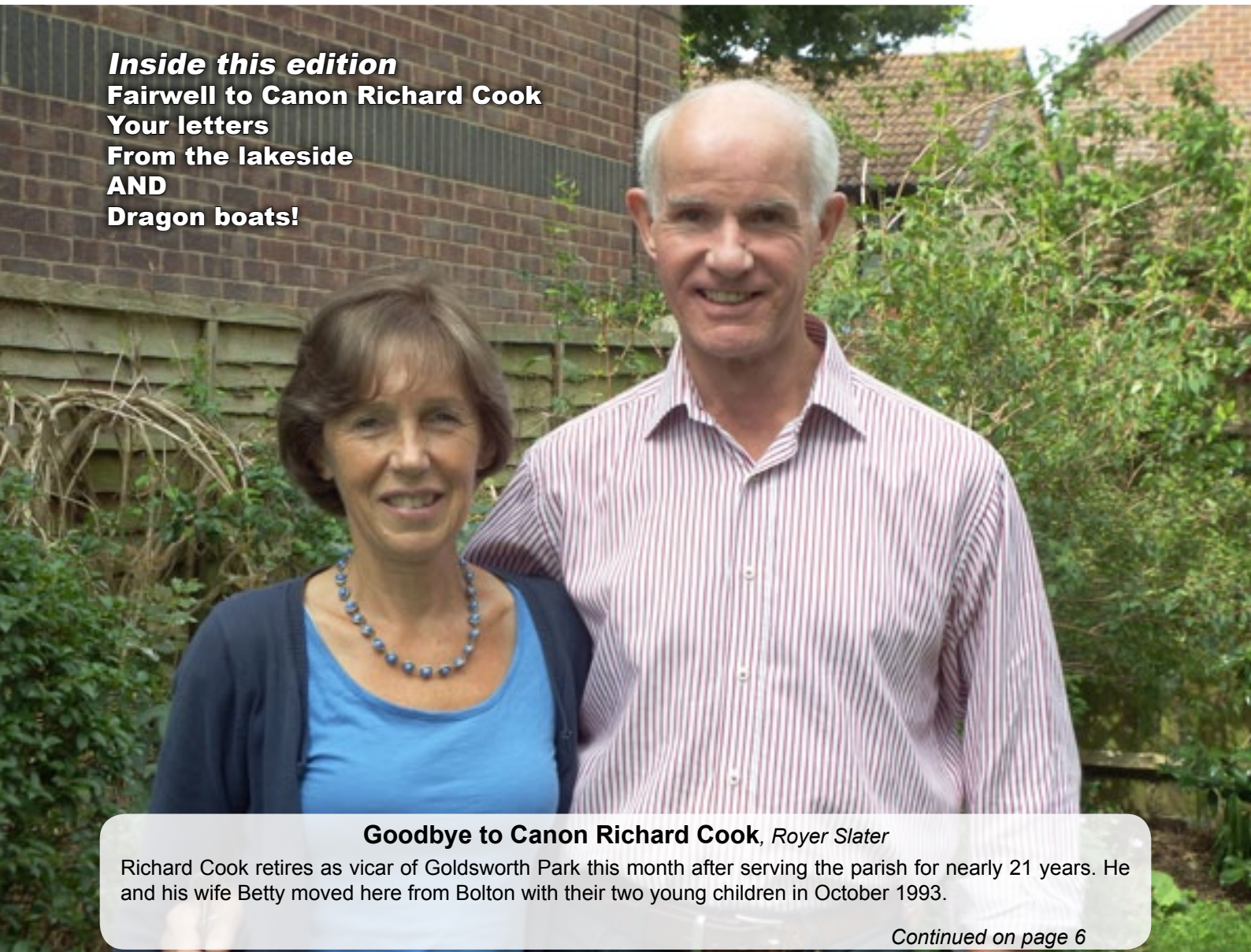


GOLDSWORTH NEWS



Inside this edition
Fairwell to Canon Richard Cook
Your letters
From the lakeside
AND
Dragon boats!



Goodbye to Canon Richard Cook, Royer Slater

Richard Cook retires as vicar of Goldsworth Park this month after serving the parish for nearly 21 years. He and his wife Betty moved here from Bolton with their two young children in October 1993.

Continued on page 6

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Goldsworth News is the magazine of the Goldsworth Park Community Association, published bi-monthly and distributed free of charge to approximately 5000 dwellings and organisations 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.

GPCA Meeting

The next meeting is 7pm, Wednesday 10th September in the Dianthus building by the lake. Please email the chairman if would like to receive the minutes every month: chairman. gpc@ntlworld.com or call 01483 714096

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Please read & recycle



From the Chairman

3

Goldwater Lodge

It is two months since I last updated you all on the

progress with Goldwater Lodge, and I hoped to have a lot more to tell you. The nearer we get to completion, the more information we require in order to let contracts for the works which are our responsibility, to organise utilities, alarms and waste disposal, and to establish planned maintenance programmes. However, in spite of numerous requests, we still do not have the detailed plans and specifications of the building. We have just had another meeting with the architects and Council officers to iron out these issues.

The only positive news is that a resident, who was a Facilities Manager in a large college before he retired, has volunteered to help with all the arrangements for the Hall. It is a great relief to have someone with such a fund of knowledge – about health and safety, building codes and letting contracts – on board. He seems to be enjoying it, too.

We still don't have a date but we are beginning to plan an open day to show off the hall and its facilities, probably in October. If you would like to help on the day, taking a shift or helping with refreshments, please let me know.

Poppies in the Park

Goldsworth Park is playing its part in commemorating the start of the First World War. There are poppies on lamp posts all round the lake and in the shopping centre, as well as on main roads and roundabouts. The poppies will remain in place until after Remembrance Sunday in November when the volunteers who put them up will remove them. Perhaps we should keep them and put them up again in November 2018 to commemorate the end of the Great War?

I find it so sad that, 100 years after "the war to end all wars", there are currently wars all over the world, with people killing each other in Syria, Iraq, Gaza and Ukraine.

Costa Coffee for Goldsworth Park Centre

The application to turn part of Martin's Newsagents into a Costa Coffee shop was approved by Woking Borough Council on 29th July. There was originally outside seating at the front of the café included in the proposal but for some reason this had been removed from the application. At the meeting, local councillors welcomed the proposal and commented on the importance of retaining a play area for children. At the time of writing, I have no information of when work will start but I doubt if it will be long delayed.

Irene Watson,
GPCA Chairman

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YOUR LETTERS

If you have something you'd like to say, please write to the editor:
goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk

Clearing the footbridge

In response to the request for 'any other issues that the GPCA should be taking up on behalf of residents', my wife and I have been concerned about the footbridge over Lockfield Drive near Langman's Bridge for some time, but are now particularly conscious of it since the recent mugging nearby. The issue is whether some action could be taken to clear away trees from the path that goes up and over the footbridge.

When we first lived here in the 1980s, the path that goes over the footbridge was not secluded as now – it was a clear and open way to cross the road safely, where pedestrians could easily see and be seen by others. It was originally a very pleasant way to walk to Goldsworth Park Centre, including Waitrose and the other shops, and on to the lake.

In the thirty years since then, the bridge has become closely enclosed by trees and often (especially in winter) feels like a dark and secluded tunnel. Although the contractors sometimes tidy up the lower shrubs lining the path, the trees have got much bigger and prevent walkers on the path being visible from nearby. My wife decided some time ago that she was no longer relaxed about walking that way on her own so, if I am not around, she doesn't walk to Goldsworth Park Centre any more. If she needs to go she does so by car, though she would rather not have to use transport unnecessarily. As a result she uses those shops much less than she might have done in the past, and it must be a much less used route than it could be.

Name and address supplied

Thank you for the footpath map

A huge "Thank You" to Royer Slater for his so-clear map of the footpaths of Goldsworth Park. I've visited and phoned the Council Offices several times since moving to the Park two years ago, in the hopes of tracking down such a map – so obviously required for this lovely neighbourhood. I so much appreciate the hours it must have taken him to put this together, and I, for one, will be making very good use of it in planning my movements around the Park!

Celia Young

Reply from the Chairman: Are there other people in a similar position, who would also welcome the footbridge being brought into the open again by clearing away the trees? If there are, please contact Goldsworth News, as this could be an issue that the GPCA could take up with the Council.

Is there some news from Goldsworth Park that we haven't reported? Make sure we don't forget next time; email goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk. The deadline for the next edition is 15h August.



Notices

Delivery volunteers needed

Do you live in or near any of the following roads? If you have time once every two months to post copies of the magazine to some of the houses in Foxhills (50 houses), Hedgerley Court (70) or Merrivale Gardens (49), please contact Linda Hill: hilllinda5@googlemail.com

Volunteer archivist or librarian needed

Would you like to collate, digitise and prepare past issues of Goldsworth News and GPCA minutes for transfer to the Surrey History Centre? Might suit a retired librarian or archivist.

Events in detail

Calendar

September

5-7 Woking Food and Drink Festival, Woking town centre - see Events in Detail

10 GPCA meeting; 7.00pm in the Dianthus Building

10 Epworth Choir open evening - see Events in Detail

23 Launch night for Sing GwP choir, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church

October

3-4 Yom Kippur

17 Deadline for Goldsworth News content



The second **Woking Food and Drink Festival, from Friday, September 5 to Sunday 7**, will be bursting with mouth-watering stalls and free

activities for all of the family.

Last year's Festival attracted in excess of 20,000 visitors. This year's will be bigger and better with the Festival's footprint stretching across the pedestrian areas in Jubilee Square, Market Walk, Commercial Way, Mercia Walk, Gloucester Walk and culminating in a Fairtrade Food and Family Quarter at The Lightbox and WWF-UK's the Living Planet Centre.

Festival highlights will include an assortment of over 60 high quality food and drink stalls; live culinary demonstrations, from prestigious TV and local chefs, in the Tante Marie Culinary Academy Theatre; BBQ demonstrations; a Fairtrade Food and Family Quarter; hands-on cookery workshops for children; a Bake Off competition judged by Great British Bake Off 2013 winner, Frances Quinn; and topped off with a healthy portion of live entertainment.

The Lightbox will be open during normal opening hours and free children's cookery workshops will run on all three days (Friday to Sunday) from 11.30am to 3.30pm. Saturday 6 September between 10am and 4pm, WWF-UK's the Living Planet Centre will be taken over with exhibitions and

family hands-on activities. Live acoustic music will be provided by Phoenix Cultural Centre. Special offers will also be up for grabs for retail outlets within Peacocks and Wolsey Place Shopping Centres. A free Bake Off competition will take place on Sunday September 7, judged by Great British Bake Off 2013 winner, Frances Quinn.

To find out more, visit wokingfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk.

Epworth Choir Open evening, Wednesday September 10

Epworth Choir is a friendly amateur mixed choir of about 80 singers from Woking and the surrounding areas. We regularly perform a range of music, from major choral works to popular music and carols, in Woking and Guildford, with professional orchestras and soloists. We rehearse each Wednesday from 7.30pm to 9.45pm (with a break for tea/coffee) and would love to hear from you if you are interested in joining a choir. Some previous singing experience is useful, but don't be put off, as choir members are very happy to help.

We are having an open evening on Wednesday, September 10 at 7.30pm at Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road, Woking, GU21 4LH – please do come along. Or, to find out more, please go to epworthchoir.org, email secretary.epworth@gmail.com or telephone 01483 756670. Photos of the choir can also be found on our Facebook page.

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Goodbye to Canon Richard Cook *(continued from cover)*

Richard brought with him a passion for developing understandings between people of different faiths. First, he worked with others to set up ACROSS, a joint project by ten Woking churches to help Christians understand Woking's diverse communities and to equip them with the skills needed to be good neighbours.

More recently, he worked with a diverse group of friends to establish Woking People of Faith, which promotes understanding and respect between people of different faiths and cultures.

On Goldsworth Park, Richard helped set up the Lakeview Community Action Group, a self-help group for Lakeview residents. He was involved with other local people in the long campaign to have the Lakeview social centre enlarged, to accommodate many more community activities.

"It's been great to be vicar at St Andrew's and to have been able to help make a steady impact in the community," he said. "When people have discovered the life-transforming love of God, they often want to share this good news with others. This has a great impact in the wider community. The work is never finished. I'm leaving the church in the hands of God and a great team of people of all ages who

want God to be glorified and the community blessed.

"I've also enjoyed the challenges of being involved in developing our community resources: the A2 Youth and Community Centre which we opened in 2008, and the increasing role of our Coffee Shop."

Meanwhile, Richard's wife Betty has also been much involved in many aspects of local life.

"I owe a lot to those who've worked with me – especially Betty and two long serving colleagues at St. Andrew's: Chris Harrison, our curate for many years, and Rosemary Donaghy, our church administrator throughout most of my time here."

Richard and Betty have appreciated the benefits of living on an estate like Goldsworth Park, so are moving to a 20-year-old estate in Banbury. Will they be as busy in their new home and community? "We'll have to readjust, and take our time to explore the ways we can serve God in Banbury. We want to be good parents to our two children, and their families."

Goldsworth News wishes Richard and Betty every happiness in their new life.

Watch out – there's a thief about! *Irene Watson*

Last week, a lady who had been shopping in Waitrose was putting her bags in her car when she was approached by a woman asking for change for a £2 coin. The lady got out her purse to try to help; the woman stood very close, kept talking and touching her hand while she looked in her purse. She gave the woman change and went on her way but, later, was shocked to find that her debit card had been taken and, even worse, had been used to withdraw a significant sum of money from her account.

The police have been informed of the incident. There have been other reports of thefts in the area, including

purses being taken from handbags left visible in trolleys and from cars while shoppers were returning trolleys to the trolley park, but this is the first distraction theft we have heard of.

Please be careful to keep your wallet or purse out of sight, and your handbag secure, while you are shopping; don't leave your bag in view in an unlocked car while you return your trolley; always shield your hand when entering your pin number.

We are lucky to live in an area where there is little crime, so it is a shame that some people are not what they seem. We all need to take care when approached by strangers.

Flushing away the troublesome toilet



On July 17, Goldsworth Park said goodbye to its "rogue" toilet. We have been assured that new facilities will be opened in the autumn. If this does not happen, we will take the petition to full Council.

Irene Watson

New hospice building designs revealed

Royer Slater, reprinted with kind permission from Woking News & Mail



Woking & Sam Beare Hospices revealed the plans for its new Hospice and headquarters building at a public consultation at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park last month.

The Hospice's new home will be the former Goldsworth House office block in Denton Way, at Goldsworth Park Centre. This will be stripped out, extended and outfitted to a very high standard with all the facilities the Hospice needs to look after over 500 outpatients at any time, as well as up to 20 inpatients.

"For every ten patients we care for within the Hospice, we also look after another 250 in the community," stressed Nigel Harding, Chief Executive of Woking & Sam Beare Hospices.

"Generally we look after people for an average of two years, of which the final 12 days are as in-patients."

The new Hospice will have 20 bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities, plus rooms for clinical examination, treatments, counselling, and occupational activities such as crafts. The building will also house a gymnasium, café, family meeting rooms, "quiet" areas, and an office base for Hospice workers who care for patients in the community.

Nigel Harding confessed he was sceptical about the suitability of Goldsworth House before he visited it, but was soon won over: "It's light and bright," he said. "The mature silver birch trees are absolutely fantastic."

The site will be landscaped with gardens and most trees retained.

Importantly, all public-facing facilities are within the main building, revealed Tim Ashton of London-based architects, Hunters. "A new administration block – also housing Woking & Sam Beare Hospices' fund-raising department – will be built at the rear of the site," he said.

"The patients' bedrooms will be located in two wings, of ten bedrooms each, on the first floor, so are removed from busier areas on the ground floor." It will be a calming environment for patients and their families."

The Hospice hopes planning permission for the development will be granted soon. It expects the patients and staff will move in during January to March of 2016.

Climbing Wall Summer Programme *by Sandie Bolger*

During the summer holidays, Lakers Youth Centre ran a climbing wall project with seven of the young people.

There were four sessions, each of four hours, where the participants completed tasks to earn their Asdan Sports Achievement Award:

- Awareness of health and safety when climbing
- Knots and rope techniques
- Financial awareness of climbing as a hobby
- Climbing, belaying and traversing

This project was extremely successful. It will enable young people to support youth workers to run climbing wall sessions at Lakers Youth Centre throughout the year.

Here are a few comments from the young people who took part:

I carried out a three-week course and developed my skills in climbing, traversing and belaying. We all worked well together and I can now confidentially carry out climbing. (Luke Blay, aged 18)

We learnt how to belay safely, first on the ground and then on the wall. I have overcome my fear of abseiling down the wall. (Zoe Savage, aged 17).

The best part of the course was how we worked together as a team. (Linda Price, aged 19).

I managed to belay others safely and correctly, I have more confidence when climbing and I know which knots to use when climbing. (Jacques Moffatt, aged 16).

I learnt how to tie a figure-of-eight knot and to make it safe by using a stopper knot. I can now climb and traverse safely and with confidence. (Will Siegmund, aged 14).

Having completed this course, I plan to help with climbing sessions at Lakers Youth Centre. (Megan Rogers, aged 16). I have become more confident in myself, am confident in climbing and tying knots (Gina Marie Munday, aged 16).



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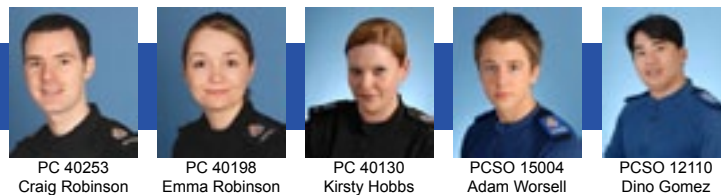
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Police Update

By PC Emma Robinson



PC 40253 Craig Robinson PC 40198 Emma Robinson PC 40130 Kirsty Hobbs PCSO 15004 Adam Worsell PCSO 12110 Dino Gomez

Robbery & Thefts

Back at the start of July there was a robbery reported along the cycle path near to the Goldsworth Park Centre. This has been well publicised locally and since the incident there have been two arrests made. Investigations are still ongoing, with the local team continuing their increased high visibility patrols in the area. If you have any information regarding the incident please report it to us by ringing 101.

Woking has ongoing issues with pedal cycle thefts, with all teams working both to educate cyclists and prevent thefts. Since the last update we have experienced a small number of thefts in the Park – each time the stolen bicycles were left unsecured. We remind all residents to secure bicycles and valuable items when not in use, preferably in garages or sheds where possible.

We also had a report of two garages being broken into, and items stolen. We recommend you install strong, high quality locks, and, where possible, also lock or chain up items inside garages. We ask all residents to remain vigilant and report any suspicious behaviour immediately.

The date of the next **Police Panel Meeting** has not yet been confirmed, but it will be in November. Emails to Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, posters and posts via social media will go out once the date has been set.

For updates on Police work in Goldsworth Park and Woking follow us on Facebook (Search Woking Beat) and Twitter (@WokingBeat).

Hospice update by Lorraine Weedon, Marketing & Communications Manager



The plans for the new Hospice, to be located in Denton Way, Goldsworth Park, were presented at a Public Presentation on August 9, at St Andrew's Church - see the news story on an earlier page of this magazine.

Nigel Harding CEO, opened the meeting before introducing a presentation from the architects. We collected feedback and comment forms which will be collated and used as part of the planning application.

You can walk through the new Hospice online at www.wsbhospices.co.uk/public-consultation

The new building will accommodate a welcoming café, hospice day service, 20 in-patient beds, education suite, hospice community outreach teams and space for our administration team and fundraisers. We will be welcoming patients from across the whole of North West Surrey for in-patient care.

We are still on schedule for the state-of-the-art Hospice to open in the spring of 2016, when we look forward to becoming part of the Goldsworth Park Community.

Our first Dragon Boat Charity Challenge was a huge success and thank you to everyone who got involved - see

the news story on an earlier page. Many of the competing teams said they would be booking for next year as it was so much fun. So the Dragons will be returning to the lake in July 2015!

Note from the editor:

You may have read about the tragic death of Kris Cook, 36, a fundraiser for the Hospice who died during the RideLondon event. Speaking about the news, the Hospices chief executive, Nigel Harding, said: "This is a real tragedy, and Kris's death has shocked us all. All our thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time and we will try to offer them any support we can."

On August 17, about 300 cyclists were involved in a memorial bike ride, and Kris's girlfriend and friends plan to take part in the RideLondon-Surrey 2015 event in his memory. Kris's funeral service was held on August 26, at St Andrew's Church in Goldsworth Park.

Kris's mother said that he had died doing something he loved and welcomed donations in his memory to his online Woking Hospice fundraising page: www.justgiving.com/Kris-Cook. The support expressed by people from Woking and across the world is reflected in the fact donations on the page have so far reached almost £50,000.

Dragon Boat Charity Challenge is a roaring success by Dorte Johansen

Almost 200 competitors paddled across Goldsworth Park Lake and raised in excess of £10,000 for Woking & Sam Beare Hospices at their inaugural Dragon Boat Challenge in July. Eleven teams representing the local police, schools, churches and businesses competed against each other in colourful long boats, and plenty of sunshine and local support meant the day was a roaring success.

"I've never done Dragon Boat racing before and have always thought it looks like great fun. So after completing the London Marathon, this seemed like a great next challenge, especially because it meant I could rope in another 19 people. And with a barbecue and beer tent on offer it wasn't hard to convince my friends and family to join in!" explained Natalie Dilloway from team Rockin' Dave. Her father, after whom the team was named, was admitted to the Hospice in 2011, so this was her way of thanking the staff for their wonderful care. "They made a truly horrendous time a bit more bearable, and for that my family will always be grateful, and we're committed to raising as much money as possible to say thank you and to help others."

True to tradition, the event started with an awakening ceremony for good luck, where WSB Hospices' Finance Director, Tony Cornwell, dotted the eyes of the Dragon Boats, and members of the Chinese School of Woking performed a colourful Lion Dance. Then the teams took to the water and raced against each other and the clock. The winner was the Mayford Arms Team, followed by Rocking Dave's Crew. In third place came the local Police team, who also won the fancy dress competition, and were rewarded with a fantastic dragon-boat cake.

"It was a wonderful day out, and I want to say a big thank you to all the teams and spectators who came along to show their support for this great new event at the lake," explained Head of Community Fundraising Rosie Gibbons. As the event organiser she is already looking forward to next year's Dragon Boat Challenge. "It was a great team-building experience for everyone who took part, and several of the corporate teams, including Mustang, Barclays Bank and the winning team, the Mayford Arm Bands, have already said they'll be back, so we hope to get a date in the diary as soon as possible," added Rosie.

If you are interested in taking part in next year's event, please contact the Community Fundraising Team on 01483 881752, or visit www.wsbhospices.co.uk for more information.



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From the Lakeside

Roger Westcott is one of the voluntary fishing bailiffs appointed by Woking Borough Council to oversee fishing, monitor fish stocks and other wildlife, and to keep the area generally clean and tidy.

You may remember, from my last report, that I was not sure what had nested in one of the holes in the kingfisher bank. Well, I can now tell you that it was grey wagtails. They are not uncommon in the Park but they are a welcome sight, as they flit over the water in search of insects or patrol the banks incessantly bobbing their tails. There are no kingfishers yet, but a pair has been seen regularly over the last few weeks close to the bank in the wildlife bay; maybe they are checking it out for next spring – watch this space with fingers crossed.

A couple of weeks ago, I had a call from a resident who had seen two strange “ducks” on the lake and asked if I had any idea what they were. I knew exactly what fitted the bill (although not a duck bill!) having seen them myself the day before. What she and I had seen was a pair of young Egyptian geese. These

With such a mild winter, followed by a warm spring and the hot summer we have all enjoyed, conditions have been ideal for our wildlife, whether native or not, to breed well, with many birds having second broods. Well into August, one of our moorhens was rearing its third brood this year.

Even though the bulk of the work on restoring the lake banks is complete, maintenance continues. In late July, we had a bit of a tidy-up, trimming the hedge around the wildlife area and top dressing some of the platforms with wood chips. This time, much of the work was done by teams of partners from our local Waitrose store as one of their community initiatives. With help and guidance from regular helpers, residents and anglers, and despite the heat, we got a tremendous amount of work done in just two afternoons. A huge thank-you to all involved in keeping our Park and its lake an oasis to be proud of and enjoy.

introduced ornamental birds are now well established in the southern and eastern parts of the country and are often considered a threat to our native species, which are already under great pressure from the invasive Canada geese that now dominate the scene.

Football helps young people respect healthy relationships

Around 50 young people under the age of 15 attended a five-a-side football tournament in support of a nationwide campaign to tackle domestic abuse and promote healthy relationships at Woking Hockey Club in July.

The free tournament was organised by Woking Borough Council, Reflex Woking and Your Sanctuary, and included teams from Woking and across the county. The sporty young people enjoyed competitive, but friendly, football, with girls and boys competing in Under 10 Girls and Under 14 Boys competitions.

Many of the girls who played in the event had successfully represented Woking at the Surrey Youth Games and had only begun playing football following taster sessions earlier this year. They are now part of local junior club, Meadow Sports. Every young person taking part took home a certificate and a Your Sanctuary T-shirt.

There was also the chance to find out more about healthy relationships at workshops, delivered by a representative from Reflex in conjunction with Your Sanctuary and attended by all participants before the football kicked off.

Your Sanctuary works to prevent domestic abuse and undo the damage it does to individuals, families and communities.



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Council News



Be wary of council tax cut offer

Woking Borough Council has been told of a company contacting local residents claiming that households could be in the wrong council tax band and, for an up-front fee, can reclaim any overpayments. If a caller at the door or on the phone claims to be able to cut your council tax, take care – don't give any bank details, don't let anyone in your house without proper identification or proof of their claims. If you think a caller is pretending to be from the council, call the police.

Read and ride

Woking's older people can now get a bus pass and a new book at the same time, at the town's recently refurbished library. In addition to dealing with applications for senior or disabled bus passes, staff there offer a checking service for Blue Badge applicants who are over 80.

Fresh loaves and fishes

Already signed up for the new Woking Market are traders specialising in

fresh fish, artisan breads, soups and sushi, plus bespoke floral bouquets and arrangements. More will be announced for the newly renamed Market Walk, which is expected to be open to the public in early September. It will feature 15 purpose-built permanent kiosks, with a range of quality traders, as well as seasonal stalls.

Burnt your barbecue?

Feed your food waste caddy with your burnt offerings along with household food waste and help Woking save £250,000, the disposal cost of the estimated 4,000 tonnes of waste and kitchen scraps put into the black bins. An average household can also save itself up to £50 a month by planning meals, using up leftovers and storing food correctly, advises the council.

Go online to see Surrey deals

If you run a local firm, go online to SupplytoSurrey to see deals worth hundreds of millions of pounds. The site will list contracts being offered

by the Council, Surrey Police, the University of Surrey and the county's 11 boroughs and districts. It is being spearheaded by the County Council as part of a drive to stimulate economic growth, which has also seen it pledge to ensure 60% of its spending on goods and services with local businesses.

Bottle-neck to be uncorked

A Government deal that includes £7.5million Government funding for Victoria Arch improvements in Woking will mean the construction of new pedestrian and cycle tunnels through the embankment either side of the Arch. It will allow the road be widened from two to three lanes at the pinch point that currently causes long delays. It is anticipated that the scheme will start during the construction, subject to planning permission, of the new Victoria Square development.

Have fun with fungus by Royer Slater



It's good to get outdoors in our green and pleasant district as the gears change down for autumn. Summer blooms may be a memory, but this year promises to be a good one for wild mushrooms and other fungi.

It's estimated there are somewhere between 1.5 million and 5 million species of fungi (or funguses, if you prefer). Only 5% of them have been formally classified and they appear in the wild in many forms, from tiny lichen to the familiar capped types we call mushrooms and toadstools. Many have evocative names like pig's ear, beefsteak fungus, coral tooth, olive earthtongue, King Alfred's cakes and the deadly death cap. You can understand the fascination of fungi for mycologists, which is the posh name for those who study them.

You may be tempted to pick some for the dinner table but, unless you're confident which are good to eat and which are harmful, just play it safe and leave them be!

But there are plenty who know their mushrooms. Surrey Wildlife Trust's (SWT) rangers report unprecedented numbers of collectors picking large quantities on its nature reserves to sell to the restaurant trade. This uncontrolled foraging can harm ecosystems, in which fungi play a vital role: they are among nature's great recyclers, helping break down dead wood and other organic material, then returning nutrients into the soil. The “fruiting bodies” – the parts we see above ground – also act as an important food source for a wide range of organisms, especially small mammals and insects.

SWT has therefore banned the collection of fungi from its lands, unless as part of an authorised scientific or educational survey.

The Trust explains: “It is against the law to collect mushrooms for commercial purposes, as it constitutes theft, and the majority of the collecting is taking place on Sites of Special Scientific Interest, which have legal protection for their wildlife value.”

That's strong stuff. But SWT stresses that it still welcomes visitors to use its sites to explore the natural environment. So, grab a guide book and see what you can spot.

We're blessed with open spaces in our area, supporting many types of fungus. Please enjoy the many fascinating shapes, forms and colours the fungus world has to offer – but don't pick!

Visit www.surreywildlifetrust.org for details of SWT's nature reserves.



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