



PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

STAYCATION, A HOWLING SUCCESS!

Residents of Godalming were certainly kept busy during Staycation week 5 -14 August. Starting with Staycation Live Music Festival on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 August, which, despite an early afternoon downpour, saw Godhelmians enjoying some exciting music from the bandstand in the Phillips Memorial Park.

The week carried on with many residents sharing their time between different activities and enjoying everything that was on offer including, singing, dancing, flower arranging demos, ukulele playing, cookery classes, football, handbell ringing, learning to upcycle and more! One local resident contacted Godalming Town Council to say "I wanted to let you know what fun my 2 sons and I are having at the Staycation events this week. So far, we have enjoyed the music on Saturday and Sunday at the Bandstand, the quality of the music was great, the boys have done 2 hours of fishing, 3 hours of cricket and we had a lovely tour of Ladywell Convent followed by a delicious afternoon tea".

This year Godalming Town Council introduced a new event at the end of the Staycation week. **Dogalming**, a fun Dog Show and Fete with rides, stalls and side shows, held on Saturday 12 August at Aarons Hill Recreation Ground. Dogalming had over 80 canines of varying breeds and ages enter into the dog show categories and the winners of each were entered in to the Best in Show. Pippa the Miniature Golden Doodle won Best Puppy and was also crowned Best in Show! Jeffery the Bassett Hound delighted everyone in the Best Dressed category as Noddy with Miles coming a close second, dressed as a butterfly. The Best Family dog was won by a delightful Dacshund called Frankie, one of three Dacshunds who had been entered into the competition and Molly the graceful ex-greyhound racer won the Best Veteran category. To start the show Canine Partners put on a demonstration showing how assistance dogs can help transform the lives of people with disabilities. The entry money for the dog show was donated to Canine Partners and Jane

Grant from Canine Partners said “ It was a great event and the money raised will go towards training a new puppy”.

Godalming Town Council would especially like to thank Nestle Purina who sponsored a wide variety of prizes which included Dentalife Stix, which were given to everyone who entered the show as well as other dogs who were just visiting. The main prizes included 12.5kg bags of dog food, which were bigger than some of the dogs!

The Mayor of Godalming, Cllr Simon Thornton along with the Mayoress Hazel Thornton, who were on hand all day to present prizes said, “Dogalming was the first event of this kind held at Aarons Hill Recreation Ground for many years and it was fantastically well attended by local residents and their dogs; it had a great community atmosphere and we hope to do the same next year. I’ve had an amazing week during Staycation trying out all the different activities on offer and I’d like to say a huge thanks to everyone who made us so welcome”.

Godalming Town Council is indebted once again to everyone involved in Staycation and especially to the many volunteers who gave up their time to help at the 79 events that took place throughout Godalming during the week.

Ends...

Notes to Editors: Staycation was introduced to Godalming in 2010, this year over 70 activities were arranged for local residents of all ages to try. Traditionally there has always been an end of year “Fete”. Godalming Town Council has confirmed it will be running Dogalming again for 2018 and that Staycation week 2018 will run from Saturday 4 to Sunday 12 August 2018.

For more information on this release or images, please contact projects@godalming-tc.gov.uk

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