

IN BRIEF

TfL ready to improve safety

KENLEY: A consultation process has been launched over Transport for London (TfL) plans to improve crossing safety outside Kenley Co-op.

The lengthening and widening of the refuge island in Godstone Road, widening of pavements and new road markings come in response to the high-profile Kenley Needs a Crossing campaign (KNAC), which is encouraging comments on the plans.

A KNAC statement said: "TfL has published the proposal on its website with an invitation for comments by February 6. KNAC is keen to receive as many positive endorsements as possible." Feedback can be given on the TfL website at <http://tinyurl.com/ao6yfyz>



CAMPAIGN: KNAC may have won its long fight

Club music

PURLEY: Dale Road Music Club is to host one of the UK's hottest acoustic acts - The Toy Hearts. The club will host the group on Saturday, February 9, from 8pm, with supper served at 7pm.

Acts perform live in the living room of the club's founder, Fiona Lipscombe. For more details e-mail fiona_lipscombe@yahoo.com

Mourners remember a remarkable 107-year-old

Former teacher Marion had 'infectious humour and a zest for life'

By Rachel Millard

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FRIENDS and family have paid tribute to a former teacher, avid painter and "remarkable woman" who has died, aged 107.

Marion Wales, whose teaching career included 12 years at Wolsey Infants School in New Addington, died on New Year's Day, having lived in Old Coulsdon since 1998.

Mother-of-three Mrs Wales was remembered on Friday afternoon at her church, Old Coulsdon Congregational, in Coulsdon Road.

Her daughter, Pamela Stunt, led the tributes to a woman whose enthusiasm for life and learning had won her many admirers in a life that spanned eras and continents.

Born in Melbourne, Marion moved to England with her husband in 1932, and the pair set up a garden business together.

She moved to Norfolk after the break-up of their marriage, before settling in Croydon after a visit to her daughter there.

Pamela said: "Local schools [in Norfolk] were beginning to close because of diminishing numbers

of pupils.

"On a visit to Thornton Heath she decided to go to Croydon education office and ask if they had any jobs. They were crying out for teachers.

"She taught until she was 68 and many of the parents and families loved what she did for the children.

"She had an endless curiosity and thirst for knowledge; this made her a very good teacher.

"Her favourite quote was: 'It is better to reach for the stars and miss than never to try at all.'"

Energetic

Grandson Gavin Francis recalled one occasion when the energetic Marion had been volunteering providing meals to elderly people.

He said: "On one occasion an elderly woman told grandmama that she would really appreciate this when she was her age.

"Of course grandmama was already older than that woman, and ten times more active."

Mrs Wales, a great-grandmother-of-eight, also enjoyed painting and was renowned for her hand-painted Christmas cards.

She drew with the Croydon

Sketch Group and served as its secretary from 1986 to 1993.

Bob Witham, from the sketch group, said: "She was a remarkable woman.

"Whatever it was, she threw herself into it with such enthusiasm."

An active member of the Old Coulsdon Congregational Church, Marion was also proficient in ancient Greek, making her a force to be reckoned with over Bible study.

The church's priest, the Reverend Malcolm Newman, said: "She drew people to her because of her infectious humour and her zest for life. People just wanted to go and have a chat with her.

"She brought a certain something to the life of the church. We will always remember Marion with great affection, great love and also great respect."

The Census bureau could not confirm whether Marion, who turned 107 on December 17 at a care home in Caterham, was Croydon's oldest living resident.

Citing confidentiality of Census forms, a spokesman could only confirm there were "people over 90" in the borough.



NOT FORGOTTEN: Marion Wales with, from left, her daughter Pam Stunt, granddaughter Sarah Wales and daughter Valerie Dunmore on her birthday last year

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FUNDRAISERS: From left, Emily Kennedy, Rocio Crispin, Kelly Ramos and Harriet Maddison

Girls' fundraising to help pilgrims

A DETERMINED group of schoolgirls are raising money to bring disabled and disadvantaged children to Lourdes at Easter.

Year 12 students at Coloma Convent Girls' School are preparing for their Easter Trip to Lourdes with the Handicap Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HCPT).

For nearly 60 years the trust has brought disabled and disadvantaged children and adults to Lourdes to share a holiday and pilgrimage to the world famous shrine.

But to continue its work the

charity needs helpers and volunteers to enable the pilgrims to take part.

A group of 31 students from Coloma are taking part in the fundraising and trip this year; and will join the long line of Coloma girls who have done the same thing over the last 27 years.

They will be helped by teacher Pat Horsman, who has been involved since the start.

Although the snow stopped the girls from washing cars at parents' evening to raise money, they still plan to hold pancake sales

and bake sales and work as bag packers to raise the crucial funds.

Emily Kennedy, Rocio Crispin, Kelly Ramos and Harriet Maddison are among the students ready to get started. They said: "We are really looking forward to helping on the trip and helping the pilgrims.

"It's a real shame the weather stopped the car wash service at the parents' evening but we will think of something else to raise the funds this would have made - a bit of snow won't stop us."