

GO GODALMING

Supporting & promoting
Godalming to benefit
the Community



NEWSLETTER

September 2020

Edition Number 1

Our Go Godalming committee last met on 22nd January and our subsequent meetings for the year were agreed – we had a new home at the Broadwater Park Community Centre and our groups were either in the early stages or final stages of planning their events for the year ahead – we had heard that there was a nasty epidemic happening in China but didn't give that too much thought at the time...

Then all our lives changed, and we are still in uncertain times as I write this article.

We have decided to produce this newsletter, so you know what the association has been doing (or not) over the past months and where possible, what the future holds. Our 'core' member groups have been invited to submit a few paragraphs for this newsletter and we are going to send this to all members – be it local businesses, schools, retailers, private individuals... and through the good offices of our membership officer Roger, we have identified over 100 subscribers who support us, so we hope this letter will be of interest to you.

We should also welcome your feedback – and if we think it has been favourably received, we will continue producing this at irregular intervals, that's when we have something to tell you – also, from your side, if you would like to contribute, please feel free to do so – we should like to hear from you.

All contacts/correspondence please to secretary@gogodalming.org.uk

So, where to begin... I suppose since we had to cancel our AGM in March, that is a good a place as any to commence – AGM's are an opportunity to reflect and review on the past year's activities but in these unusual times, I will add to this report the six months since so you are completely up-to-date and this also covers the demise of our Godalming Lottery (GOLO) and the upheaval at The Cellar Café.

Firstly, as I always say on these occasions, I'm pleased to report that the association is in the safe hands of its executive and our meetings throughout the year (if they had happened!) are always informative, lively and productive – my thanks to this excellent team for making my role so enjoyable and straight forward.

Our secretary Anne Eve keeps us all in order and focussed on what we should be doing! Roger Barnett keeps the membership ticking along nicely and Tony Bennewith keeps a weather eye on our accounts, which I am pleased to say look healthy.

Tony asked me if he could step down from the treasurer's role and it was with reluctance that I agreed – however his replacement is my friend Andrew Bolton, who has stepped in before for another 'arm' of the association – GOLO - so I knew we were in safe hands. My sincere thanks to Tony for all his assistance over the years and welcome Andrew!

I have been in the chair for seven and a half years now and looking at last year's notes (and maybe those before that...) suggested that it is the time for some fresh blood – fresh ideas and a fresh vision for our organisation – so would reiterate that although I am not off yet, it would be helpful to resurrect the role of vice-chairman possibly with a view to taking the helm next year...

I said in my previous annual report that I wondered if I looked at this report in 2020, I would be saying the same thing. Well I have... and I am! I am happy to take recommendations from any of our members – after all you subscribe to our association and therefore have a voice – so if you feel so inclined, please use it.



Membership - Roger reports that the current situation is as follows.

Businesses/Organisations -

The membership is 47 compared with 50 at the end of 2019 – a net decrease of 3. There have been no new business/organisation members so far during 2020. The list of business/organisation members can be found overleaf.

$$50 + 0 - 3 = 47$$

Individuals -

The membership is 56 compared with 58 at the end of 2019 - a net decrease of 2. There have been no new individual members so far during 2020.

$$56 + 0 - 2 = 58$$

The voluntary donations over and above the basic minimum subscription requested have amounted to £95 in 2020. This is the same amount as in 2019.

***More new members are always welcome! Please ask for details and an application form

membership@gogodalming.org.uk

A full list of our business members can be found on our website.

News from our other groups....



Sadly, one of the groups that was affected by the pandemic was GOLO – The Godalming Lottery - and in March it closed, following the draw at the end of that month. We sent a notice to all those who subscribed by standing order and a general letter to all our outlets and posted same on the website – I show below what we said:

“It is with great regret and a lot of sadness that I must inform you that GOLO has now closed – this was our 137th and last draw – and not at our traditional ‘home’ of the Pepperpot, as has been the case for the past eleven years, but in our treasurer’s drive – observing social isolation... another victim of the dreaded Coronavirus.

GOLO officially 'opened for business' in November 2008 and was (and possibly still is) the first small town lottery of its type in England. On the last Saturday of each month you had the chance of winning £500 or one of sixteen other cash prizes. GOLO was run entirely by unpaid volunteers who were enthusiastic in their belief that Godalming deserves to have the support of people who live in, work in, or visit the town. Buying GOLO tickets ensured that monies raised benefitted everyone.

And by everyone, that's not only those who shared £1,000 each month if their ticket came out of the 'drum' but also 'Good Causes' – this was the very essence of GOLO – to support our local community and countless groups and organisations who have benefitted from this initiative.

And now, due to circumstances beyond our control, we have made the tough decision to close – good stewardship will ensure all our obligations both to you, our ticket manufacturers, those who have standing orders, our commitment to Good Causes and to ensure that the Lotteries commission's regulations are met.

We have advised those who have licensed our activities that we will be closing GOLO at the end of June, which allows the statutory three-month period for collecting and claiming outstanding prizes.

GOLO was created by this association and over that eleven year period has given out over £130,000 in prizes and over £50,000 to Good Causes – it has been a unique lottery – run by volunteers – supported monthly by generous local sponsors – by those folk who set-up Standing Orders and by our numerous outlets who promoted and sold tickets for us and not least... by you – it is a great shame that this community based initiative has run its course and will leave a hole in many people's lives."

I should add a couple of other things – firstly, GOLO was awarded the 'Local Authority Registered Operator of the Year' back in 2015 and our friend Di Cliff received a magnificent trophy at their awards dinner (the trophy can be seen at the Godalming Museum) and secondly, when GOLO was wound up in July, the residue in the account (£1,108.17) was given to the 'Rotary Waverley Covid Support Appeal' with the blessing of all volunteers – so its final good cause!



Godalming-in-Bloom was another programme that was wiped out this year and what a summer it was for our gardens... however my thanks to all our supporters who asked us to carry forward their sponsorship or who guaranteed same for next year – this means we will start our 2021 programme fully funded.



Pete Harris reports on the Go Godalming Youth Canoe Club. Over the winter period they did a few trips on the River Thames and one on the Basingstoke Canal. The young people who took their FSRT (Foundation and Safety Rescue Test) in Chichester Harbour last September should

have taken their initial instructors course at the end of February but due to the abysmal weather conditions, the course was put back to the end of March, so are still waiting...

Charterhouse hosted us at their pool so we could teach those young people who wanted to, to Roll.

January saw the club take eight of the young people West to the Cardiff International White-Water Centre. The Cumecs get more forceful as the day goes on. It was a very long day, but the young people all enjoyed themselves and all, bar none, want to return for another go.

The club started back adhering to the British Canoeing policy of 1:5, so we have three start times 17:15, 17:30 and 17:45 for an hour and a half, currently we are accommodating our last year's members.

Once we are back to being fully open, we have our experienced paddlers will have the chance of a bit of Sea Kayaking from Lymington to The Needles.



Pam Talbot tells me that their main priority is to try and get more people involved into taking their aims forward. This I guess 'mirrors' a lot of our groups... anyway, they produced a newsletter recently and I show extracts from its publication:

They have decided to postpone their AGM until Wednesday 11th November at 7:30pm, either at the Masonic Centre or, if a physical meeting is not possible, then by Zoom.

Unfortunately, both the Civic Design Awards and History Town Walks have been postponed until next year.

Although the National Trust Heritage Open Days team have now decided that an event will happen between the 11th and 20th September, the Trust has already decided that having regard to safety of all concerned, along with all the practical difficulties, they would not organise an event in and around Godalming this year. It is hoped then that next year a bigger and better weekend can be arranged which additionally highlights to the public what the Godalming Trust does.

However, with the theme of Hidden Nature this year, this is your opportunity to explore one or more of the many green spaces in and surrounding our Town.

Looking at our future, our committee are finding it difficult to attract new members – especially as we cannot meet face-to-face – our future is uncertain but there are two things we might do:

- Set up working or task groups to achieve the objectives of the Trust. This would mean that individuals could help with specific tasks on an 'ad-hoc' basis and this would mean not having to commit to joining the executive committee – things like distributing newsletters, publicity materials for the Heritage Open Days, membership forms or researching Blue Plaque candidates...
- With the newsletter that the Trust sent out, there are also membership leaflets – it is hoped that current members might be able to recruit at least one new member from their circle of friends or neighbours

If you can help in any way, please contact us - info@thegodalmingtrust.org.uk



Gillian Martin has pointed me at the latest (September) edition of the Churches Together newsletter – “Link-Up” – which gives current updates of our churches and other local issues.

Acting Chair of Godalming and District Churches Together, Revd Maggie Stirling Troy says as our churches have reopened for public worship it has been a joy for many congregations to meet together in person once again. Even though wearing of face masks is now compulsory, singing is banned, and the two-metre rule is still in force, the God we worship is unchanged. However, most of our churches will continue to maintain some form of online worship, and for many churches 'hybrid services' are the 'new normal'. We have yet to decide how to hold our Churches Together AGM, which is due to take place on 14 October but given the uncertainties that continue to face us, some form of 'hybrid' looks most likely.

Their newsletter can be accessed by clicking onto www.godalmingchurches.org



Like many other activities, Sport has really suffered this year and our main events – the Godalming Run and our 'end of term' Sports Awards are just two of the casualties... however, we were able to enjoy our annual

Bowls Championship finals last month at Godalming and Farncombe Bowls club.

Graham Robinson (Godalming and Farncombe Bowls Club) won the men's trophy by 21-19 over last year's winner and fellow club member Alex Neil. Graham was never ahead in the match until a stunning four points right at the end snatched the match and the trophy! The lady's trophy was won by Milford Bowls Club secretary Liz Avis over Jackie Cornwell (Wonersh Bowls Club) 21-11.

We were able to award five bursaries this year from our 'Go for Gold' programme but with little revenue being realised this year, next year could be a lean one in that direction! One other thing was that we didn't receive a 'Queens award for Voluntary Services' which was disappointing but well-done Sport Godalming for being nominated.

We all hope that we will be back to normal in 2021...

www.sportgodalming.org.uk



Angela Terelak tells us that Godalming Museum closed in mid-March and re-opened with a limited offering on 17th August.

Much of the museum will remain closed for now, but we will have a wonderful new exhibition entitled *Godalming's Secret Cemetery*, based on the 9th – 12th century (Saxon – Norman) cemetery excavated in Godalming in 2014 and on subsequent research at the University of Roehampton. You can find out what this unique archaeological site has to tell us about Godalming's first inhabitants and their world. We look forward to welcoming you. See our website for full details, including how to book. We are open Mondays and Fridays only but hope also to offer one Saturday in October, being Saturday 10th. The exhibition will close on Friday 16th October. So far, the exhibition is being very well-received.

Sadly, it has been decided that Cards for Good Causes will not be in the museum this year, but we hope to have them back next year.

The museum hopes to continue to keep the exhibition gallery open one day a week after the current exhibition finishes, with a display about Jack Phillips and the Titanic. Details will be on the website in due course.

Meanwhile everyone can continue to access our wonderful local history videos via our website or Facebook, and we continue to offer our education loan boxes to schools. We have continued to answer all research enquiries via email and social media, as well as by phone, since we closed. This service will of course continue. A limited amount of museum shop stock is available to those who visit the exhibition.

Anyone can ring the museum on 01483 426510 and we will be pleased to answer any queries.

www.godalmingmuseum.org.uk



Ian Coult reports that just like all other groups involving community gatherings, the Film Society has been hit by COVID restrictions.

We had to stop our Tuesday evening meetings in the Borough Hall in March but thanks to the ingenuity of one of our committee, Paul James, who has special skills when it comes to video streaming, we were able to stream the remaining 6 films in our 2019-20 season. Members enjoyed the films at home in safety by streaming them from our website.

For the new season starting on September 8, we are again intending to stream films to members in their homes and this will continue until the end of 2020. After New Year, we hope that members will once more feel sufficiently confident to gather in the Borough Hall and enjoy films on the big screen.

Arranging to stream our films has proved very challenging as film rights owners and distribution companies have been very wary about allowing clubs and societies to do this. Digital Rights Management and ensuring adequate security so that only members can view the films, have been major concerns. However, a great deal of work by a number of committee members means we are hopeful of providing our members with a succession of excellent films to watch in the autumn and winter. Full details are available on our website as always www.godalmingfilmsoc.org.uk

Relaxed Cinema in Godalming got off to a good start this year with the first film - Singin' in the Rain - playing to a good turnout in early March but then COVID intervened. It is likely we will not show our next film until 2021.

I am sure everyone has watched more films on a small screen during the COVID lockdown but there is no denying the increased enjoyment that comes from watching the film on a big screen as part of an audience. We look forward to getting back to that.



**GODALMING
& DISTRICT
CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE**

John Taylor has taken over as president of the Chamber from Euan Davidson – he tells me that their member meetings have not been taking place because of the virus but we have not stood still!

We are launching our new website in October with members promoting who they are etc. The Chamber, Waverley and Godalming Town Council have been working together to make the High Street 'Covid safe' , it was agreed to close the High Street during the pandemic to make it easier to observe the 2 metre social distancing, encouraging shoppers.

In October we hope to have a full Chamber meeting with Jeremy Hunt MP on a question time format.

www.godalmingchamber.org



Godalming Woolsack, together with Godalming Rotary Club (known as Rotary in Godalming) have combined to offer two programmes to assist families and members of the public affected by the current pandemic and possible job losses once the government's furlough scheme ends next month.

Rotary in Godalming, together with Citizens Advice Waverley, have launched a new fund to ensure financial support and advice is available to all those in need, across the borough of Waverley.

Rotary's Waverley Covid Support Fund has been set up in anticipation that job losses and economic hardship are likely to continue to affect the borough, long after the immediate health impact of the pandemic has reduced.

A number of organisations in Waverley currently offer support to those living in specific areas. The new fund will work together with those to ensure consistent access to financial support for everyone, meaning no families or individuals fall through cracks.

The initial funding partners are Godalming Town Council, the two Rotary Clubs of Godalming, Rotary International and the Go Godalming Association. They have also secured agreement to cooperate with the Farnham Coronavirus Support Fund, Cranleigh Community Fund, Cranleigh and District Lions Club, Busbridge and Hambledon Church Family Support Fund and Henry Smith (Godalming) Charity.

As well as providing financial support, the fund will work closely with Citizens Advice Waverley, who will give tailored, practical help and advice so that individuals can make best use of financial support provided.

To find out more visit the support fund's website at www.rotaryc19fund.org.

Rotary in Godalming are setting up a **'job club'** for anyone who finds themselves made redundant or without work due to the Coronavirus pandemic. The present circumstances can make a job search especially challenging. So, it is even more important that you do yourself full justice when applying! Our trained volunteer facilitators come from many different professional and business backgrounds and experience. But they share the same purpose – to help you succeed in finding a job that is right for you. We cannot promise the outcome, of course, but gladly offer, free of charge independent, practical guidance and support on:

- Understanding your strengths
- Setting yourself a goal and making a plan
- Where to look for jobs
- Filling in an application form
- Creating your C.V. and preparing the right covering letter
- Getting ready for an interview
- Building your confidence
- Coping with rejection
- Staying motivated

If you are interested please contact rotaryjobclub@godalming-tc.gov.uk



And so the Cellar – this little café in Crown Court, which was there for the disadvantaged in our community for over forty years... is no longer BUT it will rise again, possibly in the Spring at a new location. In the meantime, the trustees are talking to possible venues to have a 'presence' so that we can keep continuity with our customers. We do need your support (as ever) to enable us to continue our work and any donations would be greatly appreciated via Virgin Giving – for details visit our website www.thecellarcafé.co.uk



The other thing to highlight is our website, which features all members of the association and all members and groups, please make use of this site and to tell us when you have events to be publicised so we can tell everyone what your group is doing and when – this is our window to the local community...

And if you didn't know... we were approached by a former resident of the Town, who produced a **'Godalming Alphabet'** rhyme and offered it to us to maybe reproduce on clothing or cards or tea-towels etc... and any resulting sales, after costs, would be used for charitable purposes. Your committee decided to opt for tea-towels, and we engaged "Recognition Express" in Guildford to produce a hundred and at time of writing, I have 30 left. So why not buy one or more – they are unique... and selling for £7.50/each... an early Christmas present maybe...? As the advertisement says – "When it's gone – it's gone!"

As I have said before (many, many times...) this is a fantastic and unique association - all these groups, be it our main organisations or affiliated members - all are run voluntarily by people who care about our community and all of us together make Godalming the Town it is and a place to be proud of.

If you get this far, well done and thank you for reading our newsletter – our officers are

Simon Crowther - Chairman – chairman@gogodalming.org.uk

Anne Eve – Secretary – secretary@gogodalming.org.uk

Roger Barnett – Membership – membership@gogodalming.org.uk

Andrew Bolton – Treasurer – treasurer@gogodalming.org.uk

Website – www.gogodalming.org.uk