

Leatherhead Link

1st edition, Summer 2004



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Welcome to the first edition of the New Leatherhead Town Centre Newsletter. As you will have noticed things in Leatherhead are changing. With new shops opening all the time, I'm sure you will agree things are on the up!

Town Centre Vacancy Rate

As you may have heard, if you are tuned in to Radio Mercury the vacancy rate for the town centre has fallen from 12% to 7%. The vacancy rate is calculated at the year-end in December, as at December 2003 the vacancy rate had fallen by 5% on the previous year.

I am sure you will agree this is good news for the town and this trend is set to continue.

Property News

Welcome, New Businesses

A warm welcome to seven new businesses that have opened in the town centre, namely Argos, Travelodge, Natural Beauty, Digital and Audiological Services Ltd, Daddy's Fish Bar, Vecchia Trattoria and Inside.

The hotel chain **Travelodge** opened its doors in Leatherhead on Monday 17th May, providing much needed accommodation within the town centre that will service the many offices in the surrounding area as well as the local community.

Recently opened **Natural Beauty** is located at 22 North Street (formerly Raggio) and offers Beauty therapies such as facials, different types of massage, tanning, manicures and pedicures.

Daddy's Fish Bar opened its doors on 7th May and can be found at 46a High Street (former offices for e-personnel). Daddy's provides take-away fish and chips as well as the usual favourites of chicken, burgers and sausages to name but a few.

Vecchia Trattoria located at 24 High Street opened for business on 2nd June. The Restaurant offers a wide range of traditional Italian cuisine and will be open from noon – 11pm daily.

Digital and Audiological Services Limited have opened in Devonshire House, 66 Church Street. They are an independent practice supplying hearing instruments from all the International hearing aid suppliers. They only supply digital instruments, which are fully programmable and can be altered to meet the changes in a declining loss.

Inside has opened in the Swan Centre (formerly Dolphin Bathrooms and Moben Kitchens) and specialises in furniture and soft furnishings.



Argos opened its doors in the High Street on Saturday 24th July and will fill many of the gaps that are missing in the High Street at present including: luggage, toys and games, garden furniture, baby/nursery goods and pet accessories.

Relocations



Clinton Cards have relocated within the Swan Shopping Centre to a bigger store and have expanded their card and gift range. What a show of great commitment to Leatherhead Town Centre and reiterates the fact that fortunes in Leatherhead are changing.

Opening Soon!

Toni and Guy hairdressers are moving into the former Sanity Store at 6a High Street and are due to open on the 28th August, so watch this space.

Specsavers the popular opticians will be opening on Monday the 9th August in the Swan Shopping Centre in the old Clinton Cards store.

A planning application has been submitted for **16 High Street** for a shop called Subway, which is a franchised Sandwich Bar.

A planning application has been submitted on behalf of Lidl for a mixed-use development including retail, housing and office space on the former Bull Hotel Site.

Accessibility

Award Winners!



Savers have been presented with the Accessible Shop Award 2004, by the Mole

Valley Access Group and Leatherhead and District Chamber of Commerce. The store won the award in recognition of its attention paid to access for all. Not only at the entrance, but also circulation around the premises and its staff's attitude and awareness towards disabled people.

New Look!

Barclays Bank has undergone a major refurbishment including many alterations to make the branch more accessible for its customers as well as a change in décor. Alterations have included a new entrance to the bank with level access and automatic doors, low-level counters and a new interview room.

Business Get Together!

Calling all businesses!

Soulinnis have kindly offered their premises to hold an open evening where businesses are welcome to come along and air their views, share their ideas and network. The event will take place on Thursday 12th August at Soulinnis, 5 Bridge Street starting at 6pm.

Please let me know if you would like to attend by phoning Lucy on 363652 or email:

town.manager@visitleatherhead.com
or pop into the Help Shop.

Crime Reduction

Shopsafe Radio Update

The shopsafe radio scheme is working well. We will be sending out letters shortly to inform those people who are already part of the scheme, about some refresher training we will be holding and also inviting interested businesses along to find out more about the scheme.

Since 1st April there have been 32 crimes reported via the shopsafe radio scheme, which has resulted in 20 arrests being made.

The police community safety vehicle will be hoping to visit the High Street on the 1st Wednesday of every month. So please pop along to see them.

Environmental Developments

Parking in the High Street

We are working on the problems of overnight parking in the High Street. We have had meetings to discuss solutions with the various parties involved, including: Travelodge, Swan Centre Management, the local police, Surrey Highways, Mole Valley District Council General Services, the Chamber of Commerce and town centre management. Due to the problems incurred from people parking in the High Street overnight the police will be

carefully monitoring the situation and if cars are parked causing an obstruction they will be ticketed. Please be aware that you or your customers could incur the following Penalties and fines:



1. Unnecessary obstruction - fixed penalty offence - £30 fine
2. Wilful obstruction - fixed penalty offence - £60 fine and 3 penalty points

3. Dangerous position - summons for court 3 penalty points and fine imposed by the court, vehicle also towed away at the owners' expense.

Planters

Leatherhead High Street is once again in bloom! Floral cosmopolitan cube planters of mixed Impatiens or 'Busy Lizzies' were delivered to the High Street on Wednesday 9th June. I hope you will agree that they add some colour to the street scene along with the hanging baskets provided by Mole Valley Leisure Services.



Red House Grounds

Work is now complete on the first phase of the Red House Grounds improvement works, which has included a new children's play area. Drawings have been prepared for the

second phase, which is the upgrading and expansion of the Station Road car park. A planning application to cover this work has been submitted. It is anticipated that work will begin on this early in the New Year

Town Management Initiatives

Leatherhead Directory



Work is now complete on the new 04/05 Leatherhead Directory, which is busily hitting doormats in 30,000 households and businesses in the Leatherhead area over the coming weeks, so look out for your copy! The directory is the definitive guide to shopping and services in Leatherhead. You will notice in this year's guide a bigger map of the town centre, which has the car parks marked and the hours when the High Street is pedestrianised.

Farmers' Market



The Farmers Market in the High Street has restarted after a 2 month break, and now takes place every 4th Wednesday of the month

between 10am and 2:30pm. Stalls at the May market were more than double those at the markets before the break and footfall was also higher. Stalls included home-made pies and cakes, free range eggs, fresh meat including organic beef and lamb, various cheeses, plants and herbs. Unfortunately the June market had to be cancelled due to the bad weather and the no-show of many of the farmers. The July market was a complete success with 15 stalls making up the market. Many producers sold out and there was a marked increase in footfall for the town centre.

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 4th Monday of the month from 10:30am until 1pm. They will start on Monday 23rd August and 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.

A suggestion box will also be placed in the Help Shop shortly, for those people who would like to make comments and suggestions without making an appointment.

Upcoming Events

Quacky Racers, coming to a river near you!



On Saturday 21st August the ducks will once again be returning to the River Mole.

Duck racing – 7 tote races (where you can bet on the outcome of the race) and a mass duck race of ‘baby bathtime’ ducks, will be taking place from 2pm on the River Mole by the Leatherhead bridge. Ducks for the mass duck race can be sponsored for £1 and are available from the Help Shop and Cannons. If your duck is one of the first three over the line you will receive a prize. The racing will be followed by a Teddy Bears’ Picnic at the Swan Centre, which is kindly being sponsored by Sainsbury’s. All proceeds from the event go towards this year’s Christmas Festival, so please help support it.

Dates for your diary

As well as the Duck racing and Teddy Bears’ Picnic on Saturday 21st August, there will be a Quiz Night in aid of the Christmas Festival, which will be taking place on Saturday 23rd October at St Mary and St Nicholas Parish Church Hall in Church Road. So if you fancy your chances then please get together a team of 8. The Quiz Night is being organised on behalf of the Christmas Festival Committee by Leatherhead Ahead. Tickets for the event will go on sale in September.

For more details on upcoming events, visit our town centre website

www.visitleatherhead.com

If you have any events to include, please let me know and I will be happy to help promote them.

Events Update

Leatherhead Drama Festival



The Festival was a great success with 1400 tickets being sold. The last night was a

complete sell out. Sir Michael Caine watched the two winning performances and presented awards to the winning adult and junior drama group, the best actor and actress in both the adult and junior category and the Adjudicator's Special Award. The winning adult group were the Fetcham Players who performed 'An Englishman Abroad' by Alan Bennett and the winning junior group were ECH Actors who performed 'The Dairy Farm' based on ideas from the actors themselves and scripted by John Soffe. We look forward to next year's festival.

Business Update

Cannons Update

By Jonson Smith

Cannons Health & Fitness Club, Leatherhead, opened in September 2003 and has been going strong ever since. With our range of fitness and relaxation facilities under one roof, our club on The Crescent offers something for everyone whether they are looking to get fit or find time to relax.

We have a well equipped gym which overlooks Box Hill, where personal training has gone down really well with the members. It's a great way for them to get the advice and motivation from our experienced, qualified instructors to help them receive results.

Our fitness classes are extremely popular. We run more than 44 classes a week in three studios. This means you can choose from a whole variety of classes from traditional aerobics and step classes through to RPM, our highly popular class on our cycle machines, and Body Balance for those wanting to de-stress and unwind. Anyone wanting to relax can enjoy a refreshing dip in the pool or take time out in the sauna and steam room. For a complete pamper, we offer a whole range of beauty treatments. With everything from massages, facials, manicures to men's grooming too. Plus, there's also the chance to have reflexology, physiotherapy and osteopathy.

There are also facilities for children too. Parents can workout while their children enjoy time in the crèche, which is open Monday to Saturday. During the holidays there's also kids camps and we'll soon run a range of swimming lessons.

Finally, there's our bar area where members can relax with a friend and enjoy a range of refreshments that are easy to eat in or take away.

If you would like the opportunity to enter Cannons Prize Draw to win a six month membership please answer the following question:

1. Name one of the fitness classes that Cannons offers.

Please enter your name and address on the slip below and send it in to **Jonson Smith at Cannons Health & Fitness, The Crescent, Leatherhead, Surrey KT22 8DY** before the 31st August 2004.

✂-----

Answer: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Kea Jewellers trekking for Charity and looking for sponsorship



The staff at Kea Jewellers (18 High Street) are going trekking in New Zealand in aid of

the Children's Society and are looking for sponsors. If you would like to lend your support or make a donation please contact Kirsty or Liz on 01372 360936 or pop in the shop. The Children's Society work with and for children, to help them deal with life's harshest challenges and face the future with confidence. One of the many projects that they are involved in is the Safe and Sound Campaign, which aims to protect runaway children by providing somewhere safe to go and someone sound to turn to. For more information on other projects the Children's Society are involved in check out their website at www.childrenssociety.org.uk.

Trading Standards

Surrey Trading Standards will be in the High Street on Thursday 30th

September with their mobile unit to answer any queries you may have, so please make a note in your diary.

Want to get involved?

This edition has been called the Leatherhead Link, but if you have a better name for this newsletter then please email me your ideas to town.manager@visitleatherhead.com

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.

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:

- Raising the profile of Leatherhead Town Centre.
- Reducing vacant shopfronts, attracting new and retaining existing businesses
- Increasing customer footfall within the town centre
- Improving the appearance and overall tidiness of the town centre

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