



Supporting Our Community

## PRESS RELEASE

**For immediate release**

### **STAYCATION, A HOWLING SUCCESS!**

Residents of Godalming were kept busy at Godalming Town Council's Staycation week (3-11 August). Staycation Live Music Festival opened the week of activities in and around the town with visitors enjoying the glorious weather whilst listening to some eclectic bands and performers down by the river.

Throughout Staycation week there were many new activities as well as old favourites for residents to enjoy. Guildford Escape Rooms brought the "Osiris Chest" to Godalming and intrepid explorers were kept busy trying to discover the hidden "gold". A Godalming Staycation "Park Fun Run" was held with over 100 runners turning up to run around Broadwater Park and Lake. A day of Drumming workshops was introduced, a photographic workshop helped people to make the most of mobile phone cameras and a parent and baby choir sang rock, pop and musical theatre songs. Several new types of dance classes were introduced including Silver Swans ballet for the more mature and Acro-Dance where younger participants did gym trick flicks, twirls and more. Residents could be found enjoying and making new things including how to use a sewing machine and a variety of craft workshops. Staycation favourites returned including learning to play a brass instrument, ukulele playing, tennis, fun cookery classes, football, cricket, tennis, bowling, swimming, Baby Ballet and Street Dance. The canoeing on the River Wey recorded record numbers across the week and a second successful intergenerational afternoon where seniors and young people got together to play traditional games and enjoy each other's company was held at Broadwater Park Community Centre.

Godalming Town Council is one of the few local councils in the UK to organise such an extensive Staycation programme for its residents. Over the last 9 years, the community has supported Staycation and this year was no exception. One resident said: "I just wanted to say a huge thank you for organising Staycation. This week saw me having a go at bowling at Holloway Hill Bowling Club - I met some lovely people, who were clearly thrilled with the interest! And on Tuesday I took my two boys and their friends to play the Escape Room game, put on by Guildford Escape Room. They really loved it and I was so impressed it was completely free! That afternoon the four boys went swimming at Charterhouse for £2 each, making it affordable for me to treat them. Please

Follow Us on:



pass on my thanks to the organisers, it's a fantastic scheme, I'd like to say a massive thank you for Staycation!!”

Godalming Mayor, Cllr Penny Rivers said “I cannot praise Staycation 2019 too highly. It has been a week of witnessing and sometimes (even better) participating in great and interesting activities and arts and togetherness. There were opportunities to learn about drumming, football, acrobatics and crafts and that is to name just a few. We all love our River Wey, whether seen from the horse-drawn lona or even closer to the water in kayaks. It was the most enormous pleasure to be a small part of so much happiness and thanks to all those who contributed their time and talents so that this could happen. Godalming has so much to offer and all we have to do is join in.”

Godalming Town Council's end of Staycation event, **Dogalming**, a fun Dog Show and Fete was held at Aarons Hill Recreation Ground. Lots of lovely hounds were primped and preened ready to attend the event. 50 canines of varying breeds and ages entered into the dog show categories and the winners of each were entered in to the Best in Show. Winner of the Best Puppy was Coco the Cockapoo. Winner of the Best Veteran was Barclay a venerable Labrador Retriever Cross. Winner of the Best Family Category was Jack an Airedale Terrier and Bambi, last year's overall winner came first in the Best Dressed section. A new category was introduced for Best Rescue Dogs which was won by Persephone a Shepherd Cross. Overall winner of the Best in Show was Coco the Cockapoo puppy. Shannon Goss, one of the judges from Godalming Pet Doctors said “it was an excellent and well run event with dogs and owners having fun; we love coming to Dogalming”. Whilst the Judges deliberated, Canine Partners demonstrated with their superb dog Warwick who showed how assistance dogs can help transform the lives of people with disabilities. Gemma Tupper from Canine Partners said “It was a great event and the money raised will go towards training a new puppy.”

Godalming Town Council would like to thank Nestle Purina who sponsored the prizes including Dentalife Stix, which were given to all doggy entrants and those who were just visiting and 12.5kg bags of dog food, which were bigger than some of the dogs!

The Mayor of Godalming, Councillor Penny Rivers who opened the event and assisted with handing out the winning rosettes, said “It was great to see so many dogs and their people at Dogalming 2019. The stalls showcased good causes, offered entertainment and lunch, tea and cakes and ice-cream – perfect!

The generosity of the sponsors and the work of Godalming Town Council team enabled this great community event. On behalf of the residents of Godalming it is my privilege to extend thanks to all!”

Ends...

For more information on this release or images,  
please contact: Suzie Gortler  
[community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01483 523075  
Release Date: 15 August 2019

Follow Us on:



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 2020 and that Staycation week 2020 will run from Saturday 1 to Sunday 9 August 2020

For more information on this release or images,  
please contact: Suzie Gortler  
[community@godalming-tc.gov.uk](mailto:community@godalming-tc.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01483 523075  
Release Date: 15 August 2019

Follow Us on:

