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# Woking News & Mail

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## What a transformation!

by **Stuart Flitton**

**THE first Community Matters Partnership Project Woking task got off to a flying start last week, with volunteers from local businesses spending a day transforming the gardens and outdoor relaxation area at the Brockhill sheltered housing in Goldsworth Park.**

Staff from the *News & Mail* took part in the Give and Gain Day, alongside employees of Asahi Beer, Clockwork Recruitment, Hamlyns, Headline Design & Print, RSM Domestic Appliances, Something Big, Surrey Chambers of Commerce, TVision Technology and Woking Borough Council.

One of the organisers of the project, Jane Warner, of Headline Design & Print, said: "What a brilliant start to Woking CMPP's Give and Gain Days. Those who took part worked so very hard to make a huge difference to the staff and residents at Brockhill who were very appreciative of our efforts."

Julie Meme, Woking Borough Council's home independence manager, said: "On behalf of everyone at Brockhill, I would like to thank members of the CMPP Woking for everything they did for us."

"The residents couldn't believe that strangers would give up their time to



**GREAT JOB – Above, the CMPP volunteers at Brockhill sheltered housing; left and right, the site before and after some of the work**



make a difference for them. They felt honoured and we are all totally thrilled with the results."

Most of the volunteers cleared overgrown gardens, cleaned and painted garden furniture with protective coating and jet-washed paved outdoor areas. A smaller group arrived later and spent time with residents, chatting and playing games.

CMPP Woking chairman Mark Warner said the initiative was looking to

increase the number of local companies participating.

"They might be large corporates looking to promote their own corporate social responsibility (CSR) staff schemes into our structure, medium-size companies who don't have the resource to run a CSR scheme or small companies wanting to come together for the good of the community. All are welcome," he said.

CMPP Woking, supported by Woking

Borough Council, was launched earlier this year following the success of the initiative's first project in 2010 in Farnborough.

As well as community work, such as the day at Brockhill last week, CMPP is also a useful networking base.

Gina Finn, BMW UK Internal Communications Manager, described CMPP as "the most rewarding thing we have done, personally for me and for the business."

While she recommended CMPP as a very effective and useful networking and public relations tool, she also highlighted some of the areas the company has worked with CMPP.

Employee volunteering has been one of the key areas as BMW UK gives its staff two days a year on volunteering. She described CMPP as "a broker" to facilitate connections such as local schools and youth projects.

BMW teams have been involved with building gardens for schools and giving presentations that have included taking cars to schools.

She said this sort of work has provided the company with team-building days: "It's a win-win. You get a group of people out of the work environment and they get to know each other a bit better. They get out into the community and do something good and it's fantastic."

## Police hunt trio after store raid

POLICE have issued CCTV images following a robbery at the Co-op store in Victoria Road, Knaphill.

Three men entered the shop shortly before 5.30am on Saturday, 9 June and forced staff into the back of the store. It is believed the thieves left through the fire exit that leads onto Inkerman Road.

"This was one of the worst possible scenarios for the two staff members to experience," said Detective Constable Richard Pegden, who is investigating this incident. "When they entered the store to start their normal shift, they were greeted by three masked men running towards them."

"Their courage is a huge testament to them, and we will do everything we can to bring these men to justice. I would urge anyone with information about the men in these images, or the incident to contact us. I would like to remind shop staff to always put their personal safety first."

The robbers were described as black, with two aged around 30 years old and approximately 5ft 9in tall and the third aged 35-40 years old and around 6ft tall. They were wearing long dark coats with hoods pulled up.

No weapons were seen and the staff escaped unhurt.

"We would also like to identify the driver of a black saloon which drove along Victoria Road, towards Inkerman Road around 5.26am," said DC Pegden. "If you were driving in the area, or even if your car was parked nearby, please review your dashcam footage and if you have any information please come forward."

Anyone with information is asked to call 101, quoting reference number PR/45180060478, or report anonymously to Crimestoppers by calling 0800 555 111.



## Cyclists clock up 600 miles on charity ride

**TWO Woking men have completed a 600-mile charity cycle ride from Aberdeen to London.**

Tom Bacon and Andrew Cutter were with five other riders from the Energy Industries Council (EIC), and have raised more than £10,000 for Cancer Research UK and The Ocean Cleanup. They completed the journey, via Teesside, in just six days.

Tom, a senior energy analyst with the leading energy trade association, said: "600 miles in six days is no mean feat for anyone, let alone seven inexperienced cyclists. We've all spent the past six months preparing, cycling to and from work, in some cases covering over 40 miles a day, as well as going out on regular team rides."

"The six days were gruelling, full



of scary A roads, punctures and lots of uphill climbs. What kept us going were the generous donations, the support we received from our friends and colleagues and the kind people we met en-route who cheered us on.

"Of course, the real motivation was knowing that we were raising money for two great charities – Cancer Research UK and The Ocean Cleanup."

The ride began from the EIC

**LONG TREK – Tom Bacon, second left, and Andrew Cutter, centre, with their colleagues in London after completing the ride**

Aberdeen office, stopped in at its Teesside location, and ended at the London headquarters on Tuesday last week (12 June). On some days the riders covered more than 130 miles.

Andrew, the EIC overseas membership manager, said: "It is an amazing achievement, especially considering that none of us are experienced cyclists."

"It's been an incredible experience and while we are all very sore and tired, all the aches and pains are worth it to support two great charities."

The group hopes that donations will hit £20,000.

For more information, visit [www.gofundme.com/the-eic-charity-cycle-challenge](http://www.gofundme.com/the-eic-charity-cycle-challenge).

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