



# ***Leatherhead Link***

2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Autumn/Winter 2004

## **LEATHERHEAD CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

**Saturday 4th December 2004 from 10.00am**

<b>Time of Event</b>	<b>Event/Performance</b>
10.00am – 4.00pm	Craft Market
11.00am – 3.00pm	Jazz Trio – roving
11.00am – 4.00pm	Face Painters
11.00am – 4.00pm	Stiltwalkers – roving
11.00am – 4.00pm	Balloon Modeller
11.00am – 4.00pm	Children’s Christmas Workshop
11.30am – 12noon	Poptastic Dancers
12.30pm – 3.00pm	Santa’s Grotto in the Theatre
1.30pm – 2.00pm	Marching Band
2.30pm – 3.00pm	Irish Dancers
3.00pm – 3.50pm	Mole Valley Silver Band
3.50pm – 4.30pm	Carol Singing to Band
4.30pm – 4.45pm	Parade led by Father Christmas
4.45pm	Lighting up of the tree
5.00pm – 5.30pm	Marching Band
5.00pm – 8.00pm	Accordionist
5.00pm – 8.00pm	Mojo Filters (Guitar Duo)
7.00pm – 7.30pm	Marching Band

### **CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

For a fun-packed day for all the family, come to the Leatherhead Christmas Festival on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The fun starts from 11.00am with

stiltwalkers, face painters, children’s workshop, craft market, a roving Jazz trio and a balloon modeller. Poptastic Dance Troop will be performing in the Town and after the success of last year, the Irish Dancers will



be returning to perform once again. The Mole Valley Silver Band will be doing a set and will then accompany the carol concert.

This is the first year that children will be able to visit Santa in his Grotto, which will be based at The Theatre in Church Street and will be open from 12.30pm. At 4.30pm, watch him lead a parade through the Town before the Christmas Light Switch On. This will be followed by musical entertainment from the Black Knights Marching Band, a roving accordionist and a Guitar Duo playing 60s', 70s' 80s' and 90s' classics. Do come along and join us for what will be a fantastic day.

### **Drinks & Nibbles for customers**

This year some of the local shops have decided to provide drinks and nibbles to customers. Posters will be displayed in the window of those participating so look out for them. The following businesses have already decided to participate, so please support them:

- Kea Jewellers - 18 High Street
- Coffee Valley - 55 High Street
- Toprunner - 17 Church Street
- Amethyst Moon - 1 Church Street
- Building Supplies - 49-51 High Street
- Black Dog Gallery - 22 Bridge Street
- Corbett's Bookshop - Swan Centre
- Inside - Swan Centre

### **Other Attractions**

**Boots** in the Swan Centre will be offering triple points on Saturday 4th December, so go on – take 'advantage'. From 5.30pm until 7.30pm free mini

makeovers will also be available in the Boots No. 7 counter.

**Toprunner** will be offering a 10 minute de-stressing massage.

## **PROPERTY NEWS**

### **Welcome New Business**

A very warm welcome to three new businesses who have opened in the Town Centre since the last edition of Leatherhead link. These are Toprunner, Tony's Tattoo Studio and Subway.



**Toprunner** is located at 17 Church Street and opened for business at the end of August. It specialises in clothing, trainers for keen runners, gym users and fitness fanatics.



**Tony's Tattoo Studio** opened in August and can be found at 35 Bridge Street. Having run a studio in Reigate for 15 years, Tony decided to branch out to Leatherhead. They offer tattooing and piercing services as well as body jewellery and are not afraid to tackle one-off designs!

**Subway** has opened at 16 High Street and offers plenty of choice when it comes to sandwiches, as well as meal deals. For the perfect 12" or 6" sub pop in and try them out.

### **Branching Out**

Royal Chicken and Pizza have branched out into a new line of

business. Not only have they installed a sweet counter to cater for younger customers' needs, they also have a licence to sell alcohol, but only to those who buy something to eat. Royal Chicken and Pizza are located at 12 North Street.

### **Happy Anniversary**

Congratulations to three businesses in the Town Centre who celebrated their first Anniversary during November. First, Kea Jewellers who reached the magic one year on 15 November. Secondly, Amethyst Moon who reached the magic one year on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, but will be celebrating their first Anniversary on 4<sup>th</sup> December, the date of the Christmas Festival, and will be offering festive drinks and nibbles to customers. Thirdly Ritz Music, who's first anniversary was also in November.

### **Planning Applications**

The application submitted on behalf of Lidl, for the Bull Hotel Site was turned down by the Development Control Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2004.

At the same meeting, the application for change of use for 36-38 High Street (Skinners Furniture Store) was agreed. We can now look forward to a new Tapas Bar opening.

### **Change of Hands**

The Hogshead, located in North Street, has now changed hands to become a Youngs Pub and with it returns the name 'The Penny Black'.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

### **Shopmobility celebrates its 1st Anniversary**



The Leatherhead Shopmobility Scheme recently celebrated its first Anniversary. To celebrate this landmark a journalist from the local press was asked to take a motorised vehicle out and about in the town centre to gain an insight into how the service can help shoppers with mobility problems gain access to the shops.

The Scheme operates on a Tuesday from Level 2 of the Swan Centre car Park and is manned by a team of eight trained volunteers. The office is open from 10.00am – 4.00pm and bookings can be made by 'phoning 01372 362400.

Over the Christmas period the Shopmobility Office will be open by arrangement. Any person wishing to use the Scheme should book in advance. However, please note that as the office is only staffed on a Tuesday, all bookings for the coming week need to be made on a Tuesday. If you leave a message on another day of the week, you will not hear a response until the following Tuesday.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENTS**

### **Floodlighting of the War Memorial**

90% of the works are already complete for the floodlighting of the War Memorial. At present, we are awaiting

an electrical connection so that the fittings can be tested. It is hoped that everything will be ready to turn the lights on by the end of the year, so watch this space!

### **Station Road Car Park Extension & Red House Grounds**

In relation to the report in my last Newsletter, the planning application for the extension of Station Road Car Park is proceeding. The finer details are being worked on, with the hope that tender documents will go out at the beginning of January and the Contract drawn up around March.

Work on the landscaping around the new play space will commence before the end of the year. Landscape details for the remainder of the Red House Grounds, including the paths, will begin in the New Year and it is hoped that these will be implemented in the autumn of 2005.

## **TOWN MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES**

### **Yuletide**



Work is now complete on this year's Christmas Publication, Yuletide. This is the first time that Leatherhead has produced any Christmas

information and it is also the first time that Leatherhead & Dorking have worked on a joint publication.

Distribution of the Yuletide magazine will mirror the Mole Valley News with approximately 38,000 copies being posted directly to Mole Valley residents and businesses, with an extra 7,000 copies for local town centre distribution.

Yuletide is the definitive guide to Christmas and the New Year in both Leatherhead & Dorking. The magazine features information about shopping in the town, Leatherhead Christmas Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> December, What's On, Get Fit 2005 and lots more.

Next year we will be looking to build on this new initiative and make it even better.

### **Farmers' Market**



The last Farmers' Market before Christmas will be taking place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December in the High Street between 10.00am and 2.30pm. Please do

come along and support it and get all your organic and fresh produce just in time for Christmas. Stalls will include meat, cheese, olives, vegetables, game, herbs, spices, pastries and cakes.

### **Markets Galore in the lead up to Christmas**

As well as the Farmers' Market taking place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> December, the General Market arranged by the Chamber of Commerce, will be trading in the High Street on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>, Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December. This will provide extra opportunities to get those last minute Christmas gifts

and stocking fillers. So do come along and take a look!

### **Open Surgery**

The Leatherhead Town Centre Manager will be holding monthly open surgeries to give you the opportunity to discuss any issues. The surgeries will take place every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 10.30am until 1.00pm. They will be held at the Help Shop (25-29 High Street). Appointments will last 15 minutes and should be booked in advance via the Help Shop staff – please state the subject matter you wish to discuss when making the appointment. If you have any pressing issues you would like to raise, then please do come and see me as and when.

## **EVENTS UPDATE**

### **Quiz Night**

The Quiz Night organised by Leatherhead Ahead to raise funds for the Christmas Festival was a huge success with £1,000 being raised. Special Thanks go to Valerie Wilson and Paula Sabine for organising the event and all the local Leatherhead businesses that kindly donated prizes. A great time was had by all!

### **Leatherhead Drama Festival 2005**



Work is well under way for the 2005 Leatherhead Drama Festival, although the details are still emerging. The Competition is now set to take place over two weeks, starting on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April and finishing on

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. During the first week ten junior drama groups will compete, with the two finalists performing on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April. Ten adult drama groups from across Surrey will then compete in the following week, with the two finalists performing on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May. All the winners will be announced and awards presented on this closing night. It is hoped that Sir Michael Caine will once again be available to present the awards that are named after him.

It is hoped that the 'Friends' Scheme, whereby subscribers will receive reduced price tickets and discounts from many retailers and restaurants in the local area will run again this year. The Scheme proved very popular last year and was well supported by local businesses – keep up the good work!

## **BUSINESS UPDATE**

### **Quality Fayre – NOT CLOSING**

Over recent months many rumours have been circulating that Quality Fayre is closing and the premises put up for sale. Having spoken to David Rees, the owner, I can categorically state that these rumours are untrue. He has no intention of closing and selling up. Quality Fayre has been located in the Town for 20 years under different ownership and will be around for many years to come. The shop offers quality fruit and vegetables at reasonable prices and even offers free home delivery. Quality Fayre is located at 40 High Street and orders can be placed by dropping into the shop or calling 01372 363065. Over the Christmas

period, the staff of Quality Fayre will be manning a stall at the General Market on a Thursday selling Christmas Trees. So do look out for them!

### **Contessa Celebrate!**

#### **By Julia – Store Manager**

**Contessa** who can be found here in Leatherhead at 11 Bridge Street, will be celebrating 50 years of trading in 2005.

Contessa Leatherhead is one of 78 branches of Contessa throughout the country and to prove how busy they are for a small store, they are one of the top ten target breakers within the company. Whether you just wish to browse, be fitted or want some advice, call in to see Julia, Beverley and team who will be pleased to welcome you with a friendly smile this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

### **Trading Standards**

The Surrey Trading Standards Van will once again be in the High Street in the New Year on the following dates:  
Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January and Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2005.

## **WANT TO GET INVOLVED?**

### **Want to get involved?**

Are you interested in getting more involved in the Leatherhead Town Management Initiative? Have ideas for local events or promotions? Have ideas on how the town centre environment can be enhanced? If so, let me know! I am always seeking

fresh ideas, volunteers and members of the business community to be part of the tourism, marketing and promotion group.

### **About the Town Centre**

#### **Management (TCM) Initiative:**

The aim is to increase the vitality and viability of Leatherhead Town Centre. It is a partnership between local businesses, the local police, residents and the Council. The programme is funded through the generous sponsorship of Boots, Hague Investments, NILGOSC and Mole Valley District Council.

The top priorities of the Leatherhead Town Management Programme:

- Raise the profile of Leatherhead Town Centre
- Reduce vacant shopfronts, attracting new and retaining existing businesses
- Increase the numbers of customers who shop in the town
- Improve the appearance and overall tidiness of the town centre

If you have any articles you would like to include, have any new services you would like to publicise or new products then please let me know.

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