

Let's Go Fishing

Throughout August, the Goldsworth Park Angling Club held angling teaching days, designed for beginners to the sport, at Brookwood Ponds and Goldsworth Park Lake; it has been a great success with everyone getting lots of bites and catching lots of fish. *continued on page 7*



Lily lands a Bream with Simon

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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 5,000 dwellings and organisations throughout Goldsworth Park and the surrounding area.

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GPCA MEETINGS

The meetings of the Community Association are held at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday in alternate months in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge. The next meeting is on 13th September 2016. All residents are welcome to attend. If you would like to be included on the mailing list for minutes and other information, email chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk or call 01483 714096.

COUNCILLORS' SURGERIES

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

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Views from the Chair



I start this edition's "Views from the Chair" with an early reminder about the GPCA's Annual General Meeting. I know that AGMs sound bureaucratic and boring but they are really vital to the work of a community organisation, particularly a charity like the GPCA. Please put Tuesday, 22nd November in your diary now and come along to the Community Hall at 7.30pm.

The GPCA runs with a small Committee of three volunteers. Other volunteers and part-timers work as and when required and when they can. But our structure is all about to change.

Over the next year or so, the GPCA will move from being a regular charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). At that point we will need more than the three trustees we have now.

I know that many people are put off being a Charity Trustee by the thought of personal liability. But I can tell you that the situation has changed and the new structure will mean corporate not personal liability; that's to say that individual trustees will not be liable for any debts the organisation might incur. If you would like to know more about these plans or the role of a Trustee, please get in touch with me.

Currently, our small team manages the Community Hall, publishes and distributes this magazine, manages the web site, represents the community on various committees, advises and helps individuals who call on us, and campaigns on issues of importance to the community.

We do it because we think that the community and the place where we live are important. If you share that view why not come and help the GPCA; you can spend as much or as little time as you choose - join the Committee; edit or just deliver Goldsworth News; take the lead on issues of public concern - it is up to you. Remember that, without the GPCA, we would not have the notice board outside Waitrose, the wildlife area and kingfisher bank, the public toilet in the recreation ground, new street maps and other benefits to the community.

If you have any issues of general concern or would like to be involved in the work of the GPCA, please contact me through this magazine or by email at chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk.

Irene Watson, GPCA Chairman

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GPCA Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday, 13th September in the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge

Meet the new Police and Crime Commissioner

2.00pm – 4.00pm on Saturday, 24th September in the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge

David Munro will be talking about his vision for the future policing of Surrey and how Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can play their part.

TAKE ON ME

8.30pm on Saturday, 1st October at Woking Leisure Centre and Pool in the Park

– an unexpected location for a live performance, an intimate and comic experience you'll never forget. Find out more at www.woking.gov.uk/TakeOnMe

GPCA AGM

7.30pm Tuesday, 22nd November in the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge

Your opportunity to hear about what the GPCA has been doing and ask questions, to elect Committee Members and influence the way forward. All residents are welcome.

WHAT'S ON?



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. We will include your name and road unless you ask us not to do so. Please keep letters under 100 words. You can also leave comments on the website: ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

As a mother who lives on the park, my children and I are spending more time outside during the summer holidays. Today we walked from my home to the lakeside playground via the shops and I was absolutely sickened to find dog mess on every footpath we walked and shocked that it was on the footpath right outside the playground gates.

I feel we must have better signs around the lake and have a warden 'doing the rounds' to show presence and produce on the spot fines for anyone not picking up after their dogs. There is no point having signs if no one is around to enforce them. With two young children in tow,

I would not like to tackle someone if I saw them not picking up after their dog as I would not be sure of how they might react.

A suggestion would be to supply poop bags by each bin around the lake and park so there is no excuse for not picking up by 'forgetting' to bring any on walks.

I'm sure people would have something to say if I left my daughter's nappies, full of human faeces, lying around the lake.

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Getting to know you!

Revd Kate Wyles reflects on her first year as Vicar of Goldsworth Park.

Rev Kate Wyles



My first year in the Parish has been one of settling in and getting to know the area and the community. It's been fabulous meeting some of you, whether while out for a walk, at services in St Andrew's – and even while shopping at Waitrose!

There have been many highlights, including:

- Walking my children and the dog to school around the lake through the seasons – we live in a beautiful environment

- Getting to know the children and staff at Sythwood School and Beaufort School events
- "Lighting up a Life" with the Hospice
- Singing carols outside Waitrose
- Watching Casablanca and studying the Bible with residents at Brockhill
- Popping bubbly by the Lake at the sunrise service on Easter Day – and singing in the rain!
- BBQing with children and families after our Polar Explorers' Holiday Club

It has, of course, been good to get to know the church community at St Andrew's. In January we began prayers and conversations about our Sunday services, and are launching two services from September 4th: a **9.45am service** with music led by a worship band and with groups for children and young people; and a **11.15am service** with hymns and songs. Coffee and cake will be served between the two from 10.45am.

Why not come and give your local church a try – we hope you'll find a style of service that will help you worship God. I'm looking forward to welcoming you at **your** church.

For the latest news from St Andrew's visit www.standrewsgwp.org or call the church office on 01483 723879.

Dragons made their presence felt

Woking and Sam Beare Hospices raised a massive £6,000 at the Dragon Boat Fun Day in July; they would like to thank everyone who took part and those who came along to enjoy the spectacle, and contributed so generously. Of particular note are Dianthus Trading, who supported the event in so many ways including serving competitors with bacon rolls for breakfast and the GPCA which provided all manner of refreshments including home-made cakes, and donated £250 from the takings at the bar. Thank you again to everyone concerned.



Irene Watson GPCA Chair, presents Claire Coldicott, WSBH Head of Corporate, Community and Events Fundraising with a cheque for £250.

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Holiday at Home

Twenty-six retired Goldsworth Park residents enjoyed a "Holiday at Home" in August: two days packed with craft activities, games, talks and entertainment, hosted by members of St Andrew's Church.

"The theme was 'Up the garden path' and most activities were related to gardening in some way," explained Val Spratley, who carried the title "Head Gardener".

Val headed a 14-strong team of helpers who supervised the various activities or prepared and served lunches and refreshments. Most guests came for both days. The highlights of the first day were a half hour performance by Sing Gold, the Goldsworth Park community choir, and a slide show talk by gardening expert John Negus who broadcasts regularly as a gardening expert on BBC Surrey and BBC Sussex. A trip to The Savill Garden on the second day, using two Bustler minibuses, was the icing on the cake – or rather the "cream on the scone" because guests were served with a delicious cream tea during the visit!

Said Val, "We've been touched by the many messages of thanks from guests, saying how much they enjoyed the two days."



Jenny Whitten assists Margaret Strudwick and Jeanne Kearney



Gardening skit featuring Peter Wells



Holiday-makers at The Savill Garden

GPCA July meeting highlights

Dragon Boat Fun Day – A great success, both financially for Woking Hospice, and in the numbers of people attending, with minimal impact on the wildlife on and around the lake.

Strong income – Income was reported to be nearly back to the 2012 level, the last full year prior to the fire. Expenditure was down on 2012, and there was a surplus of nearly £10,000; reserves were being built up again.

Editor search continues – No response to the request for a new editor for Goldsworth News which was being edited by Irene Watson. There was a regular website traffic level, but Steve Willson required more input to encourage viewings.

Rat infestation – To tackle the problem, a new rodent control company had been contracted to install bait stations and litterbins with bait boxes.

Master Landscape Plan – WBC expects the report in September or October on the future requirements. They will then update the GPCA on the proposed position regarding the plans for Goldsworth Park. The plan is on hold as a result.

Tailpiece – Swans on the lake now had 3 cygnets; the grebes had chicks and there were various families of coot and moorhens.

Paul's Passion for Plants

Paul Thompson's flower stall has been a colourful sight at Goldsworth Park Centre on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays for two and a half years.

He has an obvious enthusiasm for blooms and plants, but it requires dedication. "It means a very early start. First to buy stock at the flower market, then to set up the stall in time for the shoppers," explained Paul. Paul even visits Holland every few weeks during the spring and summer to choose plants and flowers. "I arrive there in the evening, stop overnight, buy plants and flowers in the morning and then come home," he revealed.

The seeds of his passion for flowers and plants were sown over 20 years ago while still at school. "I helped on the flower stall at Woking Market and also on a flower stall which used to be in Goldsworth Park Centre, which is near where I grew up," recalled Paul.

After leaving school – he attended Beaufort then Winston Churchill Schools – Paul's longing to open his own flower stall went on the back burner while he did other jobs. "Then it struck me there hadn't been a flower stall at Goldsworth Park Centre for a while, and I knew people missed it," he said. "I asked St Andrew's Church if I could set up shop outside its building and was delighted when Richard Cook, the vicar at the time, not only encouraged me but also obtained all the necessary permissions." There has always been a good mutual relationship between Paul and the church. Angela Green, who looks after the church's flower displays, said "Paul goes out of his way to provide flowers and plants for our various church functions, and it's much appreciated



Paul at his flower stall

by all – he's a blessing to our community."

Paul needs help during his busiest seasons of spring and summer. "You might find me being assisted by Phil, Barbara, Nicola or either of two sisters Anne-Marie and Rachel," said Paul. "And there's my dog, Rosie, too – she's very popular and a big draw! It's a shame I lost my 94-year-old nan earlier this year because she would have been so proud to see how the stall has progressed since I started."

Recalling his childhood interest in plants, Paul has several ideas to get today's young people interested and involved in growing things. "Just watch this space!" he said.

In the winter months, when the flower stall is quieter, Paul might be found driving a concrete lorry. "It's what my father did and I followed in his footsteps. But my real passion is running the stall: then I'm in my element, among flowers and plants, and meeting lovely people – I love it!"



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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CHILDCARE

From the Lakeside



■ Roger Westcott is Club Secretary and fishing bailiff working in partnership with Woking Borough Council to oversee fishing, monitor fish stocks and other wildlife, and keep the area generally clean and tidy.

Let's Go Fishing (cont'd)

Professional coaches Richard Charlton and Simon Windsor, registered with the Angling Trust, were hired by the club to deliver tuition in angling each Wednesday afternoon from 2pm to 5pm throughout August. Each participant had an hour of one-to-one teaching on the basic art of angling, after which they were given a goody bag containing a fishing pole, float and line kit, plummet, disgorger, beginner's booklet and a certificate of participation, all of which were donated by Thames Water and the Environment Agency, so many thanks to Will Barnard of TW and Adrian Bicknell of the EA for their support.

Each "trainee" was given the opportunity to bait the hook, cast the line and watch the float for bites while the coaches talked them through the process of drawing the fish to the baited area, and it was not long before the float was bobbing under; everyone caught lots of Roach, Rudd and Bream – some good sized ones too. One young lad caught so many fish we lost count but his catch was not as big as the smile on his face, and it's those magic moments that make fishing events like this so worthwhile. Each fish caught was carefully unhooked and the trainees were shown how to hold a large fish over a padded mat to take that special photo, before it was returned gently to the water. Some of the participants have attended three or four of the sessions, consolidating and developing their skills.

Angling these days is not just about catching fish, it's also about caring for the environment in which we fish, the wildlife and, of course, the fish themselves. That is why it's so important that we, as seasoned anglers, share our knowledge and experiences with future generations.



Sophie caught a 4lb Bream with Simon



Coaches Simon and Richard with Olivia and Grace



Kamil caught a Roach with Simon



James caught a Roach with Richard

Careline Community Alarm service

A stranger lurking outside, a slip in the bathroom or a nasty bout of flu. Knowing that help is at hand with just a press of a button is so reassuring if you're older or disabled.

Woking Borough Council's Community Alarm service is part of the Living Well scheme designed to help older and vulnerable residents to stay safe, secure and living comfortably in their own homes.

Careline is an alarm unit installed in your home that is activated by an alarm button worn discreetly on your wrist or around your neck. Care and support is available day and night throughout the year, whether you are indoors or outside in the garden.

Careline is quick and easy to install and the cost, from as little as £4.10 a week, includes free installation, servicing and maintenance as well as customer care visits. Discounts are available for people in receipt of means tested benefits and our Careline staff can advise whether you may be eligible for an Attendance Allowance to help pay for the service. Careline staff are all experienced and security checked. A free 12-week trial is available for people who have recently been in hospital – installation of a community alarm can help to speed up early discharge from hospital – or who have been victims of distraction burglary.

June Brine, a Careline customer, explains: "I have neck and back problems which mean that when I fall I find it really hard to get back up again. I have been using the alarm service for two years and have pressed the button three times. A voice came through the speaker and said 'Hello Miss Brine, how can I help you?' I felt so relieved to be able to tell someone what had happened. They called the paramedics who used a key from the key safe to enter the house. The paramedics picked me up and made sure I was alright before they left." June also values the regular customer

care visits too. She says: "I live alone and I look forward to my visits. One time I was feeling quite miserable because I don't have any family and no-one else had remembered my birthday when the Careline lady came by with some flowers and a card. It made my year!"

Careline also supports a range of telecare sensors such as smoke alarms, incontinence alerts and gas detectors.

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Neighbourhood Watch Schemes

(Part One)



Are you a participant in a Neighbourhood Watch scheme in your road? If the answer is no perhaps this is because you don't know much about it. Hopefully this article, which is the first of two, will fill in some blanks and catch your interest.

Tony Kremer is Chair of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (WAN) and he, together with his committee, oversees and supports 265 watches in the Woking area. This figure represents just 20% of all the roads in Woking so there are many more roads that potentially could be covered by a Watch scheme.

WAN is most concerned with getting news out to watches and communicating their concerns to the Police. They also start new watches. WAN meets monthly, and every other month it either writes to or meets up with the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators of existing schemes in the Woking area. This committee is also part of the Surrey wide network of Watches where two representatives from each borough attend quarterly meetings. The purpose of these meetings is to share ideas and best practice and receive reports from the police on current issues of concern, etc.

The way the organisation works has changed very recently, the intention being for there to be more control over the Surrey

schemes so there is greater uniformity, and to address any possible weaknesses.

The police now operate dedicated neighbourhood teams focusing on longer term issues such as problem families and area response teams for urgent calls. It is through these teams that policing of individual neighbourhoods is achieved. Communication is, of course, key and a new type of messaging system is being adopted so that email alerts can be sent not just by the police, but also the Fire & Rescue Service and Trading Standards. Being a recipient of this type of information is just one of the benefits of being part of a Neighbourhood Scheme.

As you may know, a new Police and Crime Commissioner, David Munro, was elected in May this year. He will be coming to Goldwater Lodge on Saturday, 24th September from 2pm until 4pm to give a talk on his vision for the future policing of Surrey and how Neighbourhood Watch Schemes can play their part. This meeting is open to residents of Goldsmith Park so feel free to go along and learn more – if interested, contact Tony at Chair@wanw.org.uk.

In Part Two we shall look at how to go about setting up a scheme and the benefits of being a member, so **watch** this space!

Calling all Carers!

Did you know that Woking has a Carers Choir? If not, and you are a carer who likes to sing, this choir may be just right for you. It is open to all carers, whether caring for a family member, part of a neighbourhood care scheme or working in a care home, and it is looking for new members.

The Choir was formed in November 2014 by the Surrey Arts Partnership together with Surrey Music Hub. It is aimed at like-minded carers who have a keen interest in singing. Your singing ability does not matter and you do not need any previous musical experience. What is important is that it is a light-hearted, fun and relaxing way to spend some time away from caring responsibilities. What's more, there is no doubt you will benefit from the peer support, increased health and wellbeing and companionship that being a member will offer to you.

The Choir meets for rehearsals on a Monday at the Vyne Community Centre in Knaphill from 11am – 12pm (term time only) and sing folk and contemporary songs from Britain and



around the world. There is currently a core membership of 10 – 15 people. A small fee applies.

For more information, contact Tara Stevenson, Arts Development Officer at Woking Borough Council, at arts@woking.gov.uk or on 01483 743696. She would love to hear from any carers who would like to take this opportunity to do something a bit different. So, if you or a friend or relative looks after someone as a carer and enjoys singing at any level, get in touch with Tara and start singing at the Vyne when the new term starts in September.

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An Introduction to Waitrose

Fran Siwicka, Store Manager



Lauren Fitts, Community Matters



There used to be a very small coffee bar in the Brompton Road, London, whose cheeky line in their advert read – “Harrods is near us”. On that basis, Waitrose is next to the Hospice Shop in Goldsworth Park. We all know that, of course. What some people may not know about is their commitment to community projects locally and nation-wide.

You have probably collected a green token and deposited it in the glass box near the door, but do you know how the system works, where the money goes or how it is allocated?

There are three different chosen charities each month and £1,000 is distributed between them, based on the number of tokens deposited in each section. In the same way that the Royal Mint doesn't actually count new £1 coins but weighs them, the green

tokens are weighed and the £1,000 is divided up accordingly. So, although the money is given by Waitrose and, ultimately, by the staff (Partners), it is you the customer who decides where it goes. It is the same for every branch, even the smallest, right across the country. These donations really make a difference to local projects, from supporting youth clubs and local schools to providing care for people with life-threatening illnesses.

There is a second commitment about which the public probably knows somewhat less. Also under the general heading of Community Matters, this is “Partner Volunteering”, where staff at each store give of their time to help projects in the area. This year, Partners from Goldsworth Park and other local branches participated in a joint volunteering project for the Therapy Garden in Normandy.

Additionally, they have supported many local charities who have appealed for raffle prizes and stock donations. They are major contributors to the Trussel Trust National Food Bank, encouraging customers to contribute through food depositories in the store. Furthermore, there are individuals who have their own commitments – one young staff member giving up his Christmas preparations every year to play Santa Claus at the Woking Lions Club appeal.

So, if you know of a charity, good cause or community project which could benefit from a donation or a few helping hands at the right moment, pop in, get an application form from the welcome desk just inside the entrance and who knows what might transpire.

PS – A Waitrose Prize

A Goldsworth Park regular has won the national prize offered by Waitrose in its ‘Customer Feedback’ programme. Each time you visit the shop, you have the opportunity to rate the service you get. This enables Waitrose to see if and where it's going wrong and to make improvements where necessary.

To encourage customers to participate, there is a regular prize draw for £500 of John Lewis vouchers. This time the lucky winner is a regular shopper at the Goldsworth Park store, Mrs Jean Crockford, who visits the area regularly to participate in a local ‘keep fit’ class. She is absolutely delighted with her win. “It couldn't have come at a better time.” she says “I was thinking that I needed a new note-book or lap-top. This has solved the problem. My husband will be very pleased to get his computer back!”



Jumping Josephine!



In a follow up to our article on Strollers in the last issue, we would like to say congratulations to Jo Siggins, chairman of the charity that runs the drop-in centre and a volunteer there, too. To celebrate her 80th birthday, she sky-dived from 10,000 feet over Salisbury Plain! We wonder what she has in mind for her next adventure.



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