

# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

Sept/Oct 2018 – Issue 165



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# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

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.

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

George Binyon (Editor), Royer Slater,  
Michael Farlam and Robin Smith.  
editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

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Please submit articles for the next edition  
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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# Views from the Chair

**THE biggest change since I last wrote in this magazine is that Dianthus Trading has now taken over the management of the Community Hall from the GPCA.**

We had been working closely together for some time so the changeover went smoothly. I am not sure that hirers have noticed any difference. The Memorandum of Understanding between Dianthus Trading and the GPCA ensures that we have accommodation for our meetings at no charge and a contribution from them of £1,000 per annum.

The new Committee Members attended a briefing session on the role and responsibilities of Charity Trustees and completed the forms required to enable the appropriate checks to be carried out. Once these are completed, the new volunteers can formally become Trustees and we can start moving ahead with our new structure and organisation.

We are also working on a new Constitution to enable us to gain Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) status.

As you know, we had a very good turnout at the meeting about the future of the GPCA on June 29; there was the threat that the GPCA would have to shut down unless new Trustees were found and progress on a new Constitution was made.

I am now looking forward to reporting on progress in a number of areas at the AGM at 7.30pm on Tuesday November 6 in the Community Hall. I hope that the attendance will be as good as in June because, without support and interest from the community, there is no reason to continue.

In the meantime, we are not letting things slide; the magazine continues, as you can see, and we are organising an autumn litter pick for Saturday October 13 – see Page 9. I hope to see you there.

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)

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

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



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# Watch group is growing

**GOLDSWORTH PARK residents will not be surprised to learn that we have a good network of Neighbourhood Watches in place and currently around 250 of you receive regular emails from us about crimes in the locality and how to guard against them.**

But emails are a slow way to get important news out, especially if you can help hunt for a missing person – be it a suspect or a vulnerable wanderer. For those who use social media and can get alerts on our mobile phones, a faster tool is at hand. I mean a Facebook Group.

Since we launched the Goldsworth Park Neighbourhood Watch Facebook Group early in June, we have grown rapidly to 104 members, and I confidently expect that by the end of 2018 we will match the email network's 250 members.

What is interesting is that the average age of the Facebook Group member is much lower than our existing email members. I would guess from their Facebook photos typically around 30. Recruiting younger members is even more important to me than the simple growth in numbers because we surely want the younger generation to become involved in keeping this community safe. They need crime prevention information too, but perhaps it wasn't getting through by traditional email.

Whatever your age, you are welcome to join — any Park resident can join by going to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/goldsworthparkneighbourhoodwatch/> and clicking Join. Become part of the conversation.

CHRISTINA CANDEY

# 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. The magazines will be delivered to your door for distribution. 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)

Hawkswell Close and Hawkswell Walk 96 properties; Martindale Road, Helford Walk and Cranfield Court 51; Watercress Way 34; Lidstone Close 31; Quintrell Close 41.



# Farewell to Malcolm Head



**IT is with much sadness that I have to report that Malcolm Head, a regular contributor to Goldsworth News, passed away suddenly on August 5 aged 83.**

Although he did not live in Goldsworth Park, he could be considered an honorary resident due to his interest and involvement in our community.

He walked his dogs around the lake nearly every day until just recently when ill-health curtailed this activity. He was also a regular in the shopping centre and was vociferous about the car park. Although he was appreciative of the additional disabled parking spaces, he would have liked to see the layout improved.

Until recently, he frequently wrote for this magazine and it was clear that he enjoyed interviewing people for his articles. He was an excellent photographer and many of his pictures were featured in Goldsworth News. I am sure we all remember his quirky sense of humour; who else would compare the Sythwood Sure Start Children's Centre with an Oyster?

He was not a great supporter of the "Dogs on Leads" policy – I think that he felt that he and his dogs were sufficiently mature to be let off – and this gave rise to one of my favourite images, his photo composition of a lion being walked around the lake (featured right).

The last time I spoke to Malcom, only a few weeks ago, he was martialling a sponsored walk around the lake for Woking Strokeability, one of the many charities he supported. He was also very active in the Brookwood Last Post Association and St John's Care.



Malcolm will be sorely missed by his family, friends and the members of the many organisations he supported.

He is survived by wife Gill and daughters Sarah and Kate.

*IRENE WATSON, Chair, GPCA*

## New look for Lakers

**LAKERS YOUTH CENTRE, closed since a fire in January, is unlikely to reopen as a single-use facility.**

Goldsworth News has learned that efforts are underway to put together a business plan to utilise the centre, owned by Surrey County Council, as a community based facility but retaining a provision for youth.

Surrey have submitted an insurance claim for the damage to the building and are waiting for a response. The settlement will play a part in any decision to refurbish or rebuild the centre, as will damage assessment.

A newly opened centre could be partly used as office space for Surrey and Woking Council employees.

Fire ripped through the youth centre January 2 and it took six appliances from across the county to get the blaze under control. Surrey Fire and Rescue crews managed to save the main structure of the building, but the roof of the reception area was badly damaged and rooms at the rear of the building were gutted.

Back in May a petition with over 200 signatures was presented to Surrey County Council calling on it to repair the Goldsworth Park centre. The Council, who have made cuts to youth services across the county, have never confirmed that the facility will reopen.



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## GPCA AGM, November 6, Goldwater Lodge, 7.30pm

# Butterflies thrive on our meadow

**BACK in June a couple of NGP 'Friends' and myself had been comparing butterfly encounters on and around North Meadow, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.**

My impetus was triggered by a curiosity regarding the presence of these important and attractive pollinators. I also took photographs to help me identify what I had seen. I had absolutely no expectations but after sharing information with others a picture rapidly formed of a butterfly rich habitat, both for species and quantities.

Sure enough it turned into something of a 'mission', or mini survey to be technically correct. For a few weeks our activity also overlapped the nationwide Big Butterfly Count (BBC). The results have reflected extremely well on the North Meadow habitat.

**How did we fare?** North Meadow scored 15 from the 19 species that the BBC thought should be visible. We also sighted a further four species. Our data, along with photographic evidence, has now been submitted to the BBC database, whilst other sightings we made outside the three week window set for the BBC survey will be logged with the Surrey County Recorder for butterflies.

Recording the biodiversity of North Meadow on specialist national databases is an important goal of NGP. It gives the project and habitat a platform for recognition about its contribution to nature, something woefully overlooked and, as we are discovering, understated, in past years.

The butterfly survey needs to be performed annually. Time is the main challenge for doing this type of work, but the rewards for those that help include lots of healthy walks in the sunshine, perhaps the opportunity to get some brilliant photographs of these insects, and a positive contribution to the national record about trends in the natural world.

**Practical benefits for NGP?** NGP has detailed botany records for our habitat. Therefore, knowing what butterflies visit, and seem to thrive here, we can use the botany records with butterfly information.

Our botany records identify what and where plants are. When NGP considers enhancements to North Meadow our knowledge of

both botany and butterfly visitors will help inform our options. We need nectar plants for the adults, but must also consider the larval stage of their life.

For instance, the Small Copper and Peacock were both seen on North Meadow. However, they will only lay their eggs if certain other plants are present. Respectively, these plants are sheep's and common sorrel for the Copper and common or small nettles for the Peacock. Diligent use of our records will allow us to assess the impact of our proposals and the ability to implement them, but mindful about the places to avoid in order to minimise negative impacts.

The diversity and abundance of pollinators are a good indicator and benchmark for habitat bio-diversity and health. North Meadow has demonstrated that and for butterflies at least, this summer it was a good place to hang out.

In 2019 we need more volunteers helping on butterfly and bee identification. Would you like to help? Do contact me, I will be delighted to hear from you.

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

*FRAGILE BEAUTY – a Common Blue on North Meadow*



*Picture: GERRY SMEESTERS*

## Bat surveys underway

**NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK update by project manager GERRY SMEESTERS.**

**Bats:** The first and only bat survey ever undertaken of the North Meadow area was completed in July. The data shows very promising signs. Many of us sight bats in our back gardens or around the lake and North Meadow.

The survey confirms that we have a wide variety of species visiting to forage for insects. At the time of writing our second survey is underway to compare the seasonal changes with bat activity recorded in July. Bats identified to date include the Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Daubenton's, Noctule and Serotine.

Some data we recorded offers the possibility of other species among those above, but further research and analysis is needed to establish exactly what species. Bat identification is far from straightforward. NGP will report more fully on the bat studies in the next issue of Goldsworth News, but even then a further survey is already planned for May 2019, the bat breeding season.

**North Meadow:** Summer has passed quickly. By the time you read this update North Meadow grasses should have been cut back. However, Serco will not collect cuttings. No decisions have been made regarding wildflowers.

However, if we proceed down this route then the cuttings, or 'arising' as they are known, need to be removed. Rotting grass leaches nutrients into the soil, the opposite of what wildflowers need. This is one for our list of considerations in 2019. If you have any experience

in creating wildflower meadows please contact me. Your advice and experience would be welcomed.

**Hedgehogs:** Hedgehogs continue to live nearby North Meadow. However, a national survey and report on hedgehog numbers, published in early September, found a major decline in suitable habitats for them.

With winter just around the corner can you make a difference by making your garden more hedgehog friendly? The Hedgehog Society website has various leaflets containing guidance and tips [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

**Birds of Goldsworth:** Iris, a resident of Goldsworth Park recently handed me a list of birds she had seen in her back garden during the summer. She reported 16 species including a great spotted woodpecker, nuthatch, goldfinch, bullfinches, blue, great, long tailed and coal tits. Iris, a big thank you and please keep up the good work.

If you can put a name to a bird perhaps you also could keep a simple record and let me have an occasional update on when and where you had your sighting. A snapshot would be better still.

**Swifts:** There is a national initiative to conserve UK swift populations and breeding places. Thameswey Group are spearheading this in the Woking area. If you would like more information on what is happening and how you can help email [swifts@thamesweygroup.co.uk](mailto:swifts@thamesweygroup.co.uk)

You can contact me at [projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)





# Welcome to Andy's!

Revd Kate Wyles

**THERE is the smell of paint in the air at St Andrew's! These last few weeks we have been busy painting and decorating – getting ready for the opening of Goldsworth Park's community café.**

Thank you to everyone who suggested a new name. We have decided on Andy's. It's a friendly, informal and welcoming name – which is how we hope you'll find the café. Andy's will be a place where everyone in our community can eat, mix, meet and work.

• **A PLACE TO EAT** – on our 'specials board' we offer 'pay-as-you-feel' meals and cake. You can pay as much or as little as you feel able to. Those who can pay subsidise those who can't. You can even buy a meal or drink ahead for someone who can't afford one this week. We partner with local supermarkets, like Waitrose, and use their surplus food. It's good for the environment because it

reduces food waste, and good for the community because it keeps costs low.

But you don't have to purchase our goods to eat at Andy's – bring in your own lunch if you'd like to – be our guest. This is a community space.

• **A PLACE TO MIX** – where friends can be made from all walks of life. With community events and groups Andy's is a place where people from a wide range of backgrounds can meet through a shared love of singing, painting, craft, knitting or by practising English or having hearing-aids fixed...

• **A PLACE TO MEET** – where the welcome is warm, the chairs are comfy and there is play-space and toys for children.

• **A PLACE TO WORK** – with opportunities for volunteering and work-placements especially for those who need work experience to gain

confidence and skills for employment.

Andy's is a not-for-profit social enterprise subsidised by St Andrew's. Any money we make we put back into the community café so that we can continue to make this vision a reality.

We look forward to seeing you in your café.

Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.

**ST ANDREW'S** is holding a Messy Harvest event (fun for adults and children and a free lunch) in conjunction with the Salvation Army at Lakeview Community Centre on Saturday October 13 between 11.30am and 1.30pm.



**Andrew's Church**

## Wise way to a good meal

**ST ANDREW'S CHURCH and the charity FoodWise joined up to provide free meals for families once a week during the school summer holiday, writes ROYER SLATER.**

"We supported local families with fun activities for the children plus a meal," explained Revd Kate Wyles, Vicar of St Andrew's. "Some families whose children qualify for free school meals can find the long holiday a challenge."

Organiser Shani Orchard said: "We had 40 — 50 guests per week, thanks to publicity through local schools, St Andrew's toddler and community groups and on social media."

Shani was assisted throughout the summer by volunteers from the church and on August 21 they were supplemented by the Bishop of Dorking, The Rt Revd Jo Bailey Wells. Bishop Jo said, "I feel privileged to be here. It was a wonderful lunch – I feel I've been to the best kind of party. I've made some wonderful friends and the food was good, with lots of ice cream!"

"It's a wonderful way to support families through the long August days, with volunteers having various skills coming together to serve others."

The food was prepared by Grace Luke and Ruth Broughton from FoodWise, a local Christian charity which provides practical assistance to people living on a restricted budget by offering free cookery skills courses in the Woking and Guildford areas.

Grace said: "We promote the benefits of home cooked food and share tasty recipes that are affordable to people on a restricted food budget. It helps people become savvy shoppers and to become less reliant on more expensive or less healthy processed foods."

"We prepared delicious hearty dishes partly using ingredients kindly donated by Waitrose which were nearing their 'sell by' dates."

A parent commented: "With lots of activities for our kids and meals for us all it's a great day out." Her friend added: "It's really helpful. The children have enjoyed the 'Monday Fundays' at St Andrew's as well."

Another mother said, "We find it difficult to keep the kids entertained but they love it here. It's especially great for those of us on low incomes."

*HELPING HAND – Bishop of Dorking the Rt Revd Jo Bailey Wells in the St Andrew's kitchen*



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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.



**WOW! What a success. This year's Let's Go Fishing event was without doubt our most successful to date.**

Despite a couple of wet days during the August sessions at our pond at Brookwood Country Park, more than 90 participants enjoyed a fun, yet educational, introduction to the art of angling.

As with past years each person received a one hour lesson followed by the presentation



PROUD WINNER –  
Rebekah with coach Richard Charlton

of a starter kit and certificate of participation.

This year we were able to give more generously than before with the help of tackle donations from the Environment Agency backed National Fishing Month, Drennan tackle supplies through Pentangle Aquatics in Knaphill and Davis Angling of Staines.

Each year our two coaches Richard Charlton and Simon Windsor choose one male and one female who they feel have been their top pupils of 2018. This summer Rebekah and Jem, both 11, were each presented a trophy, a certificate of merit and more fishing items to really get them kitted out for future expeditions. Well done to you both.

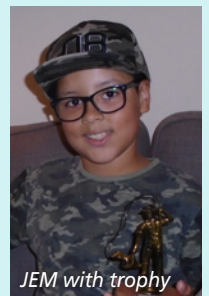
Thank you to all who helped make this year so special and thank you to all who took part. And don't forget, for those of you who missed out this year we will do it all again next August.

So what's been going on over the last couple of months on the lake? It's ticking along very well despite the abnormal hot weather earlier in the summer. At times

we were rather concerned about the water oxygen levels dropping too low, which was happening on many fisheries in the South East putting all inhabitants in great danger. The lake though, despite no rain for many weeks, retained its normal water level.

Being a balancing pool designed to take road run-off as well as water held in the subsoil to keep us flood free, the lake, even in extreme weather conditions, has an almost continuous supply of fresh water running in. This makes our lake, from a wildlife point of view, one of the most desirable bodies of water for miles around.

You have only to look and see just how much of the natural world is using this oasis on our doorstep to remind us how privileged we are to live on Goldsworth Park.



JEM with trophy

## Brockhill an oasis of care

**OLDER people in need of a little more help to live independently will find all the care and support they need at Goldsworth Park's sheltered housing complex, Brockhill.**

Located close to the shopping centre in Clifton Way, Brockhill provides both residential and day care facilities in a pleasant and peaceful communal setting, complete with picturesque gardens.

Home cooked meals can be purchased by visitors and residents in the large social dining room which also hosts plenty of communal activities such as arts and crafts, games and exercise classes. Visitors and residents alike can take advantage of assisted bathing, chiropody and a hair dressing service.

Some residents can enjoy a level of

independence appropriate to their needs with around-the-clock, tailored extra care packages provided by a care team. From help getting ready in the morning right through to making sure no one misses out on the social activities. The diligent, friendly staff and volunteers leave no stone unturned when it comes to the comfort of their guests.

For complete peace of mind, each flat is fitted with a pull-chord alarm and residents are supplied with an alarm pendant so they are never far away from immediate help, wherever they are.

The centre is open to visitors from 10am to 3pm on weekdays and a Bustler bus service can transport people with mobility issues from anywhere in Woking, directly from door to door.

Call **01483 743975** or email **brockhill@woking.gov.uk** for more information, or pop in for a look around. Alternatively book up for a ploughman's lunch during Living Well Week, on Tuesday October 9 at noon. Contact the team at Brockhill on the number above to reserve a place.



TRANQUIL – Brockhill's peaceful courtyard garden

## Dementia Alliance enters year two

**THE Woking Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) is currently in its second year of helping people with dementia and their loved ones to live well.**

By creating a Borough-wide partnership of businesses, faith and community groups, the Alliance is determined to tackle the growing issue of dementia by helping people

in Woking living with the condition feel confident, understood and supported.

The Woking DAA has agreed four key aims: To encourage ongoing social movement towards creating dementia friendly communities, to raise the public's awareness of dementia friendly environments, to raise awareness of people affected by dementia of the accessibility of organisations and to

enable them to have a voice in Woking.

The roll-out of the scheme across the Borough this year followed the success of the inaugural DAA meeting in Goldsworth Park. Woking was the 300th DAA the country.

If you would like to join your local Alliance, or find out more, visit **[www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local\\_alliances](http://www.dementiaaction.org.uk/local_alliances)**



# John's TV garden – 5 years on

**FIVE years ago, John and Christine Phillips's plot in Goldsworth Park was the best-known garden in Woking, thanks to a makeover for Alan Titchmarsh's "Love Your Garden" show screened on ITV, writes ROYER SLATER.**

Millions of viewers heard about the challenges faced by John, who lost his left arm during the Falklands conflict, and his wife Christine, a career nurse, when faced with transforming their untidy, rubble-strewn back garden.

I met John recently, to ask about his distinguished military career – and to take a peek at the garden today.

John signed up as a young soldier aged 15 in 1958, later serving in the Bomb Disposal Unit of the Royal Engineers from 1965.

Surely this is a job that requires courage and bravery of the highest order? "You're doing what you're trained to do," John stated modestly. "You go through set drills. Of course the consequences of getting it wrong can be disastrous."

He was a 39-year-old Sergeant Major when posted to the Falklands, travelling with his colleague Staff Sergeant Jim Prescott on the SS Canberra.



TV STARS – John and Christine in their famous garden

The two were tasked with defusing an unexploded 1,000lb bomb dropped on HMS Antelope by Argentine aircraft, but the bomb exploded unexpectedly. "We were standing right next to each other behind a bulkhead door, which flew through the air killing Jim instantly. I was thrown through the air and seriously wounded, but remained conscious throughout." John's left arm had to be amputated at the shoulder.

After repatriation on the hospital ship SS Uganda, John was treated in Woolwich Military Hospital. Among several photos displayed proudly on John's study wall is one of him in the hospital with the Prince of Wales. "He came to see wounded veterans and in

the photo we're shown discussing bomb fuses!"

John is still deeply affected by the death of his friend and colleague. He stayed in touch with Jim's widow until her death, and regularly sees their daughters.

John was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, one of the Navy's highest awards, marking his bravery in the Falklands. He continued his career in the Bomb Disposal Unit until retiring from the Army as a Major in 1989. He then worked as a government security adviser in London before retiring fully in 2000.



ROYAL APPROVAL — John meets the Prince of Wales in hospital

Christine qualified as a Registered Nurse before their marriage in 1965. She later studied and qualified as a Registered Mental Nurse whilst John was recovering from his injuries. She managed a residential nursing home until she retired in 2000.

"Christine and I moved to Woking to be close to our eldest daughter Paula, who also lives in Goldsworth Park," said John. "We were wondering how we would be able to transform our new garden which presented many challenges."

Fate intervened via SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity, which had been approached by the producers of "Love Your Garden" to propose veterans whose gardens needed a makeover. John and Christine's garden was one of many put forward to programme makers. "There were numerous visits by surveyors who gave no indication how likely we were to be chosen, although we knew we'd been short-listed."

In the screened programme, John appears to be very surprised when Alan Titchmarsh rings his doorbell one morning, but was it really a surprise? John revealed: "Our daughter knew what was happening and alerted us the previous evening that we'd have a visitor at 7am."



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*JOB DONE – John and Christine with Alan Titchmarsh after the makeover*

She wanted us to make sure we were dressed before we answered the door! But it was a surprise to see Alan Titchmarsh standing there."

John also revealed that, despite the impressions given by the programme, two and a half months elapsed after that first filmed visit before work started on the garden. "You shouldn't believe everything you see in these programmes!" commented John.

"The makeover took six days – and despite us being shown driving away to 'stay with our daughter' while they worked, in fact we continued to live at home! But we kept the curtains at the back of the house closed, so it was truly a surprise when we saw the 'new' garden for the first time!"

After five years John and Christine are still proud of their garden, which they've left much as it was after the TV makeover. It has matured but still looks spick and span.

A central feature of the makeover is still in evidence: a large chunk of stone brought specially from the Falklands and made into a water



*PROUD VETERAN – John wears his Distigued Service Cross and other medals*

feature. It bears three emblems: the badge of the Royal Engineers, a representation of John's DSC medal, and the "flash" signifying the Bomb Disposal Unit.

"The TV makeover was the last piece of the jigsaw to fall into place after our move to Goldsworth Park," said John. "They saved us so much work and money and we'll be eternally grateful."

## Plans for Robin Hood site

**THE Robin Hood, Goldsworth Park's oldest local, is set to be demolished to make way for affordable housing and a community transport depot.**

Standing on 1.03 acres the locally listed building has been purchased by Rutland (Woking) Ltd, a company formed as a joint venture between Woking Council subsidiary Thamesway Developments Ltd and Rutland Properties Ltd.

And on October 11, according to the Borough's Forward Plan posted on their website, the Woking Council Executive will determine

whether to recommend to the Council that it lends Rutland the cash to finance the development. Rutland (Woking) submitted an application for prior approval for the demolition of the building to Woking Council on September 7, proposing October 8 as the date for work to start.

Locally listed buildings have no form of statutory protection, although their status is considered in any planning application.

The pub, which backs on to Lockfield Drive, is believed to be Victorian and the innkeeper is listed in the 1871 census. Time was called for the last time in June this year.

## Autumn litter pick

**IT'S that time again! Time to get out, get active and help clear up the rubbish that others leave behind all around us.**

The GPCA is holding an autumn litter pick from 2 to 4pm on Saturday, October 13. As usual, Woking Council will provide litter pickers, bin bags and some high-viz tabards, and will arrange for the full bags to be removed.

Join us outside the Community Hall if you would like to take part. Wear stout shoes and gardening gloves. and bring your own litter picker if you have one.

Together we can make a difference by cleaning up the environment on our doorstep.



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# Singing for Grenfell

HITTING THE RIGHT NOTES –  
Sing Gold rehearsing at St Andrew's

**GOLDSWORTH PARK'S own choir, Sing Gold, is holding a fundraising event at St Andrew's Church on Sunday October 21 for Grenfell Tower fire survivors.**

The choir will be giving a performance and homemade cakes, jams, jewellery and greetings cards will be on sale after the early service at 11am.

A percentage of the money raised will be donated to Andy's, the church's newly-refurbished coffee shop.

The Grenfell Tower fire, in West London, claimed 72 victims in June 2017.

Sing Gold meet to rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm at St Andrew's and welcome new members.



## History Centre Heritage Show

**THE Surrey History Centre in Goldsworth Road is celebrating its 70th anniversary by staging The Great Surrey Heritage Show on Saturday October 20.**

Visitors will be able to go behind the scenes at the centre where 70 specially selected items will be showcased. Maps, photographs, letters and pottery will be among an array of Surrey gems on display together for the first time.

Local groups will be joining in to celebrate with stands, displays and information as well as children's activities. Tours of the building

will be available to discover the six miles of shelving in the strongrooms with housing documents dating back to the 12th Century.

Behinds the scenes tours are free and will take place at 11am, 11.45am, 12.30pm, 1.15pm, 2.00pm and 2.45pm. All tours require pre-booking apart from the last tour at 2.45pm which will be first come, first served on the day. You can book online at [www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/heritageevents) or in person at the History Centre or any Surrey Library or phone 01483 518737.

The event runs from 10.30am to 3.30pm.



Dear Editor,

I live near the hockey pitches and own a black and white cat.

In the last year he suffered two attacks both very likely to have been carried out by a medium to large size dog. The first attack was extremely serious on October 15 2017 before 11am where he suffered a puncture to his lung, laryngeal paralysis resulting in him losing his voice (sadly he can no longer miaow or purr) and Horner's Syndrome due to the damage to one of his nerves.

He spent nearly six weeks at the local vet and at the Royal Veterinary College Hospital due to the severity of his injuries and his story featured on their social media.

When he finally came home he had to spend a couple of months indoors to convalesce. It was a truly horrific time with many vet visits and expense.

Then, on August 6 this year, my cat was attacked again before 10am

where he suffered three wounds, the largest requiring stitching. The size of the wound indicated the bite of a medium to large dog.

I hope you will include my story in the magazine to alert other people and appeal to anyone who may have seen something of the latest attack near the hockey pitches. My cat has never had any incidents until last year and it has been suggested there may be a new dog to the area, unleashed in the park and whose owner is unaware.

I am extremely concerned as there may be a dog running around the park not only attacking my cat but perhaps other cats, small dogs and maybe very young children if the opportunity presented itself. I feel users of the park should be alerted and keep a closer eye on their pets and young children as I would not wish for anyone else to go through what I have had to.

I would also be interested to hear if anyone else has had recent similar experiences as I have heard stories of past dog attacks in the park, one being fatal and feel this needs to be brought to the attention of park users for their safety.

Kind regards,  
Fiona Reid

If you can help contact [editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](mailto:editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)

Dear Sir

Bisley Ladies Choir has been renamed Woking Ladies Choir.

We decided that our links with Bisley were no longer relevant and changed our name to reflect those developments. Our membership comes from all areas of Woking but we remain firmly based in Knaphill Methodist Church for our rehearsals on a Tuesday evening between 7.45 and 9.45pm, and our two main concerts a year in July and December.

The choir welcomes all women who just want to sing for pleasure and we do not audition our members. Our members have all levels of experience, some very little, others have been singing for 60 years. Our excellent Musical Director Julie Aherne, carefully melds us together by

her imaginative choice of music and sensitive teaching skills.

We also perform at the Remembrance Parade Service, the Veterans Parade, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Christmas Service but new members can choose what their level of commitment.

Contact Brenda on 07980 543991 or Sylvia on 01483 725527. Or just turn up.

Our next concert is at Knaphill Methodist Church, on Saturday December 15 at 4.30pm. Tickets £10, children's concessions. Free refreshments. Raffle available.

Pamela Rickard,  
Woking Ladies Choir.



# A personal view

Royer Slater



## WE all recognise the distinctive earthy aroma when rain comes after a dry spell.

If you find it pleasing you're not alone. Most people say they love it – and it was particularly welcome after this year's long spell of warm, dry weather.

There's even a name for it: petrichor. Some scientists believe we inherited our affection for the scent of rain on dry ground from our ancestors who relied on rainy weather for their survival.

But what makes that wonderful smell? There are several scents involved that people find pleasing.

Chemicals accumulate naturally over time in the soil, especially the oils produced by plants. When the first rain comes after a drought, these are released into the air. The longer the time before the rain comes, the more these chemicals accumulate and the stronger the aroma.

When rain falls on a porous surface, air from the pores forms small bubbles which force tiny drops of the chemicals into the air. And that's what we detect as soon as the rain arrives.

Gardeners will be familiar with similar earthy aromas when they turn over soil, exposing the chemicals to the air and so to our noses. Perhaps that's why some people find digging the garden so enjoyable.

A common component of the earthy smell is geosmin, a chemical produced by a soil-dwelling bacteria. It doesn't take much. It has been estimated humans can detect geosmin at concentrations as low as five parts per trillion, which is roughly equivalent to a teaspoon of the chemical in 200 Olympic swimming pools!

How can we explain it when someone says they can smell rain coming, before a drop hits the ground? It may be that wind from an approaching storm has carried ozone down from the clouds and into the person's nostrils. Ozone has a sharp smell faintly reminiscent of chlorine and is a by-product of chemical reactions caused by lightning on the atmosphere.

But it's the petrichor after rain we find really pleasant. It might make you want to throw on a raincoat, put on wellies and feel the rain on your skin, watch it hitting the leaves and spattering against the ground.

We may moan about wet weather, but when we sense that distinctive aroma of rain on dry ground it can feel wonderful to get out in the rain!



## Council News



### Food, glorious food!

**GOLDSWORTH PARK EAST** Surrey Councillor Colin Kemp has hailed the success of this year's Woking Food and Drink Festival.

Cllr Kemp is also Woking Borough's Portfolio Holder for Culture and Community Development. He said: "The Festival was without doubt another stunning success. This event continues to grow and it attracts in the region of 100,000 visitors across the three days.

"It was inspiring to see Woking Town Centre teeming with visitors and gastronomes of all ages who were enjoying the fantastic festival atmosphere and experiencing the many free demonstrations and activities on offer, not to mention the mouthwatering selection of cuisine from across the world. The festival really does put Woking on the culinary map.

"I would like to extend my thanks to all our sponsors. Without their ongoing support we would not be able to put on such a fantastic event. And, I couldn't finish without passing on my gratitude to the project team who have spent many months planning the event, and colleagues who have volunteered their time to ensure a smooth and trouble-free festival."

Celebrity chefs, local food and drink experts and a range of sponsors provided an event that attracted visitors of all ages. Stalls plus cookery demonstrations and talks for adults and children went into the mix.



**TANTE MARIE**  
PIZZA THE ACTION – Woking Mayor Cllr Will Forster with staff and kids at the Tante Marie Academy stall

### Lockfield Drive and Victoria Arch

**LOCKFIELD DRIVE**, Goldsworth Park's main through route has been added to Surrey's road repair programme following the investment of an extra £20million. Nearby Triggs Lane, location of much utility work recently, has also been put on the list. More roads are set to benefit in the coming months.

The views of residents and road users are being sought on a proposal to transform the road layout south of Victoria Arch in Woking Town Centre.

It is proposed to replace the existing one-way system around Guildford Road, Victoria Road and A320 Station Approach with a two-way road for vehicles, and introduce safer, more convenient walking and cycle routes.

As well as relieving congestion around Woking Town Centre and improving traffic flow, removing the one-way system would also make journey times quicker and more reliable.

An exhibition about the proposal is being held at Morris House, 34 Commercial Way, Woking until October 24. Alternatively, you can see a short film and have your say by visiting [www.woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation](http://www.woking.gov.uk/guildfordrdconsultation)

All feedback on the proposal should be received no later than Wednesday October 24.

### New centre car park

**WOKING** centre's transformation is set to continue with the demolition and rebuilding of the Shoppers' Red Car Park.

The plans feature a 10 storey, 1,382 space car park that will replace the dated 1970's 887-bay structure.

Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of Woking Council, said: "As the exciting transformation of Woking Town Centre takes shape, increasing our car parking capacity is an integral part of the development.

"As part of the Victoria Square development, we always had planned to create an additional three storeys of parking on top of the Red Car Park to accommodate the increase in visitors.

"However, after carefully considering the life expectancy of the existing Red Car Park and the proposed cost of extending, it was considered better value for money to build a new car park than upgrade the existing structure."

Work is expected to be completed by September 2020.

MICHAEL FARLAM

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