

GOLDSWORTH NEWS

May/Jun 2017 – Issue 157



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- Inside Brockhill ■ Fly-tipping

NGP NEEDS YOU!

GPCA is pressing ahead with plans to maintain and enhance North Meadow in a major project called Natural Goldsworth Park.



This follows success in a 21-month campaign to save the area from development when Woking Council voted on April 6 to protect the area until 2027.

The project, managed by GPCA committee member Gerry Smeesters, aims to enhance the area and also provide

opportunities for residents and schools to participate in a variety of activities to encourage nature awareness, as well as ecology, meadow and woodland improvement initiatives.

Gerry said: "This is no ordinary project. NGP is a project covering 16 acres of natural land, to

Turn to 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.

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Goldsworth Park GU21 3DN.
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GPCA MEETINGS

Meetings of the Community Association
are held at 7.30pm at Goldwater Lodge.

2017 meetings: January 31;
April 25; July 25; AGM November 7.

All residents are welcome. If you would
like to be put on the mailing list for
minutes and other information,
email chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org
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.

**Ann-Marie Barker (Lib Dem)
Ian Eastwood (Lib Dem)
Chitra Rana (Con)**

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Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

YOU may have seen reports that the Goldsworth Park Shopping Centre is up for sale – for a guide price of £17.4m. The 5.3 acre site has changed hands on a number of occasions since it was first built in the mid 1980s and, to be honest, it has made little difference to residents.

For nearly 10 years, I have been trying to get the number of parking bays for disabled “Blue Badge” holders increased to something nearer the number recommended in “Inclusive Mobility”, a report by the Department for Transport in response to the Disability Discrimination Act, 1995 and to get these bays located near to the Health Centre – such bays should be within 50 metres of the place the disabled person is visiting – all to no avail.

The car park was built with 10 bays for “Blue Badge” holders and this was reduced to seven when some were relabelled as “carer and child” bays, but there should be at least 15 such spaces. My campaign started when the site was owned by Henderson Retail Property and managed by Savills then PNB Paribas, and has continued since it was bought by Ropemaker Properties and managed by JLL.

In the main, we have a good relationship with the managing agents and, recently, they have not done too badly by the centre; they repaired the guttering, renewed the play area and seating, agreed to our Christmas tree, are dealing with a rat problem, and filled in some of the potholes - although the car park needs complete resurfacing which would provide the perfect opportunity for creating the much-needed disabled bays.

No doubt the campaign will continue with the new owners and managing agents, whoever they turn out to be, so watch this space.

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 at chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk.

Irene Watson, GPCA Chairman



@ourgpca



facebook.com/goldsworth.park

NGP needs you!

From Page 1

benefit people and nature and to be undertaken by the community. It will require extraordinary support, commitment and, of course, volunteers to achieve all of our goals in the coming years.

“Please do spare a few moments to visit our web page, ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk/park-life/natural-goldsworth-park/ and browse the Vision Statement. Look at the sub projects. There is something that should interest everyone, from helping with changes to the types of flora and fauna on North Meadow, to woodland management and wetland creation activity. We are currently approaching our local schools at Sythwood and Beaufort to engage and encourage their participation.

“We need your help. The first step is for you to join our mailing list and ask us to provide you with updates. You can also let us know if you want a more active role in the project. Why not tell us your ideas about activities or events that we could organise to encourage people to make the most of this small but beautiful space.

“If you have an interest in nature, the environment or wildlife, experience in similar undertakings, have skills or expertise that may come in useful for our project, now or at a later date, we would really like to hear from you. Send an email to projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

“Working council are as excited about the potential for this project as are the GPCA. Therefore, we will be working in partnership with them. Initially, we need to establish data on the soil conditions and come up with options for establishing a more nature-friendly and diverse habitat. We also need to consider and design proposals for the woodland and wetland. Only then will we be able to agree activity, timescales and start the real project work. “

Martin Slocock, distinguished local botanist, and project Patron, said: “The challenge is now for the Goldsworth Park community to grasp this opportunity and show, during the next 10 years, that it can make the very most of this wonderful opportunity.”

Project volunteers will be available in Goldwater Lodge on Dragon Boat race day, Sunday June 25, to answer any questions and hoping to recruit helpers.

- Our priority is for volunteers with a knowledge of soil analysis and suitable flora for a meadow environment.

Centre attracting fly-tippers

FLY-TIPPING is an ugly practice, and costly to us all because the cost of clearing it is borne by the local council and charged back through taxes.

Rubbish dumping happens nearly every day in the Waitrose car park at Goldsworth Park Centre, where the area around the recycling bins is regularly fouled by sacks of cardboard and paper, bottles, clothing/textiles and toys. Even large household items including old beds are being left there.

The debris also includes bags of food waste. It's obvious rats, foxes and wildlife have enjoyed these as the contents become spread around the nearby area.

Everyone must have got the message that we need to recycle as much waste as possible. The kerbside collection is a great way to recycle a wide range of items from the comfort of your own home. Some things – tetra-pak cartons, general drinks cartons, textiles, CDs and DVDs can't be placed in the

blue recycling bin, but you recycle them at the recycling site located near Waitrose.

Andy Denner, Marketing Communications Manager at Woking Council told Goldsworth News: "All materials left in the banks there are collected, sorted and then used by the named charity or organisation to raise valuable funds.

"So be careful what you put in them. Any non-recyclable materials will contaminate what's already there, meaning that the great work of many could be ruined if the materials cannot be recycled and must go to landfill.

"The recycling site is not somewhere to dump excess general rubbish, such as food waste or large household items. Not only does it make the area unsightly and possibly attract vermin, but anyone dumping their waste runs the risk of prosecution for fly-tipping. These types of waste should be taken to the Martyrs Lane Community Recycling Centre where they can be disposed of safely."

If you are one of the many who often produce extra recycling, additional recycling bins are available free of charge from Woking Borough Council. To order an additional recycling bin, email waste@woking.gov.uk or call 01483 755855. You can also find out much more about recycling in Woking by visiting www.woking.gov.uk/waste

ROYER SLATER



DUMPED – illegal waste in the car park

Art brings us together

FRIENDSHIP, coffee, cake, conversation and a little art: that's how local artist Duncan Twigg sums up his Goldsworth Park art group on Monday afternoons.

Duncan said: "It's an opportunity for people to meet and chat while painting and drawing. Art is a universal language that brings people together. I started the group two years ago to satisfy the need I saw for people to meet for conversation – the art is a catalyst. Those who've come have developed friendships.

"Presently we have a core group of four who come every week, plus others. The regulars have become a family-type group of friends."

Duncan is a professional artist, when he uses the name Charles Twigg, but he stresses the Monday group is for people with all levels

of ability and of all ages. "You're welcome even if you've never tried to draw or paint before. The important thing is that we enjoy each other's company."

There's no charge if you use your own art materials. If you use materials provided by Duncan they are charged at cost.

You don't need to contact Duncan in advance, just turn up on any Monday afternoon from 1pm-3pm in the coffee lounge at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park Centre. If you'd like more information in advance, email Duncan at charles.duncan.twigg@gmail.com or call 07719 427962.

• To see his blog site visit theartofcharlestwigg.blogspot.co.uk

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Dragon Boats are back

THE new Woking Hospice in Denton Way opened for patients on Tuesday May 23 and as part of their new-build fundraising programme Dragon Boat racing is returning to the lake.

Sponsored by Trident Honda the family fun-day is being held on Sunday June 25. Teams of 12 to 20 will race across the lake in special boats, competing against the clock and each other to win a place in the final race of the day.

There will be lots of other activities to enjoy on the lakeside, including a bouncy castle, ice cream, BBQ, face painting, tombola, plant tent, games, stalls and the popular Pimms tent.

The racing is once again being held in memory of keen Hospice supporter Kris Cook, who grew up close to the lake where he pursued his love of water sports.

To find out more and how to enter a team visit www.wsbhospices.co.uk



Mayoral boost for RSM

WOKING'S Mayor Cllr Anne Murray has praised RSM's Community Support Scheme.

During a visit to the domestic appliance supplier's store in Knaphill she congratulated the company on its initiative of a monthly donation to help those in need.

The Mayor said: "I think this scheme is great. There are lots of challenges in the area and everyone at the moment is short of resources so it's really nice that small local businesses are willing to step in and support local people and local charities. Hopefully it will continue."

Cllr Murray heard about the scheme, launched in January, following a donation in March of seven Blomberg domestic

appliances worth more than £2,000 to Woking Hospice, which is the Mayor's designated charity this year.

RSM Managing Director Steve Haydon said: "I was very honoured that the Mayor visited our Knaphill store and showed such an interest in what we're doing through our Community Support Scheme.

"Small shops are the life and soul of the communities and I'm very passionate about the role we have to play which is why we wanted to do something a bit more tangible to give back to the local community."

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Brockhill's got it all

I IMAGINE that there were quite a few badgers seen around Brockhill's site when it was still a copse. Is that where it got its name do you think?

Now, looking in passing like a cross between a Spanish hacienda and a Norman monastery, it is difficult to appreciate what goes on there in Clifton Way. Of course, we *know* that it is sheltered accommodation for the elderly but to think of it as merely that is to miss out on a valuable asset in the local community.

There is so much more to it. If you're lonely, where the social highlight of your day is a visit to Waitrose or walking your dog, there is a warm welcome waiting for you at the day centre. A coffee bar, a library and friendly faces have to be better than sitting at home alone surely.

Don't get around to cooking just for yourself very often? A balanced diet is important when you're over 45! An excellent lunch is available to pensioners on Monday to Friday from only £4.20 for two courses. Just telephone the day before to say you'd like to come – that's all there is to it. Nail care, foot care, hairdressing, and a supervised, warm relaxing bath for those with mobility problems plus a gentle exercise class occasionally could make your week go a whole lot better. You will be delighted by the help available in all sorts of ways.

You don't have to be a resident to have the quality of your life improved dramatically by Brockhill.

Run by two very cheerful ladies, Support Officers Sally Petrie and Julie Freeland, they will even organise the Bustler for you if you want to go into town. There is something for everyone – even if you just want to sit quietly, have a coffee and do a jigsaw puzzle.

As summer approaches, the prospect of being able to enjoy the lovely courtyard garden, thanks to the green fingers of volunteer John Bailey, is almost too much to bear! Do yourself a favour – the next time you are anywhere near Brockhill, call in for a brochure. You might not see a badger but you may find something much more valuable.

Malcolm Head



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CELEBRATING 15 YEARS OF CHILDCARE

From the Lakeside



■ Roger Wescott is Goldsworth Park Angling Club secretary and fishing bailiff working in partnership with Woking Council to oversee fishing, monitor fish stocks and other wildlife, and keep the area clean and tidy.

ON my almost daily walks round the lake, I've noted a change in the feeding habits of our wild fowl and it's all down to you – yes, you – you know who you are; you are a member of the growing army of responsible people who, instead of saving those leftover slices of bread, have been feeding the birds who have made our lake their home, with bird pellets and seeds.

Well done to you all for making that transition and I'm sure that, if our feathered friends could talk they would thank you too. Please keep up the good work and remind your friends and neighbours "don't feed bread, feed seeds instead and all our birds will be well fed."

I'm sure most of you are now aware that there are more than just a few new additions on the lake in the way of fluffy little balls with legs, moorhen chicks, coot chicks, mallard chicks, grebe chicks, not forgetting five adorable little cygnets; new life where ever you look, but with all this new life we have a duty to respect to their space. Admire them but please do so from a safe distance, particularly if you have young children or dogs, and remember dogs should be kept on leads round the lake.

You may also have noted the absence of the last two cygnets of last year's brood. Our colleagues from Swan Support have taken them to join a colony of juvenile birds on The Queen Mother Reservoir in

Datchet for their own safety as they would have been attacked or even killed by their own parents. Nature is harsh but this will always happen when there is a new brood.

Also, not seen for several weeks, is our little white call duck. We were hoping it had left the lake to nest and would return with its own fluff balls in tow but sadly this does not seem to be the case as too much time has passed. What happened to her we will never know. Her partner remains and seems to have made friends with a pair of mallard for company so at least he's not alone.

Now that the water is starting to warm, WBC has once more placed some forty bales of barley straw into the water to help reduce algal bloom in the water. The birds love the straw, pinching bits for nest building or just for roosting and the fish also take advantage of it for egg laying. All in all, the straw bales are helping to keep the lake a great place to live for all its inhabitants.

And finally, a reminder that our forthcoming Lets Go Fishing teaching program starts on August 2, designed for beginners to the sport or to hone your skills in angling. To take part in this FREE opportunity and book a place please contact me on 07779 896393 for times and details.



*HAPPY BROOD – the lake's new cygnets
Picture: Michael Blignaut*

Support for stroke victims

UNLESS Goldsworth Park is vastly different from the rest of the country, based on the number of households there are perhaps 2,000 or more people who have either had or are likely to have a stroke living in our community.

Everybody will be aware that these can vary in severity from, at the very worst, death or lifelong disability to a mild T.I.A. (Transient Ischemic Attack). Also, the term FAST is familiar, a guide to spotting the signs – Face, Arms, Speech, Time and the need to act quickly if you even think someone is having a stroke. The 'Golden Hour' applies just as much here as in road and other accidents.

Most people who experience a stroke will come between the two extremes. A period in hospital followed by months of follow-up in the shape of physiotherapy and the attentions of the Stroke Association help a great deal but there comes a time when you are on your own, left to your own devices and you need to make a decision on the future course of your life.

Consider the alternatives – sitting at home, reading or watching day-time television, a quiet room, a closed world, feeling sorry for yourself, loneliness, isolation – and how quick would your recovery be then?

But, in the company of friends, things can be a little easier. The answer has to be physical activity, which in turn improves mental capacity. You have to keep pushing to find out where the edge is. The

good news is, the harder you push, the further away it gets.

There are a number of local organisations who can help. One, at the Vyne, is called TALK, a charity set up to help people who developed aphasia after a stroke or other brain injury. The person to contact there is Susan Houston – email: info@talksurrey.org.uk 01784 420371 / 07718 425953.

Another local charity with which I am familiar, offers weekly gym sessions for moderate exercise with access to gym equipment at the weekend – and water aerobics in a private swimming pool midweek. Both sessions are supervised by qualified people. There are other interesting activities available through associated organisations, such as gliding, flying, quad biking, clay pigeon and range shooting and sailing. The sailing comes in two forms, dinghies on a local lake at Papercourt or a sizable, fully crewed catamaran (wheelchair friendly) out on the Solent, great fun and a very invigorating day.

There are pub lunches on a weekly basis and more formal lunches in the summer and winter, each designed to recover some of the social skills and self-confidence which may have suffered as a result of a stroke. The name of the charity is Woking Strokeability. If you would like to know more, call the Secretary, Ben Anthony on 07710 744409 or email secretary@wokingstrokeability.com

Malcolm Head

Elaine's open house

PAINTER Elaine Winter is again opening her house near the lake for viewing of her work as part of the Surrey Artists' Open Studios scheme.

Elaine, who works as a hairdresser, says she gets inspiration for her paintings from views of the lake and the trees that surround it.

An associate member of the Woking Society of Art, Elaine had two of her paintings on show in the spring exhibition at the Lightbox and said: "I was thrilled and honoured to be chosen."

You can view some of Elaine's work on Facebook, Elaine's Art Page, and find full details of the SAOS scheme, which runs from June 3 to 18, on their website surreyopenstudios.org.uk





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School placings

SIX out of seven Surrey children for primary school reception class places this September were offered their first choice school. Figures from Surrey CC for national primary school offer day show that 86 per cent of applicants were offered the school they put first on their list – up from 82 per cent last year. However, junior applications first choice fell slightly to 89.6 per cent down from 90.3 per cent last year. But nobody was left out – all Surrey pupils who needed a place got one.

Dementia support

WOKING BC has signed up to become the country's 300th Dementia Action Alliance. Communities across Surrey are uniting to lead the way to create dementia-friendly communities to support the estimated 16,252 people living with dementia in the county.

Shops on the move

WITH construction works to one of the region's most ambitious retail and residential developments, Victoria Square, due to start soon retailers are relocating. Boots has moved to a renovated retail unit opposite Toys R Us in Bandstand Mall in the Peacocks Shopping Centre. Boots Opticians will open a new standalone practice in the town centre. In addition, Sante Fe Coffee Shop has closed and will move to new premises in Middle Walk, Wolsey Place when refurbishment works are complete.

Safer pavements

ENOUGH footpaths in Surrey have already been given the Pavement Horizon programme treatment to cover the distance from Guildford to Portsmouth by car. Nearly 60 miles of new pavements have been laid so far across the county and a further 200 miles are set to be covered under the programme, which will last up to six years, with nearly 42 miles lined up for improvements next year.



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Reprieve for North Meadow

Woking Borough Council had agreed that North Meadow would not be included in the Playing Pitch Strategy for the next 10 years. Expert advice on soil condition and drainage would now be sought and the next step would be to identify small projects within the Natural Goldsworth Park scheme to develop proposals for funding applications.

Spring bird watch

Activity on the lake included families of swans, moorhens, coots and grebes nesting, but there was little sign of frogspawn this year; amphibians were having a hard time all over the country. An influx of cormorants had decimated the fish stocks, and the Angling Club would consult the Environment Agency before restocking the lake.

Communications team

More contributors were wanted for the Goldsworth News following changes in the editorial team. Contributions were invited from residents. There was a regular level of traffic on the website, the most viewed pages being about Goldwater Lodge hall. A Twitter account for the GPCA has been set up and the Facebook account revived.

Buoyant bookings at Goldwater Lodge

Bookings continued to be good although enquiries were often received at short notice. Regular bookings at weekends were not accepted; it was more profitable to hire the hall for parties with bars. It was time to review hire prices, not done since before the hall reopened in 2014.

Up For Sale

The Shopping Centre and car park for is sale for £17.4million as an investment property. Ownership had changed hands a number of times since construction, with no obvious difference to the shops and the area. It would be necessary to restart discussions about disabled parking bays to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act with the new owners.

No Smoking?

A number of residents had complained about smoking in the shopping centre courtyard. They were concerned about the proximity to the children's playground and the effects of passive smoking as the smoke could linger in the enclosed area. The courtyard is private property and the owners would have to be approached for permission to put up signs. Support should be sought from Waitrose and Boots for No Smoking signs.

Litter pick

About 25 residents, local councillors and Waitrose partners had turned out for a community litter pick in on April 25. Another would be planned for October.



Dear Sir

I am writing to express my concern about people smoking in the courtyard that houses the children's playground in the Goldsworth Park shopping centre. It seems strange to me that this is allowed.

I recently sat on one of the public benches to breastfeed my baby – the benches form the edges of the tiny playground. Four people were smoking outside the Costa coffee shop and one person on a bench on one side of the playground. Wherever I sat I couldn't get away from the smoke and had to abandon plans to feed my baby.

I have contacted Costa and asked them to review their smoking policy, but I do realise not all people smoking by the play area are using Costa so perhaps the other retailers could become involved.

Name and address supplied.

Do you have concerns about passive smoke around the playground. Let us know by emailing editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk or tweet us [@ourgpca](https://twitter.com/ourgpca)

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ST JOHN'S FOOT CLINIC

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King's Men on song

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH is hosting a concert by The King's Men on July 13 in aid of Woking Hospice.

The King's Men are a group of seven choral scholars and an organ scholar from the choir of King's College, Cambridge. They will be performing a varied programme which includes madrigals, sacred music, folk and pop songs, all unaccompanied, and some pieces of organ music.

The choir is world famous for its annual TV and radio broadcasts of Carols from King's.

Start time for the concert on is 8pm and refreshments will be available during the interval. Tickets cost £20 and are available from Woking Hospice's online shop, or you can contact their fundraising team on 01483 881752 for more information.

Squires closing for refurb

SQUIRES GARDEN CENTRE in Littlewick Road is closing on Sunday June 18 for a £3million refurbishment.

It is due to reopen next spring and will feature a new café bar and outdoor canopy along with a doubled-in-size retail area.

Most staff will move to other Squires locations during the construction work and the centre's popular donkeys have been rehomed by the owner in a private field in Chobham.

Hockey pitch gets nod

WOKING HOCKEY CLUB has been granted planning permission for a new synthetic turf playing surface and fencing around the pitch closest to its clubhouse off Wishbone Way.

The club's initial application also included plans for 44-seat spectator stand, but this was withdrawn to speed up a decision on the pitch and fencing which did not need to go to committee stage at Woking Council.

Club Chairman John Hughes said: "Replacing the old sand-based pitch with a modern surface will allow us to coach youngsters in modern playing techniques."

Plans for the stand remain an ongoing project for the club.

Sythwood head retiring

SYTHWOOD headteacher Sue Tresilian is retiring in July after 18 years service. The school are holding their annual Summer Fair in her honour and she is hoping many former pupils attend.

WHAT'S ON?

Football festival

Saturday June 10 and Sunday June 11 Goldsworth Park Rangers FC are hosting their 2017 Community Youth Football Festival on the recreation area. Entry to the event will be £3 per family and refreshments will be available. A BBQ and bouncy castle are planned.

Dragon Boat races

Sunday June 25 an all-day fund-raising event at Goldsworth Park Lake organised by Woking Hospice.

www.wsbhospices.co.uk

Choral performances

Saturday July 22, 7.30pm, Bisley Ladies Choir summer concert at Knaphill Methodist Church, Broadway, Knaphill GU21 2DR. The concert is called Bisley on Stage and will include songs from popular musical theatre such as West Side Story, The Aristocats and Guys and Dolls. Tickets are £10, concessions £5, refreshments included. Tickets available through Brenda, 01483 474911 and Sylvia 01483 725527 or www.bisleyladieschoir.co.uk

Saturday July 8, 7.30pm, Genesis Chorale perform Songs of the Seasons at St John's Church, Camphill Road, West Byfleet, KT14 6EH. Adults £12, students £6. www.genesischorale.org.uk

The Lightbox in Chobham Road, Woking, boasts three art galleries, a museum, cafe and gift shop.

Opening times:

Tuesday – Saturday: 10.30am – 5.00pm

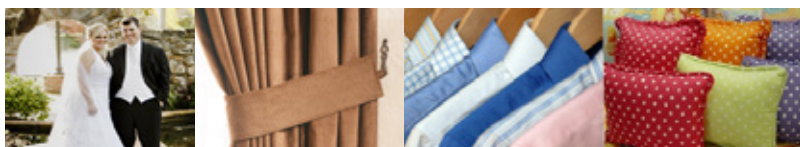
Sunday: 11.00am – 4.00pm

Mondays and Bank Holidays: Closed.

Woking College 10th Annual Art and Design Show, Thursday June 29 to Sunday July 9. Featuring work from A level textiles, photography, applied arts, graphics, fine art and product design. Admission free.

www.thelightbox.org.uk

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