



Godalming

Town Council

**Annual Report
2022-23**

Mayoral Review	3
Year In Brief	9
Full Council	11
Environment & Planning Committee	14
Carbon Reduction.....	16
Policy & Management Committee.....	16
Staffing Committee & Audit Committee	17
Godalming Joint Burial Committee	18
Community Orchard & Garden Projects.....	18
Godalming Youth Service	19
Attendance Statistics.....	20
What do these numbers tell us?.....	20
Are these numbers enough to indicate successful youth work in and of themselves?.....	21
Case Studies – A clearer mark of success.....	22
Staff.....	22
Training.....	23
Community Events.....	23
Godalming Spring Festival 2022	23
Platinum Jubilee	24
Godalming Staycation 2022	25
Godalming Green Gala 2022.....	26
Proclamation for King Charles III – Sunday, 11 September 2022.....	26
Remembrance in Godalming.....	27
Godalming Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-On	28
Farncombe Christmas Lights Switch-on.....	29
Godalming Pop-Up Events and Farmers’ Markets.....	29
Grounds Maintenance.....	30
South & South East in Bloom	32
1. Town Centre.....	32
2. Nightingale Cemetery – The In-Bloom Judges awarded a Gold, “Excellent”	33
3. Eashing Cemetery – Overall winner in the Large Cemetery Category.....	34
GTC Buildings & Public Realm Repair & Maintenance.....	35
Localism – Working with Surrey County Council.....	36
Godalming & Villages Community Store.....	36
Grants	37
Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund	38
CIL Awarded in 2022/23.....	39
Thank You.....	40
Annual Accounts 2022/23	41
Godalming Town Councillors	42
Town Council Staff.....	42
Annexe.....	43
Capital Works Programme 2023-2026.....	43

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MAYORAL REVIEW



How lucky was I to be Mayor of Godalming? And in a Platinum Jubilee Year!

I'll begin my review with some appreciation. Thank you, Deputy Mayor Adam Duce, the year kept you very busy and your compassion and articulateness added value to every event you attended. Town Councillors your dedication as volunteers to the Town is astonishing, I am beyond proud to be in your company. Lynne Purnell, you are a diamond, you organised my diary and events smoothly and offered sound advice when I needed it, including the occasional, necessary, correction. Rita Tong, you have made managing the Mayor's budget and charity income easy; thanks for that. Suzie Gortler, your ability to make a festival or event come to life is second to none; you gather us together in a way that makes

the Town a happier place. Andy Jeffrey, your energy and strategic skills are a fantastic benefit to Godalming; we are so lucky to have you as our Town Clerk. Thank you, Dr David Faraday, my husband, and Consort; thank you for tying the ribbons on my chains so carefully so many, many times and for encouraging me to be my best self; you are my best friend and my rock.

In 2022 expectations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee were high in Godalming. The Town staff, community groups, volunteers and performers exceeded those high expectations. Thank you! The Jubilee Celebrations were a feast of entertainment. Many people gave their time, energy and talent to create an outstanding Jubilee weekend.

Godalming was treated to the Godalming Town Council Platinum Jubilee Gala which included: the Jubilee Dance Show, A Lovely Jubbly Jubilee Journey and the Jubilee Celebration Concert in the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. The people of Godalming were welcomed to the shows with refreshments and a little glass of prosecco to toast Queen Elizabeth the Second. After the shows we were led by the superb Godalming Band to The Pepperpot to count down to the lighting of the Queens's Lantern. The electric lamp which is now a lasting tribute to Elizabeth the Second; facilitated by former Mayor Penny Rivers.

Just when I thought it couldn't get any better, the Consort and I were paraded down the High Street on the back of a Land Rover. The people of Godalming cheered and waved at us as we drove to the Town Show, Carnival, and Music Event. Our hosts, the Godalming Round Table, were all dressed as Freddie Mercury. What's the collective noun for Freddie Mercuries? A loveliness of Freddies? A moustache of Freddies? I imagined what it would be like to be Queen for the day and the children of Godalming were given the same chance as they dressed up in the theme of Kings and Queens.

The music continued in a concert at Charterhouse School organised by Godalming Choral Society and the Godalming Band. These groups worked together for the first time with thoughtful words provided by Penny Rivers and Liz Wheatley. We were all impressed by the startling talent of William Rawlings a young local percussionist. Godalming Band owned the bandstand with their Jubilee performance hosted by Joy Poulter. Joy is an imaginative, warm

and friendly host who invited me to toast the Queen and say a few words. I echoed the ideas expressed by the Royal Family at their Party at the Palace, asking us all to care for our beautiful planet. I walked home happily that Sunday and joined in a few street parties where people wanted to share their celebrations with me. I had no idea that so much warmth and friendliness would come to me, as the Mayor. This is another thing that I am grateful for.

Sport Godalming encouraged everyone to join in at their Sport For All activities day for the Jubilee. I have been happy to give out prizes to the football teams at Farncombe in June 2022 and to the Amateur Swimming Association in February 2023. Remembering these events reminded me of the prestigious Sport Godalming Prizegiving at the Wilfrid Noyce, that I forgot to go to. Please understand that this was my fault entirely and had nothing to do with not being in my diary.

The Sport Godalming Prizegiving was compered by the funny and unflappable, Michael O'Sullivan and he seamlessly asked former Mayors Penny Rivers and Michael Steel to step in for me. I had double booked myself and when a call came from the Town Clerk; I wondered why he was calling me on a Friday evening when I was at What Next's Climate Club. I didn't work it out 'til the next morning; when I cringed and started a stream of apologies. The apologies were graciously accepted by the chair of Sport Godalming Simon Crowther, and the Town Staff.

The sports clubs of Godalming, many supported by Sport Godalming, give interest and camaraderie to being active all year round. At our clubs we urge our champions on, and support those who desperately need activity and company to keep healthy, physically and mentally. Sports clubs also give a sense of history to our town as we recognise what their members have achieved in the past. The Guildford Rugby Club, based in Broadwater Park, hosted a wonderful 100th anniversary dinner which brought us all together, we shared their history and applauded their charitable work and sporting achievements. Apparently, the women's team are doing very well at the moment.

Godalming in Bloom took me around some allotments and gardens to appreciate the labour of love that many gardeners thrive on. The diverse range of prizes provided by Godalming in Bloom encourage many people to participate. There are prizes for scarecrows, front gardens, tidy gardens, abundant allotments, unique gardens, sociable gardens and environmentally friendly gardens. The prizegiving for this event showed me how many different types of gardeners there are and what joy and health their gardens give them.

The more serious end of the gardening competitions is South & Southeast in Bloom and Godalming entered several categories. I was able to proudly collect the certificates, having had nothing to do with the amazing effort made by the Ground Staff at Godalming Town Council. We won, best large cemetery for Eashing and Gold for Nightingale Cemetery as well as a Silver Gilt for the Town Centre. Jason Hunter who has since moved on from the Town Council grounds team, made an enormous contribution to these successes with help from the rest of the team.

Godalming is becoming known as a Live Music Town and we are spoiled for choice. The Bach Society regularly brings incredible musicians to venues in our town which we can enjoy for a donation to their funds. This is a very inclusive approach so that everyone, no matter what they can afford, can attend. Have you ever heard a saxophone quartet? I have! In the Baptist Church in Godalming.

Every Sunday throughout the summer we are treated to Music in the Park by Go Godalming! This inspired me to have a Mayor's civic event on a Sunday in the Park. We called it the

Mayor's Tea Party in the Park. The Town Council staff helped us create the friendly professionalism that has become associated with Godalming Town events. The High Sheriff of Surrey, Christopher Critchlow, and his wife Wendy, attended and gave the event a positive mention in The High Sherriff's blog.

The Tea Party was supported by Edna's Delights who provided all types of fresh cupcakes, vegan and gluten free included. Godalming Jazz choir sang for us and made a cheerful atmosphere. As it was Father's Day; my Consort, David, said a few words about being a father, Claire Matthes from COPSE read a poem and Jane Malcom Davies a costume historian from Farncombe talked a bit about the Mayor's robes. Rieks Drijver, a trustee of the Mayor's Charity What Next, spoke of his concern for the environment and how we can protect it. As a result, What Next were invited to exhibit at the High Sheriff's Garden Party. Well done Rieks!

The Mayor's Charity, What Next Climate Emergency Centre for Waverley, hosted many events to raise funds and awareness of the things we can do for the environment. Its Climate Club meets on alternate Fridays where a climate friendly meal is prepared and eaten before discussing a key environmental topic. Members of the Rotary Club have been to dinner with the team to explore how their diets could alter to care for the planet. We had a lovely meal at The Wharf who donated a couple of vegan plates for us to try.

Waverley Brough Council has hosted What Next's Climate Action Simulation workshops in the Council Chamber for pupils from Godalming College, Broadwater School, and Rodborough School; I have chaired three of the workshops. Dr Faraday simulates the impact of actions that could be taken to limit global warming to 2 degrees or below. The participants wrestle with the challenges of how it might be done. You would be very proud of the intelligence and commitment we have seen young people apply to this important challenge.

What Next's Eco Theatre Group has constructed a 'rubbish' puppet theatre, made from waste. During the Green Gala you could see Treebeard, Faraday, Elsa, the Mini-Mayor and Everybird considering what large corporates could do to protect the environment. It was a sweltering hot day and Suzie Gortler gathered a fantastic group of green businesses, environmental groups and campaigners to share their products and views with Godalming. I don't know what we would have done without the excellent ethical ice creams provided by Godalming Delights. We were entertained by the steel drum of McGarron who made us think we really were in the Caribbean as the temperatures settled between 38 and 49 degrees. Groups in attendance were the Puttenham Barn Bunkhouse, Godalming Nappy Library, The Yard Market, Godalming Deli, Godalming Library, The Hills to Harbour Community Rail Partnership, Roots for the Future, COPSE, Rotary in Godalming and more.

Something that Godalming Town Council is particularly proud of is the Youth Centre in Broadwater Community Centre. Citizens of Godalming talked about the increase of anti-social behaviour and the lack of services for young people. The Councillors of Godalming Town took the tough decision to raise money for a Youth Centre through our Council Tax. Godalming is very fortunate to have the expertise and care of Tom Manning our full-time Youth Officer. Tom has recruited additional part time youth workers. The Centre showed me their gaming room, their kitchen where they cook food left over from the community larder, their garden and their recording studio which is supported by Musicworks. This youth-led centre has created a supportive environment for children to talk, learn and discover what they need to do well. The Youth Centre has already made a significant reduction in the incidence of anti-social behaviour. The Community Store and Larder are still supporting families through the cost-of-living crisis.

The Staycation summer programme is one of the highlights of the Godalming Calendar. Many fantastic activities are offered to people of all ages. Music, crafts, and sports are available; Domdom's drumming workshop is particularly popular. I had the pleasure of experiencing canoeing, puppet making at the library, angling and a tour around the Ladywell Convent. Apologies to the activities I couldn't make. I was particularly disappointed to miss the bowling. And, of course, there was Staycation Live, Godalming's own free Music Festival – an exceptional return this year after a 2-year break.



Mayen Association Celebrating 40 years of Friendship



Meeting Anglers at Staycation

The friendship group associated with Twinning of Mayen in Germany was hosting a 40th Anniversary celebration which was delayed owing to Covid. It was my pleasure to take them to

Staycation Live on the Friday Evening and Saturday morning with the Mayor of Mayen, Herr Dirk Meid, and a few of the German visitors. They were very impressed with the set up and particularly with the appearance of my one and only daughter Cassidy, or maybe that was just me, as proud Mum.



Mayor of Mayen, Herr Dirk Meid, with Cllr Shirley Faraday, Mayor of Godalming

The delayed 40th Anniversary of the Mayen and Godalming Friendship Group, included a hog roast at the Masonic Hall. We took a lovely picture to remember the day; you can see it in the entrance to the Godalming Museum. Many of us were given a large metal candle holder with scenes from Mayen and Godalming on either side to symbolise our connection. Recognition of the Anniversary required an official visit to Mayen. David and I travelled by train with two former Mayors: Liz Wheatley and Michael Steel. We were joined by two more former Mayors in Mayen, Paul and Penny Rivers. I was very grateful to Greyfriars Vineyards who gave

me a case of their award-winning sparkling rose to give to our hosts. We were entertained lavishly and given a sculpture which is also in the entrance to the museum. The twinning association returned the favour with a large, framed copy of the photograph we had taken in Godalming. Liz Wheatley had to carry the large photograph on the train, managing four changes!

Opening an event is an iconic Mayor's duty and it was my fortune to open Majestic Wines. It is not every day I get to cut a ribbon with a large golden pair of scissors or to drink fine sparkling wine before lunch. Majestic wines have supported several charitable events in the



Opening of the Godalming Repair Cafe, photo courtesy of Phil Kemp

town by donating cases of wine. Another ribbon cutting opportunity was provided by the Godalming Repair Cafe, set up by Rotary. On every 4th Saturday of the month, from 10am to 12:30, people can bring their broken things to be fixed at the Wilfrid Noyce Centre. This saves people money, prevents items going to landfill and restores deeply personal items to their former glory. The mornings have become a social event as well. And there is cake!

Professor Rex Thorpe, from the University of Surrey, having heard of the lovely Music in the Park event, asked David and I to host a visit from the Nobel Prize winning OPCW (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons) at this event in August. It was lovely to see Godalming through our visitor's eyes. They took pictures on the river, in front of the bandstand and in the cloister. They loved the music and the food provided by The Wharf Restaurant. The University of Surrey's Chemical Engineering Department has been responsible for four weeks of the OPCW's Associate Programme for more than twenty years; David has worked on it since its inauguration.



Members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons enjoying Music in the Park



Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Shirley Faraday, reads the Accession Proclamation of King Charles III

Where were you on the 8 of September 2023? I was in a cabin in a forest in Hampshire having a short break after a busy summer. It was too wet for walking, so we were watching Parliament on TV; when suddenly everyone left the chamber. It was very odd. News about the Queen's increased frailty had been going around and we found out shortly afterwards that Britain's longest serving Monarch had died. With this sad news the Town Council staff stepped up again to provide for Godalming's

historic and emotional needs. I felt sure that Her Majesty would live to be at least as old as her mother who died at 101. Clearly, I was wrong.

Books of condolence were held at the Town Council offices, and some were circulated to care homes and churches for people who couldn't come to the council offices. And before we were able to conduct services in memory of Elizabeth, we needed to proclaim the new king. A new Monarch had not been announced for 70 years. The Proclamation was made by the High Sherriff in front of Guildford Cathedral. I was given my words by the High Sherriff and then heard the Mayor of Waverley, John Ward, repeat them in the Waverley Borough Council Chambers before I did the same at The Pepperpot. The Godalming Band and the people of Godalming were by my side, supporting me, as I read the ancient text. This reading is now in the archives at the Museum. St Peters & St Pauls held a service some days later where our thoughts could be devoted to our reflections on the Queen's life. I was very grateful that the Jubilee had celebrated her so well.

As we approached Remembrance Day, I was reminded of the Not Forgotten Tea Bus that started its tour outside Waitrose in Godalming. There had been a pudding competition for the Queen's Jubilee and the runner up was there with her delicious cake; service men and women were reminded that their sacrifice is appreciated. As we all know war is a failure or a crime between countries, but sometimes there is no other way.

During the lively run-up to Christmas, we had carols by candlelight, a wonderful town day which overflowed with warm wine, warm cider and warm feelings. Peppa Pig, Santa, Sleeping Beauty and The Grinch all put in an appearance to switch the lights on and the festivities were compered by Nick Wyschna of Godalming Panto. The following week the lights were switched on in Farncombe, with Santa, James Rattue and the children of Farncombe C of E infants school singing for us.



The Mayor and The Grinch

Ahead of me as Mayor, I still have the Spring Festival and the coronation of our new King as a few more times where I can congratulate the people of this amazing town. It will be a lovely moment to appreciate volunteers at the Annual Town Meeting on the 16 March. Godalming is a great place to live and the people who volunteer for causes, charities, community groups and arts make our Town what it is.

Thank you, Godalming! Thank you, Town Councillors for picking me! Thank you, Town Council staff, for your patience and kindness; you seem to always go the extra mile for Godalming.

Shirley Faraday

Councillor Shirley Faraday
Mayor of Godalming 2022/23

Year In Brief

This Annual Report provides a flavour of the many activities, events, work and actions organised or undertaken by Godalming Town Council during the 2022 civic year, full details of the Town Council's services, its meetings, policies, procedures and financial arrangements can be found at www.godalming-tc.gov.uk

Godalming Town Council was established in 1974 and is currently run by an elected body of 20 councillors representing the five electoral wards of the town. Details of the electoral wards and individual Members can be found at the end of this document. *Godalming Town Councillors* represent the community on a voluntary basis. Members are not paid a salary, nor do they receive allowances for being a councillor or for the work they undertake.

Although the Town Council is currently arranged as a 20-Member Council covering 5 wards and Waverley Borough Council is arranged within Godalming as 5 wards with 2 councillors per ward, the outcomes of the Local Government Boundary Review and the Waverley Governance Review will see changes to these structures brought in for the May 2023 local elections (see *Full Council*).

Since its creation, Godalming Town Council has developed into one of the largest town councils in the county, and nationally is in the upper quartile of Local Councils. The Town Council is completely independent of both Waverley Borough Council and Surrey County Council and is responsible for delivering a range of quality-of-life services and community activities that include its town centre venue the Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Broadwater Youth Centre and the town's iconic Pepperpot. The Town Council also funds the Godalming Youth Service, Godalming Museum, public toilets in Godalming and Farncombe, two cemeteries, sixteen acres of allotment sites, Floral Godalming flower displays, Christmas Lights in Farncombe and Godalming retail centres and a range of festivals and markets held in the town.

The Council also runs the Staycation holiday programme, the town's annual Remembrance Parade and assists in the management of the monthly Farmers' Markets. The Town Council also supports several events run by community organisations such as Sport Godalming's Community Run and the Round Table's Town Show, all of which help make Godalming such a vibrant community.

Despite restrictions early in 2022, Godalming Town Council worked to deliver services as normal as possible. Early 2022 saw the re-opening of the Godalming Museum, operating Thursday-Sunday. In 2022 we said thank you and farewell to Angela Teralak who had worked to support the Museum for many years as the Volunteers' Co-ordinator. With Angela's departure we welcomed Viv Ellis in a new role as the Museum Support Manager.

It was with deep sadness that in early January we were informed of the passing of Alison Pattison, who had served for 25 years as the Curator of Godalming Museum. Those who were fortunate to have known Alison will remember her as the passionate, enthusiastic, warm, and friendly person that she was, who worked tirelessly to make the Godalming Museum a centre of excellence and study for local history, but more importantly, a place of welcome and friendship.

As we all know, 24 February 2022 saw the illegal invasion of Ukraine. As in many other communities Godalming residents put themselves forward and formed support groups to

assist in the Homes for Ukraine scheme and opened their hearts to those who were forced to flee the dangers of war. The plight of our Ukrainian guests created many challenges for local authorities, the work of Surrey County Council and especially Waverley Borough Council should not go unrecognised. Of all the English counties, Surrey has welcomed the second highest number of Ukrainian families, with Waverley hosting the highest number within Surrey. At a more local level, Godalming, Haslemere and Farnham Town Councils, along with Cranleigh Parish Council and many community groups, including churches, Rotarians and Lions clubs have worked not only to support Ukrainian families locally, but also to collect warm clothing and funds for generators for distribution to Ukraine for those facing the harsh winter weather.

Following its successful move to premises at Broadwater Park newly renovated by Town Council staff, the [Godalming Community Store](#) has continued to support members of our community through difficult and challenging times. During the summer of 2022 the Community Store successfully registered as an independent charity, which will allow it to continue to support residents. Godalming Town Council would like to thank, not only the superb volunteers who make the day-to-day operation of the store work so well, but also those who have stepped up to become trustees of the new charitable body.

Having set out the groundwork during the pandemic, one of the biggest achievements of 2022 was the opening of the new youth centre at Broadwater Park, a fuller update on the work of the *Godalming Youth Service* is set out later in this report.

A milestone was reached on 2 June 2022, when Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. Godalming celebrated with a wide range of events during the Jubilee weekend, which are highlighted in the *Community Events* section of this report.



Sadly, on the 8 September, the Town Council was informed by the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Flags were lowered to half-mast at The Pepperpot, and the War Memorial and books of condolences opened for residents to sign. The Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Shirley Faraday, represented the town at the County Reading of the Accession Proclamation at Guildford Cathedral, then returned to Godalming to read the local Accession Proclamation at The Pepperpot, thus continuing a tradition that dated back to King George IV in 1820.

As well as supporting a wide range of community groups with Grant Aid funding, 2022/23 saw the first awards made by the Town Council from Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy funds for the benefit of the community (See *CIL Awarded in 2022/23* section).

In June a by-election was held in the Central & Ockford ward, which saw Tom Kiehl representing the Liberal Democrats, elected as a Town Councillor. The outcome of the by-election maintained the existing political make-up of Godalming Town Council.

Godalming Town Council is operating on a collaborative basis between the Liberal Democrats (10), Green Party (4), Labour (2) and Independent (1) making up an administrative group of 17. Cllr Paul Follows (LibDem) is the Leader of the Council and Chair of the Policy & Management Committee (P&M) with Cllr Clare Weightman (Green Party) elected as Deputy Chair of P&M.

Members elected as a Chair/Vice Chair of Council Committees are:

Policy & Management:

Chair: Cllr Paul Follows (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Weightman (Grn)



Environment & Planning:

Chair: Cllr Crooks (Grn)



Vice Chair: Cllr Heagin (LD)



Staffing:

Chair: Cllr Duce (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Hullah (LD)



Audit:

Chair: Cllr Heagin (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Crooks (Grn)



Joint Burial:

Chair: Cllr Steel (LD)



Vice Chair: Cllr Martin (C)



Full Council

Much of the work of the council is undertaken in committees, which either make a report to the Full Council on activities managed under delegated authority of the Full Council or they make recommendations to the Full Council where a decision must be made by the Council as a whole.

The Full Council is responsible for authorising the use of Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding and April 2022 saw the awarding of CIL funding to Busbridge Junior School (see *CIL Awarded in 2022/23* section). Further CIL funding awards were also made to Godalming Junior School and Broadwater School.

May 2022 saw the Annual Meeting of the Council, often called 'Mayor Making' when Cllr Shirley Faraday was elected as the Town Mayor for 2022/23 and Cllr Adam Duce was elected as the Deputy Mayor. Whilst no formal business is usually transacted at the Annual Council meeting, due to the emerging situation, the Council agreed to provide funding to local community groups who were supporting Ukrainian refugees.

Following 12 months of work by a Task & Finish Group and scrutiny by the Policy & Management Committee, the July 2022 meeting of the Full Council approved the adoption

of a strategic document relating to a range of issues surrounding GTC activities in the Farncombe and Binscombe area.

[Farncombe Village & Binscombe Community Vision for a Greener Cleaner Sustainable Future](#)

This document provides the context and raises awareness of specific issues affecting Farncombe Village and the Binscombe Community areas. It also identifies the current activity being delivered by Godalming Town Council (GTC) to support the general well-being of residents and the economic sustainability of the village centre and locality retail areas and identifies ways in which GTC can provide direct action, influence or support improvements within the Farncombe Village and Binscombe Community areas. The importance of this document lies in its basis for community engagement for the enhancement of the area.

The [Farncombe Village & Binscombe Community Vision](#), as well as the [Council's Programme 2019-2023](#), and the [Town Centre Strategy](#) can be viewed on our website; the *Capital Works Programme 2023-2026* can be found as an annexe to this report.

The July meeting of the Full Council saw the Council recognise the need to plan for the decarbonisation of its estate to achieve its aim of carbon neutrality. This subsequently led to the adoption of a *Capital Works Programme 2023-2026* and a funding agreement.

The approval of the Council's budget and setting the Parish Precept (the amount of money it raises from council taxpayers living within the parish of Godalming) is undertaken by the Full Council. At its meeting on 15 December 2022 the Full Council approved a Parish Precept of £1,041,644 for 2023/24.

The year-end also saw the conclusion of a year-long effort to secure the continuation of Scout canoeing at the Godalming Wharf. The signing of an agreement between The National Trust and Godalming Town Council safeguards the activities of the Godalming District Scout Canoe Club and the Surrey County Scout Association Canoe Club at the Wharf for the next 20 years.

After 128 years of operating the Godalming cemeteries as a joint venture, initially between Godalming, Shackleford, and Busbridge Council's and then for the last 46 years between Godalming and Busbridge Council's, new arrangements agreed in December 2022 will see Godalming Town Council accept the sole management of both Nightingale and Eashing cemeteries.

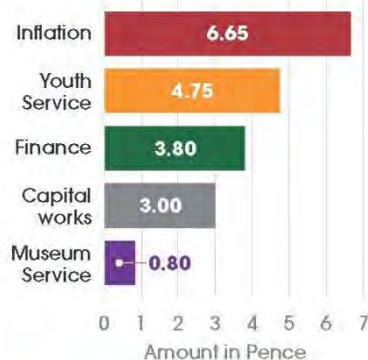
The Parish Precept element of your Council Tax supports the work of Godalming Town Council, who provide services that support residents of Godalming and Farncombe.

WHAT YOUR PARISH PRECEPT SUPPORTS

Supporting Young People **Community Buildings**
Youth Centre **Christmas Lights** **Community Store**
Public Realm **Farmers Markets** **Climate Emergency** **Pandemic**
Staycation **Allotments** **Cemeteries** **Museum** **Business Improvement**
Youth Centre **Public Toilets** **Carbon Reduction** **Grants**
Floral Godalming **Remembrance Day**

Godalming Town Council provides a range of services to support residents, some of which are shown on this page. Each year the Council publishes an Annual Report that details the work of the Council, the 2022/23 report can be found at godalming-tc.gov.uk/annual-reports. Information about the 2023 Godalming Parish Precept is shown on overleaf.

The increase in the Godalming Parish Precept of 19p per week for a Band D Council Taxpayer is broken down as follows;



THIS YEAR THE GODALMING SHARE OF THE COUNCIL TAX INCREASES BY 19p A WEEK (2.7p PER DAY)*

**for a Band D council tax payer*

The Godalming precept is needed to cover rises in inflation and increased energy costs, but it also supports new services, including improvements to green spaces, public and community facilities.

The increase is accounted for by:

- **INFLATION** is the biggest single factor affecting the Council's budget (35%)
- extending our youth service (25%)
- capital works to decarbonise the council's assets and estate (16%). (This invest-to-save scheme has significant future cost savings for the council).

Widening of the youth service will allow engagement with more of the town's young citizens. The Council has received excellent feedback from residents following the first year of the youth service provision. Around 56% of Broadwater School pupils have some interaction with the youth provision and police report an approx. 60% reduction in anti-social behaviour. Through Waverley's allocation of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, we have opportunities over the next few years to expand the youth service to cover a wider area and support more of our young people.

The Council has a responsibility to ensure it is able, when needed, to manage unexpected expenditure in support of the community. Having used reserves in responding to community needs during the pandemic, 20% (3.8p a week) will help rebuild those reserves.

Godalming Town Council - Supporting Our Community

For further information visit: godalming-tc.gov.uk

Having made a submission to Waverley Borough Council regarding a Community Governance Review to consider the size of the Town Council and the make-up of the electoral wards of the Godalming Council area, the outcome of the review was published in early December 2022. It has been agreed that from the May 2023 local elections, Godalming Town Council will consist of 18 councillors, two less than at present, whilst still retaining five electoral wards. The make-up of the new structure is shown below.

Ward	Councillors Per Ward
Binscombe	3
Charterhouse	3
Farncombe & Catteshall	4
Holloway	4
Central & Ockford	4
Total No Cllrs	18

Environment & Planning Committee

The role of the Environment & Planning Committee is to address and, where appropriate, formulate policy for consideration by the Council and to discharge the Council's functions relating to the local environment and infrastructure. This includes identifying key environment and planning issues whilst considering the natural and built environment. The Environment & Planning Committee also considers issues relating to local and regional plans or other planning and highway matters brought to the Town Council's attention.

The Environment & Planning Committee also scrutinises applications made to the Council by local organisations for funding from the *Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund*.

The regulations that govern how CIL is spent require that Godalming Town Council utilises the Neighbourhood CIL allocated towards either:

- the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or
- anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places upon Godalming.

These definitions allow GTC and the local community to consider quite broadly what is needed to help to mitigate the impacts of development in Godalming. The definition of infrastructure is broad and includes roads and other transport infrastructure, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces.

If satisfied that an application meets the required eligibility, benefits residents of Godalming and is considered value for money, the Environment & Planning Committee make appropriate recommendations to the Full Council for the final decision on the level of any award.

Since April 2022 the Environment & Planning Committee has considered 324 planning applications, listed building consent applications, Tree Preservation Orders, Permitted Development Prior Notification Notices and Certificates of Lawfulness. When considering

planning applications, the committee seeks to ensure compliance with policies set out in the Godalming & Farncombe Neighbourhood Plan.

Throughout the year the Environment & Planning Committee has been engaged with Waverley Borough and Surrey County Councils to identify suitable locations for the provision of on-street electric vehicle charging facilities in Godalming, resulting in 14 on-street charging points commissioned by the end of January 2023 with an addition 20 planned by the end of March.

The committee not only considers the move from internal combustion to electric vehicles to be beneficial for future sustainability but also believes good public transport to be a vital ingredient to reducing the volume of traffic on the roads and reducing the carbon footprint of travel. It was therefore extremely disappointing when SWR reduced the train service from Farncombe Station to just one off-peak train per hour.

Godalming Town Council not only wrote on several occasions to SWR regarding the reinstatement of the two train per hour off-peak service from Farncombe Station, but also continued to lobby on this issue at SWR and Network Rail conferences and forums. It was pleasing to see the Council's engagement pay off when it received the following message in October 2022 from SWR's Senior Stakeholder and Public Affairs Manager:

“I'm pleased to say we can confirm that we will be restoring two trains per hour at Farncombe station in the off peak, meaning there should therefore be two trains per hour through the day from this station (Mon-Sat). I think this is exactly the change you had been asking for so I hope this is positive news for you, local stakeholders and residents.”

As well as the train services from Farncombe, the Environment & Planning Committee also expressed concerns regarding proposals put forward for the No 42, 70/71/72 routes in and around Godalming by the Surrey County Council "Future Bus Services Review". The Town Council has expressed concern at proposals to reduce bus services at a time when use of bus services should be promoted and encouraged as a means of meeting the county's climate change challenge and at a time when residents are having to deal with a cost-of-living crisis, which the withdrawal of local bus services could make even more challenging for many residents. GTC's submission can be read in full on its [website](https://www.godalming-tc.gov.uk).

Carbon Reduction

Although slightly lower than the 36.8% achieved in 2021, the 33.5% reduction in Scope 1 & 2 emissions in the 2022 Carbon Audit as measured against the 31 March 2019 datum continues to show the Council's commitment towards becoming a net zero energy consumer.

There is no doubt that the Council has made progress in its ambition to be a carbon neutral organisation by 2030 with an earlier target for carbon neutrality in scope 1 and scope 2 emissions by 2025. However, there is also no doubt that the closer it gets to net zero the more challenging the target becomes. In recognising these challenges, the Environment & Planning Committee pushed for the development of a decarbonisation plan for GTC's estate. This resulted in the adoption of the Council's *Capital Works Programme 2023-2026*. The capital works programme not only supports the Council's drive to net zero, it is also an 'invest to save' initiative, which will reduce the Council's future energy costs.

Policy & Management Committee

The Policy & Management Committee is the main business and scrutiny committee of the Council, chaired by the Leader of the Council.

During 2022 it:

- held a public consultation on the [Farncombe Village & Binscombe Community Vision for a Greener Cleaner Sustainable Future](#) and having considered the public responses recommended its adoption to the Full Council;
- agreed to increase funding to the *Godalming Youth Service*, to allow an increase in available staff hours to continue to deliver the youth service in a sustainable manner;
- worked with Busbridge Parish Council to agree the terms for the dissolution of the Godalming Joint Burial Committee arrangements and for Godalming Town Council to take sole responsibility for the management of Nightingale and Eashing Cemeteries;
- supported the Staffing Committee's recommendation and agreed funding to enable the Grounds Assistant's position to become a full-time post, effective from 1 April 2023;
- led on Godalming Town Council's submission to Waverley Borough Council for a share of the Government's [UK Shared Prosperity Fund](#) (UKSPF) agreeing that GTC should become a delivery partner to support the Government's Levelling Up agenda through the implementation of the UKSPF project for youth provision as approved by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities.
- Godalming Town Council put forward a proposal for the expansion of the Godalming Youth Service from its base at Broadwater Youth Centre to provide youth engagement and activities at Ockford Ridge and Aarons Hill and other local areas. Pleasingly, from over 100 submissions, the Godalming Youth Service project was approved as the largest single recipient of UKSPF in the Waverley area with funding of up to £275,000

Why we need to reduce Carbon Emissions (CO₂)

Carbon emissions are dangerous in that they threaten the livelihood of our planet, animals, humans, and ultimately, life as we know it.

The amount of carbon emissions trapped in our atmosphere causes global warming, which causes climate change, symptoms of which include:

- melting of the polar ice caps
- the rising of sea levels
- the disturbance of animals' natural habitats
- extreme weather events
- and so many more negative side effects that are dangerous to the planet, to human and animal life, and to our future.



An average of **18.7 tonnes CO₂e** is consumed per household **each year in Godalming**.

(www.impact-tool.org/footprint/search)



- 2.6 tonnes from mains gas
- 1 tonne from electricity
- 7 tonnes for consumption of good and services (leisure, entertainment, sport and social activities)
- 2.3 tonnes from meat and fish
- 2 tonnes from other food and drink
- 1.7 tonnes from private transport
- 1.6 tonnes from flights
- 0.5 tonnes from public transport

Working together
we **can** make a difference



Responsible  Godalming

over the next two years. It is anticipated that this project will help reduce anti-social behaviour, improve health and well-being and educational attainment of the area's young people, increase community volunteering by the area's young people and increase the number of jobs created within the council's youth and community services.

- With the [Coronation of King Charles III](#) taking place on Saturday, 6 May 2023, the Policy & Management Committee agreed to support a range of events over the weekend of the 6-8 May 2023. GTC's main event will be a celebratory concert at The Burys during the mid to late afternoon and evening for residents to enjoy that will provide an opportunity to showcase local talent, support local businesses and provide an opportunity for the local community to celebrate the coronation. Additionally, GTC will look to support residents and community groups who wish to host street parties e.g. supporting applications for road closure licences, loaning road signs and barriers, trestle table and chairs etc. GTC will also be supporting the Go Godalming Coronation Music in the Park at the bandstand on Sunday, 7 May 2023.
- agreed the terms for the re-introduction of a Town bonfire and firework celebration;
- provided evidence submissions to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England relating to the electoral warding arrangements for Godalming;
- awarded grants to support local organisations and community groups (see *Grants*);
- scrutinised accounts paid and schedule of payments and monitored the approved budget throughout the year;
- set up a Task & Finish Group to:
 - provide the context and raise awareness of some of the issues affecting the Farncombe and Binscombe area and how they relate to community well-being;
 - identify current activity being delivered by GTC to support the general well-being of residents and economic viability of the Farncombe retail area; and
 - identify ways in which GTC can provide direct action, influence or support further improvements within the Farncombe and Binscombe area.
- reviewed Council documents, [policies and procedures](#);
- reviewed and revised the [Council Programme 2019-2023](#);
- led on the arrangements for Godalming to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen; and
- through its scheme of delegated authority, allowed the Leader of the Council and political group leaders to approve the arrangements for the Proclamation of Accession of King Charles III.

Staffing Committee & Audit Committee

Although the smaller committees of the council, the roles of these committees, whilst not glamorous, is extremely important to the good governance of the council and instrumental in Godalming Town Council being a "Quality Council".

The work of the Staffing Committee ensures that Godalming Town Council remains a good employer, which meets its obligations to staff, whilst also ensuring that the correct policies and procedures are in place for staff to provide the best service they can for the council and the community. The Staffing Committee also works to ensure that the staffing structure of the council is as efficient and effective as possible for the delivery of services.

The Audit Committee ensures that good financial governance and risk management are always to the fore of the council's work.

The work of both committees can be seen through their agenda and minute papers, which can be found on the [Town Council's website](#).

Godalming Joint Burial Committee

The Godalming Joint Burial Committee (GJBC) holds responsibility for the management of the council's bereavement services, including the management of both Nightingale and Eashing Cemeteries.

Although a joint committee between Godalming Town Council and Busbridge Parish Council, the administration and delivery of the bereavement service as well as the operation and maintenance of the cemeteries is conducted by Godalming Town Council staff. After 40 years of joint arrangement, the increasing complexities of administration and land management has led the constituent members to conclude that the most efficient and effective way forward, both economically and for staff resource, is for the joint arrangement to be dissolved and for Godalming Town Council to assume full responsibility for the bereavement service and cemeteries. It is anticipated that the new arrangements will come into being on 1 April 2023.

Community Orchard & Garden Projects

Whilst always bearing in mind the primary role of Eashing Cemetery as the main burial ground for Godalming, Busbridge and surrounding areas, the GJBC is engaged with the Ockford Ridge Community Benefit Programme that is aimed at providing a greater sense of ownership to the local community of Eashing Cemetery.

As part of a project funded by Waverley Housing Service via the Community Benefit Programme with Thakeham the perimeter of the award-winning Eashing Cemetery site will be planted with an Orchard Trail of 60 fruit trees in a five-year project managed by Community Orchard Project South East (COPSE). The first phase of this new orchard trail, consisting of 10 heritage apple trees was planted in November 2021, with the second phase being the creation of an avenue of Walnut trees which took place in November 2022. The community orchard project, which has seen over 40 residents from across the local



*Planting of the Walnut Avenue for the Eashing Cemetery
Community Orchard Project*

community spanning all age groups, is looking forward to a rich array of fruits for future autumn harvests as well as vivid springtime blossom displays. The orchard planting will help to further enhance what is already a haven for wildlife and is complemented by the tranquil Community Garden in the former Garden of Remembrance. Thanks go to our partners Skillway for producing such lovely tree plaques for every tree.

The Community Garden was launched on Saturday, 16 July, with a gardening party to mark the start of planting for the new community garden at Eashing Cemetery. It was an incredibly hot day – but everyone who attended managed to help with the digging and much-needed watering.

The first phase of the garden planting included shade-loving ferns and hardy Euroneymous plants along with multiple bulb planting schemes. Thanks to our volunteers and local Guide, Brownie and Scout groups we were able to complete the first phase of planting by November 2022 including the woodland walkway which will surround the new garden. A team effort to install a new shed with tools, seats, guttering and a much-needed water butt was also achieved.



Proposed Design for Eashing Cemetery Community Garden

We have an exciting calendar of events planned for 2023 – please check our [website](#) for dates and get involved in one of our weekday work parties or weekend events. Our first planting community date is on the 18 March.

Godalming Youth Service

[Godalming Youth Service](#) exists to provide high-quality youth work for the young people of Godalming. The Town Council’s Youth Service is a universal service – any young person can join; the only criterion is that they are in the correct age bracket. The youth team seek to respond to young people’s interests and passions, supporting them to discover and achieve their potential.



BROADWATER YOUTH CENTRE

Broadwater Youth Centre is open every day for young people in Farncombe, Godalming & villages.
All of these groups are free for 11-18 year olds only. More information is available by scanning the QR code



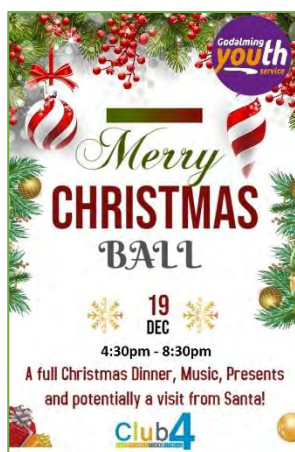
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:00 – 5:00	CREATIVE DROP-IN EVERY MONDAY 3:00 - 5:00 FREE ADMISSION	JAMMING Drop-in TUESDAY 3:00 - 5:00 EVERY TUESDAY AFTERNOON WE HAVE A JAMMING SESSION. TRY OUT PLAYING INSTRUMENTS, RECORD IN THE MUSIC STUDIO.	HOW TO DROP-IN WEDNESDAY 3:00PM - 5:00PM Broadwater Youth Centre Tech-assisted craft work All regional Learn to edit a video Change your name Build a character Creating pictures *Free entry	TABLE GAMING & MINIATURES DROP-IN EVERY THURSDAY 3:00 - 5:00 We supply paints and starter models Painting and Gaming, all game systems welcome including 40k, Age of Sigmar & more	Godalming Youth Service FRIDAY CHILL PAINT GAMES ENJOY
6:30 – 8:30	GIRLS GROUP Every Monday during School Term Free for secondary age young people A safe space for young women	MUSIC night 6:30pm - 8:30pm The Music Works	ART NIGHT PHONEBOX PROJECT This term we have a special project! We will be refurbishing a phone box Wednesdays during term 6:30 - 8:30 Contact your godalming tc page for more info	BOYS NIGHT 6:30 - 8:00 FOR SECONDARY AGED BOYS	Friday Night Youth Club EVERY FRIDAY DURING TERM-TIME 6:30PM - 8:30PM FOR SECONDARY AGED YOUNG PEOPLE BOARDGAMES, AIR HOCKEY, ACTIVITIES, MOVIE NIGHTS WORKSHOPS, COOKING, DANCING NIGHTS, MOVIE MAKING

Above: The Current Term-Time Programme for Broadwater Youth Centre

The team prides itself on being able to offer support to young people facing challenging situations and backgrounds. Several young people with special educational needs, emotional needs such as anxiety and behavioural issues attend projects at the youth centre. These issues have had significant impacts on their outcomes, and the team has been able to play a key role by providing them with positive activities that have boosted their confidence and enabled them to enact change in other parts of their lives.

During term-time, there are two sessions per day. An after-school drop-in between 3:00-5:00pm with a different theme each day such as creative arts, music, board games and others, followed by focused group-work between 6:30-8:30pm, such as a Girl's Night, Boy's Night, and several themed evenings.

A range of activities are also provided throughout the school holidays. The Godalming Youth Service partners with Active Surrey to deliver the Club4 scheme for young people in Godalming, a scheme that primarily supports young people in receipt of Free School Meals but can also be used to support other young people that are deemed to need school holiday support.



Above: Our Christmas Holidays Activity Posters

In all the team's work, they seek to be led by the young people as the main stakeholders, developing opportunities that are aligned to their interests and bringing them enrichment in all areas. [The Town Council's Youth Service](#) seeks to inspire young people to make a difference and bring change by providing high-quality youth work.

Attendance Statistics

- Since opening in April 2022, 339 different young people have attended Broadwater Youth Centre.
- Of these 339 young people, over 200 have become regular members of the youth centre.
- Average footfall at the youth centre is around 1400-1700 per month.
- The biggest impacts on attendance are related to weather (eg. the heatwave) and school inset days.

What do these numbers tell us?

The high level of responses and engagement provides evidence that the team's marketing and promotion approach has been highly successful. Based on the current average Broadwater School roll for the Summer and Autumn terms 2022 approximately 56% of the school roll during the period in question have engaged with the youth centre. Whilst not all attendees are students at Broadwater, and the Youth Service Officer's estimates approximately 70 young people are based at other schools or in alternative education, it

remains a strong indicator of the appeal of the youth centre and the effectiveness of engagement events.

More encouragingly still, the high level of consistent engagement throughout the year shows evidence of a high level of retention. There was a peak at the beginning of the project created by young people's curiosity in the new youth centre, but the level of retention and ongoing engagement is impressive.

Are these numbers enough to indicate successful youth work in and of themselves?

It is tempting to think that the success of the youth centre can be judged solely by the number of attendances. This is not the case, and sometimes a group with high attendance may look impressive on paper but has limited benefit to participants. Conversely, a group with small numbers can be hugely significant, but brings down the overall 'stats' for the centre. Consider these two examples of groups in the Youth Service to-date:

The Wednesday Night Juniors attracted a cohort displaying a higher degree of challenging behaviour. This created a group environment that was not positive or beneficial to participants. The group was highly popular and attracted 40+ young people per week, but it became necessary to split this group into two to ensure an acceptable ratio and to reinforce the importance of group rules and boundaries. Doing so led to some members being separated from friends, but the priority was the delivery of a high-quality experience for young people over high numbers. With regard to social education, these young people learned immeasurably more through the experience of needing to form a group agreement, seeing the impact of actions, and needing to stand independently of peers. The overall number of young people attending decreased, but the quality of youth work increased.

Conversely, the Girls Group attracts 5-8 young people per week, but the young people attending are actively engaging with staff and a positive group-work environment has been created. This project appears numerically insignificant, but these young women are truly supporting one another, and it demonstrates a high-level of intrinsic value.

The youth team seeks to prioritise projects that most benefit young people, the numbers could be higher if they chased having a high number of participants instead of prioritising the high-quality of work. That said, the numerical statistics are impressive and vastly exceed others in the sector, reflecting effective engagement and marketing, but the most important thing is ensuring that all young people are supported and nurtured to a high standard. Quality interventions take priority over high numbers, but it is testament to the Town Council's Youth Service and the quality of the Youth Service team that both are achieved.



Above: Our noticeboards are becoming filled with memories of adventures and achievements by young people

Case Studies – A clearer mark of success

If numerical data offers a limited window, how then can a fuller picture of the Youth Service's progress be ascertained? By using mixed methods to bring together both quantitative and qualitative data a more informed picture emerges.

There are innumerable stories that could be shared to celebrate how the Youth Service is benefiting young people. The table below provides a small sample to show where some young people were when they started, how the Youth Service has benefited them, including some of their own comments. Names have been changed and details kept vague to avoid individuals being identified:

Young person at start	How youth centre benefited them	Benefits in their own words
Jenny is entering year 7 and she struggled with her attendance during Junior school due to emotional barriers.	Jenny accessed our Summer programmes and her confidence grew considerably during this time. She was nervous about entering secondary school, but she began coming to our drop-in every day afterwards to offload and relax. This helped her to begin attending every day and she has settled in very well.	'the youth centre is really fun and everyone there is nice. It is somewhere that I can always go to relax and get away from any problems that I have'.
James is known to frequent the Exclusion Room at School. He frequently gets in to trouble in the local area and struggles to fit in socially.	Despite displaying some challenging behaviour at points during the duration of the youth project, James has settled into the youth project. He now moderates his behaviour and has much better boundaries when he's with us.	I really like it at youth centre, it gives me somewhere to go and there is always something fun to do'
Matilda has mild autism and is often left out of opportunities in her peer group.	Matilda is at the youth club several times a week. There she is included fully and does not miss out on any of the activities that are being facilitated. The Youth Workers have created a positive social atmosphere where she can be her true self without fear of recrimination	'There is always something to do at the youth centre and I enjoy going there every day to take part in the activities.
Beth has not been attending mainstream education for sometime. Her mum, desperate to find social outlets for Beth, contacted the youth service and described some very specific needs that she had. The mum didn't know if a youth centre would be appropriate due to the level of need.	Beth has become a regular youth centre attendee and regularly tries out a range of activities. She has even come on some of our trips out. The youth centre has proven to be a lifeline for her, allowing her to mix with peers where otherwise she would live a life of solitude. She has begun attending alternative education provision and is moving forward.	'I like the staff at the youth centre as they are fun. I like the activities, especially cooking'



Staff

The success of setting up the Youth Service could not have been achieved without having recruited a talented and diverse youth team, all of whom have displayed an exceptional work ethic and dedication to their practice.

Left: The staff profile board that it is seen when walking into Broadwater Youth Centre

Training

Undertaking youth work with such a varied cohort of young people requires the staff to develop a multifaceted knowledge based. This is achieved using a training matrix that seeks to develop the skills required to support the young people.

The content of the training matrix is informed by the Surrey Safeguarding Partnership's recommended training and supplemented with courses from the National Youth Agency. Godalming Town Council places great emphasis on staff development and support its youth workers to not only meet statutory training requirements, but to widen their knowledge and skills.

Community Events

Report from Godalming Town Council's Community & Communications Officer



Godalming Spring Festival 2022

The Spring Festival marks the start of the Town's annual events calendar and gives visitors a chance to stroll amongst stalls in the retail centre enjoying an array of food, drink and craft stalls and a Cider Festival. A packed programme of entertainment from local artists centred around The Pepperpot, as well as activities for children who could ride the Dobby Horse Carousel, have their faces painted and enjoy free Punch & Judy Shows, are all part of the day. In 2022 we were able to include the acclaimed Circo Rum Ba Ba circus troupe who entertained the crowds with their acrobatic performances and highly imaginative, slapstick story telling.

Morris dancing is an important ingredient of the Spring Festival and this year it was made even more special by performances from Godalming's Fleur De Lys, who were joined by the Mayflower

Dancers from Ash Vale, The Pilgrims from Guildford and the Victory Morris Dancers from Portsmouth who performed in memory of well-known local artist Stephen Goddard.

Thank you to Waverley Borough Council for supporting Circo Rum Ba Ba's visit to Godalming

This year's Spring Festival takes place on Saturday 1 April.

Platinum Jubilee



In commemoration of her 70 years' of service, not only to the United Kingdom, but also the nations of the commonwealth, every flag of the commonwealth along with those of UK overseas territories and dominions were flown the length of the High Street, Bridge Street, Bridge Road and along Meadow.



The Jubilee weekend kicked off on the evening of 2 June with a concert in the Wilfrid Noyce Centre to celebrate music throughout the 70 years of Her Majesty's reign. Sterling performances were given by Surrey Youth Theatre, Godalming Rock Choir, Go Perform, the Godalming Theatre Group and the Milford & Brook School of Ballet.



The end of the concert saw hundreds of people being led from the Wilfrid Noyce Centre by the Godalming Band and following the Union Flag carried by cadets from Godalming (1254) Squadron Air Training Corps to The Pepperpot, to witness the switch on of the Queen's Jubilee Lantern, which was donated to the town by the previous Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Penny Rivers.

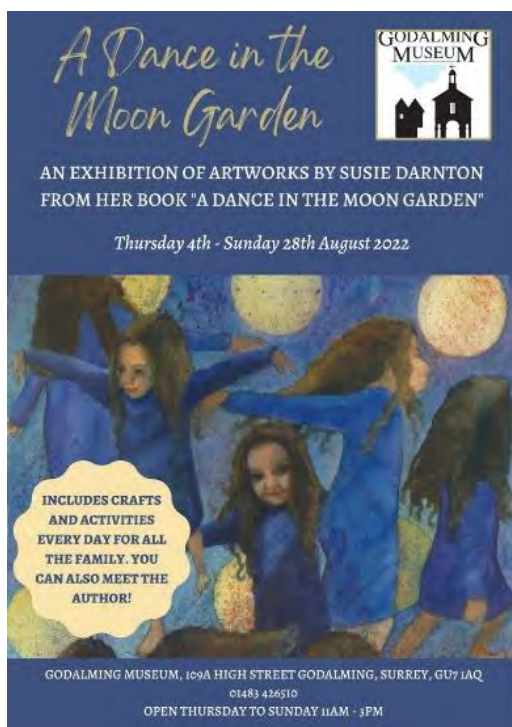
The Jubilee weekend continued on the Friday with Sport Godalming, supported by the Town Council, holding an enjoyable Sports-for-All day at the Phillips Memorial Park. In the evening, working together as part of the Art Godalming organisation, the

Godalming Operatic Society, Godalming Theatre Group, and the Godalming Band joined forces to create a unique and highly entertaining celebratory concert at Charterhouse School.

Saturday witnessed the Round Table once again rising to the occasion with the Queen-themed Town Show & Carnival. A hugely enjoyable weekend for residents and massively successful weekend for the local hospitality sector was rounded off on the Sunday by the Go Godalming Music in the Park Jubilee Bandstand concert. Once again, the Town Council thanks everyone involved in organising the events, as well as the performers and audiences without whom they would not have been the success they were.



Godalming Staycation 2022



Godalming Town Council is one of the few local councils in the UK to organise an extensive Staycation programme for residents to enjoy. With the notable exception of 2020, there has been a Staycation programme every year since it was launched in 2010.

Staycation 2022 saw the return of some old favourites and some new things for residents to try; tennis, bowls, a special morning of football coaching at Godalming Town Football Club's Bill Kyte Stadium, the Park Run, swimming at the Charterhouse Club, a range of canoeing and kayaking activities, drumming workshops and handbell ringing were but a few. Ladywell Convent was able to reopen its doors to welcome visitors back for a tour followed by a delicious afternoon tea. Residents also had the opportunity to try fishing, play a brass instrument, learn to play the Ukulele and have a go at Zumba and Karate. Ballet and dance classes were on offer from age 2-92! Godalming Town Council's Youth Service

at Broadwater Youth Centre arranged a taster with a range of activities including pool, table tennis, air hockey, arts, cooking, video games, sports and more. Puppet making, story and rhyme time, a Dance in the Moon Garden at Godalming Museum, Paddington 2 family film, an evening bike ride, an earth sprites workshop and a guided tree walk all added to the Staycation experience. With over 70 events available for all the family, including the superb Staycation Live Music Festival, Godalming Town Council would challenge anyone to find a bigger Staycation Programme anywhere in Surrey or beyond.

The Town Council is indebted to all the individuals and organisations who provide activities that make Godalming Staycation week the amazing time it is.



Staycation 2023 takes place from 5–13 August

Godalming Green Gala 2022



Cllr Weightman at the Nappy Library

Godalming Town Council introduced the Green Gala in August 2021. The Godalming Green Gala supports the Town Council's Programme 2019-2023 and is in line with the Town Council's aim of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The Council's second Green Gala took place on the Burys Field at the end of the Staycation week on one of the hottest days of the summer, Saturday 13 August 2022.

The Green Gala, supported by local businesses and community groups offers visitors the opportunity to engage and learn about living sustainably and protecting the environment. A variety of stalls provided advice on how to make switches to help reduce carbon footprint. Traders offered sustainably sourced products including jewellery, clothing, food, household, beauty products and environmentally friendly beeswax wraps. Visitors received advice on how to 'grow your

own', how to switch to sustainable nappies to save the environment, how to care for the environment in nature and how to use the Godalming Repair Café. The Zero Waste Showcase demonstrated how to reduce, reuse, and recycle and Yard Market bought their refill station for shampoos, laundry detergents and other household products. There were activities for children on how to make environmentally friendly toys using leaves, clay and twigs and the Mayor of Godalming. Cllr Shirley Faraday, ran a puppet show performance from the What Next? Tent. Visitors found out about sustainable travel, how to use a seedbank for seed swaps, and enjoyed music and vegan food and sweet treats. For more information on the businesses and groups who came to help the visitors to make a difference, please visit <https://godalming-tc.gov.uk/godalming-green-gala/>



Mayor of Godalming at The Green Gala meeting her puppet

The **2023 Godalming Green Gala** will be held on Saturday, 12 August 2023 from 11-4pm. Put the date in your diary and find out how local people are helping to make a difference to our environment and how you, too, can take some easy steps to make a positive change.

Proclamation for King Charles III – Sunday, 11 September 2022



The Local Proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III took place on Sunday, 11 September 2022 at 4.30pm at the Pepperpot, Godalming.

Hundreds of people turned out to witness the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Shirley Faraday, welcome Civic and Community Leaders and residents to this historic event. Prayers of Thanksgiving were given for our late Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth II by Reverend James

Rattue. The Mayor of Godalming laid a floral tribute and the Godalming Band played as the Union Flag was raised to full mast by the 1254 (Godalming) Squadron Air Training Corps. Godalming Band's bugler played the Fanfare for the new King and the Mayor read the Proclamation which was followed by the singing of the National Anthem – God Save the King, and three rousing cheers for his Majesty the King.



Image Credit: Matthew Gordon Photography

The reading of the proclamation of the Accession of King Charles III at the Pepperpot continued a tradition that dates back to King George IV in 1820. There were many groups working behind the scenes to ensure that arrangements went smoothly and with the dignity and solemnity required of the occasion. The Town Council would especially like to thank Godalming Band, local youth groups including the cadet forces, Scouting and Girl Guiding for taking part and witnessing the reading of an

Accession Proclamation for the first time in 70 years. The Council would also like to thank the unsung stalwarts of occasions of national mourning, commemoration and celebration, the bellringers of St Peter & St Paul, who rang the bells to mark the many different stages of the national mourning and accession of the new King.

Remembrance in Godalming

Remembrance Sunday 2022 was held on Sunday 13 November and is one of the most important events in the civic year organised by Godalming Town Council.

A service of Remembrance was held at the Godalming Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul attended by the Mayor of Godalming's civic party and representatives from community groups and organisations. Following the service in the Parish Church, an Act of Remembrance including a two-minute silence took place at the War Memorial in the Phillips Memorial Ground. Those attending included representatives from the town's civic and political leaders, faith groups and other community organisations who were invited to take part in the laying of wreaths at the War Memorial, as well as Godalming residents. As always, service personnel and service veterans from the armed forces along with the emergency services, as well as the town's youth organisations were invited to parade at the event. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Godalming took the salute in the high street during the procession led by Godalming Band and uniformed groups which followed the services.



This year's event will be on held on Sunday, 12 November 2022.

Godalming Christmas Festival and Lights Switch-On



The Town Council's Christmas Festival took place on Saturday, 26 November 2022. Festive stalls with artisan food and drink, crafts and gifts were situated in the High Street, Church Street and Crown Court. The Pepperpot played host to a packed programme of seasonal entertainment including Godalming's Rock Choir led by Tom George, Moss Lane School and Wharf Nursery children who delighted the crowd with their festive singing, and the Milford & Brook School of dance who once again gave sterling performances in extremely cold weather. Special guest, Peppa Pig, delighted young children at meet and greet sessions held at Club 66 and Top Shelf Elf strolled around the town on stilts modelling balloons and saying hello.

The Town Council's Santa's grotto was held at Godalming Museum and visiting families were able to say hello to Santa and encouraged to write letters that were then posted to the North Pole. Santa's Sleigh, courtesy of Godalming Round Table, was parked outside of the Museum.

Godalming Band played during the build-up to the count down of the Town's dazzling lights, which were switched on at 5pm with assistance from the Town Mayor, Godalming Panto's Sleeping Beauty, Peppa Pig and Father Christmas. After some rousing Christmas songs led by Godalming Band, residents were also invited to place a tag for their loved ones on the Memory Tree situated in Crown Court.



Christmas Images Credit: Matthew Gordon Photography

Thank you to Surrey & Hants property agents for supporting Peppa Pig's visit, Waverley Borough Council, and the Church Street Traders for supporting Top Shelf Elf's visit and to Priory Antiques and The Peter Caudle Memorial Trust for providing the selection boxes children received at Santa's Grotto.



This year's festival will take place on Saturday, 25 November 2023

Farncombe Christmas Lights Switch-on



Farncombe Christmas Lights switch-on, organised by the Town Council and hosted by Farncombe Day Centre, takes place on the first Friday after the Godalming Lights Switch-on. This year the crowd were delighted by a performance from Farncombe Infant School who sang some Christmas songs and Godalming's Round Table bought Santa on his illuminated sleigh to say hello. Reverend James Rattue was in attendance and together with the Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Shirley Faraday, led everyone in some rousing carols after the lights were switched-on. Natter Café stayed open to serve mulled wine to cold visitors with the wonderful staff at Farncombe Day centre providing refreshments for everyone.

This year's event will take place on Friday 1 December.

Godalming Pop-Up Events and Farmers' Markets

Godalming Town Council has worked with the Southwest Surrey Farmers' Market Co-operative for over 9 years to bring a Farmers' Market to the Town Centre on the last Saturday of every month between February and October.



The Farmers' Markets offer residents and visitors the opportunity to shop sustainably by supporting local businesses, growers, and producers. The Council has been able to increase the number of Farmers' Markets from 8 to 10 times a year and to bring all the stalls together clustered around the Crown Court area. Stalls regularly trading at the market include home produced baked goods, breads, cakes and pies, locally produced honey, locally grown plants, hand-crafted chocolates, marzipan confections, goats' milk and cheeses, and beer.



The Council knows that it is not just the Farmers' Markets that residents enjoy, which is why it also manages the weekly Friday Pop-Up that allows traders to operate in Crown Court. Anchors of the Friday Pop-up are 'Phil the Flower' with his plants and shrubs and Household Heaven who has been joined throughout the year by MKS Foods with Baklava and Turkish Delight, the Watch Stall, Wrap Up In Style clothing, Premium Moroccan Leather and stalls selling beer, soy candles, organic vegetables and Chalmers Jewellery. Crown Court has also played host to charities wanting to raise their profiles.

Grounds Maintenance

Through the seasons with the Grounds Maintenance Team

As always seems the case for the grounds team, 2022 was an extremely busy year. This was especially so as it saw a change of personnel, with our head grounds person moving on to new challenges. Whilst cross support between grounds and buildings maintenance staff is the normal practice at GTC, losing grounds staff mid-year did mean a change in priorities for our buildings maintenance staff who stepped in to provide additional support over and above that which is normally provided. This flexibility within the Council's workforce not only ensured that grounds maintenance cover was provided over the important summer months, whilst we recruited a new member of staff, but importantly there was no interruption to the bereavement service provided by the Council at the town's cemeteries. With the work of the grounds team continuing to grow, the Council took the decision to expand the Ground Assistant's role from a part-time to full-time post.

The year seemed to be divided into periods of extremes with cold, wet and windy weather giving way to the heatwave and drought of the long summer before yet another wet and cold winter.

Work over the winter and spring included the scheduled tree maintenance works identified in the biennial Arboriculture Health & Safety survey for all GTC-owned and managed land. It is always sad to see the loss of a tree, but it is important that the tree stock in the public areas is managed properly, this includes establishing plans to replace lost trees with species that will enhance and improve the biodiversity of the Council's land.

When we do have to undertake tree work, including felling and lopping, the green waste woodchip generated is used to mulch several GTC-maintained garden beds including at Woolsack Way, Broadwater Youth Centre, Boarden Bridge as well as Eashing and Nightingale cemetery gardens.

It was especially pleasing to see the new hedges planted in 2021 at Eashing Cemetery grow to improve the wildlife corridor around the cemetery.



Floral Godalming High Street Planters

With spring on the horizon, preparations for Floral Godalming displays took place. The flower troughs installed on the pedestrian railings were installed in early May after the last frost, and new freestanding flower tubs were set out around the town centre.

Of great importance to the grounds staff and the Council is the sustainability of the annual flower displays. Changes this year included the procurement of the plant stock. All plants were sourced from local, independent nurseries who grow from seed. By not using imported plants, or plants that are produced in large commercial nurseries many miles from where they are to be planted, not only supports local businesses but also significantly reduces the carbon footprint of Floral Godalming.

Watering the flower displays is also something that the team give great thought to. Watering happens two to three times a week between May and October and about 3,000 litres of water a week is used to keep the displays looking good and healthy. Water from the tap has

a carbon footprint created by the purification and distribution process. Tap water is taken from aquifers, reservoirs and rivers and it goes to water treatment plants, that are like huge water factories with machinery and equipment that processes the water through filters, chemical processes and mixing and storage tanks. Just like the production of other goods, this uses a load of energy. Once the water is treated, it must be transported (often by pumps) through thousands of kilometres of pipes to where it's needed. All this needs energy. So, whilst not totally carbon free, as we still must transport the water in a bowser – something we would have to do with tap water as well – by using our riparian rights to abstract from the river we are helping to reduce global warming.

When the floral displays were removed in October several the plants were replanted out in GTC-maintained garden areas.

An area of concern for the health and well-being of the natural environment around GTC land was the impact of the very wet and often windy April/May. Heavy and constant rain impacts the ability of pollinating insects to fly and can affect the health of the bee population. To try to combat the effects of the weather the planned mowing schedules were significantly altered to account for the growing conditions and prolong the availability of wildflowers as much as possible. Several areas were left to grow undisturbed to allow feeding insects to capitalise on any available flowers.



Care of all the GTC-maintained lawns became a serious issue during the hot summer period and as the heatwave progressed and before the regions hosepipe ban was announced, the decision was taken not to water lawns. This did impact on visual appearance with parched and dusty landscape, but the lawns quickly recovered as the rains arrived in late September.

As in previous years at the end of the bird nesting season, hedges were trimmed to ensure that pathways were kept clear.

A programme of invasive weed species management continued all through the year, which included bracken crushing and mowing at Eashing Cemetery, Himalayan Balsam trashing along Hell Ditch and Mares Tail control along the Nightingale fence line.

This work involves a lot of manual labour but necessarily so, to negate the use of pesticides or herbicides.

As the summer came to an end, we 'brought in our harvest' by mowing the long meadow swards and wildflower meadows. These were cut and left for a few dry days for seeds to disperse into the existing sward and thereafter collected for composting. All green waste generated from GTC grounds maintenance activities are stored at Eashing Cemetery and recycled into a growing medium for amenity planting by a local contractor.

The grounds team also undertook several grounds maintenance tasks on behalf of Surrey County Council. These were mainly overgrown pathways and clearance of unsafe steps around the town and repairing of broken railings at Grove Road. Staff also cleaned several road and direction signs around the town.



During the autumn months the grounds team prepared the area identified for the Community Orchard Project South East's (COPSE) fruit tree planting and preparations for the next phase of the Eashing Community Garden.



Following on from the success of the 2021 hedge laying, the second phase of traditional hedge laying was also completed at Eashing Cemetery. The hedgerows define the cemetery boundary and provide an important natural habitat, which are vitally important for wildlife as a refuge, a source of food, and as corridors along which they can move through the landscape.

Litter picking on all GTC-managed land and on Surrey County Council reactive works projects took place throughout the

year and on average a bin bag full of litter was collected every week.

On top of this, GTC grounds and maintenance staff have also supported 64 burials so far, this civic year.

South & South East in Bloom

South & South East in Bloom is part of Britain in Bloom and runs annual competitions across the counties of Kent, Surrey, East & West Sussex, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, East & North Dorset and East Wiltshire. The award system recognises entrants' efforts in improving their local environment and awards are based on the standard achieved.

Each year entries participate from villages, parishes, towns, cities, coastal towns, town & city centres, urban communities and business improvement districts. Judges/assessors visit communities and awards are presented to recognise the entries' achievements. Bloom judges visited Godalming in July. The Town Council entered three Categories:

1. Town Centre – The In-Bloom Judges awarded a Silver Gilt, “Very Good”

Horticulture: Perennial planting such as at Woolsack Way provides year-round interest and is mulched to reduce watering and weed management and has an emphasis on being 'bee friendly'. The high street seasonal displays were excellent and to be commended for the gardener's maintenance and care on these, the addition of perennials to the planters had been carefully and appropriately selected.

Business involvement also brightens the main streets, such as at The Kings Arms Hotel, The Sun, The Star, The Jack Philips and the Fox & Finch pubs. The additional brackets on

the barriers demonstrated the imaginative thinking in the application of horticulture to the street scene challenges, The Church Street displays also enhance an attractive street including The Pepperpot. The Museum Garden was a delight and well maintained with excellent high-quality planting, with year-round interest and selection suitable to reflect its homage to Miss Gertrude Jekyll. The museum's volunteer gardener demonstrated excellent knowledge of the garden. Planters have been used as solutions to parking issues along the western end of the high street - adding additional interest. The garden/planter maintenance is done well, and the grounds team are to be commended for their professional skills.

Environment: Sustainable watering is via an electric van and pump with water taken from the local river - avoiding the use of potable water. The plantings are all peat free, displays are well maintained and healthy.

2. Nightingale Cemetery – The In-Bloom Judges awarded a Gold, “Excellent”

Areas of achievement: A beautiful cemetery on a challenging slope, the views from the top make it feel like a special and secluded place to remember. The new signage follows a



Nightingale Cemetery Memorial Garden

specification across the town's cemeteries, it is clear and bold with plenty of detail but not over fussy so it will engage the reader well. They give relevant history and information to improve your visit. It was a joy to see the chapel and mortuary being used as workshops for [Skillway](#), engaging 14–16-year-olds to learn hand craft skills. The products are used within the cemetery and across the borough. This is an excellent example of teaching skills that go way beyond a classroom environment whilst providing vocational training.

After a winter storm made the largest Cedar tree unsafe, this was removed and the area below is being successfully used for a wildflower meadow whilst a suitable replacement tree is found. There has been a lot of maintenance to bring the hedgerows under control. Whilst the site is almost full, work is nearly complete on the digital recording of the graves, this will be vital in years to come when no more burials happen on the site. The signage for Jack Phillips is positive to show the history of the area and its connections. The areas of grass that have been left to grow long are showing many different varieties of grass species and an array of butterflies and moths. Though no wildflower seeds have been used in these areas, they have been kept small enough to access all around them, their appearance, height, and movement does add to the enjoyment of the site.



The memorial garden created for the 281 men that fell during the first world war has the extra dynamic of height with the wooden sleeper beds, the introduction of pollinating plants

for the site, as well as colour, seclusion, scent, and a place to sit and reflect. The plant combinations used are very complementary and will provide some interest throughout the year.

Areas for development: Seeing evidence of the box caterpillar on the site, whilst the dead specimen with brambles neatly pruned around it could be beneficial this year, in the longer term a better replacement or indeed a different type of tree could be used in this area. It was pleasing to hear of plans to increase the variety of trees on site, especially to get more autumn colour. There is a plan to renovate the front boundary railings, it's positive to see forward thinking before the repair becomes even greater.

3. Eashing Cemetery – Overall winner in the Large Cemetery Category for the whole of the South & South East region.

Areas for achievement: Congratulations on high scores across all categories, it's clear to see that a lot of time and knowledge goes into the maintenance and development of Eashing cemetery. The grounds staff are an integral part of the environmental and horticultural work being carried out on this site. It's positive to see the council supporting education and career opportunities within their sites for young people. The design and layout of the cemetery are clear with good paths and roadways where they exist, newer signage boards are bold using strong text, simple colour and design to maintain focus for the reader. They provide vital and interesting information in a simple but effective way to get across the messages of pride of place, the environment, horticulture and community aspects in the cemetery.

Given the large expanse and openness of the site, the choice of plants and plantings seems very logical, a step away from formal bedding or flowers needing a lot of resources. Instead, the focus is on Wildflowers. Trials, originally started in March 2020 and extended in 2021 using a mix of annual and perennial seeds, ensure a longevity is created. An old hedge creating the right-hand side boundary was laid using traditional methods last winter. A local craftsman was employed to do the job, thus supporting local industry and rejuvenating the hedge for wildlife and biodiversity for years to come. Some of the coppiced materials were used to make wigwams for the Woolsack Way Garden in the town centre. Bat boxes have adorned the site for many years, there is a pair of Red Kites that visit daily, alongside foxes and a sparrowhawk. There were lots of smaller bird species spotted during the site walk. Areas for small insects are in plentiful supply as well, including log piles, tree stumps, areas of bare soil for Bees and a Butterfly count planned for July.

The work on the community garden and orchard is progressing well, an area of self-sown Laurels have been cut back allowing access to an enclosed garden; a joint project with "Roots For The Future" Waverley, Godalming and Thakeham homes. This has been advertised and several dates for differing participation have been set. The fruit tree planting has begun around the perimeter of the site, all trees watered using water from the river, extracted with a battery pump. The Skillway Project made the labels denoting what each tree is. These were punched into metal.

Overall, a site which is showcasing it's natural environment excellently, forward thinking and working with a number of local people, organisations and businesses to further create an environment that is of benefit to everyone.

Areas for development: Through the tree management plans to manage the bleeding canker on the Horse Chestnut and provide suitable treatments if available. If this isn't possible, plan to manage the tree safely as it declines. The initial two flower beds on entry to the site: the right-hand side is used for recovery of leftover/rescued plants: is it possible

to put signage explaining this, therefore the loss or weakness of plants is explained? The left hand bed; the box caterpillar is now taking hold and there was a conversation to perhaps remove these plants in the autumn and to open up the area under the tree. It was sad to hear that Mares Tail was introduced on to the site by a visitor of a grave. As discussed, ensuring you have a plan to continue managing this area and implementing ways to slow down it's spread.



Eashing Cemetery Wildflower Trial Growing Area

Godalming Cemeteries are not only places of peace and tranquillity for residents and visitors, but they are also havens for wildlife, flora and pollinating insects.

GTC Buildings & Public Realm Repair & Maintenance

The nuts, bolts and unpleasant jobs of maintaining GTC-owned properties

Department is a grand a statement for a building's maintenance team consisting of one full time person, although on occasions supported by the grounds team and vice-versa, but the work done is vital to the proper operation and delivery of Council services

2022 started with the renovations of part of the old sports changing rooms by Farncombe Cricket Club at Broadwater Park to create a new home for the Godalming & Villages Community Store, with the new 'store' being unrecognisable from the old run-down changing rooms.

Renovation and changes to the former Broadwater Community Centre to repurpose it as the Broadwater Youth Centre. Alterations were made to create gender neutral toilets facilities, a 'club room' and activity room as well as a computer room and music and recording studio. External renovations were also undertaken to the windows, barge and soffit boards.

Fortunately, these works were completed before the start of the summer when the emphasis had to move to supporting the grounds maintenance requirements. Once the grounds team was back to full strength work began on improving the welfare facilities at the Council's maintenance base and improving its workshop facilities.

November and December saw a number of unplanned maintenance jobs having to be done, including roof repairs and waterproofing of walls in the museum. This work was completed in January and the museum galleries put back in order.

Having finished at the Museum, the rest of January saw the continuation of planned maintenance including replacing the rotten benches at the bus stop by 'The Square', and renovation of the St John's Street bus stop.

As well as conducting planned maintenance and repairs, a wide range of reactive repairs and maintenance were undertaken to the council's and other public properties.



Again, one of the least pleasant, but vitally important jobs that must frequently be done is the unblocking of the drains serving the public toilets due to a mix of inappropriate material being flushed and an old drainage system.

Buildings maintenance also support the Council's Facilities Supervisor by building the stage and setting out seating for concerts and other events. The Building and Grounds Maintenance Team also supports community events including the Godalming Run, Green Gala and Christmas Lights Switch-on.

Localism – Working with Surrey County Council

Godalming Town Council continues to work with Surrey Highways to identify issues relating to footpaths, alleyways, culverts, and land drainage, which have concerned local residents. Being more local and utilising its own workforce, Godalming Town Council has been able to undertake some of this work more effectively and at a lower cost, which, in turn, has meant that more areas of concern have been addressed.

Godalming & Villages Community Store

The [Community Store](#) was originally established in April 2020 by the Godalming & Farncombe Coronavirus Assistance Group, a Facebook community group, to support those from our community who, due to the Coronavirus restrictions suddenly found themselves redundant, furloughed or waiting for Universal Credit. However, as the Coronavirus



restrictions eased, it was clear that with the rising number of people facing food anxiety and insecurity because of the 'Cost of Living Crisis' there would need to be a wider strategy to support the Food Bank and provide solutions for those facing, probably for the first time ever, food insecurity.

The Community Store is all about the community supporting its friends and neighbours during challenging and difficult times. As the store has evolved, the volunteers who operate it are always looking to the future. The Town Council continues to support the Community Store, having moved to its new home at Broadwater Park, whilst the volunteers who were running the store have now established an independent registered charity (Charity Number 1199787) to support the work of the store.

The Community Store records its support to the community by the number of days' worth of food and hygiene products it has provided to the community. **Between April 2020 and 31 January 2022 the Community Store has provided 76,769 days' worth of support to members of our community.** This figure does not include 'light' support provided by the community basket (help-yourself trolley) located outside the Community Store during operating hours, nor the support provided by others within the community to alleviate food poverty.

Grants

As stated earlier in the report, Godalming Town Council has supported a wide range of organisations in the town with grant aid totalling £68,714 in 2022/23. This is an important part of the Town Council's work recognising the huge contribution that these organisations make to the quality of life in our community.

The largest of these grants was to the Citizens Advice Waverley (CAW) to ensure the continued provision of a CAW service in Godalming. This Council has provided a significant grant to the CAW for more than two decades. Other organisations that are supported by Service Level Agreements where funding is linked to the provision of a service that benefits residents of Godalming are The Hoppa Community Transport and the Farncombe Day Centre receiving £38,000 between them per annum.

Having provided funds from the General Grants fund for 2022/23, in September the Council agreed an SLA for the financial year 2023/24, with the Wharf Nursery of £3,500 for the provision of two "Stay and Play" activities per week for young children aged 1-3 years old and their parents/carers.

"Stay and Play" groups used to be funded by Children's Centres, but since the closure of these centres, essential facilities for young families have disappeared. During the COVID-19 pandemic the isolation and lack of support worsened, Children born in our community in 2020 and 2021 did not have the opportunity to develop social skills or enjoy stimulating activities with their peers. Alongside lower levels of language development and social skills, evidence exists of young children who, having been isolated during the pandemic, have difficulty settling into nursery and reception class settings. It is to try to avoid an escalation of these challenges that Godalming Town Council is providing support for the provision of "Stay and Play" activities.

At a lower, but equally important level, the Council also awarded grants to many other local organisations through its General Grants and Community Grants Funds. As well as monetary grants, several organisations were also given grant aid in kind in the form of free use of Town Council's buildings for meetings or to facilitate an event (those grants have a cash value put on the grant so that the support is properly accounted for).

Below is a full list of all grants awarded by Godalming Town Council in the financial year 2022/23 including Grant Aid in Kind (GAiK) for use of venues.

2022/23	£
Service Level Agreements	
Citizens' Advice Waverley	28,000.00
Farncombe Day Centre	5,000.00
Waverley Hoppa Community Transport	5,000.00

General & Community Grants	
Farncombe & District Allotment Association (GAiK)	28.00
Godalming & District Community First Responders (GAiK)	84.00
Go Godalming Association (GAiK)	42.00
Go Godalming Association (GAiK)	90.00
Godalming Round Table (GAiK)	80.00
Godalming Run (GAiK)	80.00
Rotary in Godalming (GAiK)	336.00
Farncombe Youth Football Club	500.00
Safe Drive Stay Alive	5.00
Ukraine Picnic in the Park Event	948.73
Sport in Mind	2,500.00
The Brigitte Trust	500.00
Farncombe Community Garden	3,000.00
St John's Church, Farncombe	1,000.00
Godalming Junior School	628.00
Godalming Junior School	657.00
Carbon Reduction & Biodiversity Fund	
Water Rangers	7,850.00
TOTAL GRANT FUNDING	£68,714.00

Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Fund

The Waverley Borough Council Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Charging Schedule was adopted on 31 October 2018 and the charge has been implemented since 1 March 2019.

The CIL allows Waverley Borough Council (WBC) to raise funds, from some forms of new development, to help fund the infrastructure needed to mitigate the impacts of new development. CIL funds are used for either infrastructure of wider strategic benefit to the Borough or local infrastructure.

The regulations that govern how CIL is spent require that Godalming Town Council utilises the Neighbourhood element of CIL allocated towards either:

- the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or
- anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on Godalming.

These definitions allow Godalming Town Council and the local community to consider quite broadly what is needed to help to mitigate the impacts of development in Godalming. The definition of infrastructure is broad and includes roads and other transport infrastructure, schools and other educational facilities, medical facilities, sporting and recreational facilities and open spaces.

Godalming Town Council works closely with the local community and infrastructure providers to identify potential improvement schemes, encouraging and, if applicable, sponsoring applications put forward.

Godalming Town Council has a five-year period in which to spend CIL monies from the date received, thus funds may be accumulated to provide for major projects. The level of CIL receipts available for funding CIL projects is dependent upon the level of development and will not be a constant or continuous funding source.

Final decisions for the approval of CIL applications and disbursement of CIL payments must be made at a meeting of the Full Town Council.

CIL Awarded in 2022/23

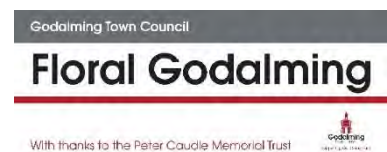
£125,000 was awarded to Busbridge Junior School for the provision of a new Multi Games Activity Area which will be used by school and community groups.

£23,000 was awarded to Godalming Junior School for the maintenance of its existing all-weather play area.

£79,400 was awarded to the Friends of Broadwater School to support the Broadwater School Recreational Garden Project and specifically for the 'The Canopy Garden' which will provide much needed additional seating for pupils at breaktimes, with planting and new trees aiming to create a more relaxing environment.

THANK YOU

Godalming Town Council wishes to thank the many wonderful organisations, individuals and volunteers who give freely of their resources to the Council and their community.

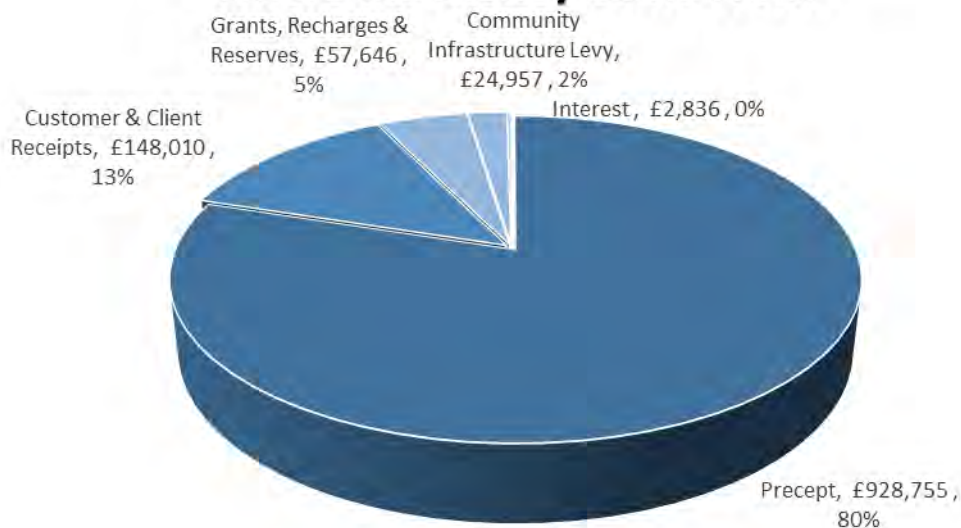


Annual Accounts 2022/23

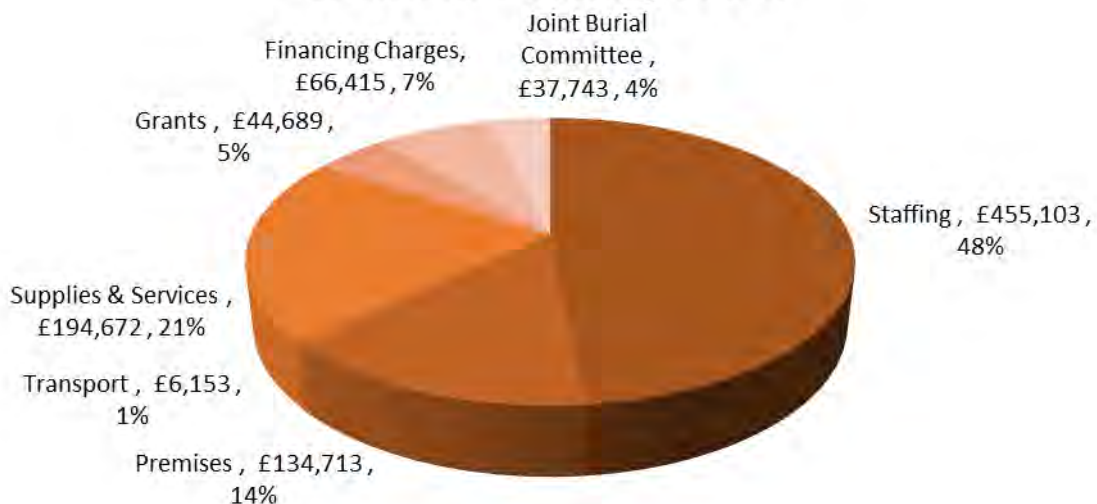
The Council's accounts are prepared in accordance with the Account & Audit Regulations 2015. They are subject to internal audit (by an independent auditor appointed by the Town Council) and to external audit (by a different auditor appointed by the Smaller Authorities' Audit Appointments Ltd). Every year local government electors are given an opportunity to examine the Council's accounts and financial records and the accounts will also be published on the Town Council's website.

Below is a summary (unaudited) of how the Council's budget (including overheads) was spent in 2022/23 up to January 2023.

Where the Money Came From



Where the Money Went



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Cllr H Hullah
Cllr C Weightman
*Cllr PS Rivers

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Cllr AW Duce
⁰*Cllr PD Follows
Cllr T Kiehl

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Cllr C Neill
Cllr ML Steel
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⁰*Cllr PMA Rivers
Cllr SA Faraday
Cllr RA Welland

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*Cllr JC Heagin
*Cllr PJ Martin
Cllr MJ Stubbs
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Town Council Staff

Andy Jeffery	Town Clerk
Rita Tong	Responsible Finance Officer
Suzie Gortler	Community & Communications Officer
Rhiannon Jones	Godalming Museum Curator
Tom Manning	Youth Services Officer
Lynne Purnell	Support Services Executive
Karen Warner	Facilities Supervisor
Adam West	Grounds Maintenance Supervisor
Darren Jones	Buildings Maintenance Supervisor
Viv Ellis	Museum Support Manager
Anita Cannings	Receptionist
Holly Harvey	Maintenance Assistant

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Capital Works Programme 2023-2026

2023 - 2024		
Project	Purpose	Estimated Cost
Installation of Solar PV Panels at Broadwater Park	Return on Investment savings of 766% (£105,805) over 25 years annualised at 9% pa, based on current energy tariff.	£15,000
<p>Upgrading of existing domestic hot water storage system to a thermal storage system</p> <p>(A thermal store is a highly insulated water tank that can store hot water for several hours and can house an immersion heater that could be powered by PV panels. The immersion heater heats the water in the thermal store, a thermal store is also used to reduce short cycling of an air source heat pump thus ensuring greater efficiency of the system)</p>	BWP domestic hot water system is currently provided via a gas fired boiler and stored water system which is over 30 years old. Significant quantities of energy are required to heat stored water and to maintain it at temperature to ensure hot water is available at the point of demand when required. Upgrading to a thermal Storage system powered by an electric emersion heater as opposed to the existing gas fired domestic hot water storage system would reduce Scope 1 emissions in support of GTC net zero emission objective. Electric domestic hot water thermal storage system coupled with the installation of Solar PV panels, should result in further reductions of energy costs. Additionally, a Thermal Storage system would be able to be utilised as a 'buffer' function in the event of installation of ground or air source heat pumps.	£4,500
Replacement of gas fired combination boilers in the Oglethorpe Room and The Pepperpot with electric powered combination boilers	Whilst use of combination boilers at these locations is the most effective method of provision when powered by gas (as opposed to central heating and domestic stored water system) changing to electric powered combination boilers would achieve a reduction in Scope 1 emissions. Whilst the unit price of electric would initially be more expensive, it is expected that within the medium term there would be a decoupling of electric costs from wholesale gas prices and hence overall reduction in electricity prices ¹ . Reduction in revenue cost of electricity use at the WNC could potentially be achieved by the installation of Solar PV panels on some areas of the roof structure (Note: this is not possible on The Pepperpot due to the listed nature of the building and installation at the WNC would be limited to the Oglethorpe Room and foyer roofs due to the limitations of load-bearing on the main Caudle Hall roof structure).	£7,000
Capital Project Cost 2023/34		£26,500

¹ <https://www.proactiveinvestors.co.uk/companies/news/991665/energy-industry-proposes-decoupling-gas-and-renewables-to-save-18bn-a-year-991665.html>

2024 - 2025		
Project	Purpose	Estimated Cost
Installation of air source heat pump at Broadwater Park	<p>Installation of an air source heat pump to replace existing gas fired heating boiler, reduce energy costs and enable BWP to operate as a net-zero building.</p> <p>A heat pump captures heat from outside and moves it into a property. It uses electricity to do this, however the quantity of heat delivered into the property is much greater than the quantity of electricity used to power the system.</p> <p>As a heat pump captures heat that is already present in the environment, the system itself does not burn any fuel and therefore emits no carbon dioxide. The energy required to power the pumps could be provided by existing Solar PV panels. Whilst this would reduce any feedback into the grid, it would reduce the overall energy costs of BWP by eliminating the use of gas.</p> <p>The elimination of gas heating at BWP would mean that BWP would be a net zero energy user as it would be powered either by solar power or by UK certified 100% renewal energy from the grid. (It may be possible to reduce reliance on the grid once PV output and consumption has been clearly identified by the further provision of battery storage.)</p>	£25,000 – £28,000
External renovation/repair and decoration of The Peppercot	To renovate/repair and decorate the external areas of The Peppercot including the bell cupola. External decoration of The Peppercot was last undertaken in 2009/10. External decoration is an integral part of the maintenance of any building's fabric, however, when the building is also the symbol of the town there is an increased expectation that it should be maintained in a presentable condition. Delayed maintenance is a false economy, which costs more in the longer term.	£25,000 – £30,000
Capital Project Cost 2024/25		£50,000 – £58,000
2025 - 2026		
Project	Purpose	Estimated Cost
Installation of air source heat pump(s) at WNC	Installation of an air source heat pump to replace existing gas fired heating boiler, reduce energy costs and enable WNC to operate as a net-zero building. Although investigations regarding the feasibility of solar PV panels is ongoing, if possible, this project could be expanded to include solar PV panels to offset the running costs of the air source heat pumps and reduce the revenue costs of purchased electricity.	£30,000 - £35,000
Capital Project Cost 2025/26		£30,000 – £35,000