chair are appointed for one year and, as part of their civic roles, represent TDC at events around the district.

Speaking at the full council meeting, Cllr Crane said, "I have felt honoured to represent the residents of Godstone over the last four years, and have enjoyed my time on the council. It has certainly been an education to learn how much councillors of all political persuasions actually do to represent their constituents, and how hard council officers work.

To be appointed chairman of this council, in what will most likely be its penultimate year of existence, is an honour I never dreamt of and one I do not take lightly.

My two chosen charities for the year will be the Olive Tree Cancer Support Centre, based in the grounds of Crawley Hospital. They are an independent charity offering support for cancer patients, their families and carers.

The second one will be the Warren Clark Golfing Dreams charity. This is a charity set up by Warren Clark, who is himself disabled and who supports people of all ages who have a range of disabilities or disadvantages, to learn and enjoy the game of golf at their coaching facility at Horne golf club.

I hope over the course of the next year I will be able to generate enough funds for both of these charities to support their objectives."

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Tandridge buildings win conservation awards

Two historic buildings in Tandridge have won awards at Surrey Historic Building Trust's (SHBT) Heritage Awards in April.

Burstow Farmhouse in South Nutfield won Best Overall Conservation Project, after works on the building were commissioned by the National Trust.

The judging panel, led by director of The Lutyens Trust Dr Deborah Mays, recognised the skill of the contractors, Applecross Building Company and Lighthouse Surveyors, in their sensitive repairs to the Grade II* listed 15th Century hall house, which also features later additions and a Georgian facade.



Burstow Farmhouse

Crowhurst Place, in Crowhurst near Lingfield, won Best Building Craftsmanship. The Grade I listed moated house, which dates back to 1485, had been unoccupied and needed extensive repairs to the timber frame and windows. The award was given to the 'explempary conservation works to the double-height bow window, that has been undertaken to the highest standard by contractors Smith Heritage'.

Repairs and refurbishments at The Dovecote at Titsey Place and Moor Farm in Dormansland were also acknowledged.

SHBT was formed in December 1979, with its primary purpose being 'to conserve, for the benefit of the public, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage as may exist in Surrey in the form of buildings, gardens, plant machinery or monuments'. The Surrey Heritage Awards were set up by SHBT to celebrate the outstanding building conservation projects taking place across the county.

The 2025 awards ceremony was attended by the High Sheriff of Surrey, the Mayor of Guildford and approximately 100 building conservation professionals and representatives of local heritage groups. Visit surreyhistoricbuildings.org.uk for more information.



The window at Crowhurst Place



Lily Foundation joins groundbreaking national collaboration



Representatives of the LifeArc Centre attended the launch

Warlingham-based charity The Lily Foundation has become part of a pioneering UK-wide initiative aiming to accelerate scientific breakthroughs into life-changing treatments for patients with rare mitochondrial diseases.

The new LifeArc Centre for Rare Mitochondrial Diseases will act as a national platform to connect leading researchers, clinicians, infrastructure and patients, to speed up the development of therapies and clinical trials for mitochondrial disorders. It was backed by a £7.5 million investment from LifeArc, a self-funded, non-profit medical research organisation and as a partner, The Lily Foundation will play a central role, alongside Muscular Dystrophy UK.

The project unites experts from key UK sites, including the University of Cambridge, University Collge London and Newcastle University, along with three other centres: Oxford, Birmingham and Manchester. This will create a national network of research excellence in mitochondrial science, led by Professor Patrick Chinnery, professor of Neurology at the University of Cambridge, and consultant neurologist at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

The Lily Foundation will lead the centre's Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement strategy, ensuring that individuals and families affected by mitochondrial disease are not only consulted, but also meaningfully involved in shaping the research agenda.

There was an official launch event for the new centre at the House of Lords on Wednesday, 5 May, hosted by the Rt Hon. the Lord Kakkar KG KBE, on behalf of the University of Cambridge, and attended by The Lily Foundation.

"This marks a new chapter for mitochondrial disease research," said Liz Curtis, CEO and founder of The Lily Foundation. "We're proud to be helping drive forward a project that will not only transform the research landscape but put the patient voice at the very heart of discovery."

thelilyfoundation.org.uk



Prof. Mike Hanna (UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology), Prof. Rita Horvath and Prof. Patrick Chinnery (University of Cambridge), Clare Chatfield (COO, The Lily Foundation), Prof. Rob Taylor (Newcastle University)

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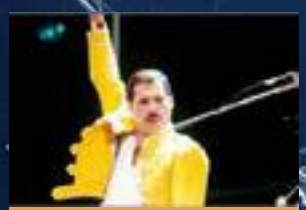
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Farmer Patrick says

By **Farmer Patrick**

Flower Farm



It's column time. That's right kids, it's my monthly scribblings and, yes, it is five minutes before the deadline again. Well actually, if I'm honest, it's past the deadline but thankfully the Tandridge Independent team is always very patient with me....

Things on the farm are - as always – busy. Yesterday, I was rounding up sheep from one of my neighbours. Now, when I say rounding up, I don't mean I was out there on the back of a horse with a lasso, pretending to be Clint Eastwood riding across dusty fields in Monument Valley. I just mean that I was collecting some sheep from my neighbour. I was happily loading these onto the trailer with the help of Farmer William (who doesn't want to be mentioned, so I have anyway) and Flower Farm's Natasha, and everything was going smoothly.

My fluffy four-legged friends skipped on to the trailer with not the slightest attempt at a Steve McQueen-style vault over the fence, and we headed off to the farmhouse for a cup of coffee and a chat about the weather. After that, we would take those sheep - and only those sheep - back to Flower Farm. Then came a little bleating noise from around the corner. I knew immediately what this was: it was the sound of orphaned lambs. A lamb can be orphaned due to one of a few things. It could be that its mother has either died or rejected it (which does happen – that's nature) or, sheep not being the brightest of animals, the mother may have forgotten how many offspring she gave birth to and walked off without it, leaving the stranded lamb as lonely and unwanted as Kier Starmer in a room full of farmers.

As we turned the corner, Natasha caught sight of the little orphans and it was love at first sight so, obviously, we now had to take them home with us too. Farmer William and his daughter Petra were only too happy to see them gone, telling Natasha how sweet and cuddly they were, and how much fun she'd have with them, while wryly looking at me over her shoulder. The above may well be true, but little orphan lambs also require a lot of attention: they need bottle-feeding three times a day and bleat all the time, whether they are hungry or not. They can be extremely stubborn. They have a death wish and devise many ways to do it – oh, and they look about as appealing to a fox as a pint of beer does to me on a hot day.

But they came back with us anyway. Having told Natasha that it's entirely up to her to look after them, I know, of course, I will find myself inevitably getting involved with them anyway. (For those of you who don't know who Natasha is, she's my good lady and jolly lucky she is too.)

So now we've got sheep in one field, cows with their calves in another and orphan lambs in a pen in the cow field, a sort of maternity unit. The calves look on with interest at these little fluffy things, which are so much smaller than they are, while the grown-up mums look at the orphans with a degree of maternity and animal bonding. In a few days time we'll let them out of the pen and hopefully the adult cows will keep a watchful eye on them – that's the hope anyway.

In the next field along I've got some cows due to give birth in the next two or three weeks, so by the time I write my next column I'll have a picture for you. There are more sheep in the next field, more young cattle in the fields up the road, fields waiting to be cut for silage for winter food, and then more cows will arrive. We've also got chickens basking in the glorious spring sunshine but in five weeks time our turkeys will start arriving, so before you know it, it'll be Christmas.

The farm shop is ever busy and in between running the farm, feeding animals, sorting cattle, and being emotionally blackmailed into adopting orphan lambs, I'm also planning my next adventure (hey, I get an idea, and I just can't help myself…), which currently is based around ice cream, and various other dairy products, all of which require something called milk. I'm not talking about fake milk, plant-based milk, gimmick milk or moon milk, I'm talking about good old-fashioned milk milk from dairy cows. The cows I keep are beef, a completely different type of cow.

I know a little bit about cows: dairy cows, beef cows, black and white cows, big cows andf small cows (and every now and then I've encountered an old cow), and for this project I'm going to go for Jersey cows – not personally, just for the milk. Logically, most people would buy the cows, then start milking them, and then decide what to do with the milk itself, before thinking about making ice cream and cheese. But that's not the way I do things…I went and bought the ice cream-making equipment first from a farm in deepest Devon, in order to make ice cream from milk which I don't yet have. And then, while browsing on eBay, what did I find but a method for delivering the milk which I don't yet have?! Yes, I'm now the proud owner of a 1974 milk float in full working order.

The only slight problem is that it's in Macclesfield and I'm not sure how long it's going to take for me to drive it down here – but at least I won't get thirsty if I fill up first. The next step is to rope my youngest daughter, who has just finished university and wants a summer on the farm, into helping me experiment with ice cream making. She thinks we should make vanilla ice cream, strawberry, honey, chocolate etc, whereas I'm kind of thinking beer ice cream, lager ice cream, stout ice cream. You get the gist. Naturally, that will require lots of tasting.

There you go, I've got to the end of my article without so much as a mention of the geopolitical situation, the threat Thailand is facing by China, Trump's inability to solve the Ukrainian situation, Kier Starmer's hatred of farmers and country people, runaway inflation and spiralling costs, our fishermen not being allowed to fish the French side of the English Channel anymore, but the French fisherman being allowed to fish our side, take it back to France, and then sell it back to us - what good sense. Or that our trustworthy politicians are telling us how they're reinforcing border controls when it comes to importing and exporting goods, when the stark reality is that they've actually cut funding to Dover, for example, by 75% in the last 18 months. The fact that 600 tons of illegally imported meat was intercepted at that dock in one day alone might give you an idea of the size of the problem.

I recently had a working lunch with our MP Claire Coutinho and her team, where we talked about many issues. If I'm honest, I find her factually aware, down to earth and with a grasp on the reality of the situation, and definitely got her work cut out. And I wish her the best of luck; she's going to need it.

Here's to a happy summer to you all, and fire up those barbecues.

Visit flower-farm.co.uk for more information, and follow us on Instagram: @flower_farm_godstone

News In Brief

Calling all dogs!

TDC is teaming up with RSPCA Surrey East to provide a free family friendly event dedicated to celebrating and supporting responsible dog ownership on Monday, 30 June. Whether you're a longtime dog owner or thinking about getting a furry friend, there will be something for everyone, including behaviour and training tips, access to discounted neutering and microchipping, free resources and giveaways.
Paws in the Park takes place on Monday, 30 June at Jenners Field, Lingfield, from 11:00 - 16:00. No need to book - just drop in. Dogs welcome! tandridge.gov.uk/dogs

Pick up a token at Morrisons to help your community

Morrisons in Oxted are changing how they support local hygiene and food banks in the local area. Instead of the usual green bags that customers can pick up along with their shopping, you can now purchase a token, with values of £1, £3 or £5, which you pay for at the checkout. Morrisons will then send a monthly gift voucher to each charity, to the value of the tokens bought in store, with a top up from the supermarket of 10%.

Could AI help your business?

Tandridge District Council is providing a free workshop where you can discover how AI could benefit your business. Designed for professionals with little or no AI experience, Billy Clackers, the managing director of Invotra, will be sharing practical steps and real-life examples of AI assistants in action, as well as providing a live demonstration of an AI assistant being built in real time.
The workshop takes place at the council's offices in Oxted, from 08:30 - 10:30 on Thursday, 3 July.

Croydon hosts its third Learning Disability Carnival

The Learning Disability Alliance Croydon will be holding its third annual Learning Disability Carnival at the North End, Croydon on Saturday, 28 June, between 10:30 and 17:00.

Featuring the Mayor of Croydon as the guest of honour, there will also be plenty of entertainment and activities to take part in.

For more information email samuel@ldcroydon.org.uk or stella@croydonmencap.org.uk.





Ceremonies of Remembrance took place in Oxted, Hurst Green and Old Oxted

Wreaths laid across Oxted to mark VE Day anniversary

By **Zara Nelson**

Veterans, parish councillors and clergy gathered with local residents at three war memorials in the Oxted area to mark the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Organised by the Oxted & District Branch of the Royal British Legion, in partnership with the parish council, wreath-laying services took place at the War Memorials in Oxted, Old Oxted and Hurst Green. Members of the Women's Section Branch also took part in the Oxted ceremony.

Rob Cogan, chairman of the Oxted & District Branch of the Royal British Legion, expressed thanks to all who made the Ceremonies of Remembrance possible. "It is important to remember the sacrifices made by the wartime generation, which enable us all to live today in peace and freedom," he said.







TDC chair Sue Farr in Queen's Park

Trees planted to honour VE and VJ Day

Two trees were planted on Thursday, 8 May in Queen's Park, Caterham, to honour Victory in Europe Day and Victory over Japan Day.

Chair of the council Sue Farr was joined by councillors, residents and members of the Royal British Legion to commemorate the end of World War II and pay tribute to those who served.

"This is a lasting tribute to the bravery and sacrifice of those who served during the Second World War," said Sue. "It is important we continue to remember and honour them. I'm grateful to everyone who joined us today to mark this occasion and help keep these memories alive for future generations."

de Stafford School
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Guided tours throughout the evening
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At our libraries

HSBC sessions

HSBC will be holding banking sessions at Oxted Library on Thursday 12 and Thursday 16 June, from 10:00 until 15:00. Branch experts will be available for help and information on products and services, registering for online and mobile banking, accessing banking services and more.

Children's coding club

Caterham Valley Library runs a children's code club on the first Saturday of every month, from 14:30 to 15:30. It costs £1 per child and there is no age limit. Spaces are limited, so please book by emailing caterhamvalley.library@surreycc.gov.uk or at the library's help desk.

Join Warlingham Library Reading Group

Warlingham Community Library has a reading group which meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 17:00. New members are welcome to join - drop in to the library or email wrlibrary@hotmail.co.uk to find out more.

Further afield

SEND Rhymetime

Horley Library holds free monthly Rhymetime sessions for families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), with a focus on autism. This is held in a designated room with low lighting, sensory toys and a separate quiet room next door.
Next sessions: Saturday 28 June - 10:30 - 10:50 (children up to four years) and 11:10 to 11.30 (five to nine years).
Book by emailing horleylibraryevents@surreycc.gov.uk, calling 03456 009 009 (choose option six, and ask for Horley Library) or asking at the Help Desk in the library.

Toy library

Merstham Library has a toy library where you can try out a variety of toys with your child to see what engages them. You must be a library member to borrow items, and each toy costs £1 for a three-week loan.

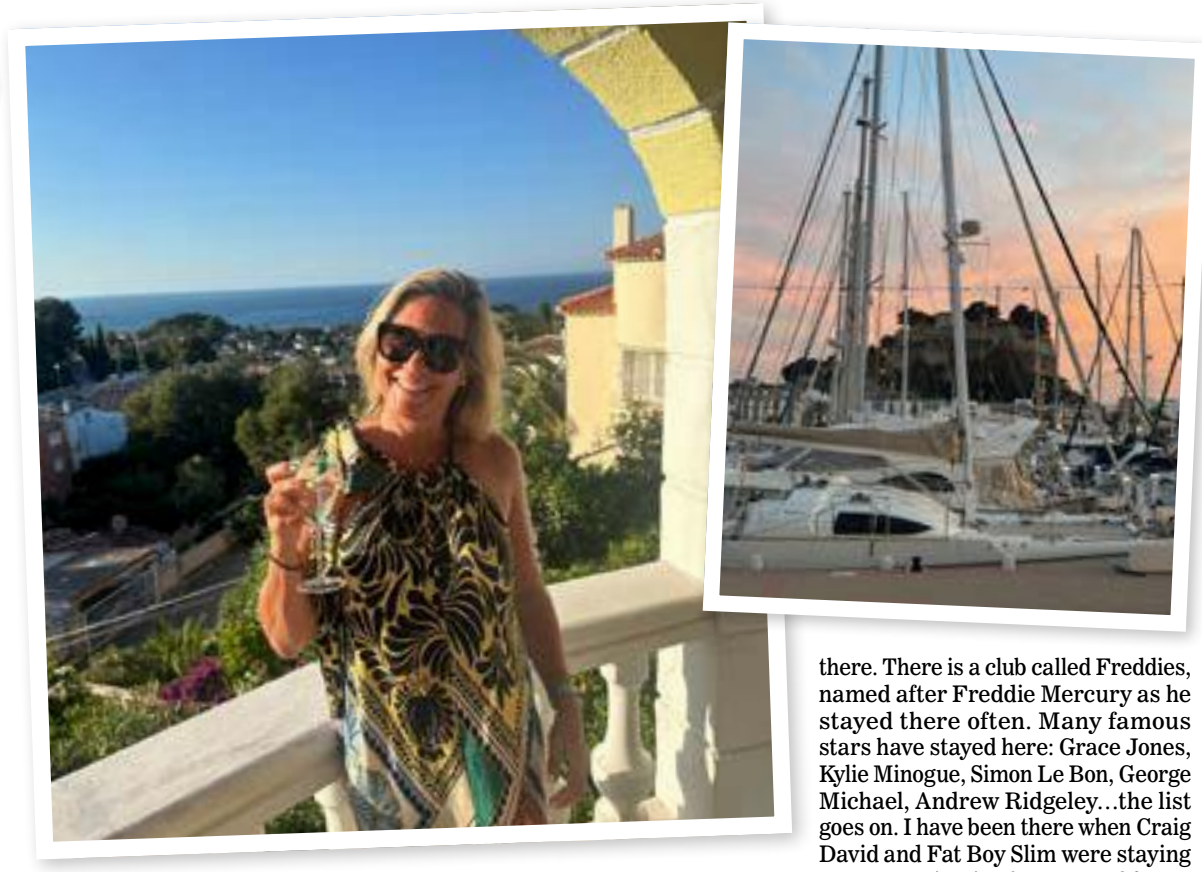
SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL

Travel Smarter: Hola España!

By **Kim Cooper**



KC Travels



Dénia

Dénia is a coastal city on the Costa Blanca, halfway between Alicante and Valencia. It's just over an hour from each airport, and we flew into Valencia as easyJet flights seem to be cheaper that way. Then we hired a car through one of my suppliers: our car for seven days was €105 and I will get 15% back with the commission. Every penny counts!

We stayed at a friend's villa, which sits between the mountain Montgó Massif and the sea. Dénia is quite a large town and the Castle of Dénia sits on a rock overlooking it. On one of the days we were there it was pretty overcast so we, after 10 years of going to Denia and having never done this before, decided to walk up to the castle. Through typical steep Spanish streets we wound our way up to the top and the views were incredible. You can see out to sea, over the city and the harbour - it's all so very pretty.

We love walking, and from Dénia you can walk to the left towards Alicante, along what is called Las Rondos. It's a lovely long stroll along the coast: it's all paved, with a couple of restaurants along the way and a fantastic restaurant at the end, where we had cortados before walking back. You can also go the other way, towards Valencia. This is more of a beach walk and there are some pop up restaurants there too.

In Dénia itself there are many amazing tapas restaurants. It's hard to choose between them, but our favourite ones are Tasca les Mongues, Tasca Eulalia, Mr Fisher and Republic. The vibe of the city is so laid-back, and we love just wandering the streets. Els Magazinos is a converted old factory and is becoming more popular with tourists. It has lots of street food and is covered over, so it's perfect if it rains or the sun is too hot. We had beer and oysters there.

Down by the harbour you can rent a boat out, hire a jet ski or take a boat tour: it's quite expensive but worth it. The ticket office there is open all day so you can book there, or online.

For us Dénia has it all. We have gone there as a family and just as a couple, and we've always had the best time. The people are very friendly and we always feel welcome there.

Ibiza

From Dénia, you can get a boat over to Ibiza, Majorca and Formentera. A fast boat takes two hours 15 minutes to get to Ibiza and is great fun. We arrived in Ibiza Old Town and got a taxi up to Pikes, another of my favourite places. The first time I went there was about 10 years ago and the reason for my visit was because I found out Wham recorded Club Tropicana there....if you are old enough to remember that!

Pikes is set in the hills of San Antonia and is a renowned 80s boutique hotel. Tony Pikes bought a run down casita and slowly did it up, and it now gets fully booked every year, with many regulars that just love its chilled atmosphere and DJs by the pool. The restaurant has a delicious menu and has to be booked in advance, unless you are staying there. There is a club called Freddies, named after Freddie Mercury as he stayed there often. Many famous stars have stayed here: Grace Jones, Kylie Minogue, Simon Le Bon, George Michael, Andrew Ridgeley…the list goes on. I have been there when Craig David and Fat Boy Slim were staying - star spotting is always good fun!

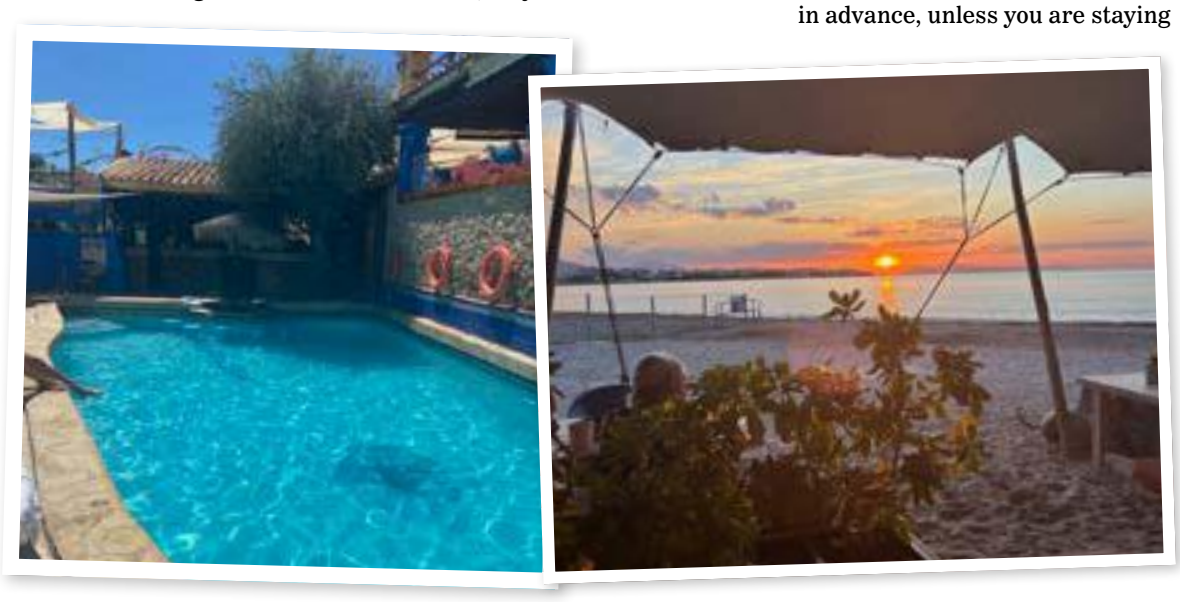
From Pikes it's an easy taxi into town or over to Ibiza Old Town, which is where the castle is. There are lots of typical Spanish streets with amazing restaurants and bars. It's excellent for people-watching - one of my favourite things to do.

We always include a day trip to Formentera for lunch: it has the most beautiful white beaches and is a fabulous place to visit. You can get the late boat back…which we did once in stormy weather…a little bit scary!

Beautiful Ibiza is renowned to be the party island, so if you're looking for a wild clubbing experience you're in the right place, but there's a very quiet, chilled side too.

So, whether you want a villa, a swanky beach hotel, or a town house, a boat trip, a travel tour or a castle tour, a club, a DJ by the pool, a restaurant or a yoga retreat, Ibiza has it all. And of course, you can never beat an Ibiza sunset - and the place to see it is Sunset Ashram, along with its great food and atmosphere.

All the trips I tell you about come from my own experiences, and I love writing these articles for you. I would also like to tell you more about the benefits of my travel business. Email me on kimcooper99@gmail.com, or message me on 07788202441, and I will send you a free information pack.



You can find me on Instagram at @kc.ttravels, and I am also launching a podcast at the end of this month called 'Freedom to Fly'. Have a look out for it on Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Upgrading Tandridge District's community facilities



By **Cllr Catherine Sayer**



Leader of Tandridge District Council

As you might know, the government is planning to reorganise local government, which will mean the end of Surrey's 11 district and borough councils, including Tandridge. It proposes to replace them, and Surrey County Council, with a unitary system. That means all local services will be delivered by the same council instead of the current two-tier system where services are split between the district and the county council.

It's not clear whether there will be two or three Surrey unitaries, or even a single huge unitary, but under the government's current timetable, Tandridge District Council will be abolished in April 2027.

In the meantime, we are keen to do as much as we can to improve community facilities, some of which may be taken on by parish councils for the future.

These are some of the projects we've been working on:



Playgrounds

These popular playgrounds have been refurbished and reopened to make them more accessible, weather resistant and fun for all ages and abilities:

- Weston Drive, Caterham on the Hill.
- Grange Meadow, Bletchingley.
- Jenners Field, Lingfield.
- Mid Street, South Nutfield.
- Boulthurst Way, Hurst Green.
- Mill Lane, Hurst Green.
- Verdayne Gardens, Hamsey Green.
- Broadbridge Lane, Smallfield.
- Next to Felbridge Village Hall, Felbridge.

Public toilets

So far, three sites have been renovated. They are at Godstone, Warlingham and Ellice Road car park in Oxted, with more to follow as all the facilities in the district are reviewed.

Multi-use games areas for Whyteleafe and Caterham

Work has started to refurbish some multi-use games areas, which are versatile spaces for playing football, basketball, netball and tennis.

At Whyteleafe Recreation Ground, two tennis courts are being refurbished, while at Caterham on the Hill's Queens Park it is one court. The idea is to provide better opportunities to stay active and enjoy a variety of sports.

Council owned tennis courts being upgraded

The council has received funding from the Lawn Tennis Association to refurbish public tennis courts at Queens Park and Whyteleafe Recreation Ground. Renovations will include three courts at Queens Park and two at Whyteleafe Recreation Ground. Work has already started and is expected to finish soon.

We are also carrying out major improvements to Queens Park but physical work on site won't start until 2026.

Boosting biodiversity in our parks

We are installing BioCubes in these parks to help wildlife thrive:

- Broadbridge Lane play area, Burstow.
- Dormansland Recreation Ground.
- Grange Meadow playground, Bletchingley.
- Jenners play area, Lingfield.
- Mill Lane play area, Oxted.
- Queens Park play area, Caterham.
- Whyteleafe Recreational Ground.

Each BioCube provides homes for bees, butterflies, frogs, hedgehogs and more. Hopefully, they will make it easier for nature to flourish and give park visitors the chance to see more wildlife.

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

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Tune into Ridge Radio online

Whether you're a business or local resident, contact us to book your slot and have your say.

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Could you be our first guest ?
If you want to feature on the show, email us at

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Steptoe & Son revival raising money for local heart charity

If the phrases 'You dirty old man' and ''Aaaarold!' make you smile, make sure you head to Leatherhead Theatre in July, where, for one night only, Cattle Productions Ltd will be treating the audience to a hilarious adaptation of four episodes of TV sitcom Steptoe & Son.

"I chose Steptoe because it's such a classic family favourite," says Dan Lewis, the company's founder. "I picked two well-known episodes, and two that may be less familiar, but are still just as funny. The production value of the show is immense: the stage is dressed to look just like Harold and Albert's house, and we searched out all kinds of genuine antique household items to fill it with. We even found a grandfather clock from the 1850s! We leave the curtain open while the audience is taking their seats, and play a 1960s soundtrack, so they can really soak up the nostalgia of the show."

Each night on the 42-date UK tour is raising money for a different local charity. In Leatherhead, the funds will go to Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY - c-r-y.org.uk), which is based in the town.



"As a company, we always have two goals when we perform: to make people laugh, and to be able to donate money to charity. That's what it's all about."

There is also a meet and greet after every show.

"People have made time to come and see us," says Dan, "so we will always make time for them afterwards to come and say hello and take photographs. We've had some lovely comments: people say they haven't laughed that much in years and that if they close their eyes, it's like listening to the original actors."

Perhaps the greatest accolade the cast have received, however, is discovering that in the audience of their Stockport show in March, were the great-grandson and great-nephew of Harry H. Corbett, who played Harold Steptoe.

"They said it was brilliant!" smiles Dan. "That was really special for us."

Steptoe & Son is on at The Leatherhead Theatre on Thursday, 3 July at 19:30.

Book your tickets now at theleatherheadtheatre.com/whatson/steptoe-son or find the rest of the tour dates at steptoeandsonontour.co.uk.





Tandridge businesses take part in the Surrey Awards

Following last year's successful event at Sandown Racecourse, the 2025 Surrey Awards took place this year at Guildford's G Live on 15 May.

Presented by actor Jason Burill and Jackie Radio presenter, actor and comedian Emilie Kate Owen, the audience was also treated to music from Sheyla Bonnick (Boney M), Reef frontman Gary Stringer and opera singer Emma Nuule, while a live PA and DJ set from Dub Pistols' lead singer Barry Ashworth rounded off the evening.

Celebrity attendees included England cricketer Phil Tuffnell, S Club 7's Bradley Macintosh, DJ and presenter Mike Read, dance music impresario Ben from Phats & Small, Eastender's actor John Altman and West End star Peter Straker, among others.

Celebrating the best of Surrey's local businesses, Tandridge was well represented, with Kinjo and Cattle & Cocktail, both in Oxted, making it into the Best Restaurant (Pan Asian) and Best Restaurant (Modern British) categories, while the town's The Ginistry was nominated for Best Bar as well. Styled Right in Caterham and Godstone Farm were also shortlisted for Best Women's Fashion and Best Family Fun respectively.

The Surrey Awards 2025 has, so far, raised over £2,000 for their chosen charity, The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity, with more to come from an online Silent Auction, which is running until 10 June and can be found at jumblebee.co.uk/surreyfashionweekx-surreyawardscharityauction2025.







(Left) Starting the party at G Live; (Top) Reef's Gary Stringer; (Above) Emma Nuule Photo credits: @richyboyphotos on Instagram)



Parental alienation - is it happening to you?

By **Gina Nicolas**

EJ Coombs Solicitors



Parental alienation refers to circumstances where a child's relationship with one parent is significantly damaged, due to the influence of the other parent. This can involve negative remarks, limiting contact, or encouraging a child to reject the other parent.



Signs of alienating behaviour

Alienation can take many forms, including:

• Speaking negatively about the other parent in front of the child.

• Encouraging rejection of the other parent by portraying them as dangerous, unloving, or unworthy of a relationship.

• Interfering with contact by making excuses or preventing visits.

• Manipulating a child's emotions to make them feel guilty about spending time with the other parent.

• Withholding important information about the child's health, education, or activities from the other parent.

• Creating an environment of fear or loyalty conflict, making the child believe they must choose one parent over the other.

How do the courts approach parental alienation?

The courts prioritise the best interests of the child in any family dispute. If a parent alleges alienating behaviour, the court will carefully examine the circumstances to determine whether the child's rejection of a parent is due to alienation or other legitimate reasons.

The court considers evidence from multiple sources, including parents, professionals, and sometimes the child, to understand the underlying reasons for contact difficulties.

The role of experts, such as psychologists or independent social workers, is crucial in assessing whether a child has been subjected to alienation. These experts may conduct interviews, review family dynamics, and make recommendations to the court.

Judges may order interventions such as family therapy, supervised contact, or parenting programmes to help restore the parent-child relationship.

In severe cases, if alienation is proven and is significantly harming the child, the court may alter child arrangements or even change residence, if it is deemed necessary to protect the child's well-being.

The guidance also highlights that allegations of alienation can sometimes be misused in high-conflict cases, where one parent may accuse the other unfairly to gain a legal advantage. The court will always take a balanced and evidence-based approach.

What should parents do?

If you are concerned about parental alienation, consider the following steps:

Remain calm and avoid retaliating: responding with anger or attempting to alienate in return can make things worse.

Keep communication open: maintain a consistent and positive relationship with your child where possible, even if contact is limited.

Document any concerns: keep a record of missed contact, communication issues, or concerning statements.

Encourage a positive co-parenting approach: demonstrating a willingness to cooperate with the other parent can help rebuild trust and support your child's well-being.

Seek professional support: therapists, mediators, and legal professionals can provide guidance on how to address alienation effectively and protect your rights.

How can we help?

Parental alienation is a serious issue that can harm both the child and the affected parent. However, it is crucial to handle concerns about alienation carefully and objectively. Courts take a balanced approach, ensuring that any allegations are properly assessed to protect the child's best interests.

If you believe you are experiencing parental alienation or need advice on child arrangements, our team is here to support you through the process and help you achieve the best outcome for your child. Contact E J Coombs Solicitors: 01883 343460.



When new fathers struggle: breaking the silence

By **Dr Amit Seyan**

Well Life GP Clinic



Becoming a dad is life-changing. Suddenly, you're expected to be supportive, knowledgeable, and strong while functioning on minimal sleep. The pressure can be overwhelming, and many men find themselves thinking: 'Why am I not enjoying this more?'

If this sounds familiar, you're not alone. Around 1 in 10 new fathers experience postnatal depression - the same rate as mothers. We're highlighting this during Men's Mental Health Week (9-15 June) because while the struggles of new parenthood affect both genders, men often face unique barriers to seeking help, suffering in silence because they believe they should 'stay strong' for their families.

What might this look like? Perhaps you're feeling constantly irritable, disconnected from your baby, or withdrawn from friends. Maybe you're working longer hours to escape, experiencing headaches, or feeling inadequate as a parent. These aren't signs of weakness or failure - they're normal responses to a massive life change.

The truth is, seeking help isn't just for you: it benefits your whole family. When dads receive support, their relationships improve, their children develop better, and they rediscover joy in fatherhood.

The most important thing to remember is that struggling doesn't make you a bad father. In fact, recognising when you need support shows remarkable strength and responsibility.

If you're finding fatherhood challenging, speak to a GP. Sometimes the bravest thing a father can do is admit he's struggling. Your child doesn't need a perfect dad - they need one who's present, well, and able to show them that even the strongest people ask for help sometimes.

Well Life Clinic offers confidential support for new fathers in a judgment-free environment. You don't have to face this alone.

Visit welllife-clinic.co.uk.



Mass tree planting surpasses halfway mark





Volunteers helping to plant new trees in Surrey (Credit: Surrey County Council)

An initiative by Surrey County Council (SCC) to plant 1.2 million trees and hedgerows, one for every Surrey resident, by 2030 has passed its halfway mark, with 768,832 now in the ground. More than 49,000 have been planted in the last year, with a range of community projects undertaken to support the target.

Trees provide many benefits, including oxygen production, carbon dioxide absorption, water cycle regulation and providing wildlife habitats.

Parish councils, schools, businesses, charities and community groups can register their interest in being involved in the next planting season. Visit surreycc.gov.uk and search 'plant 1.2 million trees'.

News from Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions

By **Peter Drysdale**

The Lions Clubs' International year ends in July, when there is an international convention – this year in Florida – where the new international president will be sworn in, along with thousands of district governors from more than 150 countries. Naturally, Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions is a very small 'cog' in the international wheel – pun absolutely intended...

There are eight district governors in the UK, which is known as District 105. Hopefully all of them will be going to Florida for the event. COG Lions Club will therefore have a new president from July: Lion Rita Reissland. She will be following in the footsteps of her late husband Ken, who held the office in 2011-2012.

The club agreed to be part of Godstone Parish Council's VE Day Celebration on The Green on Saturday, 3 May. Our original prime location outside The Bounty (Godstone's Scout HQ) proved impossible as the cold gusting wind threatened to send our gazebo into orbit, so operations were moved to the Sports Pavilion, the only other source of electricity on The Green. This was not really the right place for the sale of candy floss and popcorn (neither of which was available 80 years ago, of course!). There were numerous stalls, musical entertainment from the Oxted Silver Band and a Punch & Judy Show. Godstone villagers are a stoic crowd and picnicked enthusiastically. I'm sure every one of them is hoping that the August bank holiday fete will see more sunshine and less wind. See you there...

If you want to come along to the White Hart Barn in Godstone for our next Trivia Quiz Night, you need to hurry: 14 June is nearly sold out! However, there's another one on 27 September – to book your place, ring Lion Tony on 01883 335945.

If you would like to know more about your local Lions Club, the person to speak to is Lion Tony, on 01883 741809. He would be delighted to chat to you. The Lions also have a minibus available for community use – Lion David is the person to speak to about this on 01342 893353.



Snacks for sale at Godstone's VE Day celebrations

What's On

YMCA EAST SURREY

Caterham Youth Club

FREE Youth Club for Years 6-11 living in Caterham , Chaldon & Whyteleafe

Starting with pilot session on Thursday 3 April

Caterham Youth Club is a friendly, relaxed, safe environment where you can hang out with friends. Free food will be provided.

- Thursdays (term-time) Juniors | 15:45-17:15 | School years 6-8
- Thursdays (term-time) Seniors | 18:15 to 20:15 | School years 9-11

All YMCA Youth Clubs are led by qualified professional youth workers.

Before attending any YMCA Youth Clubs, all young people will need parents/carers to complete a registration form.

Funded by the Four Parish Councils that make up the Neighbourhood Plan area.

Scan here to register:

For further details, email fiona.oldam@ymcaeastsurrey.org.uk

YMCAEastSurrey

www.ymcaeastsurrey.org.uk

St. Johns Church Hall, Clareville Road, Caterham, CR3 6LA

YMCA Here for young people Here for communities Here for you

Registered charity no. 1075028

Caterham, Chaldon & Whyteleafe Youth Group

Children's Archaeological Dig



Join us on the 21st and 22nd of June 2025

From 10am till 4pm

Whyteleafe Park, Hillbury Road, Warlingham

Free . Metal Detecting . Equipment Supplied . Gift Shop

Children under 16 must be accompanied by a responsible adult!

Organised by The East Surrey Museum with the help of Caterham Rotary Club and Surrey Community Archaeological team as part of the Caterham Festival

01883340275

eastsurreymuseum.org.uk

Facebook and Instagram @East Surrey Museum

Supported by Rotary Club of Caterham

CaterhamRotary.org.uk



Paws in the park

Jenners Field, Lingfield,
30 June 2025, 11am-4pm

Free, family friendly event celebrating responsible dog ownership

www.tandridge.gov.uk/dogs

Tandridge District Council

RSPCA Surrey East Branch



THE ARTS SOCIETY

Arts Society Limpsfield: Vermeer and Music – The Art of Love and Leisure

by **Lydia Bauman**

The role of music and musical instruments in both life and art of the Dutch Golden Age. This talk comes with musical excerpts which illustrate particular instruments shown in paintings, and is based on a popular exhibition with the same title, shown at the National Gallery some years ago.

When: Wednesday, 25 June, 19:30
Where: Limpsfield Church Hall, RH8 0DG
Refreshments will be served before the talk.
Guests are welcome - £10 at the door
Find out more at theartssocietylimpsfield.org.uk

Tandridge Handicraft Society

On 14 July, the Tandridge Handicraft Society will host a talk entitled My Life as a Quilter, presented by Sylvia Critcher.

The doors will open at 13:30, and the talk starts at 14:00. It is £5 for entry, including tea and biscuits, and visitors are welcome.

The society meets every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Oxted. Further details can be found on the THS website (tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk) or by contacting Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.

THE CHARTWELL CANCER TRUST
REG. CHARITY NO. 1109784
www.chartwellcancertrust.co.uk
CONTACT: 01959 570322

Paul's Midsummer Madness

24 Hour Cycling Challenge 21 - 22 June 2025

Local resident Paul Clark is taking on an epic challenge cycling up and down Stock Hill, Biggin Hill, in 24 hours to raise £24,000 for The Chartwell Cancer Trust.

The equivalent of cycling to the summit of Mount Everest!

EVERY PEDAL STROKE COUNTS!

Paul is raising funds towards the build of a new Cancer Information Centrefor the Chartwell Cancer & Leukaemia Unit at The Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough. This vital resource will support patients and families in navigating the emotional and financial challenges of cancer.



Watch Paul take on this incredible challenge and cheer him on! Commences top of Stock Hill.

Saturday 21st June, 9am.

Main Sponsors: Ben-efit Bike Fit Studio, Biggin Hill Social & Sports Club, Design Your Hype, Elliott Construction & Landscaping Ltd, Inwood Properties Ltd, Jtech Controls Ltd, Kelsey Park Lodge 5701, Luminate, S T Brown (Electrical) Ltd, The Framing Centre Tunbridge Wells

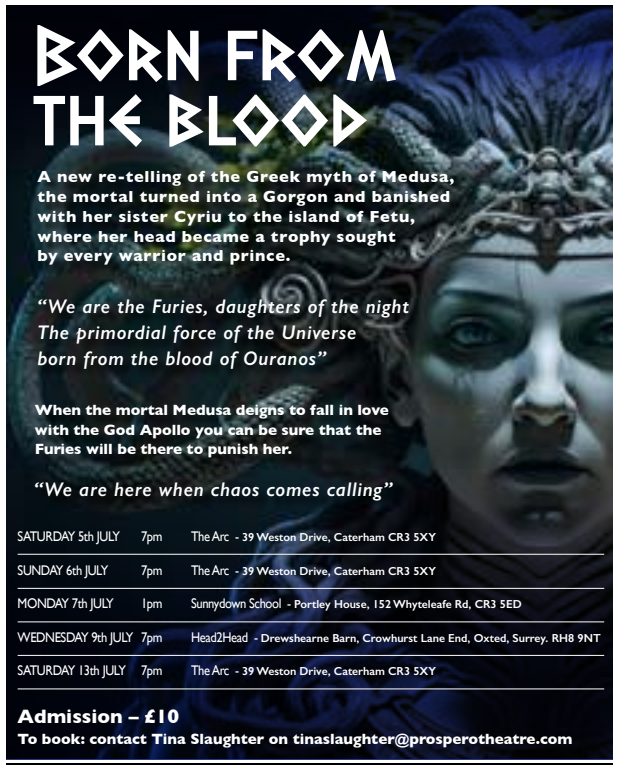
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Public Notices

Public Notice

Goods vehicle operator licence

Gore Scaffolding Ltd is applying for a licence to use Unit 48 Paddock Barn Farm Godstone Road Caterham CR3 6SFG as an operating centre for 2 goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Public Notice

Next Gen Scaffolding & Access LTD of Chalice House Bromley Road, Elmstead, Colchester, Essex, United Kingdom, CO7 7BY

is applying for a licence to use

17 Fryern Wood, Chaldon, CR3 5AR as an operating centre for one goods vehicles.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's Office.

Public Notice

NOTICE OF PREMISES LICENCE APPLICATION

Applicant: Brian Coughlan

Premises: THE STATION PUB

Address: The Avenue, South Nutfiels, RH1 5RU

Application has been made to Tandridge District Council for the grant of a Premises Licence for the following licensable activities:

1. The sale by retail of alcohol.

2. Live music.

3. Recorded music.

4. The provision of entertainment facilities for entertainment of a similar description to making music and dancing

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting https://www.tandridge.gov.uk/Business-support-and-licensing/Licences/Alcohol-and-regulated-entertainment-licences/Premises-licences-issued and following the link to the Licensing Register.

Email licensing@tandridge.gov.uk to request a copy of the application within 28 days from the date of this notice. Any person wishing to submit relevant representations concerning this application must give notice by emailing Tandridge District Council, giving in detail the grounds of the representation no later than: 03 /07/2025.

Representations received by post to Council Offices, Station Road East, Oxted, Surrey, RH8 0BT. Representations must include your full name and address.

Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: the prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, the prevention of public nuisance and the protection of children from harm. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application for a premises licence. A person guilty of an offence is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level five on the standard scale.

Dated this 5th day of June 2025.

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Girlguiding news: M is for.... making memories (part two)



By **Sue Corrance**

Girlguiding Godstone division commissioner

May has been a busy month, and June is looking just as busy, with lots of great Girlguiding memories being made.

May-Hem! The Girlguiding London and South East Region (LaSER) event for 6000+ young people lived up to its name, and we survived! Caterham and Chaldon units crammed 83 Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their leaders onto a coach to the South of England Showground, even managing to bring them all back again.

We bounced on massive inflatables, rode bicycles, made fake wounds, tried line dancing, maypole dancing, and Bollywood dancing; we formed a line like riot police, visited the air ambulance, handled reptiles, made slime, had a blast at the silent disco, and enjoyed catching up with friends from across the region. Thank you, LaSER, we can't wait for the next one!





Left, Maypole May-Hem; Above, An evening cricket session; Right, First aid on Eagle

Chelsham units held their Mammoth camp – named for both theme and size – as the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides enjoyed a sleepover involving a Lego bus, samba drumming, mammoth biscuits and making their own special wooden game, as well as experiencing the fabulous low ropes course, which is a fantastic addition to the Faurefold Girlguiding site. A big highlight of the weekend was the moment Squirrel and Froggie were welcomed to the unit as fully named leaders!

Other recent activities include Oxted Brownies joining with Edenbridge Brownies on a warm, calm evening, to learn some cricket skills.

Chaldon Guides have been making the most of the light evenings and getting stuck into the great activities on the LaSER rugby challenge badge.

Finally, Caterham Rainbows have been doing their first aid badge. Among other things, they learnt how to clean a wound and put on a plaster. You can see more at Facebook.com/Godstone Division Girlguiding

We create life-long memories of fun and skills for our young people and leaders alike. Come and join us and make memories of your own! Email Sue (Dragonfly) at GodstoneDivision@gmail.com and visit girlguiding.org.uk to find out more.

Whyteleafe Village Fun Day – A day of entertainment, community & celebration!

By **Dr. Marcus Jones**

Chairman, Whyteleafe Village Council

Whyteleafe gets ready for the ultimate village day - a day packed with family fun, entertainment, and activities for everyone. Best of all, entry is FREE!

The Whyteleafe Community Hub volunteers have organised this event to bring our wonderful village together, with something for residents of all ages.

Date: Saturday, 28 June, 11:00 – 17:00
Location: Whyteleafe Recreation Ground, Hillbury Road, Whyteleafe, CR6 9TH

What's in store?

- Kids' Wonderland – Bouncy castles, face painting, fun games and prizes!
- Live music and performances – Enjoy fantastic local talent and lively entertainment.
- Craft and market stalls – Discover unique handmade goods, local produce, and gifts.
- Dog-friendly fun – Bring your furry friends for a dog show and parade!
- Competitions and raffles – Amazing prizes await in our exciting contests and raffles.
- Community spirit – Meet your neighbours, support local initiatives and celebrate Whyteleafe together!

The village council will have stalls at the fair too, along with various volunteer groups from Whyteleafe: the Community Hub's Gardening Group, members of the Food Bank, the Befriending Group, the event organisers group, St. Lukes 'Knitting Ninjas' and the Free Church Friday Lunch Club, among others.

Come and meet members of Whyteleafe Village Council and hear about our projects and activities, including our very successful series of local litter picks.

You will be able to find out how you can join any of these friendly and inspiring volunteer groups, make new friends, keep healthy, and contribute to our community.

Spread the word!

Bring your family, friends and neighbours, and residents from all our neighbouring villages are most welcome too. Let's make this an unforgettable day in Whyteleafe!

Let's mark another big occasion for Whyteleafe

AFC Whyteleafe came within inches of winning the FA Vasel at Wembley Stadium on Sunday, 11 May. Despite leading the match at half-time, and hitting the Whitstable Town crossbar in extra time, it was the opposition that prevailed in a tightly contested match.

Well done to the squad of players, management, staff, and supporters for such a thrilling season of football!

Don't forget: Saturday, 28 June 2025 - mark your calendars now. Let's connect, celebrate, and have an amazing day together!

Email: cllr.m.jones@whyteleafevillagecouncil.gov.uk
Website: whyteleafevillagecouncil.gov.uk

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Holland Sports AC: a hidden gem of running excellence and community spirit!



By **Jack Kavanagh**



Support and camaraderie at Holland Sports (Credit: Bob Matthews)

This month, I would like to tell you how joining my local athletics club has been instrumental in my running success.

It was after competing in the London Marathon in October 2021 that my sister suggested I join a running club. The idea of starting something new, with unknown people, made me slightly anxious, but I knew I wanted to run more and see how I could improve, so I forced down my nerves and headed to my local club. It was during my first session that I met my now-coach Neil Danby, but I had no idea then how he, along with the support of this amazing little sports club, would change my life, or that my new hobby would become my career…

My club: Holland Sports Athletics Club

I quickly discovered that Holland Sports (HS) is an athletics club built on community and camaraderie. The coaches are hugely supportive of all abilities, from elite runners, ultra runners and those trying to get a faster Park Run, to people like I was, starting out from the beginning.

I also loved how at events you see a line of HS blue vests clapping in every single one of its runners, something that often surprises people who transfer from other clubs where that doesn't happen! The club celebrates all its runners' achievements and successes, whether that's breaking the four-minute mile or the 30-minute 5km barrier.

I have noticed, during my own races when things are getting tough, that it is the thought of the support from home that gives me an extra boost. The club livestreamed both my England races in the clubhouse, and I was brought to tears when I saw how many locals were watching and cheering me on!

What has HS got?

The track is a cinder running track, with no lanes, making it a surface with less energy return than a rubber track, so the impact on my joints is far less aggressive during training. It also makes it feel extra special when I go to compete somewhere with a 'rubber' surface track! Throughout the week, the cinder track is open to the public for free use during times that are not designated club nights.

My personal coach, Neil, is also the senior head coach of HS. He competed in the Biathlon event at the Calgary Winter Olympics, and is an ex-Winter Olympian and ex-Olympic coach, with experience in multiple running distances. When Neil moved to the local area, it wasn't long before he began training the runners at the club, giving them his time and knowledge for free.

Holland AC also has a very strong Ultra Running team, so if running for hours or even days (yes, days) is your thing, then it can definitely support you too. Last month, there was an afternoon where one of our runners was competing in an 800-metre race, while another was simultaneously doing a 100-mile race!

'Who is that?'

Other clubs started noticing the progress of Holland Sports AC at a Surrey Road Relay. Neil was sitting in the stands of Wimbledon Athletics Club, waiting for the leading runners to come through. In previous years, this race has been won by the higher established running clubs and Neil and his fellow spectators were expecting to see the usual top club-coloured vests come through first.

For the first time, a HS blue vest runner came through first. Neil found it funny to hear people double-checking what they were seeing. He could hear, 'Who is that?', 'Has he run the right way?', 'Which club is that?'. This was HS entering the scene and putting a small club very much on the map.

Since then, the club has had multiple England representatives, international runners, multiple Surrey champions and many HS blue vests on top of podiums.

It is amazing to me how successful this local village club has been against well-established clubs that have a far bigger pool of runners to choose from! I am incredibly thankful for everything it has done for me.

Is it time for you to join Holland Sports AC?

If you would like to join HS, here are the weekly team training sessions:

- Tuesdays: Track session. 19:00 start, at Mill Lane Track
- Wednesdays: Open night track training. 19:00 start at Mill Lane Track
- Thursdays: Road running. 19:00, meet at Holland Sports.
- Sundays: Long Team Run. 08:30, meet Holland Sports.

It also offers junior training sessions. For more information, please visit hollandsportsac.org.uk.

Training times can vary, so stay up-to-date by following Holland Sports AC on Instagram (@ hollandsportsathleticsclub).



Lynxes take on - and beat - the boys

By **Darryn Dowsett**

Last July, Jamie Hardgrave, the Caterham Pumas development officer and manager of the Pumas U13 Lionesses, had a thought: 'Why don't we put a girls' team in the mixed Epsom & Ewell Saturday football league?' He put a call in to me, the manager of the Pumas U13 Eagles, asking 'Are you onboard for this adventure?!'

That's how it began. The 2024/25 Caterham Pumas U13 Lynxes comprised girls from the Caterham Pumas U13s Lionesses, Eagles and Falcons teams, and it was the first time the club had ever entered an all-girls team into a Saturday league.

At the start many doubted us, possibly thinking 'Can girls play against boys teams?' Well, at our disposal was a great bunch of girls who were thoroughly up for the challenge. They knew the boys would be physically stronger, but the Lynxes proved themselves to be both fitter and technically gifted.

Throughout the season there were emotional highs and lows, but the Lynxes fought on to win the U13 Division 10 title against all the odds - the first time in Epsom & Ewell's history this has happened! They were rewarded with a trophy presentation, and rapturous applause, at Epsom Downs Racecourse on 10 May.

The Lynxes' captain, Tammy Dowsett said, "Being the captain of a girls football team that won the league in a boys' division is something I'm incredibly proud of. We faced challenges, doubts, and tough competition, but we never let that stop us. Leading this team has been an honour, and I hope our success inspires other girls to believe in themselves and never be afraid to take on any challenge, no matter who says they can't!"

Top scorer Lyra Drinkwater added, "I am so proud to have played for Lynxes this season, we have done so well and achieved a lot in the short time we have been a team. We have worked hard and it has paid off. We are a strong team but more than that we are good friends. A big thank you to our fab coaches."

By the end of this season, the buzz around the Lynxes was immense and has already encouraged other Pumas girls' teams to follow in their footsteps next season.

The Lynxes management team is made up of Jamie Hardgrave, Lucas Hardgrave, Ben Laundy, Allan Guild and myself. We'd like to give special thanks to the parents for all their support throughout the season!

Wembley dream ends in defeat... but Leafe celebrate league win

By **Greg Barber**





(Above) A moment to remember: Leafe line up at Wembley (Credit: Andy Crayford, Crayfordmedia); (Right) Goal celebrations in the first half (Credit: Richard Pearson, Instagram: @richypeafootie)

Leafe suffered heartbreak at Wembley in the FA Vase final on 11 May, losing 2-1 to Whitstable after extra time.

However, for a club that was only founded four years ago, after the folding of the old Whyteleafe FC, to get to the home of football was an amazing feat in itself, and nearly 5,000 Leafe fans made the pilgrimage to support their team.

Leafe had the better of the early exchanges and looked to keep the ball while probing the Whitstable defence. They didnt have to wait too long before the breakthrough. A lovely build up down the left wing: Gaspar Mico made a clever turn and slid the ball into the path of Dan Bennett, who dinked the ball over the advancing keeper to send Leafe fans into raptures of delight. The players ran over to celebrate with them, with Bennett's backflip a highlight.

Leafe continued to worry the defence and should have had a penalty when Gondoh was bundled down from behind in the box. The ref was only five yards away - it beggars belief it wasn't given.

Whitstable had few chances in the first half and any they did have were easily dealt with by 17-year-old George Hill in the Leafe goal. And that's how it stayed at half-time.

The break seemed to do Leafe no favours, while the Oystermen came out the more energetic, getting their reward in the 53rd minute when Harvey Smith fired low to Hill's right. Hill seemed wrong footed, and the score was level.

Leafe seemed to tire quite quickly. It was a boiling hot day and the emotion of being at Wembley perhaps had taken a lot out of the players, especially as they hadn't played for a few weeks due to the delay of the league playoffs (more of that later). Whitstable looked much fresher and fitter as the game went on, especially substitute Robbie Rees, who chased everything and ran himself into the ground for the cause.

Both keepers kept their sides in it with some fine saves, and it became a tense and nervy game. Leafe looked to have won it with a few minutes to go when Jamie Mascoll put the ball into an empty net, but the ref judged him to have fouled the defender in the build up when he seemed to collide with his own keeper. Mascoll got one last chance to seal it, chipping the keeper only to see the ball bounce off the crossbar. An inch lower and Leafe would have taken the glory, but extra time was now needed.

There was a nervous feel to the first half of extra time and Leafe was definitely suffering from fatigue. The fateful moment came at 100 minutes. A hopeful long ball was chased down by Ronald Sitole who initially looked second favourite to get to the ball, but managed to get the ball under control and took Hill on one-on-one. Young Hill made a brilliant save to his right, but the ball fell kindly for Sitole to regain control, take his time and slot his shot past the weary defence and into the net.

Leafe tried to get back in it, but it was not going to be their day and their heavy legs could not break down the resolute Whitstable defence. It finished 2-1 to the Oystermen. The game was an absolutely brilliant advert for non-league football and it could have gone either way, but at least it didn't go to penalties.

What an amazing day - and it didn't end in north-west London. Hoards of Leafe fans came back to the club afterwards to give their players a heroes' welcome, followed by an awards evening where we managed to party long and hard. Goodness knows what it would have been like had we won...!

Vase disappointment was then put on the back burner, as Leafe, already promoted to second in the league after Jersey were docked three points, waited on the outcome of Redhill's charge of fielding an ineligible player in December. The Combined Counties League was not really letting anyone know what was happening, or when the playoffs would be. Finally, on Wednesday, 21 May, a whole month after league matches finished, it was announced that Redhill had lost their appeal and had been docked three points, moving them to third place, Jersey to second and making AFC Whyteleafe official league champions. This means that Leafe have been promoted to Step 4, which is where the old Leafe were when they folded just after Covid. They will be joined by Jersey, who won the playoffs, so the friendly rivalry built up this season can be continued in the next.

All that remains to wish all our readers and supporters a wonderful summer and I will hopefully be back in August with news of pre-season friendlies and new signings, and what Leafe can look forward to in 2025/26. Stay in touch at afcwhyteleafe.com and on Instagram: @afcwhyteleafe.

Oxted Women FC - UNDEFEATED!



By **Chloe Robertson**

Vice-captain, Oxted WFC

Our last game of the 24/25 season was away to Cranleigh: if we won this game, we would secure the league title undefeated! And...we did! The game finished 5-0 to Oxted, with goals from Kayleigh Stenning, Ella Simmons, Becca Black, Chloe Robertson and Leah Halpin. It was a brilliant day and we celebrated with some champagne spraying afterwards! Players' Player of the Match was Ashley Collier-Stone and Manager's Player was Kat Brown.

There has been so much to celebrate lately within Oxted WFC. Not only are we UNDEFEATED LEAGUE WINNERS (!) but our very own Kayleigh Stenning took the Golden Boot, not only in our team but in the Surrey Division 1 League, and our presentation night saw Ella Simmons pick up Players' Player of the Season and Chloe Robertson being awarded Manager's Player of the Season. We also got to celebrate with our league winners' cup and medals, along with the whole of Oxted Football Club (men and women).

Winning the league means we have been promoted, so next season we will be playing in the Surrey Premier Division - we are looking forward to the challenge!

I want to say a big thank you to everyone who has not only made this season possible but as successful as it was: our players, supporters, manager Hayley Pickett-Bays and our sponsors – Titsey Brewing Co & Brewers Decorator Centres - and for everyone who has read along and supported us from afar.

We are on the lookout for new players to strengthen our squad for the upcoming season so please get in touch via our socials (instagram.com/oxtedwfc) or by email (oxtedwfc@yahoo.com) to secure your space at our upcoming trial days.

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