

# GOLDSWORTH NEWS

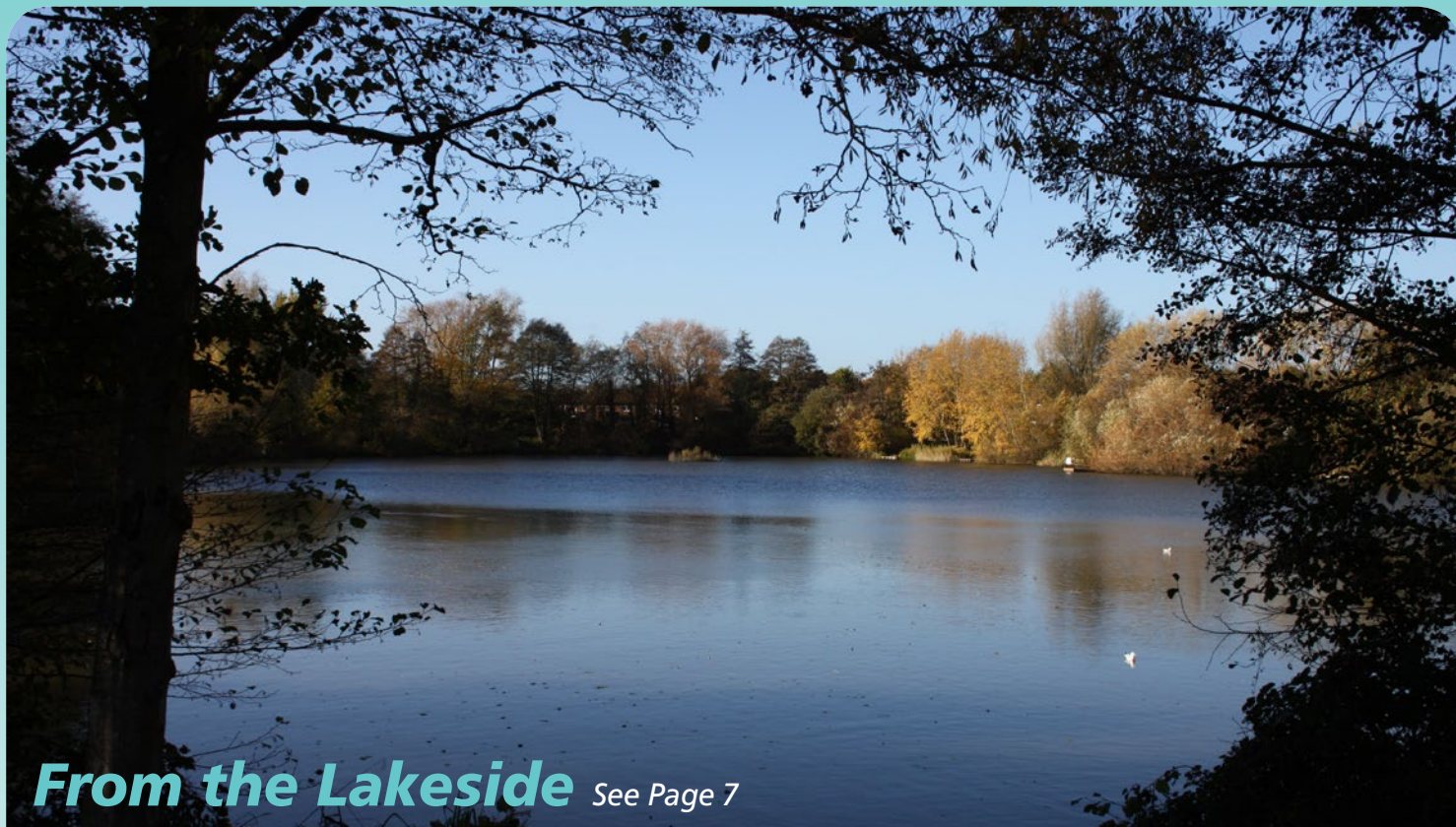
December 2018 – Issue 166



**GPCA**  
Goldsworth Park  
Community Association

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

**Happy Christmas  
to all our readers**



**From the Lakeside** See Page 7

**Treasurer  
bows out  
after  
15 years**

See Page 4



**GPCA meets its  
deadline to recruit  
volunteers for a  
new committee**

See Page 4

**Join us for  
carol singing  
at our tree on  
December 7**

See Page 3



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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.

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

George Binyon (Editor), Royer Slater,  
Michael Farlam and Robin Smith.  
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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.

Next meeting to be arranged.

All residents are welcome. If you would  
like to be put on the mailing list for  
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Email: chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk  
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## LOCAL COUNCILLORS

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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

**WELL, here I am again — elected once more to chair the GPCA Committee. Thank you for your faith in me and for your support.**

As I explained in the last issue, we are now in a position to apply to the Charity Commission to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) so it might be appropriate to explain what a CIO is and how it differs from the type of charity we are currently.

The GPCA is an unincorporated association with a wide membership which elects an Executive Committee to manage the charity and which, in turn, selects trustees to manage any contracts or property.

As an unincorporated organisation, the GPCA cannot enter into any contracts or control investments in its own name – the trustees enter into such contracts and are personally liable for what the charity does.

An incorporated charity is different; the law considers a corporate body to be a person, which gives the charity the legal capacity to do, in its own name, many things that an individual person can. If a charity is a corporate body, generally its trustees are not personally liable for what it does. It is the prospect of this change which has enabled the GPCA to recruit new trustees.

There is one other change that I should explain. CIO's come in two forms — an association model which has a wide voting membership and a foundation model where the only voting members are the trustees. At first glance, one would think the GPCA should be an association model, but this would require all residents to apply to join the CIO and the GPCA to keep a register of all members under strict General Data Protection Regulation rules.

With thousands of residents eligible to be members, this would be an impossible task for a small group of volunteers, so the GPCA will be a foundation model CIO. But, don't worry, we still need your input via the website, email or letters to this magazine and our new Facebook Group, and we will still have public meetings for consultation and discussion.

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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# Eastwoods are our local heroes

**THE GPCA would like to say a big thank you to Pauline and Ian Eastwood for their long service and commitment to the Association, writes PETER HILL.**

Soon after moving onto Goldsworth Park the couple became involved in the local community. Before long Pauline was organising "booze cruise" coach trips to Calais and Ian became involved in managing the bar. In addition to this, they became involved in other activities run by the GPCA.

Fast forward 30 years and up to the handing back of the hall to Woking Council, Pauline was the hall manager and Ian was still the bar manager and licensee.

As well as their own involvement, they also recruited family members into helping out. Their late daughter Kym managed the bar for a few years up to her untimely death and son Wayne was involved in sourcing staff and running the bar at events.

Ian became a local councillor and kept the political and GPCA parts of his life separate. In addition, Ian was, for many years, a governor at Beaufort School and, in the late eighties and early nineties, supported the school PTA beer tent at events by using the GPCA purchasing power for the refreshments, which was much appreciated by the PTA.

Pauline and Ian have been, and still are, involved in many charitable organisations, including the Mayor's Charity, Woking Hospice, Woking Community Hospital and the Lions.

They have a superb sense of community and will continue to support the new-look GPCA. Pauline has already volunteered to organise future litter picks.

# Christmas tree and carols

ONCE again, with the help of St Andrew's Church and generous donations from the shops and the Goldsworth Park Angling Club, the GPCA will be setting up a Christmas tree in the shopping centre courtyard. We plan to turn on the lights at 6pm on Friday December 7 and there will be carols and seasonal songs led by Sing Gold, the community choir. We hope that lots of you will come along and join in.





### **IRENE WATSON was re-elected GPCA Chair at the AGM at Goldwater Lodge on November 6.**

And she was pleased to report that efforts to fill committee vacancies and fulfil the Association's obligations as a charity by the November deadline set by residents at the Extraordinary General Meeting in June had been successful.

A new Vice-Chair, Chris Martin, Treasurer, Tina Hartley and Secretary, Celia Young introduced themselves and were all elected unanimously to the Executive Committee.

Irene told the meeting that the Association would be applying to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, which would protect the new trustees from financial liability. The Executive Committee members would become trustees along with Natural Goldsworth Park project manager Gerry Smeesters, Goldsworth News editor George Binyon and Social Media editor Cathy Salmon, making a total of seven.

Management of the community hall was relinquished by the GPCA on August 31 and Woking Council transferred the lease to Dianthus Trading. Irene explained that it proved impossible to find a successor to Treasurer Peter Hill while the Association ran the hall as it was too big a job for new volunteers.

Irene pointed out that there were a number of conditions attached to the new arrangement. The GPCA would get first refusal on the lease if Dianthus surrendered it; that the GPCA get free use of the hall for meetings; use of storage space and a donation of £1000 a year from Dianthus in recognition of improvements to the premises.

Outgoing Treasurer Peter Hill told the meeting that the Association was in a good financial position with over £30,000 in cash assets.

Irene then updated the meeting on the Natural Goldsworth Park project. There had been a number of surveys done which found bats, butterflies, various plants and fungi in abundance on and around the North Meadow.

Goldsworth Park Angling Club Secretary Roger Westcott reported that members would be fitting safety mesh to the lower areas of the concrete jetties on the lake. This would safeguard children who sometimes climb on them, and would deter cormorants that are damaging fish stocks.

Roger added that the swans had not nested successfully this year as their eggs had disappeared, but was pleased to report that 100 bird species and 15 types of dragonfly had been identified around the lake. He added that in the middle of a housing estate that was something to be proud of.

Roger finished his report with an invitation for residents to join club work-parties which would become a quarterly event from next April.

Irene wound up the meeting with thanks to all volunteers and mentioned the sad passing of Malcolm Head, a regular contributor to the Goldsworth News, who died suddenly in August aged 83.

*Full minutes of the AGM are available on our website: [www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk](http://www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk)*

## Treasurer Peter bows out

### **PETER HILL bowed out as GPCA Treasurer at the AGM on November 6 after 15 years in the job.**

And to mark his long service to the community GPCA Chair Irene Watson presented him with a framed picture of his beloved Mini Cooper.

Irene thanked Peter, of Newsham Road, for his valuable contribution to the GPCA and for staying on longer than he wanted to during the Association's long search for a successor.

He said: "I became treasurer in 2004 during a short period of redundancy having had my arm twisted by Peter Winter, who by then was deputy chairman to Ian Rickard. Ian had been taking the treasurer role because it had been vacant for a while. It was only supposed to be temporary but I kept doing it.

"The car is my pride and joy. It is a year 2000 Mini Cooper Sport and was the 2,846 to last Mini manufactured. The present is very kind of you. Thank you very much."

Peter is also involved in the distribution of the Goldsworth News magazine to the door-to-door delivery volunteers and will continue in that role with his wife Linda.



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# North Meadow update

**NATURAL GOLDSWORTH PARK'S update from the Surrey Bat Group reveals that North Meadow and surrounding area has a rich variety of bat species and provides insights for the community to help bats continue to thrive there, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.**

Interim findings about the types of species have now been confirmed. Group secretary, Lynn Whitfield, said: "The findings from the two surveys identified at least seven bat species using the Goldsworth Park site. As only 17 species breed in the UK, this represents quite a rich bat fauna."

The species are: common pipistrelle, soprano pipistrelle, nathusius' pipistrelle, brown long-eared bat, noctule, serotine, and myotis species. The update informs us bats from the myotis species are difficult to identify just on the basis of ultrasound calls. Following analysis of characteristics from bat calls captured by the lake, the Group can confirm the presence of daubenton's bat, one of the myotis species which specialises in foraging over water.

The update shares insights into the importance of preparation and planning of bat surveys. Part of this allows the experts to compare expected results with actual data and make informed deductions as to what is occurring and why. Using this approach the Group have shed light on the impact that lighting has on bats using North Meadow and the lake, and especially in the importance of the green dark corridor that links our habitat to adjacent woodlands.

Myotis bats are light-shy. Lynn added: "The myotis calls recorded in Tresta Walk were particularly interesting as they were likely from

more than one species, possibly including the rare alcaethoe bat. We hope to carry out trapping surveys next year to try to confirm this and, hopefully, even identify some roosts."

Prior to the survey work I posed some questions to Group leaders Lynn and colleague Ross Baker. First, do bats roost on North Meadow? To date, we do not know. They certainly use it extensively for foraging and other activities such as mating.

Many of the species detected, such as pipistrelles and serotines, typically roost in buildings without being noticed. Lynn said: "Residents should be mindful of this if considering extensions or repairs."

Second, what ecology should NGP preserve or encourage to help bats? The Group advise that woodland, grassland and water are all important foraging habitats and plants that attract night-flying insects will benefit bats. Large mature trees, such as the many oak on the habitat, particularly towards its north-west end, may be used for roosting. All should be conserved or encouraged.

Lastly, what steps are needed in our habitat to encourage and retain bat activity? The Group leaders' response was simple. Control levels of lighting, where possible, and ensure links between habitats are serviced by green dark corridors. Residents should use security lights with motion sensors and keep outside lighting turned off at night, especially if your garden backs onto a water body, woodland or hedge.

*Further work will take place next spring, with continued support from the Surrey Bat Group.*



## Sing Gold raise £426

**SING GOLD, Goldsworth Park's own choir, raised £426 for two good causes with a choral performance, craft and cake sale outside St Andrew's Church on October 21.**

Survivors of the Grenfell tower-block fire and the church's community café, Andy's, will share the cash.

Sing Gold choral director Revd Malcolm Herbert conducted the singers through a varied repertoire that went down very well with an audience of all age groups.

During breaks in the singing the choir manned stalls selling cakes, greeting cards and jewellery, all home-made.

Andy's, which opened in October, offers pay-as-you-feel meals and cakes on its specials board.

The Grenfell cash will go into the fund that provides free holidays in Cornwall for survivors and their families.

Choir member Grace Quentin, who organised the event, said: "I'm very pleased with the amount we raised and thank people for their generosity. We are giving £250 to Cornwall Hugs Grenfell and £176 to Andy's."



**VOLUNTEERS turned out for another successful community litter pick on October 13, clearing up the rubbish left by the mindless few who choose to ignore the Park's many bins**



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# All wrapped up?

Revd Kate Wyles

**MY least favourite part of Christmas needs tackling soon; the wrapping of the presents.**

I love the choosing and the buying, but there is never enough time to make my gifts look nice – they definitely win the prize for scruffiest presentation.

The Bible tells us that Mary: brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the guest room. Luke 2:7.

When I pause to imagine that scene with the infant Jesus at the centre snugly wrapped up by his mum I find I'm thinking less about

fiddly paper and losing the end of the sticky tape and more about that most precious of gifts; God's love born for each of us in Christ.

We can spend a lot of time attempting to create a perfect Christmas package. I wonder how neatly Jesus would have been wrapped up? Maybe a wiggly toe escaped those swaddling bands. Things probably weren't quite what Mary had hoped for that first Christmas – she had to lay her new born baby in a cattle trough after all. But he was safely delivered and the new family had one another – plus a few unexpected visitors!

Perhaps as we worry less about creating a perfect Christmas holiday we'll notice more

the gift of love as we spend precious times with the people around us.

May God's gift of love shown in Jesus Christ bring joy and peace to you and all who you love now and throughout the year.

Merry Christmas, Kate.

Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.



**Andrew's Church**

## Park residents remember

**OVER 400 people attended Goldsworth Park's Remembrance Day service at the war memorials in front of the health centre on November 3.**

Vicar of St Andrew's, Kate Wyles, led hymns, prayers and two minutes silence.

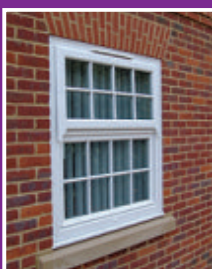
Wreaths laid included those from rainbows, guides, cubs and scouts, who provided a guard of honour during the service. Local businesses and Woking Hospice were also represented along with Surrey and Woking Councillor Saj Hussain.

GPCA Chair Irene Watson laid a wreath on behalf of residents (pictured far right).

Community choir Sing Gold ended the proceedings with a short performance.



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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.



**OVER the last couple of months several of our fishermen have been busy around the lake trimming trees and vegetation and tidying up the banks in readiness for winter.**

You may also have noticed some work being done on the three inlet jetties, fitting corner poles and wire mesh.

The corner poles are to protect fishing lines being snapped on the jagged concrete edges, potentially leaving a hook in a fish's mouth and the mesh is to help protect and preserve fish stocks from cormorant predation.

Over the last few years, particularly in winter, cormorants have become a serious problem on the lake, depleting fish numbers to such an extent that some species such as rudd and roach are close to extinction.

Last winter alone, taking an average of bird number sightings coupled with a bird's average daily intake of fish, we may have lost between 8,000 to 10,000 six to 12 inch fish. That's over two tons in weight and is unsustainable.

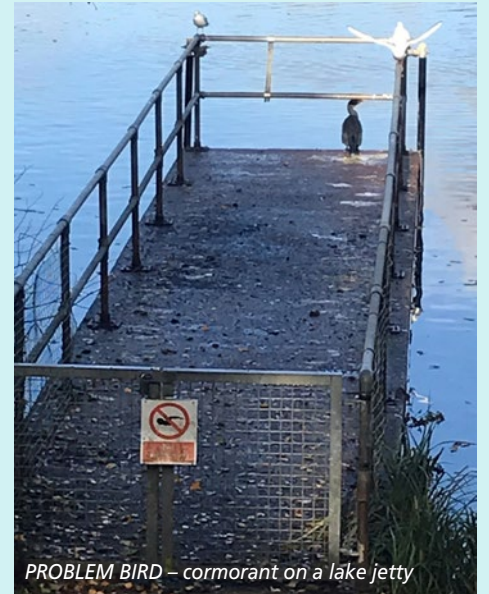
The cormorant is not by nature an inland bird but may have been forced away from the coast by commercial over-fishing. In order to survive they have learned to feed in fresh water, nest in trees rather than cliffs and lose their fear of man.

We are looking at ways to deter these birds, not harm them. One important requirement the cormorant needs is somewhere to dry its wings after feeding, otherwise it cannot fly. We have noted that here on the lake their favoured spots are the Sea Cadets boat, the buoys and the ends of the jetties. Trials at other waters where access to wing-drying spots have been denied have resulted in a drop in numbers.

The Cadets have kindly removed the boat and placed new marker buoys with anti-bird spikes on top and the mesh will stop them using the jetties.

For some weeks now we have had as many as 10 swans at any one time. The reason behind this upsurge in numbers is due to two key factors. One, there is no dominant

pair on the lake and two, at this time of year many young birds are forced to leave by their parents thus having to find a new body of water in the hope of one day meeting a mate.



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# Christmas and the Slocock nurseries

*GERRY SMEESTERS takes a look back at Christmas over the years at Slocock nurseries whose land was sold to the Goldsworth Park developers.*

**GOLDSWORTH NURSERY had a goods collection point next to Goldsworth House but no retail area. Sales were made to trade and individuals, often by mail order. Pre 1939, there was no particular focus on Christmas.**

The nursery excelled at growing hundreds of varieties of fir tree. However, their 1937 trade catalogue has one solitary reference to Christmas, for the Excelsior conifer (Spruce Fir) describing it as: 'A shapely, quartered plant suitable for Christmas Trees'. However, the tallest tree supplied by the nursery was only 30 inches and cost one shilling.

By the late 1950's this had changed. Christmas trees were being grown and two fields were still cultivated for this purpose in 1975. One, named 'Child's', had a northern boundary alongside what is now Hawkswell Walk and Beaufort School. The second field, name unknown, was situated south of Booth Lane. Denton Way now follows the line of this lane/track. Parts of Hawkswell Close and Knightswood are built over the Christmas tree plantation areas.

Retail activity at Knap Hill Garden Centre was very public compared to its nursery operation. The Knap Hill Barn shop took on a festive air with activity focused on setting up retail displays of seasonal Christmas goods. The nursery supplied Christmas trees, holly and other berried seasonal plants for retail. Normal plant stock continued to be sold.

Santa and his grotto was a seasonal highlight. The Knap Hill Nursery News, (Spring Edition 1985), recalled that two years earlier: "Santa arrived in his helicopter at Knap Hill Garden Centre, mums and dads were treated to a mince pie and glass of mulled wine from the nursery's Country Kitchen whilst the children queued to see Santa."

By Christmas 1984, Santa's arrival was more rustic, using a nursery cart drawn by either Monarch or Sovereign, the two remaining Goldsworth Nursery shire horses. Martin Slocock, as Santa, would then distribute presents from his grotto to the long line of children who had been waiting in anticipation. The business closed between Christmas and the New Year and staff received additional holiday.

Little is recorded about Goldsworth Nursery Christmas routine. Staff would have had just the statutory holidays. In 1952 there was a Tontine Club at Goldsworth Nursery. We do not know how long this club operated.

Membership was annual and subscription based. It was overseen by Oliver and Walter (Ashley) Slocock with staff also having roles. It ran between January and mid December each year and the club rules

defined contingencies for death, redundancy, resignation and arrears, plus it levied an admin charge. My guess is that this was a Christmas savings club and not a traditional Tontine.

Generations of some nursery families remained loyal to the Slocock family. At Knap Hill each year at Christmas, Martin visited retired staff, widows or families who were still living in the nursery accommodation, provided as a benefit of employment. He enjoyed this task and would catch up with news, events and, one suspects, spend time reminiscing. Each family received a gift comprising a bottle of port, sometimes chocolates, and from the nursery, a bouquet of holly with red berries.

Knap Hill nursery also held an annual lunch for staff and spouses. These were usually held at the Horsell Cricketers, the Royal Oak at Knaphill, or Chobham Golf Club. Staff contributed to the cost of the meal whilst drinks were on the boss. A Christmas reunion continued for some years after the Knap Hill Nursery closed, but sadly it was discontinued in recent years as numbers dwindled.

We can conclude that key local employer, the Slocock family, adapted their business model to survive. They also moved with the times reflecting cultural changes occurring during the post war years, especially regarding Christmas.



*HORSE POWER – gathering Christmas trees in the 1950's*



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# A personal view

Royer Slater



**HOW friendly are you feeling today? If you're out and about in Goldsworth Park, do you acknowledge people you chance upon with a smile and a friendly "hello" or "hi?"**

Wouldn't it be a more pleasant world if we all did that!

People still tell me they remember an article I wrote for Goldsworth News three years ago about being friendly to people we encounter. Some say they try to put it into practice.

I admit that when I'm out and about my gaze or attention is often distracted, or my mind is occupied with some thought or other. But when I remember to greet someone, and they respond cheerily, it makes me feel happier too.

After all, we humans are social animals. We have a need to "belong" and to share the company of other people. So, sharing a moment by greeting neighbours, friends and strangers alike is a good thing for them and us.

It's easier to ignore other people. In fact it's become socially

unacceptable even to make eye contact in busy towns and cities, let alone giving someone a friendly acknowledgment.

But Goldsworth Park is different because we're in a (relatively small) shared community. A simple smile and greeting could be the highlight of that person's day. They'll know you noticed them and that they matter.

Try to make eye contact with people you encounter. Just smile and say "hello!", "hi!", "morning!" or "afternoon!" In my experience most people respond likewise. If they don't, I hope it's because they've been caught off-guard.

So, let me finish as I did previously: if a stranger makes eye contact and greets you with a smile and a cheery "hello", I hope you'll smile back and return the greeting. That person might be me — and I'm only trying to be friendly!

# My word! Stuart's a Park fan

**STUART FLITTON is a man of words. After working as a journalist on daily newspapers in South Africa and the UK for 30 years, the Goldsworth Park resident has been a mainstay of the Woking News & Mail for two years, as well as appearing frequently on BBC Surrey's Drive Time and Saturday Breakfast Shows, writes ROYER SLATER.**

Stuart also treads the boards regularly with Horsell Amateur Dramatic Society and has appeared in Woking Operatic Society's productions.

He started his journalism career in South Africa, writing for various publications over nine years. Moving to the UK, Stuart worked for The Sun and various regional UK newspapers. Then in a 22 year spell at The Times in London, he held sub-editor positions including editing the international editions.

Stuart has lived in Goldsworth Park for 13 years and loves it here. "I didn't know Woking at all," he admitted. "I discovered it while working at The Times and looking to move out of London and into a larger property. While exploring the area I happened to stop for petrol in Goldsworth Park centre.

"I noticed all the trees! At the time I used to cycle a lot and liked going to Center Parcs. So with all its trees and paths, I thought Goldsworth Park was fantastic!"

After moving to Goldsworth Park, Stuart commuted to work by cycle into Woking then the train to London. He also enjoyed cycling around the area.

Two years ago he took voluntary redundancy from The Times and has worked as a freelance ever since. "I started reporting for the Woking News & Mail, taking over as editor for 18 months." Now that Mark Miseldene has taken over as editor, Stuart is able to enjoy writing, sub-editing and taking photos for the News & Mail and to do other freelance work.

"I'd like to do more public speaking," he added. "Recently I did a talk to a WI and would like to do more things like that."

For a couple of years Stuart has joined BBC Surrey's Drive Show presenter, Mike Buxton, on Tuesday evenings. "I preview stories coming up in that Thursday's Woking News & Mail, as well as chatting about other topics. As a result, I was asked to become an occasional newspaper reviewer in the Saturday Breakfast Show on BBC Surrey with James Cannon."

Stuart's public speaking and radio work appear to follow naturally from his passion for acting in amateur productions. "I was a member

of an amateur dramatic company in London for many years. After moving to Woking I joined Horsell Amateur Dramatic Society and have acted in about 15 of its productions."

Stuart has had to give up cycling following a major health scare, but his love of Goldsworth Park hasn't paled. "We have lots of footpaths and good local shops including Waitrose. And of course the trees that attracted me here 13 years ago!"

• You can read more about Stuart at his web site [www.stuartflitton.co.uk](http://www.stuartflitton.co.uk)



STUART FLITTON



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# Sythwood salutes parents' successes

**SYTHWOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE held a celebration evening for parents and carers who had taken part in adult education courses.**

The Mayor of Woking, Cllr Will Forster attended the event at the H.G. Wells Centre along with the Chair of Governors at Sythwood Primary School, Ruth Simpson.

Sythwood's programme enables parents to get back in to education, gain formal qualifications and develop their personal and professional skills with the added benefit of a crèche where their children are looked after whilst they study.

Ruth congratulated the students on their achievements and gave a special mention to the crèche workers who make it possible for the parents to take time out to study.

Kirsty Angus, a tutor from Woking College who taught the English GCSE and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages) classes also said a few words before certificates recognising everyone's hard work and commitment to learning, were presented.

Inspiring stories from the students were displayed, including one of a local parent, Pratima Joshi whose history as a victim of domestic abuse brought her to Woking in 2015.

She said: "I've now completed many courses. I can't thank the children's centre enough for changing my life. I made new friends

and if it was not for the funding provided and amazing staff at the centre it would have been difficult to crawl back.

"With the uncertainty surrounding the future of children's centres, I really hope this support can continue in future so people like me can grow themselves with help provided."

If you would like to find out more about the adult education courses available at Sythwood Children's Centre on Goldsworth Park please visit [sythwoodchildrenscentre.co.uk](http://sythwoodchildrenscentre.co.uk)



CONGRATULATIONS – Pratima Joshi (right) with the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Will Forster, and Woking College's Kirsty Angus

## Woking rocks!

**If you go down to the lake today and look carefully you might find a brightly coloured rock hidden in the grass or between the trees, writes TINA HARTLEY.**

Animal themes are popular but if you're lucky you could find a rainbow, a strawberry or even a snowman!

A rock painting craze is sweeping the UK and Woking has its very own "rocking" community. The Woking Rocks Facebook group has hundreds of members and many are hiding and finding rocks around Goldsworth Park Lake. The GPCA organised a litter pick in October and volunteers spotted at least 10 rocks hidden around the lake, the playground and near Waitrose.

Rock painting is a free and fun activity to do with your children. Simply find a smooth pebble, paint it with an image of your choice and hide your mini masterpiece for someone else to find. Then go on an expedition to seek out other hidden rocks.

If you find a rock, don't forget to take a picture and post it on the Facebook group. Most importantly, you should hide the rock in a new spot for someone else to discover. It's easy to do and anybody can take part.

I asked a few local children why they love rock painting. Amelia aged eight said: "It's exciting looking for all the different pictures." Sebastian, three, added: "I want to find a rock with a monkey on it!"

## WHAT'S ON

**Christmas services at St Andrew's Church. Sunday December 2,** 9.45am Christingle for all ages; **Sunday December 9,** 11.15am Advent Reflective Service; **Sunday December 16,** 7.30pm, carols by candlelight followed by mince pies and mulled wine; **Christmas Eve,** 4pm crib service – dress up a character in the Christmas story! 11pm, midnight service with Holy Communion; **Christmas Day,** 10am celebrate Jesus' birthday — bring a present for 'show and tell'! 10.45am Holy Communion (optional). St Andrew's wishes everyone a very Merry Christmas!

**Tel: 01483 723879 [www.standrewsgwp.org](http://www.standrewsgwp.org)**

**Woking Ladies Choir** (formerly Bisley Ladies Choir) are performing their winter concert, "Christmas and All that Jazz," on Saturday December 15 at 4.30pm at Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, Knaphill. Tickets are £10 or free for five and under, from Brenda 07980 543991 or on the door. Free refreshments. Raffle available. Free parking behind the church.

**Goldsworth Badminton Club** welcomes new players of club standard. It meets every Saturday from 1pm to 3pm at Woking High School in Horsell. The club caters for a wide age range and play with feather shuttles. For more details contact Ian Baxter on 01483 767748.

**Goldsworth Park Book Club** has just formed and will be holding local monthly meetings with weekday, weekend and evening groups. Call Deb on 07512 626306 for details regarding dates, times and venues and the titles of the books we will be discussing in January. There is no membership fee.

## PART TIME FEMALE PERSONAL ASSISTANT/ CARER WANTED

Position is to help an independent disabled woman living in Goldsworth Park with all aspects of life including personal care, housekeeping, social activities and driving her vehicle. 9am – 3pm Mondays and Fridays. For details please call: 07881 824122.

The employer has claimed an exception under the Equality Act 2010.



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**Address: 56-58 Well Lane, Woking, GU21 4PP**



# Bulbs to brighten the Park

**VOLUNTEERS braved the wet weather to plant tulip bulbs, donated by Squire's Garden Centre, around Goldsworth Park on Saturday November 10.**

The planting session was organized by Cllr Ann-Marie Barker, one of Woking Council's Goldsworth Park representatives.

Squire's has donated 22,470 tulip bulbs to Woking Council and local community groups.

The gift was made possible by Squire's Love Where You Live campaign, where the company pledged to donate 10 bulbs for every bag of bulbs purchased in September. The campaign has been such a success that Squire's are donating 230,000 bulbs to local parks, green spaces, schools, hospitals and charities across the South East.

Sarah Squire, deputy chairman, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the response to our campaign, and we are very grateful for the support our family business receives from local people.

"It's fantastic to be able to give something back to the communities where we are located. Autumn is the best time of year to plant spring flowering bulbs.

"Tulip tarda is the variety we have donated. It has clusters of beautiful yellow and white fragrant star-shaped flowers. It has won the RHS Award of Garden Merit, and I am sure that it will produce a spectacular display of colour come next spring."

Cllr Barker said: "We must give a big thank you to Squire's for giving free bulbs to the local community."

• Woking Council will be planting a number of hornbeam and lime trees around the recreation area this winter.



DIGGING IN – Annika Neeson (left), sister Tatiana and mum Eva planted bulbs close to Bampton Way



## Council News



### Voter ID in 2019 elections

**WOKING will take part in the next round of voter identification trials, along with 11 other local authorities across England, at the 2019 local elections, writes MICHAEL FARLAM.**

At the last local elections in May, the Borough was one of five local authorities in the first round of voter ID schemes.

Evaluation following the first trials showed they were a success, with the overwhelming majority of people able to cast their vote without a problem.

Returning Officer for Woking, Ray Morgan, said: "Following the success of the voter identification trial during the local election in May, we welcome the opportunity to once again participate during next year's local elections."

Voters in Woking will once again be asked to show photo ID before they are given their ballot papers at polling stations. More information about the list of approved ID will be announced early next year.

### Have your say on Woking development

**RESIDENTS have a final chance to have their say on future development sites across the Borough following the launch of a six-week consultation on November 5.**

Cllr Ashley Bowes, Woking's Portfolio Holder for Planning Policy, said: "Following almost three years of political debate and public consultation, we are now at the final stage of our Site Allocations Development Plan."

The plan identifies potential urban and green belt sites for future housing, employment and infrastructure within Woking Borough to meet its future development requirements. It makes provision for 4,964 additional dwellings and additional retail, office and warehouse floor space. For more information visit: [www.woking2027.info/allocations](http://www.woking2027.info/allocations)

### Surrey finance consultations

**SURREY is launching five consultations as part of its plans to tackle financial pressures.**

Despite saving £540m from its annual budget since 2010 the pressures are continuing to grow and the council needs to save more than £200m by 2021.

Key areas up for consultation are:

**Community recycling centres.** Closing four of the 15 across the county would save at least £500,000 a year. Closing six would save in the region of £800,000 a year.

**Concessionary bus travel.** Consideration is being given to removing funding for free travel for disabled people before 9.30am and after 11pm on weekdays and no longer providing a free pass for a companion. Surrey is one of a few areas of the country still providing the extra benefits.

**Children's Centres.** Surrey currently has 58 children's centres – the proposal is for 19 main centres to continue and another eight to become satellite centres. Thirty-one centres would close – the council would try to find alternative uses for the buildings.

There would be at least one main centre in each district and borough, located in the areas where needed most. Centres would work with children right up to age 11 rather than five as now. They would aim to help families become more resilient with earlier support before problems emerge and focus resources on families who most need help.

**Libraries.** Fewer people are visiting libraries despite an increasing population. There has been a 25 per cent drop in visits to county libraries since 2010 and big rise in the use of online services. Surrey spends more on libraries than similar councils – £14 per person compared with £9.89.

**Special educational needs.** Surrey wants to provide support nearer to home and reduce the need for children to go to schools out of the county with a plan to create an extra 350 specialist school places over the next two years.

Consultations close on Friday January 4. Visit [www.surreycc.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.surreycc.gov.uk/consultations)

• Surrey Council leader David Hodge is to step down on December 11. He broke the news at November's full council meeting. He was elected leader of the majority Conservative group, and leader of the council, in 2011.



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