NEWS

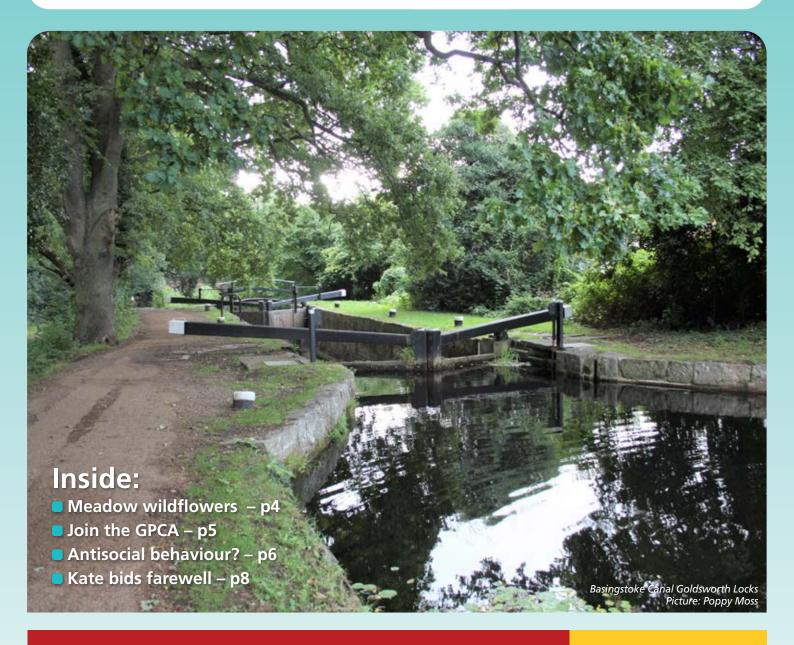
September 2021 – Issue 177





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Autumn edition



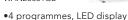
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GOLDSWORTH NEWS is the magazine of the Goldsworth Park Community Association CIO and is distributed free to approximately 5,000 homes and organisations throughout Goldsworth Park and the surrounding area.

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Please submit articles for the next edition to: editor@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

GPCA CIO MEETINGS

AGM Wednesday October 20 7.30pm Goldwater Lodge. Membership of the GPCA is required to receive details of forthcoming meetings. Details on how to join are on page 5.

LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Ann-Marie Barker WBC, James Sanderson WBC, and Lance Spencer SCC (Lib Dem). Chitra Rana WBC, Saj Hussain SCC (Conservative).

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Please read and recycle

Views from the Chair

LOOKING back to what I wrote for the last Issue of this magazine, I see that I focussed on litter – a perennial problem, it seems.

This time, it is good to be able to point you to a story about young people who are regularly litter picking to meet the Volunteering requirement of the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. (See page 5).



On the topic of litter, we are arranging a community litter pick for Saturday September 11 and I hope we get as good a turn out as last time when we had more than 40 people out picking.

The next meeting of the GPCA CIO will be the AGM on Wednesday October 20. This is an important date in our calendar as it is your opportunity to hear about the work of the GPCA CIO over the past year and to give your views on what we are doing. It is also the opportunity to vote for the charity's trustees.

The meeting is scheduled to take place in the Community Hall at Goldwater Lodge. We had a good attendance at the last AGM which was held on Zoom and I hope it will be better when we meet face to face in October. Invitations will be sent to members of the GPCA CIO so, if you have not joined yet, now is your chance. Membership details are on page 5.

If you have any issues of general concern or would like to be involved in the work of the GPCA CIO, please contact me through this magazine or at **chair@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk**

www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

Irene Watson, GPCA Chair



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We need your snaps By BOB COWELL Community Officer GPCA

THE production of a 2022 Goldsworth Park calendar is a project I am overseeing as community officer of the GPCA.

The plan is to use photographs taken by readers and I would like you to submit pictures for consideration of various scenes within the Park. The photos need to be of good quality, preferably greater than 2 MB.

I already have several pictures of the lake (not all high definition) but would like more pictures and, in particular, elsewhere in the Park.

Please send photographs to community@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk together with an indication, if possible, as to in which month they were taken.

All pictures chosen for the calendar will carry a credit for the photographer if requested.



SWAN LAKE — one of the contenders for the calendar

Mixed results in wildflower trial

By Bob Challoner NGP Project Manager

WILDFLOWERS

You may recall that in 2019, trial plots for wildflowers were seeded on the North Meadow. Sadly only five of the 34 types in the seed mix flowered successfully in the first year.

This year it was hoped the perennial species in the seed mix would flower (these usually take a year to become established). Aside from ox-eye daisies, few of these have been evident in any quantity, and only a few of the annuals which flowered in 2020 reappeared. What is noticeable is the extent to which the plots have been overrun by the meadow's prevalent grasses.

The trial plots have confirmed the conclusions drawn in the NGP Vision Statement Review i.e. creating a wildflower meadow in its commonly understood sense would be impossible without continual cultivation. The relatively fertile soil conditions and dominance of rye grasses on the meadow preclude establishing a self-sustaining wildflower presence on the lines of the trial plot model.

However, despite the very wet winter and the cold wet spring the meadow finally came to life in early June with an extensive display of cow parsley followed by a continuing profusion of other wildflowers including cats ear, yarrow, tufted vetch, meadow pea, field bindweed and greater knapweed.

Earlier this year NGP agreed a strategy with Woking Council for extending the distributions of the 103 wildflower species recorded on the meadow to date, and introducing some new species suited to the site conditions. The focus will be on replicating nature — no cutting rectangular seed beds! We hope to involve the community with this later in the year, the actual timing will depend on when the council undertakes its annual mowing. Please keep an eye out on the NGP and GPCA Facebook and Twitter pages for more information.

NORTH MEADOW PATHS

You may have noticed that the council has cut fewer paths across the meadow this year. In the past the meadow has been crisscrossed by a plethora of paths resulting in relatively small islands of grass. The new layout provides much larger grass areas which will be less susceptible to human disturbance and will hopefully encourage occupation by wildlife. One well-used desire line between the lake car park and Claydon Road has emerged which we will ask the council to cut as a formal path in future. If you have any thoughts or comments please drop me an email at projects@ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk





MAMMALS

At the time of writing, the first week of the mammal survey was due to take place. This involved setting traps for small mammals (mice, voles, shrews), footprint tunnels to record animals such as hedgehogs and camera traps for larger species such as foxes and deer. Sadly, we only managed to complete one session due to our survey leader Robyn Dean coming into contact with Covid and going into isolation.

An additional survey week will be arranged for mid/late October at which time small mammals are likely to be more active before winter comes. Further details will follow on the NGP and GPCA social media pages. If you are interested in taking part in what for many would be a "once in a lifetime" hands-on experience or would like more information about what is involved please contact me at the email address above.

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

NGP announced back in March that Surrey Amphibian and Reptile Group (SARG) had offered to carry out surveys on the meadow and in the woodland. Sadly SARG has not followed up on that offer. However I am pleased to report that Dr David Sewell has kindly volunteered to help out. David is a specialist in reptiles and amphibians and does a lot of work for the Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Petersfield. The survey will take place next March when the amphibians congregate for breeding.

NGP SOCIAL MEDIA

Are you an expert in social media? Do you have an interest in the natural world?

Katie Sherlock has administered our Facebook and Twitter pages since NGP was founded. Sadly due to work and family pressures she has found it necessary to stand down and we urgently need someone to take on her role. This will involve regularly monitoring

and approving new posts from contributors, posting announcements of NGP events and information, and keeping an eye out for news items of general interest from outside organisations.

If you are interested in helping out please don't hesitate to email me or call/text me on 07801 439075. I look forward to hearing from you.



GPCA AGM Wednesday October 20 7.30pm Goldwater Lodge

Park lads' award quest

TWO young residents of Goldsworth Park, Elliott (14) and Archie (13), are working, independently, towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Awards by litter picking for at least an hour once a week for three months, an activity which comes under the volunteering section.

They are focussing on verges and footpaths so if you know of an area in the Park which would benefit from their attention please contact editor@ ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk and the information will be passed on to one of the boys.

The GPCA commend their hard work and hope they will continue when the three months is up!





Join the GPCA and have a say

THE GPCA switched its status to a **Charitable Incorporated Organisation** in October 2019 and one of the Charity Commission requirements is that we keep a membership register.

Residents can sign up as members and be recorded on the register. Those who do will get invitations to meetings, minutes, the annual report and accounts for the AGM plus relevant information and, more importantly, be able to vote for the trustees, and on issues such as approving any changes to the constitution. Corporate membership is also available.

To apply for our subscriptionfree membership, all you need to do is send a request giving your name, email and postal addresses and telephone number(s) to chair@ ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk or to Chair, GPCA CIO, 37 Willowmead Close, Woking GU21 3DN.

Help us tidy up the Park

THE next community litter pick will be on Saturday September 11 between 2 and 4pm. Meet behind Goldwater Lodge wearing stout shoes and gardening gloves. Hi-viz tabards and bin bags will

be provided. We have a number of litterpick sticks but if you have your own, please bring it with you as we ran out

If you plan to come along and lend a

hand, please email secretary@ourgoldsworth park.org.uk with your name and mobile telephone number as we are required to keep a register of people who attend.

Hope to see you there.

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Antisocial behaviour? Ask Oli



I WOULD like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you all. My name is Oli Walker and I am the antisocial behaviour officer for Woking Borough Council.

Antisocial behaviour can cover a very wide set of behaviours and can often be more complex than first thought. What one person may consider as antisocial may be considered as completely reasonable by another. These views

are nearly always formed from previous experiences and therefore it is often very difficult to define whether there is a right or wrong.

Noise complaints for example around a recreation ground can often leave people very divided, some saying it is not a problem as the area is designed for people to use with others saying the noise affects their quality of life.

At some point nearly everyone has witnessed a form of antisocial behaviour. Not everyone knows who may be responsible for resolving it though. Alongside police, local authorities have an obligation to tackle antisocial behaviour, as do housing associations.

It is important that the right agency is contacted in order to deal with whatever the situation may be. Police are often the first point of contact, simply because they are the only service that is working at the time of the incident and are able to attend if the severity of the call is deemed significant enough for an officer to be deployed.

It is not always down to police, though, to look at the long term issues. These responsibilities can often lie elsewhere.

In Woking the partnership working between agencies is very strong and often cases are handled in a multi-agency approach, each having their own role to play. There may be times though, when you feel that antisocial behaviour has not been dealt with in

a satisfactory manner, and it is important that people know about the right to review cases.

If you have reported or experienced ongoing antisocial behaviour, or as a community have reported issues to multiple agencies and you do not feel enough has been done to address your concerns, you have the right for the case to be reviewed. This process is known as a community trigger, details of which can be found on the Woking Council website, or for independent advice ASB Help are a national charity that specialise in advising victims of antisocial behaviour.

If you wish to speak to me directly around any issues that you may be experiencing please contact me on community.safety@ wokina.aov.uk

Woking's pledge

WOKING COUNCIL has signed up to the Antisocial Behaviour Pledge, which commits it to support all those experiencing antisocial behaviour in a consistent and dedicated manner.

The pledge is led by national victim's charity, ASB Help, which promotes the rights of people experiencing all forms of antisocial behaviour.

A key part of the pledge is to continue to encourage the use of community triggers, a legal tool which empowers victims of persistent antisocial behaviour to request a formal multi-agency

Cllr Debbie Harlow, Woking's Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, said: "We can all be affected by incidents of abusive, violent or threatening behaviour.

"By signing the Antisocial Behaviour Pledge, we believe it sends a clear message that we are committed to supporting local people and creating safer communities for residents."

Nice to meet you again!

THE GPCA held its first in-person public meeting since January 2020 on July 21.

Twenty-one residents, corporate members and guests attended the meeting which was switched from Goldwater Lodge to the Dianthus building which has better ventilation.

Chair Irene Watson welcomed guest speaker Oli Walker, Woking Council's antisocial behaviour officer, who answered questions after his informative talk.

Reports from GPCA officers followed and the date for the AGM was set for Wednesday October 20.

The full minutes of the meeting are available on the GPCA website at www.ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk/about/ meeting-minutes





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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 few months there has, without doubt, been some rather barmy weather.

Extremes you could say, very wet, very windy and at times very hot, all of which have impacted on our environment in a way I've not noted in such a short space of time before.

Climate change, global warming may well be but whatever the reason change is happening, you've only to look at your own gardens. Look at the growth. Everything has gone mad this year. Along with more growth there are more insects and there even seems to be more birds. It seems in many ways the perfect mix of weather for flora and fauna or is there a down side? Only time will tell.

With those thoughts in mind I have noted on and round the lake many of those changes, marginal plants this year are much thicker and higher than ever before, the trees have gone crazy to the point that many of the angling platforms have become almost unusable and the wildlife area has turned into a mini jungle.

Covid-19 has in part not helped, in that we were not able to hold our voluntary work parties over the past year or so which we now hope to resume very soon, but even with that in mind it does not alter the fact that this year everything has grown beyond the norm.

I've also noted insect life is clearly on the increase, I've never seen so many dragon and damsel flies round the lake, many of which I don't recognise. Anyone who fancies doing a study on them with a camera, please let me know.

Along with the abundance of butterflies, moths and other flying insects, fish stocks have rocketed more than I can remember.



SPLASH OF COLOUR — kingfisher on the lake

Picture: STEVE WILLSON

Roach, perch and bream, once thought to be in decline due to cormorant predation are suddenly in abundance with shoals of fry in their thousands all round the margins. Even our larger fish such as tench and carp have, it seems, put on a growth spurt. It is great news for the anglers and more so for the health and balance of the lake

The bird life on the lake has also seen an upsurge in numbers and despite no cygnets at present all other species have bred well with coot, moorhen and grebes all having more than one brood. In fact some of the moorhens have had three or even four broods. I've also noted an increase in the number of greylag, Canada and Egyptian geese using the lake as a stopover, although not breeding here.

It looks like kingfishers are possibly using the nesting bank in the wildlife area again. They have been seen catching small fish on a number of occasions and taking them back to that area of the lake rather than swallowing on capture which they would normally do.

At this moment in time it would seem we are seeing some benefits in climate change here on our little patch but is it sustainable when we see in the news the devastation it is causing in many parts of the world? I think not! We are all trying to do our bit, I know, but we must do more before it's too late.



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Treasure in the attic?

THIS is my farewell message, dear Goldsworth Park community.

It has been a real pleasure to be your vicar for the past six years. As some of you will know I have been struggling with my health, and so I have decided to resign.

Although I am sad to be laying down my role, I do it with a sense of 'rightness'. I believe that this will be the right decision for my family and me, and I know it is the right decision for St Andrew's Church, and the wider community too, as the process to look for a new full-time vicar now begins. I know you'll give your new vicar a brilliant welcome.

Like every step of faith that we ever take, my decision has come with a deep breath and prayers asking for strength from God to walk this way. That strength has come in kind messages from many of you, in your words of encouragement, and through God bringing to the front of my mind truths that will help. This is a truth that God gave me while I was up in the loft!

Sitting up there in the gloom planning what to pack and what to recycle I found myself among an assortment of old trainers

that I'd hoped my sons would grow into; dusty terrariums that once homed weird and wonderful pets, and one or two unwanted gifts that I had hidden up there, out of sight. As I looked around, I wondered if I'd find any treasures in the attic?

As I took stock of my life, my belongings, and my time as vicar, I was reminded that God isn't concerned with what we possess, what we've achieved or even what we've hidden away. Jesus said: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind... and love your neighbour as

Kate Wyles



yourself.' How we love God and how we love one another with our lives is what matters.

Perhaps I did find treasure in my attic after all!

May God bless you and keep you, dear neighbours, and may God's face shine upon you all every day of your life.

Kate

Kate a friend to the community

IT'S said 'Life is a journey, not a destination', and our parish vicar, Revd Kate Wyles has left St Andrew's Church to take another step in her life's journey, writes ROYER SLATER.

Kate and her husband Jason came to Goldsworth Park just over six years ago as a young family with four boys, and are leaving with two adults at university, two teenagers and a dog.

In her parting message to church members, Kate said: "We are moving to Dorset, closer to Jason's workplace. We are full of gratitude for our time of journeying with you. Thank you for the past six years. It is tough saying goodbye, and although there is sadness, I have a strong sense of 'rightness' in our moving. We will be in God's good hands.

"Jacob will be beginning a research master's at Liverpool Uni, Sammy will be doing his uni year abroad in France and Portugal, Solly starts A levels at Brockenhurst College and Luke will begin year nine at a C of E secondary school in Wimborne. And I will be trying to make sure everyone gets where they need to be, while taking time with God to rest and exploring God's purposes for me in this new phase of my journey.

Kate's last service was on Sunday August 15, when the congregation gathered afterwards to wish the family well with coffee and cakes.

Speaking to Goldsworth News, Canon Malcolm Herbert, a retired vicar who assists at St Andrew's, said: "We shall deeply miss Kate as a compassionate pastor, wise priest and kind friend to the whole community. Her passionate love for Jesus is at the heart of her life and ministry. This meant that for her, it was vital that the church community reflects and practises the welcome, acceptance and inclusion of God."

St Andrew's churchwardens, Mandy Hucker and Shani Orchard told Goldsworth News: "In her six years here, Kate has been at the heart of the St Andrew's Church community, and a support to people who needed her in the wider community. It has been great having her with us. We will miss Kate, her infectious smile, gentle ministry and of course her family, and we wish them every happiness in the future.

"Meanwhile we are holding onto a bible reading she shared with her staff team: The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God".

St Andrew's is now following the Diocese of Guildford's guidelines to recruit a new vicar.

ST ANDREW'S is your parish church and community resource. If you live in Goldsworth Park you have a right to a wedding, funeral or baptism at St Andrew's — just call the office on 01483 723879. And remember Andy's pay-as-you-feel community café is open right through the summer, Monday to Thursday 10am to 3pm.

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A personal view

Royer Slater



I regret the annihilation because I have the greatest respect for our six-legged friends: we need insects – and it seems we couldn't feed the growing human population without them! But studies in the UK and around the world show insects are in decline, so we need to help them.

We share our planet with at least one million different types of insect, though experts estimate that there are probably at least another four million more we have yet to discover. I just hope none of those which perished in our conservatory were among the "unknowns."

In the UK alone we have more than 27,000 insect species; grasshoppers, bees, silverfish, caddisflies, beetles, dragonflies, mayflies, moths and many, many more. Insects are the dominant life form on earth, living all around us: burrowing in the soil in our gardens and parks, buzzing from flower to flower in farmers' fields, and munching slowly through the leaves in our woodlands.

Insects perform many vital roles such as pollinating wildflowers and crops. They provide a major food source for birds, bats, fish, reptiles and amphibians. They recycle nutrients in animal dung and corpses, spreading seeds, aerating the soil and eating pests.

To look after insects and other wildlife properly there needs to be more places where they can thrive: rich habitats that are free of pesticides and, crucially, linked up so insect populations aren't cut off and can move in response to changes in habitats and climate.

A new report "Reversing the Decline of Insects" by The Wildlife Trusts (of which Surrey Wildlife Trust is part) shows how people in every part of society, wherever they live, can take action to bring back insects.

In just a few decades, 41 per cent of the UK's wildlife species have suffered strong or

moderate decreases in their numbers, and insects have suffered most. Insects slowly disappearing will undermine everything that depends on them, from hedgehogs to nightingales, wildflowers to wetlands and the food crops we eat. Be kind to that bumblebee buzzing by your doorway – it might be needed to pollinate the tomatoes you want to eat in a few weeks' time.

The Natural Goldsworth Park project is improving the wild areas of Goldsworth Park, to benefit wildlife: read all about it on the GPCA website ourgoldsworthpark.org.uk

We should try to leave wild areas in Goldsworth Park gardens too, where a variety of flowers can flourish, which will then benefit insects. Mowing – in gardens as well as roadside verges – needs to be timed to enhance the abundance of insects, not destroy its rich biodiversity of wildflowers.

A free downloadable "Action for Insects" guide is available. It has all the information and support you need to start helping insects, including small actions that can make a big difference: go to https://tinyurl.com/y78tmffx

You can also read and download the full report "Reversing the Decline of Insects" at https://tinyurl.com/yawu9942

If we get it right for insects we'll be helping other wildlife and ultimately helping ourselves!

SING GOLD, Goldsworth Park's community choir, celebrated the lifting of Covid restrictions with their first face-to-face meeting since March 2020.

The group met in the A2 garden next to St Andrew's Church, on Tuesday July 20 under the leadership of choirmaster, Rev Malcolm Herbert.

Now on a summer break, the choir meets weekly on Tuesday evenings at St Andrew's at 7.30pm.

Membership is open to all, good voice or not. If you would like to join just turn up at the church. Meetings are due to resume on September 14.



Free help to settle disputes

WHEN relationships become strained, whether with family members, neighbours or in the wider community, it can be difficult to know where to turn for help.

Mediation Surrey CIO is a charity providing community mediation for disputes between neighbours, support coaching for those experiencing antisocial behaviour and intergenerational mediation for disputes within families, other than couples splitting up.

Many of these services can be offered online or over the telephone during the pandemic.

Funding from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and local authorities allow the range of services to be offered free of charge to Surrey residents.

Mediation Surrey also offer family mediation for couples who are divorcing or separating but this is a chargeable service. The full range of family mediation services are available online.

To find out more please visit www.mediationsurrey.org or call 03301 340260 for community mediation, support coaching and intergenerational mediation or 03301 340176 for family mediation.



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Busy times for Park police

PC IONA KING



WRITING a piece for the magazine always gives me and my team time to reflect on all of our work over the last few months in Goldsworth Park... and what a busy few months it has been!

I would love to share some highlights with you.

A lot of work has been guided by Covid-19, ensuring that local residents are sticking to the guidelines at the time. As we look towards a post-Covid future, I often get asked how policing the pandemic has been.

The pandemic has brought on a unique set of circumstances that nobody could have predicted. Police officers have had to adapt to a new way of life personally and within policing. We have had to adapt to this new demand, all whilst maintaining our business-as-usual approach to responding to emergencies, and maintaining a proactive approach to crime prevention and community engagement. We have not slowed in this, as the following demonstrates!

Firstly, it is only right to mention the Euro 2020 football final. This was a significant operation for us and one of the busiest nights of the year so far! Thankfully, we were able to listen to the game on the car radio! It was great to see Goldsworth Park residents enjoying the matches.

At the end of May, we conducted a proactive day of action in Goldsworth Park. We used our data, namely crime-type data and mapping of these crimes to target our work. The day saw a number of officers out on foot and in vehicles, in both uniform and plain clothes. We also utilised ANPR to target vehicles of interest, in both marked and unmarked vehicles. We conducted a number of person and vehicle stops on the day, and gained a lot of intelligence which supports our other proactive work and crime prevention.

We also got involved in another specialist week of action — Antisocial Behaviour Week. Many of you may have seen our social media posts across the force, where we sought to raise awareness of the impact of antisocial behaviour and how we, and other partners, support this. As part of this week, we held a day of action targeting local hotspots for ASB.

On Sunday July 25, we held our 'Kick Off @ 3' event, a football tournament run by the local policing team for young people, kindly supported by Chelsea FC, McLaren, Woking Borough Council, Activate Learning, Catch 22, Fearless as well as the local police cadets.

Away from the matches, it gives police the opportunity to engage with young people on topics that matter to them in a positive environment. The day was a real success, with the tournament closed with a penalty shootout against our goalkeeper, dressed in full riot gear! Thank you to all those that took part as well as all our supporting partners.

We have also been increasing our patrols of and engagement with local schools. Each primary school now has a dedicated PCSO so that they can work together effectively, please look out for them and do say hello on the school run!

On Thursday June 3, myself, PC Pettigrew and PCSO Norman and PCSO Gomez supported New Vision Homes with their community planting event in Cobbetts Close. We loved meeting local residents, and the community spirit was great. We also got involved in the planting, luckily PCSO Norman is an avid gardener so was in his element!

Monday August 9 was the start of Rural Crime Week. Held annually, this week seeks to focus everything that we do around rural crime, an important aspect for areas with vast green space such as Goldsworth Park.

Rural crime can be considered through four categories: heritage, wildlife, equine and agricultural. The week is led by our











designated rural crime PCSO, PCSO Hynes. We often get puzzled looks when discussing rural crime, particularly its relevance within Woking. However, it is relevant to our local area in ways you may not have considered; examples include: crimes impacting organised angling on Goldsworth Park lake, puppy farming and dog thefts, arson and fires in our green spaces, coursing, hunting and poaching, machinery theft and animal cruelty, to name a few.

As part of this week, we conducted patrols around our key rural sites such as the canal and the lake as well as the abundance of local parks and green space,

engaging with walkers and dog walkers. We also conducted patrols on our bikes, aiming to capture as much of the local area that we could. The week was really positive, with lots of great engagement with members of the public as well as those businesses, partners and individuals with special interests in rural crime.

Aside from all this, we have been continuing our work on catalytic converter thefts, canal patrols, been out with Trading Standards targeting businesses selling counterfeit goods and targeting uninsured

We have had a busy few months, with

lots of great results in the pursuit of crime, crime prevention and community engagement. As always, please report emergencies via 999, and non-emergencies via 101, our online reporting tool or social media. Alternatively, you can give information anonymously through the charity CrimeStoppers. If you see us out and about, please do say hello and have a chat without us about what impacts you and your local neighbourhood.

PC King is the Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for Goldsworth Park, Horsell and Woking town centre, part of the Woking Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

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