



Health News



● **CHIEF:** Caroline Becher at work in the Surgical Assessment Unit

Patient care is top priority

A NEW chief nurse means business in her role at a busy hospital.

Caroline Becher has been welcomed with open arms to Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals.

Over the past two weeks, she has visited wards and met staff and patients to get their views on patient care and where improvements can be made. She said: "My main priority is to improve the patient experience, which means looking at all aspects from the very first contact at admissions, how patients are welcomed and communicated with."

Survey to cope with elderly care

BY LAUREN EVERITT

PEOPLE are being urged to have their say in a debate about new plans to pay for the care of the elderly.

In July, the government published a consultation document spelling out its proposals for ways to improve the care and support systems for adults in England. It says it is struggling to meet the demands of a population getting older.

And now Surrey County Council (SCC) wants as many people as possible in the county to give their views through the Big Care Debate on the options put

forward by the government. Michael Gosling, SCC's cabinet member for adult social care, said: "Setting up a national care service is the key to the future."

"Every one of us will come into contact with the care system at some point because people are living longer, so we need a consensus about the best way forward for all of us."

The government's proposals cover:

- The government and the person needing care sharing the responsibility of paying for it with the state paying a minimum of 25%.

- A voluntary insurance scheme under which the government pays for a

minimum of 25% of the cost of care that is provided.

● A compulsory insurance scheme for people who can afford to pay, with those who cannot receiving free care.

Cllr Gosling added: "It is vital that the public, individually and through the voluntary and community sector, contribute to the debate if a system that is as clear, fair and affordable as possible is going to be created."

"How we share the rising costs of care should be debated by every family and every community."

Visit www.careandsupport.direct.gov.uk to view the proposals and comment.

Physios limber up to raise cash for charities

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS have been putting their best feet forward for charity.

Three members of staff at Frimley Park Hospital have raised cash for various charities over the past six months.

Senior physio Elaine Newman took part in the London Marathon in April and collected £780 for KatCanDo. Vicky Mynott, also a senior physio, participated in March's Rome Marathon and raised £2,800 for the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust.

Physio team leader for outpatients Kate Deverill finished the Mazda London Triathlon and raised £600 for Cancer Research UK.

Donate blood in time for winter

MORE blood donors are needed to replenish stocks in the build up to the winter months.

People can't give blood when they have flu so NHS Blood and Transplant services needs to build up stocks now.

Anyone interested in donating can attend a session in Egham on Friday, September 18, from 12.45-3.30pm and 5-7.30pm.

Sessions for blood donations will be held in Egham Youth Centre in the town's High Street.

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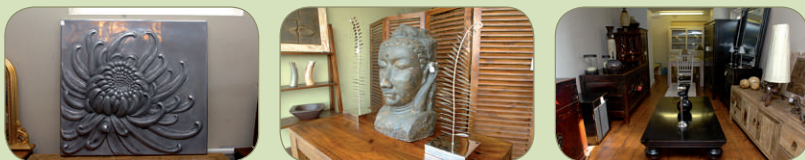
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Davis Burton Sellek Finance

Hopefully, the summer gave Villager readers the chance to take stock and put their personal and business financial affairs in order. Keeping in contact with your accountant and regularly updating them on your financial situation may identify additional tax savings and could even save you money.

With this in mind here are some useful pointers (please remember to always seek professional advice from an accountant):-

- VAT returns go green 1 April 2010! VAT registered businesses with net annual turnover of more than £100,000 will have to submit their VAT returns online and pay electronically. This applies to newly VAT registered companies too.
- October 31 – paper tax return deadline. Good news if you underpay by £2,000 or less the taxman is likely to collect via PAYE coding rather than collecting directly on 31 Jan.
- Anyone looking to move large lump sums into their pensions before 5 April 2010 should seek advice from their accountant in view of the changes in the last Budget.

- Second home owners should make the most of the rules that allow you to change which property is exempt from Capital Gains tax (currently 18%) when sold. This ruling may not last forever given the MPs' expenses debacle.

Tell us what's important to you
www.davisburtonsellek.com/blog
01344 620495

dawn.oleary@dbstellek.co.uk
quoting Villager/09

Kind regards, Dawn O'Leary
Davis Burton Sellek Chartered Accountants, Sunningdale

