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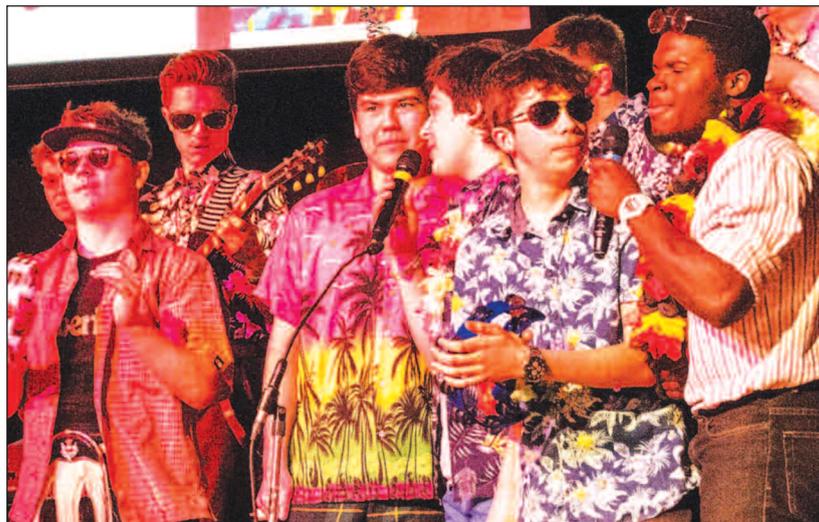
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Give it up for all performers in school's brilliant concert



SHOWTIME – Left, Grade 6 band performing *Give it Up* by KC & The Sunshine Band during Gordon's School's concert; right, School of Rock Band Pictures by Bob Holmes



PRIZEWINNING singers in Hawaiian shirts made a colourful splash on stage at the HG Wells Centre in Woking last week. The Grade 6 band were singing a

number that was the winning entry in Gordon's School's inter-house music competition. They and their group performed KC & The Sunshine Band's *Give it*

Up as part of the school's spring concert, *Songs for all Seasons*. The School of Rock Band, performing Bryan Adams' classic *Summer of '69*, were also one of the

acts in the show, which featured music from disco hits to traditional jigs. SEE Pages 12 and 13 for a full report and more photographs.



YUMMY – Archie, 2, with his Easter egg Picture by Fiona MacPhee

Easter boost for kids in hospital

WEST Byfleet villagers donated more than 250 Easter eggs that have been distributed by a local business to children who are in hospital this weekend.

The initiative was the brainchild of Esther Watson-Green, owner of estate agents Green and Parry.

The chocolate treats were delivered to the children's ward at St Peter's Hospital, Chertsey, on Tuesday by Esther with lettings manager Jacqueline Crowe and colleague Nicola Bowes dressed up as Easter Bunnies.

Jacqueline said that the response of the children was very moving. Most of them were in some form of isolation and the staff made it possible for them to see the Green and Parry team outside.

"They were over the moon. The staff were brilliant and it was a really cheerful time," she said.

The call for local residents to donate Easter eggs went out a few weeks ago on social media.

"The response was overwhelming and reflect the community spirit in the village," Jacqueline said.

She explained: "So many people, from young children to pensioners, supported the call for donations.

"We would like to thank everyone who took the trouble to support us."

Last week the Green and Parry team took a donation of eggs to CHASE (Shooting Stars) hospice for children in Addlestone.

Rail upgrade could solve traffic problem

by Stuart Flitton

THE transformation of transport in Woking, including Guildford Road becoming a dual carriageway, faster train services and an extra platform at the railway station, has taken a step nearer to becoming reality.

The key to the massive plans is a £75million scheme to widen Victoria Arch, which would allow for the dualling of Guildford Road/Victoria Way, resolving one of the main pinch points for traffic in the town centre.

The proposal is among four from Surrey that were moved to the final stages of consideration by the government last week.

Woking Borough Council leader David Bittleston said that the scheme was the preferred pitch and had been given £1.5million of government money to be worked up.

It has the enthusiastic backing of Network Rail which sees the road scheme as key to increasing the capacity of Woking railway station by 40% and solve one of the problems it has with the lines running between the south and London.

Cllr Bittleston explained that there is a hold-up where the tracks of the Portsmouth and Southampton lines cross. The planned development, which would include extra track over Victoria

Arch, would mean that Network Rail could build a "flyover" which would speed up both lines and allow the station to have an extra platform.

The Victoria Arch expansion would also mean that the adjacent commercial block would be acquired and knocked down and used to construct the extra track.

"The new sections would be built on that site and slid in overnight," Cllr Bittleston said.

Flats, many of them affordable, would then be built on the site of the former commercial block.

Cllr Bittleston said the fair wind received so far for the Victoria Arch

plan was a further indication that the government approved of developments in Woking, which is why it had given money towards various developments.

If final approval is given to the plan, construction is expected to begin in 2020.

The idea of replacing Victoria Arch and improving the road system has been an ambition of the council for several decades.

A consultation for Woking residents on the outline plan could begin later this year.

An indication of whether or not the scheme is likely to be approved is expected before the end of this year.

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