

the

# WOKING

magazine



Campaign for a greener, cleaner Woking launched

Best Bar None winners announced



Spring 2020

Please read and then recycle

  @wokingcouncil

 [www.facebook.com/wokingbc](https://www.facebook.com/wokingbc)

 [www.woking.gov.uk/thewokingmagazine](https://www.woking.gov.uk/thewokingmagazine)



# £10 DISCOUNT

on Plant purchases over £50  
with production of this advert\*

- Over 10,000 shrubs, trees, climbers, perennials, hedging and specimen plants
- Most of the plants grown on site, guaranteed quality
- Large range of compost, bark and decorative aggregates available

Turf, topsoil, compost and bark mulch are available for collection or NEXT DAY delivery.

The Otter  
Nursery.com

01932 875403

Murray Rd, Ottershaw  
Chertsey, KT16 0HT

Monday to Friday 8am - 5pm | Saturday 9am - 5pm | Sunday 10am - 4pm



Garden Centre quality at Nursery prices



The Otter Nursery, Ottershaw



@TheOtterNursery

\*Offer expires 31st May 2020. Can not be used in conjunction with any other offer.

Come and visit us  
in store today

Goldsworth Road,  
Woking GU21 6LJ

Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm

## Your Local *Mobility Experts*



Mobility  
Scooters  
from  
£799\*



Stairlifts  
Installed  
from  
£1,690\*

**Stannah**  
AUTHORISED DEALER



Profiling  
Beds  
from  
£829\*



Riser  
Recliners  
from  
£589\*



Wheeled  
Walkers  
from  
£64.99\*



Bath Lifts  
from  
£299\*

### SUPPORTING YOUR INDEPENDENCE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

**Woking Showroom**  
105-107 Goldsworth Rd  
Woking  
GU21 6LJ  
Opposite Morrisons  
☎ 01483 767 733

Showrooms across  
Kent, Sussex and Surrey

View our full range online at  
[www.clearwellmobility.co.uk](http://www.clearwellmobility.co.uk)



**Clearwell**  
mobility

\*Price excludes VAT and is available to those suffering from a long term illness upon completion of a declaration

## Introduction



**Welcome to the spring edition of The Woking Magazine.**

As the days get lighter and the nights shorter, there's plenty to see and do over the coming months. It's also the perfect time to start a new project or take on a new challenge.

Speaking of which, we talk to Neels who volunteers for his local good neighbour scheme. He tells us how we can all benefit our community by volunteering just a small amount of our spare time.

Earlier this year, #WeAreWoking launched its latest campaign to encourage us all to do more to help protect and improve our environment. The campaign will support local communities to act now and tackle the most urgent local and global environmental challenges facing us.

You could start by unearthing Woking's wild side, as we team up with Surrey Wildlife Trust for a weekend of ecology and discovery this May.

And if you've ever wondered how many stars are in the sky or if there's really life on other planets, Woking's first planetarium is for you. Recently opened at Winston Churchill School, the immersive experience transports you to the far reaches of our solar system.

We also celebrate Woking's best bars, pubs, and restaurants as we announce the winners from the recent Woking Best Bar None awards.

And finally, don't forget to make your voice heard and vote on Thursday 7 May to elect your local representative on the Borough Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey.

So that just leaves me enough space to wish you all a relaxing Easter break.

**Andy Denner**

The Woking Magazine Editor

# #WEAREWOKING

**Front cover:** Launch of the #WeAreWoking environmental campaign  
**Inset:** Best Bar None winners



## Contents



### News in brief

Latest news from across Woking

4



### #WeAreWoking campaign

Tackling climate change locally

12



### Celebrate Woking

Your spring social and cultural calendar

14



### Best Bar None

Find out this year's winners

19



### Sheerwater transformation

Latest news on a major regeneration project

20



### Busting congestion

£95 million grant to improve road network

22



### Victoria Square

Opening in 18 months

23



### Out and About

Enjoy the countryside around Ripley

24



### Why don't you?

Find your voice with the community choir

30

## Contact details

The Woking Magazine is compiled and published three times a year by Woking Borough Council. A total of 47,000 copies are printed and delivered free to households and many public information points across the borough.

**Editorial Team:** Andy Denner, phone 01483 743026, email andy.denner@woking.gov.uk **Quantum PR**, phone 01233 500200, email charlie@quantumpr.co.uk

**Design:** Quantum PR

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.

## Keeping the canal corridor alive and in pristine condition

Whilst construction of a new cycle and pedestrian footbridge is underway, volunteers from the Basingstoke Canal Authority's (BCA) Tuesday Group have taken the opportunity to clear out rubbish from the dewatered section of canal.



Lawn mowers, TVs, bikes, car and bike tyres, numerous plastic bottles and cans have all been removed, much of which would otherwise have found its way to the sea.

Woking area volunteers use the BCA workboat to clear rubbish from the canal, supported by Basingstoke Canal Society's (BCS) volunteer Lengthsmen who collect litter on a daily basis. In total, volunteers spend upwards of 300 days a year helping to keep the canal pristine through the Woking area.

If you care about the environment and would like to get involved in the BCA's work, please call **01252 370073** or email **info@basingstoke-canal.co.uk**

## Ready, set, go... for the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games!

With the Tokyo 2020 Olympics only a few months away, young people can kick-start their sporting journeys with free training sessions and the chance to represent Team Woking at this year's Specsavers Surrey Youth Games.

The annual sporting extravaganza gives children and young people the opportunity to discover a new sport or improve their existing skills by attending up to eight weeks free coaching.

Training sessions begin in April, led by fully qualified coaches, and are open to all children and young people who live or go to school in the borough, aged between six and 16, depending on the discipline.

Those who show a willingness to learn and enthusiasm have the opportunity to represent Team Woking at the Specsavers Surrey Youth Games, hosted at Surrey Sports Park in Guildford, where competitors take on teams from across the county.



To find out more about and register your child's interest, please email **sports.services@woking.gov.uk** or visit **www.woking.gov.uk/syg**

## Local elections – Thursday 7 May 2020

**On Thursday 7 May 2020, elections will be held to elect councillors to the Borough Council and the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Surrey.**

There are 10 wards across the borough, each represented by three councillors. As the Borough Council is elected by thirds, one seat from each ward is open for election. Councillors are elected using a simple majority voting system, known as 'first past the post'.

The Borough Council is responsible for a wide range of services including public and private housing, collection of Council Tax and Business Rates, environmental health, planning applications and policies, leisure facilities, car parks and parking, waste and recycling collections and street cleaning.

This year, there is no voter ID pilot, so voters will not require photographic identification when voting.

All eligible voters will receive a poll card setting out their voting arrangements before the election. Electors will be able to cast their vote at their



designated poll station between **7am and 10pm, Thursday 7 May 2020.**

### Key deadlines for the election

- Register to vote applications: **Tuesday 21 April 2020**
- New postal vote applications: **5pm, Wednesday 22 April 2020**
- New proxy vote by post applications: **5pm, Wednesday 22 April 2020**
- New proxy vote applications: **5pm, Wednesday 29 April 2020**

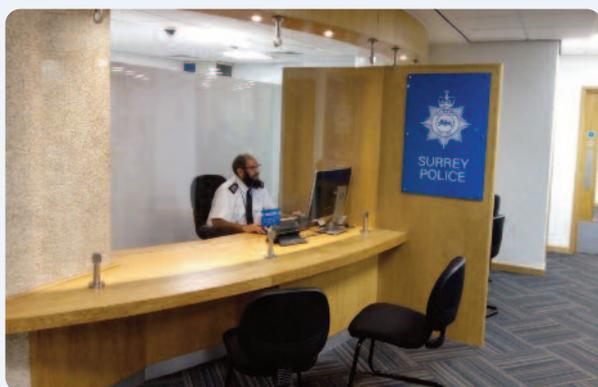
For more information about the election process, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/elections](http://www.woking.gov.uk/elections), email [elections@woking.gov.uk](mailto:elections@woking.gov.uk) or call **01483 755855**.

## Police front counter services relocate to Civic Offices

**Front counter services operated by Surrey Police have relocated to the Civic Offices in Gloucester Square.**

Service opening hours will remain the same with members of the public able to visit the front counter between 8am and 10pm, Monday to Sunday, and 9am to 5pm on bank holidays and public holidays excluding Christmas Day.

The relocation of the front counter means the service is in the same location as the Neighbourhood Policing Team who are already based at the Civic Offices.



## Woking's new low-carbon energy centre is on its way

**ThamesWey has started construction of Woking's new sustainable energy centre that will secure future low-carbon energy supplies for Woking town centre.**



Construction firm, Galliford Try, commenced development in January and has completed the building's foundations. Once complete in early 2021, the first customers to receive low-carbon heat and power will be the new Victoria Square development.

The new energy centre has been designed to generate enough heat and power to supply the equivalent of over 2,500 homes.

With Woking's 2030 carbon neutral future in mind, the energy centre has been designed to incorporate new green energy technologies to further reduce the town centre's dependence on fossil fuels. The energy centre will form part of the vital infrastructure enabling Woking to grow sustainably.

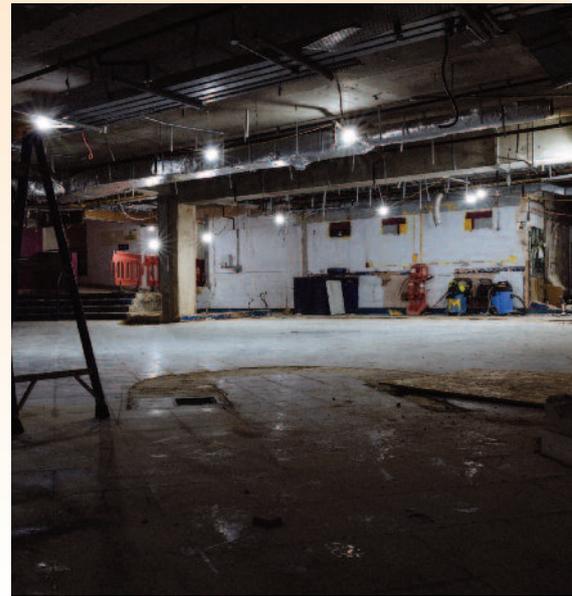
## Out with the old, in with the new - Woking cinema update

**The transformation of Woking's cinema is making great progress, with the old cinema now gutted and interior works well underway.**

Once complete, the cinema will provide a new state-of-the-art independent entertainment experience including many new features such as a media room, exclusive bar areas and an exciting new film programme to captivate cinema lovers of all tastes.

Whilst works are underway, the cinema team is reaching out to people who may have ideas for interesting uses of the new media room. If you are a local historian, have a passion for film and an urge to do some research, or could do something amazing in this brand new space, then please email [wokingmarketing@theambassadors.com](mailto:wokingmarketing@theambassadors.com)

Sign up to receive all the latest updates on the project, as well as the chance to have a say on elements such as programming and membership features, throughout the development at [www.atgtickets.com/cinema2020](http://www.atgtickets.com/cinema2020)



This will also be the first place to hear all the latest news as we build up to the opening later this year – watch this space!

## New environmental sustainability business awards unveiled



**A new environmental sustainability business awards scheme, presented by the Woking News & Mail in association with University of Surrey's Centre for Environment and Sustainability, has been unveiled.**

The Corporate Responsibility for the Environment and a Sustainable Tomorrow 2020 (CREST20) Awards, give centre stage to businesses based in and around Woking who are working to protect our environment.

Launching with the support of Woking Borough Council and WWF-UK, the awards will honour those working to make the economy, society and environment more sustainable by using innovation, creativity, expert knowledge and collaboration.

The awards are an opportunity to celebrate projects, individuals, teams and organisations from all sectors and all sizes: from sole traders to multinationals, private enterprise to public sector and all others in between.

The application process will open later this year, with an award evening hosted at WWF-UK's Living Planet Centre during November.

Organisations interested in becoming a sponsor or applying can register their interest by emailing [crest@wokingnewsandmail.org](mailto:crest@wokingnewsandmail.org) for more information.

## Fully charged! Funding for electric vehicle charging points

**Surrey County Council has been awarded £470,000 to install 80 fast on-street charging points for electric vehicles across Woking, Spelthorne, Guildford and Waverley Borough Councils over the next year.**

Partner boroughs have provided a combined match funding of £170,000 and along with an additional £15,000 private sector funding, the total project budget is £656,000.

The majority of the funding has been granted by Enterprise M3 Local Enterprise Partnership, a public sector body which helps to deliver increased productivity, prosperity and an improved quality of life.

Work is expected to start later in 2020 with completion due in around 12 months.

## Afternoon tea in Woking

**Fancy catching up over a cuppa and having a nibble whilst you natter?**



Then why not come along to Sight for Surrey's Deaf Afternoon Tea in Woking.

Relax and meet the Sensory Services team, friendly new faces and informative and interesting guest speakers who support your well-being. There's no need to book, just turn up.

A British Sign Language Interpreter is available. If other types of communication support are required, just ask!

The group meets on Fridays at Pret A Manger, Wolsey Place Shopping Centre, Woking, between 2pm and 5pm on the following dates: 13 March, 17 April, 8 May, 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November and 11 December.

For more information, please email [interpreting@sensoryservices.org.uk](mailto:interpreting@sensoryservices.org.uk)

## A change for the better

**Improvement works at Woking's Pool in the Park are well underway, with fully refurbished changing rooms due to open this summer.**

The modern and welcoming family-friendly changing facilities will feature improved accessibility and dementia friendly colour schemes which are Changing-Places ready.

The works are part of a £2 million investment programme that will also address a number of structural issues. New glazing will ensure the building is warm and energy efficient, whilst a fully refurbished atrium will create a welcoming environment.

During the works, Pool in the Park will remain open, however, there will be some disruption to users. It is anticipated that the works will be complete by late summer.

You can stay up-to-date with progress by visiting [www.facebook.com/WokingLeisureCentre](https://www.facebook.com/WokingLeisureCentre) or [www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/wokingpool](http://www.freedom-leisure.co.uk/wokingpool)



## New council homes for local families - and more on the way



**Late last year, Woking Borough Council handed over the keys to five brand new homes to families on the housing register.**

Built on a pocket of redundant council land behind Hawthorne Road, the modern, energy-efficient homes were designed specifically with larger families in mind.

Built from brick for durability and greater kerb appeal, the three-storey, four-bed properties in Yew Tree Close have exceptionally high levels of insulation resulting in cheaper energy bills for tenants and a significantly smaller carbon footprint.

This is the first of three small-scale council housing developments to be completed by ThamesWey that will see a total of 11 new-build family homes handed over to the Council.

The Council's Portfolio Holder for Housing, Cllr Debbie Harlow, said: "Meeting the demand for family-sized council accommodation is one of our biggest challenges. These smaller plots are key to growing both our supply and range of high-quality social housing.

"By working with the Council's own developer, ThamesWey, we've been able to make good use of council land for much needed affordable housing quickly, and at an acceptable cost."

### Did you know...?

2019 marked 100 years since the Addison Act was passed, which introduced the notion of councils building social housing on a large scale. Councils built 5.5 million homes over the past century.

## How does your garden grow?

It's time to dig out those gardening gloves and go potty in the garden, as the search is on to find the borough's best gardens begins!



With seven 'Best in Category Awards' up for grabs, residents, schools and businesses are once again encouraged to get out into their gardens and help make Woking a cleaner, greener and brighter borough.

To enter this year's competition, as well as find out more about the categories and criteria, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/wokinginbloom](http://www.woking.gov.uk/wokinginbloom)

Registration opens around Easter and closes Monday 6 July 2020.

## Help your plants and the planet

As the nights get lighter and the days a little warmer, there's no better time to grab your gardening gloves and head outdoors.

This spring, you can enjoy lush green grass while helping new things grow by making your own supply of nutrient rich compost. Not only is composting the most environmentally friendly way to recycle your garden waste, it will also help to improve soil and make your plants flourish.

It's easier than you think to compost at home, you just need a 50/50 mix of green nitrogen rich ingredients, such as grass clippings, vegetable waste, fruit scraps and coffee grounds, and brown carbon rich ingredients that include dead leaves, branches and twigs.



Surrey residents keen to make a start can buy a discounted compost bin for just £13. They can also buy a discounted food waste digester from £65 which can be used to make compost from all types of food waste.

Visit [www.surreyep.org.uk](http://www.surreyep.org.uk) for more composting tips and details about the discounted bins and other ways to recycle your garden waste.

## Easter waste and recycling collections



**Good news! Waste and recycling collections will remain the same throughout the Easter holiday, as collection crews will be out and about during the bank holiday.**

So once you've munched your chocolatey treats, don't forget to recycle all the packaging and any leftover food waste.

Not sure what you can recycle? Check out Joint Waste Solution's handy online tool that explains what to do with an item. Visit [www.jointwaste-solutions.org/bin-collections/what-do-i-do-with](http://www.jointwaste-solutions.org/bin-collections/what-do-i-do-with) for more information.



## Do you have an idea worth spreading?

**Global phenomenon TEDx is returning to Woking for the fifth time on Friday 27 November, under the theme of 'resilience', with potential speakers able to submit their pitch between 1 and 30 April.**

TED talks give charismatic speakers the opportunity to expose new ideas to an international online audience, and TEDx events are hosted locally under license. Talks must be supported by concrete evidence and ideally address a subject that has not been explored before.

TEDxWoking is supported locally by award-winning IT support and managed services company, ramsac, whose MD, Rob May, leads the steering group and offers free advice and guidance to shortlisted speakers.

So if you are local and able to speak for up to 18 minutes without notes on the topic of 'resilience', visit [www.tedxwoking.com](http://www.tedxwoking.com) for speaker criteria and the selection process, which involves a compulsory audition and rehearsal.

Earlybird tickets are also available online for this popular event, where seats are strictly limited to 100.



## Council approves financial budget for 2020/21

**Woking Borough Council's financial plans for 2020/21 were approved during a meeting of elected members in February.**

As part of the balanced budget, the Borough Council Tax charge will rise by 2.08% for 2020/21. This means that those living in a Band D property will pay £245.46 per year for Borough Council services such as refuse collections, social housing, environmental maintenance, planning services and leisure facilities – an increase of £5, equivalent to 10 pence a week.

The Borough's Council Tax charge will be added to Surrey County Council's charge (£1,511.46 for a Band D property) and Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner's charge (£270.57 for a Band D property property).

The total Council Tax charge for a Band D property for 2020/21 will be £2,027.49.

If not already, households will shortly receive their Council Tax bill for 2020/21. Anyone experiencing difficulty paying their Council Tax is encouraged to contact Woking Borough Council for advice by calling **01483 755855** or emailing [ctax@woking.gov.uk](mailto:ctax@woking.gov.uk)

## New scheme supports theatre-goers with hidden disabilities

**As a part of the New Victoria Theatre's commitment to accessibility and theatre for all, the venue has announced their support of the Sunflower Lanyard scheme.**

The scheme is an initiative enabling those with a hidden disability who may require additional help to be easily recognised and assisted as needed. Hidden disabilities include, but are not limited to, dementia, autism, learning disabilities, anxiety issues, mental health impairments and hearing loss.

The Sunflower Lanyards are available at the New Victoria Theatre Box Office – Level 1 of the Peacock's Centre.

For further information on access and to book for access performances, please visit the New Victoria Theatre Box Office or call the Freephone Access Booking Line on **0800 912 6971**.



## Josh Casey crowned Woking Sports Personality of the Year

**At a glittering awards evening to honour Woking's sporting elite and outstanding service to sport, Josh Casey was crowned Woking's Sports Personality of the Year!**

The Sport Woking Awards are an annual event which celebrates the borough's sporting achievements over the past 12 months.

The Woking Football Club captain and left back received multiple public nominations for securing the club's promotion to the Vanarama National League.

Young Sports Personality of the Year was awarded to gymnast, Jasper Smith-Gordon, from Woking Gymnastics Club for representing Great Britain at a number of international competitions including the 2019 World Cup in Hungary where he picked up a bronze medal on the vault.



Josh Casey collecting his award from Mayor of Woking Cllr Beryl Hunwicks

The Trotman Trophy, another coveted award, went to Richard Grady, who had earlier received the Outstanding Service to Sport award. He was one of the founding members of Woking Rugby Football Club, devoting much of his spare time to the club's development. Since the awards, Richard has sadly passed away. He received a standing ovation as he lifted the Trotman Trophy.

For information about the Sport Woking Awards, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/sportsawards](http://www.woking.gov.uk/sportsawards)

### Other category awards winners were:

- Active Surrey 'Community Project of the Year' – **Combat Sports League**, collected by founder Ali Waheed.
- Active Surrey 'School Innovation of the Year' – **Barnsbury School**, collected by teacher, Amber Hiller.
- Active Surrey 'Coach, Leader or Instructor of the Year Award' – **Richard Buckmaster** from Mayford Athletic Football Club.
- Freedom Leisure 'Inclusive Sport Award' – **Michael Dey** for his work with Surrey Wheels for All.
- 'Volunteer of the Year' – **Fezaan Azam** for his work with Woking Tigers football academy,

community fundraising and efforts to increase female participation in sport.



# Local actions making a global difference

**Local environmental action group, Woking Local Action 21, has announced a change of name to Woking Environmental Action, or WE Act for short. The Woking Magazine finds out what's behind the name change and more about the group's work.**

The announcement was made during the group's 25th anniversary Annual General Meeting late last year. The new name better reflects the group's broad range of projects.

Woking Environment Action (WE Act) works to tackle global environmental concerns on a local scale, encouraging sustainable living and working within the area, helping residents, businesses and organisations to make a positive difference to our local environment. The group's work also contributes towards delivery of Woking Borough Council's Climate Change and Natural Woking strategies.

The group raises awareness through its wide range of initiatives, via its website, [www.wokingla21.wordpress.com](http://www.wokingla21.wordpress.com), and social media channels.

It's free to join WE Act and projects are open to all. Please email [wokingla21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wokingla21@yahoo.co.uk) to see how you can lend a hand to help the environment.



©Jon Hawkins of Surrey Hills Photography

You could get involved in plastic free living, regular Woking Biodiversity Group conservation work parties, wild flower planting and maintenance, community food growing with Incredible Edible, or help the birds with Operation Owl.

## Nurturing Woking's Wildflowers

Annual and perennial wildflowers are great for biodiversity, especially pollinators like bees, butterflies, hoverflies and other insects. They can also look good and support our well-being, giving us that calming feeling often associated with getting outside and enjoying nature.

Over recent years an increasing number of parcels of land locally are being used to grow wildflowers, or to allow grass to grow a little taller, to reap these benefits - from private back gardens to roadside verges, greenspaces and the sewage treatment works.

Those contributing to this collective effort include Woking Borough Council, environmental partner Serco, Woking Environment Action volunteers and many interested individuals.



As the summer approaches, look out for newly sown wildflower beds in and around the borough. Locations include Lockfield Drive, a number of roundabouts and highway verges, Millmoor and St Johns Lye Commons, and Thames Water Sewage Treatment Works in Carters Lane, Old Woking (pictured above).



# #WEAREWOKING

FOR THE FUTURE

## WOKING ENVIRONMENT TAKES CENTRE STAGE

Woking is putting climate change and sustainability first in 2020 and beyond, following the launch of a major campaign aimed at encouraging people to do more to help protect and improve the environment.

Backed by WWF-UK, the #WEAREWOKING campaign will help support local communities, including businesses, residents, schools and visitors to act now and tackle the most urgent local and global environmental challenges facing us.

Promoting a greener, cleaner Woking which is ready for the future, the campaign also has the support of a range of local stakeholder organisations, including, Woking Environment Action (WE Act), Surrey Wildlife Trust, ThamesWey Group and Action Surrey, and Woking Borough Council.

Councillor Kevin Davis, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, said: "Woking is ambitious, forward-looking and proactively working for a future in an environment which is protected and improved for all generations who choose to make it their home, place of work or to visit."

Working collaboratively with everyone, we have the commitment and tools to deliver real change, drive action and make a positive difference.

– Councillor Kevin Davis

The campaign was launched at the Living Planet Centre in Woking, the UK headquarters of WWF-UK and will promote and drive greater participation across a range of existing and new initiatives.

Woking Borough is already among the most ambitious green-focused areas in the UK. Last year, it was one of the first to declare a climate change emergency and a clear, focused Climate Change Strategy (Woking 2050) has been in place since 2015 delivering across a range of key areas, with Woking Borough Council aiming to become carbon neutral by 2030.

To see Woking Borough Council putting environmental issues at the heart of its campaign and work this year is a positive step and an example for authorities throughout the UK.

– Gareth Redmond-King,  
Head of Climate Change at WWF-UK.

For more information on the campaign, follow #WEAREWOKING on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter or visit [wearewoking.com](http://wearewoking.com).



# KEEP IT GREEN

Don't be stuck. Whether at home, at work or visiting Woking, there are hundreds of ways you can get involved to help make a real difference. Here's a few tips to get you started.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Make a brew at home and bring it with you – or get a reusable, refillable cup for that morning cup of coffee.

## BRING YOUR OWN BAG

Keep your plastic bags handy when heading into town and reuse them as often as you can, or invest in an environmentally-friendly canvas bag.

## SWITCH OFF

Reduce your energy consumption by using longer-lasting, low energy or LED light bulbs.

## BIN IT WISELY

Pay close attention to what you're throwing away in which bin and recycle everything you can. It's a great habit you'll find hard to shake off.

## WASH CLEVER

Only use your washing machine or dishwasher when completely full. Not only will you save hundreds of gallons of water, you'll save money too.

## KEEP IT COOL

Keep an eye on the thermostat and use the timer wisely. By reducing the temperature or the length of time it's on, you'll save money, conserve energy and reduce pollution.

## PLANT A TREE

Invest in your garden and the environment by planting a native tree. Not only will it make a beautiful feature, but it will absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and make a great home for a variety of birds, animals and insects.

## WALK OR CYCLE

Leave your car at home if you can and walk, cycle or take the bus instead.

## QUIT THE BOTTLE!

Stop buying bottled water and fill up locally for free with a reusable container or flask.

## COOK FROM SCRATCH

The more food you make from simple basic, minimally-packaged ingredients like vegetables, grains, meats, eggs and spices, the more you will save on groceries and the less impact you will have on the environment.



# WOKING ON THE RISE!

From the new BBC series War of the Worlds to the countdown of the launch of Victoria Square, Woking's been generating the headlines lately – and for all the right reasons.

Woking has landed firmly inside the Top 20 list of Britain's best places to live, making the grade at a healthy number 19 and well ahead of nearby Guildford at 44. The Halifax Quality of Life survey looks at how local authority areas compare and takes into consideration 26 different factors

that home buyers may consider when choosing a place to live. The survey also includes traffic and crime rates, health and well-being, housing affordability, earnings, employment and education.

**Dare to explore, seize the inspiration to look, and you'll have a wonderful time in Woking,**

writes The Telegraph, which listed seven fine reasons to visit with highlights including Woking's famous 'giant' sculptures, Horsell Common and Brookwood Cemetery.

Tipped as the 'one to watch' in 2020 with great schools, a brilliant commute, The Lightbox and the Surrey Hills, the Evening Standard said: "Woking has everything you need on the doorstep."



# Your Spring social and

This spring, you don't need to go far to discover a diary of great events taking place across the borough!

## Woking Literary Festival

**Thursday 23 to Sunday 26 April, The Lightbox, Woking**

From a masterclass on becoming a published author with publisher Scott Pack, to The Lightbox Big Book Swap and the return of children's illustrator-author David Litchfield, there's something literary for the whole family to get stuck into!

For more information on the festival's activities and bookings, please visit [www.thelightbox.org.uk](http://www.thelightbox.org.uk)



## Earth Hour 2020

**Saturday 28 March, 8.30pm**

Join landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, Sydney Opera House and the Eiffel Tower by switching off your lights for one hour this Earth Hour in a momentous show of support for our planet.

From Germany to Morocco to Indonesia, Earth Hour mobilised people across the world to speak up on issues such as sustainable lifestyles, plastic-free oceans, deforestation and water conservation.

Find out more about getting involved by visiting [www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour](http://www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour)

## Wild about Woking

**Saturday 23 to Sunday 24 May 2020, 11am until 4pm, Woking Town Centre**

Join Surrey Wildlife Trust and Natural Woking to explore the wild side of Woking. From the urban environment to insect haven, be inspired by a pop-up wildlife garden, talk to experts, take part in a nature trail, guided walks, wildlife themed crafts and activities and much more!

This is a free event and no booking is required.

## VE Day 75th anniversary celebrations

**8, 9 and 10 May**

Party like it's 1945 with a good old fashioned street party! To help residents take full advantage of the extra bank holiday, there will be no charge for hosting a VE Day themed street party during the bank holiday weekend.

For a poignant reminder of the cost of war, join members of Brookwood Last Post ([www.brookwoodlastpost.org](http://www.brookwoodlastpost.org)) on Sunday 3 May as they salute the fallen of World War 2.

For more information and advice about hosting a street party, please visit [www.woking.gov.uk/community/street-parties](http://www.woking.gov.uk/community/street-parties)

## Refugee Week

**15 to 21 June 2020, venues across Woking**

Celebrating the valued contribution that refugees make to our borough through a week of events and activities based around the theme 'Imagine'.

A special celebration event will be held at 6pm, Monday 15 June at H.G. Wells Conference and Events Centre. Delivered in partnership with Woking People of Faith, the evening features music, dance, visual arts, poetry, food and more!

Email [arts@woking.gov.uk](mailto:arts@woking.gov.uk) for further information.

Unless otherwise stated, for more information about the events featured and to check out a monthly events listing, please visit [www.celebratewoking.info](http://www.celebratewoking.info)



# cultural calendar



And here's a few dates to pencil in your social diary now!

## Screen on the Green

Friday 3 and Saturday 4 July, Woking Park



New for 2020, as part of Party in the Park, Screen on the Green will be showing two free outdoor cinema experiences on Friday and Saturday evening.

Both screenings are complemented by a range of food and refreshment stalls, so grab your picnic blanket and get set for some completely free cinema as the sun goes down!

## Party in the Park

Saturday 4 July, Woking Park

Get ready to Party in the Park as Woking's ultimate family day out returns to Woking Park. The free-to-attend annual celebration offers another packed programme of free cultural entertainment.

Highlights include live music, sizzling hot food village, funfair, and a varied selection of captivating street theatre, dance, sports activities, craft market and workshops. And if all of that isn't enough, don't forget to bring your blanket for Screen on the Green!

Search 'Party in the Park 2020' on Facebook for the latest event information.



## Pride in Surrey

Saturday 8 August, Wheatsheaf Common

Pride in Surrey is back! Following the success of last year's inaugural LGBTQ+ event, this year is set to be bigger and better!



The day celebrates equality and diversity across Surrey. Featuring a showcase parade that will snake its way from Woking town centre to Wheatsheaf Common where a celebratory event featuring an amazing line-up of music acts and much more is held.

For more information, and to get involved, please visit [www.prideinsurrey.org](http://www.prideinsurrey.org)

## Woking Food and Drink Festival

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 September 2020, Woking Town Centre

Save room for a large helping of celebrity and local chef demos, expert talks, pop-up dining experiences and a fantastic assortment of food and drink stalls as the multi-award winning Woking Food and Drink Festival returns.

Served with a side of street entertainment and live music, this free-to-attend family festival is stuffed full of culinary delights. Browse the very best local and regional produce found across Surrey and the South East, and experience a taste of the new or exotic as you stroll among the many street food vendors and sellers of authentic cuisine.

This delectable doorstep dining experience is a must for food all lovers and best enjoyed in the company of others. Follow [@WokingFoodFest](https://www.instagram.com/WokingFoodFest) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for all the latest festival news, or for full details, including exclusive recipes and interviews, visit [www.wokingfoodfest.co.uk](http://www.wokingfoodfest.co.uk)

# Good neighbours

**Neels is a very busy man. He scuba dives, tours on a motorbike, flies planes and enjoys travelling the world with his wife. But he still manages to find time for his community too, as a volunteer for his local good neighbour scheme, Horsell Care.**



There are 12 good neighbour schemes across Woking which offer a helping hand to others in their neighbourhood. Run by volunteers for the benefit of their local communities, each group is different but will often include transport assistance, social activities and a befriending scheme.

All of them enable older people to live independently in their homes and communities for longer and reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness.

Neels has been a volunteer for Horsell Care for some seven years now, as a volunteer driver and, more recently, as a committee member.

Recently he has seen a rise in demand for the help that the scheme provides as the population ages and demands on statutory services increase.

“Society is very focused on the able, the young and the fit and we are in danger of forgetting the needs of those who are older. But volunteers can help older people to still feel a part of the community, to have a social life, to get to the doctor when they need to or have a haircut to feel good about themselves” says Neels.

But it’s not just the clients who benefit from the services provided by good neighbour schemes. Volunteers reap their own rewards too.

Neels explains: “I get a lot of satisfaction from taking someone, who may not see anyone or go anywhere else that week, out and about. You meet so many different people with such fascinating stories to tell – I always leave a richer person for having spent some time with a client. I haven’t met another volunteer who has not felt more positive about themselves after doing something good for someone else.”

Neels finds that the flexibility of volunteering for Horsell Care means he has plenty of time for his many other interests: “Some months I do more, others I do less. I don’t have to commit to a regular time or day – I just get a call from the duty officer asking me if I can help out and if I can, I will, and if I can’t then they will find someone else. I’ve found that I can make a difference to the lives of other people, while still living mine to the max!”



To find out more about becoming a volunteer for your local good neighbour scheme, please visit

[www.wokinggoodneighbours.com](http://www.wokinggoodneighbours.com)

# Reaching for the stars!

**Have you ever wondered how many stars are in the sky? Whether there could be life on other planets? Your ever-intrepid Woking Magazine pondered these questions when it ventured to Winston Churchill School to discover the borough's first planetarium.**

Curiosity has been an inherently human trait since ancient times, and as one of the oldest forms of science pursued by humanity, astronomy has captured the imagination of people across the world.

We have learnt so much about the nature of the cosmos and made astonishing technological progress as a species, all by looking at the sky right above our heads. Yet with such a wealth of information, the night sky can seem a daunting place to explore. The Woking Planetarium, which was part funded by a grant of £100,000 from Woking Borough Council, is a new, innovative and unique facility that aims to guide you on the start of a journey you will never forget.

Our ever-increasing need for electric light means it can be difficult to see the night sky in all its glory without substantial and inconvenient travel. The planetarium is essentially an immersive 360° cinema that provides an informal environment where you can discover the majesty of the heavens at your convenience, without waiting late into the night or putting up with extraneous weather conditions.

See the night sky as our ancient ancestors would have, and even visit the far reaches of the solar system! Perhaps what you learn here could lead to a new discovery of your own?



Located in the Discovery Space of Winston Churchill School, the Woking Planetarium runs shows each week, designed to get you looking up and finding your way around the stars. A different full dome film is shown every month, coupled with a live night sky update from our presenter, whilst other shows are entirely presenter-led.

If you're looking for somewhere to start, why not join us for Stellar Safari? This family-friendly show gives a comprehensive and easy-to-follow introduction to our universe. If you have a little more time on your hands, Laurence Anslow, a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society, presents Starlight Odyssey, a two hour, personally curated show looking at all the latest news in astronomy and space science.

All information about our shows will be posted on our social media so be sure to follow us on Facebook [@wokingplanetarium](#) and Twitter [@wokingplanet](#). Alternatively, you can visit [www.wcsc.org.uk/planetarium](http://www.wcsc.org.uk/planetarium) or email [c.elliott@wcsc.org.uk](mailto:c.elliott@wcsc.org.uk)



## Hire our planetarium

In addition, the planetarium is available for hire. Why not spice up your meeting with a specially tailored dome presentation? Our large activity area and library makes for an accommodating and comfortable environment outside of the dome. Groups of all ages welcome! For more information or to book the planetarium, please email [c.elliott@wcsc.org.uk](mailto:c.elliott@wcsc.org.uk)

# Support for tenants, security for landlords

**If you are a landlord, did you know you can rent your property through the Council and receive security around rental income, whilst supporting social tenants, at a rate close to market value?**



Let's Rent provides different options for long term lets depending on the level of management landlords would like and the length of tenancy. Some options offer cash incentives, guaranteed income for the duration of the tenancy, rent when the property is vacant and repairs. There are currently over 200 Let's Rent tenancies and the average tenancy length is three years.

**Let's Rent Core** - no management option. Council provides a £2,500 financial bond in lieu of five weeks' cash deposit, third party professional check-in and check-out reports and prepares tenancy documents on behalf of the landlord.

**Let's Rent Connect** - partially managed tenancy. Council provides a £2,500 financial bond in lieu of five weeks' cash deposit, a £2,000 cash incentive, two months' rent in advance and regular property inspections throughout the tenancy.

**Let's Rent Complete** - guaranteed rent lease scheme. Properties are fully managed by the Council on behalf of landlords, annual rent is paid in advance, whether the property is empty or not. This option is suitable for landlords looking for two to five year leases, and also provides repairs, inspections and guarantee of vacant possession at the end of the lease with the property returned in the same condition, less fair wear and tear.

Jacqui Dixon, Woking Borough Council's Private Sector Housing Liaison Team Leader, said: "Let's Rent is a no fee, hassle-free way for landlords to rent out their property, whilst helping us to provide much-needed rented accommodation to tenants in Woking."

"We are particularly keen to get in touch with landlords with two or more bedroom properties, however we are keen to speak to owners of any size property from a one bedroom flat to a large family house."



The scheme offers private landlords long-term lets with no fees or commission.

To be part of the Let's Rent scheme properties must be unfurnished and in good condition. Priority is given to providing homes for Woking residents within the borough, however we will also consider properties outside the borough.

To find out more about the scheme, please contact the Let's Rent Team on **01483 743836**, email [letsrent@woking.gov.uk](mailto:letsrent@woking.gov.uk) or visit [www.woking.gov.uk/letsrentwoking](http://www.woking.gov.uk/letsrentwoking)



# Raising a glass to Woking's Best Bar None



**Woking's outstanding pubs, bars and restaurants were crowned Woking's best during a glittering awards evening in January. So before deciding a venue for a night out, make sure they're Best Bar None accredited.**



Supported by the Home Office and the drinks industry, Best Bar None promotes the responsible management and operation of alcohol licensed premises, whilst developing positive partnerships between the police, local authorities and the licensed trade.

Local licensed premises that entered the scheme are assessed against a set of criteria in order to become Best Bar None Gold, Silver, or Bronze accredited.

Each Gold accredited venue was shortlisted in a specific category before being visited and assessed by a team of undercover judges, with the highest scoring in each category winning the award.

In addition, the Asahi UK Social Responsibility Award recognised the venue that has gone above and beyond in their local community, and the Woking News and Mail People's Choice Award was decided by a public vote.

At hearing the news of their success, joint owner of Cellar Megneval, Jo de Magneval, said: "We are delighted to be a part of Best Bar None again this year. Not only has it been invaluable to us as individuals, but with the support of the BBN team, has ensured that our business runs as professionally as possible.

"Being gold accredited is wonderful recognition. It

enables our customers to trust that our standards are as high as they can be. We pride ourselves on providing something unique to Woking and to be awarded Best Bar for the second year running, and to come away as Overall Best Bar winners, was the cherry on the cake. We can't wait for next year!"

Cllr Kevin Davis, Woking Borough Council's Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, said: "I would like to offer my congratulations to the winners of this year's awards, and to all those who were accredited.

"Best Bar None recognises the important contribution venues across the borough make to Woking's leisure and night-time economy, and helps to create a vibrant, thriving and safe environment for both customers and venues."

Without the support of its sponsors and supporters, Asahi UK; Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey; Woking News and Mail; Air Social; #WeAreWoking; Surrey Police and Woking Street Angels, the scheme would not be able to operate.

For further information about the Woking Best Bar None scheme, or to become an accredited venue, please visit [www.wokingbbn.co.uk](http://www.wokingbbn.co.uk)

## And the winners are...

- **Best Bar Award** – Cellar Magneval
- **Best Town Centre Pub Award** – The Sovereigns
- **Best Dining Experience Award** – Chennai Dosa Artisanz
- **Best Local Pub Award** – The Garibaldi
- **Woking News & Mail People's**

- **Choice Award** – Chennai Dosa Artisanz
- **Asahi UK Social Responsibility Award** – The Garibaldi
- **Overall Best Bar None Woking Award** – Cellar Magneval



# TRANSFORMING SHEERWATER

Since receiving the green light in April 2019, work is progressing well on the Sheerwater Regeneration Project.

In each edition of the Woking Magazine, we will take you behind the hoardings of this multi-million pound, multi-phase transformation due for completion in 2026.

## PURPLE PHASE

### Behind the Albert Drive / Bunyard Drive hoarding

This is a medium rise residential development incorporating Murray Green. The property mix includes 10 three-storey town houses and 82 one to three bed apartments. The development is centred around a private car park that will be concealed by a beautifully landscaped podium garden.

The main contractor on site, Gilbert-Ash, is known for its responsible construction practices and positive impact on the communities within which it works.

## LEISURE PHASE

### Behind the Spencer Close / Bishop David Brown School hoarding

Specialist contractor, Pellikaan, has been appointed to build the new leisure centre and sports pitches. Pellikaan has completed more than 900 sports and leisure developments across Europe for councils and private clients and is progressing well with the initial phases of this build. The steel frame for the main building is up and visible above the hoardings. The concrete structures for both pools are also complete and water level testing has been carried out.



Artist impression of the main entrance and car park.



Steel frame going up. Image taken February 2020.

In February 2020 funding for the later phases of the project was agreed by council.



**Concrete frame** for the six-storey apartment block. Here you can see the stairs and lift shaft being built.

**The Mayor has placed a time capsule in the ground** on behalf of the community as these are the first properties to be built as part of the regeneration project.

More news and updates at [woking.gov.uk/sheerwater](http://woking.gov.uk/sheerwater)



**The crane** is the hardest working piece of machinery on site. It stands 33m tall and can lift loads that weigh up to 8 tonne. The driver operates the crane and two 'stringers' on the ground secure the loads, which are always kept within the site boundary.

**These concrete columns** are the supports for the car park roof and podium garden.

“There has always been a strong sense of community spirit in Sheerwater so it’s hugely symbolic that a small part of that has been captured and placed in the foundations.”  
 - The Mayor of Woking



# Government grant to bust town centre congestion and boost local housing

**Woking Borough's elected members have approved the next stage of a £115 million highways enhancement scheme, which will be Woking's biggest infrastructure project to date.**

Acceptance of a £95 million grant, offered by the Government, paves the way for the Council to complete the acquisition of the Triangle site on the south side of the town, deliver the significant improvements to the town centre's road network and widen the outdated Victoria Arch bridge by 2024.

In 2018, Woking Borough Council in partnership with Surrey County Council submitted a comprehensive funding bid to the Government's highly contested Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF), which finances a small number of strategic and high impact infrastructure schemes.

The Councils' successful HIF bid sets out carefully considered and modelled proposals to alleviate long-term congestion issues within Woking Town Centre, future proof the highways and rail network, and unlock 13 brownfield sites for much needed town centre housing, of which a significant number would be affordable. The proposals are reliant upon the delivery of each stage. These include:

- **The acquisition and demolition of all properties located within 'The Triangle' (pocket of land surrounded by the one-way gyratory system).**

The Triangle is of strategic importance for the entire project. Without the acquisition and demolition of the existing site, it is not possible to deliver the proposed highways improvements along Guildford Road and the widening and replacement of Victoria Arch railway bridge.

- **The delivery of highway improvements along Guildford Road.** Working with Surrey County Council, the proposed improvements include: the removal of the one-way gyratory system and the introduction of a two-way dual carriageway, shared pedestrian and cycle paths, and installation of four new toucan crossings for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **The widening and replacement of Victoria Arch railway bridge.** Working with Network Rail, the ambition is to widen the highway that passes under the bridge to improve traffic flows between both sides of the town and provide better access across the railway and to the railway station for cyclists and pedestrians. The road widening will link with the redeveloped dual carriage highway to the north.

Speaking about this important step and the proposed project, Cllr David Bittleston, Leader of Woking Borough Council, said: "This is infrastructure enhancement on a grand scale! It's a once in a lifetime offer which would not be financially viable without this £95 million grant and support of Surrey County Council and Network Rail.

"It has been the Council's long-held aspiration to unlock this part of the town centre and future proof it by providing seamless travel options for all users, improving connectivity around and through the town and, ultimately, providing fit for purpose infrastructure for future housing."

For more information, including the proposals maps, and/or to subscribe to the project's e-newsletters, please visit

[www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarchscheme](http://www.woking.gov.uk/victoriaarchscheme)



# Let the countdown begin

**With less than 18 months until the eagerly awaited opening of the Victoria Square development in Woking Town Centre, The Woking Magazine takes a closer look at how the project is progressing.**

## Residential towers

Standing proudly at 32 and 34 storeys high, the two residential towers are progressing at a steady rate of knots. The installation of energy efficient glazing and generous balconies offering unrivalled views across Surrey will soon be complete, meaning that the building is watertight and internal works on the upper levels can begin.



Nearer ground level, the internal fit-out of apartments is gathering momentum. With plumbing and electrical pipework already in-situ, kitchens, bathrooms and built-in storage and doors are being installed.

## Hilton Hotel

The main focus of works is to the exterior of the hotel, working from the top down. The Sky Bar's iconic double-height floor-to-ceiling glazing has already been installed, with works continuing to the ballroom, function rooms and restaurant.

With the glazing complete, fit-out of the 189 guestrooms inside the hotel has begun. Like the residential apartments, the luxury bathroom suites were built offsite before being positioned on each level ready to be plumbed in, saving both time and resources.



The creation of the senior suites on level 20 is planned to start imminently and will signify the last of the guestroom levels to commence.

In addition to the guestrooms, the main reception, conference facilities, ballroom and function spaces are taking shape with the erection of walls ahead of mechanical and electrical services commencing. The challenges faced for completing these high quality finished areas include accessing ceilings taller than a double decker bus.

## Marks & Spencer

Works to create the commercial space for the new Marks & Spencer are progressing well. Construction of the loading bay and storage areas should be complete shortly, with double-height glazing due to be installed in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, the new retail units at ground level are nearing completion.



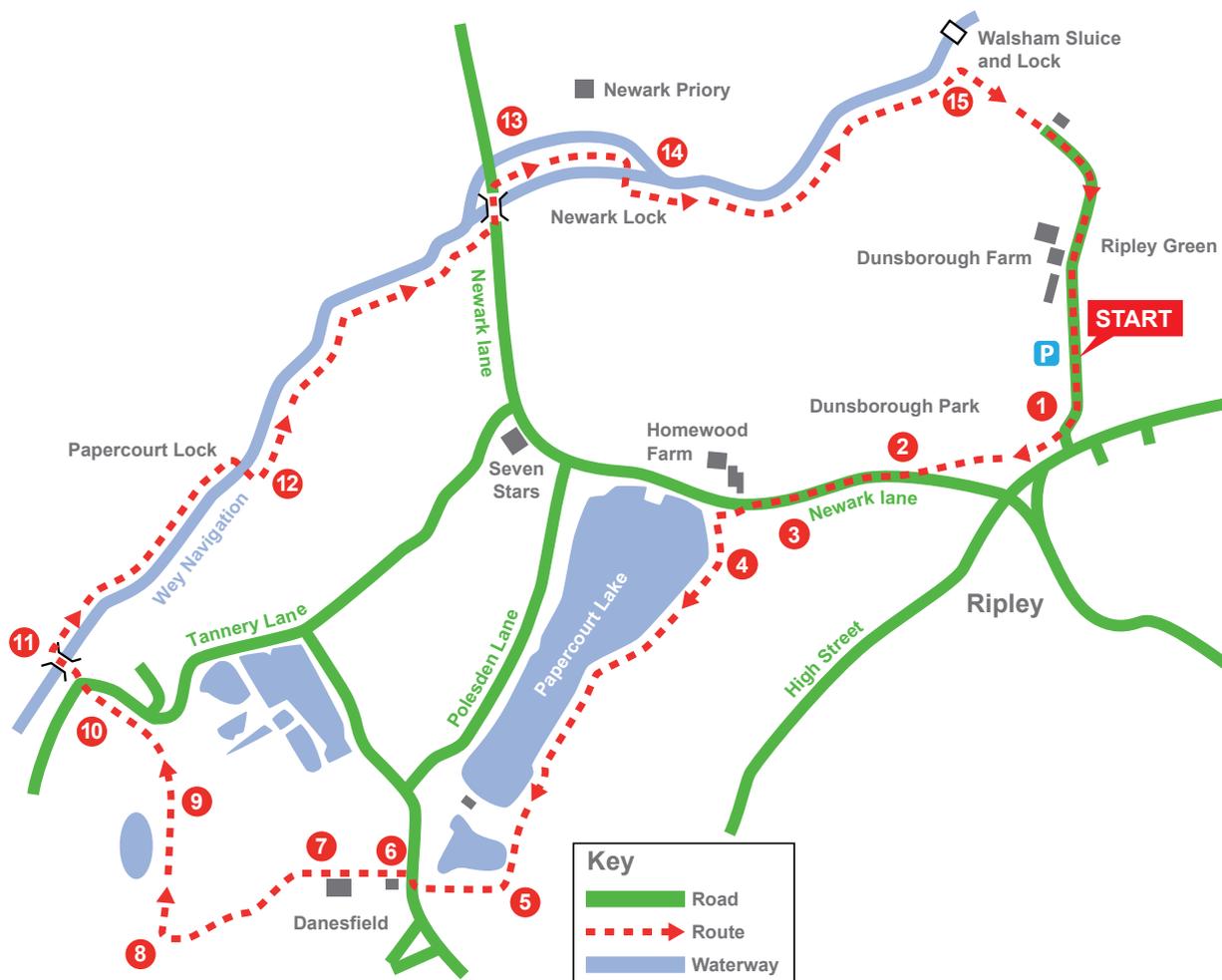
## New car park

Piling for the new car park foundations has been completed, whilst piling for the new stair/lift cores and spiral ramp foundations are ongoing. Works to erect the car park's steel frame are underway and construction of the spiral ramps will begin shortly.

To receive the latest news and information as the project nears completion, sign up to #WeAreWoking's e-newsletter by visiting [www.wearewoking.com](http://www.wearewoking.com)

# Out and about

In this edition we've delved into our archives to bring you a pleasant spring walk taking in the beautiful countryside around Ripley, passing Newark Priory and the Wey Navigation.



## Key facts

**Start/Finish:** Ripley Green car park, off Ripley High Street, A247, Ripley.

**Time:** 2 to 3 hours plus refreshment stops.

**Distance:** 8km (5 miles).

**Type of walk:** Suitable for walkers of all abilities.

The ground is flat, mainly following public footpaths and river towpaths, but can be muddy after rain. Bear in mind that some paths may also be rather overgrown following the wet winter we have had.

## The route

1. From the hard standing adjacent to the play area, walk back towards Ripley, passing the playground and bearing right across the grassy area to Newark Lane.
2. Bear right past the entrance to Dunsborough Park and, after a short distance, cross the road with care and enter field via the site opposite Homewood Farm.
3. Proceed along the fence line and over the stile to reach Papercourt Lake.

4. Bearing left, follow the path for some distance, keeping the lake on your right. Just past the pylon in a clearing, take the left-hand path into the woods.

5. Upon exiting the woods, continue ahead past a felled tree. As the path bears right, follow the lake's shoreline until reaching Polesden Lane.

6. Turn right, cross the road and enter path via stile/gate just past 'Danesfield'. Follow the path (which may be somewhat overgrown), passing allotments on your right.

**7.** After a while, the path passes an old corrugated iron shed and goes over a tiny stream. Continue a short distance, ignore the path to the left and go straight on to the end of the field.

**8.** Fork right, following this track until you reach a 'farm vehicle' bridge on the left. Cross this bridge and immediately turn right to pass a large pond on the right of this path.

**9.** Keep on this path and eventually it will pass close to Tannery Lane. Soon the route will join the lane but it is safer to stay on the path, following it round to the left, for as long as possible.

**10.** Leave the path and join the lane in the top corner of the field. Turn left and cross the road to take the path which passes to the right of Tannery House and crosses the Wey Navigation.

**11.** Turn right along the towpath to Papercourt Lock.

The Wey Navigation opened in 1653, and it was one of the first British rivers to be made navigable. In 1764, the Godalming Navigation opened, creating a 20-mile waterway running from the Thames at Weybridge to Godalming. It is now the southern-most part of the inland waterway network.

**12.** Cross the other bank and follow the path to the main road.

If you wish to stop for refreshments here, you can turn right along Newark Lane to reach the Seven Stars pub.



**13.** Turn left over the bridge, taking great care of passing traffic, and rejoin the towpath to your right to reach Newark Lock.

From Newark Lock, Newark Priory can be seen over the fields to the left of the waterway. The priory is a scheduled monument and was founded in the late 12th century as a house of Austin Canons, dedicated to the Virgin Mary and Thomas a Beckett. Today, a great deal of its flint walling remains standing, and the window and door opening are easily identified, even from a distance (the site is on private land).

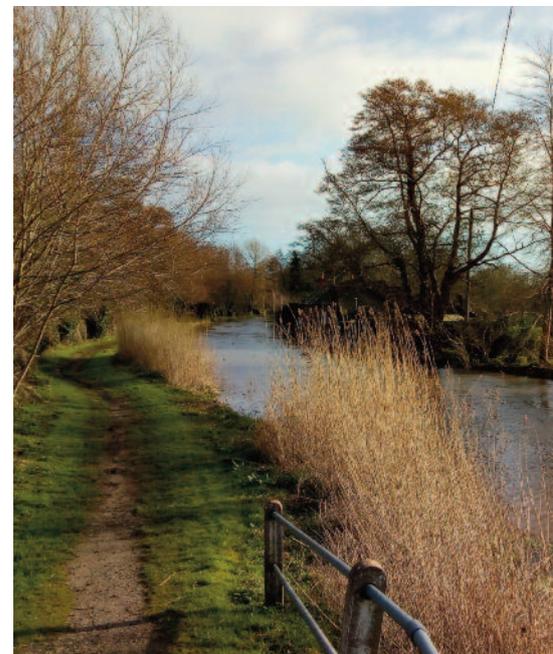
**14.** Again, cross to the other bank and carry on to Walsham Sluice Gates.

This is the last turf-sided local on the River Wey. Originally, the Wey Navigations were used for transporting barge loads of heavy goods via the Thames to London.

Timber, coal, corn, flour, wood and even gunpowder were regularly moved up and down the waterway.

In 1796, the Basingstoke Canal was dug and connected to the Wey, and, in 1816, the Wey and Arun Junction Canal was opened, connecting the Wey at Stonebridge.

**15.** At the weir, turn right and continue along the path which soon becomes a tarmac lane, leading you back to the car park and the start of the walk.





## Play tennis with the family all year round for just £35.

We have teamed up with the LTA to improve our facilities in Woking Park.

Pay and play sessions on our refurbished courts cost £7 but for unbeatable value, families can apply for a household membership.

Membership costs just £35 per year and offers households up to six hours of play per week\*. Each household membership covers up to five people living at the same address, giving everyone in the family the chance to perfect their game.

Key features of our refurbishment include:

- Online booking
- Secure keycode entry
- A premium quality playing surface
- Wheelchair access
- Coaching from Woking Park Tennis (charges may apply)

\*six hours per week, per household, subject to availability.

For more information or to apply, visit [www.woking.gov.uk/tennis](http://www.woking.gov.uk/tennis)



**Your local car body repair expert**

» Major Panel Damage?

» Dents?

» Paintwork Scratches?

» Bumper Scuffs & Cracks?

**Don't lose out on your no claims bonus, call for your free estimate today!**

**FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY FROM YOUR HOME OR WORKPLACE**  
 REPAIRS COMPLETED AT OUR CAR CARE CENTRE IN WOKING

**01932 336999**  
 email [mark.hunter@chipsaway.co.uk](mailto:mark.hunter@chipsaway.co.uk)  
 or visit [www.chipsaway.biz](http://www.chipsaway.biz)

\*Length of repair will be confirmed at time of quote

**SAME DAY REPAIRS GUARANTEED!**

## Are you a landlord looking to rent out a property?

**We offer a hassle-free way for landlords to rent out their properties with security around rental income and a rate close to market value.**

There are three different options that provide cash incentives, money towards safety certificates, guaranteed income for the duration of the tenancy, free repairs and rent if your property is vacant.

**Core**

- £2,500 bond.
- Third party check in and check out report.
- Preparation of tenancy documents.

**Connect**

- £2,000 cash incentive.
- Two months of rent paid in advance.
- £2,500 bond.
- Inspections.
- Partially managed.

**Complete**

- Two to five year leases.
- Annual rent paid in advance.
- Repairs and inspections.
- No void periods.
- Fully managed.

To find out more contact the council's **Let's Rent Team** for an informal discussion.

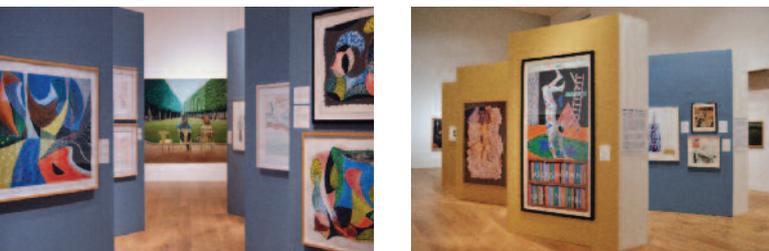
01483 743 836  
[letsrent@woking.gov.uk](mailto:letsrent@woking.gov.uk)  
[www.woking.gov.uk/letsrentwoking](http://www.woking.gov.uk/letsrentwoking)

# Spring has sprung two new exhibitions into life!

Discover inspiring and diverse exhibition this spring at The Lightbox Gallery and Museum

**At the start of 2020, The Lightbox welcomed artwork by internationally-acclaimed British artist, David Hockney.**

A superstar in the art world with a career that spans six decades of creative output, **David Hockney: Ways of Working (until 19 April 2020)** takes an in-depth look at the artist's ingenious exploration of a diverse range of media. From painting techniques, draughtsmanship and printmaking skills, to photography, designs for the stage and the embrace of digital technologies.



This year marks the 500th anniversary of Raphael's death. To commemorate this significant event, exhibitions are being staged around the world to celebrate his achievement as one of the greatest artists of the Italian Renaissance.

At The Lightbox, **Raphael: Prince Albert's Passion (6 May to 6 September 2020)** relays the fascinating story of Prince Albert's passion for Raphael and his creation of the Raphael Collection at Windsor Castle.

The Raphael drawings in the Royal Collection are at the heart of this exhibition and several of them will be shown in a specially-designed space. The exciting exhibition will also feature a rare 17th century tapestry version of one of the artist's cartoons, made at the Mortlake tapestry works under the patronage of Charles II.

## Become a member

For as little as £30 a year enjoy free entry to all exhibitions, discounts across the programme and invites to exclusive events and Private Views.

For more information about becoming a member, or find out more about the many exhibitions and workshops, please visit: [www.thelightbox.org.uk](http://www.thelightbox.org.uk)



'Portrait of Sir David Webster' 1971, Acrylic on canvas 57 x 72" © David Hockney. Photo Credit Richard Schmidt

## Workshops

**The Lightbox has a full schedule of workshops and events to get adults and little ones egg-cited over the Easter break and May half term!**

This Easter, let your little ones go wild at one of The Lightbox's free drop-in workshops. Create animal character finger puppets using new and recycled materials on **Wednesday 8 April**, or pop in to flower pop-ups on **Wednesday 15 April** to create brightly coloured flower pop-ups using patterned and plain paper. Drop in to one of the free workshops anytime from 1.30pm to 4pm.

May half term offers a selection of drop-in and bookable creative workshops. Learn the art of clay coil pots on **Tuesday 26 May**, from 1.30pm to 3pm (5 to 7 year olds), £8 per child, accompanying adult goes free.

Come along to a scrolling camera workshop on **Wednesday 27 May** or make crowns on **Friday 29 May**. Drop in anytime from 1.30pm to 4pm for free.





## Basingstoke Canal boat trips

Woking Town Wharf (opposite The Lightbox)

Every Wed, Sat and Sun (additional trips on Good Friday and Easter Monday), 11am, 1pm and 2.45pm

Join us aboard the Canal Society's boat, Kitty, for a cruise in the beautiful surroundings of the Basingstoke Canal. See the town from a completely different perspective.

**Cost:** Adults £6, children under 16 £4 (under 1 year free), family ticket (2 adults and 2 children) £17, wheelchair user (adult or child, up to two per trip) £4

**Contact:** Visit [www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk](http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk)

## Woking ROC Conversation

Trinity Methodist Church, Horsell

Thurs 12 Mar, 7.30pm to 9.30pm

A community engagement event bringing together local people to discuss the specific needs of their community, and explore practical ways of meeting those needs.

**Cost:** Free but please register as numbers are limited

**Contact:** Email [wokingroc@gmail.com](mailto:wokingroc@gmail.com)

## Easter Egg Hunt

Ottershaw Memorial Fields

Mon 13 April, 10am to 12.30pm

A fun Easter egg hunt through the woods with clues, activities, refreshments, and of course lots of chocolate!

**Cost:** £5 per child

**Contact:** Email [fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk) or visit [www.wsbhospices.co.uk](http://www.wsbhospices.co.uk)

## Canines on the Common

Heather Farm, Horsell Common

Sat 16 May, 8am to 3pm

Bring your pooch to the third annual dog walk – follow the quiz trail, take part in agility displays, get advice from animal behaviour experts and enjoy all things dog related.

**Cost:** Suggested donation £10 per dog

**Contact:** Email [fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk) or visit [www.wsbhospices.co.uk](http://www.wsbhospices.co.uk)

## Lark in the Square Fun Day

Jubilee Square, Woking

Sat 30 May, 10.30am to 4pm

Run by Woking's churches, join us for family fun in Jubilee Square with face painting, puppets, inflatables, live music, BBQ and under 5s playzone – all for free!

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Visit [www.larkwoking.com](http://www.larkwoking.com)

## Midnight Walk

Woking Leisure Centre

Fri 19 June, check-in from 8pm, walk from 10pm

Challenge yourself to join our annual late-night eight mile walk for Woking & Sam Beare Hospices.

**Cost:** From £15

**Contact:** Email [fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk](mailto:fundraising@wsbhospices.co.uk) or visit [www.wsbhospices.co.uk](http://www.wsbhospices.co.uk)

## St Johns Village Fete

St Johns Lye

Sat 20 June, 12.30pm to 4.30pm

Stalls, rides, bouncy castle, obstacle course, music, refreshments and a BBQ. The village event for all the family organised by St Johns Scouts with support of Winston Churchill School.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Derek on 01483 472581



## Woking Choral Society Spring Concert

H.G. Wells Centre

Sat 14 Mar, 7.30pm

Programme - Rossini Petite Messe Solennelle.

**Cost:** £18 (£5 children and students in full time education)

**Contact:** Visit [www.wokingchoral.org.uk](http://www.wokingchoral.org.uk)

## Epworth Choir Concert - The Armed Man by Sir Karl Jenkins

Holy Trinity Church, Guildford

21 Mar, 7.30pm

A modern masterpiece, featuring a perfect balance of rousing and reflective pieces with many familiar and popular melodies. Money raised will go to the York Road Project.

**Cost:** £20 (under 18s and students £5)

**Contact:** Visit [www.epworthchoir.org](http://www.epworthchoir.org)

## Woking Symphony Orchestra Spring Concert – Beethoven

H.G. Wells Centre

Sat 21 Mar, 7.30pm

Marking the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth, this spring concert presents Leonora Overture No. 3, Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral) and Piano Concerto No. 4 with soloist Ivana Gavric. A pre-concert talk for ticket holders at 6.45pm given by the Conductor, Roy Stratford.

**Cost:** £14 adults, £7 for 16s or students

**Contact:** Call 01483 712710, visit [www.wokingso.org.uk](http://www.wokingso.org.uk) or email [wokingsymphony@gmail.com](mailto:wokingsymphony@gmail.com)

## Octavians Spring Concert

Trinity Methodist Church, Brewery Road

Sat 28 Mar, 7.30pm

Choral celebration of women composers including famous Woking resident, Dame Ethel Smyth.

**Cost:** £12 on the door (under 16s

free)

**Contact:** Visit  
[www.theoctaviansingers.org](http://www.theoctaviansingers.org)

### Woking Ladies Choir Spring Concert

Knaphill Methodist Church

Sat 28 Mar, 7.30pm

A varied programme exploring home and our feelings, foreign lands and travelling. Pieces include Home from Beauty and the Beast, Va Pensiero, Take me home, Country Roads and more contemporary and familiar pieces. Raffle and free refreshments.

**Cost:** Adults £12, children (5 - 16) £6

**Contact:** Call 07957 593534, email [thehunties@virginmedia.com](mailto:thehunties@virginmedia.com) or visit [www.wokingladieschoir.org.uk](http://www.wokingladieschoir.org.uk) or [www.facebook.com/wokingladieschoir](https://www.facebook.com/wokingladieschoir)

### Genesis Chorale Spring Concert

St John's Church, West Byfleet

Sat 4 April, 7.30pm

Haydn Missa Brevis, Vaughan Williams Five Mystical Songs, Opera Choruses and guest artist Sophie Kauer - Woking Young Musician of the Year 2019.

**Cost:** £15 (students £6)

**Contact:** Visit  
[www.genesischorale.org.uk](http://www.genesischorale.org.uk)

### Mosaic Chamber Choir Sings Schubert Mass in G

St Mary's of Bethany Church, Woking

Sat 23 May, 7.30pm

To raise money for St Mary's of Bethany Church.

**Cost:** £10 (£5 concessions)

**Contact:** Email  
[info@mosaicchamberchoir.org.uk](mailto:info@mosaicchamberchoir.org.uk) or  
[office@stmaryofbethany.org.uk](mailto:office@stmaryofbethany.org.uk)



### Byfleet Art Group Spring Exhibition

Catholic Church Hall, Madeira Road, West Byfleet

Sat 14 Mar, 10am to 4pm

Enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake while viewing original artworks by members. Prints and greetings cards also for sale.

**Cost:** Free entry

**Contact:** Visit  
[www.byfleetartgroup.com](http://www.byfleetartgroup.com) or email  
[byfleetartgroup@gmail.co.uk](mailto:byfleetartgroup@gmail.co.uk)

### Great British Woodshop - Make a Wooden Deckchair

Oakcroft Road, West Byfleet

Fri 3 April, 10am to 2pm

Join ex-presenter of the Great British Woodshop, David Free, and learn to plan and build your own wooden deckchair to take away.

**Cost:** £65

**Contact:** Call 07767 445343 or email  
[kirsty@greatbritishwoodshop.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@greatbritishwoodshop.co.uk)

### Daisy Tuffen Flower Club

Pyrford Village Hall, 7pm

6 April: AGM with a speaker from RHS Wisley (visitors welcome at 8.30pm)

11 May: Kate Thomas - It's a flowery thing

8 June: Nick Grounds - The Materialist (open meeting)

**Cost:** £6 includes refreshments. Open meeting £13 to £15

**Contact:** Call 01932 351999

### Great British Woodshop Beginner's Upholstery - Strip, pad and cover a dining chair

Oakcroft Road, West Byfleet

Starts Wed 8 April for four weeks, 7pm to 9pm

Ex-presenter of the Great British Woodshop, David Free, will show restoration, paint and upholstery techniques and at each stage you may work on your own chair under supervision.

**Cost:** £150

**Contact:** Call 07767 445343 or email  
[kirsty@greatbritishwoodshop.co.uk](mailto:kirsty@greatbritishwoodshop.co.uk)



### Goldsworth Badminton Club

Woking High School, Horsell

Every Sat, 1pm to 3pm

The club welcomes players of club standard. Feather shuttles used.

**Cost:** £7 per session

**Contact:** Call Ian Baxter on 01483

767748

### Horsell Bowling Club Open Morning

Horsell Bowling Club, Horsell

Sat 11 April, 9.45am and 11.30am

Ideal time for novice and experienced bowlers to try out their bowling skills. Meet qualified coaches, play bowls, have a chat and a coffee and see how you get on. All equipment provided, just wear flat shoes.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Call 01483 760170 or email  
[tricia.horsell.bowls@gmail.com](mailto:tricia.horsell.bowls@gmail.com)

### Woking Park Bowls Club Open Day

Sat 18 April, 10.30am to 12.30pm

Come along and see if this is the sport for you and possibly the family. Club coaches on hand to show you how to enjoy the game. Novice and experienced players welcome. This is a sport for all ages so do come along and enjoy. All equipment provided, just bring flat shoes.

**Cost:** Free

**Contact:** Carole Hamill 07720 471318 or visit  
[www.wokingparkbowlsclub.hitsports.com](http://www.wokingparkbowlsclub.hitsports.com)

### Rhoda McGaw Theatre

**For all performances at the Rhoda McGaw, please contact the Box Office on 0844 871 7645 or visit [www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre)**

### Lost for Words Theatre Company Ltd Legally Blonde

Tues 5 to Sat 9 May, 7.30pm (Sat matinee 2.30pm)

This award-winning musical based on the movie, Legally Blonde The Musical, follows the transformation of Elle Woods as she tackles stereotypes and scandal in pursuit of her dreams. Action-packed and exploding with memorable songs and dynamic dances.

**Cost:** From £15.50

**Contact:** Visit  
[www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking](http://www.atgtickets.com/venues/rhoda-mcgaw-theatre-woking)

# Why don't you... sing for fun, sing for health?



**New for 2020, the council has partnered with multi-award winning choir leader, Emily Bollon, to bring a new motivational singing group to Woking.**

The Woking Community Choir has been meeting weekly at Moorcroft Centre for the Community since the start of February and is open to singers of all ages, abilities and experience.

Singing is proven to be great for physical and mental well-being so the Council has commissioned Motivation by Music to run the group.

Founder and Creative Director, Emily Bollon, leader of Woking's new community choir, said: "We run choirs all over the county that range in size from 15 to 50 people, so there is plenty of space for you to come and be a part of what we have going on at Moorcroft.

"Our philosophy is that if you can speak, you can sing! There are no joining auditions and we don't kick anyone out! We are all about developing those who come along to sing each week."

### No experience necessary

Newcomers can join at any time. Emily explains: "We learn all of our songs with a very simple technique, which is 'call and response', much like how we learn to speak, by copying what we hear. So you don't need any prior experience, you don't need to know how to read music, you can just come and get stuck in."



### Singing for fun, singing for health

Studies have found that singing improves our sense of happiness and well-being, partly linked to the release of positive neurochemicals such as  $\beta$ -endorphin, dopamine and serotonin. Research by Oxford University also revealed that group singing was one of the quickest ways to forge social bonds.

Emily said: "We practice a variety of rock, pop and gospel songs, anything that is uplifting, leaves us feeling connected and ready to face the rest of the day's challenges. I also like to get people moving using finger clicks, clapping, hand actions, shimmies or a gentle sway. Whatever people are up for."

#### Woking's new community choir:

- is informal, sociable and open to new singers of all abilities
- will develop your confidence and passion for singing
- meets on Wednesdays, 12noon at Moorcroft Centre of the Community (GU22 9LY)
- Costs £3 per session (first session free)
- is part of the Motivation by Music choir network giving you the chance to take your singing further.



For more information, visit [www.woking.gov.uk/communitychoir](http://www.woking.gov.uk/communitychoir), email [arts@woking.gov.uk](mailto:arts@woking.gov.uk) or call 01483 743696.

# Events 2020

Another year of fantastic cultural events celebrating everything our Borough has to offer.



<b>Basingstoke Canal Rally</b>	Basingstoke Canal.....	10 - 13 April
<b>Woking Literary Festival</b>	The Lightbox.....	23 - 26 April
<b>Summer Sounds</b>	The Bandstand, Woking Park.....	May - September
<b>VE 75th Anniversary</b>	.....	8 May
<b>Wild About Woking</b>	Woking Town Centre.....	23 - 24 May
<b>Refugee Week</b>	.....	15 - 21 June
<b>Dance Woking's Encounters</b>	Jubilee Square.....	20 June
<b>Woking Shopping Summer Zone</b>	Jubilee Square.....	July - August
<b>Screen on the Green</b>	Woking Park.....	3 - 4 July
<b>Party in the Park</b>	Woking Park.....	4 July
<b>Pride in Surrey</b>	Wheatsheaf Common.....	8 August
<b>Woking Food and Drink Festival</b>	Woking Town Centre.....	4 - 6 September
<b>Heritage Open Days</b>	Across Woking Borough.....	11 - 20 September
<b>Woking Drama Festival</b>	Rhoda McGaw Theatre.....	5 - 17 October
<b>Fireworks</b>	Woking Park and Vyne Field, Knaphill.....	7 November
<b>Diwali</b>	Woking Town Centre.....	7 November
<b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	.....	8 November
<b>Woking Beer Festival</b>	Woking Leisure Centre.....	13 - 14 November
<b>Woking Music Festival</b>	Venues across Woking.....	November
<b>Woking Shopping Christmas</b>	.....	.....
<b>Lights Switch On</b>	Jubilee Square.....	26 November
<b>Christmas Market</b>	Woking Town Centre.....	December

And much more!

[www.celebratewoking.info](http://www.celebratewoking.info)

Or search Celebrate Woking on social media



**'I DOUBT I'LL EVER SEE A BETTER  
PRODUCTION IN MY LIFETIME'**

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**THE MULTI AWARD-WINNING MUSICAL**

THE LINCOLN CENTER THEATER PRODUCTION

**RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S**

# The King and I

DIRECTED BY  
**BARTLETT SHER**



**TUE 7 APR – SAT 18 APR 2020**

**ATGTICKETS.COM/WOKING\* 0844 871 7645\***

\*Fees apply. Calls cost up to 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge.