

GOLDSWORTH NEWS



Inside this edition

In memory of Kym Eastwood

Our new website

Catfish in the lake

A very lucky dog

New volunteer editor needed



Get your photo on the cover!

Are you a serious photographer who takes superb pictures around Goldsworth Park? In winter we sometimes have a bit of spare space in the magazine, and we've just launched a website (see inside), which gives us the opportunity to start featuring the very best of your photos. We can't pay you, but we will give you a credit and a few words to name the picture and explain what it depicts. All we ask is that pictures were taken recently, that you ask people before you take their picture, and that you send us written permission from the parents of any children featured. If there is space and a photo really stands out, like this one, it might even make the cover of the magazine. Send your pictures to goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm Wednesday, 19th November 2014
Dianthus Building, Wishbone Way GU21 3RT

The Goldsworth Park Community Association is holding its Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Wednesday, 19th November 2014 in the Dianthus Building. All residents are encouraged to attend to hear about the Association's activities, to discuss issues affecting Goldsworth Park and to elect Officers of the Committee.

All residents are entitled to nominate and vote for Officers of the Association's Committee for the coming year. To make a nomination, please complete the nomination form and return it to the Chairman at 37 Willowmead Close, Woking, Surrey GU21 3DN or email your nominations to chairman.gpca@ntlworld.com by Monday, 17th November 2014

Nomination Form

I wish to make nominations for the following positions:

POSITION	INCUMBENT	NOMINATION
Chairman	Irene Watson	
Vice Chairman	Sean Larkin	
Treasurer	Peter Hill	
Secretary		

Name:

Address:

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Goldsworth News

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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News copy for the next issue must be submitted by Friday, 12th December 2014

By post: 37 Willowmead Close, Goldsworth Park, Woking GU21 3DN
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Tel: 01483 714096

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E-mail: hilllinda5@googlemail.com

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 on Wednesday 12th November in the Dianthus building by the lake. Please email the chairman if would like to receive the minutes every month: chairman.gpca@ntlworld.com or call 01483 714096

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Please read & recycle

From the Chairman

Goldwater Lodge

Another two months have gone by and I still cannot tell you when

the Community Hall will re-open. Although work is progressing, we have been told that there will be a delay of six to eight weeks in getting the gas and electricity connected. The contractors should have finished before then and we will have access to the Hall, but what we will be able to do with no heat or light, I am not sure.

Our Facilities Manager is moving forward with ordering the fixtures and fittings, signage and supplies, for which we are responsible. He is also making arrangements for a telephone line and, most important, the free wi-fi we are planning to offer our hirers.

Last time, I wrote, somewhat optimistically, about an open day in October to show off the Hall and its facilities but now I doubt if this will be before the New Year. It is great to see that Toad Hall Nursery has returned to Goldwater Lodge. I just want to say, "Welcome back, and I hope it won't be too long until we join you."

Website

I have great pleasure in

announcing that we have a new website dedicated to the GPCA and to life on Goldsworth Park. Take a look at ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk. It is there for everyone, so send us your pictures, your news and your views.

Annual General Meeting

You are all invited to come to the GPCA's Annual General Meeting on 19th November (see the Calendar page). This is the opportunity for residents to influence the direction of the GPCA by hearing about the Association's activities, raising issues they want to discuss and electing the Officers of the Committee.

The coming year will be an important one for the GPCA with the re-opening of the Community Hall, improvements to the new website and a new structure and Constitution brought about by changes to Charity law. It's a good time to get involved and help move the GPCA forward, so come along and make your views known.

Season's greetings

I realise that it will be January 2015 before I write this column again. I always win when I see Christmas cards on sale before Hallowe'en, but as this is my only opportunity, I wish all readers a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

*Irene Watson,
GPCA Chairman*

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YOUR LETTERS

Note from the editor: We will try our best to publish your letter but may not have space to feature every one and may need to cut it to fit the space. We will include your name and road unless you ask us not to do so. If you have something you'd like to say, please write to the editor: goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk

Footbridge follow-up

Further to the letter in the Goldsworth News Sept/Oct 2014 Issue 141, regarding the footbridge over Lockfield Drive, I totally agree with the author. This area is now so concealed by trees and overgrown shrubbery and it clearly needs to be cut back and the route made clear so that one can see and be seen. It is dark and not a nice place to walk any more.

I can no longer walk across this way on my own as I do not feel relaxed about it, and therefore to get to my son's house at the St. John's side I have to use my car. I would rather be able to walk in safety but can only do this when accompanied by my husband.

Also, my 14-year-old granddaughter has to use this route to walk to my house from her home in St John's and I worry about her safety.

I would welcome the clearing away of trees in this area to make it a much more pleasant place to walk, let some light in and bring it back to a light and open area where one can feel relaxed.

I do hope the GPCA can bring some force on this issue with the council.



You asked for comments re clearing the trees from the above footpath.

As someone who uses the path on an almost daily basis, I certainly would NOT wish to see the trees cleared away. It's not as if there are so many wooded areas in this locality that we can afford to destroy this one. Furthermore, the trees are not so close together that they provide cover for anyone intent on committing crime.

These are some of the trees your reader wishes to see cut down. A definite no! Please, leave well alone.

Name and address supplied

Lockfield Drive footbridge

Please keep your comments coming in about the Lockfield Drive footbridge and any other issues in the Park. We've also had several inquiries about where you can buy Royer Slater's Goldsworth Park footpaths map. It's available from the Hospice Shop and the hairdresser's in the Goldsworth Park Centre, priced £1, which goes to the Hospice.

Editor

Name and address supplied

I would be extremely happy if they cleared the footbridge over Lockfield drive as it is a really dark place to walk. We live just off Wyndham road and would definitely use it more as we have girls attending Brownies and Rainbows near Waitrose, and it would mean we don't have use the car as often for taking them there.

Eva

My wife and I agree wholeheartedly with the sentiments expressed in issue 141 of Goldsworth News regarding the footpath accessing the pedestrian bridge over Lockfield Drive from Langmans Bridge. With the approach of short winter days, we are apprehensive about using it, especially after dark.

Mr B Fretwell

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 Friday 12th December.

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Notices & Events in detail

Calendar

November

9th Remembrance Sunday – see Events in Detail

12th GPCA meeting at 7pm in the Dianthus Building

19th GPCA AGM at 7:30pm – see Events in Detail

20th Police Panel Meeting at 7pm in the Dianthus Building

30th Hospices Light Up a Life service – see Events in Detail

December

6th Woking Choral Society Winter Concert at 7.30 pm – see Events in Detail

12th Deadline for January Goldsworth News

23rd Goldsworth Care helpline closes for Christmas, until 10am, Monday 5th January 2015

GET YOUR EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR!

EMAIL THE EDITOR -

GOLDSWORTHNEWS@YAHOO.CO.UK

Special Notice

To all Goldsworth Care Clients

Be aware that the Goldsworth Care Helpline will close for the Christmas break at 12.00 noon on Tuesday 23rd December 2014 and re-open at 10.00am on Monday 5th January 2015.



Remembrance Sunday: 9th November at 10.30am outside the Goldsworth Park Health Centre

The Scouts, Guides, Cubs and Brownies parade their flags and lay wreaths to commemorate the fallen in the two World Wars. Wreaths are also laid by St Andrew's Church, the GPCA, Waitrose Partners and the descendants of some of those men named on the memorial plaques from Slocock's Nursery.

Hospices Light Up a Life: Sunday 30th November at 4pm in St Andrew's Church

Light up a Life is one of the Hospice movement's best-loved and most meaningful community events. It gives those who have lost loved ones the opportunity to come together to remember them. This year Woking & Sam Beare Hospices we will be holding a Light Up a Life service at St Andrew's Church in Goldsworth Park Centre on Sunday 30th November at 4pm. The service is an uplifting occasion with Bible readings, Christmas carols and the opportunity to dedicate a memory star, which will be displayed at the church.

One of our volunteers, Frankie Sleet, 19, from Woking, will attend the services to celebrate the memory of her father Colin. He was diagnosed with cancer when Frankie was just 7 years old and she still remembers visiting the Hospice to see him, and the counselling sessions she attended after his death.

"Losing Dad so young has shaped my life, and I have been lucky to have Hospice support over many years. When you lose a parent, you lose them forever, and the Hospice counselling services have helped

me come to terms with that. I've felt like there has been a safety net, ready to catch me if I need it, and I will be forever grateful. I have learnt that remembering is part of the grieving process and at Christmas I like to write a special message for Dad on a Light up a Life star, because there's always something new I want to tell him about."

The events are for anyone who is bereaved, not just those cared for in a hospice. You can download a dedication form and a memory star from www.wsbhospices.co.uk, or call on 01483 881752 for further details.

Woking Choral Society Winter Concert: Saturday 6th December at 7.30 pm in the HG Wells Centre in Woking,

Woking Choral Society, under the direction of its conductor Ben Palmer, performs Brahms' great German Requiem.

The choir's performance, which will be accompanied by acclaimed London ensemble the Orchestra of St Paul's, will be sung in German, and features outstanding vocal soloists Filipa van Eck (soprano) and Johnny Herford (baritone). This work is unusual in that the text is in German and is based on the Luther Bible, in contrast to the traditional Roman Catholic Requiem Mass in Latin. Unlike the Latin Mass, it focuses on the living rather than the dead, opening with 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted'. It is by turns serenely beautiful and highly dramatic.

Tickets cost full price £17, students £8, Woking Key card holders £16 per card holder, sales of 10 or more £16 each, and may be booked online at www.wokingchoral.org.uk or obtained from H G Wells Centre Box Office or by calling 01483 767852.

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Notices

Goldsworth News volunteer editor needed

I have been editing the Goldsworth News since the beginning of 2014. I work full time and cannot really do the magazine justice – my apologies to all those people who have had to wait for me to reply to emails. So my goal from the start has been to build up a strong process that will let someone new step into the editor's shoes. Now that we have launched the new website (ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk), I am going to switch my focus to posting updates there and I need someone to take on editing the magazine. I will continue volunteering as managing editor so I can give the new editor support as they learn the process. We could also have rotating editors – a new person each edition or a group of people who take it in turns – so if you would like to be involved temporarily, that is also an option. If you are interested, please contact me at goldsworthnews@yahoo.co.uk. Regards, Jeremy Hodge.

Lakers achieves Quality Mark Level Three

In past editions of the Goldsworth News Lakers Youth Centre have mentioned in their updates that they've been working towards the National Youth Agency's Quality Mark Level Three. We're delighted to be able to tell you that they have now achieved this award. They will be celebrating with an awards evening in December.

Woking Bridge Club

Following its move to bright, modern premises on Goldsworth Park (the Dianthus Building), Old Woking Bridge Club has just renamed itself Woking Bridge Club. Duplicate pairs is played twice a week, on Tuesday evenings and Wednesday afternoons, in a friendly and relaxed – but competitive – manner. Visitors and new members of all standards are always most welcome. Visit www.oldwokingbridge.co.uk.

Kym Eastwood 1974 - 2014



It is with great sadness that we announce that Kym Eastwood has passed away after a brave battle with cancer.

Kym was born and brought up in Woking. After leaving home, she remained very close to her family who have all been involved with Goldsworth Park and the GPCA for many years. She naturally joined them in this interest and became a staunch supporter of the GPCA too; many of you who have hired the hall at Goldwater Lodge for a party will have met her presiding very professionally behind the bar.

She was always a very cheerful person with a warm and caring personality. There was also a tough streak, which stood her in

good stead in her role as bar manager. She remained positive throughout her illness and while she was receiving treatment she was planning the improvements she wanted to see in the bar when the Hall reopened. She will be greatly missed as a daughter, sister, mother and grandmother, and as a friend and colleague.

Waste and recycling questionnaire



Woking Borough Council has asked us to share the following letter with you.

Dear resident,

I am writing to ask for your view on the Council's waste and recycling services. This questionnaire is aimed at continuously improving the existing services.

In the ten years since the Council fundamentally changed its approach to household waste collection with the introduction of wheeled bins and alternating weekly collections, the level of recycling has increased from 19% in 2003/04 to 59% in 2013/14.

This is still not enough. More than half of what is being thrown into the black bins could be recycled using the blue bins and food caddies provided. This costs half a million pounds more, each year, than it would to recycle the waste. Our aim is to encourage residents to further reduce their black bin waste and recycle the 7,000 tonnes of recyclables currently going to waste each year. This survey will help by telling us

- how satisfied you are with the current service
- what we can improve and
- how to plan for future re-tendering of the service contract.

All completed surveys will be treated in the strictest confidence and will only be used to appraise our waste and recycling service.

Please take part by completing the questionnaire www.woking.gov.uk



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Horsell Bowling Club raises money for charity by Tricia Nigh



Club Captain Heather Nice and Ladies' Captain Tricia Nigh, presenting a cheque for £1220 to Marine Warrant Officer George Dent at Headley Court Medical Defence Rehabilitation Centre, Leatherhead

The Captain's Charity this year was the Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Leatherhead. The Club Captain, Heather Nice, collected for the centre since the beginning of the season in April 2014. Members and visitors to the club were asked to donate their small change at the end of the after match meal and the pennies soon mounted up.

In August, club members took part in a Charity Drive and Games of Skill to raise funds for the charity. This was a very enjoyable day, with members and friends taking part in bowling related games, followed by a short match, tea and a raffle. Thanks to the generosity of the bowlers the amount raised was £320, which brought the total collected to £840. Further collections until the end of the season raised the Grand Total to £1220.

The cheque for £1220 collected for the Captain's Charity, was presented to Marine Warrant Officer George Dent at Headley Court Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre, Leatherhead by Heather Nice on 26th September.

This money will be placed in the DMRC Benevolent Fund, which purchases special goods and services for the patients while they undergo their rehabilitation programmes over and above the usual facilities provided by the public purse. A tour of the centre and the facilities available was very illuminating and showed how much is done for injured service men and women.

If you feel that you would like to know more about Horsell Bowling Club and lawn bowls, please phone Tricia Nigh 01483 760170 or email tricia.bowls.horsell@gmail.com.

Happy ending for Bentley the lucky dog by Royer Slater

Reprinted by kind permission from Woking News & Mail

Bentley is one very lucky dog. He now has a loving home after enduring horrendous injuries which led to his rescue and rehoming by the RSPCA.

Bentley featured in the RSPCA Pets' Corner of the Woking News & Mail. Liz Woods of the RSPCA Millbrook Animal Centre in Chobham said: "He still bears large scars but has the most wonderfully loving personality."

Bentley was just the pet Laurie and Gill Hubbard were looking for. The couple from Goldsworth Park had a doggy-shaped holes in their lives and home after the loss of Charlie, their beloved Jack Russell. "We wanted a rescue dog, as Charlie had been," explained Laurie. "I happened to notice a very friendly dog called Bentley at a neighbour's. Bentley came to me and we clicked instantly. I thought at first he was the neighbours' own pet, then learned they were fostering him for the RSPCA.

"I went straight home and told Gill, 'I think we've found our dog!'"

Bentley had suffered terrible burns on his back, shoulder and chest, caused by boiling water or acid. Instead of taking him to a vet, his original owner merely covered the wounds with gaffer tape, which made the injuries worse.

"Bentley lost layers of flesh and required lots of medical treatment by the RSPCA," explained Gill. "Despite all he endured, he's exactly the friendly, loving creature described in the News & Mail."

Laurie contacted RSPCA Millbrook to offer Bentley a home. "They had to check us out first," he recalled. "The inspector especially wanted to be sure Gill could cope with Bentley as she's in a wheelchair. So we started to take him for a walk. Bentley didn't let us down – he went straight to Gill and gave her a big sloppy kiss!"

"After 50 yards, the inspector said: 'No problem – he's yours!'"

Bentley featured in a recent RSPCA media campaign highlighting a 14% increase in animal cruelty in Surrey, from 35 cases in 2012 to 40 last year. It led to Laurie and Gill being photographed by newspapers at their Goldsworth Park home and Laurie being interviewed by BBC Surrey for a radio feature, broadcast in the station's breakfast show.

Bentley has had a very lucky escape from cruelty. The RSPCA's Liz Woods hit the spot in the original newspaper report, saying: "His new owners will absolutely love him." And it's clear Bentley is returning that love to Laurie and Gill!

If you have space in your life to give a rescue animal a second chance, visit www.rspca-millbrook.org.uk.





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

Protect yourself from burglaries

Since our last update, we have experienced a small number of burglaries in Goldsworth Park. This is an issue we are experiencing borough-wide. In response, our team have increased patrols in key areas, highlighting potential vulnerabilities in properties to residents. In addition, we have extra specialist teams, including automatic number plate recognition and proactive teams on burglary patrols.

Please consider your home security and put measures in place to reduce your chances of becoming a victim. This could be through the use of security lighting or alarm systems. We recently made a series of posts on social media with regards to burglaries, using the hashtag #BeatTheBurglar. If you have time, visit our Facebook page for more information and advice. As always we encourage residents to visit www.immobolise.com where you can mark property and valuables linked to your address.

The next Police Panel Meeting will be at 7pm Thursday 20th November in the Dianthus Building. We remind residents that it is an opportunity to discuss Police issues. Emails to Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, posters and posts via social media will go out shortly.

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

A personal view by Royer Slater



I've loved singing for as long as I can remember. And the thrill of getting my first guitar and accompanying myself! (I was 12, by the way, and I still play sometimes at St Andrew's!) Singing makes you feel good. It releases endorphins, the brain's "feel good" chemicals, so lifts the mood and relieves stress. And, it appears, choral

singing has the most dramatic effects on people's lives. An Australian study in 2008 revealed choral singers rated their life satisfaction higher than the general public. But the rigours and rules of choral singing in "rock" or "classical" choirs aren't to everyone's taste.

So I was thrilled to hear about SingGwP, Goldsworth Park's own community choir. The emphasis is on having fun singing with others, and you learn the songs by ear.

"Even if you think you can't sing, you can come along and have fun," said Malcolm Herbert, who launched and leads SingGwP. "Ability isn't as important as a willingness to have fun – but you may surprise yourself!" There are no auditions, just turn up (as I did) any Tuesday at 7.30pm in the Coffee Shop lounge at St Andrew's. For more information, call Malcolm on 01483 480425 or visit the SingGwP page on Facebook.

Christmas is when many people who never otherwise sing with others come together to sing carols. In previous

years, a group of singers from St Andrew's has raised festive cheer both outside and within Waitrose – give them a smile if they do so again this year! Everyone can join in song at the church's "Carols by Candlelight" service, a magical occasion and, for me, an unmissable "lift-off" to Christmas – this year it's on Sunday 16th December at 6.30pm. If you have children, don't miss the family carol service and nativity on Christmas Eve at 3pm. St Andrew's also has its usual Midnight Communion at 11pm on Christmas Eve and a Family Celebration at 10am on Christmas Day.

Marketers aim to manipulate us at Christmas by creating frenzy for spending money we can't afford on stuff we

(and those we love) don't really need. I beg you to discover and celebrate

"the reason for the season" and release "feel good" chemicals this

Christmas with some hearty carol singing.

Let's sing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

and celebrate what it means. Happy Christmas!



Hawks and Eagles flying high for Goldsworth Park Rangers Football Club by Simon Barron



GPR Eagles



GPR Hawks



GPR U12 Sapphires

Last weekend the football club welcomed its two newest teams to the pitch, the under-7 Hawks and the under-7 Eagles, playing in their first ever matches.

The boys and girls are in their first season of playing football for the club, having been through GPR's thriving under-6 youth development programme over the last couple of years. They train at Goldsworth Park on Saturdays and play matches in the Surrey Primary League on a Sunday morning. Under the FA's new youth development guidelines, under-7 teams play five-a-side football, on appropriately sized pitches with small sized goals. This gives all the children plenty of opportunities to get involved and they are all loving playing football.

Their first games were certainly entertaining matches. In an end-to-end rollercoaster of a match, the Hawks narrowly lost 7-6, with the Eagles going goal crazy in their match to run out 13-1 winners.

Their coach Rob Gay commented, "It is great to see the boys and girls have so much fun on the pitch while developing as footballers. At this age, although it is nice to

win, the emphasis is on the kids enjoying themselves and learning new skills." The boys and girls are sure to all agree as they continue their football education at Goldsworth Park Rangers this season.

Chairman Lee Swain added, "It is always a fantastic sight to see the young boys and girls starting their football careers and enjoying themselves on the pitch. It is testament to the hard work that our under-6 youth development coaches, Ellie Beagley and her team, put in with the youngsters that we have so many children having fun at the club and coming through to play matches with us."

Lee added "The children in our under-6 youth development are the future of the club and we always welcome new players, in year 1 or below at school."

The 3- to 6-year-olds train every Saturday morning from 10 to 11 at Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground. If you're interested either come down or email chairman@gprfc.org. The sessions are run on a pay-and-play basis, with no joining fee. The cost is just £2 per session to cover admin, insurance and equipment costs.

Goldsworth Park Rangers is looking for girls interested in playing football

As the song goes "Girls just wanna have fun" and nowhere is that more true than at Goldsworth Park Rangers FC. The local football club runs a thriving girls' section which meets for training on Goldsworth Park recreation ground every Saturday. They also have teams at under-12 and under-14 age groups playing league matches every Sunday.

The club are now in the process of setting up a team at the under-10 age group – for girls in year 4 and 5 at school – and are looking for players to join the team. However, new girls are always welcome at any age group. For younger age groups the girls also have the chance to play in mixed-sex teams at the club.

Any girls interested in joining in the fun should email chairman@gprfc.org.

Free hearing aid maintenance

NHS hearing aid users can soon make use of a free maintenance service for their devices on Goldsworth Park. NHS-trained volunteers will provide battery replacement, re-tubing and general maintenance for the aids on the first Wednesday of each month. "People with NHS hearing aid problems can drop in any time between 1pm and 3pm at the Coffee Shop Café in St Andrew's Church," said a spokesman. "There's no need to make an appointment but they should bring their brown NHS book."

"We are initially offering the service monthly, but may offer sessions more frequently if there is a demand.

"Apart from a flat battery – which we can replace if necessary – the most common problems with NHS hearing aids are caused by the tubing. It might be blocked by wax, or its plastic may have deteriorated which affects the sound. In most cases we will fit new tubing: it's a good idea to do this every six months or so in any case."

St Andrew's Church is located between the health centre and the shops at Goldsworth Park Centre.

Don't forget the GPCA have a new website
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

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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.

With such warm weather throughout much of the year, both flora and fauna have been exceptionally busy. From mighty oaks to blades of grass, growth has far exceeded the norm, while birds, insects and mammals, large and small, have been raising families and getting fat on the abundance of food that nature provides. But come the winter months, wildlife that doesn't hibernate or migrate to warmer climes has to face lean times and, sadly, many won't survive.

Fortunately, we are a nation of animal lovers, and many thousands of us help to make up the winter shortfall of food by creating bird tables and feeders in our gardens or making regular trips to the lake armed with bags of bread for the wildfowl. This is commendable, but there is a downside. With your garden feeders, you are the only provider probably putting out wholesome, good quality food specially designed to provide a balanced diet for small birds, but this is not the case when we feed the ducks and swans on the lake. "One or two slices of bread won't do any harm" you might think, but the lake has many visitors and feeding the ducks is one of the most popular pastimes, especially for families with children. While this is great fun and an excellent way for youngsters to get close to nature, there is a downside; bread in such large quantities is not good for the birds as it offers no true nutritional value AND it attracts unwanted wildlife – RATS.

I have no desire to discourage anyone from feeding the birds, as they have come to rely on us for a treat, particularly in the winter. All I ask is that, before you save up all that unwanted bread, often past its best, you consider other forms of food that will be more beneficial. A slice or two of wholemeal bread – not white bread – is OK, but most pet shops and garden centres stock wildfowl pellets or corn at very little cost, which will give our ducks and swans a treat and lots more nutritional value. And remember, always throw food onto the water and NOT on the banks – feed the ducks, not the rats!

Rats, like the other wildlife, have had a successful year, rearing many families; they are a part of the wild scene but a part that most of us could do without. The Council has a programme of control in place but this has had little effect on numbers so we must help by cutting their food supply. So don't leave food meant for the ducks on the bank, and if you have a picnic, make sure you pack up all the leftovers. There are plenty of bins around or, better still, take your rubbish home to dispose of – keeping our open spaces litter and food free will help to keep them RAT FREE.

Unfortunately, we have another unwanted species in Goldsworth Park. It has come to our notice that some very foolish person has released some catfish into the lake. Apart from the fact that it is a serious offence which carries a heavy fine to introduce any non-native species into the wild, it has adverse effects on the environment. The species in question is the WELS CATFISH (*Silurus glanis*), a native of central and eastern Europe. A formidable predator, they are capable of growing to huge proportions, and individual fish have been known to exceed 9ft long and weigh several hundred pounds. They're hermaphroditic, meaning they can breed regardless of what sex they are.

We have notified the Environment Agency and have been advised that we must take steps to remove them; any angler who catches a catfish and returns it to the lake is open to prosecution. Due to the size and depth of the lake, netting them is not an option, leaving rod and line our only choice. The message to all anglers on the lake is clear – if you catch a catfish, DO NOT put it back but put it in a keep net, landing net or carp sling and report immediately to a bailiff or the Environment Agency (numbers below), who will arrange for the fish to be removed and rehomed in a Section 30 licensed water.

Bailiffs: 07779 896393
Environment Agency: 01252 729568
Woking Borough Council: 01483 755855

These numbers can also be found on the noticeboard between the car park and the lake. Let's hope that the interlopers can be removed quickly before they eat their way through the fish stocks, or breed.

And finally, I would like to thank the GPCA for their continued support throughout the year and to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Nick Roach



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You are invited to a concert by the Mayor and Mayoress of Woking, Cllr Tony Branagan and Mrs Mary Branagan, featuring the Bourne Concert Band on Saturday 22nd November 2014 at Woking United Reform Church, White Rose Lane, Woking at 7.30pm. Proceeds will go towards the Mayor's chosen charities; Combat Stress, Crossroads Care Surrey and Young Carers at Woking High School. To buy tickets, £10 per person, contact Pauline Jackson on 01483 743025 or email Pauline.jackson@woking.gov.uk no later than Friday 7 November 2014.

Fancy a drink, or meal? Then you might have a look at Woking's winners of the 'Best Bar None' awards, sponsored by Miller Brands UK and organised by Woking Borough Council. Held to reward responsible management of licensed premises in the Borough. A total of 19 local pubs, bars and restaurants registered for this year's scheme. Miller Brands overall winner was The Sovereigns, Woking, which also took the best town centre pub award. For the full list, find the story at woking.gov.uk/news.

A carnival atmosphere came to town as Woking's new covered market was officially opened by

the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Tony Branagan, on Saturday 4th October. Events to welcome the public and traders included cookery demonstrations, singing market traders, children's face painting, and comedy chefs. Food, flower and craft stalls opened to tempt the crowds in Market Walk.

Help Surrey's budget by recycling more plastic Residents are being urged to recycle one extra plastic bottle a week and save the county over £200,000 a year to pay for services such as school places. Only 27 per cent of recyclable plastics – bottles, pots, tubs and trays – are currently being recycled in Surrey's households, and the county council is supporting the national Pledge 4 Plastics campaign urging residents to recycle more.

Goldsworth's Green-fingered gardeners were among the winners at this year's Woking in Bloom and Allotment Awards. The winners included Brockhill Sheltered Housing which took first prize in the best kept community (shared) garden; and Mr J Arkinstall, Goldsworth Park allotments who gained first place in the category for the best cultivated plot by someone over 70 as well as third prize in the best cultivated plot in the Borough.

Woking Lions' Project Wenceslas – to help people in fuel poverty



Last year Woking Lions Club raised £3,700 to help those in fuel poverty in our district and this year, with your help, we will continue our Good King Wenceslas theme and raise more money for this good cause.

Our request is to those of you who receive the winter fuel allowance and can manage without it, to pay it into a special account set up by the Citizen's Advice Bureau in Woking. The CAB will then use this income to pay the fuel debt for all local people who are struggling to meet the cost of heating and lighting their homes.

The fund will be controlled by the CAB, and Woking Lions will not be aware on whose behalf the payments are received and made as a matter of privacy. Any cheques should be made payable to "Woking Lions – CAB" and taken or posted to the CAB Office at Provincial House, 26 Commercial Way, Woking GU21 6EN. If you decide to donate, my colleagues and I would like to thank you in advance for your kindness.

Did you miss the news? The GPCA have a new website!
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

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