

# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

Mar/Apr 2018 – Issue 162

**GPca**  
Goldsworth Park  
Community Association

[www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

## In this edition

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- Forgotten Goldsworth Park



## SHEAR MAGIC!

Charlie Dimmock reopens the refurbished Squire's garden centre along with Colin and Sarah Squire.  
*Story and more pictures on Page 4*

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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:

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**Copy for the next edition must be submitted by Monday May 7.**

By post: 37 Willowmead Close,  
Goldsworth Park GU21 3DN.  
Email: editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

## GPCA MEETINGS

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

2018 meetings: January 30; April 24;  
July 24; AGM November 6.

All residents are welcome. If you would like to be put on the mailing list for minutes and other information,  
Email: chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk or call 01483 714096.

## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Following the closure of Strollers coffee shop Conservative councillors will hold a surgery at Costa's in the shopping centre on the first Saturday of the month from 9.30 to 10.30am.

Lib Dem councillors are planning a move to the Lakeview Centre.

**Councillors: Ann-Marie Barker WBC and Ian Eastwood WBC (Lib Dem). Chitra Rana WBC, Saj Hussain SCC & WBC and Colin Kemp SCC & WBC (Conservative).**

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# Views from the Chair

**HOW time flies – it is now three years since the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge reopened after the fire and five years since I became Chair of the GPCA – and there are still plenty of new challenges.**

One challenge concerns an initiative to use social media, primarily Facebook, to create a virtual Neighbourhood Watch for Goldsworth Park. Many of us belong to the Neighbourhood Watch in our street so we know that it can take time to get a message to every member, even using email.

The Woking Association of Neighbourhood Watches (wanw.org.uk) is promoting the use of Facebook Groups to improve the speed and effectiveness of communication amongst members. In Byfleet, where there has been a virtual Neighbourhood Watch for a while, the dedicated Facebook Group has had some successes including contributing to the arrest of a burglar, warning residents of scams and even reuniting a lost pet with its owner.

The GPCA is investigating the way forward so please let us know if you would like to be involved. You can contact me at [chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) or post on [www.facebook.com/goldsworth.park](https://www.facebook.com/goldsworth.park)

Another challenge is a bit more of an imposition rather than an initiative, but it is a challenge nonetheless. Have you heard of GDPR (the General Data Protection Regulations) which come into force in May? The new regulations provide protection to natural persons regarding the collection, processing and storage of personal data and will require the GPCA to examine and refine its practices. If you receive copies of minutes via email or are a friend of Natural Goldsworth Park, you may be hearing from us in the next few weeks explaining the situation and asking for confirmation that you wish to remain on the mailing list.

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

**Irene Watson**, GPCA Chair



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[facebook.com/goldsworth.park](https://facebook.com/goldsworth.park)

# No ID, no vote in Woking on May 3

**VOTERS across Woking Borough will need to show photo ID before they can vote at the local election on Thursday May 3.**

Along with four other local authorities in England, Woking is participating in a trial project, aimed at tackling electoral fraud.

These trials are likely to be the first in a series which allow the Cabinet Office and Electoral Commission to evaluate the impact of asking for ID before a decision is taken on whether or not to roll it out nationally.

Reports of alleged electoral fraud through voter impersonation more than doubled between 2014 and 2016. Many countries around the world have already made it a requirement to prove identity at a polling station, including Northern Ireland.

Voters must bring photographic ID to their polling station or have applied for a free of charge Local Elector Card. Applications for a card must be returned by 5pm on Wednesday May 2.

Postal voters will not be affected.

For full details of the type of photo ID, or to get an elector card if needed, go to [www.woking.gov.uk/VoterID](https://www.woking.gov.uk/VoterID). Alternatively, contact Woking Council's Electoral Service Team on 01483 755855, or email [elections@woking.gov.uk](mailto:elections@woking.gov.uk)



# New date for litter pick

**GPCA has set a new date for a community litter pick — Saturday April 21 at 2pm.**

The pick scheduled for March 3 as part of the Great British Spring Clean was cancelled due to snow and ice brought in by the Beast from the East weather system.

Pickers should meet outside Goldwater Lodge. Stout shoes and gardening gloves are advisable. As usual Woking Council will provide pick-up sticks, bin bags and high-viz jackets and will arrange for full bags to be removed.

Come and join us on the day for a couple of hours and together we can make a difference and clean up the environment on our doorstep.

Let's hope the weather is kinder to us this time!



# Charlie's a blooming gem!

**GARDENING expert and TV presenter Charlie Dimmock officially opened Squire's refurbished garden centre at Littlewick Road.**

A hardy crowd braved the snow and icy wind to watch Charlie, along with Chairman Colin Squire and Deputy Chair Sarah Squire, unveil a plaque in the entrance foyer on Saturday March 17.

Charlie took part in lots of other activities during the day including a gardeners' question time and a grow your own chips feature for children.

Charlie said, "It was an absolute delight to spend the day at Squire's in Woking and to see this fantastic new garden centre. I really enjoyed meeting so many people who are as enthusiastic about gardening as I am. It was a fun day and great to see so many children learning about gardening too."

The garden centre, a favourite with Goldsworth Park residents, closed in June last year for the £3million face-lift.

Sarah Squire said: "Squire's in Woking has been completely transformed yet still remains one hundred per cent true to our horticultural heritage.

"It's beautifully designed and landscaped to fit within the surrounding area, and truly retains its sense of place. We hope it will be a centre that the community can be really proud of, as a local hub, a

place for family and friends to get together in comfortable and relaxed surroundings.

"So come and see our new-look garden centre – we very much look forward to welcoming our customers back, and to meeting new ones."



*GOOD CAUSE – Charlie with a pot planted for Greenfingers*

The centre has a new plant area with an outdoor canopy and a bigger shop. The café bar has also been extended and completely refurbished giving it a light and airy feel, plus there is an outdoor veranda with seating. Another new café feature is a full waiting service.

The day before the official opening Squire's took part in a 12-hour Plantathon to raise money for the charity Greenfingers on their annual Garden Re-Leaf Day.

Staff planted pots all day and all proceeds from the sales went to Greenfingers, who create gardens for children in hospices to enjoy.

Charlie Dimmock also planted pots for the charity after the opening, complete with personalised labels.



*HELPING HAND – Charlie with Greenfingers Chairman John Ashley*

# Lakers probe continues

**INVESTIGATIONS are still ongoing into the cause of the fire that ripped through Lakers Youth Centre on January 2.**

Fears are growing that cash-strapped Surrey County Council will not reopen the facility in its pre-fire form. An online petition urging the Council to rebuild has received over 200 signatures.

Saj Hussain, County Councillor for Knaphill and Goldsworth West said: "We are unsure how the fire started, the cause is being investigated by the police. Our top priority is to deliver the much-needed service in the area which is being provided. As local councillors

we are lobbying to get the centre reopened as soon as possible."

Six fire appliances from across the county attended the blaze at Goldsworth Park centre which started around 6pm. Firefighters managed to save the main hall although the rest of the building was badly damaged.

If anyone has information as to the how the fire may have started, they are asked to contact police on 101 with the reference PR/45180001941. Alternatively, you can call independent charity Crimestoppers on **0800 555 111** to report information anonymously.

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# Brockhill and Beaufort team up to read

**PUPILS** from Beaufort Primary School and residents of Brockhill are sharing the benefits of weekly reading sessions at the sheltered housing complex in Clifton Way.

Brockhill manager Sally Petrie has seen some residents, who do not often come down to the communal areas, make an effort to socialise when the children arrive.

And the sessions are proving valuable to the pupils too, who are improving their reading skills. Susan Todd, PA to the Beaufort Headteacher, said: "One of our children is a reluctant reader, doesn't like reading at home and is reluctant to read at school, but loves coming here and her reading has really improved since she has been coming. It has made a big difference.

"These sessions have also given quite a few of the children who are very shy, confidence. I've seen the difference, from the beginning to the end of term, bringing them here. They really do come out of themselves."

Resident Joan Malone looks forward to the Wednesday sessions. She said: "We love it and we all get on very well together. Apart from the reading we can chat in between. It's not like school, we are different from the teachers. The children can come out of the classroom to a different environment. It's general mixing as well as the reading. We often talk about what they have been doing in school holidays."

BROCKHILL is to become the venue for the Forget-me-not Memory Café which is moving from The Vyne in Knaphill. It will meet on the last Wednesday of every month between 2 to 4pm.

The café is one of two dementia groups to be held at the Clifton Way venue by Home Instead Senior Care, the other being Musical Memories, on the third Tuesday of the month between 2-4pm.

If you have concerns about your memory, or that of a friend or relative, you can discuss your concerns in confidence at the café with trained volunteers. It is a free service.



*SPELL CHECK – residents and Beaufort pupils enjoy the reading session*



*GOOD TIMES – Brockhill resident Joan Malone enjoys the company*

## Dog Grooming Professional



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# Dawn of a new season

Royer Slater

**IF you're an early riser you're probably lucky enough to hear some of the world's finest singers taking part in the greatest concert on earth: the dawn chorus.**

Every morning, especially in the spring, birds welcome the sun to a new day with their song. That's the dawn chorus – and it broadcasts 'live' to Goldsworth Park every morning!

Birds sing extra loudly at dawn because it's not a good time to go foraging for food. So they focus their efforts on trying to attract a mate and hold a



WHAT SPRING? – a wintery March scene on the lake

territory. With less background noise early on, their song can carry up to twenty times as far.

There's also a chorus at dusk, but it's much quieter. Some birds, including blue tits and tree sparrows, prefer to sing at that time of day.

The dawn chorus isn't a free-for-all, as different species know exactly when to join in the symphony. The first birds start to sing about an hour before sunrise. Act one is performed by wrens, dunnocks and robins – the earliest to warm up. Act two stars blackbirds, song thrushes and skylarks.

Act three is presented by the chiffchaff, chaffinch, wood pigeon and collared dove. Finally, act four features blue tits, long tailed tits, great tits, goldcrests and tree sparrows.

There's even an International Dawn Chorus Day (IDCD), which happens to be on Sunday May 6 this year. This worldwide celebration of nature's symphony began in the 1980s when broadcaster and environmentalist Chris Baines asked friends to attend his birthday party at 4am in Birmingham so they could enjoy the dawn chorus with him. It has grown from that small event to an annual international celebration on the first Sunday in May, with Dawn Chorus events held as far afield as the Caribbean and Antarctica.

It doesn't really matter where you happen to be – within Goldsworth Park or elsewhere – the dawn chorus is a beautiful, natural piece of entertainment, even if you can't identify the birds taking part. So why don't you try to listen out for nature's daily miracle this spring?



# Joy of sharing good news

Revd Kate Wyles

**'THERE it goes! The kingfisher!' A dart of turquoise and orange against a grey sky shot out across Goldsworth Park lake.**

Its colours lit up a dull morning and lifted eyes, and hearts.

At St Andrew's Church we are in the Easter season having just celebrated Easter Day. For Jesus' friends that first Easter Day must have dawned painfully dull and grey with the thought that they had lost everything through Jesus' death on the cross.

Early that morning the women came to prepare his dead body with oil and spices. But when they got to the sealed tomb where Jesus had been laid they found it wide open; his body nowhere to be seen.

The good news that Jesus had risen from the dead and was alive must have been a flash of bright hope-filled-colour. When we hear good news we can't help but share it. The morning I spotted my first kingfisher on the lake I had to stop a passer-by and tell her! Together we shared the excitement and scanned the waters until we saw it again.

The good news that Jesus is alive was shared again and again so that today over two thirds of the world celebrated Jesus' resurrection and the new life that he brings.

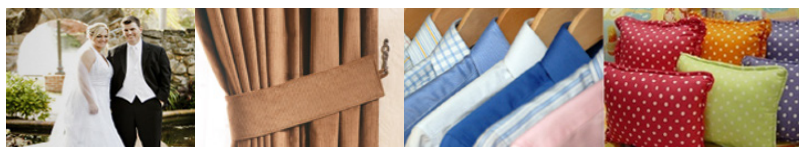
This spring-time may you be blessed with a bright hope that lifts your heart and mind – and plenty of sightings of our resident kingfishers as you walk around the lake.

*Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.*



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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.

**THE 1st of April marks the start of the Goldsworth Park Angling Club's new annual year, time to renew rod licences and fishing permits, both of which are easy to obtain.**

Rod licences can be purchased online from the Environment Agency or from most post offices; permits and day tickets for the lake and Brookwood ponds are only available on the bank from one of our registered bailiffs.

Just come along and fish from one of the platforms and we will come to you but always ask to see an official GPAC ID card before parting with any money. Please take a few moments to read the club angling rules, either online or from the notice boards on site, before you cast a line.

You may remember that in the last issue I made reference to the new fish stock we introduced to the lake just before Christmas. The young chub which, fingers crossed, the cormorants have not found, will by now have almost doubled in size and settled into their new home well. With all the new stock it will be interesting to see, from the catches over the coming year, how well they have grown and numbers that have survived the winter. I will update you in due course.

Again, a number of our fishermen have been busy round the lake, this time trimming back some of the bramble bushes that have got out of hand, with a lot dead material choking good healthy growth. In addition, there were one or two areas where the bushes are used as litter bins, making it very unsightly and difficult to tidy. Despite looking rather bare at first, new growth will quickly come back and should encourage a better fruit crop later in the year. Once again,



TIDY UP – volunteers clearing bramble and gorse of the lake banks

many thanks to all those who took part in helping to keep our park an oasis to be admired.

Throughout this year the angling club will be holding work parties round the lake on the fourth Saturday of each month, litter picking, branch and bush trimming and making general repairs to banks, platforms etc. These "get-togethers" are open to all and not just for fishermen – everyone is welcome to come along and get involved. If you fancy getting your hands dirty and a bit of fresh air to boot then please do come along.

For more details please give us a call on **07779 896393** or check out our website for dates. We would love to hear from you. [www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com](http://www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com)

## NGP going technical

**I AM waiting to identify a technical advisor to assist Natural Goldsworth Park on developing our plans for North Meadow, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.**

This role is largely to provide mentoring, guidance and planning expertise, with perhaps some practical input once we have volunteer work programmes identified.

Following our approach to them, the Squire Family, who operate 15 garden centres, responded to our call for the above key resource. A recent meeting with Sarah Squire discussed the NGP project in general and specifically on our immediate needs. The outcome was that we received Sarah's commitment to look across their organisation for the skills mix we need, or beyond, to contacts they have with other organisations.

Sarah said her family would hope to assist the community in different ways and was enthusiastic about the prospect of making a positive contribution to NGP.

**For the Diary:** July 20 to August 12 – The Big Butterfly Count 2018. To take part, visit [www.bigbutterflycount.org](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org)

It's an easy 15-minute survey on any day during the above period. All the family can join in to spot as many butterflies as they can in your chosen locality. North Meadow could be a great location for your survey! Your data goes on to a national database to determine how well butterflies are doing across the UK.

The Great British Wildflower Hunt: Date to be announced. Devised by Plantlife, the wildflower charity, as a family fun activity. For more information about the 2018 event go to [www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflowerhunt/) They will soon have free downloads for spotter sheets.

If you are interested in following our news and updates or getting involved in practical work please contact me by email at [projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk) Alternatively, follow us through Facebook, Natural Goldsworth and Twitter @natgoldsworth



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# Uncovering Goldsworth's past

**Our Forgotten Heritage: Has Slocock's Nursery been airbrushed from our landscape? GERRY SMEESTERS, Natural Goldsworth Park project manager investigates in the first of a two-part series.**

**MANY of our residents are unaware of the heritage of our estate. We all tend to take Goldsworth Park at face value, a large, now maturing, housing development.**

The fact that one of the UK's largest nursery businesses thrived here for almost 100 years seems almost unbelievable. In other parts of the country planners take great care to retain sight of the past and celebrate heritage industries and achievements.

Alas, on the face of it, not on Goldsworth Park or in the borough of Woking. However, there are a few clues to the past, but you need to have a keen eye, curiosity and some insider information to recognise them.

Langman's Way, located off Kirkland Avenue, is one example. It is an obvious nod to the distant historic bridge and house situated by the Basingstoke Canal. Parley Drive is the main entrance to the estate from the Woking end. It acknowledges the Parley Brook which flows northwards underground and into which much of the estate's original natural land drainage ditches fed. Tracious Close, on the Lakeview development in Sythwood, is named after the protected ancient woodland that is behind the Goldsworth industrial estate.

The name Sythwood probably derives from the much older description used for part of Horsell, called Sithwood. The Goldings, a road near Beaufort School, and Goldsworth are historic tithing names for the general area that is now the modern estate. Cobbett's Close on Lakeview is likely to be associated with the prominent local Horsell family of Cobbett which, among other business interests in the Horsell area, also ran a nursery that was immediately east of Bullbeggars Lane. These general historic associations are fitting reminders to the area's past.

So, what of the Slocock's nursery associations? The nursery trade was started on our estate in the mid to late eighteenth century by the Turners. A nursery function continued and became known as Old Goldsworth Nursery. It was this core land and business that Walter C Slocock expanded so successfully in the early 1900s. Today, Parley Drive, Winnington Way and Silversmiths Way divide what was Old Goldsworth Nursery. However, on this piece of land there are no other roads, features or signage that provide any insight into its pivotal role in Woking's history or, for that matter, that it was ever there. Perhaps there ought to be a Woking equivalent to a Blue Plaque!

However, in Lockfield Drive, the main arterial road that partially encircles the modern estate, we have an example of a current name that retains the historical context of geographical features. Lockfield Drive takes its name from the Bottom Lock and Top Lock Fields. These fields were part of Slocock's nursery land

The Brockhill sheltered housing complex is located on Clifton Way at the junction with Denton Way. The facility takes its name from a property that was once where Tresta Walk can now be found, just a

one-minute walk from Squire's Garden Centre. The original Brockhill, built around the early 1920s, was a large house and had a generous garden. For a time it was occupied by one of the principal members of the Slocock family. What lucky chance of fate made this among many other properties, long since gone, the 'chosen' one and remembered in this way?

*THIS WAY – sign to the original Brockhill residence*



• In the next issue I will point out more associations between the nursery and the estate. If you know of something that relates to the nursery years of the estate, do contact me, I would be most interested. Email: [projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



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# Park girl Rose joins hospice

**GOLDSWORTH PARK resident Rose Keene has joined the Fundraising Team at Woking & Sam Beare Hospices as its Community Fundraiser covering the Woking and North Guildford area, writes ROYER SLATER.**

Rose said: "My role is supporting people in the community with their fundraising projects and also building awareness of Woking & Sam Beare Hospices and its amazing work.

"I'll be providing lots of face-to-face support, helping our supporters organise a range of events, from coffee mornings and concerts to gala balls and bucket collections, as well as raising awareness about our amazing work in helping patients with life-limiting conditions, and also their families.

"After just two weeks working for a charity providing hospice care, I've already had the pleasure of meeting some very interesting people, who go above and beyond to support us and are really enthusiastic about the fantastic work of Woking & Sam Beare Hospices. Many of the passionate individuals I have met have had a loved one cared for by the Hospice, and I am really excited to continue working with the local community."

Rose grew up in Addlestone and moved to Goldsworth Park last December. It was a timely move. She added: "Coming to work

at Woking & Sam Beare Hospices is a happy coincidence. After moving here I was looking for a new job with a local charity, having worked in the charity sector for the last three and a half years at The Berkeley Foundation in Cobham. I knew of the great work being done by Woking & Sam Beare Hospices and already had them in my sights when I saw their advert for a Community Fundraiser. Naturally I applied!

"I'm delighted to have joined the team and to be working alongside such a lovely bunch of people."

Each year Woking & Sam Beare Hospices cares for over 1,400 patients, their carers and families. Its flagship is the state-of-the-art 20-bed hospice in Goldsworth Park Centre, which opened last year, yet 70% of its care is delivered in the community by a dedicated team of healthcare professionals. It enables patients to be cared for in their own home, whether a private residence or in a care or nursing home.

Rose said: "We need to raise £8million each year to provide all these services, which are supplied free of charge to patients and their families."

If you are interested in hosting a fundraising event, or just want to understand how you can get involved, please call Rose on **01483 881752** or email her at [r.keene@wsbhospices.co.uk](mailto:r.keene@wsbhospices.co.uk)

The hospice is holding its annual ladies-only charity midnight walk on May 25. Sponsored by Trident Honda, the event will start and finish at Woking Leisure Centre. More than 800 walkers will follow a new eight-mile route around Woking.

For information on Woking & Sam Beare Hospices and fundraising events visit [www.wsbhospices.co.uk](http://www.wsbhospices.co.uk)



*GREAT WORK – Rose Keene (left) with fellow fundraiser Tasha Smith who covers Runnymede and Surrey Heath.*

## Sanctuary from domestic abuse

**THE Mayor of Woking's charity for 2017-18, yourSanctuary, is looking for new ways to increase its funding and resources.**

yourSanctuary is a Woking based charity and works to prevent domestic abuse and repair the damage it does to individuals, families and communities. It provides two refuges in North West Surrey for women and their children fleeing abuse, a community outreach service for women, men and children and a specialist helpline.

There is also a strong focus on advocacy, education and support programmes which help survivors and their families to go on and lead lives without fear.

The charity continues to experience a high level of demand and relies heavily on a dedicated team of staff and volunteers. Each Outreach Worker regularly supports 30 to 40 clients and the helpline receives more than 200 calls each month.

Wendy Denty, Corporate and Community

fundraiser said: "Our refuge team support up to 13 women and their children at any one time. They arrive from all over the country often with just a suitcase of belongings. We are very grateful to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey for the provision of a transition fund so that we can welcome them with new bedding, towels, crockery and other essential items.

"Our children's service – both in refuge and outreach – has continued to grow. Witnessing domestic abuse can have a detrimental effect on children who may feel vulnerable and lack self-esteem. We encourage children to speak openly in a safe and non-judgemental environment.

"Through both individual therapeutic sessions and group programmes, we are constantly learning more about the needs of the children and their non-abusive parent and how we can support them on their journey to recovery. We are very proud of this ground-breaking and innovative work which provides hope for the future."

If you would like to help fundraise contact Wendy on **01483 776868** or email her at [wendyd@yoursanctuary.org.uk](mailto:wendyd@yoursanctuary.org.uk)

Wendy added: "Victims of domestic abuse often find it difficult to talk about and that makes fundraising even more challenging. Domestic abuse affects everyone of all ages and communities. Help us to help more families going through desperately difficult times."

If you need support the confidential helpline (9am to 9pm seven days a week) is on **01483 776822**.

[www.yoursanctuary.org.uk](http://www.yoursanctuary.org.uk)



## This Girl Can campaign

LOCAL adventurer and speaker Tamsyn O'Donoghue closed the launch of This Girl Can in Woking with an inspirational speech at the leisure centre on March 8.

The former city worker unravelled a tale about how she quit her job with nothing to go to, took up a backpack and walked her way to physical and mental wellbeing, trekking 800 kilometres across Spain in just over a month.

Women who had been inspired by events of the day to set themselves a challenge were encouraged to turn their adventure into a fundraising activity for the Mayor of Woking's charity, yourSanctuary. During the launch the charity was on hand to raise awareness of the work they do



**SUPPORTING THIS GIRL CAN** — (from left) Cllr Mark Pengelly, Wendy Denty (yourSanctuary), Mayor of Woking Cllr Graham Cundy, Tamsyn O'Donoghue, Ellie Cranfield (Active Community Manager, Woking Leisure Centre), Emma-Louise Webb (Sports Development Officer, Woking Council)

to help survivors of domestic abuse and the restorative power of exercise for mental health.

Cllr Mark Pengelly, Woking's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, said: "Tamsyn O'Donoghue has made it her goal to raise awareness of how transformative physical activity can be, and wants other women to turn their lives around and get themselves mentally fit too."

Woking Council, in partnership with Sport England has created a programme of sporting events and activities designed especially for local women aged 14 and over, to encourage them to get active. To find out more about This Girl Can and the sporting and fitness activities available for women in Woking, visit [www.woking.gov.uk/thisgirlcan](http://www.woking.gov.uk/thisgirlcan) or check out #ThisGirlCan on social media.

## Free coaching sessions

CHILDREN and young people from across the Borough, eager to try a new sport or to improve their existing skills, can now sign up for free sports' coaching sessions, as part of this year's Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

The eight-week programme of free coaching, tactics and skills sessions for those aged between 7 and 15, will be held from April to June 2018. Led by fully qualified local coaches, the sessions will culminate in an Olympic-style competition, where participants will represent Team Woking against the 10 other boroughs and districts hosted at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford and Woking Leisure Centre on June 23 and 24.

Age categories and eligibility vary from sport to sport with opportunities for both boys and girls of all abilities to participate in the following sports: Badminton, Basketball, Boccia (up to 18 years), Boxing (up to 16 years), Girls' Cricket, Girls' Football, Hockey, Judo, Lacrosse, Netball, Tag Rugby, Squash and Tennis.

To sign up for free sports' coaching sessions, or for further information about the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/syg](http://www.woking.gov.uk/syg) Alternatively, please contact Woking's Sports Development Officer, Emma-Louise Webb, on 01483 743804 or email [emma-louise.webb@woking.gov.uk](mailto:emma-louise.webb@woking.gov.uk)

## Pioneering home deposit scheme

WOKING Council has approved a scheme that aims to revolutionise the way first-time buyers can gain a foothold on the property ladder.

The Earn Your Deposit scheme will offer over 400 tenants of Thamesway Housing Ltd, a company owned by the Council, the opportunity to earn money towards a deposit on their first home.

The scheme will be available to tenants who pay their rent on time, look after their home and garden and do not cause a nuisance to neighbours. The amount a tenant could earn would depend on meeting the scheme's criteria and the size of property they rent.

## 84% get secondary school first choice

SURREY has offered five out of six applicants their first preference secondary school despite an eight per cent rise in applications. The County Council processed 851 more applications than last year – enough to fill a new school. In Woking 865 applicants got their first choice, 84 their second and 39 their third.

MICHAEL FARLAM

## WHAT'S ON

GENESIS CHORALE are performing Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle at St John's Church, West Byfleet, on Saturday April 7 at 7.30pm. Musical director is Lewis Gaston. Tickets £15, children and students £6. [www.Genesischorale.org.uk](http://www.Genesischorale.org.uk)

CHARITY coffee morning and cake sale at St Andrew's Church, Goldsworth Park, Saturday April 28, 10am-12.30pm. All proceeds to Christian Aid. Details: [www.standrewsgwp.org](http://www.standrewsgwp.org) or [office@standrewsgwp.org](mailto:office@standrewsgwp.org) Call 01483 723879



### The Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge - the perfect setting for your special occasion



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For further information, check out the web-site [www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

call 07958 672203 or email [hallmanager@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:hallmanager@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



# GPCA January meeting

*Summary of the GPCA quarterly meeting held at Goldwater Lodge on January 30.*

## FINANCE

The search is on for a new treasurer to replace Peter Hill, who is standing down at the end of the financial year, June 2018. Voluntary agencies and local accounting firms had been contacted and those at the meeting were asked to contact the Chair if they knew of anyone with financial experience who might be interested.

The treasurer reported that GPCA income was down over the same period last year. There were fewer bookings for the hall and bar between September and December 2017 and fewer paid advertisements were being placed in the Goldsworth News. A big advertiser had gone out of business owing money. Cleaning costs at the hall were higher than last year and service costs had doubled.

## COMMUNICATIONS

The Goldsworth News magazine circulated to all homes on the estate, is funded by advertising that had recently declined to the extent that the GPCA had to make a contribution to the cost of the last two issues.

The website received around 50 hits a day, mostly to ask about the hall, but also comments about the car park at the shopping centre since the hospice opened, although these have reduced in number.

## HALL MANAGEMENT

The GPCA pays ground rent to Woking Council. The last increase was due in 2008 but was not applied until 2017. There will be a further increase this year, then every 10 years.

The lease is still outstanding and the GPCA has asked for a draft to consider. To this end, a new firm of solicitors, W Davies, has been appointed since the previous solicitor retired.

Visitors to the hall are now able to find the venue more easily since a new direction sign was erected. Surrey County Councillors Saj Hussain and Colin Kemp were thanked for their financial support from their funds for community projects, and Gary Collins for his design skills.

The hall has been open now for just under three years since the fire, and needs to be redecorated.

## NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK

Project manager Gerry Smeesters reported that the West Surrey Badger Group has identified holes in a bank near one of the paths through the woods near the lake as a badger sett. Badgers are a protected species and there are concerns that too much publicity may attract the wrong sort of attention. Any maintenance work carried out by the lakeside should not interfere with the badgers. Gerry suggested that fishermen could keep a look out for badgers. Any sightings should be reported to the GPCA. The meadow attracts a lot of wildlife. The Surrey Bat Group will be undertaking a survey and botany surveys will be continued. An ornithologist has been looking at birdlife.

Liz Macintyre, who works for a youth charity operating in Goldsworth Park said youngsters would love to get involved with the wildlife. Local schools will be contacted again to involve them with the wildlife on the park.

Angling Club Secretary Roger Westcott reported that Alan Johnson, the new Fisheries Officer, is doing a fantastic job clearing broken and fallen branches round the lake. If any residents want to help, there will soon be a diary of dates for working parties on the Angling Club website, [www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com](http://www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com)

## COMMUNITY MATTERS

Woking Hospice informed the GPCA of the steps it is taking to alleviate the parking problems. An extract from their letter was published in the Goldsworth News. The Hospice are making more use of their own car park now. The parking situation seems to have eased and Waitrose reported that there were fewer complaints.

All the disabled parking bays are sometimes full now but there are calls for more parent and child bays. Some of the disabled bays could be shared use. The GPCA will contact the managing agents to find out if they are planning to resurface the car park and/or consider a new layout. They have said that they will repaint the arrows as they are very faint.

Waitrose has planning permission to improve the trolley parks with covered shelters.

The GPCA, Dianthus and St Andrews Church have offered the use of their premises following a fire at Lakers Youth Centre which destroyed the reception area and the rooms behind it where the roof collapsed. The main structure of the building was saved. Investigations into the cause of the fire continued and the building would be repaired.

The next meeting will be held at Goldwater Lodge on April 24 at 7.30pm.

The full minutes of the meeting are available on the GPCA website at [www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)



## Honorary Treasurer

The GPCA is looking for a new Treasurer to manage its financial affairs – book-keeping and accounting, banking and maintaining financial records, and reporting at meetings.

The Treasurer works from home and the hours are flexible, normally 15 - 20 hours each month.

If you have experience in financial management, good numeracy, IT and communication skills, and would like to contribute something to the community, please contact:

Irene Watson, Chair of the GPCA,  
on 01483 714096 or  
[chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

for further information and to arrange to discuss the role with the Chair and current Treasurer.

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