ROLDSWORTH NEWS

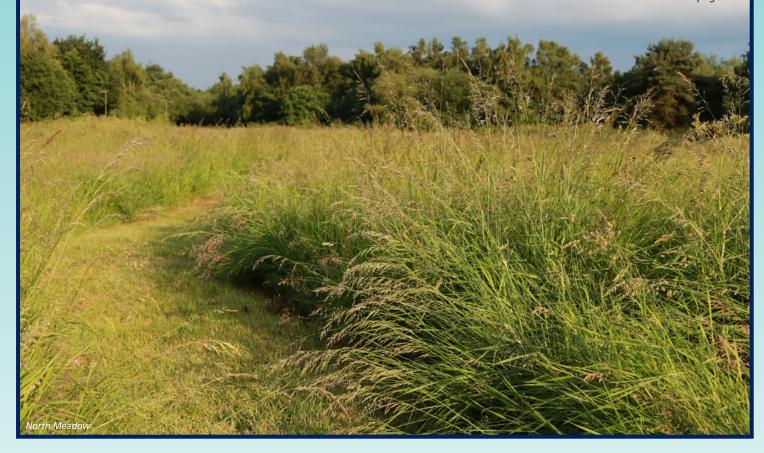


www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Natural Goldsworth Park

Over the past twenty-five years, there have been many discussions with the Council about the land to the north of the lake. Consistently, the preference expressed by the majority of residents is for a wetland area and a wildflower meadow that extends the natural habitat provided by the lake and the woodland. Representing these views, the GPCA now proposes to establish a formal project, Natural Goldsworth Park, with the aim of ending the uncertainty and making this long overdue vision a reality.

continued on page 3



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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.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Irene Watson, Michael Farlam, Malcom Head, Royer Slater and Robin Spice editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Published by the Goldsworth Park Community Association Designed and printed by Knaphill Print

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DISTRIBUTION

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Copy for the next issue in Jan/Feb must be submitted by Friday, 9th January 2017 By post: 37 Willowmead Close, Goldsworth Park GU21 3DN. Email: editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

GPCA MEETINGS

The meetings of the Community
Association are held at 7.30 pm on the
second Tuesday in alternate months in the
Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge.
The next meeting is on 7th January 2017.
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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Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

In this "View from the Chair', I start with a final reminder about the GPCA's Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd November 2016 in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge.

In the last issue, I explained how the GPCA is planning to change its structure to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) and that it will need more than the three trustees there



are now. Please think carefully about whether you or someone you know could make a contribution to the community by becoming a committee member/trustee and use the nomination form that you will find in this magazine. If you would like to know more about the plans for the GPCA or the role of a Trustee, please get in touch with me.

I also explained that, as well as managing the Community Hall, publishing and distributing this magazine, managing the web site, representing the community on various committees, advising and helping individuals who call on us, the GPCA also campaigns on issues of importance to the community. You will see, from the front page, that the GPCA has an exciting new project – Natural Goldsworth Park – which grew out of the community's response to the Council's proposed landscape plan for Goldsworth Park Recreation Ground. Many of you made your views known quite strongly and we look forward to working with you as this project develops.

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 on **chair@ourgoldsworthpark**. **org.uk**.

Irene Watson, GPCA Chairman

continued from front cover...

Earlier this year, the Council approved its Natural Woking – Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Strategy (2016). The Strategy identifies many factors which threaten the borough's biodiversity and green infrastructure, including habitat loss or damage through development and through lack of management. The strategy stresses the importance of having a network of multi-functional green space capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. By supporting this strategy, the GPCA wants to ensure that the only "natural" part of Goldsworth Park remains just that.

We know from recent surveys that there are over 90 species of plants and 11 varieties of bee to be found in the area. We know that around 100 species of birds have been seen around the lake and open areas; 5 species of bat and 14 species of dragon and damsel fly have been recorded. We also know that the Council has successfully increased the presence of wildflowers in other parts of the Borough including White Rose Lane, Hoe Valley Park and Westfield Common. The GPCA is aiming, therefore, to work with the Council to repeat this success in the North Meadow, and to provide support and input for the wetlands development. This project aims not only to improve and maintain a healthy eco-system on which our wild life depends, but to provide residents with a natural space that they find both visually stimulating and tranquil, as a respite from the stresses of day-to-day pressures. We know, from the recent petition (North Meadow), that a significant number of you value and currently use this area for informal recreation and enjoyment. Its potential loss is a matter of great concern to you. We know what can be done if there is vision, passion and determination to succeed. Look

at what Roger Westcott has achieved around the lake. By inspiring other volunteers and persuading the establishment to support his project, the lake banks have been stabilised, thousands of reeds, rushes, flag-iris, etc. planted, a wildlife area fenced off and hedge planted, and a kingfisher bank built. The community will need to demonstrate these same attributes for this project to ensure that our shared vision for Natural Goldsworth Park is realised.

You will have an opportunity to meet GPCA representatives and ask further questions at our AGM on 22nd November. We look forward to your support and meeting you then.

Litter-pick and clean-up

10.00am - 12 noon on Saturday, 12th November 2016 around Goldsworth Park



Remembrance Day Service

10.00am on Sunday, 13th November 2016 in St Andrews Church followed by the Act of Remembrance at 10.45am outside the Health

Centre in Goldsworth Park and refreshments in the Church Hall at 11.30am.

Arts & Craft Fair

10.30am - 5.00pm on Saturday, 19th & Sunday, 20th November 2016 at the Lightbox, GU21 4AA

GPCA AGM

7.30 - 9.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd November in the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge, GU21 3RT

Taste of Wisley Harvest Fest

10.00am – 4.30pm every day until 30th November at Wisley Gardens, GU23 6QB

WHAT'S ON?

Santa Fun Run in aid of **Woking & Sam Beare Hospices**

10.00am on Sunday, 11th December 2016 at Mercedes Benz World, Weybridge, KT13 0SL

Woking Big Indoor Flea Market & Collectors Fair

9.00am – 3.00pm on Sunday, 11th December 2016 at Woking Leisure Centre, GU22 9BA - admission: £2.50

Cor! By Gum! Zarjaz! The Story of British **Comics So Far**

10.30am - 5.00pm on Tuesday to Saturday and 11.00am - 4.00pm on Sunday until 31st December 2016 at the Lightbox, GU21 4AA

EVENTS IN DETAIL

Litter-pick and clean-up

A morning of litter picking and general cleaning up organised by our new Councillor, Ann-Marie Barker, and our new Neighbourhood Officer, Hannah Jennings, and supported by Waitrose, Costa Coffee and Herbies Pizza. Meet at the Community Hall, Goldwater Lodge at 10.00am on Saturday, 12th November 2016. Gloves, pick-up sticks and rubbish sacks will be provided.

Santa Fun Run in aid of Woking & Sam **Beare Hospices**

Run, jog or stroll the 5k or 2.5k route around the Brooklands area with your family or friends. All participants aged 4yrs+ will receive a free Santa suit and medal, with Santa hats for children aged 3yrs & under. Entrants are also welcome to make or wear their own seasonally themed costume, if they want to stand out from the crowd, and there will be a prize for the best fancy dress.

The family-friendly run is taking place this year on Sunday 11th December 2016 at Mercedes Benz World, commencing at 10am. Registration is now open and will close on Sunday 4th December 2016. Registration fees apply.

A fundraising pack will be mailed to all participants to give handy hints and tips about how to raise as much money as possible in sponsorship. To register or find out more, visit www.wsbhospices.co.uk/santa or call Fundraising on 01483 881752.







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Neighbourhood Watch

(Part Two)

In the last issue of Goldsworth News, we looked at how the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in Surrey is structured. In this issue we give details of how to go about setting up a Scheme and what is involved. Firstly, though, what is the point of having a scheme? What are the benefits? Well – the overriding benefit has to be that it both promotes and strengthens good neighbourliness. It can and does bring people together and provides a framework for supporting vulnerable neighbours at risk from doorstep crime. A Watch is a vital way of alerting the police to such issues as domestic abuse, drug dealing, child cruelty and abuse, and even hate crime.

So, if you are interested in starting a Neighbourhood Watch in your road, what do you need to do? Firstly, you should contact Tony Kremer who is chair of the Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (WAN). He will provide information about schemes in your area, and, if there is an existing scheme, he can help you become a member. If not, and you are willing to take on the role of Street Co-ordinator, assistance will be given on how to initiate a scheme.

You will be supported by WAN throughout the development process and given all the relevant marketing material required to recruit members and get the scheme up and running. Once you have the support of around 50% of households in your road or block of flats, a set-up meeting will be arranged for all

members to attend, typically along with a Surrey Police representative.

As part of the process, official Surrey Police recognition of your scheme is

required. This is achieved by working on a "Four Point Plan":

- **1.** Appoint a Street Co-ordinator (scheme manager) and ideally a deputy.
- **2.** Arrange, through WAN, for the Council to erect Neighbourhood Watch street signs and for individual members' window stickers.
- 3. Encourage post code or SelectaDNA marking of valuables.
- 4. Register the Watch on the OurWatch National database and the Police database called IntheKnow which enables Watches to be alerted to important news and information.

Here in Goldsworth Park any resident wanting to start a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme can have free use of the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge for their set-up meeting.

If this article, or attending the meeting held on 24 September at Goldwater Lodge, has provoked your interest in Neighbourhood Watch Schemes, contact Tony Kremer by email: Chair@WANW.org.uk who is always happy to hear from any resident who would like more information.

Homelink Home Improvement Service



Getting older sometimes means that your house no longer feels like a home but more of an obstacle course. Stairs are difficult to climb and getting in and out of the bath can become a struggle. As well as taking a toll on your physical health, this can be a real worry too.

Woking Borough Council's Homelink Home Improvement service is part of the Living Well scheme designed to help older people or people with learning or physical disabilities to stay safe, secure and independent in their own homes for longer.

Our Homelink team can help you to identify what adaptations your home needs to help meet your changing needs, such as adapting a bathroom into a wet room, so bathing is easier, or installing a stair lift or a ramp to help you to move around your home.

We can give you advice on getting work completed and help you access financial support, such as a Disabled Facilities Grant or Home Improvement Loan, to assist with the cost. If you receive a means tested benefit, you may be able to access funding to help pay for essential repairs which are affecting your health or safety. Whether or not you qualify for financial assistance, we can help you to find a trusted, reputable supplier and organise the work.

Thanks to assistance from the Homelink team, Patricia and Gordon Baggs now have a new stairlift in their home in Woking. Gordon has limited mobility following a stroke and Patricia relied on her son who lives locally to help her to carry him up the stairs.

Patricia explained how pleased she has been with the Homelink Home Improvement service: "The Homelink advisor came out to see us and she looked at our finances and suggested we should apply for a grant to install a stairlift. I was expecting to have to try and find the money for it so it was a nice surprise when she told us we qualified for the full amount. She has been so helpful and it was a huge relief to find out that the Council manage the work, although the lift company have been so good to us. They took us through lots of options as our stairs are quite an awkward shape and I was worried they wouldn't be able to get a stair lift to fit – but they did."

The Homelink advisor also told Mr and Mrs Baggs about other services that the Council offers. Patricia and Gordon have



Mr & Mrs Baggs and their new stair-lift

also signed up for the Careline alarm service. Patricia says "Now I can pop to the shops and know that there's help at the touch of a button if Gordon needs it. I don't feel so alone now."

If you would like to find out more about the Homelink Home Improvement service for your home or for a relative or friend, please call 01483 743668, email **homelink@woking.gov.uk** or visit www.woking.gov.uk/livingwell

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From the Lakeside

3

■ 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.



At this time of year, many of us find our thoughts turning to clearing the garden of this season's growth, picking up leaves and covering our more delicate plants before the long cold nights of winter set in. There is one important job which is often forgotten and that is to clean bird feeders and tables by giving them a good scrub with a stiff brush and warm soapy water, then allow to air dry before refilling with fresh nuts, seeds, etc. This will help control the many diseases birds can get from dirty tables and rotting foods. We all love

to watch the birds - so let's do our best to protect them.

This also applies to when feeding the ducks and swans on the lake; always ensure foods are fresh and wholesome. Good quality grain or bird pellet is by far the best; as you know and as I've mentioned many times before, bread is of no nutritional value, worse still if it is stale, so please, do the right thing for all our wildlife – we have a duty.

Just like our gardens, the banks of the lake also need a bit of TLC at this time of year so, throughout the latter part of October, the angling club held a number of work parties, trimming reeds and briers along the margins, top dressing platforms with wood chip and cutting back overhanging branches. Serco dealt with the larger branches and canopy lifting leaving the more manageable work to our teams of volunteers. This time, we were helped by a group from Virgin Media on one of their community corporate sessions; these hard working volunteers were organised by Zein Shafat, himself a Park resident. To everyone who took part in helping to make our park lake a special place for us all to enjoy – thankyou.

Speaking of the lake, keep an eye out for our family of cygnets. Over the past few weeks, we have seen the first stages of flight – wing flapping and water treading with mum and dad showing them how it's really done and now they are getting airborne. As soon as they are able to fly well, they will face their biggest challenge of all – their parents will drive them away to find their own body of water

to live on as independent swans. You will notice that there are only two cygnets now. One was injured and taken to the Swan Sanctuary in Staines but we hear that it is doing well. It will not be returned to the lake as the other cygnets will soon be banished from the lake, and so the process goes on in preparation for new life come the spring.



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An Introduction to Serco

No-one can miss the bright red vehicles and equipment dotted around the estate at various times. The logo on the side of the vehicles "Cleaner, Safer, Greener" says a lot for their standard of work, even if their over-enthusiastic use of the flashing lights is a bit irritating at times. They seem to keep the lawns, hedges and roundabouts in very good order. Woking is the envy of many a town across the country.

What you may not know about Serco is that, although they are a fairly local based company (Hook in Hampshire), looking after our green bits is not their main activity.





They are an international company with diverse interests and a wide geographical spread. They operate in North America, Europe, the Middle East and Asia Pacific. Their business interests encompass Defence, Healthcare, Education, Environment (that's us), Justice and Immigration, Leisure, Local Government, Nuclear and Science and Transport amongst others.

For example, did you know that they operate seven prisons in the UK and one Immigrant Removal Centre? In Australia, they help the government to run the off-shore detention centres. As well as certain aspects of air traffic control in the USA, Europe and the Middle East, they also implemented the new Boris Bikes in 2010 when Santander took over the operation from Barclays Bank. Talk about one extreme to the other.

Serco manages the UK Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) as part of a consortium with Lockheed Martin and Jacobs. AWE is one of the most advanced research, design and production facilities in the world.

Surprising, really, that they find the time to come and cut our grass, but we're grateful that they do.



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Guiding in Goldsworth Park

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have been running on Goldsworth Park for over 30 years. In 1992, a purpose-built centre for Guiding and Scouting was opened next to St. Andrews Church and many generations have passed through its doors since then, creating fun, laughter and good memories.





We currently have three Rainbow units, five Brownie packs and two Guide groups, which all meet throughout term time on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. The groups provide a fantastic chance for girls aged between 5 – 16 years of age to learn new skills, be creative, make new friends and get involved with the community.

This is all completely run by volunteers and we could not run our units without them. They are a lovely group of adults, who enjoy putting together programmes for the children to get involved



with and making every activity full of fun.

We are currently looking for some extra support with both Rainbows and Brownies on the Park. We welcome anyone who is interested and enthusiastic; no previous knowledge of guiding is needed and it's a great way to get more involved locally.

So if you are interested in giving a couple of hours a week to Guiding, please do get in contact with Hannah Lambart – **gpbrownies4@hotmail.co.uk** or share this with someone who might be interested.

Meet Goldsworth Park's new Neighbourhood Officer

Hannah Jennings joined Woking Borough Council on 19th September as Neighbourhood Officer for Goldsworth Park and Maybury. Previously, she had worked for the NHS, managing a day centre for people with learning difficulties, so she has plenty of experience of dealing with all sorts of people and of managing contracts for services – both invaluable skills for her new role.

She says that she was attracted to the job because it involved getting out and about as well as helping people – her previous job had been largely in one place. Being responsible for two such different neighbourhoods as Goldsworth Park and Maybury

is a challenge and she says that there is a lot more to the job than meets the eye.

Hannah is no stranger to Goldsworth Park as she lives near-by and often walks her dog around the lake and recreation ground. She is very impressed with the improvements to the lake side and is keen to get involved in any future projects. As a start, she is helping Councillor Ann-Marie Barker to arrange a litter-pick and clean-up day on 12th November – see What's On for details.

If you want to contact Hannah, her telephone number is 01483 743702 or you can email her at hannah.jennings@woking.gov.uk







Cessna plane provides a draw at Family Fun Day

There was a buzz around Goldsworth Park in September when a real Cessna light aircraft took pride of place at a free Family Fun Day hosted by St Andrew's Church. Some 200 people from the local community came to the Saturday afternoon event, which featured Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF), a charity providing planes and pilots to help needy people in some of the world's most isolated places.

The A2 Youth & Community Centre was packed with visitors by mid-afternoon. Meanwhile outside on the church lawn the aeroplane and a free bouncy castle for the kids provided a draw for passers-by. Church members served refreshments throughout the afternoon.



Daniel and Leah Rumsey take a flight



MAF Volunteers provided a display and aviation-related activities



Would-be pilots could try out their flying skills on a flight simulator. The prize of a sightseeing trip for two in a light aircraft for the day's fastest safe landing was won by Matthew Rayner, aged 11. Sam Wavish (11) was runner-up, beating Matthew's father John into third place.

Visitors could try on a set of 3D goggles which transported the viewer into a jet aircraft taking part in a thrilling aerobatics display. Meanwhile, youngsters had fun making and flying paper planes.

The Cessna plane and activities were provided by MAF, which enables thousands of aid, relief and mission projects to take place in remote areas. It is one of nine organisations supported by St Andrew's through its outward giving scheme, "Mission Far & Near". MAF provided a display of its work and volunteers were on hand to answer questions. MAF's senior pilot in Papua New Guinea, Michael Duncalfe, spoke at both the 9.45am and 11.15am services at St Andrew's Church on Sunday morning.

For information about St Andrew's Church and its mission support strategy visit www.standrewsgwp.org and www.goldsworthpark.org.uk/mission. To learn more about MAF visit www.maf-uk.org.

In case you were wondering: no, the plane didn't fly into Goldsworth Park Centre! It arrived by road on a trailer.





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Philip Hammond visits the new Woking Hospice site

Philip Hammond MP, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, paid a visit to the new Woking Hospice site at Goldsworth Park Centre in October. As the MP for Runnymede and Weybridge, Mr Hammond was invited to view the new hospice which will serve his constituency in place of Sam Beare Hospice in Weybridge when the specialist palliative care unit moves out of Weybridge Hospital at the end of the year.

Mr Hammond commented: I am very impressed with the way the original building has been innovatively reworked to save costs and I am pleased to see how the new hospice is taking shape.

Mr Hammond was accompanied by the Woking & Sam Beare Hospices Chief Executive Officer Nigel Harding, incoming interim CEO Jayne Cooper and Chairman Marc Riggs.

For details of the project visit www.wsbhospices.co.uk/NewBuild



GOLDSWORTH CARE

Woking Hospice has received £1,000 cheque from Goldsworth Care, presented by the organisation's chair, Mrs Marion Alden, left in the picture and treasurer Mr Peter Roberts, right, and was received on behalf of the Hospice by Nurse Denise Noto. The donation, from surplus funds, was agreed at the organisation's AGM earlier this year.







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Boom! has the same community ethos, the same standards of service and will continue business as usual for existing customers. Just watch out for the new name – Boom! We have a temporary website for now, via West Sussex Credit Union but the new Boom! website will be up and running very soon!

Find out how you can become a borrower and saver. Visit our website **www.westsussexcreditunion.co.uk** or call **01903 257254**.

COUNCIL NEWS

Knock, knock... annual canvassers are out and about

Households who have yet to complete and return

the Household Enquiry Form can expect a knock on the door over the next few weeks, as canvassers will be reminding residents to fill in and send back their forms as part of this year's annual voter registration canvass.

The form asks for the details of everyone over the age of 16 living in each household. Residents are required by law to complete and return the form, otherwise they could lose the right to vote and face a fine of up to £1,000. So far, nearly 70% of the Borough has responded.

Canvassers will now be visiting every non-responding household over the next few weeks to ensure all forms are completed and returned. The deadline for the Council to receive forms is 22nd November 2016.

For more information about registering to vote, please contact Electoral Services on 01483 755855, email **elections@woking.gov.uk** or visit **www.woking.gov.uk/annualcanvass2016**

Have your say on Surrey's Waste Local Plan

Surrey County Council has launched a consultation giving you the chance to have your say on the vision for the new Surrey Waste Local Plan.



It's important that the waste Surrey produces is managed sustainably while working towards sending zero waste to landfill. The new plan will make sure enough land is available so that facilities can be built to manage the waste Surrey households and businesses produce in the most sustainable way.

The new Surrey Waste Local Plan will identify sites or areas that are best suited for waste facilities and plan for all types of waste to be managed sustainably including household, commercial, construction and hazardous, and will set out policies that will guide decision making.

The consultation will run until 25th November 2016 and to find out more and have your say, visit **www.surreycc.gov.uk/ newwasteplan** Paper questionnaires are also available in Surrey libraries and local council offices, or you can request a copy by calling 0300 200 1003.

WOKING

GPCA October committee highlights

Wild flower meadow – Following the decision at the last meeting to support the campaign to keep the North Meadow as a wild flower meadow, Irene Watson had written to Woking Borough Council Ward Councillors, and relevant Portfolio Holders, giving GPCA's views and pointing out conflict between the proposal for more football pitches in Goldsworth Park and the Council's policy on green space and biodiversity. Replies from the Chief Executive and the Green Space Development Officer said that the GPCA would be consulted on proposals from the review of the need for additional sports pitches. It was important that decision-makers realised recreation was more than playing sports; the Council should develop and maintain the meadow as they have done at Brookwood Country Park, Westfield and Mayford.

Parking problem – The worsening car parking situation in Sythwood and Willowmead Close was raised. This was due to the proximity of Sythwood School; although there were supposed to be 20 additional parking spaces for school staff these are not yet available.

Tell the Police – The meeting was told that 'various undesirable individuals' had been seen in the outdoor gym watching or filming children. The Police were aware and residents should use the Police 101 service if they notice anything of this nature.

Gone fishin' – The Let's Go Fishing sessions for beginners had been successful with 46 entrants who had all caught fish and received a certificate. Two children who had caught the most fish received a cup filled with fishing trinkets.

An Open Angling Competition attracted 23 entrants and had produced welcome income for the fishing club. To minimise the impact on the fish stocks and the environment, it was not intended to hold such an event more than three or four times a year.

Cleared for take-off – The family of swans appeared to be doing well and at the time of writing the cygnets should be learning to fly shortly. Unconfirmed reports suggested that Kingfishers were nesting in the banks. This would be investigated when any nests would be empty.

Update on Parking Problem in Sythwood

Surrey CC will shortly approve an order for single yellow lines on both sides of Sythwood between Willowmead Close and the Salvation Army Community Church and prohibit parking for one hour in the middle of the day, and for double yellow lines prohibiting parking at any time opposite Willowmead Close and at the junction of Brookfield and Sythwood. This is not as much as we hoped but, with an additional thirty parking places within Sythwood School grounds, it should go some way to preventing all day parking outside the school and easing congestion when parents and carers do the school run.

Goldsworth Park Community Association Annual General Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday, 22nd November 2016 Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge Wishbone Way Goldsworth Park GU21 3RT

All residents are invited and encouraged to attend the Annual General Meeting of the GPCA to hear about the GPCA's activities, to discuss issues affecting Goldsworth Park and to nominate and/or elect the Trustees/Officers of the Charity.

The current Trustees/Officers are Irene Watson (Chair), Paul Davies (Vice Chair) and Peter Hill (Treasurer). Gerald Smeesters has recently been co-opted onto the Committee and will be standing for election.

To make a nomination, please complete the form below and send it to the Chair at 37 Willowmead Close, Goldsworth Park, Woking GU21 3DN or email your nomination to chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Nomination Form

I wish to make nominations for the following positions:

POSITION	NOWINATION - name	Address / tel.no. / email address
Chairman		
Vice Chairman		
Treasurer		
Secretary		
Trustee/Committee Member		
Nominator's details:		
Name:		
Address:		
elephone No:		
Email:		





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