



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Pack Your Suitcase and Staycation in Godalming – 70 Reasons Why!

Godalming Town Council is delighted to announce the 8th annual Godalming Staycation, running from Saturday 5 to Sunday 13 August, with an even bigger range of exciting and fun activities for individuals and families to enjoy. Staycation activities are either free or at a specially discounted Staycation price, with the added bonus that they are all really close to home so you don't have to worry about expensive travelling costs.

Godalming Town Council is delighted to welcome back regular favourites such as canoeing, tennis, swimming, children's cookery classes, fishing, bowling, brass band lessons and your chance to star in a Panto or the Opera!

New activities for 2017 include: a demonstration of how to make a beautiful flower arrangement by a National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies demonstrator, Biospirals Chi Kung class, baby ballet (tutus provided), dowse for health, a willow-weaving workshop to make a willow bird, as well as rambling in Godalming. Learn to play the Ukulele, or choose from 3 cycle rides, which include teenagers, adults and even a ride for "portly" dads!!! A special treat this year comes from Changing Perceptions, located in the Upper High Street, who will be running an upcycling paint workshop. For those who like a waltz or foxtrot join the tea dance and meet Victoria Hill, a former international ballroom competitive dancer, who has competed alongside Anton Du Beck and others from Strictly Come Dancing, and if that's not energetic enough, there's even a family fitness boot-camp!

Staycation week starts on Saturday, 5 August with the TST Staycation Live Music Festival at the Bandstand. On Saturday, 12 August, Godalming Town Council's brand new event "DOGALMING" will be taking place at Aaron's Hill between 11.45 – 4.15pm. Bring your four-legged best friend and enter into the fun. Categories include Best Puppy, Best Family Dog, Best Dressed, Best Veteran

and Best in Show. Entries are on the day with prizes kindly donated by Nestlé Purina. Canine Partners will demonstrate what their amazing charity does to transform the lives of people with physical disabilities. There will also be a family fete with side shows, Punch & Judy, children's rides, hog roast, face-painting, tea tent and more.

The official Staycation programme can be found at www.godalming-tc.gov.uk/Staycation. Whether trying something familiar or something new, please mention Staycation when making a booking for a Staycation event or activity.

Councillor Simon Thornton, Mayor of Godalming said "I'd like to thank the many organisations and individuals who have contributed so generously in helping to create the Staycation programme. Without their generosity of time and resource it would not have been possible to have so many different activities which provide for all age ranges. I very much look forward to seeing you throughout Staycation week."

Ends...

For more information on this release or images, please contact
projects@godalming-tc.gov.uk
Tel: 07765 693746
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Notes to editors: Staycation was introduced to Godalming in 2010 and has grown to be an annual week-long programme of activities which are generously donated by local groups and businesses to allow residents to try something new which in turn encourages sustainability.