

In brief

Fleet actress in new radio drama

FRESH from a tour of the USA to promote *Downton Abbey*, Fleet actress Raquel Cassidy is due to take part in a new radio drama tomorrow (Friday).

A former pupil of Farnborough Hill, she has a role in a Radio 4 drama about dementia, *How Did I Get Here?*, at 2.15pm.

This follows the start of a new six-part TV series, *Uncle*, in which she co-stars, which started on BBC 3 at 10pm on Tuesday.

In the series, Raquel plays Teresa, the new girlfriend of Nick Helm, in a series described as 'heart-warmingly funny' by the *Radio Times*.

Raquel, who plays Baxter, maid to the Countess of Grantham, in *Downton*, returned from a visit to Georgia with her co-star Kevin Doyle (Joseph Molesley) to promote the period drama last week.

Summer bulbs on the agenda for garden club

NORTH Warnborough and District Garden Club meets in North Warnborough Village Hall on Thursday February 26 at 2.30pm, when guest speaker Tim Woodland will present a talk entitled *Planting and growing summer flowering bulbs*.

Visitors are very welcome to join the friendly club, whose members share an enthusiasm for gardens and gardening.

During the growing season, the group holds a regular plant stalls starting at 2.10pm.

For more details call 01252 843848.

Number against building more homes in Hart swells

Campaigners say district cannot cope with the 5,000 homes proposed by developer

by Stephen Lloyd
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HUNDREDS of people have signed a petition opposing plans to build 5,000 homes on green fields in Hart.

Barratt Homes has suggested that a new town could be constructed at Winchfield but We Love Hart campaigners warn it would spell disaster for the area.

Despite only just having been launched, the petition has already attracted more than 620 signatures.

David Turver, who established the campaign, said the figure already exceeds the 550 respondents to the housing options consultation organised by Hart District Council between August and October last year.

He added that only 202 respondents to the consultation voted for the new town as their preferred option, compared to the 620 - and

growing - number of signatories against it.

"The campaign is opposed to the overall number of houses Hart is being forced to build and is strongly against the building of a new town anywhere in Hart," said Mr Turver.

The group warns that if the new town is built, Hart may be forced to build an additional 3,100 houses, as well as the 7,500 already in the plan, that Surrey Heath and Rushmoor boroughs state they have no room for.

"It is clear that 7,500 extra houses in the district is already too many but we need to find the best approach to locating those we are forced to build," said Mr Turver.

"There is increasing awareness that a new town of 5,000 houses in Winchfield, just a few hundred metres from the western end of Fleet, will add to the already severe congestion problems in Fleet and

Church Crookham, compared to other approaches.

"A new town will lead to an extra 12,500 people on the outskirts of existing settlements and many of them will work in Basingstoke, Fleet, Farnham, Farnborough and Aldershot, and will have to drive through Hook, Hartley Wintney, Dogmersfield, Fleet and the Crookhams to go about their business.

"It is time for Hart to think again."

Tristram Cary, a spokesman for the Winchfield Action Group, welcomes the petition, saying: "It is really encouraging to see people right across Hart opposing a new town in Winchfield as they realise the devastating impact it will have on the whole of the district, as well as on one of the most attractive parts of Hart.

"It will also take away one of the most popular amenity areas in the district."



Campaigners David Turver and Tristram Cary alongside a map showing Hart district and the areas under threat of development.

ALISTAIR WILSON
ANI50835

Brian Burchfield, deputy group leader of the Conservatives in Hart, said the council has had to take many decisions on development, which take the entire district into account, including around 700 homes in Hook and more than 1,000 in

Odiham, Fleet and Church Crookham.

He added that one of the reasons the council recently approved plans for 126 homes at Hawley Park Farm was to 'fend off' 750 extra homes from Rushmoor and Surrey Heath.

"The case of Hawley Park Farm is another instance where we had to take a decision for the greater good of the district, as well as looking to distribute houses across the wards proportionately as best as we can," Cllr Burchfield said.

Competition to find the UK's favourite dishes

SUNRISE Senior Living of Fleet is asking foodies to cast back their minds, and their taste buds, and share memories of their favourite dishes from over the years.

People in Fleet will

compete against those living in other parts of the UK in the national Flavours of the Past contest, which aims to get everyone's taste buds tingling.

The lucky winner, who will

see their story shared around the country, will receive tasty gifts to a value of £250, including an eight-piece knife block and a carving set from Donald Russell, the butcher who has a royal warrant.

It might be a meal a family member used to make, a school dinner you always

looked forward to or something that reminds you of a summer holiday.

Entrants just need to sum up the reason they have chosen their dish in 150 words or less and send it, along with a photo, to competition@sunriseseniorliving.com.

The competition is open to

people aged 18 and over, and recipes for the dish are welcomed but not compulsory.

Entries must be submitted by Thursday March 12.

The competition is part of Taste of Sunrise - a national

campaign that involves Sunrise homes across the country celebrating the importance of nutritious food for older people during Nutrition and Hydration Week.

Drink-driver banned for one year

A YOUNG driver has been banned after being caught drink-driving during a routine police check in Fleet.

Lee Clarke admitted driving over the limit when he appeared at Aldershot Magistrates' Court last Thursday.

Police smelled alcohol on

the breath of Clarke, 23, of Heathcote Road, Camberley, when they stopped him in Fleet Road on January 18.

He was found to have 43 microgrammes of alcohol in 100ml of breath. The legal limit is 35.

The court heard the landscape gardener had a couple of drinks at a friend's house

and was picking up another friend from a nightclub.

Clarke, who had held a clean licence for six years, was banned from driving for a year. He was also fined £110, reduced from £165 for his early guilty plea, and ordered to pay £20 in court costs and £20 towards a fund for the victims of crime.

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Sir Gerald Howarth MP



Sir Gerald Howarth will be holding a surgery on Saturday, 21st February 2015, 9.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Rushmoor Borough Council Offices Farnborough Road Farnborough GU14 7JU

For an appointment, please call his London office on 0207 219 5650

Sir Gerald Howarth MP - working for Aldershot, Farnborough, Blackwater and Hawley

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COVE 01252 542121

(Unfortunately no pets are invited)

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