

GOLDSWORTH NEWS

March 2019 – Issue 167



GPca
Goldsworth Park
Community Association
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Spring edition



Lakers: 'No repairs'

See Page 4

**Cllr Eastwood
steps down
after 28 years
at Woking**

See Page 3



**Sythwood Centre is spared
from County's
children's
service cuts**

See Page 6



**Fly-tipping
threat to
charity bins
at centre**

See Page 9

TRADING IN SURREY FOR OVER 50 YEARS

Buy online at rsmdomesticappliances.com

**YOUR LOCAL
DOMESTIC
APPLIANCE
SUPERSTORE**

SALES • ADVICE • REPAIRS

**Fast, free local delivery.
Visit our showroom today!**

WITH
euronics
COMPETITIVE
PRICES



SUPPORT
YOUR
LOCAL
SHOP!

RSM
Domestic Appliances
FRIENDLY SERVICE • BIG SAVINGS • FAST DELIVERY

GREAT OFFERS IN-STORE:

**High Street
Knaphill, Woking**

**Call
01483 475000**

Also in Bookham and Ashted



CONVEYANCING AND PROBATE PRACTITIONERS

We offer the below services to our clients, conducted in a friendly, professional, supportive manner. We are excellent communicators using both technology and traditional standards of service to suit our clients.

PROPERTY LAW SPECIALISTS

SELLING AND/OR BUYING A PROPERTY

REMORTGAGES

TRANSFERS

PROBATE

WILLS

DECLARATION OF TRUSTS

LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY

COMMISSIONERS FOR OATHS

Please telephone or email for a free estimate or for further information.

Business Hours:

9am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday

6 Anchor Crescent, Knaphill, Woking, Surrey GU21 2PD (Free parking)

T: 01483 485700 F: 01483 485701 E: info@lyonsandcompany.co.uk



Looking for a day care nursery?

Toad Hall Nursery, Woking

Our fantastic Woking OFSTED registered nursery has been purpose-built to provide a welcoming, friendly and spacious environment. With beautiful gardens to play in - come and see us to find out how we support your child to learn and develop!

Reasons why parents choose Toad Hall Nursery:

- Funding available for 2-4 year olds
- All staff are First Aid trained
- Large outdoor area for exploring and fun
- Corporate and emergency service staff discounts
- Individual routine for babies with nappies and wipes included as standard
- Flexible full-time sessions to suit you
- All food is nutritious, fresh and well-balanced

* Please note that 2 year old funding is subject to criteria - please ask for more information.

As strong advocates for the Early Years Foundation Stage framework, we also offer **FREE extra activities** such as music and various sports to enhance learning!

To arrange a visit or request a brochure, just contact:

Wishbone Way, Goldwater Lodge, Goldsworth Park, Woking GU21 3RT
Tel - 01483 486116 Email - woking@toadhall-nursery.co.uk
facebook.com/wishbonewaynursery

Follow us @ToadHallGroup
www.toadhall-nursery.co.uk
Recommended on daynurseries.co.uk



Alan Greenwood & Sons

Independent Family Funeral Directors



We offer a Caring and Compassionate Service
24 hours a day 365 days a year
The latest Jaguar or Mercedes Funeral Vehicles
Golden Charter Pre-paid Funeral Plans
Home Visit Arrangements
We will not be beaten on price

Please Visit Our Website for Full Details of Our Branches and Services
and also to View All Our Local Obituaries

www.alangreenwoodfunerals.com



01483 487 889

1 Anchor Hill
Knaphill
GU21 2HL

knaphill@alangreenwoodfunerals.com

OPEN SATURDAY MORNINGS 09.00-12.00

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

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

ADVERTISE IN GOLDSWORTH NEWS

Contact:
gnadverts@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

DISTRIBUTION

Linda Hill, 5 Newsham Road,
Goldsworth Park GU21 3LA.
Tel: 01483 835183
Email: hilllinda5@googlemail.com

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: Tuesday April 23, 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).

DISCLAIMER

No responsibility for the quality of goods or
services advertised in this magazine can be
accepted by the publishers, designers or printers.
Advertisements are included in good faith.

No part of this magazine may be
reproduced in any form without the express
prior permission of the publishers.

The publishers do not necessarily agree
with the views expressed by contributors nor
do they accept any responsibility for errors of
interpretation in the subject matter of
this magazine.

All reasonable care is taken to ensure
accuracy in preparation of the magazine but
neither the publisher nor printer can be held
legally responsible for the return of unsolicited
manuscripts, art work or projects. Whilst
every care is taken, no responsibility can be
accepted for the safety of material submitted.



Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

IT seems like quite a while since the last issue of Goldsworth News was published. Due to pressure on resources and time, Goldsworth News will now be published on a seasonal, quarterly basis in March (spring), June (summer), September (autumn) and December (winter).

This timing will fit well with the pattern of the GPCA's quarterly meetings so that, in each issue, we can report back on the previous meeting and remind you about the next one.

I am taking this opportunity to invite you to the next open meeting of the GPCA which will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, April 23 in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge. Apart from the usual updating, I should be in a position to let you know what is happening with the application to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

It really feels like spring now — just in time for the spring issue of our magazine. The bright sunshine, the catkins on the trees, the bulbs coming into bloom all make me feel optimistic but then I remember this time last year when we had to postpone the spring litter pick because of snow! Let's keep our fingers crossed for the next litter pick on March 30 when, again, I hope to see many of 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
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



@ourgpca



facebook.com/goldsworth.park

Cllr Eastwood retires after 28 years

IAN EASTWOOD is to retire from local politics after 28 years as a Woking councillor, writes IRENE WATSON.



IAN EASTWOOD

Cllr Eastwood, a Lib Dem representative for Goldsworth Park, will not be standing for re-election when the borough goes to the polls on May 2.

After his long service Ian, 74, has mobility problems and feels he can no longer do the job as it should be done.

Ian says he entered politics almost by accident. During an election, while he and his wife, Pauline, were living in Farnborough, they noticed that the next door neighbour on one side was displaying a Conservative Party poster and on the other, a Labour Party poster.

Ian said: "When a Liberal canvasser called, I asked him to give us a Liberal Party poster to display to complete the set!"

He read the election material, liked what he read, joined the Liberals and the rest is history.

Ian kept his Party allegiance when they moved to Goldsworth Park in 1978 and, although he did not immediately stand for election, he became immersed in community activities.

While a member of the Sythwood School PTA, he organised bingo sessions for the elderly residents of the Brookfield Estate. When his children moved to Beaufort School, he became a school governor, a position he held for 20 years. He and Pauline joined the fledgling GPCA and quickly became active, Pauline organising "booze cruise" coach trips to Calais and Ian on the Committee and managing the bar in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge.

Ian continued to be involved with the Liberal Party and was invited to stand for election to Woking Council. Once his children had left school, he agreed and he was elected in 1991.

He reminisces about canvassing during that campaign: "When I knocked at one door in Bitterne Drive, it was opened by Ray Morgan (then Finance Director and now Chief Executive of the Council) and, of course, Mr Morgan did not divulge his voting intentions!"

During his years as a councillor, Ian's main areas of activity have been sport and leisure, planning and licensing. He is particularly proud of having been instrumental in developing the Council's leisure strategy and establishing a dedicated department while he was chairman of the Sport and Leisure Committee.

Woking was the first council in Surrey to put this emphasis on sport and Ian said: "I am sure that Woking's success in winning the Surrey Youth Games for the first three years running was down to our employment of sport development officers. We were the envy of the other boroughs in Surrey."

Another highlight was Ian's appointment as Mayor in 2000, a role which involved a huge number of public engagements.

The GPCA would like to thank him for his commitment to public service over so many years and wish him a long and happy retirement, but he is not bowing out of community service — he plans to continue as a governor of Winston Churchill School, he is Vice President of Goldsworth Park Rangers Football Club and a member of the Cards Trust at Woking FC as well as being involved with the Town Twinning Association.

Lakers: 'No plans to rebuild'

GOLDSWORTH PARK residents will have to live with the eyesore of the burned-out Lakers Youth Club building for the foreseeable future.

Surrey County Council revealed at a Cabinet meeting on January 29 that there are no immediate plans to rebuild the club that was badly damaged by fire on January 2 last year.

The decision was disclosed in a written answer to a question from Woking Mayor Will Forster, who is also a Lib Dem Surrey Councillor for Woking South.

Cllr Forster had asked: "One year ago, Lakers Youth Centre in Goldsworth Park, Woking, was badly damaged by a fire and has not been used for youth work since. Please can the County Council confirm if or when it will repair and reopen Lakers Youth Centre?"

Cllr Mary Lewis, Cabinet member for Children, Young People and Families, replied: "We are reviewing the existing 'Youth Offer' in Surrey which will involve engaging with young people and key stakeholders to co-design the future service.

"This will take place in the coming months. The resulting offer will then be implemented in partnership with the District and Borough Councils and partner agencies including the voluntary,



community and faith sector. There are no immediate plans to rebuild the Lakers Youth Centre but we will be considering the future need for buildings as part of the review."

Cllr Forster told the *Goldsworth News*: "Ever since Lakers was damaged and closed by last year's fire, I have been campaigning for the County Council to commit to reopening the Youth Centre. However, they have refused time and time again. We are now one year on, and the Council still has no plans to reopen Lakers.

"The County Council has insurance that should cover the damage done to Lakers by the fire, but they have not received any insurance money to date. A payout from the insurer beyond this level of cost depends on whether the Council decide to rebuild Lakers as it was before the fire or not.

"Therefore, the Council needs to decide to rebuild as was, or not — that decision will then dictate how they deal with the insurers and any payout. So we need to wait for their Youth Service Review before knowing more."

Colin Kemp, Deputy Leader of Surrey County Council and Conservative member for Horsell West and Goldsworth East, said: "Cllr Lewis' answer does not mean Lakers is not being rebuilt.

"Because of the damage the building needs rebuilding, we are currently looking at all SCC buildings and what other services they can deliver and this includes Lakers. While the insurance is being sorted out I have been working with the other departments within the county and at the borough to see how this site can be utilised locally in conjunction with the youth delivery. As we experienced locally with the rebuilding of Goldsworth Lodge, this is never a quick exercise.

"The important point here is not the building but the services to the young people. With the help of local community organisations

and Woking Council the targeted youth work that was delivered in Lakers has continued at other local locations and I would like to thank the local youth workers and volunteers for their hard work and making this happen."

Lib Dem Woking Councillor for Goldsworth Park Ann-Marie Barker said: "It is very sad that Goldsworth Park's purpose-built youth centre is being left to rot. We had many years of the centre being under used as Surrey County Council struggled to provide youth services.

"In recent years the service had been turned around and a good service was provided for local young people. It is such a shame that this excellent facility is now locked up and inaccessible."

It's not all bad news

THE fire damaged Herbies Pizza outlet in the shopping centre WILL be rebuilt.

A spokesman for the centre's managing agents JLL said: "Repairs are now in hand with our building surveyors. The insurers have accepted the claim and tenders for the refurbishments are currently being drawn."

On November 6 last year Surrey firefighters were called to tackle a roof fire at Herbies that had spread to Regents Estate Agents next door. Eight fire appliances and an aerial ladder were needed to bring the fire under control.

ST. JOHN'S
FOOT CLINIC



**TIME TO WAVE GOODBYE
TO VERRUCAE**

**Introducing Swift – the breakthrough treatment
for stubborn warts and verrucae**

Unlike cryotherapy, salicylic acid and laser, Swift does not break the surface of the skin and eliminates the need for bandages and dressings – leaving you to carry on your day as normal.

Now available at St John's Foot Clinic.

Give us a call for details on **01483 715771**

or email us at info@stjohnsfootclinic.co.uk for full details



www.stjohnsfootclinic.co.uk
St John's Health Centre,
Hermitage Road,
St John's, Woking, GU21 8TD



Next GPCA meeting, Tuesday April 23, 7.30pm Goldwater Lodge

Mayor praises North Meadow project

WOKING Mayor Cllr Will Forster got himself up to speed with the Natural Goldsworth Park Project with a visit to North Meadow and adjacent woodland.

Project manager Gerry Smeesters acted as guide and was accompanied by NGP Patron Shirley Slocock, George Hounscome from the Surrey Botanical Society, Lynn Whitfield and Ross Baker from the Surrey Bat Group and GPCA Chair Irene Watson.

After a briefing on the flora and fauna of the area the group went across to the Dianthus Building to view exhibits from the area past and present.

The Mayor told the *Goldsworth News*: "It's really impressive to see what the Natural Goldsworth Park group have done to North Meadow and Goldsworth Park rec. The rec and the lake are used by so many people but there is a huge amount of nature that the group is encouraging along, particularly with bats and butterflies.



"But there are badger populations as well and deer are visiting which is a brilliant asset to have. They have obviously got some ideas as to what will happen in the future and the group are assessing what could and couldn't grow on the meadow and hopefully they will be able to make that decision and then move forward from there."

Gerry said: "Will was a Goldsworth Park resident for many years and he recalled the frequent visits to our recreation area and the open space that is now North Meadow. He demonstrated insight regarding future challenges that the habitat faced and emphasised the need to maximise the benefits of the area for enhancing community wellbeing."



MAYORAL BRIEFING — (left to right) Irene Watson, George Hounscome, the Mayor, Shirley Slocock, Ross Baker and Lynn Whitfield

Beetles are a big hit!

ANDREW HALSTEAD, a local resident and former RHS Principal Entomologist has identified and recorded over 160 insect species during a North Meadow survey, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.

He reported that the insects found are typical for our type of wooded and meadow habitat.

Andrew highlights his identification of the diminutive and uncommon beetle *Obrium Brunneum* (length 4-7mm). Visit our website for full details of why this species is special!

He noted ash sawfly as a species found here. Considered a pest some 20 years ago because of its destructive impact on ash trees, in the near future this sawfly may become rare or an endangered species. This could occur if its primary adult and larval feeding source, the ash tree, is wiped out from the combined impact of ash dieback disease and the precautionary action of the authorities in felling healthy ash trees that remain. Sometimes nature is harsh!

The survey has provided a positive health indicator for the habitat. Insects underpin ecology. They play a vital role in pollination, and are food sources for bats, birds and many other fauna.

I know there are many more insect species waiting to be discovered on North Meadow. You can help Andrew and NGP find them. Andrew will be conducting further sweeps of the habitat during 2019. If you have a particular interest in helping out on this aspect of our nature, please let me know. The entomology survey is on the GPCA website: ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk/natural-goldsworth-park-reports/

Nature watch NGP style

Anyone who walks around the recreation and lake area is a potential nature watcher. Why not join in. Report your sightings; send us photos or take part as a volunteer for our activities. The Big Butterfly Count is set for July 19 to August 11. Take part with us or do your own submission. Some butterflies fly all year round. Red admirals were spotted as early as January near the South Coast. So keep your eyes open — you may see something we missed.

• Gerry Smeesters, NGP project manager, can be contacted at projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Let's beat the litter louts

IT'S tidy up time again! The GPCA in conjunction with Woking Council have organised a litter pick on Saturday March 30.

We will be meeting at 2pm at Goldwater Lodge and the Council will again provide high-viz jackets, grabbers and bags.

These litter picks help to keep our estate clean and tidy, but we can do more. Why not join the growing band of residents who regularly clean up areas close to them.

Together, we can lessen the impact of the mindless few who think it is acceptable to drop litter where they stand, sometimes just a few feet from a bin!

One problem that seems to be getting worse is packaging from takeaway food outlets being thrown from cars on the Park's main through routes, but if we all pull together, along with the council's contractors, we can beat the litter louts.



Willowmead Homes Ltd
Building & Property Services

**All aspects of Brickwork / Groundwork / Alterations
through to Bathrooms / Kitchens / Decorating**

See our web site for full details:

willowmeadhomesltd.co.uk

All work Guaranteed & References On Request

01483 825146 / 07842 552 448

Find us on

**FREE
QUOTATIONS
& ADVICE**

We can tackle loneliness

Revd Kate Wyles

HAVE you ever written anything on the back of your hands so you don't forget it?

My youngest children often come home from school with important notes on the back of their hands! And I remember doing that myself too.

In the Bible God says: "See I have written your name on the palm of my hands." Isaiah 49.16

God says he writes your name on the palm of his hands. Each time God moves to act — or opens his hands, our names are right there. We are unforgettable to God.

And yet sometimes it can feel as though the world has forgotten. The latest UK statistics on loneliness make gloomy reading.

Britain was recently named as the country with the most loneliness in Europe, and three-quarters of GP's in England have at least one appointment each day with someone whose main reason for coming is that they are lonely.

How can we make sure that Goldsworth Park is not a lonely place? Scientists are currently working on a pill for loneliness! But they have

discovered that simple acts of kindness can make all the difference, like:

- doing something nice for someone without expecting anything in return, or
- sharing some good news, or
- smiling and chatting with strangers.

Instead of giving up something for Lent this year maybe we can take up one of these positive suggestions and help tackle loneliness in our community?

And, of course, there is always Andy's Café at our church and Goldsworth Park's community groups where we can make friends and be unforgettable to one another!

Wishing you every blessing this Lent and Easter, Kate.

Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.



**Andrew's
st Church**

Sythwood beats the axe

SYTHWOOD CHILDREN'S CENTRE has escaped Surrey County Council's swingeing cuts and is to become one of two family centres in Woking.

The two new-look centres, the other in Sheerwater, will have to absorb business from the four local centres that have been axed. These are St John's, Pyrford-Byfleet, Horsell and Brookwood.

Cash-strapped SCC is reducing the number of their children's centres from 58 to 21 centres and satellite sites.

Sythwood is currently run by the Bourne Education Trust, (BET) but will be under new management when the changes are finalised later this year.

Surrey's proposed new model for the centres will cater for children up to age 11 instead of five, the current limit.

Jo Green, head teacher of Brookwood Primary School and spokesperson for BET said: "We understand that Surrey has got to target its precious resources to the most needy children in the borough. The top of the new age range will be meeting Youth Services who will be coming down to 11.

"Part of Surrey's proposals is that you spend money on people and not on buildings.

"There will be a leadership structure within the Sythwood building and working to that leadership will be outreach workers who will be going into the community where they are most needed.

"Whoever is the leader of the centre will have more people to dispatch to the right places."

SCC is working with Woking Council and other organisations to find

a partner to run the borough's two centres. The tender process should be complete by the autumn.

The County have pledged that until that time, budgets and staffing will stay the same.

SCC say: "Moving to a new model of Family Centre services will help develop a more effective way of supporting families that need help earlier to improve their outcomes. By reorganising children's centres into more targeted models of provision, we believe this will support more children and young people to avoid becoming subject to child protection or public care.

"The Family Centre model will enable us to help more families and children to become more resilient who would otherwise be more likely to experience poor outcomes without support."

FAMILY CENTRE — Sythwood is facing a busy future



Beat the Draughts...



without the overdraft.

**Beautiful doors, windows and
bi-folding doors with
precision and care**

Checkatrade

**For a free, no obligation quotation
please call today on 01483 474333**

**Unit 2, Robin Hood Works, Robin Hood Road, Knaphill,
Woking, Surrey GU21 2LX Tel: 01483 474333 www.windsorwindows.net**

FENSA
Registered Company



**Windsor
Windows**

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.

SINCE the beginning of 2019 our weather has been up and down like a yo-yo, unseasonably mild then very cold, heavy rain, snow and gales, so which hat should we wear today?

At least we can choose, but that's not the case for nature. Some plant life has budded early whilst others are late, and the same applies to some of our birds around the lake.

Swans and mallards started their courting displays in January then gave up on the idea, but the great crested grebes got it completely wrong by laying eggs in a nest that got frozen as the snow fell. The ice made their chance of success very slim, but if unsuccessful there is plenty of time for them to try again.

Due to the weather we have not been able to do much maintenance of late around the lake but with a bit of luck we should be cracking on with a spring tidy up very soon. That will include some tree work undertaken by Serco. Sadly many of the willows are in poor condition, and as a consequence some will need to be completely removed.

David Frye, an arboricultural technician with Woking Council, has given a detailed report on the action required.

He writes: "As part of the ongoing maintenance with the lake and in consultation

with the local angling club it has been identified that a number of trees pose a significant risk to the public.

"The majority of the trees identified for works are willow and are of an age where they are starting to fall into decline. Over recent years we have seen an increase in the amount of dead wood present in the trees, an increase in the number of total limb or tree failure and an increase in tree pathogens affecting the trees. The risk is now considered to be unacceptable, as such the removal of the trees is required in order to mitigate this.

"The willows around the lake have developed poor crown structure. The majority of the trees are multi-stemmed which means that there are multiple main limbs each competing with each other for space. This causes limbs to fail as they push away from each other eventually falling, potentially onto nearby pathways.

"As trees age they also become more susceptible to fungal pathogens which degrade the internal structure of the supporting timber of the tree which therefore also increases the likelihood of failure. A number of the trees around the lake have these fungal pathogens and require removal.

"The planned works are likely to take place over the course of the next five years,

first dealing with the trees that pose the greatest risk and then the trees which have a longer life expectancy. These works are due to start in March 2019. Our contractors will be considerate of nesting birds during this time."



IN DECLINE — multi-stemmed willows pose a risk to people using the lake path

Scouts get cash grant for HQ



THE 1st Goldsworth Park Scout Group has been successful with an application to Woking Council for help towards the cost of making good the paving areas and surrounding paths to their Generation Centre headquarters.

The Council's Executive recommended that a grant of 50 per cent of the costs up to a maximum of £7,500 be awarded from the Community Fund towards the paving work which will improve the appearance and safety of the access to the centre.

Guides, Rainbows and Brownies, Beavers and Cubs share the building which is available for public hire.

The main hall is a flexible space which can be split into two smaller halls with a stage at one end. A third room is available off the main hall. There is a kitchen, tables and chairs, modern toilets, disabled facilities and ample parking.

The Baden Powell Room has its own entrance and a separate kitchen area, along with its own toilet and disabled facilities. For further information and rates email generationcentre@outlook.com

Cadet Ben's off to USA

WOKING sea cadet lance corporal Ben Jordan has been selected for a place on the USA international exchange programme this summer.

Ben, based at the cadet HQ in the Dianthus Building on Goldsworth Park, will spend two weeks on the east coast with cadets from around the world. He will visit US military locations, take part in waterborne and other challenges as well as have time for sightseeing.

Woking Sea Cadets is a voluntary organisation aimed at giving young people the best possible start in life through nautical and non-nautical adventure and fun. During the summer the cadets spend as much time as possible outdoors involving water-based activities on Goldsworth lake. In winter they concentrate on land-based training such as seamanship, ceremonial drill, piping, first aid, cookery and engineering.

For more information call 01483 901909 or go to www.sea-cadets.org/woking



LE DRAIG
ELECTRICAL/PROPERTY
SERVICES LTD

Checkatrade
Where reputation matters

Electrical contractors & property maintenance services:

- inspection & testing • fault finding
- consumer unit changed • lighting & power

07799 098 200 / 01483 730 305



www.ledraigelectrical.co.uk



Down by the Riverside

UTOPIA for dogs and perfect for an afternoon stroll — that's the Riverside Park Nature Reserve at Burpham, writes ROYER SLATER.

And there's plenty to see if you're a nature lover. So it's surprising how many Goldsworth Park residents tell me they've not heard of it.

Riverside Park occupies 80 hectares, with four main habitats, meadow, wetlands, open water and woodland. On your walk you'll see reed beds, a lake, ponds, scrubland, the River Wey Navigation, meadows and mature woodlands of oak, ash and horse chestnut.

It's popular with bird watchers and walkers. Over 300 plant species have been recorded, and the reserve is used by breeding and wintering birds, including snipe, water rail and kingfisher.

The Park is served by a car park in Bowers Lane, off Clay Lane (the A3100) between Jacobs Well and Burpham. From here, a path leads across meadows and past a small area of woodland to the lake, which is an important wildlife habitat. It was created by gravel extraction for constructing the A3 dual carriageway, which runs alongside the Park. Traffic noise is its only drawback.

An important part of the reserve is a low lying area which is permanently marshy. This habitat is especially important due to its rarity and its ability to support a diverse range of birds, amphibians and insects. Invasive trees such as willow, which dry the marsh, are removed to maintain this habitat.

A network of boardwalks totalling 800 metres, complete with a bird hide, has been built to cross sensitive areas of wetland. On the boardwalks you're surrounded by reeds, sedges, grasses and other wetland plants.



WETLAND ROUTE – the park boasts 800metres of boardwalk
Picture: SUE SLATER

The boardwalks feature superb wood sculptures and several carved benches showing wildlife montages. You can proceed on the boardwalks to Stoke Lock and return to the car park beside the River Wey Navigation, or retrace your steps across the boardwalks and meadows.

Baby buggy and wheelchair pushers should have no problem using any of the main paths, but a walk all around the lake would be challenging.

An excellent leaflet is available for free download from Natural England. The direct link is <https://tinyurl.com/y9k7cnum> or click the link on the park's page at <https://tinyurl.com/ydbkvcs8>. Brief descriptions are on several other sites: just Google Riverside Park Nature Reserve Guildford.

End of an eyesore

THE shipping containers that have long been a blot on the landscape in Sythwood are to be moved.

New Vision Homes, Woking Council's housing management arm, were served notice to remove the containers (pictured below) by the end of February. At the time of the *Goldsworth News* going to press they were still on site, but Chloe Hobbs, Repairs Contract



and Compliance Manager for NVH, confirmed the site will be cleared but was unable to give a date.

The containers are used as office and storage space for NVH's contractors, Pilon.

Many residents have expressed concern about the siting of the containers given the strict planning regulations covering Goldsworth Park.

Beacon House Dry Cleaners & Launderer

Specialists in Evening Wedding Wear, Silk, Shirts, Duvets, Blankets, & Table Cloths

All types of Laundry Services, Repairs & Alterations
Invisible Mending Services, Key Cutting & Shoe Repairs

25% Discount for OAP's & Member of all Forces
(Wednesday & Thursday. T&C's apply)

www.beaconhousedrycleaners.co.uk/Facebook



Tel: 01483 77 21 24

7 Goldsworth Park Shopping Centre, Woking GU21 3LG

Call for Free Collection & Delivery
(Opp Waitrose)

A personal view

Royer Slater



SPRING sprang early this year for a fragrant February in Goldsworth Park, writes ROYER SLATER.

Spring is always a magical season. Flowers start to bloom, while trees and bushes give birth to fresh green leaves. It's as though nature knows we need cheering up after the cold, long nights of winter.

Before we even notice them, the first plants to bloom each year are waiting for warm days so they can rush into flower. When the season is mild, they come out earlier and release their scent on warm days to entice pollinators – flies as well as those bees which, unlike honey bees, are active through winter.

Writing this in mid-February, the weather is mild and the month is predicted to be the mildest on record. The Royal Horticultural Society predicts February this year will be the most fragrant in memory. By the time this issue of *Goldsworth News* hits your doormat in March, we will know.

In addition to the mild February, plants have benefited from last year's hot, sunny summer and a lack of frosts during the winter.

We have already seen one of the most iconic images of spring:

the daffodil. To see blankets of these yellow flowers popping up in woods and grassland is a promise that spring is on its way.

From April, our woodlands will be transformed by carpets of bluebells – another iconic springtime sight. Many of Surrey's woodlands are carpeted with deep blue... but they won't be for long!

The bluebell is one of Britain's favourite wild flowers. Often associated with ancient woodlands, our wild bluebell comes into flower before the surrounding trees are in full leaf, so its life cycle is completed while light levels are high. Bluebells can grow quickly because they have energy stored in their bulbs.

Make the most of this spring. Try to go for a woodland walk. The Woodland Trust has a web page describing and picturing the wild flowers you're likely to spot: visit <http://tinyurl.com/y2vzuhhe>. Even in Goldsworth Park, you can spot plants blooming, trees and bushes bursting into bud, and birds singing to attract mates.

Happy spring!

Publican Ian dies aged 57

IAN COX, the popular landlord of Goldsworth Park's pub the Fox and Flowerpot, died on January 4 aged 57.

Ian was being treated for cancer but passed away after developing pneumonia. His funeral was held at St Andrew's Church on February 1, followed by a wake at the pub.



HAPPIER TIMES – Woking MP Jonathan Lord and Ian at the pub's re-opening

Darren, Ian's son, ran the pub with his father and will see out the remaining three years of their tenancy agreement.

A former sergeant in the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, Ian was a keen supporter of veterans' associations and during his time as a pub landlord he campaigned for licensees' rights.

Ian worked with Fox and Flowerpot owners Ei Group on a £350,000 refurbishment to the premises in 2017. The pub, opened in the 1980s, had developed a poor reputation but Ian and Darren transformed it into a welcoming venue for all ages.

Woking MP Jonathan Lord attended the re-opening of the Bampton Way hostelry.

Fly-tipping threat

THE future of the recycling facilities in the shopping centre car park are under threat because of fly-tipping at the site.

Managing agents JLL are monitoring the situation along with Serco who collect the waste as part of the Joint Waste Solutions (AMEY) contract. If fly-tipping continues JLL may decide to have the containers, which are for clothes and shoes and drink cartons, removed. The clothes and shoes go to charities.

CCTV is one deterrent being considered.



DUMPED – household waste at the shopping centre facility



The reliable window cleaning company

For an instant estimate
visit www.neonclean.com
or call 07745 519242



Letters

Dear Sir,

This letter concerns my Nan who was chased and bitten by a dog on the recreation ground in January while she was cycling to Horsell. It was the second time she had been confronted by the dog. She tried to keep it away from herself with her foot. The black terrier then bit her on her calf as she slowed down, leaving some very nasty bruises. However, luckily the bite didn't break the skin.

She is a resident of Goldsworth Park and I don't see why she should live in fear of going out on her bike because, as the dog's owner put "he doesn't like bikes."

The incident was reported to the police the same day. They eventually came back to her the next day and said there was nothing they can do as their hands are tied. They suggested that my Nan cycles another route. They did say that they would send some PCSO's to patrol the field, but as of yet none have been sighted.

The dog must also not like pregnant women as it chased a woman who was 35 weeks pregnant at the time on a different occasion.

I contacted the council dog warden but have had no response to two emails. This has already happened to an elderly lady, a pregnant woman, so are we waiting until a young child is left bloodied and traumatised before we act? If that's the case, then some people need to have a long hard look at themselves.

Kind regards,
Ben Bremner

Woking Council, which has not had an animal warden for two years, has responded to Ben's concerns.

A spokesman said: "We understand the concerns that some residents have towards dogs which is why we ask that owners should consider others and keep dogs on their lead where required. Residents with any queries or concerns regarding dogs should contact our Environmental Health department by emailing Environmental.Health@woking.gov.uk. Alternatively, please visit www.woking.gov.uk and search 'dogs' for more information."

THE Trustees of the GPCA agreed to make Christmas donations from the Association's available funds to three local charities. They were The Salvation Army, whose church is in Sythwood, The Lighthouse, a Christian-based organisation which hosts the food bank, and The York Road Project, which helps Woking's homeless people and is the current Mayor's charity. Here are their letters of thanks.

Dear Ms Watson,

On behalf of all involved at The Lighthouse we would like to thank you and The GPCA for the generous donation to support our work.

We can assure you the money will be put to excellent use and will enhance the lives of the many individuals and families in our community who are in need of support and assistance. We are looking forward to expanding our services and your contribution towards this will make all the difference.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely,
Diana Jespersen, The Lighthouse
Emmaus Transformation Trust.

THE LIGHTHOUSE

Dear Irene

Christmas Donation — 2018

Can I express my thanks to you for the kind donation from the GPCA to the work of the Salvation Army.

2018 has been a particularly busy year for us at our church in Goldsworth Park, not least the increasing demands for help from people in the community. Just a few weeks ago, we sorted, wrapped and distributed over 580 Christmas parcels to the needy of Woking. We have maintained our partnerships with the Food Bank and, with St. Andrew's Church, held some Messy Church programmes. Our building is used every day by different community groups as well as those operated from our church.

May I thank you for thinking of and supporting our work — we are very grateful.

With kind regards,
John Martin, MAJOR, Church leader



Dear Irene

I write to thank you and the Trustees of GPCA on behalf of the York Road Project for your kind donation at Christmas.

Your donation is much needed and appreciated, to help fund the support we provide our clients. We are constantly trying to expand and develop the services we offer and your donation will benefit all the clients within the project.

The funds we manage to raise through support from yourselves and others in the community are vital to provide support to Woking's homeless. These help us to provide essential items such as toothbrushes and socks, to one-off trips and events for the clients.

We thank you again for your generous support — people like yourselves are making a very real difference to vulnerable people's lives. We genuinely couldn't do all of this without you.

Yours sincerely,
Joanne Thurling,
Administrator.



York Road Project
Defeating Homelessness in Woking

WHAT'S ON

HORSELL BOWLING CLUB is holding an open day on Saturday April 13 between 9.45am and noon at Queen Elizabeth Gardens, High Street, Horsell, GU21 4SS. This is an opportunity to try lawn bowls for free with one of the club's coaches. Equipment will be provided, just wear flat shoes. Contact Tricia on 01483 760170 or email: tricia.horsell.bowls@gmail.com

WOKING CHORAL SOCIETY and the Hanover Choir are presenting A Sea Symphony by Ralph Vaughan Williams on Saturday March 30 at HG Wells Events Centre, Church Street East, GU21 6HJ. Tickets are £18, students and children £5. Woking key card holders, and sales of 10 or more, £17 each, can be booked online at www.wokingchoral.org.uk or obtained from the Lightbox, Chobham Road, or Christ Church Shop, Town Square, Woking, or Brittens Music, 13 The Broadway, Woodham, New Haw KT15 3EU.

Woking tax up 3 per cent

WOKING has raised its council tax by three per cent for 2019-20. Along with Surrey's increase of 2.99 per cent and a 10.1 per cent Police and Crime Commissioner rise, a band D property in the borough attracts a total of £1,954.53.

Mel Few, Surrey's cabinet member for finance, said: "Our focus has to be on ensuring that the county's finances are in a sustainable position to meet the growing demand for essential services while also allowing us to improve them in years to come.

"In addition there is a need to minimise our use of reserves to avoid them becoming too low, so unfortunately there is no choice for us but to recommend an increase in council tax."

Community Stadium development

DETAILED agreements that secure the long-term ambitions of Woking FC have now been signed between Woking Council, GolDev Woking Ltd and the club. They allow for a new stadium and construction of residential properties on adjoining land.

Rosemary Johnson, Chairman of Woking FC, said: "We are an ambitious community-focused club with huge potential, shown by our recent FA Cup run. Whilst there is still a long way to go, these agreements signify the next chapter for our club. Not only do they secure our long-term future, but will also enable us to continue and develop our much-valued community work."

Careline help for fallers

A NEW service to get fallers back on their feet has been introduced by Woking. Careline customers who need help can expect to be back on their feet within 60 minutes of sounding the alarm. If a faller needs a hand to get up and recover their balance, a helper will come with lifting equipment, if needed.

Julie Meme, Woking's Home Independence Manager, said: "A fall without injury is a low priority for the emergency services. This can mean that residents who need help picking themselves up might have to wait several hours before someone is available to assist them."

Gateway agreement

AN agreement between Woking and development company Coplan has been confirmed for the Woking Gateway development project.

Located next to Woking railway station, the submission from Coplan is for a scheme of approximately 475 residential units in three towers. These will sit above approximately 47,500 square feet of new commercial space with servicing and parking accessed from the High Street.

The scheme may change during the planning process and the Planning Committee will consider final details. To accommodate the new development existing properties will be acquired and if necessary the Council will consider using its compulsory purchase powers.

MICHAEL FARLAM

Quality Care and Support at Home



- An award - winning family owned and run business who were fully compliant at our last inspection by the Care Quality Commission.
- A friendly, flexible service with help available from ½ hour per week to 24 hour live-in care.
- Trustworthy, caring, professional staff, fully trained and referenced with Criminal Records clearance.
- We can offer you support with: personal care, bathing, hair washing, physical therapy exercises, companionship, nursing care, simple cooking, shopping, medication management, ironing, light domestic duties and dog walking or care of pets.
- Trustworthy, compassionate and reliable individuals required to join our friendly team. Experience not essential as full training is provided.
- If you are over 18 with your own car and good English skills please give us a call to find out more about joining our lovely team of carers!



For further information, or to arrange a free no obligation meeting in your home, please call **01483 797950** or visit our website **www.astoragency.co.uk**



SEYMOURS

Large enough to make an
impression, small enough to care.

Hello Spring



WOKING'S NUMBER ONE AGENT

For A Free Valuation Call
01483 757700