

GOLDSWORTH NEWS

July/Aug 2018 – Issue 164



www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

In this edition

- New hall management
- Let's go fishing
- Old Goldsworth Park
- Robin Hood pub closes

Back from the brink



New start for GPCA

Pages 3, 4 & 5

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GOLDSWORTH NEWS is the magazine of the Goldsworth Park Community Association and is distributed free to approximately 5,000 homes and organisations throughout Goldsworth Park and the surrounding area.

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

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to: editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

GPCA MEETINGS

Meetings of the Community Association
are held at Goldwater Lodge.

AGM, Tuesday November 6, 7.30pm.

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

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

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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Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

I AM pleased to say that I can be much more upbeat in this issue as things are looking better for the GPCA.

There was a good turnout at the meeting on June 29, about 60 people in all, and those of you who came and those who receive the minutes by email will know something of the outcome.

The threat of the GPCA disappearing galvanised a number of people to come forward and there are now volunteers in line for the roles of Vice Chair, Treasurer and Secretary as well as others who may take a more roving portfolio. There was no one with facilities management skills so the Trustees confirmed their decision to relinquish the Community Hall – see Pages 4 and 5 for more information.

The new Committee members are getting to know each other, and we will shortly have a briefing on the roles and responsibilities of Charity Trustees, and the appointment process.

In the light of recent issues with some large charities, the Charity Commission has tightened up its rules about Trustees, and we all have to comply with the new procedures. It may seem a very complicated process, but the rules are designed to protect both those people who use a charity's services and those who donate to its funds.

We will also have to consider the form of charity which the GPCA might become in the future; can we amend our constitution; do we seek to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO), a charitable company limited by guarantee or an unincorporated association? This is an issue we will have to address in the very near future with the advice of an expert from Surrey Community Action. We need to have a clear idea of the road ahead before the AGM on November 6.

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
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



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Volunteers step forward



NEW GPCA volunteers have met with existing officials for informal discussions about the future of the Association. Pictured from left: Pauline Eastwood, Janet Barratt, Matthew Butt, Cathy Salmon, George Binyon (Editor), Tina Hartley (Treasurer elect), Gerry Smeesters (NGP), Chris Martin, Steve Willson (Webmaster), Irene Watson (Chair), Celia Young (Secretary elect).

Picture: IAN RICKARD

Join our Virtual Neighbourhood Watch

SIGN UP to our Virtual Neighbourhood Watch and help make the community safer.

The Goldsworth Park Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Group has been created with the aim of sharing information and alerts about relevant police and crime issues.

Using the traditional email method takes time to get a message to every member but, with Facebook, we aim to improve the speed and effectiveness of communication amongst members.

If you use Facebook, just search for the Goldsworth Park Neighbourhood Watch Group and apply to join. You can get notifications direct to your smartphone.

Users can add relevant information to the page but posts will be restricted to safety issues.

Let's get to 500 members by Christmas!

CHRISTINA CANDEY

Things are looking up!

THE future of the GPCA looks assured after volunteers stepped forward to fill committee posts and act as Trustees.

Residents voted to give the Association until November 6 to fill vacancies and fulfil its obligations as a charity or face dissolution. That resolution, proposed by Chair Irene Watson, was passed by a majority of 49 to 6 at an Extraordinary General Meeting held at Goldwater Lodge on Friday June 29.

Since the publication of the June edition of the Goldsworth News and the EGM, Tina Hartley of Muirfield Road has volunteered to become GPCA Treasurer and Celia Young will be the new Secretary.

Other residents have offered to become Trustees of the charity and fill other committee and casual vacancies and have held informal meetings to discuss the future of the new look GPCA.

At the start of the EGM the Chair explained that the GPCA no longer had the resources to effectively manage the community hall at Goldwater Lodge and any arrangements to try to do so would impose a severe strain on both financial resources and on the time of any new Treasurer.

In the circumstances, the Trustees believed that the right way forward would be for the GPCA to cease managing the community hall and to surrender it to the Council, but they hoped it would remain a community building.

The Chair told the meeting that she had met Ray Morgan CEO of Woking Council, which owns the building, to explain the situation. He had agreed that the building should remain as a community facility. Mr Morgan and the Chair then met Gary Rimay-Muranyi of Dianthus Trading, which runs the community building next door, and it was agreed that, if the GPCA handed the building back to the Council, it would be leased to Dianthus which, in turn, would run it as a community building and honour all existing bookings.

Mr Morgan took questions from the floor about the future use of the community hall. He explained that the Dianthus Building was leased from the Council by Dianthus Trading as a community building and its use as such was enshrined in the lease. Dianthus Trading would lease the community hall in the same way. WBC would not profit from the arrangement.

He added that Dianthus Trading had recently entered into discussions with the Council about extending the Dianthus Building to meet demand and the proposed arrangement will mean that this will be unnecessary for the time being.

Mr Morgan could not give a guarantee that the GPCA would have unlimited free use of the hall in the future but said that free use for formal meetings would be built into the lease agreement. In another answer he said if Dianthus Trading could not make a financial success of the hall, it could well be leased commercially. However, should this happen, the GPCA would be given the first option on taking a lease on the hall again.

Summing up, Mr Morgan said he had asked the Council's legal department to draw up papers as quickly as possible to end the current arrangement. There would be no financial penalties involved and the Council would indemnify the GPCA against any costs. The GPCA would need to seek legal advice on the wording and the Council would contribute up to £500 for such advice.

Outgoing GPCA Treasurer Peter Hill told the meeting that the Association had around £30,000 in cash reserves. In answer to a question about financial reserves, he said the Trustees had discussed the situation and thought that about half would go to a re-structured GPCA. It would not need reserves for building development and maintenance and there are other community projects and charities on Goldsworth Park which would benefit from financial support. The GPCA would also receive £1,000 a year from Dianthus if running the community hall was profitable.



Peter told the meeting he would stay on until November, finalising the accounts for 2017/18 before handing over to the new Treasurer.

• Full minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting are available on our website: www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk



CRUNCH TIME – Chair Irene Watson, with Treasurer Peter Hill (left) and note taker David Powell, calls the meeting to order



FILLING UP – residents turned out in force

Under new management

Dianthus to run hall

DIANTHUS TRADING, who are to take over the running of the community hall, already have a close working relationship with the GPCA.

After the fire in 2012 which closed all of Goldwater Lodge, Dianthus stepped in to provide an alternative venue for bookings that had been made at the hall. In fact Dianthus now often hires the hall when its own rooms are fully booked.

Dianthus Trading is a Community Interest Company attached to the Sea Cadets charity and Woking Sea Cadets have their headquarters at the building. A CIC must use its profits and assets for the public good and a contribution of £1,000 a year will be made to the restructured GPCA.

Gary Rimay-Muranyi runs Dianthus. He told Goldsworth News: "It's exciting to be taking over the running of the community hall. We've been working with the Lodge all the time. From the day the GPCA set up after the fire we always said we would be friendly and work together as a community thing, which is what I want to do.

"I did a quick calculation a few weeks ago and about 65 per cent of the work that comes through here is subsidised by us from other work. So we are always looking to help people if we can."

Gary is keen to point out that all hall bookings that have been made will be honoured. He added: "The only thing I would say is that as part and parcel of what I'd like to do is to rationalise the use of the buildings. That makes a lot of commercial sense. If the booking is only for an hour it's no big deal whether it's in the Dianthus building or the Lodge."

The interior of the community hall is due to be redecorated in the next few weeks and Gary has already put his personal touch on things by choosing white! Other than that he does not plan any major changes.

Gary added: "I have spoken to the bar staff and the intention is to keep working with them because they have more experience than us in that particular area.

"Dianthus employs between three and four people on a regular basis and I bring people in as required event-by-event, job-by-job."

Dianthus were planning an extension to the building to cope with increasing demand for bookings, but this has now been put on hold

due to the acquisition of the community hall. Chair Irene Watson felt the GPCA needed to relinquish the running of the hall to ensure the future of the Association.

She said: "For a long time now, since the fire and particularly since the Vice Chair moved away from the area, managing the community hall has been a significant burden on the Chair and the Treasurer.

"In other communities, such as Horsell, there are usually two separate organisations – one to run the "village hall" and one to represent the residents, each with its own committee. The GPCA was trying to do both with only two active Trustees. When the Hall Manager felt it was time to retire, matters came to a head and the Trustees had to act. The Trustees believe that this is the best solution with benefits all round."

For all Dianthus and community hall booking enquiries call 07956 603456 or go to www.dianthustrading.com



NEIGHBOURS – the Dianthus building is next door to the community hall

Sounding out the bats

THE North Meadow bat survey began in the second week of July, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.

A group of dedicated volunteers put up with unsocial, but exciting, hours beginning at dusk and finishing near midnight. Working to a pre-determined route, overseen by the Surrey Bat Group (SBG), the volunteers walked a circuit using detectors to pick up bat noises.

The data collection process is rigorous and sounds are digitally recorded. SBG will analyse the data and determine what species of bat are foraging on North Meadow. We hope to get the results in August.

During June and July the hot weather brought out many butterflies on North Meadow, including the gloriously coloured Peacock and Comma. The most prolific species were Ringlets, Meadow Browns, Skippers and a variety of Whites.

From the lake we had an abundance of the Common Blue damselfly and also dragonflies. Both search for the nectar found on the tall grasses. Hundreds of their pupa are cocooned on the nettles and thistle. Expect to see the striking bi-coloured daytime Cinnabar moth soon; it is deep red and black – and toxic to predators.

Buzzards have been visiting as have red kites. The jackdaw roost coming into North Meadow at dusk is worth looking out for. There must be many hundreds of them with their distinctive squawk.

The hot weather has brought unwelcome visitors to North Meadow, namely a spread of the rat population. More seriously, fire. North Meadow narrowly escaped a major incident and required Fire Service attendance the following day to douse an area. The fire was started deliberately. Littlewick and Horsell Commons were less fortunate with more extensive fire damage between the end of June and mid July.

Why don't Surrey or Woking Councils bother to post fire hazard signs on North Meadow? Surely this is a risk that needs action.

To get involved, get information or to follow the North Meadow project, search @Naturalgoldsworth on Facebook or Twitter, or email me on projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk. We would love to hear from you!



Poverty is food for thought

Revd Kate Wyles

DID you know that a baby blue tit eats around 100 caterpillars every day? That is a lot of bugs to find! I know this because recently one of them fell out of its nest, and my friend had to work very hard to keep it fed.

The Bible has some comforting words about small birds assuring us that, though 'sparrows are sold for only a penny, God our Father knows when any one of them falls to the ground'. (Matthew chapter 10 verse 29.) If God cares for the smallest of birds, then surely God cares for each one of us too. And so, I have been thinking about hungry mouths this week.

According to the census figures almost 17 per cent of children in Goldsworth East live in poverty. That is a startling statistic. Thank goodness that many churches, faith communities and other people of goodwill volunteer and join in with initiatives in the borough to help make Woking a positive place to live.

At St Andrew's Coffee Shop in Goldsworth Park centre we are playing our part in this.

Working in partnership with wonderful Waitrose we are taking their surplus food and turning it into low cost dishes so that everyone can enjoy a meal. Each day on our Specials Board you will find a pay-as-you-can option.

Customers can pay as much or as little as they can, either with their money or with their time. Those who can afford to pay the going rate or more do so willingly, knowing that they are subsidising good food for those who are struggling, and enabling them to 'fly' again when the tough times pass.

This isn't just good news for our community, it is good news for the environment too because it reduces food waste and land-fill. It is also economic good news because we are offering opportunities for volunteering and work-placements at the Coffee Shop, especially for those who need work experience to gain confidence and skills for employment.

The Coffee Shop is a place to make friends from all walks of life, with its community Art

Group, a Craft Group and hearing aid clinic. These groups are for everyone in our community regardless of faith or background, and we'll be looking to host more as the café develops.

Come and support your community through this good-news café. We'd love you to be a part of it – and would value your help and your custom to make it work.

For more information call Helen in the office on 01483 723879.

Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.

LOCAL charity Foodwise is providing free family lunches at St Andrew's on August 6, 15, 21 and 30. Call 07486 628167.



St Andrew's Church

Aman bowls 'em over!

FROM professional cricketer playing at international level, to the Beacon House Dry Cleaners in Goldsworth Park – Aman Ullah has a fascinating life story, writes ROYER SLATER.

Who would guess the cheerful chappie handing over the cleaning once played first-class cricket in Pakistan, was top bowler in the country's national Under-16 and Under-19 sides, and played internationally?

Growing up in Pakistan, Aman's teenage cricketing talent as a pace-man was recognised by the Pakistan Cricket Board, which controls and organises all tours and matches undertaken by the national cricket team, and he was invited to join its Talent Scheme.

Aman said: "First-class cricket in Pakistan differs from the UK. The major teams are sponsored by banks and other organisations, one of which is United Bank Limited (UBL). I was talent spotted by them and invited to attend their training camp. I vividly remember getting a letter from UBL saying 'here's a ticket to Karachi, your hotel is booked'!

"My first season playing professionally for UBL was in 1990 and I was the best bowler in the league that year."

Aman went on to play for Pakistan A against Sri Lanka and in the 1992 World Cup in England, before transferring to the United Arab Emirates national team.

Over the following years, Aman played professionally here in England after his former boss at UBL asked him to come over and play for Guildford Cricket Club, then in Spain and for two years in Holland before returning to Guildford. At every stage Aman was marked best bowler in the respective league.

He said: "I stopped playing cricket professionally to devote more time to my family. I worked for JJB Sports until it was shut down. Then whilst job hunting, I heard there was a vacancy at Beacon House Dry Cleaners in Goldsworth Park – that was eight years ago and here I am still!"

Aman is a familiar face at the cleaning specialist and very popular with its customers. He added: "I enjoy chatting to them, especially the



PRIZE POSSESSION – Aman with this Pakistan blazer

older people. I get to know some of them very well. We become friends and have a good chat. It's a good reason for saying here!

"Unfortunately knee surgery two years ago put my cricket playing on hold. But I've played recently for Send and am coaching at Guildford. My other great interest is preparing Asian food: I enjoy catering for others.

"Above all, I'm happy to be a family man and to meet lots of lovely people in my work!"

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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.



LET'S GO FISHING is back for 2018!

Following the great success of the last few years' Lets Go Fishing events, the Goldsworth Park Angling Club is once again holding angling teaching days at Brookwood Pond 4 throughout the month of August.

Supporting the National Fishing Month, the club will be holding teaching days every Thursday between 9am and 6pm, where each participant will receive a full one hour, one to one tuition into the basic art of angling, delivered by our professional coaches.

With all tackle and bait supplied, those taking part will be shown how to set up, bait the hook, cast the line, watch for bites and hopefully catch some fish, after which each person will receive a starter kit and certificate of participation. Last year 75 people took part and everyone caught fish, some big ones too!

This program is delivered completely free of any charge, so it's an opportunity not to be missed.

The dates available are; August 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. There are one-hour slots, the first at 9.30am and the last at 5pm.

The event is open to all over the age of seven. You must book in advance, so all you need to do to take advantage of this exciting event is pick up the phone and call me on 07779 896393 to book your chosen slot.

REMEMBER IT'S COMPLETELY FREE!

Don't touch the hairy pests!

CATERPILLARS that present a health hazard to people and animals have been found close to Goldsworth Park.

Authorities have issued a warning to residents not to touch and report sightings of Oak Processionary Moth caterpillars or their nests, following their discovery in Knaphill and Pyrford.

The caterpillars shed thousands of their tiny hairs in the nests which can cause itching skin rashes and eye irritations and, more rarely, breathing difficulties. They are also a tree pest because they eat oak leaves. Large numbers can strip oak trees bare, leaving them weakened and vulnerable to other threats.

OPM caterpillars build their distinctive white, silken, webbing nests and trails in June on the trunks and branches of oak trees, anywhere between ground level and many metres high. The nests become discoloured after several days,

and harder to see as a result. They can also fall out of trees, creating a hazard to curious children and pets, and grazing livestock.

Sightings of either the caterpillars or their nests should be reported on the Forestry Commission's Tree Alert online form, available from www.forestry.gov.uk/opm or by emailing opm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

Alison Field, the Forestry Commission's South East England Director, said: "Please don't try to remove the nests yourself. To be as effective and safe as possible, this job needs to be done by people with the right training and equipment, and the nests must be disposed of properly."

The peak risk period for human and animal health is from mid-May to the end of July. However, nests should not be approached at any time, because the hairs can remain active for a long period.



HEALTH HAZARD – the distinctive OPM caterpillar

Cash boost for hospice

THE tea, coffee and cake counter staffed by GPCA volunteers at Goldwater Lodge during the Dragon Boat racing on June 3 raised £510.36 for Woking Hospice.

And this amount was boosted by a £350 donation from the GPCA from bar profits and

bar staff who took no pay on the day.

Catering staff at the hospice provided a delicious selection of cakes and brownies and the takings were up £80 on 2017.

Hospice Events Manager Rachelle Barnett said: "I would like to say a huge thank you

to your GPCA team at the Lodge for all your help in the run-up to and during the Dragon Boat races. I am so grateful for your support and I do hope you all enjoyed the day."

The team from Seymours Estate Agents won the event, going one better than their runner-up spot last year.

Historic Goldsworth Park (Part three)

GERRY SMEESTERS, Natural Goldsworth Park project manager, concludes his series exploring links between the modern estate and Slocock's Goldsworth Nursery.

THE HORTICULTURAL CONNECTION NORTH OF THE CANAL: Tenacre is a residential cul-de-sac just north of the canal and is named after one of the myriad of the Slocock Nursery fields. To the best of my knowledge, apart from Lockfield Drive, there are no other such naming applications field/road names.

LOST LANES: Long Lane was once opposite of what is now the back garden of the Robin Hood pub. Long Lane was developed and extended by the current Clifton Way. Some 30 yards along Clifton Way, Long Lane Cottage has survived and is something of a rare landmark. The Robin Hood pub is shown on the very first Ordnance Survey map of our area dated 1871. The pub is now up for sale as a 'development opportunity'. Is the Robin Hood also destined for the history scrapbook?

Could you tell me where Harelands Lane is on the modern estate landscape? With difficulty – as it no longer exists. The lane ran from Well Lane, Horsell, parallel with the canal and took a north turn by the former Harelands Farm. The lane petered out broadly where part of Lakeview was developed. A diagonal line from the canal running through the middle of land occupied by Eastmead and Westmead will place you on Harelands Lane. Part of modern Sythwood follows its line beyond Westmead. Sadly, the roundabout in Lockfield Drive (junction with Parley Drive) is now the only name commemorating the farm, cottages, house and lane.

The farm was situated where part of Bankside is, behind Dene Place. Harelands House was built over, on what is now 1-12 Bankside. Harelands Lane, part which survives off Well lane was the principal access to the Harelands properties and the field systems beyond. There are no traces of the track.

THE SLOCOCK NAME: Slocock Hill is the only place on the modern estate that bears the name of the former owners of the business and land. The road has no residential property and is only about 100 metres in length. Its location, off Harelands Roundabout, is easily missed by those negotiating the busy junction. This is both an inconspicuous and odd way to remember the former business. However, on the 'unique' side, this byway is the only 'hill' on the estate – even if it is just a gentle slope.

GOLDSWORTH NURSERY WAR MEMORIALS: The most tangible link between the former nursery and the current community are the war memorials commemorating fallen nursery employees in the two world wars. These memorials are located outside the health centre at the Goldsworth retail area. Until last year the annual remembrance

service was always attended by members of the Slocock family.

These memorials have travelled. Originally, located at the Old Goldsworth Nursery they were taken by Martin Slocock to Knap Hill Nursery in the mid 1970's in order to prevent their destruction. At the Barrs Lane site they were embedded in a wall of one of the buildings. When Knap Hill Nursery closed, the GPCA and St Andrew's Church offered an alternative site for the memorials. Fittingly, they remain on Goldsworth Park.

Has the heritage of Goldsworth's bygone years been lost? – yes, all but for some name associations which mostly are disconnected to relevant geographical locations. Recognition of a local and nationally important enterprise could have been dealt with more sympathetically by the developers and planners.

Uniquely, the Royal Horticultural Society awarded its highest accolade, the Victoria Medal of Honour, to each of the three generations of the Slocock family for their contribution to horticulture and botanical science. An adjustment to help celebrate our community's heritage is overdue.

In writing this series of articles I have drawn on various sources including local historian Ian Wakeford's very good 'Walks'. Mostly my observations came about from my own walks around the estate. If you have a story or family recollections of the nursery years then please do contact me to share your information. Call 07899 794302 or email projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk



TOKEN GESTURE – this road sign is the only recognition of the former nursery



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Canal Society's Royal award

Royer Slater

ISN'T it wonderful to have the Basingstoke Canal running along the southern edge of Goldsworth Park!

In just a few steps we can leave the busy urban world to join its footpath: a tranquil tree-lined corridor with only ducks for company.

The Basingstoke Canal Society which manages the canal has just been honoured with a Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the equivalent of an MBE, but for organisations. The Award was created by Her Majesty to recognise outstanding contributions made to local communities by groups of volunteers.

The Society's chairman, Philip Riley said: "It acknowledges over half a century of effort by very many volunteers dedicated to the restoration and preservation of the beautiful Basingstoke Canal."

Some readers may recall that the canal lay derelict for many years and had become a convenient rubbish dump. Back in 1966, The Basingstoke Canal Society was founded to restore it. At the time its owner was drawing up plans to fill in parts for development!

Surrey and Hampshire County Councils were both persuaded to go for its restoration as a navigable waterway by the promise of voluntary labour. Restoration of 29 locks, many bridges, weirs, embankments and cuttings, and dredging using a 50-year-old steam-powered dredger, began in the early 1970s and continued for 25 years until the canal was officially re-opened in May 1991.

The Society's volunteers have continued work to enhance it ever since. It has undertaken major projects such as installation of two back-pumping schemes in Woking to improve the water supply, resurfacing of several miles of towpath, installation of moorings and lock landings, and annual clearance of miles of bank growth. Last winter, the Society's contractors surveyed and repaired the St John's flight of locks through Goldsworth Park.

So although The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is a wonderful achievement, work on the canal is never finished. And alongside the

ongoing maintenance, the Society says it has exciting plans for the future.

Can you help? There are lots of fantastic volunteering opportunities that don't need wellies and a hard hat! For example, they need help with administration, Press and promotional support, organising events and fund-raising.

You can find out more about volunteering on the web at <https://tinyurl.com/y9pvhus7> or email ken.sanke@basingstokecanal.org.uk or phone him on 07850 652769.

A COMMUNITY initiative with a major presence in Goldsworth Park has won a national award celebrating 70 years of the NHS.

Hearing-aid maintenance sessions have been running on the first Wednesday of each month since October 2014 at St Andrew's Church in Goldsworth Park Centre. The free drop-in sessions are run by church volunteers called Hearing Champions.

The volunteer technicians have been specially trained by NHS audiologists in understanding hearing impairment and to carry out basic maintenance including cleaning and retubing on NHS hearing aids, and provide batteries.

It is part of a "Hear Here" project by the Church of England Diocese of Guildford. Many churches across the Diocese run Hearing Champions sessions, but the monthly sessions at St Andrew's have consistently been the best attended with an average of 45 at each session – numbers have exceeded 60.

And it had just been announced the "Hear Here project – Hearing Champions" was outright winner of the Faith in Action Award to celebrate 70 years of the NHS.



Time called at the Robin Hood

THE Robin Hood pub that backs on to Lockfield Drive has closed and is up for sale.

It is being advertised by agents as a freehold opportunity with vacant possession with potential for residential development subject to planning.

The building is owned by Ei Publican Partnerships. The company did not give a reason for closure but a spokesperson told Goldsworth News: "We can confirm the Robin Hood, Woking, is currently closed and we are assessing our options for the site."

Workers from the old Slocock's Nursery were regulars at the pub and the current building is believed to be Victorian. The 1871 census

lists John Palmer as innkeeper. Woking Council has confirmed the building is locally listed and this could influence a decision on any future development. Although buildings on the local list have no form of statutory protection, their status is still a relevant consideration in any planning application.

The pub sits on a plot of 1.03 acres at 88 Robin Hood Road. The agents say that subject to the necessary approvals and permissions, the site could provide alternative uses either through conversion, extension or redevelopment.



LAST ORDERS – the Robin Hood has closed its doors



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Colin honoured with OBE



COLIN SQUIRE, Chairman of Squire's Garden Centres, received his OBE from HRH The Prince of Wales at Buckingham Palace on Friday May 18.

He was given the award in the Queen's New Year's Honours list in recognition of his services to the horticultural industry and to charity.

Colin, 81, whose newly refurbished Littlewick Road centre serves Goldsworth Park said: "It was a very special day, and lovely to share it with my two daughters Sarah and Elizabeth and their families. I felt immensely honoured.

"I have been very fortunate to work in this wonderful industry and to have enjoyed the support and friendship of so many inspirational people over the years."

Sarah Squire, Deputy Chairman said: "It was

a wonderful day, and an absolute privilege to celebrate my father's achievements, both in horticulture and in his charity and community work.

"It is my father's character, values and judgment that permeate the business, and his enthusiasm, ready smile and commitment are reflected throughout the organisation. We are all so proud of him."

Squire's has 15 garden centres across the South East. The company was founded by Colin's father D. J. Squire as a nursery and landscape business over 80 years ago, and Colin joined the business in the late 1950's and developed the group's garden centres.

HONoured – Colin Squire with daughters Sarah (left) and Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace

Team Woking are tops

TEAM WOKING topped the medal table at this year's Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

All 11 Surrey boroughs and districts participated in the county-wide event, which took place at Surrey Sports Park and Woking Leisure Centre on June 23 and 24.

Over 150 children, aged between seven and 16, represented Woking in 11 different sports including badminton, boccia, boxing, football, hockey, judo, lacrosse, netball, touch rugby, squash and mini tennis.

For many of the competitors, the event was their first experience of competitive sport on such a grand scale. Team Woking rose to the challenge to scoop seven gold, two silver and one bronze medal, as well as excellent results in other sports.

Team Woking won gold in badminton (U-14 mixed), boccia (U-13 mixed), boxing (U-16 contact mixed and U-16 non-contact mixed), football (U-9 girls), hockey (U-11 girls) and netball (U-11 High 5 girls). They took silver in boccia (U-13 mixed) and netball (U-13 girls) and bronze in rugby (U-11 girls).

The U-13 mixed boccia, U-16 non-contact mixed boxing and U-11 girls hockey teams retained their titles from 2017.

Cllr Colin Kemp, Woking Council's Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Cultural Services, said: "What an absolutely fantastic achievement! On behalf of everyone at the Council, I would like to congratulate Team Woking on their superb performances."

With sponsorship from Freedom Leisure, Headline Design and Print and Orange Promotions Woking Council was able to offer youngsters across the Borough free coaching and the opportunity to try a new sport.

To register your interest in next year's games contact Emma-Louise Webb, Woking Council's Sports Development Officer, on 01483 743804 or email emma-louise.webb@woking.gov.uk

WINNERS – Team Woking's boxers



Greenfingers get £4k boost

GOLDSWORTH PARK residents who bought potted plants as part of Squire's 12-hour Plant-a-thon helped raise £4,219 for the Greenfingers charity.

Greenfingers creates magical gardens at children's hospices and TV gardener Charlie Dimmock took part in the event when she opened the refurbished garden centre in Littlewick Road.

Squire's donated the proceeds of the government carrier-bag tax to the charity, as well as proceeds from the fund-raiser held across its centres.

Company Deputy Chairman Sarah Squire

said: "All of us at Squire's are delighted to support the fantastic work that Greenfingers do. They create inspiring gardens at hospices throughout the UK that children and their families can take solace in, at a time when they are facing huge challenges."

Chairman of Greenfingers John Ashley said: "We are extremely grateful to our friends at Squire's for this most generous donation. With three more gardens planned for this year, the money raised will help to ensure a million precious outside memories can be created by families who spend time in hospices."

BAGGING A GIFT – Sarah Squire and John Ashley



Woking's £500m transformation

WOKING town centre's £500 million transformation is on track for completion in 2020. Since work began last year, a new skyline is rapidly developing.

At 34 stories high, two apartment towers and a new 23-storey Hilton Hotel are part of the town's Victoria Square development, which includes 429 apartments, and 125,000 sq. ft. of new commercial space.

A Marks & Spencer food and clothing store will be in Victoria Square. There will also be a multi-storey car park, a medical centre and two public plazas opening in September 2020.

Water supply increased

THAMES WATER is pumping an extra 450 million litres of water, a 17 per cent increase, into its network to cope with a record surge in demand during the heatwave.

The company has ramped-up production at its water treatment works to keep taps flowing. The good news from the company is that the rain in winter and spring really helped to fill reservoirs and recharge groundwater levels, so they don't expect them to become so low to impose temporary restrictions.

Surrey's future – help shape the vision

SURREY is a great place to live and many residents and businesses thrive. But not everyone has the same opportunities and many people face problems including domestic abuse, homelessness and mental health issues. Visit surreycc.gov.uk/vision2030 before September 3 to tell the County Council what you think the future for the county should be.

Extra £20m for roads

TRIGGS LANE, Woking is one of the first of many roads added to the county council's programme of repairs following the investment of an extra £20million by Surrey County Council.

New funding scheme for charities

FOUR Surrey charities will benefit from a windfall, thanks to Revive re-use shops. Chosen by customers of the four Revive shops in the county they are The Children's Trust, Wildlife Aid, Woking Hospice and Age UK, with each receiving £440.07. The re-use shops not only raise funds, they help people find furniture and household items at greatly reduced prices.

Top four scams in Surrey

A WOKING man parted with several thousand pounds after a phone scammer said he would receive a windfall if he first made payments using iTunes vouchers. He has since had a trueCall blocker installed stop scam calls getting through to him.

Phone scams were one of the four major scams reported in Surrey. These involve unsolicited phone calls from scammers masquerading as officials from a bank, insurance company or government agency. They call either landlines or mobile phones to trick people into giving personal information such as bank details, used to steal their money.

Mail scams range from sinister and threatening demands for money from psychics and clairvoyants to companies selling products with miraculous and unrealistic claims. The most prevalent in Surrey is the lottery or prize-draw scam, where the recipient is deceived into believing that they've won money or a high value prize.

Doorstep scams were the most common, beginning with an unexpected knock at the door, cold calling selling goods or charging extortionate amounts for simple jobs, or someone posing as an official to win your trust.

Cyber scams involving the Internet or email appear in a wide variety of forms including fake social media profiles and "phishing come in" emails aimed at harvesting personal information. The message is: Do not send money or bank details to strangers.

MICHAEL FARLAM



HIGH RISE – Woking's town centre development looms over Goldsworth Park

Chris' wheelchair challenge

GOLDSWORTH PARK resident Chris Martin took part in a charity wheelchair challenge to highlight claims of poor road and pavement conditions in Woking.

Able-bodied Chris, of Watercress Way, along with Josh Reid, took up the challenge after disabled neighbour Anne Ambodia complained about difficulties getting about in her motorised wheelchair.

The route they took was from Watercress Way to Horsell High Street via Sythwood and Rosehill Avenue.

Chris, 52, said afterwards: "I found it very hard, much harder than expected. It's the little imperfections in the pavement that make it so difficult, things you don't see as an able-bodied person, as well as the blatant issues such as cars parked on the verge and tree roots coming through the pavement.

"I almost fell out at one point due to a tree root and Josh's wheel got stuck when trying to get up a poor drop-down kerb."

Josh said: "I found it really tough, much harder than the practice runs. The duration of it was horrific, especially with all the obstacles we faced. The state of the pavements is absolutely diabolical. A lot of them have cracks in – in fact my wheel got stuck in a crack and there were also tree stumps raising the pavements making it dangerously uneven.

"It took us 56 minutes, which is awful considering it would take an able-bodied person under 20 minutes to walk the same route. We really need to start looking out for those who face this struggle."

Chris and Josh raised £150 for Surrey-based charity the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation for Disabled People.

Anne, also of Watercress Way, who organised the event said: "I'm surprised they did it but they did so well and I'm so proud of them for trying to see what people like me face day in day out. For myself, being in a motorised wheelchair, the fear factor of that route is horrendous."



MAKING THEIR POINT – Chris (left) and Josh



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