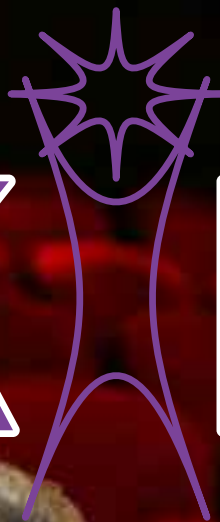


the

WOKING

magazine




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Winter 2020

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Introduction



Welcome to the winter edition of The Woking Magazine.

We are nearing the end of a year unlike any that most of us would have witnessed before in our lifetimes. I want to take a moment to remember those that have suffered, as well as say another heartfelt thank you to all of those key workers and volunteers who have kept our larders stocked, kept our towns and cities working and, most importantly, cared for us, even in our darkest days.

Amongst this cohort, I must include my colleagues here at the Council. On the back page of this magazine you will see an 'infographic' which gives a snapshot of the incredible work that has been achieved so far to keep you safe during the pandemic and reopen Woking for business.

The aim of this edition, as always, is to bring you a bit of winter cheer. Because despite everything, there is also a lot of positive news.

Amongst those exciting announcements you will find news of works taking place at Brookwood Cemetery to turn it into a vibrant visitor destination, as well as an enticing glance at Woking's brand new Nova Cinema, a must-visit for film lovers.

We also put the spotlight on the fantastic work of local community groups including Rotary, Outline and Horsell Prepared, as well as introduce families to the Family Centres Team. You'll see an update on our latest green initiative, Planet Woking, plus, explore Woking's outdoor spaces with the brand new 'Discover' feature.

You will find inspiration to keep you going through these unpredictable and challenging times. We could not have got this far without everyone's contribution so thank you and let's keep up the good work to get Woking through this crisis stronger than ever. I wish you a happy and peaceful festive season.










Andy Denner
The Woking Magazine Editor

#WEAREWOKING

Front cover: Simon Thomsett, Nova Cinema Director (Credit: Anthony Gurr)
Inset: Family Centres Team



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Contact details

The Woking Magazine is compiled and published three times a year by Woking Borough Council. A total of 50,000 copies are printed and delivered free to households and many public information points across the borough.

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If you wish to **advertise** in The Woking Magazine, please call Andy Denner on 01483 743026, or email andy.denner@woking.gov.uk

The appearance of adverts or loose leaf inserts in The Woking Magazine does not constitute an endorsement by the Council. The Woking Magazine is distributed to households via Royal Mail. We have no control over the type or quantity of other materials that are delivered by Royal Mail at the same time.

Some content within this publication may pre-date current government imposed regulations in force to control the spread of coronavirus.

Supporting those less fortunate this winter

When winter comes and the weather’s cold outside, many of us are fortunate to have a warm, comfortable home. For some people, this is sadly not always the case. Are you able to help two local charities?

York Road Project – helping Woking’s homeless

Homelessness is an emergency whatever the weather. But in winter and freezing conditions, people are in great danger. That’s why Woking’s York Road Project (YPR) needs your help.

This year will be a year that no one will forget. Coronavirus has added extra requirements and cost. Yet thanks to the support of the local community, faith groups, funders and Woking Borough Council, York Road Project quickly adapted their services to support the local homeless community.

Whether looking to make a financial or physical donation, anything you can do to support York Road Project will aid their mission to eradicate homelessness and rough sleeping in Woking and the surrounding areas.

See how you can help us by visiting www.yorkroadproject.org.uk

Project Wenceslas returns

Woking Lions, together with Citizens Advice Woking are once again running Project Wenceslas, encouraging those who can to donate all, or some, of their Winter Fuel Payment.

A Winter Fuel Payment is a one-off, tax-free payment made during the winter to almost all households with someone over state pension age, to help with heating costs. By donating your Winter Fuel Payment, you will help local people who do not have enough money to pay for their heating bills.

Find out more at www.wokinglions.org.uk
To apply to the fund please contact Roger on **01483 723832** or Citizens Advice Woking on **01483 725192**.



Money Matters

The draft accounts for Woking Borough Council 2019/2020 have been published. The accounts include details of the Council’s income and expenditure between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. The preparation and audit of the accounts has been delayed due to the ongoing pandemic and therefore, regrettably, the traditional summary

feature could not be included in The Woking Magazine this year. However, a summary of the figures, along with the full Statement of Accounts can be viewed at www.woking.gov.uk

If you have comments or questions, please email financialmanagement@woking.gov.uk

Pilot to benefit owners of electric vehicles

A pilot project to increase the number of on-street Electric Vehicle Charging Points (EVCPs) across the borough is set to ‘go live’.

With an increasing number of electric vehicles on the road, the project will help the transition to electric vehicles by providing local charging points, as well as having a direct benefit on local air quality and a reduction of carbon emissions.

In partnership with Surrey County Council, 20 on-street EVCPs are due to be installed over the next year. The project will test the location and type of charging points required prior to a wider roll-out across the county.

The proposed sites, subject to consultation, are Church Street East, Montgomery Road, Madeira Road (West Byfleet), Oriental Road and Maybury Road.

The project is funded through the Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership plus local authorities match-funding contributions. More details will be announced as the project progresses.



Cancer care comes to Woking

Patients receiving chemotherapy and other therapies for cancer can access treatment and support outside of a hospital setting thanks to the Tenovus Cancer Care Mobile Support Unit.



The service aims to reduce the stresses involved with visiting the hospital such as parking, as well as minimise the risks associated with being in a hospital environment, such as Coronavirus.

The fully kitted out unit will be in Woking Park car park on Mondays and Thursdays from 16 November. Visit www.tenovuscancercare.org.uk for more information and a 360° video tour of the facility.

Protecting yourself and others this winter

This winter it's more important than ever to play your part in keeping yourself, and those who may be more at risk of becoming unwell, safe.

The NHS is still here to help and you can access health care and advice in a number of ways. However there are some things you can do to help the NHS help you this winter.

Flu vaccination

A flu vaccination is available every year to help protect against the risk of flu and its complications – it's particularly important for those in at-risk groups. Those who are eligible will be contacted by their GP and can get the vaccine free of charge from their GP practice or local pharmacy. This year, under the NHS flu vaccination programme more groups of people are eligible and are encouraged to get the vaccine. The additional groups of people include:

- Primary school-aged children
- Year 7 secondary school-aged children
- A household contact of someone who is on the NHS Shielded Patient List or has a weakened immune system
- A frontline health or social care worker
- People aged between 50 and 64 who are not in a clinical at-risk group may also be offered a free flu vaccination later in the year, providing there is enough vaccine available.

Visit www.healthysurrey.org.uk/winter to find out who is eligible for a free flu vaccine.

NHS 111

If you think you need medical help right away, visit www.111.nhs.uk or call **111**. The service is available 24/7 and can help you get the appropriate support you need.

In an emergency, always call **999**.



Love local and reduce waste

In collaboration with the University of Surrey, Woking Borough Council has partnered with Too Good To Go and NearSt in a 'love local' initiative designed to safely encourage shoppers back to the High Street.

NearSt makes it easier for the customer to support local independent businesses by providing a platform for traders who don't already have an e-commerce presence to reach consumers with details of products and services they provide. The scheme works by automatically pulling details of the available stock through whenever items are searched for on Google.

Too Good To Go helps reduce food waste and promote local eateries by helping diners get hold of 'Magic Bags' of surplus food, at a reduced price, which would otherwise be discarded.

As well as the environmental benefits, the app incentivises consumers to buy food from local shops, cafés and restaurants, and enables businesses to reach new customers and recover sunk costs.

For more information, please visit www.wokingworks.com/business/increasing-footfall-in-woking



New and improved parking in Woking

A new parking system is being installed across all Woking town centre car parks, as part of the Council's continued investment in new infrastructure.

The parking system includes many features that make shoppers' parking experience easier, including ticketless parking, number plate recognition and new digital signage to help you speedily find available spaces.

Plus there's a raft of new ways to pay including contactless, or for greater convenience download and pay through the JustPark app, which has optional benefits such as a fully "free-flow" parking experience, where payment is automatically deducted on each visit.

The first car park scheduled for upgrade is Victoria Way car park at the end of 2020, with the remaining car parks to follow in 2021.

For more information, visit www.woking.gov.uk/parking

Time running out to have your final say on Site Allocations DPD

Residents have until Monday 16 November 2020 to have their say on proposed modifications to the borough's Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

The Site Allocations DPD identifies urban and Green Belt sites for future housing, employment and infrastructure within the borough and will enable the delivery of the Council's Core Strategy, adopted in October 2012.

Following feedback from the Planning Inspector, the Council is seeking your views specifically on the proposed modifications to ensure the document is 'sound' and legally compliant.

To view a full list of the proposed modifications, and have your say, please visit www.woking2027.info/allocations

Consultation closes 5pm, Monday 16 November 2020.

Do you want to save money on your energy bills?

Is your home cold or draughty during winter? Too hot in the summer? Action Surrey offers impartial advice on ways to save energy and money, as well as insulation options.

You could be eligible for a grant towards the cost of installing energy efficiency improvements through Action Surrey's Green Jump Surrey project which provides eligible households with up to £10,000 to improve the energy efficiency of their homes.

Woking residents living in cold homes and either in receipt of benefits or on low-medium incomes can benefit from funding towards loft insulation, wall insulation and draught-proofing.

With a trusted network of experienced, reputable installers, Action Surrey can provide you with free, no-obligation surveys and quotes.

Contact us on **0800 783 2503**, email **info@actionsurrey.org** or complete an online enquiry form at **www.actionsurrey.org** to find out what's available or ask for advice.

Citizens Advice Woking still here to help

During the Coronavirus crisis, Citizens Advice Woking staff and volunteers were determined to continue offering a service to Woking residents even though it was no longer possible to see people face-to-face.

Throughout lockdown, a team of more than 80 volunteers and staff were in place to answer telephone calls, emails, and queries through the Citizens Advice website.

They set themselves up in their kitchens and living rooms and gave information and advice on a whole variety of issues, helping over 2,200 clients. As one grateful client wrote "I'd never thought of approaching Citizens Advice for help before and I was amazed at how much they helped me."

The team work five days a week from 10am to 4pm. Anyone needing information or advice on any issue can call **0300 330 1198**, email **bureau@wokingcab.org** or complete the online form at **www.wokingcab.org/get-advice**

Neighbourhood Watch: making Woking a better place to live

The modern face of community safety is a far cry from the image of "curtain twitchers" which epitomised Neighbourhood Watch of the past.

Criminal activity has changed over the years and therefore crime prevention has also adapted and modernised.

Valuable street level activity still

exists, coordinators provide feet on the ground to keep an eye out for neighbours and act as messengers from authorities like the police or council on local issues such as speeding and litter.

But it has also moved online and social media proves increasingly successful at passing on vital information in a timely manner.

The aim of Neighbourhood Watch is to improve the lives of residents by helping them deal with issues that affect their communities, whether criminal or not. Being involved in keeping your neighbourhood safe can be rewarding and fun.

If you would like more information on becoming a street or social media coordinator, please contact **chair@wanw.org.uk**

If you would like to receive regular police and Neighbourhood Watch alerts, register at **www.intheknow.community**



Surrey Heritage WWI project highly commended

Surrey Heritage, based at Surrey History Centre, has been highly commended in this year’s national Archives & Records Association (ARA) Archive Volunteering Award, for its Surrey in the Great War: A County Remembers (SGW) project.

Through a range of volunteer activity, the five-year National Lottery Heritage Fund-supported project explored the war’s impact, particularly on the home front, and revealed the extraordinary contributions of Surrey’s people throughout the conflict.

A team of over 220 volunteers of different ages and backgrounds devoted themselves to researching Surrey’s wartime people, delving into Surrey History Centre’s archives writing articles and biographies, interviewing residents about their families’ war

experience, indexing articles, photographing memorials, giving talks and helping with workshops and events.

The project team approached individuals, families and groups from across Surrey and beyond, giving people the opportunity to contribute data and stories from far and wide.

For more information about the award-winning project, visit www.surreyinthegreatwar.org.uk



Online mediation services for Surrey residents

When relationships are strained, it can be difficult to know where to turn for help. Mediation Surrey provides mediation services at no cost to Surrey residents thanks to Woking Borough Council and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner funding.

Those experiencing difficulties with relationships can get help with:

- Community mediation, for disputes between neighbours
- Support coaching, for those experiencing anti-social behaviour
- Intergenerational mediation, for disputes within families - except couples splitting up.



To ensure the safe continuation of services, many of the services have been successfully adapted for online and telephone. A range of paid, online family mediation services are also available to those who are divorcing or separating.

To find out more, call **03301 340260** or visit www.mediationsurrey.org

Time for a change at Pool in the Park

Woking's Pool in the Park is now open following major renovation works in the changing area and café, giving the space a much needed face lift after almost four decades of service to swimmers in the borough.

Tired cubicles and dated facilities have been completely gutted and the whole space refitted, bringing a smarter look and feel and making the area fit for purpose again. Showers have been upgraded to include individual cubicles, wash rooms revamped and three new, accessible changing rooms created, including a Changing Places facility, fully kitted out for swimmers with physical impairments.



Upstairs, a freshly refurbished lobby greets visitors and the café is now a light and airy space, which visitors can enjoy post-swim hot drinks and snacks in, and party groups can hire for special events.

Behind the scenes, plenty of work has been going on to improve the drainage and boiler systems as well as air ducting and ventilation.

Woking Pool in the Park offers a choice of three pools and a range of activities for everyone. Visit www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/wokingpool for updates on services currently available to swimmers.

Search is on for local young stars

Do you know a young person who has achieved exceptional success? Nominations are now open for next year's Young People's Civic Award Scheme.

Residents are once again invited to submit names of young people who they feel have excelled in areas that are not normally recognised by formal accreditation. The scheme seeks nominees in the following categories:

- Outstanding Contribution to the Community
- Triumph Over Adversity
- Outstanding Achievement.

The scheme is open to all children and young people, up to the age of 18, who live or attend school or college in the borough.

All nominees will receive a certificate and winners will be invited to attend the Mayor's Civic Reception. Deadline for nominations is **29 January 2021**.

For further information, please visit www.woking.gov.uk/youngcivicawardscheme or contact Julie Northcote, Democratic Services Officer, on **01483 743053** or julie.northcote@woking.gov.uk

Due to Covid-19, the 2020 awards ceremony was sadly cancelled. To ensure that the 2020 winners receive the recognition they deserve, they will be presented with their awards at next year's ceremony.

Domestic abuse survivors can reach out online

For people living with an abusive partner the impact of lockdown was particularly severe.

Local domestic abuse charity Your Sanctuary has continued to help survivors throughout the pandemic, even where they found it virtually impossible to make contact with any of their usual sources of support.

An online chat service for those hard of hearing or who do not speak English as a first language, came into its own, with usage tripling during lockdown. Survivors can discreetly and safely access this vital lifeline via a mobile phone or laptop.

Your Sanctuary hosts the Surrey-wide helpline and specialist male service, two refuges and a community outreach service.

If you are experiencing domestic abuse, call the helpline on **01483 776822** or visit www.yoursanctuary.org.uk
In an emergency always dial **999**.

Victoria Arch Widening Scheme begins

During September, works began to deliver the first phase of the Victoria Arch Widening Scheme; a new £115 million highway enhancement scheme which supports Woking's future growth and housing needs.

The Government funded project is a once in a generation opportunity to improve Woking Town Centre's transport infrastructure for all modes of transport and benefit residents, businesses and visitors.

The scheme will deliver a new, wider Victoria Arch railway bridge which will:

- accommodate a two-way dual carriageway with increased height capacity for double decker buses.
- incorporate off-road pedestrian and cycling routes underneath both sides of the new bridge.

To enable and enhance the new bridge, the scheme will also reconfigure the roads on either side of Victoria Arch bridge. The main improvement will remove the one-way gyratory (surrounding the Triangle site) and extend the two-way dual carriageway, passing underneath the Victoria Arch and along the Guildford Road.

When completed in early 2024, the scheme will significantly enhance traffic flow, reduce congestion in the area and provide safer journeys for pedestrians and cyclists.

To find out more information, including how to sign up to receive the latest project news, visit www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarch

Sheerwater regeneration update

Work continues at pace across the regeneration area, which will have been noticeable to anyone who regularly travels along Albert Drive past the now complete 'super structure' or exterior frame of the first residential phase (opposite Asda).

This phase of the redevelopment topped out (when a structure reaches its maximum height) in July. Chair of the ThamesWey Development Ltd Executive Board, Terry Price, had the honour of spreading the last drop of concrete on top of the 20m high, five-storey apartment block that will provide 82 one, two and three bedroom apartments for market and social rent. 10 three-storey town houses, looking out on to Murray Green, complete the frame.

Although nearly all of the homes and properties earmarked for redevelopment have been secured via voluntary purchase, a fantastic achievement for a project of this size, a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) was made recently to help secure any miscellaneous land interests and to keep the project moving forward.

Work on the next tranche of residential housing will start in the Spring. This medium rise development will deliver 124 dwellings, of which 107 will be affordable including 68 sheltered apartments for older people. It also includes the energy centre and central square.

More news and updates are available at www.woking.gov.uk/sheerwater



Bridge over Woking waters

Pedestrians and cyclists using the Basingstoke Canal tow path can now enjoy uninterrupted movement along the path thanks to a brand new bridge uniting the two sides of the canal path under Chobham Road.



The reflection of the gabion walls and polished steel railings on the water show the stylish bridge off at its best. The final connecting section was the last piece of the jigsaw prior to opening. For towpath users, the ability to continue their journey without the need to come off the path and navigate a busy road will be a much welcome improvement. Resident wildlife will also benefit from environment sensitive landscaping and bat-friendly lighting.



We will remember them

On Sunday 8 November 2020 we will host an Act of Remembrance in Jubilee Square but due to the Covid-19 restrictions it will not be as normal.

A maximum of 30 invited representatives will attend the Act of Remembrance which will be broadcast live, and recorded, on the Council website for those unable to attend.

Organisations or individuals wishing to have a wreath laid during the event should contact Pauline Jackson by email pauline.jackson@woking.gov.uk, or call **01483 743025**, giving the name of the organisation or person for whom the wreath to be laid.

Jubilee Square will be closed to the public from 10am until 12noon. The shops in Wolsey Place and Peacocks will be requested to remain closed until 12noon to avoid crowds gathering within the shopping areas.

We know that for many it will be a disappointment that you cannot attend in person. You will be able to attend the War Memorial, in person, later in the day, either alone or in groups of up to six. We will remember them.



New eco-friendly coffee shop opens in Byfleet

Residents of Byfleet and beyond are now able to enjoy the benefits of a new coffee shop serving eco-friendly coffee with takeaway and outdoor seating options available, at St Mary's Centre for the Community garden café.

With a focus on environmental sustainability, the eco-coffee is great quality and value, and served in cups that are 95 per cent recyclable, with totally compostable cups being introduced shortly.

The café comes complete with a trained barista on-site to serve coffee, who also provides specialist training for volunteers who would like to get involved.

The café was part of a three-month refurbishment project working with local community group Fresh Start, with building materials donated by Octagon. The space will also be used to showcase local artists, run activities for the community and host a dedicated children's play and learn area in the near future.

So why not pop in and find out for yourself – St Mary's Centre for the Community, Stream Close, Byfleet, Surrey KT14 7LZ. To find out more about the café or becoming a volunteer, please call **01483 743877** or email stmarys@woking.gov.uk



New Beginnings returns to The Lightbox

The Women’s Support Centre ‘New Beginnings’ Art Awards exhibition is now open at The Lightbox. This year the theme is ‘Looking Through a Different Lens’.

The annual exhibition features artwork by women in Surrey’s prisons and those in contact with, or potentially at risk of entering, the Criminal Justice System. The Women’s Support Centre works with women who have a variety of issues including alcohol and substance misuse, domestic abuse and homelessness.

The project aims to boost self-esteem, develop communication skills and confidence that leads to a more positive life outside of the Criminal Justice System by allowing women to express their thoughts and feelings artistically.

The Art Awards are supported by Women in Prison, The Lightbox and Woking Borough Council. To find out more, visit www.thelightbox.org.uk

Help is on its way with Community First Responders

Established in 2008, Woking Community First Responders (CFR) are volunteers, trained to respond to emergency calls received through the 999 system.



When an on-duty CFR receives an alert, they drop everything to go help. They carry a defibrillator and other emergency medical kit and are often first on scene at a medical emergency, bringing vital, life-saving first aid in those critical few minutes before the arrival of an ambulance.

If you think you have got what it takes to volunteer as a CFR, or you would like to help with promoting the team’s work, email info@woking-responders.co.uk, or apply online at www.jobs.nhs.uk

To find out more, including fundraising, visit www.woking-responders.co.uk

Gold award for Woking Borough Council’s forces-friendly policies

Woking became the first borough council in Surrey to receive the Employer Recognition Scheme ‘Gold Award’ from the Ministry of Defence.

The scheme acknowledges employers who have provided exceptional support to the armed forces community by going above and beyond their covenant pledges.

Woking Borough Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and four years later, received the Employer Recognition Scheme ‘Silver Award’- an essential prerequisite for Gold Award nominees.

The Gold Award now indicates that the Council provides the highest levels of support for the country’s service men and women, and their families.

For more information about the support available to the armed forces community in Woking, visit www.woking.gov.uk/armedforces





Woking Police: Supporting communities with crime prevention

Crime prevention is critically important in tackling the long term issues and trends of crime and anti-social behaviour. Woking Police play a key role in this, but they can be even more effective with help from the local community. Here are some tips for how you can help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour in your area.

Knife crime and serious violence

The consequences of knife crime and serious violence are devastating. This issue is one of the top policing priorities here in Woking and together with key partners and the whole community, we can tackle it.

- Open up a conversation with your friends and family about knife crime and the consequences of carrying weapons.
- If you know someone who is carrying a weapon you can let the police know anonymously at www.fearless.org
- Woking Police want to prevent these crimes from happening. If you would like to be involved, contact us directly via our social media channels.

Find out more on becoming **#knifefree** at www.knifefree.co.uk



Burglary

Looking out for our neighbours is a great way to help prevent burglaries. Although more people are currently staying at home, garages, sheds and outbuildings are all still possible targets. Are they safe and secure?

Don't forget

- Install and activate CCTV and alarms
- Ensure quality locks on your outbuilding, shed or garage
- Put motion detector lights up outside your house.

Search **Surrey Police residential burglary** and **Surrey Police non-residential burglary** online for more information.

Bike thefts

Bicycle thefts are on the rise in Woking. Cycles are useful and can be valuable, making them attractive to thieves. Woking Police are addressing the issue by targeting offenders and using innovative methods that are new to Surrey. However, the easiest way to keep your bike safe is to follow some crucial tips.

- Ensure you have a quality lock, like a D-Lock, for your bike.
- Mark and register your bike for free at www.bikeregister.com
- Park and lock your bike securely in well-lit areas, near CCTV cameras or prevention signs.
- Take removable parts, like wheels, saddles and lights, with you.

For more tips search **Surrey Police how safe is your bike** online.

For more information about how Woking Police are working to prevent crime, please follow **@WokingBeat** on Facebook and Twitter or visit www.surrey.police.uk

To report a crime call **101** or use the online reporting tool on the Surrey Police website. In an emergency always dial **999**.

#WEAREWOKING

TOGETHER

PLENTY TO SHOUT ABOUT IN WOKING

It's been a tough 2020 so far. No doubt about that. But the buzz has definitely been making a comeback right across Woking over the last few months and many neighbourhoods are much more positive about the future as we continue to work safely together to get back to the way we were.

Our community has shown its big-hearted spirit in spades and we're delighted that so many have taken #LOVELOCAL on-board to help support the local economy. In Woking, we really are spoilt for choice. Great shops, amazing restaurants, top cafés, pubs and plenty to do inside and out.

We are a proud bunch of people. #WEAREWOKING.

WHAT'S BREWING?

With winter's short days now upon us, we all need our caffeine fix more than ever! Woking and its surrounding neighbourhoods have plenty to offer everyone for the perfect pick-me-up:

TWELVETHIRTY Great value, delicious food and excellent service, this friendly spot serves up top notch hot drinks, homemade healthy soups and cakes in the iconic Christ Church in Jubilee Square.

THE LIGHTBOX SEASONS CAFÉ With a beautiful canal-side courtyard, it's the perfect place to unwind. Coffee, cake and the ultimate brunch sandwich- it's all here!

BEM COFFEE Friendly, relaxed and with great views, Bem Coffee at 9 St John's Road has the best locally roasted coffee in town- if the scent of freshly-ground arabica beans from Brazil and El Salvador isn't enough to tempt you, there's a great breakfast and lunch menu too.

ROSE'S TEA ROOM Popular with locals, Rose's Tea Room at the family-run Sutton Green Nursery offers a mouth-watering, vintage experience. The cakes and bakes will tickle your fancy!

HEATHER FARM CAFÉ Zip over to Heather Farm Café on Chobham Road for a family and dog-friendly experience located right on Horsell Common. From paninis and sandwiches to burgers and cakes, there's plenty of choice.

TAYLOR'S With two branches at Woking's Market Walk and near West Byfleet Station, Taylor's is at the top of the list for coffee-lovers for miles around. Good prices, a great choice of coffee and lots of light bites!

BLACK & WHITE COFFEE CO. This family-run café is a dream for coffee lovers who love quality, choice and a relaxing vibe. Choose from their wide range of coffee, cakes, sandwiches and more.

ST MARY'S GARDEN CAFÉ Brand new and already a popular with the locals, St Mary's Garden Café in St Mary's Centre for the Community is in the heart of Byfleet and makes great coffee and lunchtime meals. Located in a converted school bursting with character, the new café boasts a beautiful outside garden.

SWEET PASSION CAKES This pretty spot on Old Woking Road offers a quality stopover for the best local coffee, homemade cakes and savouries. Famous for its macarons, you'll love this place for its welcoming atmosphere.

IVY'S COFFEE SHOP This charming café on Goldsworth Road is open weekdays and gets rave reviews for its brunch menu. However, it's already a well-known secret among coffee lovers for its big choice of artisan locally-roasted coffee and its great range of cakes and breads.

CHECK INDIVIDUAL OUTLETS FOR OPENING TIMES OR TO BOOK AHEAD.



THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Businesses across Woking have been busy getting things back on track and thanks to everyone's support local neighbourhoods are feeling much more upbeat.

Business owners, managers and staff have shown their thanks to customers old and new who have showed their support for local businesses.

We've been out and about and caught up with business owners in Horsell, St John's, West Byfleet and Knaphill for a snapshot of their views.

When lockdown was announced, we refocused our efforts into offering free local delivery, successfully delivering the majority of orders within 48 hours. As our shop has reopened, it's great to see our customers again.

- James Lowe, JL Butchers



We're delighted to be back up and running and serving the people of Horsell. We're back doing what we love best, serving customers old and new and finding them the perfect flowers for the occasion.

We've got safety measures in place and a social distancing policy, ensuring that all our visitors can safely shop with us.

- Dawn Antingham, Poppies & Peonies

We really missed chatting to our regulars while we were closed and it was great to finally catch up with them when we got the green light to reopen.

- Kevin Hobbs, Knaphill Barbers

It's more important than ever to #LoveLocal. As the festive season approaches, consider buying your gifts from local independents this year, and catch up with friends and family in your local pubs and coffee shops.

NEW BOOTS ON THE BLOCK!

We're looking forward to the opening of the brand new Boots store. Set to open before Christmas, the new addition to Woking's town centre is the first element of the Victoria Square development to open.

The new 27,500 sq ft store will offer Woking's residents everything the previous store provided and more! From Boots Opticians to photo kiosks, and make-up to skincare, the new store will be your one-stop shop. Perfect for those Secret Santa gifts we'll need soon!

Keep an eye out for further updates.



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your good news with Woking by sending in your stories to hello@wearewoking.com.



Lights, Camera, Action! Introducing Woking's Nova Cinema

Following a full makeover, complete with seven screens and an out-of-this-world rebrand, Nova Cinema is set to become Woking's brightest star.



Completely revamped foyers with space to relax and grab a bite.



The best in cinematic technology installed throughout.

In September of last year, The Ambassadors Cinema closed in preparation for a much-needed refurbishment. The project was part of a joint investment plan between ATG and Woking Borough Council to transform the old venue into a state of the art entertainment and socialising space for Woking and the surrounding areas.

Last month, the venue's brand new name was announced, Nova Cinema. A nova is an astronomical event that causes the sudden appearance of a bright new star, perfectly describing the new cinematic venue for Woking.

With the build complete, the venue now has seven stylish screens, including one luxury screen, a brand new lounge bar and a cutting-edge media suite for community and business hire. The best in cinematic technology has been installed with laser projection from BAFTA in three of the auditoriums and top of the range sound throughout including Dolby Atmos in Screen One. Plus, the foyers have been completely revamped to create even more space to safely relax and grab a bite before or after the film.

Nova Cinema will very much belong to the community of Woking and to celebrate this first hand, the venue is launching with series of seasons designed by you. So, whether you're a fantasy fanatic or a lover of romantic-comedy, you can cast your vote for what you'd like to see on the big screen. There will also be





New luxury screen.

a host of themed events inspired by some of the upcoming autumn/winter blockbusters, helping to make your visit more than just the movie.

The venue's programme offers something for everyone with screenings designed for specific audiences in mind. Nova Kids will host family-friendly films at family-friendly prices every Saturday and Sunday and Thursday mornings will see specially crafted parent and baby showings, Nova Tots. Silver Nova offers afternoon screenings for more mature audiences and Nova Live will present world-class productions from the likes of National Theatre Live and Royal Opera House.

Accessibility is at the forefront of the venue with new lifts and escalators being fitted in the Peacocks Centre, courtesy of Woking Borough Council, and step-free access throughout Nova Cinema's foyers



and corridors. Each of the screens have allocated wheelchair spaces and drop counters have been fitted in the kiosk and bar. A brand new lift has also been installed to provide easy access between levels.

Available on all floors will be fully accessible toilets and, for the first time, a new, full specification Changing Places facility.

Captioned, subtitled and audio described showings will be included in the programming, as well as autism friendly screenings for anyone who would benefit from a more relaxed environment.

Simon Thomsett, Nova Cinema's Director, says: "we're so excited to be opening the doors to our brand new Nova Cinema! The transformation is incredible and it really is a venue that we and the people of Woking can be proud of."

With some much-anticipated blockbusters to be released in the coming weeks and plenty in store at the new state of the art venue, the only thing left to do is to come and see it for yourself!

To book tickets and find out more you can visit www.novacinema.com and don't forget to sign up to the venue's mailing list for exclusive offers and a first look at Nova Cinema's special events.



Sophisticated new lounge bar.



Cutting edge media suite.

Changing Places facility.



Woking Shopping gets a face lift

Visitors to Woking Shopping would have noticed extensive ongoing works in Wolsey Place and the Peacocks.

The works are part of an exciting project to bring the existing shopping centres' interiors up to the same standard as those which will be seen in the new Victoria Square development, currently under construction.



Elsewhere, in the Peacocks, new lifts and escalators will improve access from Level One right down to the Food Court and a new lobby will welcome visitors entering the centre from the Drop Off Zone.

Working in partnership with contractor Mace, fresh new flooring has been laid throughout Wolsey Place and the pilasters between shop fronts have been redecorated, new ceiling fixtures installed and overhead lighting replaced, along with an upgrade to the smoke extraction and ventilation systems and an overhaul of the dated sprinklers.

Central Square, outside Sainsbury's, will also be fitted out with new glazing and lighting, and existing roof lights cleaned and repaired, to lift the space and create a bright and airy environment. New seating will be installed, housing power and data ports, to ensure shoppers can stay connected whilst out and about.

Upgraded CCTV and security systems will provide a greater level of protection for businesses and individuals using the centre and new water fountains will finish the sleek new look whilst also helping the Council's commitment to reducing plastic waste by allowing thirsty shoppers to refill their water bottles as often as they like.

Martin Pooley, Head of Operations at Woking Shopping said: "The completion of these refurbishments are crucial to the redevelopment of the town. Our existing malls remain integral to the town's retail offering once Victoria Square opens.

"Wolsey Place is over 40 years old, and the replacement of the floors, ceilings, finishes and lighting will considerably improve the look and feel of the centre. Once these works are complete, Wolsey Place will link into Victoria Square at the west end of the shopping centre, and we think that shoppers will agree that the refurbishment will greatly improve their overall shopping experience.

"We want to thank visitors and retailers for their patience as we complete these works and reiterate that it will definitely be worth the wait!"

To explore everything Woking Shopping has to offer, visit www.woking-shopping.co.uk



Take a trip down Market Walk

Popular covered market, Market Walk in Woking town centre offers hungry shoppers more choice than ever before, with an unrivalled selection of artisan food, drink and services.

Discover a host of popular, long-established traders housed in attractive, purpose-built kiosks, along a light, bright and welcoming parade.

With safety measures fully in place and social distancing systems working well, patrons can be



confident of getting excellent service in a safe and hygienic environment.

What's on offer at Market Walk?*

Bacareto Fine Italian bread and street food freshly prepared on-site. Owner, Adam is a locally-trained chef who honed his craft in Italy.

Bep Viet With over 20 years of culinary experience, from Vietnam to London, this family run café serves Asian cuisine using recipes that have run through generations.

Boz's Fruit & Veg A firm favourite, Boz and his team have supplied Woking with quality fruit and vegetables for over 30 years.

Covent Garden Flower Shop Delivering floral good wishes and best sentiments to cherished friends and loved ones.



Delightfully Greek 'Food to fall in love with', including Greek pastries, pittas and hearty wraps.

Ebiere and Ivan's Intercontinental Foods Local specialists in a range of world food.



Evening Kyiv Fresh soups and Eastern European cuisine.

Foy Cuisine Authentic Nigerian and Afro-Caribbean meals, sides, appetisers, snacks and drinks all prepared with 100 per cent organic ingredients.

Limpopo Biltong Francois Van Der Zee came from South Africa and brought his father's traditional biltong and boerewors recipes with him. A small-scale producer using only the best meat and spices.

Mobile Touch Second hand phones, mobile phone repairs and accessories at an affordable price.



Red Stone Authentic Lebanese food including falafels, haloumi wraps and salad boxes.

Shin's Bibimbap Café Tasty pan-fried, simmered, steamed and pickled Korean and Japanese dishes.

Taylor's Coffee House Perfectly-crafted hot and cold beverages to suit your taste.

Woking Cobbler This shoe repair and key-cutting shop will take your well-worn favourites and make them like new again!

Please follow current government guidelines on social distancing and good hygiene during your visit to Woking Shopping and wear a face covering where required.

***Please check each outlet for opening times.**

Two decades helping local LGBT+ communities

Woking-based charity Outline Surrey delivers local community support for those struggling with their sexuality and gender identity. This year marks 20 years as a registered charity. Chair, Darren Garland-Bonner, reflects on the last two decades and the impact lockdown had on the service.

Darren begins by explaining more about the charity's focus: "Services were previously provided by NHS Surrey. Now, as a charity, we have helped thousands of local people over the years with their questions around sexuality and gender identity, including, but not limited to, lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities."

There is a lot to celebrate: "The transformation in attitudes towards the LGBT+ community since we were established two decades ago has been remarkable. The movement towards equality has made great strides and there have been many milestones along the way, including the introduction of civil partnerships, and, more recently, gay marriage.

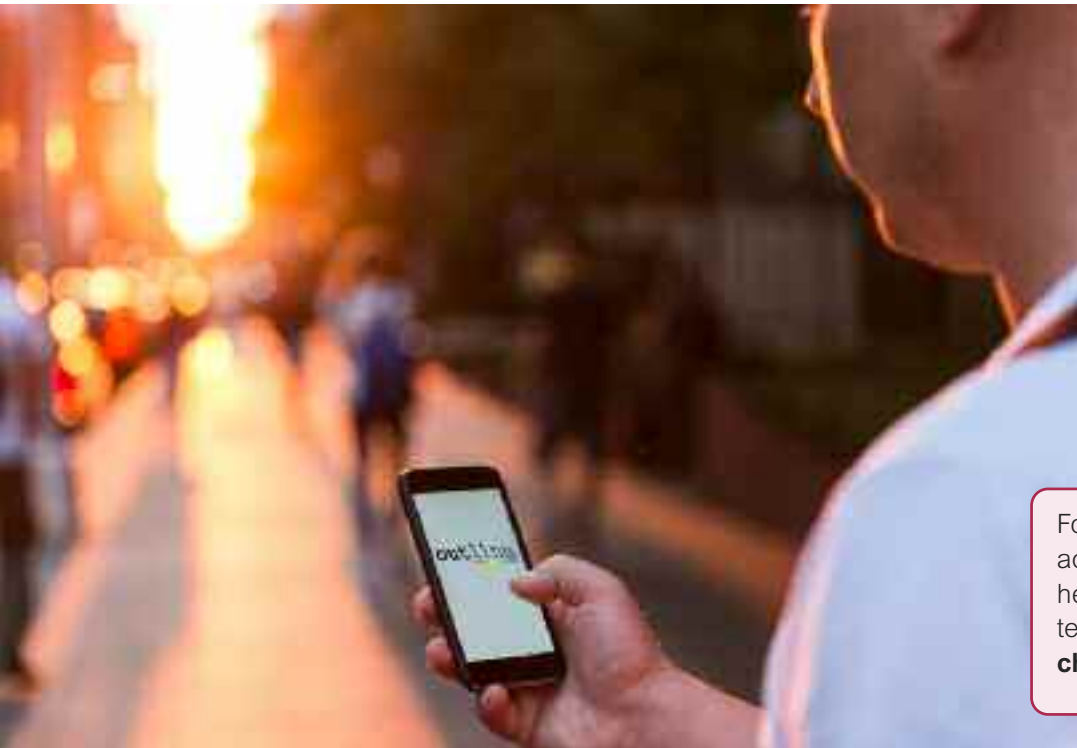
"However, despite the progress, there are still thousands of people struggling, and their worries remain the same. Some even feel like taking their own life. They are desperately seeking someone who will understand and that's where we fit in."

Darren explains that the Coronavirus pandemic and subsequent lockdown exacerbated the problems experienced by many: "It's one thing trying to deal with internal questions, it's another to have to endure them with family, friends or flatmates who don't, and often won't, understand, for days, weeks and months on end."

He continues: "A small team of dedicated volunteers worked remotely around the clock to ensure that people could reach someone whenever they needed".

Looking ahead, the service is now even more robust coming out of lockdown: "Aside from 24/7 online support, we have recently introduced a new SMS chat service, built up our WhatsApp support and upgraded our social media, as well as continuing to help people via email and phone.

"We have forged links with other support organisations across Surrey focusing on mental health, well-being and suicide awareness.



"Ease, accessibility, privacy and confidentiality are key for everyone who wants to get in touch and we're delighted to give every person who needs our help every option to reach us."

Visit

www.outlinesurrey.org.uk
to find out how to support Outline, or access its services.

For confidential support and advice, call the dedicated helpline on **01483 727667**, text **07451 289261** or email **charlie@outlinesurrey.org.uk**

Brookwood Cemetery set to become a major heritage destination

Earlier this year Members approved the Brookwood Cemetery Masterplan and Experience Plan, which will support the site’s ongoing conservation and transformation.



New visitor facilities including a café, walking trail, education centre and the provocatively titled, ‘Museum of Death’ are among the plans to open up this largely hidden public asset and promote greater appreciation of the site.

The plans focus on enhancing Brookwood’s unique characteristics such as the route of the railway line that serviced the cemetery up until its London terminus was bombed during the Blitz; the substantial collection of Giant Redwoods thought to be the earliest and grandest in the country; and the cemetery’s historic ‘Ring’ with its high quality Victorian monuments, many of which are listed.

Ensuring the experience of visiting Brookwood remains that of visiting a cemetery, new information points and zoning will make the site’s historical and ecological landscapes easier to navigate and explore.

Cllr Graham Cundy, Woking Borough Council’s Lead Member for Brookwood Cemetery, said: “We now have a set of plans that will help us take the cemetery forward over the next ten to 20 years.

“First and foremost, the cemetery’s main function is, and always will be, to provide a dignified and respectful resting place for Woking’s deceased. As stated in the Masterplan, all future development must sustain and support this objective.

“The Experience Plan is a much about inspiring residents to explore and appreciate this Grade I listed park and garden, as it is about attracting new audiences from further afield. An expanded programme of events, tours, exhibitions and

workshops will bring to life the themes and cultural wonders within the cemetery, while highlighting the different aspects that make Brookwood a heritage site with immense local, national and global significance.”

London connections

Brookwood Cemetery was founded mid-nineteenth century after a cholera epidemic (1848-49) exacerbated the problem of overcrowding across London’s cemeteries. Built by the London Necropolis and National Mausoleum Company (LNNMC) on heathland purchased from Lord Onslow, Brookwood was reputed to be the largest cemetery in Europe and the pinnacle of Victorian garden cemetery design.

Reaffirming its heritage ties with London, a new burial site is being prepared at Brookwood Cemetery for those individuals archaeologically excavated and exhumed from St James’s Gardens in Euston as part of the enabling works for the new High Speed 2 (HS2) Ltd station.



A royal visit

In July, HRH The Earl of Wessex visited Brookwood Cemetery to learn about the work of the Surrey Local Resilience Forum Death Management Team. The Earl thanked cemetery staff for their role in preserving the dignity and respect of those who have lost their lives during the pandemic.

To review the exciting plans for Brookwood Cemetery, visit www.woking.gov.uk/brookwoodcemetery

The cemetery grounds are open daily between 8am and 5pm. For more information, including details of notable graves and monuments, visit brookwoodcemetery.com

One good turn deserves another

The charity sector in Woking owes a lot to its two local Rotary Clubs, which together have raised thousands of pounds for good causes over the years.



If you live in Woking you are unlikely to have missed Woking Rotary, organiser of some of the most high profile events in the borough's cultural calendar and a steady fundraising presence at many others throughout the year.

The greatly anticipated annual fireworks extravaganza has wowed generations of families each bonfire night for decades and thousands of excited children greet Father Christmas each year as he proceeds through the streets of Woking on his illuminated, musical float.

Nearly a thousand young people with special educational needs and disabilities have been treated to an annual Kids Day Out, and there's more: The Woking Swimathon, Children in Need, charity golf days and international volunteer work also fill the charity's busy portfolio and keep volunteers occupied.

Amongst others, some of the causes that have benefitted from Woking Rotary's prolific fundraising activity include Woking & Sam Beare Hospice, York Road Project, Your Sanctuary, Woking Community First Responders, Surrey Air Ambulance and a number of local schools.

Rotary in Woking has also sent emergency Shelterboxes in recent years to Haiti, Nepal and the Philippines for people made homeless by typhoons, earthquakes and other disasters and has also funded the building of a sand dam in rural Kenya. The clubs also support Rotary's international charity which has, with the World Health Organisation and



the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, virtually eradicated Polio worldwide.

Although Woking Rotary has, like so many other organisations, suffered the devastating effects of lockdown, with virtually all of its 2020 activity put on hold, donations have not ceased and the team are determined to continue raising money to support vital causes through the pandemic and beyond.

Woking's Rotarians would love to hear from you.

- If you are a local charity or cause, and you would like to find out more about how to secure help or funding.
- If you are interested in volunteering with Woking Rotary, or Rotaract Club for ages 18 to 30. Adults of any age, gender and background are all welcome to join the team and help continue a century old legacy.
- If you would like to donate to the charity to ensure that they can continue to support many more good causes both locally and abroad for years to come.

Visit www.rotarywoking.co.uk or email terry@wychstar.co.uk for Woking Rotary Club or wokingdistrictrotary@gmail.com for the Woking District Club.

Give your family the best start in life

Becoming a parent is a life-changing experience and with all the joy that it brings, there are also times where it is just downright hard. Thankfully, there is plenty of support available in Woking. Nicola Norman from Woking Borough Council’s Family Centres Team explains what services are available across the borough.

“Families might be more familiar with our former identity – Sure Start.” Nicola explains. “We have been through a restructure across Surrey and now, with infrastructure support from Woking Borough Council, and funding from Surrey County Council, our resources benefit families across the whole of the borough.

“Our team of outreach workers and family workers are based at two fixed centres, The Bungalow in Sythwood and Parkview in Sheerwater, but are deployed wherever they are needed. This might include home visits or drop-in sessions at the local Centres for the Community, as well as in schools and pre-school, like nurseries. During lockdown our online services flourished and our virtual courses, such as the Parenting Puzzle course, will continue for the foreseeable future.”

The team have a joined up approach to family support: “We work with many different agencies across the borough including Children’s Services, midwives, health visitors and voluntary organisations.

“Our mission is to work alongside families to empower them to build resilience and cope with the, sometimes overwhelming, demands of family life.”

Nicola continues “We provide help with all aspects of family life with children aged 0 to 11 years old. From budgeting to parenting skills, every team member receives extensive training and is highly qualified and knowledgeable about their local area.

“We welcome any parent or guardian in the borough who is referred to us for help, but we also actively reach out to families who might need extra support, such as those with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) or families where there are health concerns, or domestic abuse.

“If we can reach out to a family that is struggling now and prevent their situation getting worse, we feel like we have succeeded.”

To find out more, search **Surrey Family Information Service** online, or call **0300 200 1004**.

If you are worried about your child’s health or development, call the Children and Family Health advice line on **01883 340 922**.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a child in Woking, you can report it confidentially to the Children’s Single Point of Access Surrey on **0300 470 9100**, or **01483 517898** if calling out of hours.



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PLANET
WOKING

PLANET WOKING

Last month, Woking Borough Council launched Planet Woking – a programme dedicated to all things relating to climate change, sustainability and biodiversity in the Borough.

The Council has long been committed to protecting the environment. In fact, our first climate change strategy was adopted back in 2002, although our efforts began much earlier in 1990. Woking 2050 is our current strategy and sets out a vision guiding our collective efforts to create a sustainable borough by reducing our environmental impact.

The purpose of the Planet Woking programme is to share with you what the Council has been doing to date to address climate change and sustainability locally; and what we're doing to meet our carbon neutral target having declared a 'climate and ecological emergency' last summer. This declaration recognises the continued priority the Borough gives to addressing climate change, including biodiversity and habitat losses, through strong local commitment and most importantly actions. The Council pledged to become zero carbon by 2030 across

its estate and operations and has developed a Climate Emergency Action Plan delivering against our priority actions.

A lot of what we have achieved already is thanks to partnership working with key stakeholders, commercial partners and community volunteers to meet our common environmental goals. Through Planet Woking we also want to inspire local people to get involved and make or continue to make, changes to living a greener, more sustainable life.

In September we launched a dedicated website, www.planetwoking.co.uk - that has a range of case studies, articles and videos designed to engage local people and organisations to do what you can to make a positive difference. There's also information and activities to inspire your younger family members on the site's Little Planet Woking pages.

Over the next few months, we will be streaming a series of virtual talks based around key themes aimed at residents, schools and businesses.

We will be covering topics such as what changes we can make in our homes to live greener; what sustainable transport choices there are locally; and the Borough's rich and diverse biodiversity and how we can explore it further whilst protecting it for the future. The events will also offer residents the opportunity to feedback their ideas for what more the Council could be doing. Check out the 'Events' section of the Planet Woking website to find out more.

THERE IS NO PLANET B

So let's work together to secure the future of our Borough by taking action to address climate change locally. We all have a part to play to look after "Planet Woking".

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

email: hello@planetwoking.co.uk or visit: www.planetwoking.co.uk



Discover...

Brookwood Country Park

Welcome to our new feature 'Discover' where you will find out more about our very special open, green spaces. We are so lucky to have a wealth of parks and countryside on our doorstep. It's time to get out there and discover what's on offer.

Over the coming editions, we will be working with partners to explore the many different outdoor gems in our borough. With a new featured destination every edition, you won't have time to remove the mud on your wellies before you're off on the next adventure.

Brookwood Country Park

Redding Way, Knaphill, GU21 8XP

Take the Redding Way exit off the Hermitage Road roundabout and find the park a short distance on the left.

Parking: Free car park (2m height restriction)

Public transport: Nearby bus stops serve the park 30 minutes by foot from Brookwood Train Station

Accessibility: Fully accessible 1.4km circular walk on surfaced path. Longer walks possible if you explore off the beaten track or continue walking along the towpath.

Opening times: Always open

Facilities: Children's play park situated in Percheron Drive, next to the park

Best time to visit: A wonderful place to visit all year round.

Protection status: Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) Dog and family-friendly natural green spaces. A great alternative to our heathland sites, where there is less risk of disturbing the rare, protected ground nesting birds that inhabit the heathlands.



Brookwood Country Park is situated on the former grounds of Brookwood Hospital. After the hospital's closure in 1994, the grounds were developed for housing. A large area was converted by Woking Borough Council into the present park that runs alongside the Basingstoke Canal.

This waterway is an added attraction, offering the opportunity for a longer walk and acting as a wildlife corridor.

What will I see?

With the canal and four pretty ponds, there's plenty of water-loving wildlife around. During the summer, enjoy watching butterflies and dragonflies as they flit around in the sunshine, or go bird-spotting for the many different species of water birds who call the waterways their home. If you are lucky, you may even spot a kingfisher!

Native trees, such as oak and beech, make it a spectacular destination for an autumn walk. Warden Mike is particularly fond of the trees at Brookwood and enthuses about the young oaks scattered around the meadows which are "destined to develop into the future 'Mighty Oaks of Olde England'."





Brookwood Country Park is owned and managed by Woking Borough Council and patrolled by Thames Basin Heath Partnership wardens who occasionally arrange guided tours. Explore more sites by visiting www.tbhpartnership.org.uk

Accessible paths shown in red
Access road/car park shown in pink



Rules and regulations

Please dispose of dog poo in the bins provided and keep your dog under control or on a lead if you are not confident of your dog's ability to return to your call.

Please ensure you, your children and dogs, keep to the designated paths at all times.

Do not light fires or barbecues anywhere on site.

Unlicensed drone activity is prohibited.

Please adhere to the latest government social distancing guidelines at all times.

What can I do?

Anglers can enjoy a spot of fishing on two of the four ponds. Visit www.goldsworthparkanglingclub.com for more information.

Guided walks

Visit www.walkingforhealth.org.uk for up to date information about guided walks around the park.

Tell us what you think

We'd love to hear your thoughts on our new feature. Do get in touch by emailing andy.denner@woking.gov.uk

Good-bye old friend

After over a decade of taking readers on unique walking trails across Woking in our **Out & About** feature, the editorial team at **The Woking Magazine** are hanging up their walking boots. Having trekked the length and breadth of the borough over the years to find paths untrodden and trails new, we have come to the decision to retire to the warmth of the fireside for a well-earned hot toddy.

Victoria Square Art Project exhibition and winners

In partnership with Victoria Square Woking Ltd and #WeAreWoking, The Lightbox gallery and museum has announced the opening of the much-anticipated Victoria Square Open Call virtual exhibition.

The Victoria Square Art Project: Open Call invited Woking artists, schools, amateurs, and enthusiasts alike to see their work exhibited publicly, win one of ten 'Best in Show' cash prizes and present their artworks permanently to a global audience in the town's flagship development, Victoria Square.

Anyone from the age of 11 plus studying, working, or residing in Woking, or affiliated with the town in some way, was encouraged to enter artwork to the open call, all eligible to win a prize. From more than 400 submitted artworks, the panel of judges selected 121 pieces, ranging from paintings to photographs and textiles to sculpture, that best and most diversely represented the creativity of the people of Woking town.

The judging panel were looking for works with a contemporary feel, reflecting contemporary themes and concerns, with the overall aim to connect the development to the town and its people.

Of the selected works, some will be permanently displayed throughout the Victoria Square development and in the hotel, once it opens in 2021, publicly and permanently expressing the creativity of Woking artists in the heart of the town centre and to the international audiences using the hotel.

Prize winners include William Butler for the category, Drawing, Francoise Davies for Photography, Layona Bungay for Painting and Dawn Conn for Sculpture.

Charlie Tolley won the category for Textiles, and Barbara Nati for Print. Prize winners in the 11 to 19 age group categories were Emmeline Stanley, Mana Komatsu, and Annie Lewry. Winners were announced at a virtual Private View of the exhibition on Tuesday 18 August, which saw more than 150 online visitors attend to celebrate Woking.

The virtual exhibition of selected artworks can be viewed by visiting www.thelightbox.org.uk/victoria-square-art-project

Barbara Nati 'Inverted Kingdoms', 2017, 66 x 100cm, Print Prize Winner.



Francoise Davies, 'The Site', 2020, 18 x 12cm, Photography Prize Winner.



Renaissance leads an exciting exhibition line-up

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the death of Raphael. The Lightbox is the only gallery in the UK to be hosting an exhibition commemorating one of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance.

Raphael: Prince Albert's Passion (until 31 January 2021) tells the intriguing story of Prince Albert's fascination for Raphael. The exhibition features drawings from the Royal Collection, revealing the artist's working methods, as well as 500 years of reproductive techniques, such as photography, engravings, wood-block printing and lithography, used to emulate Raphael's work.

Next, **Bridget Riley: Pleasures of Sight** (13 February to 16 May 2021), a retrospective on the optical artist's work, takes centre stage. To celebrate Riley's 90th birthday, the exhibition explores the artist's love of sight and how it surprises us. The exhibition will also delve into the historical roots of her art and working methods through a selection of exemplary striped, curved, colour and black-and-white works.



Nataraja, 1993, Bridget Riley, (1931-), Purchased 1994, Photo © Tate, © Bridget Riley, 2019

In the Upper Gallery, **We Think the World of You: People and Dogs Drawn Together** by **David Remfry** (until 3 January 2021) will explore David Remfry's long-term fascination with the relationships that develop between dogs and their owners, revealing the mutual understanding and sympathy of these partnerships. Among the portrait sitters are well-known faces including Alan Cumming, Susan Sarandon and Ethan Hawke.

Exhibition entry is £7.50 for a Day Pass, or free for Lightbox Members and Under 21s.



Raphael (1483-1520) Christ's Charge to Peter c.1514 offset from a drawing in red chalk over stylus

To find out more about upcoming exhibitions, events, workshops, talks and tours, and the safety measures in place, please visit www.thelightbox.org.uk



Louise in Elysium, 2007, Graphite and watercolour on Paper David Remfry 102 X 152cm © DAVID REMFRY, 2019

Save the date!

For The Lightbox's thirteenth annual Christmas Fair, which will take place from **Saturday 28 November** to **Sunday 29 November**, as long as government guidance at the time permits.

There will be a wide array of beautiful products from local designers, crafters, painters and producers, and a lovely holly-jolly atmosphere. Tables will be placed at a safe distance for both seller and shopper and accompanying events have been scaled back to ensure the safety of everyone who takes part.

Why don't you... help your community prepare for a crisis



Under the leadership of a small, core team, one local community group rose to the challenge and helped its residents get through lockdown together. Here they share valuable insight and lessons learned that could help others to do the same.

Horsell Prepared is the newest arm of the long-established community group, Horsell Residents' Association. The home-grown resilience group was formed just two years ago to formalise a plan of action for the village in the event of an emergency - despite skepticism from some about whether it would be needed for anything beyond adverse weather conditions.

When lockdown began in March, the group mobilised its 450 strong volunteer army. Roles included manning a dedicated helpline to match volunteers to calls for assistance, running a phone buddy system for those in isolation, coordinating messages over social media and linking over 65 street level WhatsApp groups.

Helen Cammack and Alan Taylor founded the group: "A global pandemic always seemed less likely than other scenarios" explains Helen. "However, with careful scenario planning, training and meetings, we were well-prepared for every eventuality.

"From collecting prescriptions and carrying out essential shopping, to giving advice, we're extremely proud of the impact we have made on the community. We could not have had the same success without the help of all of the local traders and our links with community groups."

Alan explains the key to the group's success: "Effective communications have proved a real asset right throughout the crisis. We managed to get leaflets through every door just before lockdown telling everyone about our service, which, combined with our WhatsApp network, meant everyone was always connected. We have also embraced new technology, such as video conferencing, to keep people connected socially."

"Through commitment, planning and in the face of a global pandemic, Horsell Prepared rose to the challenge and demonstrated what can be achieved with leadership, community support, resilience and sheer hard work." Alan explains. "We have provided a

roadmap for success and would welcome the chance to help other community groups around the borough do the same."

It is expected that the Horsell Prepared model could be replicated in other neighbourhoods in the borough.



For more information on **Horsell Prepared** and to discover how you could set up an emergency response in your community, visit bit.ly/horsell or search **Horsell Prepared** online.



CLAIRE LEIGH
TWO DUCKS, ST JOHNS



MATT MARTIN
THE HORSELL
FRAMING COMPANY

SOMETHING SPECIAL, SOMEWHERE UNFORGETTABLE...

Whether you're looking for the perfect present or a spontaneous surprise, Woking's independent shops are the gifts that just keep on giving!

Shop sustainably this year at **Bare + Fair**, Woking's first 'zero waste' store. From gorgeous scents to sparkling glassware, **Two Ducks** boutique is here to help you inject your unique personality into your living spaces. Or capture a memory for a gift worth displaying from **The Horsell Framing Company**.

Loving local doesn't just mean helping our great businesses - it's about people, too! Be sure to take a trip to support your nearest **Woking & Sam Beare Hospice Shop**. And why not finish off the day with a warm welcome at **The Red Lion**, serving this season's perfect pick-me-ups.

LOVE LOCAL

Our community brings people together for truly unmissable experiences you simply won't find anywhere else.

So, come on in, be part of it and enjoy Woking!

WEAREWOKING.COM    

WOKING'S RESPONSE

Woking Borough Council would like to thank our residents and visitors for their continued patience and cooperation during the pandemic. Coronavirus is still with us and we must continue to follow the government guidelines and stay alert to control the virus. It will help to save lives and allow everyone to get back to normal much sooner. Our teams have been working hard to support our residents and we will continue to be here for everyone.

HERE'S WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED SO FAR:



Over **20,000** phone calls made to vulnerable and shielding residents, and counting...



1,320 Residents given advice and support via our helpline

Over **140** staff redeployed to support the front line



157,060 Covid-19 messages delivered via social media, email, print and broadcast

646 Prescriptions delivered



44,616 Community meals delivered



21,744 Pieces of PPE handed out



£26,929,173 Business rate relief provided



634 Visits, meetings and phone calls to help local businesses reopen safely

1,077 Business grants approved totalling **£14,627,000**



Parks and green spaces across the borough safely welcomed visitors



560 Volunteers signed up to offer their help

PLUS

Provided emergency accommodation for **161** people

Provided **13,637** households with council tax support



It's been business as usual for all vital services including street cleaning, bin collection, family support, benefit payment and housing.

