

Funding approved for Goldsworth and Lakeview halls!

See pages 3 and 7



A highlight of 2013 for the children from ActivKids – a fun and fitness group for 2 to 11-year-olds, based out of the Dianthus Building – was feeding the ducks for the first time during their Summer Camp. It proved so popular that it became one of their regular activities.

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Goldsworth News

Goldsworth News is a bi-monthly magazine distributed freely to approximately 5000 dwellings throughout Goldsworth Park and the surrounding area.

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Councillors' Surgeries

The Goldsworth Park councillors hold a surgery from 10am - 11am on the first Saturday of every month (except August) at Strollers, accessed from the path between the shops and the lake.

Police Surgeries

The next panel meeting is on Thursday 20th February, 7pm, at the Dianthus Building in Wishbone Way.

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From the Chairman



At the Annual General Meeting on 20th November 2013, Ian Rickard stood down as Chairman and I was elected in his place, so it is now my job to keep you all informed of the activities of the GPCA.

My first news is that, at long last, on 12th December 2013, Woking Borough Council agreed the resources required in addition to the insurance settlement to restore Goldwater Lodge to a usable state. The insurance settlement of £1,035,000 will pay for repairing the damage caused by the fire and the Council will fund £915,000 to pay for the work needed to rectify long standing defects in the building and to bring it up to modern standards.

Over the year since the fire, there have been a number of suggestions as to what might happen and I am still not in a position to tell you exactly what will be built. I can say that there will not be a mezzanine floor in what had been the sports hall and there will not be a National Hockey Museum on the site – two proposals the Council had put forward (see the AGM report on page 5 for background on some of the discussions). To overcome the problems of the drains, the toilets in both the GPCA Hall and in Toad Hall will be relocated to provide a straighter fall to the sewers. This will mean that the GPCA's kitchen will also have to be relocated. A central boiler to provide heating and hot water to the Hall, the

nursery and changing rooms is proposed, the mains water supply will be realigned and the building will be rewired. A very important development is that, at long last, Goldwater Lodge will be protected by CCTV cameras.

While we are disappointed that it is likely to be another year until the work is completed and we can use the Hall again, we are looking forward to a refurbished Hall brought up to modern day standards.

The GPCA will be closely involved in the plans for restoring the Hall and will have the opportunity to influence what is done. Residents will be able to see the plans in due course on the Council's website. In the meantime, we would be very interested to hear from residents and other users of the Hall about the facilities they would like to see incorporated in the building. Please write to Goldsworth News or email goldsworthnews@yahoo.com or chairman.gpca@ntlworld.com.

Finally, the GPCA Committee and the Editorial Team at Goldsworth News would like to wish all residents and readers a peaceful, healthy and happy 2014.

Irene Watson
GPCA Chairman

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Thank you, Venton Close dustman

I would like to thank the kindly dustman working in my road on Saturday, 21 December. I am sure many of us forgot about the early Wednesday collection before Christmas. This gentleman could well have simply left those bins that were not put out for collection (especially as it was so wet and windy and he was working alone) but he checked and emptied them all. I just want him to know this was much appreciated. Thank you!

Pam Johnson, Venton Close

Come running with us

I am writing to let you know about my free running groups, perfect for residents of Goldsworth Park who are seeking to get fit (or stay fit), have fun and make new friends.

I am a qualified Run England leader with two groups, one for absolute beginners and one a guided 5k (ish), taking in different routes each week.

For further information please contact me on 07788595246 or Goldsworthparkrunners@gmail.com.

Kind regards,

Debbie Aitken



Pupils from Sythwood have been learning to write newspaper stories with the help of Goldsworth News editor Amanda Coulson.

Sythwood's Wonderful World Week, Year 4 pupil Oliver Griffiths reports

On November 11th, Sythwood, which is a popular primary school in Surrey, provided pupils with an adventurous and outstanding Out of this World Week.

Since the start of September, all of the teachers had been organising fantastic activities and a special visitor to talk to the pupils about the stunning solar system.

Amazingly, the very important visitor was Peter Golding from Astrodome Mobile Planetarium, who had a range of extraordinary videos for every child to discover what space is like.

Everyone agreed that it was a magnificent opportunity. Liam, who is a year 5 pupil, spoke to the year 4 journalists about his favourite event: "It was a great experience and we are very lucky to have the visitor come in," he said.

The younger children in the school learnt about the different layers of the earth. Other children learnt about the planets and they also discovered that there are volcanoes on the moon.

With the week being an excellent success, children at Sythwood can't wait for the next one!

Hospice moving to Goldsworth Park

Goldsworth House, the new Woking and Sam Beare Hospice site

Woking and Sam Beare Hospices (WSBH) has secured a loan of up to £6m from Woking Borough Council to open in Goldsworth Park.

The new facility in Goldsworth House, at the entrance to the Waitrose car park, will have 20 inpatient beds. It will also be used as a base for nurses and counsellors to go out and visit patients at home. The building will be renovated and the new hospice is expected to open in late 2016.

The Sam Beare Hospice site in Weybridge, which currently houses the inpatient beds, will be turned into a community, day care and counselling centre. The Woking Hospice site in Hill View Road will be vacated and rented out.

The hospices have promised to give regular updates on the progress of the refurbishment and the expected opening date.

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The 2013 AGM was very well attended. Residents heard first from Ray Morgan, Chief Executive of Woking Borough Council, who had come, at my invitation, to talk to us about the reasons for the delays in the rebuilding of Goldwater Lodge. He explained that, in addition to protracted discussions with the insurance company, the Council had decided to take the opportunity to rectify faults in the building, some dating from its original construction and others from the division into two properties; there are long-standing problems with the drains and with the utility supplies. The insurance will only cover the repairs to the damage caused by the fire so the Council will have to find the funds for the additional work. The Council was also considering improving Toad Hall's holding by installing a mezzanine floor in what had been the sports hall, and constructing a new wing into which to relocate the National Hockey Museum. He assured us that whatever was built, the security arrangements would be improved with the installation of CCTV around the Lodge, something for which the GPCA has been asking for many years.

After Mr Morgan's talk and questions, and refreshments kindly provided by Dianthus Trading, the main business of the AGM went ahead. The Chairman gave an overview of the year's activities covering the management of the Hall, Goldsworth News, the GPCA website and the Goldsworth Park Lake and Recreation Ground Users Group. He thanked all those who had helped and supported the GPCA during the year and mentioned particularly Gary Rimay-Muranyi of Dianthus Trading who had been a very good neighbour since the Hall has been out of action, and the neighbourhood Police Team who had organised a great "fun day" which had raised over £1,500 for use when the Hall is rebuilt.

Following a question, two residents took on the job of researching the replacement of the street maps situated on the main entrance roads to Goldsworth Park; Surrey County Councillor Saj Hussain will look into financing.

The Treasurer reported on the GPCA's finances and was pleased to say that there was a small surplus over the year. He pointed out that the GPCA's only source of income was the Hall and that income had ceased with the fire last December. While some of the outgoings, e.g. hall management fees, bar service, cleaning, etc., had ceased, there were ongoing costs such as insurance, the

premises licence and utility standing charges. The Council has offered financial help with these unavoidable costs, for which the GPCA is grateful.

A short report by the Editor of Goldsworth News described the problems experienced by everyone involved last year. However, there is now a new sponsor and Goldsworth News is being produced on a bi-monthly basis, although it is hoped that monthly publication will be possible in the future. An addition to the Team, a "roving reporter", was introduced.

Roger Westcott talked about his work on the Lake. In addition to the regular maintenance work, a Kingfisher Bank had been constructed in the Wildlife Area and he was pleased to say that kingfishers had been seen in the vicinity.

There were also reports from St Andrew's Church, Lakers Youth Centre, Woking Sea Cadets and Dianthus Trading.

The election of officers resulted in the following:

Chairman:	Irene Watson
Vice Chairman:	Sean Larkin, Lakeside Christian Fellowship
Treasurer:	Peter Hill
Minutes Secretary:	Jenny Ingoe

If you would like to receive a copy of the AGM Minutes and the minutes of the GPCA's regular meetings, contact Irene Watson, chairman.gpca@ntlworld.com, to join the emailing list.

The hall funding has been approved since the AGM. See the Chairman's letter on page 3 for the latest news on the hall.

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Sea Cadets' salute to Brian James

On 28th November, Chief Petty Officer Brian James was presented with the Captain's medal for 50 years service as an instructor at Woking and District Sea Cadet Corps by Captain John Holloway, RNR.

Born in Woking in 1945, Brian joined Woking and District Sea Cadets as a boy and, at the age of 18, became a volunteer instructor. He trained as a mechanic and later became a vehicle inspector with the Department of Transport where he was awarded the Imperial Service Medal. He used his skills to maintain the Sea Cadets boats and to provide transport for the Cadets and their gear in his personal Landrover.

Brian has no plans to retire from the Corps but is looking forward to having the time to rebuild his Landrover, which has been languishing in his back garden for many years.



Brian James (left) is presented with his medal by Captain John Holloway

The Sea Cadets are recruiting cadets aged 10-18. They are based at Dianthus Building, Goldsworth Park, Woking, Surrey and parade Monday and Thursday from 7pm to 9pm. If you are interested go and visit them or email wokingseacadets@hotmail.co.uk. We wonder if any of today's recruits will still be involved in 2070?

Surrey savers getting to grips with their finances



Companies offering short-term "payday" loans have been accused of encouraging people into debt by giving easy access to money and charging large interest rates. Citizens Advice (citizensadvice.org.uk) says 4m people will take out a payday loan in the next six months and they've seen a ten-fold increase in people asking for help with these debts in the last four years. In an effort to discourage staff away from payday loan companies, Surrey County Council last year blocked access on staff computers to 80 websites for short-term loans companies.

Many people are tackling their money problems with the help of SurreySave, a credit union set up by local people. There are already 95 members in the borough, with total savings of approximately £90,000 and loans of

£54,000. SurreySave say that they try to offer "a quick, fair loan decision which takes into account your personal circumstances" and "a safe way to invest in your community and win a return for everyone". The only fee they charge is £3 for annual membership.

Credit unions are owned and controlled by their members, and there are now 500 across the UK, with nearly 900,000 members. SurreySave offers a range of loans, between £250 and £7,500. There are no repayment penalties and the APR on a typical loan under £2,000 is 26.8%, dropping to just 11.9% for the larger loans.

They also offer instant-access savings accounts that aim to pay members a profit-sharing dividend of 1.5% (which will be taxed and must be declared to HMRC). They are regulated by the Financial Services Authority and any profit they make goes to members, as interest or dividends. Members get free loan protection insurance, which will normally pay off the debt if you die. SurreySave has three salaried employees but relies heavily on volunteers to run the service.

If you are interested in using the SurreySave service or volunteering, visit surreysave.co.uk or call 01932 339290 between 9am and 5pm on weekdays. If you've used SurreySave and would like to share your experience, email goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk.



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Woking pledges money for new Lakeview centre

After a consultation event in November, Woking Borough Council has agreed financial backing of £750,000 for a new Lakeview community centre. The current building in Tracious Close will be replaced by a two-storey structure with improved facilities and space for groups to meet. It may open as soon as 2015.



Andrew Hargreaves, Lakeview Community Action Group's community development manager, thanked locals for their support and input. He said: "People wanted to see this particular building, which they have known for a very long time, as their own community facility in what is a very disadvantaged area."

The current hall and office is more than 20 years old. It has no disabled toilets and some parts are in a bad state of repair. The new building will have an improved kitchen, accessible toilets and quiet spaces suitable for mental health and youth groups.

The council is now obtaining tenders for the project and preparing detailed designs. Subject to planning consent, building will begin in 2014, managed by New Vision Homes.



Local policing news



PC 404432
Matt Hart



PC 40198
Emma Barrett



PCSO 14849
Sarah Wentworth



PCSO 15004
Adam Worsell

The Goldsworth Park Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to wish all residents a happy new year and hope you have enjoyed the Christmas festivities.

As we unwind from the festive season we would like to remind residents to not make their home a target for opportunist thieves. We all love presents and unfortunately so do burglars.

We advise you not to leave any valuables on display near windows or in vehicles. Also do not leave large empty boxes near to bins or by doorways waiting to be recycled as this can advertise valuables that you have in your home.

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If you wish to speak to the Goldsworth Park Team you can email us on sntwoking@surrey.pnn.police.co.uk or call 101 for all non-emergency policing matters. For all genuine emergencies requiring police attendance, dial 999.

The next Goldsworth Park Panel Meeting will be held on Thursday 20th February, 7pm, at the Dianthus Building in Wishbone Way. Come along to see what the local team is doing to deal with current issues, and to inform us of any concerns in the area.



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