

GOLDSWORTH NEWS

December 2019 – Issue 170

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Winter edition

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to: editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

GPCA MEETINGS

Meetings of the Community Association
are held at Goldwater Lodge.

2020 meetings, all Wednesday at 7.30pm.
January 22, April 22, July 22, AGM October 21.

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 James Sanderson WBC (Lib Dem).
Chitra Rana WBC, Saj Hussain SCC & WBC
and Colin Kemp SCC & WBC (Conservative).

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Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

AT long last, I am pleased to be able to tell you that the GPCA is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, a CIO. It is still a registered charity but is now a corporate body rather than a group of Trustees with personal responsibility for the actions of the charity.

There is a new constitution which has objects broadly similar to the old one but is based on the Charity Commission's model constitution for an Association CIO. The Trustees chose this model, which has a wider membership than just the Trustees because we believed that residents – the community – would wish to be involved in the GPCA CIO and be able to vote for the Trustees and on important issues. The constitution is available on our website.

The Charity Commission requires every Association CIO to have a membership register rather than the way the GPCA operated in the past where residents were members by virtue of living in Goldsworth Park. To see what this might mean for you, clauses nine and 10 of the Constitution set out the rules relating to membership.

We will be inviting residents to become members of the new GPCA CIO starting with those who have signed up to receive minutes of meetings and other information by email and those who have joined the Facebook Group.

If you are not on the mailing list or in the Facebook Group but would like to become a member of the new GPCA, please contact me and I will send you details.

Now that the new GPCA CIO has been registered, the old GPCA will be dissolved and the assets and liabilities transferred to the new GPCA CIO.

All that is left for me to say now is that I wish you all joy and peace this Christmas and a happy new year.

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 email chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk
www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



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Ray of hope for Lakers building

THE fire damaged Lakers Youth Centre in Goldsworth Park could be made available to faith groups and charities free, or at minimal cost, under Surrey County Council plans to open up 35 underused or closed buildings.

Lakers was gutted by fire in January 2018 and is still awaiting repair. The grounds are currently used as a depot for the fleet of Woking Community Transport Bustler mini-buses.

Cash-strapped SCC can no longer afford to fund all the youth services it has provided in the past.

SCC has not yet made a decision about repairs to Lakers and an organisation that wanted to use the building may need to contribute towards those repairs.

The council are planning county-wide discussions and conversations on their plans and hope to have firm proposals by next spring.

The buildings in question cost the council around £900,000 a year to maintain.

Surrey's plan for Lakers under the scheme was raised at the GPCA AGM on November 6, but County Councillor Saj Hussain said it was early days in the project and had no further details.



BURNED OUT – Lakers has still not been repaired



INFERNO – the height of the blaze in 2018

THE key item on the GPCA AGM agenda, held at Goldwater Lodge on November 6, was a resolution to dissolve the old GPCA charity and authorise the Trustees to transfer assets to the newly registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Earlier this year, the Trustees agreed a new constitution for the GPCA based on the Charity Commission's Association model CIO. This model is the one with voting members other than the Trustees because it was believed that residents would wish to be involved in the GPCA and be able to vote for the Trustees and on important issues.

The application to become a CIO was submitted in April but, due to pressure of work at the Charity Commission, it took until October 4 to be approved.

The resolution, in accordance with clause 20 of the existing constitution, was that the GPCA, Registered Charity No. 287684, (the existing charity) be dissolved on 31st December 2019 (or such other date as the Trustees may decide) and all assets and liabilities held for the purposes of the charity be transferred on that date to the Goldsworth Park Community Association CIO, Registered Charity No. 1185628, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) formed under the Charities Act, 2011.

This resolution authorises the Trustees of the existing charity to sign such agreements and execute such deeds as are necessary to give effect to this transfer provided that, in the case of any assets held for restricted purposes, they shall ensure that similar restrictions are imposed when the assets are transferred to the CIO.

Chair Irene Watson called for a vote by show of hands and the resolution was approved unanimously.

The Trustees of the CIO are Irene Watson, Vice-Chair Chris Martin, Secretary Celia Young, Treasurer Tina Hartley, Social Secretary Catherine Salmon, Natural Goldsworth Park Project Manager Gerry Smeesters and Goldsworth News editor George Binyon.

The new constitution is available on the GPCA website and residents will see that the objects of the CIO are very similar to those of the old GPCA – the CIO is really a continuation of the GPCA with a different structure. The main differences are that managing a community building is no longer mentioned and reference to maintaining the character, amenities and environment of the area has been added.

The Charity Commission requires Association CIO's to have a membership register so residents will be invited to become members of the GPCA, rather than how it worked in the past where residents were members just by virtue of living in Goldsworth Park. Initially, invitations will be sent to people on the email contact list and the Facebook Group.

As the GPCA will be dissolved by December 31, it was suggested that the current Committee, comprising Irene Watson, Chris Martin, Tina Hartley, Celia Young and Gerry Smeesters should stay on for the short time left. This was proposed by Cllr Saj Hussain, seconded by Hilary Addison and the meeting voted unanimously in favour.

Other items on the AGM agenda included the Chair's report, financial report, communications, Natural Goldsworth Park and community matters. After the break for refreshments there was a question and answer session.

The full minutes of the meeting are available on our website at www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Kids are top pickers!

OUR neighbourhood is looking spick and span after two autumn litter picks.

The GPCA held a community pick on Saturday October 19 and then pupils from Beaufort Primary School in Kirkland Avenue turned out for a tidy-up on Thursday November 7.

The community pick was postponed on October 12 due to the wet weather but the turnout was good on the new date and it was encouraging to see so many children taking part.

GPCA volunteers wore the personalised high-viz jackets and used litter pickers all donated by Woking Council.

Beaufort's pick was part of their Outdoor Classroom Day with all of the classes spending the entire day outside on the playground or in Goldsworth Park.

Hannah Piper, deputy head, said: "The children took part in all sorts of activities including art, geography and maths. In addition, Year 4 decided to make their outside classroom a cleaner place and carried out a thorough litter pick in the Park using their brand new litter pickers which had been kindly donated by Serco.

"The school has committed to carrying out two litter picks per term in the local area. We are keen to make a difference to our community so do let us know of any roads or areas that need our attention."

Many families on Goldsworth Park keep areas close to their homes litter free. Why not organise your own litter-picking group to help beat those who blight our community.

Park resident Pauline Eastwood organises the GPCA picks and plans to hold another next spring.



BLANKET COVERAGE – GPCA young volunteers Ze, Joseph, Inez and Poppy with an unusual find



SCHOOL'S OUT – pupils from Beaufort Primary's Year 4

Steps towards woodland walk



PLANNING is well underway for the proposed £10,000 Thames Water funded woodland walk on the east side of the lake, writes GERRY SMEESTERS.

Ian Crump, Thames Water (TW) Biodiversity Field Manager and specialist woodland contractor, Buckinghamshire based Maydencroft, met up on North Meadow for a preliminary nature assessment in mid-November.

The purpose of the visit was to inform further detailed survey work, develop proposals for creation of a woodland ride and, additionally, delivery to TW of a five-year management plan for their woodland. Maydencroft are woodland and nature conservation experts.

Woodland ride is a term used to describe an area where the tree canopy is opened up allowing more light to permeate the existing dark woodland floor, encouraging greater diversity of flora. It will benefit residents by providing interest and access to a different type of habitat on their doorstep, and for nocturnal species, such as the bats, by providing a dark natural corridor to and from the lake for foraging.

Neil Chamberlain, Senior Consultant for Maydencroft, considered that the current state of regeneration found in the woodland was remarkable. He speculated that this may be as a result of a 'buried seed bank', possibly originating from the much older woodland, part of the former Slocock Nursery. The land had been virtually levelled in the mid 1970's to make way for the lake and dredge area which is the wooded space we know today.

Neil was impressed by just how much new and diverse growth he observed, and added that he spends much of his professional time advising many of his clients how to create a habitat such as the woodland on North Meadow.

The timetable and way forward envisaged by TW is completion of proposals for the ride and management plan by Christmas; a period for local consultation in the new year and then obtaining the necessary Forestry Commission licence for works.

The work, which may take up to 10 days, can then begin. However, if it coincides with the 2020 bird breeding season it will be delayed until the end of that season.

RAKERS' PROGRESS – the wildflower beds on North Meadow



North Meadow wildflowers

AN area of North Meadow has recently been sown with wildflower seeds. The initiative led by GPCA Chair Irene Watson was fast tracked and completed at the end of October. Ground prep work was undertaken by DH Fencing. DH proprietor Daz Hugill is a familiar face around here as a keen angler. The plot chosen for the wildflowers is situated by the BMX track.

The GPCA are very grateful to Surrey CC for the grant which funded the ground works and to Norman Johns, leader of the Woking nature group LA21, who contributed by advising on the appropriate seed mix and methods of creating such areas. Much has been learned about the wildflower process and will undoubtedly aid similar future initiatives.

NGP has a complete botany record for the area dug over, plus the list of species included in the sowing mix. During 2020 a study will be undertaken to see what grew and those species that did not flourish or failed to appear at all. Additionally, NGP will want undertake a simple pollinator survey to assess their abundance and diversity.

NGP hopes to encourage other trials with wildflowers, so if you would like to be part of that programme please contact me on NGP Facebook, @Natgoldsworth, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Goldsworth Park birds

THE GPCA website, www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk, has some new pages devoted to birds for you to view. They have been added to complement a new initiative by NGP to update our record of bird species around the recreation area.

Local resident, Neil Bew, is conducting a regular survey once a month. The results are published on our website and we have to thank Neil for his input. A web gallery has been created to allow you to view photos of the birds sighted. We also will reproduce Neil's notes that provide an insight to his survey observations as well as additional information about the birds.

I joined Neil for his November survey and the highlights were seeing a sparrowhawk hunting on North Meadow, and having the privilege of seeing and photographing some of the 30 other species along with his expert commentary.

Do join in. Report your own nature sightings and upload photos to our NGP Facebook page @Natgoldsworth

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Christmas brings hope and togetherness

OVER the summer I had a virus that kept me away from my work. During those months I struggled to do very much at all. Holding up a book; scrolling through social media; walking down the stairs – these simple tasks were often impossible.

And so I spent many hours doing little more than looking out of the window, watching my runner-beans (and weeds) growing!

My relationship with God was tested during that time, but I discovered that God's love for me did not waiver. It wasn't dependent on my energy-levels. Though I felt useless, ineffective and hopeless – God was with me.

And that is what Christmas is about – God being with us. A God who says, 'I love you so much that I am coming to spend Christmas with you, and every other day too...'

A God who is close by and whose love does not depend on our feelings or our ability to do anything. This God is born a baby, Jesus, to a teenage mum in poor surroundings and in a world that did not care.

I love everything about Christmas: the lights, the gifts, the food. But underneath these wrappings of the season is a God who says to each of us: 'I love you so much that I am going to be born in to this world with all its challenges, divisions, hopelessness.'

God's love, shown in Jesus, brought low-paid shepherds and wealthy foreign kings together to find new hope in Him for their troubled and divided world.

May Jesus bring you, your loved ones and our nation together in hope this Christmas.

Happy Christmas, Kate.

Kate is Vicar at St Andrew's Church.

**Revd
Kate Wyles**



**Andrew's
Church**

Goldsworth Park remembers

GOLDSWORTH PARK residents gathered in their hundreds for the Remembrance Sunday Service at the War Memorial outside the health centre.

After the arrival of the Colours carried by Guides, Scouts, Brownies and Cubs, the vicar of St Andrew's Church, Revd Kate Wyles welcomed everyone and conducted the service.

Charles Duncan Twigg a veteran of the Royal Army Medical Corps began the Act of Remembrance and was assisted by Haydn Lloyd, a pupil of Sythwood Primary School.

After The Last Post, The Silence and The Reveille, wreaths were laid by representatives of the families of Goldsworth Park Nurserymen, Goldsworth Park Uniformed Organisations, Waitrose, Woking & Sam Beare Hospices, St Andrew's Church, GPCA, Deputy Mayor of Woking Cllr Saj Hussain and Cllr James Sanderson.

Cllr Hussain led the Act of Commitment before proceedings closed with the National Anthem and The Blessing.

Goldsworth Park's community choir, Sing Gold, provided a choral accompaniment to the service.

Refreshments were provided afterwards in St Andrew's Church.



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From the Lakeside



■ Roger Wescott is Goldsworth Park Angling Club secretary and fishing bailiff working in partnership with Woking Council to oversee fishing, monitor fish stocks and other wildlife, and keep the area clean and tidy.

IN order to beat the coming winter weather, the Goldsworth Park Angling Club held its big autumn tidy up around the lake on October 19 and 20.

Over the two days, and with a good turnout of over 20 club members and Park residents, we were able to achieve nearly all we had hoped, helped by a group of over 30 volunteers on a GPCA community litter pick.

All the briars were cut out from reed beds and overhanging branches and dead wood was removed where possible. Timbers were replaced on platforms suffering rot damage and some were enlarged, making them more user friendly, leaving the banks round the lake in good order until spring.

One other project we undertook was to make and install six fish refuges. As you may be aware from my reports in the past, we do have a major problem on the lake, particularly through the winter months, from visiting cormorants.

I must point out that we mean these birds no harm, but we must find ways to protect fish stocks. If left to feed on the fish unchecked cormorants will, in a very short period, consume all but the largest fishes. A lake almost void of fish would be disastrous not only for the sport of angling but for health and balance of the ecosystem.

Taking advice from the Environment Agency we have made and installed six fish refuges as a trial effort to save as many fish as possible. The refuges are constructed out of stock fencing formed into large mesh baskets that are held in place on posts out in the water about six metres from the bank. They are filled with brushwood, creating a sanctuary for fish to hide in if being chased. We have marked their locations, for safety purposes, with white flags to alert lake users such as the fishermen, the model sailing club and sea cadets.

If our findings are positive, we will be able to remove the refuges through the summer months then replace them every winter thereafter.

In the future it may be possible to create something more permanent that could be planted up with aquatics such as lily and broadleaf pond weed, creating a more natural habitat for fish to use plus adding to the general appearance of the lake.

When visiting the lake you will notice some areas have been fenced off with orange netting. The area near the children's play park is where refurbishment of the sea cadets' slipway is being undertaken. On the eastern bank the netting is to protect a recovering bed of wild raspberry that was inadvertently cut down.

In the autumn edition of the magazine I reported some illegal fishing on our waters. I'm pleased to inform you that two people, who were caught by the police poaching fish from one of our ponds in Brookwood Country Park, were prosecuted and found guilty. A full report can be viewed on the Surrey Police Facebook site.

The Angling Club would like to thank all who took part on the work parties, the litter pickers and our local police force for the hard work and effort put in making our open spaces safe and enjoyable.

Merry Christmas and a happy new year to you all.

www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com



SAFETY NET – Roger, Ray and Nick put the finishing touches to a fish refuge Picture: STEVE WILLSON



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A personal view

Royer Slater



I'VE been to several funerals in recent years. When I say funeral, I don't mean the traditional all-black event that tends to put the focus on us selfishly as mourners.

Those I attended were celebrations and thanksgivings for the person's life. We remembered the great things about them and what they achieved. We often laughed lovingly as the person's life was revealed warmly and affectionately by their families and colleagues.

"Don't wear black" was sometimes the advice (but not the order, as traditionalists are to be respected). Recently at the beginning of the thanksgiving service for a dear friend, all the men wearing ties were asked to remove them because "he never wore one and wouldn't have

wanted us to wear one at his funeral!" At these occasions I invariably learn lots of things about the person I didn't know before: likes, dislikes, achievements and sometimes great hardships. Had I known all these during their lifetime my understanding and attitude toward them might have been different.

Each time, as I heard relatives, friends and colleagues recall the life and achievements of the deceased, I had a nagging regret: that we hadn't held these big celebrations while they were alive. Then they could have sat centre stage as we related to their lives, applauded their achievements and – crucially to their faces – thanked them and said what they meant to us.

There are televised shows where a showbiz star sits in the limelight while other celebrities and various acquaintances step forward in turn with generous plaudits as they recall the star's achievements. If only such events were held for us "ordinary" people!

But we don't have to sit back for a public event to tell our own special people they're wonderful! It doesn't have to wait for their birthday or some other event... certainly not until their funeral. So, today, bring to mind every good friend, relative, neighbour or colleague. Find an excuse to write, phone or call on them. Tell them how much they mean to you... and don't delay!

Christina's sold on Park life

GOLDSWORTH NEWS advertising manager Christina Candey loves living in Goldsworth Park and says: "I've lived in my flat here for 24 years and can easily get to the shops, doctors, dentist, church, lake and Squires!"

Convenience is important to Christina because she has a condition called spinal muscular atrophy, a genetic disorder which makes her muscles progressively weaker and now confines her to an electric wheelchair.

She added: "I'm very happy here. I feel everything is as if it was meant to be!"

Christina was born to a Brazilian mother and English father. My dad was working in Brazil, met my mum, they fell in love and married! I was born in Brazil but my dad's work soon sent him to Bilbao in Spain, so that's where I grew up before the whole family moved to England when I was aged 14."

Always a close family, Christina's parents and her three brothers with their families all live locally and meet up regularly.

Christina first worked in the hotel industry, then as an accessibility officer with Woking Council. In this role she was responsible for advising the council on the needs of disabled people.

"I loved working with the council but after 15 years there I had to retire due to my deteriorating health. I'm very happy with my life as it is now, with time to enjoy my garden and hobbies, as well as meeting many lovely people in the community."

Christina employs four personal assistants who help her to keep independent. They assist with all aspects of her life.

In 2017 Christina won an award for "Best individual who employs their own care and support staff" from Skills for Care, a charity which helps create a well-led, skilled and valued adult social care workforce. The award recognises Christina's achievements as someone who effectively recruits, manages and trains personal assistants in order to live the life they want.



CHRISTINA CANDEY



TUCKING IN – the welcome visitors to Christina's garden

Christina has kept herself busy as a volunteer since retiring from the council. She set up a Neighbourhood Watch in her road, runs the Goldsworth Park Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group, spent several years volunteering with Surrey Disabled Peoples Partnership and became advertising manager for Goldsworth News last year.

She added: "Two years ago I started going to St Andrew's Church here in Goldsworth Park with Sally, one of my personal assistants. We both love it and go most Sunday mornings. We are getting involved with more things at the church. Recently we both joined the church's new accessibility group, which aims to ensure people with all kinds of disability are catered for and are welcomed there."

She has also joined Sing Gold, the local community choir.

Recently Christina was excited to discover she had hedgehogs in her garden. "I immediately bought a hedgehog house and within days they had moved in – I think I have three in there! They appear to have settled down to hibernate for the winter."

Her new garden guests, together with regular visitors including parakeets and nesting blue tits, are yet another reason for Christina to tell me for the umpteenth time: "I love it here!"

• If you run a business please consider advertising in Goldsworth News: Christina will be pleased to provide advertising options and prices. You will not only be telling our large audience of readers about your business but also be helping fund your community's magazine!

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They did blooming well!

GOLDSWORTH PARK featured in four prize categories of the Woking in Bloom and Allotment Awards 2019.

Park resident Ron Smedley won the Leam Challenge Shield, awarded to the best newcomer. Fellow Park residents Richard Bice and Chris Ryder took second place.

Brockhill, the sheltered housing complex in Clifton Way, was runner-up in the Community Garden competition, pipped by the Community Garden, Sheerwater.

Third place in the Benstead Scroll (Best over 70s) went to John Arkinstall.

Goldsworth Park was awarded third place in the Tunis Cup, a competition for the best overall allotment site.

After presenting the awards at the H.G. Wells Centre, the Mayor of Woking, Cllr Beryl Hunwicks, said: "Congratulations to all the winners and finalists. The standard of the entries was overwhelmingly impressive and I would like to thank everyone involved for making the borough a brighter, more attractive place in which to live and work.

"I'd also like to congratulate entrants of the Allotment Awards. Once again, the judges were extremely impressed by the high standards across all categories and they commented on how Woking compares favourably with other sites they've judged across the country.

"Both awards are wonderful initiatives which attract all age groups and abilities. I hope the fruits of the winners and finalists

labour sow seeds of inspiration for others to get out and start growing."

All winners and runners-up received certificates, garden-centre gift vouchers and trophies. The annual awards cover all aspects of gardening and are open to residents, businesses and schools.

The awards are sponsored by Squires Garden Centres, Serco and Lansbury Business Estate.



FLOWER POWER – Brockhill's tranquil communal garden

Zero-waste shopping at Andy's

THERE is still time for some zero-waste shopping at Andy's Community Café in the Goldsworth Park Centre.

Two local businesses have been selling their products at the café in the run up to Christmas and will be there again on Thursday December 12 and Thursday December 19 between 10am and 2pm.

They are Bare + Fair who offer refills of eco-friendly cleaning and personal care products and Refill & Refuel who have a large selection of unpackaged foodstuffs. Between them the two comp-

anies also stock a huge range of sustainable, largely plastic-free homewares and gifts. You can take your own containers for refills.

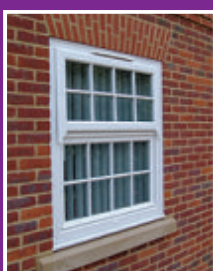
More information at www.facebook.com/bareandfair and www.refillandrefuel.co.uk

Andy's Café is open on Monday to Thursday in school term time between 10am and 2.30pm. There is a pay-as-you-feel menu, fixed price menu, budget and specialist teas and coffee. There is also a children's play area.

WHAT'S ON

WOKING LADIES CHOIR'S Christmas concert, A Ceremony of Carols, features soprano Camilla Jepesson and Cecily Beer, the resident Waldorf Hotel Harpist, at 4.30pm on Saturday December 14 at Knaphill Methodist Church, The Broadway, GU21 2DR. Adults £12, under-16s £6. Tickets include refreshments and there is a raffle. Call 07957 593534. www.wokingladieschoir.org.uk

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County Hall moves to Woking

SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL is moving its HQ to Woking after more than 50 years located outside Surrey's boundaries.

Council Leader Tim Oliver announced the move to Midas House in Goldsworth Road, a building owned by Woking Council.

Staff will begin the move out of the County Hall in Kingston from spring next year.

Cllr Oliver said: "I am truly excited about this momentous move, which will accelerate changes in the way we work, enabling our employees to work even more flexibly and spend more time with our residents and service users.

"Aside from the fact that the new civic heart will now actually be inside the county of Surrey, which has been our long-held ambition, the real driver has been the desire to place services right at the heart of the population we are here to serve."

Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of Woking Council, said: "It is fantastic news both for Woking and the wider county.

"The move will be a major boost for Woking, bringing further new and exciting economic opportunities, jobs and making the town busier and more vibrant. Surrey's decision to relocate shows that Woking's regeneration and town improvement works are attracting key businesses and employers to the borough."

The new building – which will be mainly funded by the sale of County Hall – represents a fraction of the cost it would take to bring the existing HQ up to modern standards. Woking Council bought the building from the South Yorkshire Pensions Authority in February this year for £23,397,951.

No charge for timber waste

THERE is good news for Goldsworth Park residents who use the Martyrs Lane recycling centre – Surrey have decided not to go ahead with charges for timber waste.

Existing charges for rubble, soil, plasterboard and tyres will continue and there will be an £8.50 annual charge for van and trailer permits.

All 15 of Surrey's community recycling centres will now remain open.

Mike Goodman, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: "We are determined to create a greener future for our county."

Surrey estimate that a one per cent increase in recycling would save £230,000 a year.

Family Centres provision

WOKING Council is the new lead provider for the borough's Family Centres, which support vulnerable families with children aged up to 11 requiring specialist support.

The council's service brings together local resources, such as those provided by the voluntary, community and faith sectors and health providers, to ensure that families needing help are supported in a

joined-up approach. Previously the service was operated by different providers.

The new Family Centres, operating from two main venues in Sythwood, Goldsworth Park and Sheerwater, will offer specialist support services to vulnerable families on-site and via an established outreach service; a one-to-one personal service which supports families in their own homes and at existing centres for the community, including The Vyne in Knaphill, Moorcroft in Westfield, and St Mary's in Byfleet.

For more information about Woking's Family Centres email: familycentres@woking.gov.uk

Parking charges scrapped

SURREY'S cabinet has voted to remove charges at its 15 countryside car parks from April 1 next year.

The decision follows a review 12 months after charges were introduced. The review concluded that the charges had not delivered a significant financial contribution and were no longer aligned with the council's Vision 2030 and the health and wellbeing strategy.

New canal footbridge

A NEW bridge for walkers and cyclists is being built over the Basingstoke Canal. Next to the existing Chobham Road bridge, it will unite the two sides of the canal towpath without the need to cross the busy road.

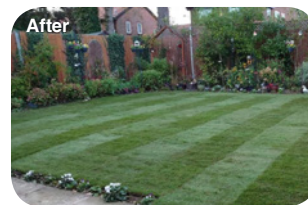
The bridge design will follow the characteristics of the surrounding area, with built-in bat friendly lighting and associated landscaping. Work is expected to be completed by summer next year.

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Take Action to stay warm

ACTION SURREY is an impartial energy advice service that could help you save money and stay warmer this winter.

Working in partnership with Woking Council for the residents of Goldsworth Park, the team provide a free, impartial energy advice helpline. There are a number of ways Action Surrey (AS) can help.

Accessing Grant Funding: Government grants exist for eligible households to install loft and cavity wall insulation. Installing the insulation will make your home warmer and save you money on your energy bills.

Trusted installers: Whether you are looking to install loft or cavity wall insulation, replace your boiler or thinking of putting solar panels on your roof, AS have developed a network of trusted installers who can do the work.

Warm Homes Discount: The scheme gives eligible customers £140 off their electricity bill. If you're in receipt of means tested benefits or on a low income you might qualify but you will need to apply for the discount. AS can help you check your eligibility.

Switching Tariff: This is the simplest way to save money on your energy bill and on average saves a household over £200 per year. AS can signpost you to accredited websites which allow you to compare your energy tariff.

Energy Saving Advice: AS advisors are nationally qualified energy advisors who can help with any energy related query and provide tailored advice to suit your circumstances.

If you need help with any of the above or are looking for energy saving tips, or advice on how to stay warm this winter, call the AS team on 0800 783 2503 or complete our online enquiry form at www.actionsurrey.org



WOKING Fire Station Open Day raised £1082.45 for Woking and Sam Beare Hospices. Station Commander Paula Hartwell and White Watch members Andy Castle, Mike Frost and Paul Bills travelled to the hospice in Denton Way to present complementary therapy lead Nicola Morgan-Savage with a cheque in the gardens by the Remembrance Tree.

Got a story or a point of view? Email editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

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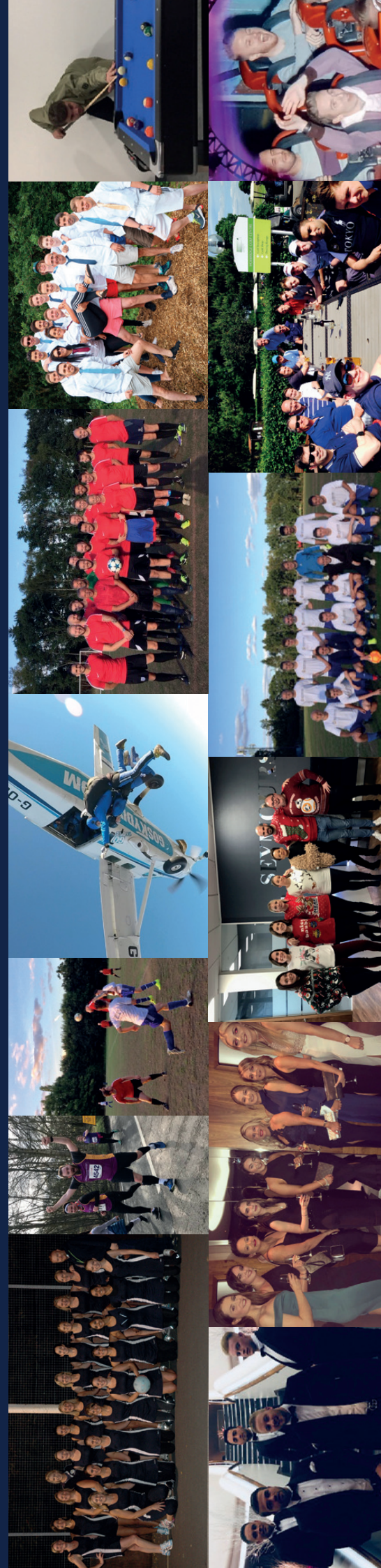
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