



Shop Locally... Shop Locally... Shop Locally...

Heroes welcome in Waverley

TODAY the Farnham Herald is launching a campaign urging the town's businesses to get behind serving members of the British armed forces.

The Heroes Welcome scheme, started in Scarborough and rolled out in more than 30 other towns and cities, has been adopted by Waverley Borough Council and was launched on Wednesday at an event hosted by Herald proprietor Sir Ray Tindle.

Mayor of Waverley Carole Cockburn, who is the driving force behind introducing the scheme in the borough, hopes to soon see the town awash with Heroes Welcome stickers as a thank you to servicemen for putting their lives on the line.

Businesses that sign up may, if they wish, offer a discount or an enhanced service on production of an identity card, or just simply an indication that those in uniform are more than welcome.

"It's very much a visual thing for the soldiers - a boost for them as they walk through the streets of our towns," said Mrs Cockburn, who hopes the scheme will take off across the country.

Speaking to civic representatives and business folk at the launch on Wednesday, the mayor explained: "In recent weeks I have had the great pleasure of meeting several members of our armed forces.

"At one dinner a young soldier in full dress uniform told us the story of how he was shot in Afghanistan. He told the story in a simple, matter of fact way, as if we



By Corina Larby

all have bullets piercing our bodies on a regular basis. This brave young man is looking forward to returning to Afghanistan for another tour of duty. He is very proud to serve his country.

"I met this young soldier again, dressed in simple Army fatigues at the Guildford launch of Heroes Welcome and was shocked at what I heard there.

"Members of our armed forces in uniform had been turned away from hotels, refused service in pubs and rejected by taxi companies.

"It was even suggested in Peterborough that no member of the armed forces should ever wear his or her uniform in the town."

Mrs Cockburn was horrified that the uniform worn by young people fighting on behalf of their country is deemed too provocative to be worn on the streets of Britain.

So, too, was John Senior, instigator of the Heroes Welcome scheme. The former serviceman who now runs

restaurants in Scarborough began by offering a warm welcome and a small discount to all serving men and women.

The idea soon spread. Shops and taxis which could not offer a discount displayed a simple sticker to show support for the men and women in uniform.

Mrs Cockburn said that the simplicity of the scheme is remarkable. Waverley will update each town's page on the Heroes Welcome central website with the names of supporting businesses, but otherwise each community will take charge of setting up the scheme with little preparation and virtually no cost involved.

"The difference it makes to service personnel and their families is huge," she said. "To borrow a quote from the Heroes Welcome website: 'To see a Heroes Welcome sticker in every taxi on the rank brought a tear to my eye.'

"My aim is to see these stickers across Waverley."

Farnham will be marked on the website's map immediately and the other towns will be added, as they come on board.



Mrs Cockburn, thanking Sir Ray for spearheading the launch, said she had wanted to launch the scheme in Waverley but was uncertain how to make progress.

"I will never be able to thank him enough for all his generosity. Without his dynamism, this might still be an aspiration. With his support,

the Heroes Welcome scheme is up and running in Farnham and about to receive the publicity it needs to spread across our borough."

Other guests at the launch included Col Tony Ward, representing the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment; the Mayor and Mayoress of Farnham, John and Gillian

Ward; the Mayor of Waverley's consort, Alasdair Cockburn; the Deputy Mayor of Waverley, Richard Gates; Michael Dover, Deputy Mayor of Haslemere; Louise Goodfellow, clerk to Godalming Town Council; Ken Reed, borough councillor for Cranleigh; Mayor of Waverley's secretary Alison

Burrows; Paul Head, chairman of Farnham Chamber of Commerce; Robin Crawford of Farnham Visitors Council; Peter Greeney of Farnham Maltings; Jo Ripley of Squires Garden Centre; Stephen Hill, borough councillor and licensee of The Shepherd & Flock pub in Farnham; Owen Barry of

Owen Barry financial Services Ltd and Iain Cockburn of Knockbuckle Associates Ltd.

Businesses interested in becoming part of Heroes

Welcome can do so by contacting Waverley Borough Council. Picture Order No FD48-172-10 www.farnhamherald.com

Pudsey, we love you



POTTERS Gate Sure Start Children's Centre raised almost £100 towards the Children in Need cause through fundraising events at their Play and Learn sessions on Thursday last week.

Parents and childminders had the opportunity to purchase a string on a Pudsey poster for a £1 donation. The winning string was picked by a childminder that had attended the

morning session who won a Pudsey Bear goody bag.

Children also had great fun decorating Pudsey Bear biscuits for a donation and there were craft activities for them to take part in.

The children and staff also dressed up in spots and altogether the sessions raised nearly £100.

More Children in Need pictures on page 7.

Hundreds of job losses feared at finance firm

UP TO 300 jobs could be lost in Farnham after Click, the online financial services firm, told staff to go home last week.

It is believed all the sales staff at the firm were sent home last Friday after being told the company wasn't sure it would be able to pay their wages this month.

As well as the loss of jobs, another Farnham business, an employment agency, says it is owed £40,000 by the company, which sells life insurance and critical illness policies.

The director of the employment agency, who declined to be named, said the firm, based at Click House in Bear Lane, employed a number of temporary telesales staff through the agency.

The agency said that recently it had "smelt a rat"

and was pushing for payment from Click who, they say, also owe £18,000 to another employment agency in Camberley.

"I had inklings things weren't quite right when they told me they'd changed the structure of their telesales staff and no longer required temps," said the director.

"I was pushing for payment from them. We pay staff on a weekly basis and then the company pay us so it quite easily clocks up."

"On Friday one of the staff called and said they had a 10-minute meeting, it was out of the blue as far as the staff were concerned. Click did not know if they could pay their wages and asked them all to leave. People still don't know if they've got their jobs or what's happening."

The director went on to say they didn't think Click had seen this coming as it had paid the employment agency £5,000 just a week ago.

"Why would they have paid us if they knew this was going to happen?"

The director said Click, which also has an office in Manchester, hasn't employed any temps from them for the last two weeks but prior to this it was employing about five or six a week.

"We've heard from staff that bailiffs have been turning up and threatening to turn off the electricity over the last two weeks," continued the agency director.

"People have been told now that hopefully they will be paid on Friday we've heard. Whether we'll get our money I don't know. It is

half my fault, I should have chased for that money faster.

"We've not been informed to this day by the company themselves, only through what staff have told us," the director added, saying that it had been unable to get in contact with the company directly.

"This is a big blow for Farnham," the director said, a sentiment which was echoed by the president of Farnham Chamber of Commerce, Paul Head.

"I had not heard anything about this as the group are not one of our members," he said "but it is a great shame that one of the larger employers in Farnham appears to have become a victim of the current difficult trading times."

The Herald was unable to contact Click for a comment.

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14 Army Industrial Estate, Duncton Road, Petersfield, Hampshire GU24 3AN

Firefighter warns that cuts will lead to deaths

SURREY Fire Brigade Union has warned that public and firefighters' lives will be placed at risk if the Surrey Fire and Rescue Authority proceeds with changes proposed in its draft public safety plan.

The plan, due to be debated by Surrey County Council's cabinet next Tuesday, is being trumpeted by the authority as the means to providing more firefighters and fire engines ready for action at the busiest times.

But the service needs to save almost £2.7million by 2013/14 and the proposal entails the county's fire stations losing a total of eight pumps operating during the day and 14 at night.

Farnham's fire station is the only one of Waverley's five stations not proposed for cuts, but there will be severe knock-on effects for the town, warned Farnham firefighter and assistant secretary of the Surrey Fire

Brigade Union Mick Smith.

The plan, due to go out to public consultation after next week's debate, includes axing one appliance from the three-pump station at Guildford and one from two-pump stations including Haslemere, Godalming, Woking and Camberley.

"When our one pump goes out to an incident we rely on these stations to send over a pump to cover us," explained Mick Smith, who visited MP Jeremy Hunt in Westminster recently to explain how frontline services will be affected.

He urged people not to be fooled by the title "Public Safety Plan".

"This is a devastating cuts exercise that will see fire cover reduced across Surrey with dire consequences."

The fire authority claims the changes would mean Surrey firefighters could do about 8,000 more day shifts each

year and there would be more fire engines available during the daytime when they are needed most often. The amount of training time firefighters receive would also increase.

According to a statement from the authority: "Change is needed because most emergency calls are received during the day but existing shift patterns mean there are more fire engines available at night during the quietest periods."

"Based on 2004 to 2009 data, on an average day there are 25 emergency calls received between 7am and 7pm and only 15 calls overnight between 7pm and 7am, yet the availability of fire engines increases after 7pm."

Chief Fire Officer Russell Pearson said: "The demands upon the fire service have changed significantly in recent years so we must adapt.

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Arrests made over charity box thefts

A MAN suspected of stealing a number of charity boxes has been arrested thanks to Farnham's town's Shopwatch scheme.

At 1.45pm on Tuesday last week Surrey Police received a report from the Boots store in The Borough that a man believed to be connected to an earlier theft of a charity box had just been in the shop with a woman.

Another message quickly followed via the Shopwatch

radio system, informing police and other businesses that a man and woman matching the same description were acting suspiciously in another town centre store.

Without the assistance of the shop staff in letting us and other businesses know about these suspicious characters, they may have been able to commit further offences or leave the area unnoticed. Thanks to the detailed information provided to us, on this occasion we were directed straight to the

Skillicorn-Aston said: "The reason the Shopwatch scheme works so well is that it enables members of the public to actively help us to help them.

"Without the assistance of the shop staff in letting us and other businesses know about these suspicious characters, they may have been able to commit further offences or leave the area unnoticed. Thanks to the detailed information provided to us, on this occasion we were directed straight to the

suspects resulting in a swift arrest."

A 30-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman, both from the Farnham area, were arrested and have been released on bail until Wednesday, December 29.

Shopkeepers who would like more information about joining the Shopwatch scheme can contact the Safer Neighbourhood Team on 0845 125 2222, or email wswaverleynst1@surrey.pnn.police.uk

Personal Announcements

ANNOUNCEMENTS OF BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, IN MEMORIAMs, etc. will normally be inserted in the next issue if received at 114 West Street, Farnham, and paid for by 11 am on WEDNESDAY. DEATH notices must reach us by WEDNESDAY 11 am for inclusion same week. The charge is £1128 for the first three lines and then extra words are charged at 63p per word. A line is taken to be four words. (Heading lines above Engagement and forthcoming Wedding notices count as four words). The name and permanent address of the sender and telephone must accompany all requests to insert notices. Above prices inclusive of VAT.

Births

EADIE Henfin Stuart and Kerrie are delighted to announce the birth of their baby daughter, Bonita Marie on November 16th.

EADIE Henfin Stuart and Kerrie congratulate on the birth of your beautiful baby daughter Bonita Marie. May she bring you happiness and joy. All our love, Mum and Dad.

EADIE Henfin, Stu and Kerrie congratulate on the birth of your little niece and cousin, Bonnie. Lots of love, Ad, Rob, Chloe and Jez.

EADIE Henfin, Stu and Kerrie congratulate on the birth of your little niece and cousin, Bonnie. Lots of love, Ad, Rob, Chloe and Jez.

SADGER - Molly born on 17th November, a beautiful daughter for Colin and Emma and granddaughter for us. Love and congratulations from Mum and Dad.

Deaths

ANDILL - Vera Kathleen (nee Christian) passed away peacefully on Tuesday 18th November, 2010. Deceased wife of late Andy Mother of David, Andrew and late Robert. Much loved mother-in-law, granny and great granny. Funeral at St. Mary's, Bramholt on Monday 29th December, 2010 at 1.30pm. Flowers please to Co-op Haslemere.

BROWN - Maureen Janet SPIN, Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service (nee Hiney) of Headley and Headley Down. Died peacefully on 18th November aged 91. Deeply loved wife of the late Norman Johns, mother and grandmother. Owner and breeder of The Her Satlers and Arabian horses. The funeral service will be held at Aldershot Crematorium at 12 noon on 7th December. All are welcome. No flowers please but donations if desired to the Royal British Legion c/o H.C. Patrick & Co, 96-97 East Street, Farnham, Surrey GU14 7TT. Tel. No. 01252 714884 for further details.

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FERGUSON - Joan Dorothy. On 18th November at RSCH Guildford. Wife of the late Gus Ferguson. Much loved friend to so many. Funeral service on Thursday 2nd December, 12 noon at The Park Crematorium Aldershot. Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, to Phyllis Tudwell Hospice, c/o G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH. Tel. 01428 643824.

GARNHAM - Isabel. Died on 21st November aged 76 years. All enquiries to G.M. Luff & Partners, 84 Lion Lane, Haslemere, Surrey GU27 1JH. Tel. 01428 643824.

HANSON - Kathleen Elizabeth of Longmoor Road, Guildford. Passed away peacefully in the Chase Hospital, Whitehill, on Monday 22nd November, 2010, aged 96 years. Funeral at St. John's Church, Guildford on Monday 29th November at 2.00pm. Family flowers only.

MAY, George passed away peacefully in Alton Community Hospital on 21st November, aged 78. Sadly missed by his wife Nora. Funeral to take place at Basingstoke Crematorium on Wednesday, 1st December, 2010 at 1.15pm followed by Thanksgiving Service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Four Marks at 3pm. Everyone is welcome at the Crematorium and the Church. Flowers welcome or donations, if desired, to Cystic Fibrosis Club Dance Fund, c/o Charles Reed & Daughters, 11-10 Turk Street, Alton, Hants GU34 1AG (01420) 90551.

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