

Day care centre safely welcoming back clients



GETTING THE MESSAGE ACROSS – Centre staff Cara Morloza and Gayle Bower

WOKING Day Care Centre, which offers services for people with dementia, has reopened after the easing of pandemic restrictions.

The facility, at the Bradbury Centre in Lavender Road, Maybury, has reopened on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

There is a waiting list for people wanting to use the services and if this gets longer, the centre might open on other days.

Activities include quizzes, sing-alongs, baking, gentle exercise classes and reminiscence activities in an open-plan lounge and dining area where users can relax and read a book.

There is also an outdoor space with a patio and lawn area with garden furniture and raised garden beds. Users can also take part in gardening activities.

Fran Simpson, the centre manager, said: "Throughout the unprecedented times caused by coronavirus, the centre remained closed to protect our clients, their families and the team.

"The team worked hard to ensure the centre was COVID-wise for its reopening.

"We ensure our wide range of activities are varied and tailored to our client's needs, abilities and interests. No



THUMBS UP – Centre user Pamela Honour is glad to be back

two days are the same and there's a real 'club' feel to our daily sessions.

"Our Have Your Say sessions enable clients to choose what they'd like to do and see the following month and what food they'd like on the menu.

"This helps to ensure our activities cater to everyone's interests and hobbies. Also, enabling choice for someone living with dementia is so important to their care needs."

The centre also runs Life History sessions, in which people can discuss their life stories, experiences and memories.

Sarah, whose grandmother uses the centre, said: "I am very grateful for the care my nan receives from all of the staff at Woking Day Care Centre.

"She thoroughly enjoys every session and is always keen to tell me what she has done at the end of the day."

The centre is run by Friends of the Elderly, whose engagement director, Mark Wilson, said: "It's great that our clients can get back to a positive routine, visit us, meet each other, chat and catch-up – socially distanced at all times, of course."

● **FOR more information, visit www.fote.org.uk/day-care/woking/ or call 01483 753652.**

Join village garden safari and put in a bid for the pandemic bench

GARDEN lovers may need something more substantial than a carrier bag if they are planning on bringing home something from the annual Horsell Garden Safari plant sale.

This year the organised tour of gardens in Horsell makes its return on the weekend of 26 and 27 June and there's a chance to bid for a Pandemic Bench, which will be displayed at 10 High Street, Horsell on both days of the safari, and at the plant sale.

The funds raised from the sale of the bench as well as the wide range of plants and vegetables will all go towards a wish list of items for the Friends of Woking Community Hospital (FWCH).

The bench, pictured, was built by Jon Allan, the chairman of FWCH and has famous quotes on the legs and back relevant to the lockdown and last 18 months. As well as lines from fiction, there are titles of non-fiction books about Brexit, President Trump and biographies of famous people. Spaces have been left blank for the successful bidder to add their favourite title.

The sale of the bench will be conducted by sealed bids, which must be delivered to the chairman, FWCH, 10 High Street, Horsell, Woking GU21 4UT no later than Wednesday 30 June, after which the bids will be opened. The result will be declared by Saturday 3 July. To be valid, the bids must be in sealed envelopes,

marked "Bid for pandemic bench" and must be signed by the bidder and show the name, postal address and email address and/or telephone number of the bidder, and the amount (in sterling) being bid.

The bench will go to the highest bidder. The bids will be numbered in order of receipt, and if two bids are for the same amount, the one received earlier will prevail.

Before the sale process was finalised, a friend of Jon's offered £250 for the bench. Because it was not a sealed bid, it is being declared to other potential bidders, but no other unsealed bids will be accepted.

Jon has also agreed that if the buyer is in the Woking area he will deliver the bench to that address and re-assemble it. Otherwise the buyer must collect it.

The Garden Safari sale will also include plant pots and lots of compost.

● **Brochures are £8 – children under 14 go free – and help to raise funds for Horsell Village Hall. They are available in many shops on Horsell High Street, or from co-ordinator Gail on 07759 313492. The safari is open on Saturday (26 June) from 11am to 5pm, and on Sunday (27 June) from noon to 5pm. The organisers hope to welcome the Mayor of Woking Cllr Liam Lyons and Woking MP Jonathan Lord.**



Making classical music accessible to the whole community

A CONCERT in support of mental health charity Woking Mind will feature two acclaimed musicians playing together for the first time.

Pianist Peter Donohoe and violinist Harriet Mackenzie will be performing at Holy Trinity Church in Guildford on Saturday 3 July in a concert which aims to make classical music accessible to everyone by bringing it closer to the community.

Peter is one of the foremost pianists of his time, noted for his musicianship, stylistic versatility and commanding technique.

He has performed with all the major London orchestras, as well as orchestras from across the world, and was appointed CBE for services to classical music in the 2010 New Year's Honours List.

He will be joined by Harriet, who is an internationally renowned concerto soloist and has performed across five continents. Her recordings include concertos with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the English Symphony Orchestra which have



received international acclaim.

The concert is being managed by Guildford-born Jonny Hennessey-Brown, who runs a local music management company with Cressida Wislocki, and is passionate about raising awareness of mental health, having lived with bipolar for many years.

"The significance of this concert series couldn't be more important as we come out of lockdown," he said.

"The emotional void left by having

nowhere to perform has been challenging for musicians. We also recognise the strong correlation between classical music for your mental health and this is why we've decided to support Woking Mind."

Tony Bennett, chief executive at Woking Mind, said: "Music can play a valuable role in recovery from mental illness. Both listening and playing music can help people to process emotions, deal with stress and express how they're feeling, so it's not unusual to see music therapy used for emotional wellbeing."

The concert, which begins at 7pm, will be COVID secure and the audience and musicians kept safe with track and trace, hand gels by all doors and social distancing in place. Tickets can be purchased at www.hennesseybrownmusic.com.

● **FOR more information or support with mental health, loneliness or anxiety, call Woking Mind on 07860 340739, or visit www.wokingmind.org.uk.**



MUSICIANS – Harriet Mackenzie on violin and Peter Donohoe on piano

