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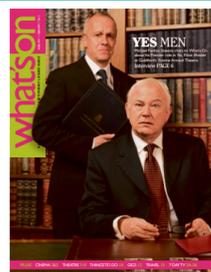
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What's On

In your essential leisure guide this week we meet the new faces behind the return of a classic television sitcom, *Yes, Prime Minister*. We also travel to the Maldives to experience a luxury hideaway and preview the best live music, theatre and latest cinema releases. All this plus full TV listings.



Surrey Advertiser

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News for Elmbridge



Clive Turnbull.



Dave Mercer.



Maria Odone.



Amanda Skemton.



Keith Chandler.



Sheila Griffiths.

Residents on board for Transition

Ideas to make Cobham greener hinge on better transport

by Claire French

IDEAS to lower carbon emissions and make Cobham a more sustainable place were discussed by a new community group last week.

Transition Cobham held its first meeting to discuss ideas and find out what residents might like to do to decrease the town's carbon footprint and strengthen community spirit.

A plastic bag free high street, local currency and improved public transport were all discussed as the group works towards making Cobham the first environmentally friendly place in the borough.

Similar groups have already been set up in Dorking, Ashted, Farnham, and Kingston which has more than 900 members.

This week, the *Surrey Advertiser* visited Cobham High Street to find out what people thought of the proposals.

Clive Turnbull, 62, a shopkeeper who lives in Fetcham, questioned whether a Cobham pound would work but agreed with other issues brought up by the group.

"Cobham currency is a complete waste of time," he said. "The administration you create would not work. I own a shop in Cobham and I have enough

problems as it is. In practical terms I don't have a problem with charging for plastic bags. I reuse my bags at least twice but I have not got a problem with charging.

"Transport in Cobham is rubbish, it is very poor. We have a very limited bus service which needs to be improved for all the people in Cobham. It causes problems as an employer. People can't get to work if they don't have a car. It would be much better if we could have a more frequent bus service in the evenings - it needs to be extended."

Dave Mercer, 34, runs a decorating business and lives in Epsom.

"I am not sure about a pound that you can only use here," he said.

"I definitely support the plastic bag ban. I think people take bags quite unnecessarily. I am not from the Cobham area so I am not too familiar with the transport links. There don't appear to be many buses in the area. I think they could probably be improved."

Maria Odone, 60, a Cobham councillor on Elmbridge Borough Council, said she agrees 100% that better transport is needed in Cobham.

"I would like to see better transport. It is needed, we need a change," she said. "We need help with the economy. Shops

are closing. We need to improve for younger people and older people. It is difficult to get to the hospital for older people especially if they need help. As residents we need to get more friendly and more helpful to each other. I have an open mind on it."

Amanda Skemton, 45, a Cobham shop manager who lives in Hampton Court, said she thought the ideas could 'bring people together'.

Asked about a Cobham currency, the Mint Velvet manager said: "I don't know if that would work. It is a really good idea."

Retired Keith Chandler, 65, who lives in West Byfleet, said

he and his wife have to run more than one car because of a lack of public transport.

"It is a good idea for getting rid of the bags - I agree with that. The trouble is with transport is the railway is so far away. When we went skiing, they had a minibus to and from the station."

"I don't use buses. We like to come down here to Cobham. We have bus passes but they go to Chertsey and Woking. They don't come to Cobham."

Sheila Griffiths, 62, an accountant from East Horsley, said she thought the initiatives would be positive.

"It would be a good idea, 100%," she added.

Snow-business a thrill for talented Joe

A 10-YEAR-OLD Cobham schoolboy has spoken of his excitement at performing 21 times in *The Snowman* in London's West End.

Joe Sheridan, a pupil at Feltonfleet School, spent his Christmas holidays and the start of the new year on stage at Sadler's Wells Peacock Theatre in London.

Joe said: "Taking part in *The Snowman* was so much fun. "The rehearsals were

exciting as I finally got to meet all the cast and learned the dances. When I was on stage I was so happy and loved watching the audience enjoying the show. My favourite parts were building the snowman and getting to fly.

"My school friends were very supportive and some even came to watch me."

"My hopes for 2013 are to audition for *Matilda* or *Billy Elliot*, and maybe take part in

The Snowman next Christmas."

In his three years of acting, Joe has played a munchkin in the West End version of *The Wizard of Oz* at the London Palladium and has appeared alongside Tommy Steele in *Scrooge*.

He has also taken part in productions of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*, *Evita* and *Jekyll and Hyde*.

Most recently he played Robin Hood in a version of the

Cartoonito television channel.

Emma Sheridan, Joe's mum, said watching him on stage had been emotional.

"It is very exciting but it is important to keep reminding him that school is important too," she said.

"I am thrilled for him that he did something so big. There is something there. It is so natural to him."

"He shared the role with two

other boys. I watched it about 12 times. I did not plan to watch it that many times, but I was there.

"It was very emotional because he was flying on a wire. It was breathtaking to see him on stage. He did the opening night."

"It is more than performing experience."

"He was learning how to interact with adults who were not his teacher or parents."



Cobham pupil Joe Sheridan.

Council: 'We won't spy on you'

INSTALLING covert CCTV in pubs and clubs in Elmbridge would be unlawful and would never be used, according to the borough council's solicitor.

Instead, more obvious forms of monitoring will be put in place by the council and police to keep an eye on noisy premises.

The comments were made during a meeting of Elmbridge Borough Council's licensing committee last Monday, when councillors were asked to consider a report put together by officers about having a proactive programme to monitor premises.

The report said covert monitoring, such as cameras, 'could not be carried out lawfully', although overt monitoring was 'compatible with the law and the council's own policy'.

This would include making a premises aware of a complaint before openly investigating.

Last month, staff from the environmental health and licensing team, along with the police, took part in a partnership enforcement event, monitoring pubs and clubs as well as illegal taxi touting.

The report said the council will be exploring, with the police, the

possibility of joint monitoring of licensed premises considered to be 'giving rise to noise/public order offences'.

During the meeting, Councillor Barry Cheyne, said: "I am relatively OK with overt and plainly visible forms of monitoring but I would be totally against this council being part of any covert operation."

"It would do irreparable damage if we were found to be spying on our residents."

"We already live in one of the most monitored societies in the world."

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IN relation to the article published on page 12 of the *Surrey Advertiser* on January 25, Lucy Scott-Moncrieff is, in fact, the president of the Law Society, the profession's governing body for England and Wales, as opposed to Surrey Law Society.

We apologise for the error and are happy to set the record straight.

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