

BRIEFING

Pupils and staff in goodbye to popular teacher



Emotional tributes at service for Anne Davies
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Police posts axed in budget cuts

Areas will have to share sergeants
Full story Page 23

Award for leukaemia campaigner

Beverley De-Gale honoured by her fellow women
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Gang member asks to go shopping

Judge refuses bid to relax Asbo conditions
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'Must pick up where we left off'

Palace boss in battle-cry after two-week break
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Crash was "like the Italian Job"
Anger over stench from sewage works

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CHARITABLE GIRLS: Rachel Lim performs a ballet routine in the final showcase
photo by David Cook CRDC20111007C

Talent show caps week of fundraising by girls' school

CHARITABLE schoolgirls celebrated a week of fundraising for a children's hospital unit with a spectacular talent show.

Kind-hearted students at the Coloma Convent Girls' School, in Shirley, organised various money-raising events throughout their

annual Charities' Week, including cake sales and a talent show.

This year, they collected funds for the paediatric intensive care unit at Southampton General Hospital - a cause chosen by more than 70 per cent of the school.

Ria Laskaris, joint head of the

charities committee, said: "I am really happy with how everything turned out, and the whole charities team was really supportive and helpful."

"It was a great experience and I have some great memories to cherish."

Over the last 20 years, the school

has raised around £250,000 for various charities.

Southampton General Hospital was chosen from a shortlist compiled by the sixth form.

The hospital featured on the list because ex-Coloma pupils now work there.

Compromise reached on nurses' night visits

High risk patients will be attended by two members of staff

By Gareth Davies
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A ROW between district nurses and health bosses over unaccompanied evening visits to patients appears to have been resolved.

Union officials and Croydon Health Services held talks this week and an agreement, which saw both sides make concessions, was thrashed out.

District nurses visit patients in their homes and play a role in reducing hospital admissions by carrying out simple procedures.

The Advertiser revealed last week that 30 district nurses and healthcare officials had been threatened with disciplinary action after refusing to

comply with a hospital directive to conduct out-of-hours visits on their own, rather than in pairs.

Unison and the Royal College of Nursing (RCN) said the measure "put lives at risk" and threatened to ballot members on industrial action.

But an emergency meeting on Monday saw an agreement struck which has ended that threat.

It is understood the proposal will see district nurses conduct unaccompanied visits until 7pm, with an absolute cut-off point of 8pm when appointments overrun.

Croydon Health Services had previously indicated that such an arrangement was unworkable. Risk assessments will be conducted



SUCCESS: Nurses protest outside Morland Road Clinic CRGM20111004D-006

by team managers in consultation with the nurses themselves. Any patients deemed to be high risk will be visited by two nurses instead of one.

RCN said the trust has also agreed to drop the disciplinary procedures against those nurses who refused to

comply with the directive when it came into effect on October 3.

Julie Mulvey, assistant officer for RCN Southwest London, said: "We will be taking this proposal to our members and will be encouraging them to accept it."

"It's a good compromise, which is all we've ever wanted."

Unison regional officer Michael Walker said: "Monday's discussions were very constructive for both sides. While our primary responsibility is to the patients we have to safeguard the safety of our staff and I think this proposal does that."

Both unions were due to put the agreement to members as the Advertiser went to press on Thursday.

THE ADVERTISER SAYS

How did police allow beating?

THE brutal attack which left father-of-three Gary Hayward fighting for his life has raised serious questions about policing in New Addington (page 6).

Why was a vicious group of teenage bullies allowed to torment grandfather John Hayward for ten months with seeming impunity?

Was a lack of faith in the police or a fear of reprisals to blame for why no witnesses came forward when John was run over in February?

And did the collapse of this investigation cause the 57-year-old to call his wife, rather than police, when these same bullies cornered him on October 2? But perhaps the most crucial question is how a

group of 30 youths were able to beat two grown men to a pulp in a dispersal zone - an area subject to special measures designed to tackle antisocial behaviour.

Critics of dispersal orders dismiss them as short-term public relations exercises, designed to reassure people without the need to invest more resources, while doing nothing to combat the underlying causes of antisocial behaviour.

A 2007 study by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found the policy "alienates" young people and "shifted problems to other areas, sometimes merely for the duration of the order". Others point to cuts in police funding. It cer-

tainly would be harsh to lay blame at the feet of officers who patrol New Addington's streets despite being under-resourced.

But as Fieldway Councillor Simon Hall says: "A dispersal order is only as good as the officers enforcing it."

Using this criteria, on the evening thugs bludgeoned Gary Hayward, the dispersal zone was useless because New Addington's Safer Neighbourhood Team had the weekend off.

Such measures have had success in other areas of Croydon, but despite the lack of obvious alternatives, few would argue dispersal zones are the answer to New Addington's, or Croydon's, antisocial issues.

WEATHER REPORT by Ian Currie

MAKE the most of the dry and warm weather that looks like prevailing today and tomorrow as it will turn somewhat cooler for a time by Monday with some rain spreading east over us later on Sunday.

In the meantime we may reach 21C tomorrow.

If you possess a household barometer you might have thought it had broken as the air pressure has hardly changed of late at around 1018 millibars (hPa) to 1020 millibars or 30.12 inches.

Steady pressure generally means the weather will continue much the same.

In fact there has been only around 4mm of rain in the past three weeks and October is normally one of the wettest months of the year.

Night temperatures have been steady too with the mercury remaining above 16C in Thornton



Heath and Norbury on Sunday night and not below 14C so far this week. It should be nearer to 7C.

On Wednesday, sunny intervals sent the temperature up to nearly 20C in Croydon, 15C would be more normal.

Air over us has come all the way from the sub-tropical Azores so that has saved on heating bills.

Croydon has been lucky to lie to the south of a stationary weather front that has given much rain to southern Scotland and northern England - Glasgow's Prestwick Airport has recorded 131mm of rain so far this month.

Currently, with nearly half the month gone, October is proving 4.3C above average in temperature. The mildest October country wide was 2001, which was 2.9C above par.

So clearly this month is proving quite exceptional, but there is still a long way to go.