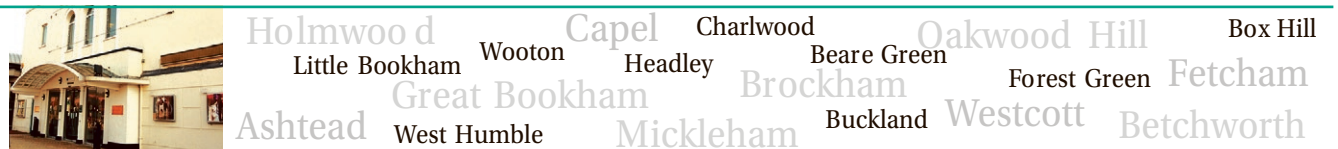


Dorking Community News

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Trees to enhance key wildlife area

MORE than 2,000 trees are to be planted in one of Mole Valley's most important countryside areas.

The 2,200 deciduous native trees, including ash, cherry and field maple, will enhance an area of woodland called the Scrubs at Norbury Park.

This area, near Mickleham, and managed by the Surrey Wildlife Trust on behalf of the county council, is an important buffer between Leatherhead and Dorking.

The trust launched an appeal last week for a volunteer

group which will meet at Norbury Park and go on to other trust sites to help the countryside management work. Now it wants volunteers to help at two tree-planting days at the site.

The trees will replace harvested softwoods to create better habitats for woodland birds, small mammals and insects, and improve the view.

Rangers will help at the 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm sessions on January 15 and 22.

Countryside manager Graham Manning said: "This is a great opportunity for everyone who



More than 2,000 trees are to be planted at an important buffer zone. Picture courtesy of Surrey Wildlife Trust.

has visited or walks regularly on Norbury Park to invest a small amount of time to improve the woodland and provide vital habitat for wildlife."

Tea and coffee are provided but volunteers are asked to bring a spade if possible, with only a limited number on offer.

They will meet at the car park at the top of Young Street by the entrance to Bocketts Farm, and follow sign posts to the work site, a 15-minute walk.

Email graham.manning@surreywt.org.uk for further information.

Village proud of its thriving youth club

by Guy Martin

A YOUTH group founded little more than a year ago is thriving, with a host of new projects planned for 2012.

Brockham Youth Council, run by volunteers and supported by the parish council, will feature survival skills, table tennis and the recycling of mobile phones among its activities.

Few could have imagined such a successful first year after the council was set up to identify, fund and organise recreational, social and sports activities for Brockham youngsters.

Skateboarding and BMX facilities were listed as a priority for the 11-18-year-olds so it was arranged for a monthly mobile skatepark visit during the spring and summer.

Ramps were set up at North Downs Primary School. Later in the year transport was provided for visits to the indoor Skaterham park in Caterham.

The council, which has already established a permanent



Brockham teens have fun as the youth council meets.

Youth Café, is now planning a more comprehensive skate facility in Brockham. The café was set up in response to a plea for somewhere to socialise, and a two-month trial was held at the village hall club bar.

It was successful and the café is now run throughout the year, from 5pm to 7pm on Wednesdays. Pool, darts, music and pinball are among the activities and the council hopes to buy more equipment this

year. It is also starting a table tennis club, again at North Downs School, thanks to volunteer parents.

This will be run for fun, but there are plans to enter leagues and competitions.

Boys showed a particular interest in another new activity, in which they learn outdoor skills as demonstrated by TV personalities such as Ray Mears and Bear Grylls.

January and February days are already full up, with monthly bushcraft courses to follow.

The basics of survival, erecting shelters, safe lighting of fires and identifying useful trees and plants will be some of the skills taught, plus the use of tools to make whistles, pencils and other essentials.

Funds for the three courses were raised by the youngsters and the activities will also benefit from a fundraising project.

The youth council is working with the forgottenmobile.com

recycling company to collect old and unwanted mobiles that can be shipped to third world countries or have their parts stripped out and recycled.

The council hopes to collect 200 mobiles, which would raise £1,000 towards the table tennis club and an art club project. So far 58 have been collected. Other funds have been secured from sources ranging from the Brockham Bonfire Committee to the National Lottery.

Secretary Clare Ritchie said: "We are all really pleased with the support from young people and the local community for the youth council. The key to its success so far is down to two main things.

"Firstly, and most importantly, is that the young people lead this. They choose the projects and activities.

"This means they get to do things they want to do and learn skills along the way by helping to organise activities and raise funds.

"Secondly, we always try to work with partner organisations, such as North Downs Primary School and the Brockham Village Hall Committee, so we use local resources and the young people become involved in the wider village life.

"This has also helped in bringing volunteers forward.

"Without them we could not have done half the things we have managed to do this year."

To contribute to the mobile phones project or for further details email clare.ritchie2@btinternet.com.

Woody Allen shows spark laughter



The pillow fight from Woody Allen's God was spectacular.

WOODY Allen was the toast of a Leatherhead school as pupils staged two of his comedies.

Death and God induced laughter when put on by senior pupils at St John's School.

The former is a black comedy that follows a man as he is woken in the dead of night and forced to join a vigilante group roaming the streets.

The production was enhanced by fine performances and a set which the St John's stage crew of Lower Fifth pupils constantly changed by

moving screens as the play was acted out to its grisly end.

The second play, *God*, was also thought-provoking but offered considerably more slapstick humour.

Two characters from Ancient Greece, the amusingly named actor Diabetes and writer Hepatitis struggle to come up with a satisfactory ending to their play and are interrupted by the audience and characters who wander in from other shows. They steadily lose their grip on reality and chaos results, including a spectacular feather pillow-fight.

Mark Probert, head of drama, said: "I was delighted with the performances of everyone. Comedy is always risky. Get it wrong and there is an embarrassing silence. Get it right and you are instantly rewarded with laughter. For these performances there was a lot of laughter."

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Have a ball and help the animals

ANYONE anxious that the end of the festive season means their tuxedo or favourite frock is left to gather dust need not fear - they only have to wait a month for a chance to sport them in aid of a good cause.

Betchworth Golf Club is to host the Red Heart Ball, the first major fundraiser of the year for Leatherhead-based charity the Wildlife Aid Foundation (WAF), on Friday, February 10.

The ball is the brainchild of wildlife ambassador Kate Woods, who is WAF's biggest supporter in the area. Along with her team of volunteer helpers, Kate has raised tens of thousands of pounds for the foundation in recent years.

The dinner-dance, just a few days before Valentine's Day, will be ideal for couples as well as people who love animals. Tickets are £29.50 per person for a sit-down meal with wine. The dinner starts at 7.30pm and the dancing continues until midnight. There will also be a raffle and auction, with prizes including a full day's golf for four people.

All proceeds will go towards the work of WAF, which has a wildlife rescue service, veterinary hospital and rehabilitation centre in Randalls Road, Leatherhead, that deals with more than 20,000 wildlife emergencies a year.

They range from road accidents involving large animals through to freeing ducks and swans caught on fishing line or hedgehogs stuck in tin cans.

Staff and volunteers have saved the lives of around 300,000 sick, injured and orphaned wild animals since the charity was started in the 1980s.

Dinner-dance tickets can be booked by emailing kate.wildlifeaid@hotmail.com.

Mole Valley planning applications

- Ashtead:** MO/2011/1732/PLA - replacement dwelling. 6A Ashtead Woods Road.
- Ashtead:** MO/2011/1726/PLA - change of use from retail to coffee shop/cafe and variation of condition of MO/2006/1681/CU to enable extension of opening hours. The White House, 5B & C Rectory Lane.
- Ashtead:** MO/2011/1729/PLA - replacement dwelling with integral garage. 4 Ralliwood Road.
- Ashtead:** MO/2011/1736/PLA - replacement dwelling with integral garage. Ramblers Rest, 9 Grays Lane.
- Ashtead:** MO/2011/1734/PLAH - extension. 64 Harriotts Lane.
- Bookham:** MO/2011/1738/PLAH - extension and erect store at side of property. 57 Little Bookham Street.
- Headley:** MO/2011/1730/PLA - extension to sand school. Wingfield School, Hurst Lane.
- Brockham:** MO/2011/1740/PLAH - extension. 97 Hillside Gardens.
- Dorking:** MO/2011/1731/PLAH - extension. 10 Fraser Gardens.
- Fetcham:** MO/2011/1722/PLA - chalet-style bungalow with parking and access from Cannon Way. Land at the rear of 41 Nutcroft Grove.
- Holmwoods:** MO/2011/1721/PLAH - extension with new hipped roof and first floor extension, new porch and dormer to west elevation. Scammells Corner, Red Lane, South Holmwood.
- Holmwoods:** MO/2011/1728/PLA - extension. Iona, 55 Bentsbrook Park.
- Holmwoods:** MO/2011/1737/PLAH - garage extension to front and conversion of rear of garage to habitable accommodation and increase size dormer. 5 Bentsbrook Park.
- Leatherhead:** MO/2011/1697/CU - change of use from light industrial to leisure. Unit 5, Kingslea Works, Kingslea.
- Leatherhead:** MO/2011/1723/PLAH - extension. 2 Ryebrook Road.
- Leith Hill:** MO/2011/1727/PLA - install photovoltaic solar panels to south-west roof elevation. Kingfisher Farm Shop, Guildford Road, Abinger Hammer.
- Capel:** MO/2011/1742/PLAH - extension and dormer to front. The Spinney, Wear Street.
- Westcott:** MO/2011/1719/LBC - Listed Building Consent to reconstruct building to form domestic accommodation ancillary to main house. Brook Farm, Logmore Lane.

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