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New think tank aims to start accessibility revolution

By Rosalind Brookman

Local social enterprise The Accessibility Project has announced that it is to rebrand as Accessify, 'the accessible living think tank'.

Building on its original aim of 'establishing inclusive, open and creative communities for everybody, by researching, challenging and enabling change towards accessibility barriers in our local areas', Accessify will now be taking on an even wider remit.

"Accessify is the think tank striving to make the impossible possible," says founder Abi Chapman, who launched The Accessibility Project in Tandridge in 2022. "With public services overwhelmed and no resolution in sight, we want to ensure everybody can enjoy a good quality of life, regardless of personal health circumstances. Our focus will remain on disability, but we will now combine research, consultancy and service design to confront factors such as education, employment, medical accessibility



and social relationship quality, and lessen the negative impact that disability has on people's lives."

Abi, who lives in Oxted, says Accessify will continue the initiatives started under The Accessibility Project, working directly to address social determinants of health across the community, from youth work to tackling isolation.

Details of Accessify's official launch will be released later but, in the meantime, Abi is looking for people to help her team 'start the accessibility revolution'. Everyone is welcome, but they are especially keen to hear from:

- People with lived experience: those with direct or indirect accessibility barriers
- Creatives: designers, architects,



The Accessibility Project founder Abi Chapman

- film makers, storytellers etc
 - Researchers with interests in disability, neurodivergence and health systems
 - People with experience working in medical, health and social sectors
 - People with, or who want to gain, experience of running fundraising and event activities
 - People with experience of governing not-for-profit organisations
- To lend Abi your support or for more information, contact info@accessify.uk or follow @accessibilityprojectuk on Instagram.



Sal's Shoes founder and Oxted resident Camilla Bowry visited Windsor Castle on 23 April to receive her OBE. Her charity takes good quality second-hand children's shoes and redistributes them in the UK and across the world: so far, they have passed on more than five million pairs.

"I'm honoured to have spent St George's Day at Windsor Castle in the company of the Princess Royal, and with my children Sal and Clemie - the inspiration behind the work I started - beside me," said Camilla, known as CJ. "Anything I've ever been able to achieve has been because of the all-encompassing support from everyone around me. Sal's Shoes simply cannot do what it does without the generosity of time and the sincere efforts of all our supporters, and it's never been something I take for granted.

This is recognition of all the hard work behind the scenes and what our team has achieved over the last 10 years. I'm forever grateful for everyone's support."

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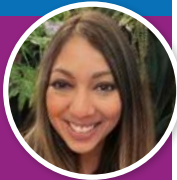
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Letter from the editor

Welcome to the Tandridge Independent. Here we are, already in May - is it just me, or is 2024 going faster than previous years?! It seems crazy that yet another half-term is on its way: it won't be long and we'll be heading into the summer holidays once again...

Talking of summer holidays, if, like me, you've started dreaming of sun, sand and sightseeing, why not get in touch with our fabulous columnists Kim and Katharine from Travel Smarter? They are full of ideas for all kinds of amazing trip, and can take the pressure off by organising everything for you. They also want to tell you why they became independent travel agents (believe me, the perks sound fantastic) - so, if you're looking for a change of career, make sure you turn to page eight: it may well be something you could be doing too!

I'd like to welcome our new column, Property Experts, to the paper. Suzie Viner, senior valuer at Rayners Town and Country, will be bringing you the latest updates from the property market on a quarterly basis and, this month, offers some great advice on how to market your home.

Our reporter Matilda Gladwell brings you the story of the Caterham Rotarian who has just completed his 500th parkrun, along with an update on the incredible Zac Knight who is running every day to raise money for Young Epilepsy. Aaron Sugg reports on the award-winning Whyteleafe Community Hub, and Rosalind Brookman catches up with teenager motor racing sensation Mikey Porter.

As usual, we have got a brilliant competition for you. Sugar Mama's Cake Shop in Caterham is giving away FOUR delicious goodies to two lucky winners...What are you waiting for? Entry details are just to the right of this letter - good luck!

Thank you once again for reading and supporting us. We are a really small team and each month we strive to provide you with a free 24-page community newspaper, which we hope you enjoy. Please let us know what your favourite articles and features are and if you have a story you'd like to tell, or suggestions for something we could include, get in touch! newsdesk@tandridgeindependent.com

See you next month.

Louise D'Costa



Spotlight On... Cristina Scurr

This month, our spotlight is being shone on Cristina Scurr, who has taken on a tough personal challenge to raise money for two great causes.

Cristina will be running the Richmond Park Marathon on Sunday, 19 May, having given herself a target of just six months to train for the 26.2 mile route. The funds she receives will be shared between Newlife, a charity which provides specialist equipment for children with disabilities, and close family friends the Doves and their five-year-old daughter Lilly, whose unique genetic makeup is not yet fully understood, and has left her facing a range of severe medical complexities since birth. The money will help support them as they manage the expenses and challenges ahead.

Despite setting £1,000 as her initial fundraising goal, Cristina has already raised more than £3,460 at the time of printing!

You can donate to Cristina at gofundme.com/f/running-for-lilly.



*Cristina
Inset, Lilly*

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Community hub wins national award

By Aaron Sugg

Local charity the Whyteleafe Community Hub was recently awarded the lead group at silver level in the 'It's Your Station' category at the 19th Community Rail Awards.

The hub's submission to the awards focused on how Whyteleafe Station is the base for their food hub operations: a weekly food package program for those experiencing temporary financial hardship, run and managed by local volunteers.

Chairman of the hub Sarah-Dawn Parker said: "We are absolutely thrilled that the Whyteleafe Community Hub was recognised at the Community Rail Awards.

Our food hub program is such an important part of our work. Having the

operations run from Whyteleafe Station has been so key in keeping it going."

Josy Goldsmith, a volunteer at the food hub who has lived in Whyteleafe for 20 years, as well as growing up in the area, joined the community hub two years ago.

She said: "We are a small blip compared to the other contenders we were up against, but because we have such dedicated volunteers playing these key support roles I have seen how beneficial it has been for everybody in the community, including ourselves."

The food hub's supplies are a combination of food and toiletries funded by the charity, and donations from the local community.

Kenley Primary School is an example of this. Instead of paying their usual pound to dress up in their own clothes for a spring term mufti day, they brought in Easter eggs. These were then given to the hub, which distributed them to local families.

Anne Marie Young, a food hub volunteer, said: "We always love it when we see pictures from the donation points. It is lovely to see something from the community going back into the community."

The Community Rail Awards submission also highlighted the Whyteleafe



Above: (LtoR) Anne Marie and Josy, food hub volunteers, with Sarah-Dawn Parker, chairman of Whyteleafe Community Hub
Left: June Henty, from Whyteleafe Station, and Sara Jones, founder of the hub, collect their award

The award recognised the important work carried out by those in community rail, often volunteers, who work across Britain's rail network to make stations welcoming spaces for passengers and visitors alike.

The awards' gala presentation evening was held at the Swansea Arena on Monday, 18 March, where attendees were showcased and celebrated for the incredible range of work they do and the difference they make in their communities.

The hub's award was collected by Whyteleafe Community HUB founder Sara Jones, hub volunteer June Henty, and Ramla Abshir-Slevin, the manager of Whyteleafe Station.

"I am so proud that all our volunteers have been recognised," said Sarah-Dawn. "We all live here together, so let's work together to make Whyteleafe a better place."

Garden Group, a sub-section of the Whyteleafe Community Hub, whose members dedicate their time to brightening up Whyteleafe and its railway station with a pop of greenery.

The garden group have put up planters on the platforms, decorated a corner of the station called 'June's Garden', and have maintained the surrounding areas of the car park.

Sarah-Dawn said: "Our garden group volunteers have also worked tirelessly

to make Whyteleafe Station beautiful, through all the planting they have done."

Silvia, a garden group volunteer, moved to Whyteleafe 15 years ago and values the sense of community there.

"That is, for me, one of Whyteleafe's major attractions. I hope we can encourage other train stations to beautify their community areas. It's not just gardening, it's a get together of like-minded people who want to take care of the area we all share."



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News In Brief

Burglars charged

Antonio Bilea and Xhuliano Frroku have been charged with conspiracy to burgle across Surrey, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, including a series of burglaries in Warlingham and Caterham. The two men have been remanded into custody and will appear in court in May.

Driving down false fire alarms

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service will now only respond to automatic fire alarms in domestic and residential properties if they receive a 999 call to confirm there is a fire, to reduce the instances of false alarms. In the period from October 2022 and March 2023, 98% of this type of automatic fire alarm were false alarms, equalling 976 mobilisations.

A similar change to business automatic fire alarms in 2023 saw a 95% decrease in false alarms.

Tool theft increase in East Surrey

Police in Tandridge have warned of an increase in tool theft across East Surrey and are encouraging all owners to mark their equipment with their names or company names, as well as taking photos, and logging serial numbers. Buyers should also ensure they only purchase tools from reputable sellers.

Man sentenced after laser incident

Oxted resident Paul White, 54, has been sentenced to a one-year suspended sentence after shining a laser beam at a police helicopter in March. When officers arrived at White's house, he also pointed an air rifle towards the helicopter. White was arrested and charged with shining a laser beam towards an aircraft and possession of an air weapon.

White was also given a 12-month treatment order and rehabilitation requirement, and ordered to pay a £156 surcharge.

Letter from Claire Coutinho, MP for East Surrey

It has been a tough time for family finances, but we are turning a corner. Energy bills are now down to their lowest level for two years, with the average annual bill cut by almost £250. This is on top of the budget changes which have now kicked in for families across East Surrey, including tax cuts worth £900 for the average worker, a boost to the Living Wage worth £3,600 for a full-time working couple, 15 hours of free childcare worth £3,450 a year for working parents, and a state pension increase worth £900 a year.

And, as energy secretary, I know many families in East Surrey and across the country feel that high standing charges are unfair and

make it harder for them to cut down their monthly energy bills. Decisions around standing charges rest with Ofgem, so I have written to them setting out my expectation that standing charges are kept low, or reformed if necessary to make them fairer for consumers. You can read my full letter on my website.

In November the prime minister announced a massive injection of £8.3 billion into road resurfacing projects across England, funded by cancelling the second phase of HS2. As a condition of this funding, and to make sure money is being spent on pothole repairs, we required local councils to publish a two-year plan detailing exactly which roads will be repaired with the money.

Surrey County Council's results are in, and they show that as a direct result of the PM redirecting money from HS2, the following roads in Tandridge have been repaired: Oxted Road in Godstone, Copthorne Road in Felbridge, Antlands Lane in Shipley Bridge, Featherbed Lane in Warlingham and Chestnut Copse in Hurst Green.

The full data shows that, this year, Surrey will be spending almost triple what was spent on roads, pavements, bridges, drainage, safety barriers, and traffic signals in 2019/20. Nevertheless, I know how frustrating poor road surfaces can be – so, if you have a road near you that you would like to see resurfaced, please report it on the SCC website.

I am a self-confessed community centre superfan. Community spaces can do wonders for our sense of belonging and our wellbeing, and I was thrilled to visit the site of the long-awaited Master Park Pavilion in Oxted recently.

Following a mammoth fundraising effort, including securing £1.86 million from Your Fund Surrey and £250,000 from the government's Community Ownership Fund, the new community pavilion is well on its way to completion, and it was fantastic to get a sense of how community groups and sports clubs will be able to use the space when it is finished.

Pammy, Phil, Roger, and the rest of the Master Park trustees have done such a brilliant job getting the

project off the ground – and I look forward to heading back when the pavilion opens to the community towards the end of the year.

Finally, I'm delighted to share an update on The Friendship Project, the charity that I set up to support local community groups who tackle loneliness.

With help from the Tandridge Community Fund, over £10,000 has now been distributed to seven community groups in East Surrey to support them in their crucial work. This includes £2,500 for the Woodhouse Centre in Oxted to help them redecorate their walls and replace carpets and lighting, £3,150 to the Westway Centre to build an outdoor shelter to help with socialising and gardening, and just under £2,000 for East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership to facilitate community outreach events and transport for those in need.

I'm sure we all feel that life has got busier in recent years, and many of us will feel that we would rather have a bit more time to stop and get to know those around us – that's why I've now installed the first of my 'Happy to Chat' benches. With the money I've raised for my Friendship project, I'm installing these in green spaces in East Surrey to encourage people to spark a conversation with someone they might not have previously thought to say hello to. If you spot one while you're out and about, do send me an email to let me know! claire.coutinho.mp@parliament.uk.

Brave a barefoot walk this half-term at Godstone Farm

Do you dare to bare? This is what Godstone Farm is inviting visitors to do this May half-term (25 May - 2 June) as it stages an all-new 'barefoot walk' experience! Kick-off those wellies, shake-off those socks, and experience the wonders of nature in bare-footed bliss as part of Godstone Farm's Nature Explorer's Week.

The barefoot walk is an all-round sensory experience, reminding us of the importance of reconnecting with nature on a tactile and physical

level. There have been many studies into the sensory benefits of going barefoot, especially for children, including helping to build balance and coordination skills.

Continuing on the theme of exploring nature, there are a host of other activities for children to do during the week, such as nature painting and even making their own mini worm farms! Armed with a transparent cup and soil, children can observe how worms burrow, making patterns which aerate the soil and how their

casting (worm poo!) can enrich the soil with nutrients to support plant growth. It's no wonder they are known as 'ecosystem engineers'.

Their Nature Explorer's Week might inspire budding David Attenboroughs to make a larger earthworm farm at home and observe how they have the ability to regenerate their entire bodies, often living between four and eight years!

For more information, visit godstonefarm.co.uk.



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New chief exec for Surrey County Council

By **Matilda Gladwell**

Surrey County Council (SCC) has appointed Terence Herbert as its new chief executive. After a 'robust recruitment process', his appointment was formally announced on 9 April. He is expected to take up his new role this summer and will be replacing Joanna Killian, who is now chief executive of the Local Government Association.

Mr Herbert, who has been the chief executive of Wiltshire Council since 2020, has a background in children's services and mental health. He joined Wiltshire Council in 2011 and since then has taken on a number of leadership roles, including executive director for children and families, and chief executive officer for people. During his 13 years there, Terence says some of his greatest achievements there have been 'transforming [Wiltshire's] children's services from 'requires improvement' to receiving an 'outstanding' Ofsted report in 2023', as well as the 'strong staff culture' which has helped put 'Wiltshire Council in a financially stable position'. Prior to this he worked at councils in Lewisham, Kensington and Chelsea, and North Somerset.

"Terence is an outstanding leader, bringing over 25 years of local government experience to the role and it is excellent news that he will be joining us," says Tim Oliver, leader of SCC. "I am certain that he will be a tremendous asset to Surrey and is the right person to lead us as we face the challenges ahead."

Having begun his career as a mental health nurse and social worker, Terence has made supporting vulnerable residents one of his top priorities when he takes up his new role. He has also expressed his hope to retain a 'motivated and ambitious workforce' in Surrey, to boost the local economy.

Speaking on his appointment, Mr Herbert said: "When I join Surrey County Council, I look forward to continuing the good work of my predecessor to build on Surrey's significant track record and lead the organisation through the next stage of its transformation, in what continues to be a challenging time for local government."

Having spent much of my earlier career in children's services and mental health, I am passionate about delivering quality services for the most vulnerable residents across our communities and driving the economy to continue to deliver positive outcomes."



New SCC chief executive, Terence Herbert

Clear out your closet for the Orpheus Centre

The Orpheus Centre, on North Park Lane in Godstone, is holding its annual Clear Out Your Closet fundraising event between Tuesday, 7 and Friday, 10 May. They are asking you to look through your cupboards and bring them anything you don't need anymore, from the following categories:

- Clean clothing
- Shoes
- Bric-a-brac
- Mobile phones
- Cameras
- Electronics (not kitchen items)
- Soft toys
- Books
- Instruments

The centre will be accepting donations from 10:00 - 17:00 each day, and there will be help available to help you unload. Visit orpheus.org.uk/how-to-find-us.

If you have items to donate, but cannot make it to the centre on those days, you can email VanessaBrett-Davey@orpheus.org.uk to arrange a different time to drop them off.







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Girlguiding news: Busy Brownies!

By Sue Corrance

Godstone division commissioner

This month we're visiting the Brownies, our seven to 10-year-olds. It's a time full of 'firsts' – they might grow their first plant, put up their first tent or light their first fire. When this leader was a Brownie, we used to dance around a toadstool, have uniform inspections, learn to bake and serve cups of tea. These days things are a little different. Interest badges cover themes from archaeology to zero waste, as well as activities like painting, grow your own and languages. There's something for every Brownie, and plenty of moments they'll never forget.

At the end of last term, Buster the Bunny brought Easter chocolate to Caterham Hill's Rainbows and Brownies. It was wonderful to see one Brownie overcoming her fears as she was gently encouraged to get nearer and nearer until finally she felt ready to stroke him.

Meanwhile, 11th Caterham visited the Valley library and enjoyed exploring old maps of the area and reading books, and 1st Chelsham Brownies had a sleepover at Paxmead, a Girlguiding activity centre at Shepperton. Leader Catherine, who you met last month, says they all had an amazing time and can't wait to go again.

As the paper goes to print, final preparations are being made for trips away by Brownies at the 2nd Warling-



Above: Receiving their Gold awards. Top right: Studying old maps. Bottom right: Getting to know Buster.

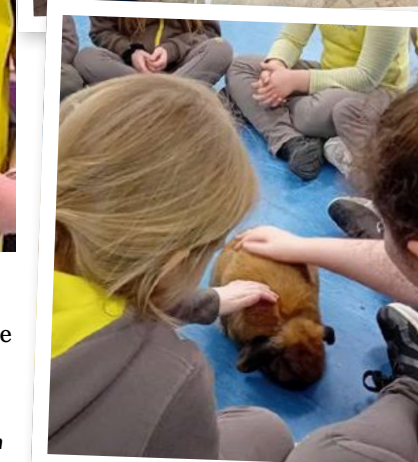
ham and 1st Lingfield units. It's a very exciting time and our encouraging volunteers will help everyone to explore their creative side, get into the great outdoors, and start learning to look after themselves, others and

the world we all live in.

Finally, three Brownies from 4th Caterham achieved their Gold awards and we are very proud. They can't wait to start at Guides after the Easter holidays. In the June edition I will take

you on a whirlwind tour of the Guide units in our area.

More adults means more Girlguiding fun! Email Sue at godstonedivision@gmail.com or visit girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/



St Piers welcomes fundraising champ Zac

By Matilda Gladwell

Last month we introduced you to Zachary Knight, a twelve-year-old boy from Smallfield who is undertaking a monumental fundraising challenge. Between 1 January and 22 June, Zac is running a mile a day in order to raise money for St Piers School and College in Lingfield, who help children and young adults with special needs or disabilities like epilepsy, which Zac was diagnosed with at the age of eight.

He will be running 172 miles, which equates to one mile for every student at St Piers, as well as completing a half-marathon on 12 July. He wears the name of the pupil he is running for each day on his shirt.

In April, Zac had the 'incredible' opportunity to visit the students and teachers at St Piers. He describes meeting them as the main highlight of his challenge so far:

"I loved seeing the environment that the students get to enjoy at St Piers. The students were all so friendly and kind. It was lovely to get to meet them.

They are the whole reason I am doing what I am doing. All I have to do is think of them, and that gives me all the motivation that I will ever need."

While there is much to celebrate, the challenge hasn't been without



its difficulties:

"We recently did a very difficult run for a young boy who sadly passed away at Christmas," says Zac. "We ran for 11 miles, because he was 11. It was a very emotional run but I felt pleased that we were able to do something special for him."

Additionally, during the winter months, Zac would run either before or after school, often having to battle through the dark, and torrential rain. He describes a moment when he was out running with his dad James, and they came across a section of their usual route which was flooded:

"To avoid the flooded part, we had to jump over a stream but I got it wrong and fell in! Of course, my dad got a photo."

Now summer is approaching, and with lighter evenings and improving weather, completing the rest of the challenge will hopefully be easier

Left: Zac receives a warm welcome at St Piers

Below: St Piers students join Zac on his daily run



for Zac.

His commitment to running and his compassion towards the St Piers students have not gone unnoticed. Since we reported on his fundraising endeavours last month, Zac has raised an additional £6,000, taking his total to £16,500 at the time of printing. All money raised will be going to Young Epilepsy, the charity which runs St Piers.

Help Zac raise even more by donating at justgiving.com/page/zacsgreatbigrun2024. You can also follow his progress on Instagram: [instagram.com/zacsgreatbigrun2024](https://www.instagram.com/zacsgreatbigrun2024).

Helping children reach their full potential: Natalie Alderton Dyslexia Services



It was while supporting her 12-year-old son during his diagnosis of dyslexia that Natalie Alderton's own dyslexia journey began.

"I just wanted to learn more about the condition, so I started studying it. About eight years ago, I passed Level 5 in Dyslexia Teaching, and a year later I became a dyslexia tutor. Following that, I went on to do Level 7, which qualified me as an assessor as well."

Through her business, Natalie Alderton Dyslexia Services, Natalie offers a comprehensive assessment and tutoring solution for children aged between eight and 18. As an accredited assessor, she meets the child in an environment they feel comfortable in, whether at school or in their home, and carries out the tests and assessments necessary to make her diagnosis. She will then write up a full report, containing lots of recommendations for support. She is also an access arrangements assessor, so is able to recommend additional help during exams, such as extra time.



The second component of Natalie's business is her tutoring provision. Working either one-to-one or in small groups, she helps every child develop bespoke learning strategies and provides appropriate resources to support them, both at home and in school.

"I have been tutoring a young boy

over the last few years, and he has now been selected to join the Royal Ballet School of London," says Natalie. "It's truly inspiring to see how Sebastian has flourished: watching him on stage fills me with immense pride. His journey, from struggling with dyslexia to dancing on such a prestigious plat-

form, is a testament to his resilience, determination and talent, and underscores the importance of recognising and nurturing the unique strengths of individuals with dyslexia.

His success is a shining example of how dyslexia does not define one's potential, but rather adds to the rich-



ness of their story."

Natalie is also in the process of adding to her existing skills, enabling her to increase the help she can give to the children she sees:

"Dyslexia and ADHD often go hand in hand, so I'm currently studying for Level 7 in ADHD Coaching, which I'll then be able to add to my business. Further to this, I can also diagnose other conditions, such as dyspraxia, Autism or speech and learning disorders, so I can then signpost them for further assessment."

Natalie is fully insured, and a member of PATOSS, the Dyslexia Guild and The British Psychological Society. Find out more about Natalie's dyslexia assessments and tutoring opportunities at nadyslexiaservices.co.uk, or by emailing info@nadyslexiaservices.co.uk.

A mark of quality: Entire Surface Solutions Ltd



The next time you pull up to a set of traffic lights or park your car in Surrey or its neighbouring counties, it's just possible that your vehicle is positioned in between a set of neatly drawn lines created by Kevin Alderton and his team

at Entire Surface Solutions Ltd. Working alongside his son Archie, and colleague Colin, Kevin's Warlingham-based, independent family-run business was established in 2007. It employs thermoplastic line marking for both corporate and private

clients; a technique that provides maximum visibility and long-lasting results. It is also eco-friendly and low maintenance: the markings are exceptionally durable and can sit for anywhere from three to six years before requiring a touch-up.

"Our clear line markings in car parks make the spaces well-ordered, meaning accidents are less likely to occur," says Kevin, who has more than 32 years of experience in the industry. "We also ensure that disabled bays, and electric charging points are distinct and easily located."

As well as roads and car parks, the team also takes pleasure in enhancing playtimes by providing imaginative playground markings for local schools and parks.

"We can add lots of different shapes and games, such as snakes and ladders, hopscotch grids, clock faces and



twisting lines to follow, which provide extra inspiration for the children while they play. The markings help reduce the chance of little ones falling over as well, as they have non-slip characteristics."

Citing councils, schools, churches, doctors' surgeries, hospitals, the Royal Mail, car dealerships, recycling centres and the emergency services (including London Fire Brigade, Reigate Police Station and the Met Police training centre) among its

clients, Entire Surface Solutions Ltd offers a friendly, personal service combined with high quality work, something which is evidenced by the number of its returning customers.

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Travel Smarter: Could YOU be an independent travel agent?

By **Kim Cooper and Katharine Plunkett**

Travel Smarter



If the idea of spending your work time researching golden beaches, luxury hotels and fascinating sight-seeing trips appeals, our column this month may well be the start of your new career!

We love travelling, so when we realised that becoming independent travel agents meant that not only could we help friends, families and clients book amazing holidays but that we were also able to book our own trips AND earn commissions on them, it was an easy decision to jump right in.

We now spend our time finding exciting new travel ideas, working with great suppliers and sharing our fabulous finds with our clients (and taking advantage of them ourselves as well...) - we don't mean to sound smug, but it could well be the perfect job!

So, could it be the ideal role for you, too? Just in case you need a little more persuading, let us tell you about the other advantages of becoming your own boss in this wonderful industry.

It's a flexibility thing

The nature of the business means we can work from anywhere: our home, coffee shops, hotels, beach bars... You name it: if there's an internet connection, we can work there! We can also choose our own hours, making it simple to fit around other commitments. You can be an early bird or a night owl, whichever suits you best.

It's a community thing

We have an outstanding team who book all the travel arrangements that



Kim can work from anywhere - even up a mountain!

we organise for our clients, and we love working with them. The independent travel agent community is also really helpful: there is always somebody to answer our questions or suggest an idea, and we enjoy being part of it.

It's a 'making dreams come true' thing

We know from conversations with our clients and our own personal experience that choosing a holiday without guidance can often be overwhelming: there's so much choice out

there. There are also a lot of extras to remember, such as visas, insurance, booking flights, hotel transfers...the list is long and time-consuming, and can be off-putting.

One of the great things about being an independent travel agent is that we live and breathe this stuff, and can make even the most ambitious travel plans easy for our clients. It's really rewarding to be able to take their worries away: all they have to do is tell us what they want, and we'll do the rest. Our personal touch and



Kim (L) and Katharine (R) with a colleague at a travel event

attention to detail will ensure that everything runs smoothly.

If you need a side-hustle, want to start a new business or simply love travel, this is for you. It's a great opportunity to earn uncapped residual and passive income and, although there's a small cost to get started (which includes your training), we made that back within one month of getting up and running!

We think you can probably tell how much we love what we do, and we'd

like the opportunity to tell you more. We're holding a coffee morning on Wednesday, 22 May where you can ask us any questions you might have: email us on kimcooper99@gmail.com or katharine@luxetravellers.com to book your place.

And if you would like some help finding your next awesome holiday, please get in touch - we can't wait to help you on your way!

Pupils enjoy out-of-this-world workshop

Children at Hillcroft Primary School in Caterham had an out-of-this-world experience recently, when they took part in a workshop all about space.

Approximately 60 Year 5 children were joined by STEM [science, tech-

nology, engineering and maths] Ambassador Kerry Henderson, who led them through their very own space odyssey.

Tying in with the group's recent classroom studies on space, the workshop focused on the planet Venus and the Earth's moon, and was one of a series of events that have taken place at the school in recent months.

"We often have workshops at Hillcroft," said Emma Parker, assistant head teacher at Hillcroft, which is a member of the GLF Schools Multi-Academy Trust. "This year, we've had an e-safety workshop,

a workshop and assemblies with the Dogs Trust, and an Anglo-Saxon and Viking workshop, to name a few."

Kerry has visited Hillcroft on many occasions, hosting workshops for different year groups. The current Year 5 cohort have had three or four sessions with her during their time at the school, covering a variety of subjects.

"Events like this are extremely important for the children," continued Emma. "The benefits they get from having hands-on, exciting events gives them a different viewpoint when it comes to their learning; it engages them in topics and develops a wide range of skills.

It gives us the opportunity to offer a broad range of experiences within school when visits elsewhere aren't always possible. The children enjoyed the space workshop and learnt a lot."



Rotary News

News In Brief

Road scheduled for resurfacing

Surrey County Council has announced the next roads to benefit from the reallocated HS2 funding, including one in Tandridge. Halliloo Valley Road in Woldingham is set to be resurfaced at some point in the coming year, with the money coming from Surrey's share in the £735m that has been ring fenced for repairing potholes and badly surfaced roads across the country.

The A25 in Godstone is one of 30 roads in Surrey that have already been repaired using this funding.

Waymarker replacement on Limpsfield Chart

The Friends of Limpsfield Common have replaced waymarkers on the High Chart, to encourage visitors to remain on the main pathways and 'allow nature to flourish undisturbed'. Wood that has been cleared from other areas is being used to build natural hedges for the same purpose.



Peter and Christian

By Matilda Gladwell

500th parkrun for Peter

Caterham Rotarian Peter Georziades has an extensive running legacy. Now in his 70s, he has just completed his 500th parkrun challenge, at the old Croydon Airport in April. parkrun is a free community event, where participants can walk, jog or run a five-kilometre route. Runs are held every Saturday in thousands of different locations across the country.

Peter completed his first parkrun event in Banstead Woods in 2010, alongside his grandson, Christian, who was eight at the time. During Peter's 500th run, Christian, now 21, supported his grandfather from the sidelines as he was suffering from a knee injury.

So far, he has run at 42 different parkrun venues across the UK, including in Eastbourne, Norfolk and on the Isle of Wight. He has also completed other running challenges, such as the Florence Marathon in 2012, to raise money for the South East Cancer Help Centre in Purley, and the Caterham Rotary Half Marathon in 2014. He is also a member of South London



Peter in action

Harriers athletics club,

Peter, who lives in South Croydon, has been a Rotarian for 20 years and was president of the Caterham Rotary Club in 2012.

For more information about Caterham Rotary Club, visit caterhamrotary.org.uk.

Rotary Club and Bipolar UK

30 March was World Bipolar Day, an event which aims to encourage understanding about bipolar and to banish stigma around the condition.

This year sees the second anniversary of the partnership between the Rotary Club of Great Britain and Ireland, and Bipolar UK. One in 50 people in the UK are affected by bipolar, and the two organisations have been working together since 2022 to help reach and support a greater number of them.

Bipolar is a severe mental health disorder in which a person experiences extreme high and low moods, ranging from mania, characterised by reckless behaviour and delusional thinking, to depression, where a person may begin to experience feelings of hopelessness or have suicidal thoughts. The condition can put great strain on an individual's mental health, relationships and career progress. Despite evidence which shows that people with bipolar are 20 times more likely to take their own life than someone from the general population, there is a lack of education around the disorder.

During the first 12 months of the partnership, Rotary Clubs across the nation worked with Bipolar UK to support 20,000 people affected by bipolar through the campaign, 'Could it be bipolar?' Currently, it takes around nine and a half years to receive a bipolar diagnosis, but this aimed to encourage those struggling with mental health issues to consider whether they have the

condition, so they can be diagnosed quicker. Together, the two organisations have created resources such as a Mood Tracker app and a Mood Disorder Questionnaire, to help people check the likelihood that they are suffering from bipolar.

Additionally, a Rotary Bipolar eClub was founded in August 2023, and holds fortnightly online meetings. These are an opportunity to meet friends and listen to inspirational speakers such as Vijay Nallawala, author and founder of Bipolar India, and Anushka Asthana, ITV's deputy political editor and Bipolar UK ambassador. Regardless of whether you live with the condition or not, the Rotary Club encourages everyone to take part in the free Understanding Bipolar eLearning Course, so that employers, colleagues, friends and family can learn how to best support someone with a mood disorder.

The recent cost of living crisis has revealed that these resources have become more vital than ever. Two in five people living with bipolar disorder in the UK say money worries have triggered a relapse, so accessing 'the right support' can help people with bipolar regain control over their lives, says CEO of Bipolar UK, Simon Kitchen. He adds that the two-year partnership with the Rotary Club has meant that the charity 'will be able to provide more people with bipolar with the tools they need to live a fulfilling life'. Find out more at bipolaruk.org/rotary.



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At our libraries



Death Cafe

As part of Dying Matters Awareness Week, Oxted Library is holding a Death Cafe on Friday, 10 May, from 13:30 to 15:00. The aim is to encourage thoughtful conversations around death and bereavement over coffee and cake. The cafe is free and open to all.

Clay Workshop

Limpsfield Art Society is running two clay workshops, suitable for children in Year 3 and above, on 11 and 18 May, from 13:00 to 15:00. Each participant must have an adult with them, and be able to attend both sessions. Cost: £5. Sign up in Oxted Library, or by emailing oxted.library@surreycc.gov.uk.

Further afield

Discover RAF Kenley

Kenley Revival volunteer Linda Duffield will be giving a talk on the history of RAF Kenley at Croydon's Central Library on Saturday, 4 May from 14:30 - 15:30.

It is free to attend, but booking is required. Visit libraries.croydon.gov.uk/events/125636 or call 0207 8845140.

Croydon goes green

On Saturday, 1 June, there will be an open day at Central Library, introducing people to the town's green spaces, wildlife and nature groups. Along with volunteering information, there will be activities, items for sale and stalls including Croydon RSPB, Croydon Ecology Centre, Croydon Beekeepers and Croydon Community Gardens.

There will also be a talk by Lindsay Ould on the history of Croydon's green spaces, and a Book Buddies children's story time with crafts. It takes place from 11:00 - 16:00

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service launch summer safety campaigns

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) ran a Be Water Aware campaign at the end of April, raising awareness of the potential risks of the county's open waters.

Drowning is now a bigger cause of death in Surrey than accidental house fires. SFRS's water rescue lead Gary Bryant said, "We see far too many incidents of people encountering difficulties in Surrey's waters, especially during the warmer months. It's easy to underestimate the dangers. Even for strong swimmers, or if the water is perceived to be shallow, hidden hazards beneath the surface, or the risk of cold water shock can quickly escalate into life-threatening situations."

The campaign also encourages residents to become familiar with what to do in an emergency. For example, if you find yourself struggling in the water you should:

- Tilt your head back, with your ears submerged
- Try to relax and breathe normally
- Move your hands to help you float
- Spread your arms and legs out
- Once your breathing is controlled, call for help or swim to safety

If you come across somebody in difficulty, SFRS advocates using the 'Call, Tell, Throw' method: call 999 in an emergency, tell the person to float on their back and throw a floatation device, if possible.

The Water Incident Database show



that in 2022-23, 40% of people who accidentally drowned in the UK had 'no intention of entering the water'. Trips, falls and slips were often the cause, and males between the ages of 20 - 29 and 50 - 59 were the highest groups for accidental water fatalities. (nationalwatersafety.org.uk/waid-statistics)

For more information on staying safe around water, visit surreycc.gov.uk and search 'water safety'.

SFRS are also urging people to be Wildfire Aware, after fires in the county almost doubled between 2022 and 2023. They dealt with 553 wildfires in that period, with their appliances spending more than 13,000 hours attending them.

SFRS' awareness and prevention work is done in collaboration with other partners in the county, with teams taking part in training to 'refresh and enhance wildfire capabilities and expertise, as well as introducing five new state-of-the-art drones into the service.'

Wildfires are common in Surrey because of the amount of heathland close to urban areas.

Rural affairs officer Marli Holland said: "Wildfires are a threat to homes, businesses, and precious habitats, and it takes years for the land to recover. As part of our work to prevent and tackle wildfires, we've been spreading the word with partners, and encouraging everyone in our communities

to take steps to reduce the risk of wildfires.

Wildfires are easy to start, and spread very quickly, often through barbecues not being extinguished properly, litter left on commons or heaths, or cigarettes being thrown out of cars or left on the ground."

SFRS offer this advice in helping to prevent wildfires:

- Avoid having stoves or open fires in the countryside. Switch your BBQ to a picnic
- Dispose of smoking materials properly
- Put your rubbish in a bin or take it home: glass can start wildfires by magnifying the sun
- Be prepared at home by cutting down or clearing areas of vegetation, bushes or piles of leaves. Dense areas of vegetation, timber fences/sheds and dry undergrowth allow fires to spread

Do not tackle wildfires yourself: leave the area and call 999.

For more information, visit surreycc.gov.uk and search 'wildfire'.



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Local photographs raising money for Caterham museum



Some of the pictures available to buy; East Surrey Museum

Countryside management volunteer Martin DeFreitas, who goes by the name 'Urban Countryman' online, has produced a series of photographs of the local area to raise money for East Surrey Museum in Caterham.

Every picture is mounted on card ready for framing and has an inscription on the back telling you where it was taken. Each measures 6in x 8in (mounts are 8in x 10in), and costs £5.

"A number of people have been enquiring about buying photographs and when East Surrey Museum con-

tacted me about using my photos to expand the offering in their shop it was the perfect opportunity to also raise money for our lovely local museum," says Martin. "Hopefully, it will also encourage some people who have never visited to do so."

In his announcement on social media at the end of April, he also thanked those who helped him bring his idea to fruition: Hilary Hopkinson, 'for producing the finished product, which looks amazing', and Richard Hopkinson, 'for the wonderful script on the back'.

Peter Connolly, curator at East Surrey Museum, said, "It's great to have such beautiful reminders of what a lovely part of the world we live in. They are an excellent fit for the museum shop, and have already proved very popular, particularly with some of our international visitors who no doubt will be taking them home as gifts or souvenirs of their visit."

East Surrey Museum is on Stafford Road in Caterham. Visit eastsurreymuseum.org.uk for opening times and more information. Find the Urban Countryman at [facebook.com/urbancountryman/](https://www.facebook.com/urbancountryman/).



Beautiful bluebells carpeting the woods at Gravelly Hill. This stunning photo was taken by Caterham on the Hill resident Nick Finnis while on a morning dog walk.

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By **Farmer Patrick**

Flower Farm



When writing my articles, I like to think a few people will read them... and hopefully, find them interesting! Judging by the comments I get from people visiting our farm shop, some of you do, which makes it worthwhile. My aim is to give you a small insight into what's happening on our farm, as well as farming in the Tandridge area, UK farming, and the odd little snippet of worldwide agricultural news. So, here we go with this month's.

What's going on at our farm?

Everything's going green. No, I don't mean our politicians, I mean our beautiful countryside, and even our towns, as the trees leaf up. I find it such a positive time of year and it always brings about a sense of adventure in me. Our new lambs are now running around the fields under the watchful eyes of their mothers, we have an abundance of spring calves, and even the day-old chicks seem to have lots of energy! For our chickens growing up in our open barns, the increased natural daylight at this time of year is important, as it signals to them to start laying eggs and thinking about the next generation.

What's going on in the local area?

At long last, the ground is beginning to dry up. I've written before about the enormous impact flooding has on UK agriculture, with consequences such as lost crops and livestock. Gardeners will know that everything starts to grow, and it often seems that ten minutes after you've mown your lawn, it needs cutting again!

In another month's time, us farmers will be cutting our fields for silage, for winter animal feed. Even though we're not yet in summer, we're already thinking about winter! Farming is all about the changing seasons. Fields need rolling before they can be mowed, in order to push down stones and paths made by wandering livestock. The window of opportunity for doing this is narrow, as the ground quickly becomes too dry to roll. When conditions are right in farming, one has to work hard – and spring is definitely the time for plenty of work, seven days a week.

What is going on in the UK?

Food security is one of my favourite subjects, and I come back to it again. The UK is roughly 50% self-sufficient with food, importing the rest, and it concerns me that there is a lot of influence, often from people or companies with a vested interest in so-called environmental improvements, regarding this latter issue. While none of us can deny our changing climate and

the effects of industrialisation on our planet, it is necessary to remember there are many millions of mouths to feed in the UK. And in the worst possible scenario, we will be short of food.

I urge politicians on all sides, who are subjected to words whispered in their ears, to please think carefully about the importance of farming in feeding the people. Vladimir Putin is unlikely to issue us with food parcels - we are quite likely to be on our own. History tends to repeat itself on a cyclical basis and on each downturn in the world's situation, we in the UK tend to find ourselves trying to make up afterwards, when we should've been proactive.

Welsh landlords are forcing farmers, who've been there for generations, from hill farms in order to plant trees, because they can get three times the rent per hectare from a firm of brokers pedalling alleged carbon offsets, now a requirement for all major house builders. This is fuelling mass tree planting because it makes financial sense, not for environmental benefits. I'm sure this will raise eyebrows with some people, who will disagree. But things sold to us as beneficial rarely are.

Thousands of hectares of farmland are being lost this way, and I feel we should be shouting: 'Farming, farming, farming! Food, food, food!' I might draw a parallel between this and our



steel industry. The nasty coal-fired blast furnaces have been shut down so we are no longer polluting the environment, but we still use just as much steel, so all that happens now is we buy the steel in from a furnace in China and sail it here on a ship run on fossil fuel. It's very easy to blow smoke and use mirrors. Our local MP Clare Coutinho seems to be moving up higher in the current government. Having met Clare many times, I know she is a switched on and genuine person so perhaps she will read this, and maybe some of my concerns might reach the top. We live in hope.

What's going on globally?

Finally, did you know that one of California's largest consumers of water is the peanut industry?! And the tomato shortage in India seems to have resolved itself for the time being!

Keep up with us!

Instagram: @Flower_Farm_Godstone
 Facebook: Flower Farm
 YouTube: @FlowerFarmGodstone
 TikTok: @FlowerFarmShop
 Website: flower-farm.co.uk/

Celebrate Surrey Day in Oxted

Saturday, 11 May is Surrey Day once again, a free community initiative by Visit Surrey that aims to celebrate 'all that is great about the county'.

The theme for 2024 is 'Surrey From The Sky', and visitors to Oxted on that day will be able to take part in the town's 'Wave to the Sky' event where (weather permitting), local drone pilot Matt Curzen will be flying his drone over the town. Love Oxted (Oxted BID) is encouraging everybody to look up and wave when it appears: the footage, along with other aerial photos and videos, will be posted on their social media, and that of Visit Surrey.

There will also be live music on Station Road West, starting at 11:15 with The Oxted Band, followed at 12:30 by Moonshine & Molly, and at



13:15 by The Oxted Musical Theatre Company.

Honey Bee Face Painting will be at Dessert Spot from 11:00 to 14:00, and if you have any little superheroes, bring them along to Boots from 14:00 to take part in Character Parties with Bee's free Superhero Surrey Day. Children can meet Spiderman and Captain Marvel and have a go at making their own masks and comic strips at the craft table, before taking part in KPA Dance's Superman dance lesson at 15:00 (outside Lorimers & Paydens).



Credit: Darren Giles, Studio 27a

ANGIE SMITH

Colour Specialist & MUA

@angieattheblossoms

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Angie's hairdressing talents, combined with the personal experience she and her skilled team provides, has allowed her to build up a loyal customer base.

"I am passionate about hairdressing, and creating the right atmosphere for a client to really enjoy their time with me is so important. I want to ensure their hair makes them look, and feel, great. A lot of my clients have been coming to me for more than 25 years," she says. "And, in some cases,

I cut and style the hair of three generations of the same family!"

Angie is a colour specialist, and Blossoms is not only a RedKen salon, but is also accredited by L'Oréal. She is also a make-up artist and trained in HD Brows, and is always keen to keep ahead of the game by participating in regular courses to upskill and enhance her existing knowledge.

This year sees Angie celebrating 25 years of The Blossoms.

"I am incredibly proud of this achievement. Having my own private salon means the world to me, and to mark the occasion, The Blossoms has just undergone a complete refurbishment. We've

created a beautiful space for clients to relax in, along with an outside area too."

Angie and her team will be launching the new-look salon on Saturday, 1 June, between 14:00 and 18:00. There will be fizz and nibbles, and a fantastic raffle, with prizes of hair and make-up products.

The Blossoms is at 6 Weald Way, Caterham. Visit theblossoms.co.uk for the full range of treatments.

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Rediscovering Jelka Rosen

By Graham Dixon

Walking through the picturesque churchyard in Limpsfield, many visitors seek out the grave of the composer, Frederick Delius (1862-34). Sadly, it's almost forgotten that his wife, Jelka Rosen (1868-1935), who also lies there, was an accomplished artist. While the gravestone commemorates Frederick as 'composer', only Jelka's name is given. When the Limpsfield Arts Society asked me last year whether I could give a talk about Delius, I found myself becoming more interested in rediscovering this woman artist, rather than trying to say something new about the well-documented composer.

Jelka was born in Belgrade of German parents, and she clearly developed a determined character. She persuaded her widowed mother to move to Paris with her, so that she could advance her study of painting. Subsequently, she convinced her to purchase a house in Grez-sur-Loing, just south of Paris; the previous owner had permitted her to paint in the extensive garden.

If you visit Grez-sur-Loing, and see the plaque on the house recalling Delius the composer, you shouldn't forget that it was really Jelka's house. They met at a dinner in Paris, where he was starting out as a composer, and she as an artist. Following a trip to Florida, possibly to locate a child he had fathered while living there, the



Delius in his Garden at Grez, by Jelka Rosen (Credit and thanks to the Museum of Music History)

gardener, remarking on the amazing range of floral colours – you can see that in her painting of the composer in their beloved garden.

The question naturally comes to mind, why Limpsfield? Well, they never lived here; when they left France during the First World War, they spent time close to Watford. They lie in Limpsfield because of a connection with the Harrison family, who understood the composer's wish to be buried in a churchyard in the south of England, close to London, so people could visit.

Frederick's body was first buried in Grez, and then – once the paperwork was in order – a year later he was exhumed to travel to St Peter's Church, Limpsfield. Jelka, already seriously unwell, proceeded to England by train for the ceremony. The journey was too much for her: she was hospitalized and passed away within days of her arrival. And thus, she too lies buried in the Limpsfield churchyard.

After the 1910s, Jelka ceased to exhibit her works. Perhaps at another time, she would have continued her artistic path and become more prolific and better known. However, we should not underestimate her achievement. Hopefully, more works, those in private hands, will eventually come to light. But next time we pass the famous composer's grave in Limpsfield churchyard, let's not forget that it is also the resting place of a notable artist.

Graham Dixon will be giving a presentation on Jelka Delius at St Peter's Church, Limpsfield at 19:30 on Friday, 24 May.

composer appeared on the doorstep with the words 'I suppose you can put me up'. For the sake of decency, he slept a few doors away at first, and finally, in 1903 they married.

Grez was attractive to artists since it was accessible to Paris by train, meaning they could easily return to exhibit their works. The charming village and surrounding countryside allowed artists to work in the open air, painting the natural world, something that had become possible due to the introduction of oil paint in tubes. When artists moved from Paris into the countryside, they first took over the village of

Barbizon; from about 1860, they progressed down the train line to Grez. Around this time, we have the first evidence of painting at Grez, Corot's depiction of the majestic bridge. In Paris, Jelka enrolled at the art school, where Gauguin, Mucha and later Modigliani also studied. Paris in the late 19th Century was the centre of the art world. Jelka established friendships with Edvard Munch, Mucha, Rodin and Gauguin, as well as the musicians Fauré and Ravel. Her works are striking in their use of impressionist, pointillist techniques. But what amazed me more than anything, when I saw two paintings of Grez exhibited in the town hall there, was her frankly fluorescent use of colour. Sadly, the locations for most of her paintings are unknown - only one seems to be displayed in the UK, a canvas of an elderly gentleman in the art gallery in Bradford, the city where Frederick Delius was born. Visitors to Grez speak of Jelka's skill as a

Cream teas and bonsai trees

By Sue Dowse

On Tuesday, 9 April, the Tatsfield Not So Young Club climbed into a minibus provided completely free of charge by Practical Car and Van Rental in Biggin Hill, and headed off to Lingfield to meet Peter Chan and his team at Herons Bonsai.

Although the weather was not kind to us, we settled down in a lovely room with amazing bifold doors, which gave a superb panoramic view of the landscaped gardens. Members enjoyed a delicious cream tea whilst enjoying the beautiful surroundings.

When the rain stopped we had the chance to wander around the centre and gardens, which houses hundreds of exquisite bonsai trees.

This was a rare treat for our members to enjoy a wonderful day out and, even though the weather was not at its best, the warm welcome we received by everyone cleared the clouds.

Anybody over 55 is welcome at the Not So Young Club - contact Sue on notsoyoung100@gmail.com for more details.



Tatsfield Not So Young Club enjoy their cream tea at Herons Bonsai



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By **Neil Miller**

Head gardener at Hever Castle & Gardens



While there's some time to go before our big Hever in Bloom event (24 June - 7th July), we are beginning to turn our attention to the roses in the garden.

New roses

As long as you ensure they're well-watered before you plant them, there's still time to introduce some new roses in your beds in May. Ahead of Hever in Bloom we have been inspired by the two sisters of Hever Castle – Mary and Anne Boleyn. We chose two 'sister' roses to feature in two new borders: Timeless Cream and the regal Timeless Purple – both related to each other, like Anne and Mary. Timeless Cream is an absolute stunner and Timeless Purple delivers the drama!

The Boleyn sisters are not the only women to inspire the rose planting at Hever. Close to Two Sisters' Lawn, the shrub rose garden contains beautiful single-flowering roses grown by the poet Emily Dickinson in her Homestead garden in New England.

The addition of the Emily Dickinson-inspired shrub rose border was inspired by Hever's owner Mrs Guthrie, who is a great fan of the poet's work.

New additions

If you're looking for an aromatic rose then Buff Beauty is a good one - a



hybrid musk raised from roses bred by the Rev Joseph Pemberton. After retiring from his church in Romford, Essex, the Reverend dedicated his life to breeding fragrant roses. This large rose has a pink/red foliage and soft-apricot flowers.

Black spot

You can avoid this blighting your display by selecting certain types

of roses: for example, trailing roses, gallicas, rugosas and albas are not affected by it. They are heat-tolerant roses that have evolved on poor, drier soil and will flower for you in June. There's still time to buy and plant these and begin to enjoy the flowers in June/July.

Older rose varieties are prone to blackspot, whereas modern repeat-flowering roses can be bomb-

Left, *Rosa Lucky and Absolutely Fabulous* in The Rose Garden.

Right, *Rosa Rhapsody*. Right below, the *Hever Rose*; (Photo credits: Vikki Rimmer)

proof, such as Champagne Moment or Peach Melba by Kordes. Lark Ascending by David Austin is also a good one.

If you are beginning to see the effects of blackspot on your roses in May, make sure you are the tidiest of gardeners and pick up any fallen leaves - this is how the fungus spreads from year to year. Then, once you get to November, cut back, take off all the foliage and, in the new year, mulch around the roses, creating a barrier between the soil and the rose stems.

Green fly or white fly

I'm often stopped in the Rose Garden and asked about white fly: my answer is always the same - stand back and let Mother Nature do her thing. Ladybirds will Hoover them up for you and blue tits enjoy collecting them for their fledglings. Don't spray the aphids, this will kill the white fly predators and prevent the birds from thriving too.

Hever in Bloom

While it's still six weeks away, why not pull out your diaries and pencil in visiting Hever in Bloom? We've doubled our blooming workshops and tours this year, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of one of our peak flowering times of the year.

You can find out more about the four-acre Rose Garden and over 5,000 blooms during the event. Garden tours



take place twice a day during weeks one and two (11:30 and 14:00) and once at weekends (11:30) with the gardening team. In week one you can also watch a 30-minute floral demonstration, to learn how to create a hand-tied flower arrangement using seasonal blooms.

Visit hevercastle.co.uk/whats-on/hever-in-bloom.

Dynamic opening night offer at Hever Festival



The Festival Theatre at Hever Castle has a special opening night ticket offer to celebrate the launch of their new venue.

The Jazz Dynamos, featuring world-class vocalist Lucy Randell, will be the first performance of the 2024 festival, on Saturday, 25 May. They're a five-piece band whose unique set features exuberant contemporary jazz arrangements of well-known songs from the 1970s and '80s, including artists such as Dolly Parton, Madonna, U2, The Police and A-ha.

The Jazz Dynamos have performed sold-out shows at Ronnie Scott's, as well as at festivals in the UK, Italy, Sweden, France, Norway and Bulgaria. They have also been booked for private shows for both British and Hollywood royalty.

Their show starts at 20:00 and runs for two hours, with an interval. It is suitable for all ages.

All tickets for this fabulous evening are just £11.70 (which includes a £1.70 Hever Castle contribution)*. If this wasn't enough, if you send your feedback to the Festival Theatre team when they contact you by email after the show, you'll receive a £10 voucher for each ticket you purchased, to use against another show in this year's programme.

As their new venue has a green roof, the Festival Theatre team are asking willing visitors to dress to match by wearing their favourite pieces of green clothing, whether that's a mint-coloured t-shirt, or a full crocodile costume!

For more details, and to book your tickets to see The Jazz Dynamos featuring Lucy Randell, visit heverfestival-tickets.co.uk.

*Alternatively, you can purchase a joint theatre and castle garden entry: adult £25.90, child £20.90 (includes £1.70 Hever Castle contribution).



New safety zones for the M25

By **James Highsted**

National Highways has announced plans to install new emergency areas between junctions 5-7 of the M25.

This comes after the government committed £390m to roll out an emergency area retrofit programme, which will see 150 more safety zones added to sections of all lane running (ALR) 'smart' motorways, where the hard shoulder is used as an extra lane.

The initiative is in response to the Transport Select Committee's report on the roll out and safety of smart motorways, published in 2022.

Emergency areas provide places for vehicles to stop on stretches of ALR motorways that do not have a hard shoulder, a motorway exit or services. These areas are positioned at regular intervals on the motorway, and have phones which are linked to National Highways control rooms and stopped vehicle technology.

The aim of the retrofit programme is to

create 50% more emergency areas than when the report was published two years ago, including adding some along the section of the M25 which cuts through Tandridge, and passes over the Godstone Interchange at junction 6.

National Highways was asked when work in Surrey would begin, and if there would be any disruption to travellers, but said they would not be releasing any more details at this time.

The Transport Select Committee report also recommended that the Department for Transport and National Highways should pause the rollout of ALR motorways until five years of safety data was available for the remaining 112 miles of ALR motorways introduced before 2020.

The government cancelled plans for new smart motorways in April 2023 due to lack of public confidence and cost pressures.

For more information visit: nationalhighways.co.uk and search 'emergency area retrofit', or contact: EAretrofit@nationalhighways.co.uk

News from Caterham, Oxted and Godstone Lions

By Peter Drysdale

One of the joys of fundraising is, of course, being able to give money to those in need, or maybe buy things that would be appreciated. The club has provided Wild Tribe Heroes books to five local primary schools and is contributing £500 to St. Catherine's Hospice, to help with the landscaping at their new premises. Easter gave us the opportunity to visit the hospice and present a quantity of eggs for the patients, which had been kindly provided by Morrisons in Oxted, so this time we didn't actually need to buy them! Morrisons knew we would take them to a good place!

Our next fundraising event on 18 May (15:00 - 17:00) is our annual Swimathon at de Stafford School: an opportunity for local groups to raise funds for themselves and test their swimming prowess – all ages can take part. Proceeds are divided 50/50 between participating teams and Lions' charities.

A really big project, involving all the 40 or so Lions Clubs in South East England, is the ongoing support of the Kent Surrey & Sussex Air Ambulance (KSS). The helicopters are centrally based at Redhill Aerodrome, with the administration offices at Rochester Airport.

2022 was the busiest year so far in their 35-year history: they were called to 3,224 missions and helped provide lifesaving care to 1,928 patients. Of these, the most common callout was to road traffic collisions, which accounted for 30% of their missions. In just the first half of 2023, KSS was called to 1,510 missions and attended to 880 of the most seriously injured people in the South East. That's 10 missions and six people every single day – and they fly 24/7.

During this time, medical jobs



Delivering Easter eggs to St Catherine's

increased, with more patients experiencing cardiac arrest, stroke and complex breathing issues, such as asthma. They are given expert treatment and care at the scene, be it in the wilds of the country or beside a busy road, and often in the pouring rain...the paramedics are hero medical workers!

The recent provision of seven VScan hand-held ultrasound units for all KSS aircraft and rapid response vehicles, brings the current total of all Lions

projects with KSS over the past 12 years to around £425,000.

And the work goes on. The Lions of South East England's next pledge is to provide eleven sets of newly-designed medical equipment bags. These vital items will make it easier for medical crews to care for and treat patients in the field – sometimes literally as, by definition, the air ambulance often attends incidents where land ambulances cannot go. We donated half of the profit from our last quiz towards

one of these bags, which costs over £3,500.

There is also a small fleet of rapid response vehicles which can sometimes be a better option than a helicopter. The life-saving service provided by KSS is vital to the wellbeing of all people in our area, and we can truly say that the Lions are helping in the fight to save lives.

Talking of fundraising quizzes... our next one is on 15 June, in the White Hart Barn, Godstone, and half the tickets have already gone! Telephone Lion Tony on 01883 335945 to get yours.

CATERHAM, OXTED & GODSTONE LIONS CLUB

Registered Charity No: 1172327
www.coglions.co.uk email: kmaculay123@gmail.com
Telephone Lion Lynne Macaulay on 07709 514819 for further details



SWIMATHON



Would you like to raise money for a charity or good cause close to your heart whilst also helping your local community?

Can you and up to 5 friends or colleagues swim for up to 25 minutes in relay?

COG Lions do all the organising, leaving you to arrange sponsorship from friends and relatives and just turn up at your time slot ready to swim.

All we ask is that 50% of your total sponsorship is donated to the Lions, which is used to support LOCAL causes and charities.

Saturday 18th May 2024

3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

de Stafford Sports Centre, Burntwood Lane, Caterham, CR3 5YX

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Caterham, Oxted & Godstone Lions Club was founded in 1978. Our membership comprises people of all ages who have a strong desire to help deserving causes in the Tandridge area. We also support national and international disaster relief.

We regularly hold fundraising events to raise money in order for us to be able to do this. These include quiz nights, tribute band concerts, a swimathon & country-themed dinner evenings. We also provide food and drinks at the annual Godstone Fete on August bank holiday.

In December, our Christmas float tours the local streets with Santa on board, and we hold collections at supermarkets. We also have an active social programme.

We are all volunteers, and our motto is 'Ordinary people, amazing things'.

We would love to hear from anyone who thinks they would like to find out more about our very friendly club. Our membership secretary is Tony Carter, whose contact number is 01883 741809 or you can email him on tonycarter@outlook.com.

The club also has a minibus available for community use – contact Lion David on 01342 893353



Young artists bring colour to Whyteleafe station

Earlier this year, Whyteleafe Community Hub asked the children of Whyteleafe School to help them brighten up Whyteleafe Station. The resulting pictures can be seen on the station's noticeboards.

Deano Cline, co-founder of the hub and chair of Whyteleafe Village Council, said:

"This is what our community is all about. From the youngest to the eldest, everybody gets involved. We will

periodically be changing the pictures, so you can see more from the talented children at Whyteleafe School.

An extra special thank you goes out to Robert Stanley from our Whyteleafe gardening group, who spearheaded this wonderful idea."

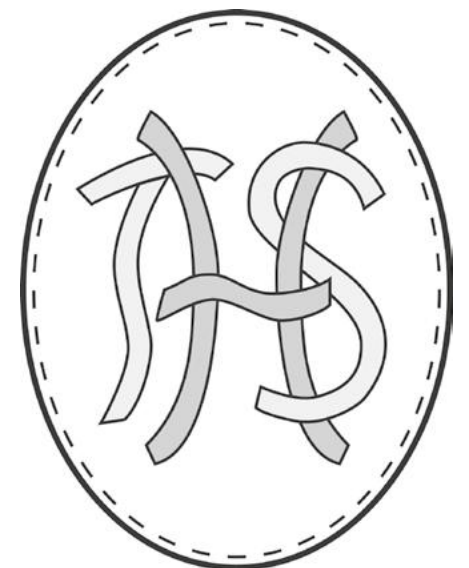
If you would like to find out more about the volunteering opportunities in Whyteleafe, visit whyteleafehub.org.

Tandridge Handicraft Society

On 17 June, the Tandridge Handicraft Society is hosting a talk with examples. 'Embroidery with Delicate Fabrics' will be presented by Emily Jo Gibbs.

Doors open at 13:30, and the talk starts at 14:00. Visitors are welcome. £5 entry, including tea and biscuits. This is the last talk for this year: more will be announced from September.

The society meets every Monday at the Woodhouse Centre, Hoskins Road car park, Oxted (postcode for satnav: RH8 9JQ). Further details are available on our website tandridgehandicraftsociety.org.uk, or by contacting Jenny Beal on 01883 620730.



England's chess success

By Sarah Tagg

Local boy George Tagg recently represented England at the annual Tournament of Young Talents in Frydek-Mistek in the Czech Republic, after qualifying at the Leeds Chess Congress last November.

12-year-old George, who attends The Hawthorns School in Bletchingley, jumped at the chance to go when he realised his friends Jacob Wynn, Louis Buckland, Arthur Kendall and Aidan Burnside, who attend his chess club, Sussex Junior Chess (SJC), would be joining him. Alongside them, were Qixuan Han and Emre Balsari (Kent Juniors), Yueyue Sui (Magdalen College School, Oxford), Henri Blin (Hampshire and Sussex Junior Chess), Aditya Mittal and Kanishk Walia (Haberdasher's Boys' School, Elstree) Alexander Horwood (Harrow), Mihir Sharma (Northamptonshire) and Shrihan Koppuravuri (Aylesbury Grammar School and Buckinghamshire Juniors Chess).

The SJC group were escorted to the Czech Republic for the tournament, which took place from 28 March to 1 April, by chess coach and FIDE Master Mike Forster, and his wife Debbie. The trip wasn't just about chess, however: the couple also took the children on outings, went sightseeing and even bought a football, so the boys could stretch their legs before each game.

During the tournament, not only did the England team get to play against famous Ukrainian 2660 Grand Master Anton Korobov in a simultaneous competition, but George and his U15 'English Dragons' team (which was made up of George, Aditya, Knish, Arthur and Yueyue) won against all the other countries competing, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Latvia, Slovakia and Hungary! A



Above: The England team with their medals and trophies. Top right: The English Dragons on the podium. Right: George starts a match



brilliant result, especially as many of the boys were more used to one-hour games, rather than the three-hour ones they played here. Aditya, Shrihan and Kanishk also managed to beat Grand Master Korobov in the simultaneous - an amazing achievement, as Anton is usually paired with the top players in the world, such as Magnus Carlson.

Other standout performances included Arthur and Yueyue coming first and second in the U12 competition, Emre, Alexander and Aidan achieving a top 20 finish in the tournament, and Henri and Aditya finishing in the top ten for the U15s, with excellent points scored by George, Shrihan

and Kanishk. Open players Louis, Jacob, Qixuan and Mihir arguably had the most difficult competition as they were paired against FIDE Masters, Candidate Masters and Woman International Masters, showed their mettle and won many games.

When asked how it felt to represent his country in the Czech Republic, George said, "It felt fine, I wasn't that

nervous. I was a bit tired as we had to get to the airport at 5.30am, but I was ready for the day ahead. Going into the tournament I felt a bit of pressure, but once I started playing it went away in an instant."

George has played chess since he was about eight years old, and is currently captain of his chess club at school, which is run by Coulsdon Chess Club. He has also been awarded a Year 9 chess scholarship for Caterham School, where he will be starting in September.

Learn, laugh, live at Westerham U3A

By Wynne Gifford

On 11 April we welcomed Stuart Robinson, and learned a lot about some interesting places in London, from Roman times to the present day. We moved from a stone dedicated to a Roman procurator, sent to Britain after the Boudicca revolt, via the monument which marks the Great Fire of London, the drinking fountains and troughs which emerged in the aftermath of the cholera epidemic, St Sepulchre's Church, Newgate and Tyburn and the origin of the saying "a piece of old rope", to Postman's Park and the Memorial to Heroic Self-Sacrifice.

This month, Ray Hale will be telling us about Alfred Russel Wallace, 'The Man Who Lived in Darwin's Shadow', on Thursday 9th, at 14:00.

Other upcoming events include:

Holiday to Wales: 29 April - 3 May. Contact Gary: 07879 635742

Strictly Youthful Concert: 4 May, The Orpheus Centre, with Richard Stilgoe orpheus.org.uk/Event/strictly24

Outing to Brighton: 6 May. Contact Penny: pabrook1@gmail.com

Basildon Park: 27 June. Contact valerie@villagedevelopments.com

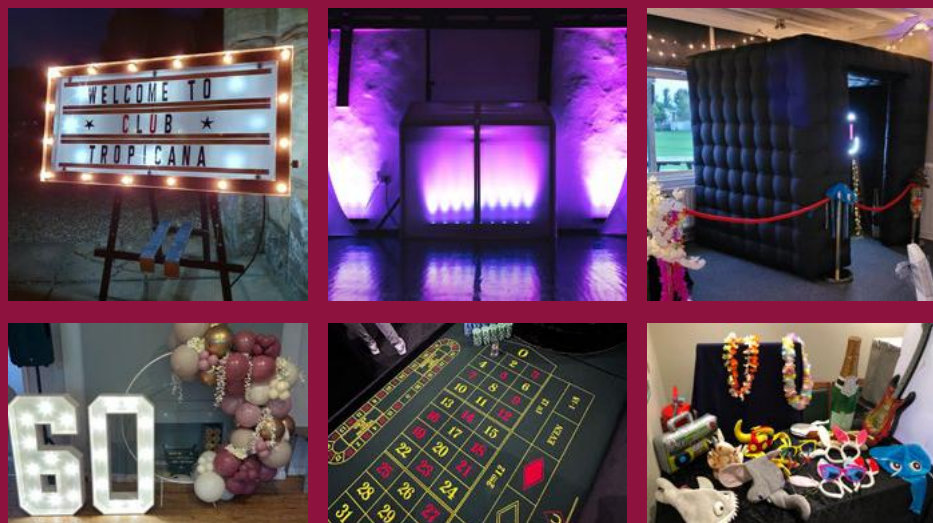


South-East Summer School: 2-5 September, Chichester u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum/events

The U3A is a charity run by volunteers, which relies on members getting involved. Membership is just £20 per year (£35 per couple). We welcome you to join us on the first Wednesday of the month (10:30) for coffee and chat, and on the second Thursday of the month (14:00) at our Open Meeting, both of which are held in Westerham Village Hall. We charge a nominal £2 per head for events in the hall to cover the cost of hiring.

We also have lots of interest groups you can join, from archaeology to yoga, including our new Canasta group (contact ppbutton@hotmail.com for more information) and a German conversation group which would welcome new members (cambexit@yahoo.co.uk).

Full details can be found at westerhamU3A.org, or by calling 01883 723207.



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Care in your community

By **Hakeem Anjorin**

Managing director of Right at Home Croydon to Caterham



13 to 19 May 2024 is Dementia Action Week (DAW). Every year, Alzheimer's Society works with individuals and organisations across the UK to raise dementia awareness and encourage people to act.

Right at Home Croydon to Caterham supports vulnerable adults to live independently in their own homes. A number of our clients live with Alzheimer's or other types of dementia. Their care journey with us might start before this has been diagnosed, but our person-centred services can adapt to meet their changing care needs.

A dementia case study

In 2015, a client started using our services after hurting her back in a car accident. She had three care visits per day, which included rehabilitation and exercise, until she was able to resume her usual lifestyle.

For the next four years we helped her three times a week, and this regular contact meant we could keep a watchful eye on her. In 2019 we started to notice she was not her usual self. She was getting confused around her medication, and mixing up food-stuffs with cleaning products: a carer stopped her from putting soap powder in a cup of tea.

We spoke with her family about our

concerns: it was a delicate situation, as the client had always been independent. It was agreed that medication and meal preparation would now be supported by us, and that cleaning products and medication would be locked away.

The client was diagnosed with dementia, but continued to live an independent, yet supported, life in her own home. She was taking her meds properly, eating well and her home was free of dangers. She resumed her community activities and was often not home when we arrived for care visits, but we knew where to find her - often on the way to Waitrose or in a local park!

Our much-loved client sadly passed away recently after a short illness, but until then was able to live well with dementia because she was in familiar surroundings with familiar people, and her local community was dementia friendly.

Dementia Action Week

This year, the main theme is on the importance of obtaining a diagnosis.

A dementia diagnosis is vital to give people access to the care, treatment and support they need. Yet, incredibly, one in three people with dementia do not have one. And the cost of not getting a diagnosis is hundreds of thousands of people not getting help.

This is happening in towns and communities across the UK. If we don't address it, we have no hope of managing the major dementia challenges we are faced with and reducing this

cost for thousands of people, now and in the future. Dementia is the biggest health and social care issue of our time, it's the UK's biggest killer, and yet it isn't the priority it should be among decision-makers.

Getting a diagnosis can be daunting, but we believe it's better to know. It can enable people living with dementia to plan for the future and gain access to care, symptomatic treatments, information and advice. If you're worried about yourself, or someone close to you, then know what to look out for using the symptom checklist at alzheimers.org.uk/checklist.

Dementia Friend Information sessions are fun and interactive, enabling you to become more knowledgeable about dementia, and help our community become Dementia Friendly, by turning understanding into action. Please consider attending one during DAW - visit dementiafriends.org.uk.

Dates for your diary

Monday, 13 May: Dementia Awareness Session (18:00), Right at Home, Caterham

Tuesday, 14 May: Dementia Drop-in Day (10:00 - 15:00), Right at Home, Caterham.

You are welcome to pop in for a cup of tea and a friendly chat about all things dementia with our team. An Alzheimer's Society dementia wellbeing advisor will be there from 10:30 - 12:00.

Wednesday, 15 May: Dementia Awareness Table (12:00 - 14:00), Morrisons, Caterham

1 in 3 people living with dementia do not have a diagnosis.

A diagnosis is vital to give people access to the care, treatment and support they desperately need.

If you're worried about yourself, or someone close to you, then check your symptoms today using our symptoms checklist.

Visit alzheimers.org.uk



Alzheimer's Society

Together we are help & hope for everyone living with dementia

Friday, 17 May: Dementia Awareness Session (14:00), Right at Home, Caterham

Throughout DAW, we will be spreading awareness of dementia throughout Caterham Valley. We will have information booklets to give out to our neighbours, and will be fundraising

via a raffle. We will also have a stall outside Right at Home.

For more information on dementia or our care at home services, please email enquiries.tandridge@rightathome.co.uk or call Gemma on 01883 460376. Right at Home is located at 5 Station Road, Caterham Valley.



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Mindworks Surrey celebrates its third birthday

By **Ella Kirk**

Communications assistant apprentice at Surrey and Borders

April saw the third birthday of Mindworks Surrey, the emotional wellbeing and mental health service for children and young people in Surrey.

Over the last year, the service has supported nearly 26,000 children and young people and provided more than 73,450 individual treatment sessions in a range of different community settings. This includes support in schools, crisis interventions, support for care leavers and children in care, and neurodevelopmental services.

Mindworks Surrey is made up of an alliance of partners, led by Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and including Barnardo's, the National Autistic Society, Learning Space, The Surrey Wellbeing Partnership, and The Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust.

Jess Thom, Mindworks director said: "As demand for our services increases, we strive to continue to support those within Surrey, working together within our partnership to see more children and young people across Surrey in schools, at home, and in local communities."

Mindworks was introduced in 2021



as an innovative new way to deliver a broad range of mental health and wellbeing services for children and young people in Surrey under one umbrella. Prior to this, NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and other emotional and mental health services were contracted and delivered separately. The Mindworks Surrey model was designed after extensive engagement with people using these services. It provides a more extensive and diverse offer for children and young people, thanks to a wide range of partners and charities working together. The name was chosen by children, young people and their families and professionals.

The Mindworks Surrey website offers a wealth of information and resources, following engagement with children, young people and their families and professionals. This includes a neurodevelopmental needs area that has strategy packs, flashcards, and workshops to support children and young people who have or have suspected attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and/or Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). There are resources on managing emotions, including exam stress, and also a dedicated page for parents.

For more information, visit mindworks-surrey.org.

Property Experts: Marketing your property

By **Suzie Viner**

Senior valuer,
Rayners Town and Country



Welcome to our new property column, brought to you quarterly. Rayners Town and Country are a long-established estate agency, encapsulating properties across Tandridge District and further afield, with offices both north and south of the M25. As an experienced senior valuer with a vast knowledge of all things property including lettings, development and residential sales, I am delighted to share some of the current market trends with you.

For our first piece, we are looking at what to expect when marketing your property.

Most vendors have some trepidation when launching their property on to the open market: after all, it is a huge decision, both financially and emotionally. So what are the key components to prepping up and ensuring a smooth and successful sale? Generally, presenting your home clean, tidy and fragrant will immediately elevate it to a desirable level.

On crowded property portals, on social media or among similar properties in your local paper, high quality photographs are crucial for highlighting your property's selling features. They can portray the lifestyle within the home, allowing viewers to imagine it as their own. For the right property, drone photography can add another dimension: for example, the scope of the exterior space. Video is another way to bring a property to life and animate the space, and it can really enhance marketing on social media. Talk to your estate agent about how they will be presenting your imagery online.

A clear floor plan is another important way to give prospective buyers an understanding of the accommodation your property has to offer, allowing people to envisage their own furniture and lifestyle there. Good quality sales particulars create a great first impression and include



tangible details of your property that buyers can take away to help them remember, which is especially helpful if they are viewing a number of properties. Your agent will also be able to circulate this to their database of waiting applicants.

While some vendors have reservations about a For Sale board, this can be a fantastic way to attract your perfect buyer as well as clearly designating where the property is located. We have all experienced the dreaded 'kerb crawl' while trying to read house numbers or, more challengingly, names.

Presence on the major online portals, such as Rightmove and OnTheMarket, is essential, along with the agent's own website. Social media is another tool at your agent's disposal and is fast becoming a key marketing tool to sell property. Presence on your agent's social media channels

will raise your property's profile and, with targeted social media advertising, they should be able to reach a particular demographic in the right location.

No one will know the local area quite like a local estate agent. They should be able to market your property to the right people because they know the district so well. With knowledge about the best schools and their catchment areas, plus what the transport links are like, they can sell your home with practical details.

For the right kind of property, the agent may think your sale would benefit from an open house, where lots of prospective buyers are invited to view your property at the same time. There are

several reasons for doing this, with one being that anyone interested in your property may be encouraged to move quicker if there is a little competition. They typically occur

on a Saturday, so as to welcome the maximum number of people.

Video walkthroughs have been a key trend as of late and are proving particularly successful on social media. With one of those, you could actually have thousands of potential buyers viewing your home at the same time!

Does your property have a story to tell? Homes with a blue plaque or those once owned by someone famous stand out, and could secure you some free national coverage. Your agent will be able to objectively advise whether you are likely to secure any PR.

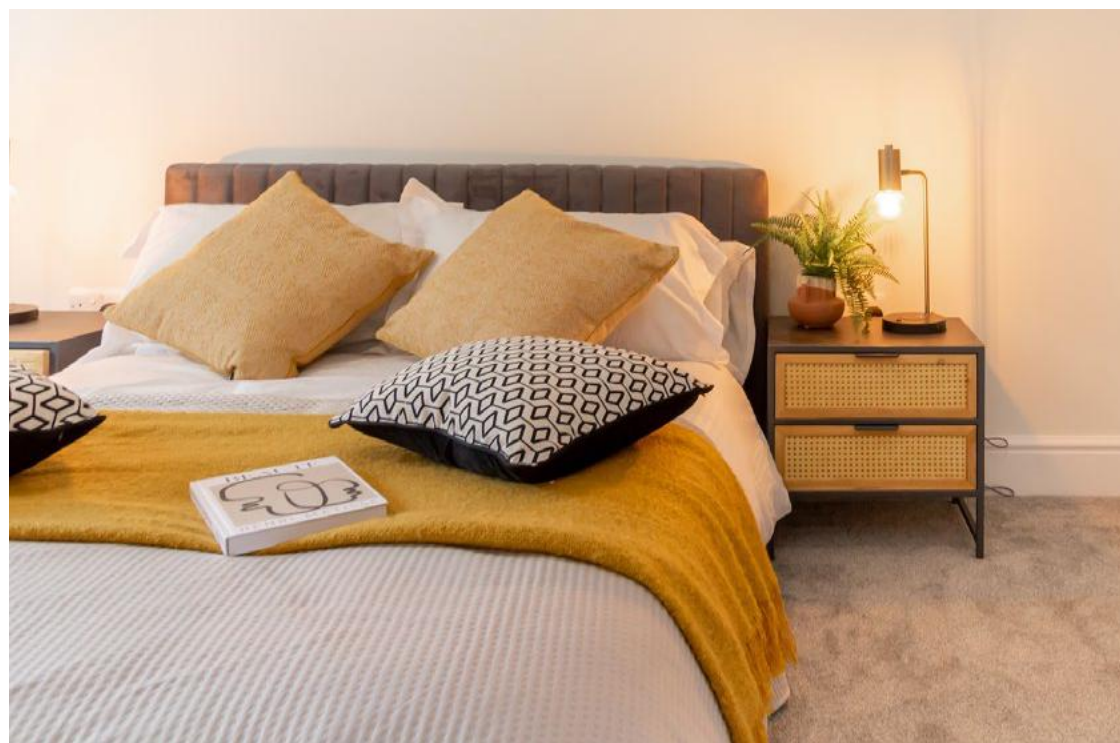
And, if your property has a particular niche - for example, equestrian or golfing facilities - it may well gain interest from specialist publications.

A final point - Rightmove recently advised sellers to look for an accredited agent who belongs to one of the following organisations, to ensure as smooth a process as possible:

- National Association of Estate Agents
- The Guild of Property Professionals
- Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

These are just a few tools you should look at when thinking of marketing your home - for further advice or information, please get in touch.

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LICENSING ACT 2003

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR VARIATION OF A PREMISES LICENCE

**Oxted and Limpsfield Community Sports Association Ltd
Oxted Beer Festival, Master Park, Church Lane, Oxted.**

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

Details of the application are as follows:

- Change of Licensable Area
- Increase capacity of licensable area
- Additional conditions added to licence

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

Any person wishing to make representations on this matter must submit them in writing to the Licensing Section, Tandridge District Council, Station Road East, Oxted, RH8 0BT or licensing@tandridge.gov.uk by not later than 09 MAY 2024 stating the grounds on which the representation is made.

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

SCHEDULE 2

Notices under article 13

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13 OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

**Proposed Development at
Newlands Cottages, Caterham, Surrey CR3 5QS**

I give notice that Consensus Support Services have applied to Croydon Borough Council for the "Change the use of the property from C2 (residential institutions) to C3 (dwelling house)"

Local authority to whom the application has been submitted: Croydon Borough Council

Local planning authority address:

Any owner* of the land or tenant** who wishes to make representations about this application, should write to the Council at Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon CR0 1EA, within 21 days of the date of this notice

* "Owner" means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years

** "Tenant" means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

**Signed: Mr O Sutton
Dobson Grey Ltd**

**On Behalf of: Consensus Support Services Ltd
Date: 1st May 2024**

Statement of Owners' rights

The grant of planning permission does not affect owners' rights to retain or dispose of their property, unless there is some provisions to the contrary in an agreement or lease

Statement of agricultural tenants' rights

The grant of planning permission for non-agricultural development may affect agricultural tenants' security of tenure.

Public Notice

i, a [wo]man, Bhopinder Kaur Cummings, hold a perfected Lien Security Interest in and over the public indemnity insurance policy(s) and all real and moveable property of the following:

ROBERT JAMES MACKENZIE BULLOCH, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, TSB BANK PLC, 20 Gresham Street, London, EC2V 7JE; and

TSB BANK PLC, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LH.

Lien Debtors are jointly and severally liable for the total sum certain of £112,578,400.00.

Interested parties should contact Bhopinder Kaur Cummings, privately, via email pindycummings@gmail.com.

Public Notice

i, a [wo]man, Bhopinder Kaur Cummings, hold a perfected Lien Security Interest in and over the public indemnity insurance policy(s) and all real and moveable property of the following:

CHARLES ALAN NUNN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, 25 Gresham Street, London, United Kingdom, EC2V 7HN; and

BANK OF SCOTLAND PLC, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH1 1YZ; and
MRS SAM SMITH, LLOYDS BANK PLC, Chief Office, Barnett Way, Gloucester, GL4 3RL; and

LINDSEY-ANNE SCOTT, COMPLAINT MANAGER, LLOYDS BANK PLC, Chief Office, Barnett Way, Gloucester, GL4 3RL.

Lien Debtors are jointly and severally liable for the total sum certain of £154,480,000.00.

Interested parties should contact Bhopinder Kaur Cummings, privately, via email pindycummings@gmail.com.

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Landlords may be due a tax refund

By **Chantal Baker**

Champ Consultants



HMRC have confirmed that they have got it wrong.

This is a huge rarity: I have never known them to make such a sweeping statement.

In previous years, HMRC informed landlords that if they changed a boiler in their rental property, or upgraded a boiler to a more environmentally friendly one, this is treated as a capital item and not as a repair or replacement. This meant that it had to be added to the cost of the property, and relief would be given when the property is sold: the cost of the item could not be offset against rental income, therefore reducing

the taxable profit and reducing the tax payable.

However, HMRC recently issued a letter to many landlords informing them that they got it **WRONG**.

They have now confirmed that the replacement of a boiler, whether as a repair or a replacement to a more environmentally friendly one, is actually a tax-deductible cost and not a capital item.

Therefore, if you have incurred the cost of a boiler (or similar items) that were not treated as a tax-deductible item against your rental profits, you can now amend your tax return and claim this cost. HMRC have confirmed that the cost can be treated as an expense and you are able to go back to your previous two years, for the 2022 and 2023 tax returns.

It is advisable to see if you should

amend these returns, as a refund of tax will be made to you if you have overpaid tax.

This may also have affected the amount of child benefit you had to pay back, or any student loan repayments, as well as which tax band you may have fallen into.

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

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

You can also follow her on TikTok: [tiktok.com/@toptaxtipsuk](https://www.tiktok.com/@toptaxtipsuk)



Is bad behaviour relevant when dividing marital assets?

By **Gina Nicolas**

EJ Coombs Solicitors



We are often asked whether a spouse's bad behaviour during the marriage will be relevant when dividing up the matrimonial assets, following a separation. Under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, the court is required to consider the conduct of each of the parties but only if that conduct is such that it would be inequitable to disregard it. In interpreting this piece of law, the court has set a very high bar for poor behaviour that will be relevant and impactful upon the division of the assets.

This is often disappointing for people when they expect that their spouse's poor behaviour and the reasons for the end of their marriage should influence the outcome of the financial proceedings. However, it rarely does.

Cases where conduct has been relevant are extreme. These have included an attempted murder of the spouse and abuse of the children. The relevant cases are often where



there is extreme physical abuse, often with criminal convictions.

However, in a recent case of *Seales v Seales* [2023] it was found that conduct was relevant. This was another extreme case whereby the husband was in prison for murder. It was also found that he perpetrated coercive control and other domestic abuse against his wife, which had a profound impact upon her health and well-being. Within this case it was

said that there is a high threshold for conduct but that reference to behaviour having to have a 'gasp factor' overstated the position intended by parliament.

It was said that there is a clear obligation on the court to recognise cases of coercive control because it would be inequitable to disregard it. It was also said that this is a gender issue and to exclude genuine cases of coercive control from amounting

to conduct relevant in financial proceedings would fail to do justice to women, as it was said that women are disproportionately the victims of such conduct.

The threshold of relevant conduct having to have the 'gasp factor' was proposed by Mr Mostyn QC in the case of *S v S* [2007]. This was said to be the test for the court to distinguish between conduct which was inequitable to disregard and therefore relevant, and the frequent fighting and quarrelling that happens in an unhappy marriage.

It was found in this case, where there were 22 incidents of conflict and domestic abuse over a six-year period, that it had just a 'gulp factor' not a 'gasp factor'. Therefore, the conduct was not inequitable to disregard and it was not taken into account. This case was heard 17 years ago. It is quite possible that Mrs S has since found that her experience in the marriage has had a significant impact upon her future. Incidents of extensive domestic abuse have an impact upon the victim's psychological well-being and this in turn can be damaging to a person's earning capacity and

ability to work.

It is therefore positive to hear that this 'gasp factor' test is possibly outdated. It is no longer the case that there is a scale of domestic abuse with serious physical violence at the extreme end and emotional abuse at the lesser end. The approach of the Family Court has developed in taking all instances of control and coercion seriously, whether they include physical instances or not.

It will be interesting to see over the coming years whether the approach of the court to conduct, especially in instances of controlling and coercive behaviour, changes. A multi-disciplinary working party is being formed to look at the treatment of economic abuse within financial remedy cases. This party will later consider whether and if so how, other forms of coercive control should be addressed in financial remedy proceedings, when determining how the assets of separating married couples should be divided.

If you require any advice on the issues addressed within this article, please contact E J Coombs solicitors on 01883 343 460 or via ejcoombs.co.uk.

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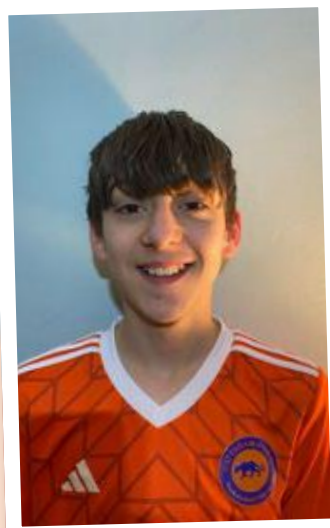
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Meet the Pumas



Fred plays at right back/right midfield

The Tandridge Independent is the proud sponsor of the Caterham Pumas U15s Kings football team for the 2023/24 season. Each month we'll be introducing you to the team - for May, it's Fred!

Your name, age and position?

I'm Fred, I'm 14 and I play at right back/right midfield.

What do you like about being part of Caterham Pumas?

I have really enjoyed the training sessions with Josh and James. I feel like I have learnt a lot and have been able to take that into my game.

What has been your favourite moment as a player?

From this season it would be stepping up a division and facing the new challenge of a better standard of football, but overall it would most probably be finishing third in the league a few years back with my old team.

What do you hope to achieve this season?

Get as many minutes as possible, help the team to get as many points as possible and who knows, maybe be in the right place at the right time to score my first goal for the team!



Mikey Porter signs up for Aston Martin's Racing Driver Academy

By Rosalind Brookman

The Tandridge Independent first encountered up-and-coming racing driver Mikey Porter back in March 2023, when he was a 15-year-old student at Lingfield College. Having graduated from the go-karting circuit the year before, he was about to start his first year of competitive motor racing in the Ginetta Junior Championships.

Now, more than a year on, Mikey, 17, is driving his career forward at speed, combining studying for the Motorsport UK Enhanced Diploma in Sporting Excellence at Loughborough College with a formidable programme of driving, coaching, racing simulator practice and gym time.

"After finishing the Ginetta Junior season last year, where we came 4th overall, me and my team have worked really hard over the winter period, testing and getting as much experience as we could," he says. "I've been driving both McLaren and Aston Martin GT4 cars, ahead of making the step up to British GT & GT Cup racing this year.

In the early part of 2024, we were offered the opportunity to compete in the GT4 Winter Series in Spain and Portugal, where me and my teammate Jamie Day were able to achieve 100% podium finish rate, bringing home all four championship titles - Pro Class, Drivers, Team and Manufacturers - on our debut.

Following on from a successful Winter Series, we then launched our British GT campaign, competing once again with Forsetti Motorsport and a pair of Aston Martin Vantage GT4 Evos, the first cars of the latest iteration in Europe. At the opening round at Oulton Park, we secured a sweep of



(Above) Mikey (second from left) on the podium after the Silverstone 500

podium finishes as a team, including a race win for Jamie and I."

A further win in the GT Cup championship at Donington Park in April was followed by Mikey and Jamie competing in the Silverstone 500, a three-hour endurance race and a season highlight of the British GT series. They took second place in the Silver category, adding to their impressive run of podium finishes so far.

As if Mikey's achievements in such a short time weren't impressive enough, he has also just taken another significant step forward in his motorsport career:

"A few weeks ago, I was announced as one of a selection of drivers to join

the Aston Martin Driver Academy, which will see us [Mikey and the other 31 cohorts] compete for a coveted opportunity to become an Aston Martin factory driver."

This initiative, which began in 2014, was created to 'fast-track talent from within Aston Martin Racing's thriving partner team network', with the successful graduate receiving a prize which includes 'financial support towards their 2025 race programme, as well as assistance and guidance from the factory, tailored to their season plans', and 'a test in a new Vantage GT3'.

Aston Martin Racing says the scheme has a high success rate

and it is 'proud to have furthered the careers of several rising GT stars, including IMSA Sprint Cup champion Ross Gunn (GBR), British GT4 champion Tom Canning (GBR), reigning Le Mans Cup champion Valentin Hassen-Clot (FRA), IMSA GTD champion and Rolex 24 Hours at Daytona winner Roman De Angelis (CDN), and most recent winners Romain Leroux (FRA) and Mike David Ortmann (DEU).'

Follow Mikey on Instagram: @mikeyporter_racing, and discover potential sponsorship opportunities at mikeyporterracing.co.uk.



CHAMPIONS!



By **Greg Barber**

March ended badly for the Leafe, going down 3-2 to 10-man Rochester on Saturday 30th. Leaf dominated early on and all seemed to be going well when Mike Hill sent a curling shot across goal and into the top corner, past the keeper. They should have extended their lead but squandered various half chances and found themselves level when Loynes managed to volley home from a weak clearance for Rochester's first shot of the afternoon. All even at the break, but Rochester took the lead early in the second half. Leafe failed to clear and the ball fell to Rogers, who scored from the edge of the box.

Rochester then found themselves down to 10 men after a melee in the Leafe area. However, they managed to extend their lead on 72 minutes, when Barkow was sent through and slotted it past James Shaw. Leafe pressed forward but couldn't get the break they wanted until the introduction of 16-year-old debutant Jay Andrews, who controlled the ball, turned and fired home in the 90th minute. Leafe had a few more chances to square things up but couldn't press home the advantage.

Bank holiday Monday saw Leafe travel to the Arena to face an in-form Croydon side. Aaron Watson scored a superb opener after 10 minutes, chipping the ball with the Croydon keeper off his line and leaving him floundering as it bounced into the goal. Leafe dominated the rest of the half and thought they had gone two up, before it was ruled offside. Instead, they had to wait until the 74th minute to score again, when Temi Alaka fired home after a mazy run down the right. All seemed to be going well for Leafe, but a few minutes later Croydon got one back when a weak shot bounced up in front



Champions! (Credit: Ciriaco Di Lullo-Pearson). Inset: Champagne celebrations at Church Road (Credit: Richard Pearson)



Their last game of the campaign was at home - in front of a record 821 fans - against the already relegated Greenways. Classy to the last, the opposition gave Leafe a guard of honour before kick off.

Gaspar Mico got the party started in the 2nd minute, soon followed by Orome who lobbed the keeper sweetly from 30 yards. Watson got in on the act with a penalty on 17 mins, to make it three nil, and Orome got his second on 24 minutes, before Greenways got one back on the stroke of half-time. Ward scored the fifth shortly after the break and Orome and Watson both completed a hat-trick, to make it 8-1.

Greenways added two late goals to add to the entertainment, but the referee finally blew and the promotion party could start in earnest. Alongside the afternoon's celebrations, over £800, plus donations of food, was also raised for the local food bank.

This game marked the end of Greenways' manager Rob Jeffreys' spell in charge, after 14 years. Everyone at Leafe wishes Rob well for the future and hope our paths meet again.

What a season! Watch out next month for an interview with Leafe manager Kelly Waters, and keep up-to-date with Leafe news at afcwhyteleafe.com or by following us on social media.

of Shaw. There was nothing he could do as the ball rebounded off his chest and into the path of the advancing Hall, who managed to squeeze it home from a tight angle. This breathed new life into Croydon, leaving Leafe desperately hanging on until the inevitable happened on 90 minutes. Hall was played through, took a shot and the ball cruelly deflected off James Teodorescu and over Shaw for 2-2. Honours even then: Leafe again throwing away a winning position.

Saturday, 13 April saw Leafe host Lewisham Borough, the fifth time Leafe had played them. All the games had been entertaining and tight affairs but for once, Leafe fans had a reasonably comfortable watch. Alaka gave Leafe a deserved lead in the 13th minute and maybe should have scored more that

half, as they continued to dominate. Watson doubled the lead just after the break and things looked easy for Leafe, with Lewisham struggling to create anything of note until the 70th minute. Borough got a free kick outside the area, the ball was rolled to the right and Adeyinka struck home with a rocket. Were Leafe about to squander another two-goal lead?? Not today. Gus Ward settled any late nerves, tucking home a Hill cross after great link up play down the right: 3-1.

20 April saw Leafe travel to Elmstead for their last away game. Elmstead had found a bit of form of late and were making a late charge for the playoffs. However, this game did not live up to the billing. Both teams struggled on what was a dry, but bumpy pitch. Groundsmen have had a terrible time of it this

winter, and credit to the groundie here who got the game on, despite terrible weather in the build up. Leafe score the only goal of the game in the 30th minute, when Antone Douglas headed home from a lovely Teodorescu free kick.

Leafe players celebrated at the end as if they had won the league. Still awaiting the league's decision regarding the abandoned Bridon Ropes match, this result meant that only a massive goal-fest in other games could rob Leafe of the championship.

As it turned out, Leafe officially became champions the following Tuesday, when the league finally decided to award them the 3-1 win from the Bridon game, meaning that Saturday 27 April was going to be party time at Church Road.

Oxted Women Football Club: the end of the season, and time to say goodbye

By **Kelly Smith**

Manager, Oxted Womens Football Club

Oxted ladies got April off to a flying start on the 7th, with our final home game of the season. Our opponents were Reigate - for the third time this season - and we were hoping to make it a clean sweep. We began the game well and kept it going by scoring two goals in the first 18 minutes, the first scored by Chloe Robertson and the second scored by Kayleigh Stenning. Just before half time Kay netted herself a second making it 3-0 at the break. Reigate came out in the second half with a new lease of life and put us under pressure by scoring two goals by the 70th minute. The game became more challenging but we were able to keep our composure and not allow Reigate to get the better of us. In the last 15 minutes of the game we dominated the ball, made some great passes and created some fantastic

opportunities. Kay was able to get herself 2 more goals to end the game with a 5-2 win and a chance to finish the league on a high. Player of the match was voted as Kay for her tireless effort, 4 goals and an assist.

Our final game of the 23/24 season was away vs Sutton Development who we were yet to beat in our two years in the Surrey league. However, Sutton had lost their game the week before so we knew it was possible. Both us and Sutton needed to win this game to allow us to finish in the top 3 of the league. We were carrying a couple of injuries and only had 2 subs but we began the game strong and Kathryn Dudfield gave us the lead after just 11 minutes of play. Sutton were not going down without a fight and they levelled the score in the 21st minute. We were determined not to let this phase us and took the lead again with a great goal scored by Kay in the 28th minute. Taking her to 18 goals for the season, the second highest goal scorer in the league! The score remained 2-1



going into half time. We were pleased with our first half performance and wanted much the same for the second. The second half began very evenly with both teams showing their talent but unable to convert their chances.

Then in the 72nd minute Sutton broke through and slotted the ball into the bottom corner, making the score 2-2. Both teams were determined to give it their all until the final whistle for the 3rd place spot. Fitness took its toll

against a young Sutton side and they scored a 3rd goal in the 89th minute making the final score 3-2 to Sutton. POTM was our right back Aimee Collier-Stone who played on despite being injured and gave it everything.

On 28th April we had our end of season presentation and celebrated our success of the season. Golden boot was awarded to Kay for her impressive 18 goals and 7 assists over the season. Most improved player was voted as Lucy who's goalkeeping skills have kept us in a few games over the season. Players player was awarded to Chloe for always giving 100% and being a great role model to the team. Managers player was awarded to Kay for becoming an irreplaceable member of our squad and scoring some fantastic goals over the season.

I am incredibly proud of all of the ladies this season and everything they have achieved while I have been their manager. I will be stepping down as manager but wish the ladies every success going forward.



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