

## In this edition

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- Local pub refurbished
- From the Lakeside ■ Sythwood head retires

# CENTRE SOLD FOR £16.6m

The shopping centre has new owners. Details in Views from the Chair 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.

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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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# Views from the Chair

**IN the last issue of Goldsworth News, I reported that the Goldsworth Park Shopping Centre was up for sale – for a guide price of £17.4m. The sale went through in mid-June and the site was purchased for £16.6m by Christian Vision, a Charitable Trust established by Lord Edmiston in 1993.**

Lord Edmiston is the founder and owner of IM Group and IM Properties which manages investment funds and property on behalf of Christian Vision. He is also a well-known philanthropist.

I am pleased to report that JLL Ltd are continuing as managing agents for the site. I have talked with my contact at JLL since the sale and he told me that he has already spoken to the new owners about the number of disabled parking bays; he is currently investigating options for increasing the number of disabled parking bays and I hope that I can bring you more news on this topic soon.

On a different topic, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Roy Anders and his wife Win who, after many years cleaning our Community Hall, have finally decided to retire. Those of you who know Roy will know that he is an avid Carp fisherman; I am sure Win agrees with the saying: "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day – teach a man to fish and you'll be rid of him for the whole weekend!" We all wish them both a long and happy retirement.

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](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk).

Irene Watson, GPCA Chairman



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# Don't risk a dip in the lake

HOT summer weather makes our lake an attractive venue for recreation and most residents and visitors use the wonderful amenity responsibly, keeping a watchful eye over toddlers and keeping dogs under control on leads.

The minority who do indulge in anti-social behaviour include a group of young people who choose to ignore the No Swimming signs and use the lake as a substitute for the Pool in the Park or Guildford Lido.

Swimming in lakes and rivers is inherently dangerous and those who take the plunge put themselves and others, who might feel obliged to help in an emergency, at risk.

Drowning is now a bigger cause of death in Surrey than accidental house fires. Since 2010, 34 people have drowned in Surrey's rivers and lakes, and Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has been called to more than 250 incidents. Many of these accidents are a result of underestimating the effect that swimming in cold open water can have.

Many of the dangers listed by Fire and Rescue apply to Goldsworth Park Lake. They are deep unknown water, no lifeguards present, slippery and steep banks, rubbish under the water and dirty water. The lake is filled by rainfall runoff from local roads and the banks are home to a troublesome rat population.

Enjoy the lake but stay safe by staying out of the water.

A water safety leaflet is available at this web address: [https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0013/134005/CS2329-water-safety\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0013/134005/CS2329-water-safety_WEB.pdf)

EDITOR

# Help us spread the News

THE delivery of the Goldsworth News to every household on the Park is dependent on volunteers. We have most roads covered but there are a few gaps. If you would like to help in any of the roads listed here please contact Linda Hill at [hilllinda5@gmail.com](mailto:hilllinda5@gmail.com)

Abingdon Close 21 houses; Badgers Close 39; Colyton Close 12; Stainton Walk 10; Waterside Way 35; Winnington Way 14; Glendale Close 31; Helmsdale 30; Langmans Way 26; Milcombe 10.

# Martin Slocock 1935-2017

**MARTIN SLOCOCK, patron of the Natural Goldsworth Park Project and distinguished local horticulturist, passed away at Mount Alvernia, Guildford, on June 3 aged 82.**

And at St John the Baptist Church, Bisley, on July 7, family, friends and former colleagues gathered for a service to celebrate his life.

The land on which the Goldsworth Park estate is built is the former Slocock's Nursery which was sold to developers Trafalgar House in the mid-seventies.

Despite ill health Mr Slocock maintained a keen interest in the Goldsworth Park Community Association's campaign to save the North Meadow area from development.

GPCA Chair Irene Watson and NGP Project Manager Gerry Smeesters attended the Bisley service.

Gerry said afterwards: "In October 2016 the outcome of the residents' and users' campaign to save North Meadow was still very much uncertain. Martin accepted the role of Patron because he recognised the importance of natural green space to the local community within the urban environment.

"This had been the intention when the Slocock family relinquished the land in the mid 1970's, and a value Martin had continued to uphold and champion in his role as RHS Vice President in other parts of the UK.

"Martin's impact provided leadership and focus, using his stature as

a nationally renowned botanical expert. He ultimately helped draw the attention and support of Natural England to the residents' cause. The Natural Goldsworth Park project was devised to demonstrate to Woking Council the residents' sense of ownership for the space and to offer a credible alternative to the council's own proposals for the land.

"Martin fully supported and endorsed the vision that was called Natural Goldsworth Park. I sense that Martin was immensely gratified and impressed that the local community felt committed to save a piece of his former family landholding for the purpose it had been originally created, and left relatively unscathed for some 40 years.

"His last comment, in April 2017, upon hearing of the successful outcome of the campaign was to remind the community to persevere. Martin 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 Natural Goldsworth Park is here to ensure that and will represent reaffirmation of the family legacy to the community."

Mr Slocock, who was awarded the Victoria Medal of Honour by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1974, leaves a wife Shirley, children Ben, Elly and Tom, two stepchildren and six grandchildren.



REMEMBERING MARTIN – sharing stories after the Bisley service



COMMUNITY SPIRIT – GPCA Chair Irene Watson, Vicar of St Andrew's Reverend Kate Wyles and NGP Project Manager Gerry Smeesters after the service

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# A great resource for the community

**HAVE you visited the Community Hall in Goldwater Lodge in the last couple of years? If you haven't, you should.**

Opening off the footpath round the lake, there are lovely views over the water; a good-sized car park and a children's playground close by add to the attraction.

Fully refurbished in 2015, the Community Hall offers excellent facilities for parties and wedding receptions, meetings and seminars, and regular classes of all types. The main hall seats up to 100 and has a small stage, if required, and blackout curtains.

The smaller snug is perfect for informal meetings or as a quiet area during a party. The kitchen, which opens off the snug, has a range cooker, microwave oven, fridge-freezer and lots of work surface – more than enough to dish up all your party food. The bar will order any special drinks you may choose.

For those who are less mobile, there is disabled parking close to the entrance, which is flat, and a DDA compliant toilet.

You can find out more about the Community Hall on the GPCA's website [www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) or contact the Hall Manager on 07958 672203 or [hallmanager@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:hallmanager@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) and, remember, residents of Goldsworth Park get discounted rates.



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# Hospice offices lifted in



EASY DOES IT – one of the modular offices is lifted into place

**THE new Woking Hospice took a step nearer completion on July 4 and 5 when modular buildings for the administration offices were lifted in by crane.**

The project was designed so that the construction of the offices at Goldsworth Park Centre would only take a short amount of time to limit any disruption to patients. This was also in the best interests of staff and the wider community but, most importantly, for the experience and comfort of in-patients.

The hospice welcomed its first patients at the end of May and the Bradbury Wellbeing Centre, with a spa, physiotherapy gym and treatment rooms, is now open. The hospice is also looking forward to the opening of its café, which all will be welcomed to use.

The Dragon Boat race day on Goldsworth Park Lake on June 25 was a successful fundraiser for the hospice. After an exciting day of heats, it was the Amstelveense Stadtdraken team who won first place, from Woking's twin town in Holland. Second were Seymour Estate Agents, followed by REG Varney Rowing Club.

A big crowd gathered in the sunshine watching the teams compete as well as enjoying the activities and hospitality on the lakeside. There

was a bouncy castle, BBQ, tombola, stalls and much more to entertain and raise funds.

Phil Wormley, the Director of Fundraising said: "As a charity which heavily relies on voluntary income, raising £4,500 alone on the day will make a huge difference. We deliver specialist palliative care to over 1,400 patients with life-limiting and terminal illnesses each year across six Surrey Boroughs and we would not be able to do it without the generosity of our supporters.

"On behalf of all of us at the hospice I extend a huge thank you to our event sponsor, Trident Honda and to the teams who took part in the Dragon Boat races."

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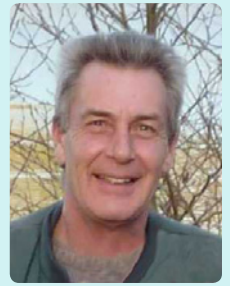
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# From the Lakeside



■ **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 July 15 and 16, the Goldsworth Park Angling Club held their second session of work parties round the lake this year. Groups of club members gave up the opportunity to cast a line and got down to some hard graft instead, tidying our much-loved lake.**

Cutting back over-hanging branches, trimming reeds and brambles, litter picking and top-dressing platforms with fresh woodchip are jobs all made a little easier this time with the help of the club's recently purchased trailer and boat; all that wheelbarrowing and those hard to reach over water snags now made less back-breaking and safer to deal with. Still, it is still jolly hard work and the lads did a great job in helping to keep the lake, the most beautiful part of Goldsworth Park, up to a standard that others can only admire. WELL DONE, guys, and thank you – it doesn't go unnoticed.

Throughout August 2016, you may remember that the club held its Let's Go Fishing event on Brookwood Ponds; this proved to be a great success and very popular. This year, we are running it again starting on Wednesday, August 2, then every Wednesday thereafter throughout the month ending on the 30th. Each participant is given a full hour of tuition in the art of fishing, delivered on a one to one basis from a fully licensed angling coach.

Designed for beginners to the sport of seven years and over, the training is delivered completely FREE of charge; all tackle and bait is supplied on site but you MUST book in advance as numbers are limited.

To book your place just simply give Roger (club secretary) a call on 07779 896393.

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## Resident's aircraft noise concerns

**PARK resident Trevor Edwards has expressed concerns about what he sees as noise and safety issues arising from light aircraft using Fairoaks Airport.**

Trevor, who lives in Martindale Road, continues to complain to airport staff and has attended meetings with Fairoaks management. He has also been in touch with Woking MP Jonathan Lord and hopes to raise support for his cause among local residents.

Trevor, a former aircraft engineer, said: "I was told by the airport traffic control that their planes fly a specific international pattern, but I think they could easily cut the corner of their pattern and totally miss Goldsworth Park.

"There is absolutely no need for us to suffer small planes constantly flying low and slowly over our houses. We need to make Goldsworth Park a Noise Abatement Area, now, and for the future of our families. We should also be concerned about the nuisance caused to patients at the new Woking Hospice.

"I would like to make it clear I have no connection with the companies wanting to build a housing development on the airport."

Trevor hopes other residents affected by the aircraft noise will put their concerns to Mr Lord.

Alastair Wang, the airport manager, said: "The airport has long-established procedures which enables local residents to raise any concerns regarding noise or safety directly with the airport. The airport responds to all such concerns and if appropriate takes remedial action. The airport also reports them to the Fairoaks Airport Consultative Committee which has an independent Chairman and comprises of representatives from the airport users, local authorities and local interest groups.

"Whilst we resolve most issues to everyone's satisfaction, and often immediately with approximately 60% of complaints during 2016 being resolved with a single telephone call or mail/email exchange, there are inevitably some issues where this is not possible. If a local resident has on-going concerns which the airport cannot resolve by telephone or mail/email then the airport will invite the resident to visit the airport for a face to face meeting with a senior member of the Airport Management team.

"Additionally residents can contact the appropriate member of the Consultative Committee who can bring the matter to the attention of the Committee if he/she believes that it is a proper matter for the Committee to consider."

# Lakeside Christian Fellowship

**I FIRST met the Rev Sean Larkin when he conducted the funeral for the late Marilyn Davis. Some readers might remember that she was the severely disabled lady in a huge wheelchair who was always round the lake or the shops. She was so cheerful and positive that she was an inspiration to many and the Rev Larkin reflected her personality in the warmth and sincerity of his service.**

Lakeside Christian Fellowship is a "Free Church" and has been operating here on the Park since 1989. For years, they met in the Community Centre. Then came the disastrous fire in the winter of 2012. LCF, along with a number of other organisations had to move across to the Dianthus building 'as a temporary measure'. They found it so comfortable and user-friendly that they stayed and are there yet.

Occasionally, in addition to the normal services, they have church breakfasts or lunches. No strings, everyone is welcome – just turn up. They like to think of themselves as a family and this theme runs throughout their meetings. Normal Sunday services, which always end with Holy Communion, traditionally start with coffee, biscuits and a chin-wag at about 10.15 am.

Sean himself spends time in Romania and has done since Ceausescu

fell from power. In the post-communist vacuum, total chaos was never very far away and so a number of churches and others went to help. It started in 1992 with groups from UK and California. However, like so many other things in life, promises were made which weren't kept and some groups lost interest. The LCF persevered and Sean now works out there with local groups giving support and making them feel a part of the international church community.

Here at home, he was for almost a decade a prison Chaplain to Coldingley in Bisley, which gave him great fulfilment and led to some interesting challenges. This experience made him well qualified to give some help and guidance in Romania where some of the communist-era prisons were, in Sean's own words, 'pure hell-holes'.

We've seen on TV the state of some of the old Romanian orphanages. It doesn't take much imagination to think what prison conditions must have been like. Things are getting much better thanks to Sean, the Lakeside Christian Fellowship and other similar organisations. Isn't it great when you look under the surface and find so much good in people.

MALCOLM HEAD

## Your NGP

**NATURAL Goldsworth Park project manager Gerry Smeesters took advantage of the crowds at Dragon Boat race day to present the GPCA's aims with an exhibition in Goldwater Lodge.**

It generated plenty of interest and a number of people signed up to take part in the project. Gerry is still recruiting helpers to maintain and enhance the 16-acre North Meadow. He is especially keen to hear from volunteers with knowledge of soil analysis and meadow flora.

Contact Gerry at [projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



OUR PROJECT – Gerry (right) with wife Brenda and volunteer Steve Woodland



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## Safe cladding in Woking

FOLLOWING the London tower block fire Woking Cllr Colin Kemp, Portfolio Holder for Housing, reassured people that tenants safety was taken seriously. He said in a statement that New Vision Homes manage 160 blocks of flats on behalf of Woking Council and none of these are higher than five storeys. Each block complied with Article 9 of the Regulatory Reform Order 2005 (the 'Fire Safety Order') and they are subject to an on-going programme of fire-risk assessments.

Whilst some of these blocks were fitted with exterior cladding, some of which had been renewed, he confirmed that none had been fitted with the same system as at Grenfell Tower.

The Surrey Fire and Rescue Service has written to all private owners of residential blocks over 10 floors, stating that in light of the serious fire, a review of fire risk assessments should be undertaken.

## Woking Food Festival

THE award-winning Food and Drink Festival returns from September 1-3. The free event will bring live cookery demonstrations by Surrey's top culinary talents and well-known celebrity chefs in the Tante Marie Culinary Academy Theatre.

More than 80 exhibitor stalls in the town centre will feature artisan products, freshly prepared dishes and drinks from producers across the locality, the UK and the world. To celebrate and promote the increasing stature of English wine, the festival will have a new

wine and cheese zone where visitors can sample wines from Surrey and other English vineyards.

For the latest information, visit [www.wokingfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk](http://www.wokingfoodanddrinkfestival.co.uk) and follow on Facebook and Twitter @WokingFoodFest.

## Cycle aid

COMMUNITY groups and charities, including Goldsworth Park, have shared almost £2.3million thanks to Surrey's role in the Prudential RideLondon cycling festival over the past four years. Sixty-seven Surrey organisations have been handed grants from the London Marathon Charitable Trust, which gives out proceeds from RideLondon, since the inaugural event in 2013. Goldsworth Park had received £10,000 for outdoor gym equipment

## Recycling award

WOKING'S waste and recycling team took one of the most sought after trophies in the industry, being crowned winners at the National Recycling Awards, held at the London Hilton, Park Lane. The trophy was presented by comedian Alistair McGowan and commends the team for implementing 'Innovation in Communal Recycling.'

The appearance of the waste and recycling areas has been improved with fencing, lighting and signage, as well as more attractive housing units for food bins. Waste disposal information is now readily available in 12 languages, thanks to a fully translated booklet.

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# Local gets a new look

**BUSINESS is booming at Goldsworth Park's own local, The Fox and Flowerpot, following a £350,000 five-week refurbishment.**

Woking MP Jonathan Lord, along with local Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) officials attended the grand re-opening of the Bampton Way hostelry.

Built in the 1980s, the Fox & Flowerpot was named after a competition run amongst local residents but the pub owes little now to the place that everyone remembers.

The interior has been updated with new toilets, flooring, fixtures, lighting and soft furnishings. Externally, the pub has a new patio, improved lighting, new signs, new garden furniture, landscaping and planters. The investment could also create up to 10 new jobs.

Local father and son team Ian and Darren Cox have taken a five-year tenancy and both know the area well and have experience in running pubs and clubs.

Ian said: "The pub has been crying out for a refurbishment and we are glad that Ei Group saw the potential in our business plans and came up with the significant investment required to transform the place. The pub had a poor reputation in recent years but we now have a great core of customers who make it welcoming for all ages. We currently stock three real ales, one of which is locally sourced and are committed to growing our relationships with local brewers and produce suppliers."

"We want to be the first-choice local venue for sports and live music events and have a great entertainment programme lined up in the coming months. We are dog-friendly and now provide a varied food and coffee menu to suit all tastes."

Mr Lord said: "Ian and Darren are just the right team for the Fox and Flowerpot. The pub looks absolutely terrific after its major

refurbishment and I hope that this new environment helps to attract, and is enjoyed by, many new customers. I wish the pub well for the years ahead."

Mick Bell, Chairman of Surrey Hants Borders CAMRA said: "I can testify that the real ale served here is in tip-top condition, and good reasonably priced food is available. The pub provides a great community atmosphere and is a great family friendly place to visit. This is just the sort of story we at CAMRA love to tell."



MINE'S A PINT – Woking MP Jonathan Lord (left) and tenant Ian Cox



Dear Sir

As a regular walker around the lake I was sad to see that the five cygnets had been reduced to four. An Angling Club member told me that all the evidence pointed to a dog attacking and killing the poor thing.

I wish all dog owners would heed the signs and keep their animals on leads around the lake. If they want the dogs to run loose there are acres of space on the recreation ground and North Meadow.

I like to take my small grandchildren for walks around the lake and they are often confronted by loose dogs, large and small. Even a small dog can be scary to a four-year-old child. I have even had to ask someone to remove their dog from the children's playground!

All dog owners should acquaint themselves with the amended Dangerous Dogs Act which came into effect in 2014. This law applies to all dog owners no matter what size or breed of their dog. A dog doesn't have to bite to be deemed dangerous in the eyes of the law.

*Name and address supplied.*

Dear Sir

I would like to congratulate Goldsworth Park Rangers Football Club for organising another marvellous Community Youth Football Festival in June. It was so fulfilling to see so many young people enjoying their participation in the competition.

What also impressed me was the way the club organised a tidy-up after the two day event. After they had cleared up and left there was not a single piece of litter to be seen on the recreation ground. I understand the club had a dedicated team for this. Well done!

*Name and address supplied.*

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## Sue's happy memories



RETIRING Sythwood head teacher Sue Tresilian met former pupils and teachers at the Memory Tent at the school's summer fair.

Sue (left) is pictured with Zoe Anderson who taught at the school between 1998 and 2003. Zoe travelled down from Shropshire to wish her former head a happy retirement.

Sue, who has been at Sythwood since 1999, is moving back to her home county of Lancashire where she is planning to start a craft business.

She said: "I'm very sad to be leaving but it seems to be the right thing to do, especially as my husband is not in the best of health and he is loving living back up North."



It may be a big mistake  
to sell Fair Oaks for housing

MALCOLM HEAD

## £305k hockey pitch

WOKING Hockey Club expect to have a new synthetic pitch laid and playable at their Goldsworth Park base by mid August.

The pitch being replaced is the one closest to their clubhouse and is costing £305,000. The surface will be green and provide similar playing and durability conditions enjoyed on the club's second, newer pitch.

The project will include higher fencing and increased spectator zones on both sides to enable seating and new dugouts to be added in the future.

CLS Sport have been awarded the contract and the work will bring the pitch up to International Hockey Federation national level and compliant for all levels of hockey including international matches.



WORK IN PROGRESS – the new pitch is taking shape

## Monday Fundays in August

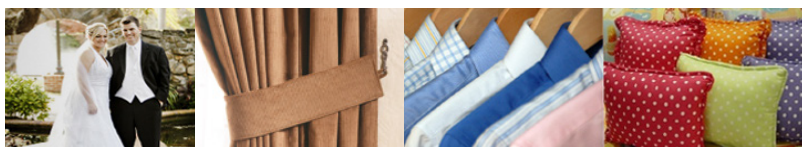
THREE Mondays in August will be red-letter days for tots, children and teens.

August 14, 21, and 28 will be "Monday Fundays" in St Andrew's Church at Goldsworth Park Centre. There will be three fun-filled sessions each Monday and entry is free for all:

- Toddler Time from 10-11.30am for ages 0-4 with parents or carers
- "Beside the seaside" from 2-4pm for ages 5-9 with parents or carers
- Youth Gathering from 5-7pm for ages 10+

There's no need to book – just turn up and join in. For details please call either Karin Rayner, Children & Families Worker, or Ed Stokes, Youth Pastor, at St Andrew's on 01483 723879.

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## SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY



### DRAGON BOAT TEAM CHALLENGE 2017

*In Support of Woking & Sam Beare Hospices*



#### Seymours Raises Over £1000 for Local Charity

WSBH recently held their annual Dragon Boat Race on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June at Goldsworth Lake, Woking. Hundreds of spectators cheered 12 teams battling it out in 3 races with the fastest 3 teams progressing to the final. Picture above is Team Seymours who reached the final and came second.

Thank you to all the spectators who supported Seymours and helped raise money for Woking & Sam Beare Hospices.

