



## Fresh produce for the local homeless

Last October, Woodley Town Council, in association with the Reading Road Allotment Tenant's Association, allocated three overgrown community plots for local homelessness prevention charity Launchpad to use with its corporate volunteers to grow crops to supply fresh garden produce to disadvantaged and vulnerable families via foodbanks, soup kitchens and community fridges. Launchpad has worked with over 25 teams of corporate volunteers over the past 12 months, accumulating over 1200 hours.

Speaking on behalf of Launchpad, local Woodley resident Jason McMahon, Corporate Partnerships Manager said: "This is a great way to bring the charity together with local businesses, Woodley Town Council and the community to supply healthy fresh produce to those struggling in our area and accessing food parcels or soup kitchens at homeless shelters. I am very proud of everyone involved in making this happen, creating a fantastic project that has grown into an all year-round service."

Carolyn Davies, a Committee Member of the Reading Road Tenant's Association, is delighted that the plots have been so well cultivated and said: "I would just like to say how proud I am of what we have achieved in a relatively short time on the Launchpad plots."

In addition to the Launchpad volunteers, many tenants have volunteered to provide expertise to assist on the volunteering days, filling in the gaps between sessions, watering in the evenings, providing tools, seeds, plants and seedlings and more, along with local companies and residents donating much needed equipment.

The Reading Road Tenants Association is looking for more volunteers to help run the project, including some expertise knowledge to supervise tending and cultivating the crops. For more information please contact [readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:readingrdallotments@hotmail.co.uk).



## Keith Baker MBE

Woodley Town Council leader Cllr Keith Baker has been awarded a Member of the British Empire (MBE) for his contribution to public and political service. Announced in the Queen's Birthday Honours list in June, Cllr Baker received the MBE at Buckingham Palace from Her Majesty the Queen on 10 October. Speaking of the honour, Cllr Baker said: "It is a great honour to be chosen for this award and to be one of only 18 people in Berkshire to receive an award from the Queen's Birthday Honours list."



## HRH The Princess Royal

Following the official opening of the Citizens Advice new offices in Wokingham by HRH The Princess Royal, Woodley Town Mayor Cllr Kay Gilder had the pleasure of meeting the Princess at a reception to mark the work of the local Citizens Advice at Wokingham and Woodley. Woodley Town Council provides significant funding for the Citizens Advice in Woodley. Speaking of the honour, Cllr Gilder said: "It was a great honour to be presented to HRH The Princess Royal; she was a delightful person to speak to. It was a pleasure to be at the ceremony and meet the many staff and volunteers who do such great work for our community."





## David Stares

It is with great sadness we announce that Cllr David Stares passed away peacefully in October, after losing his battle against cancer. David had been active in the community for some time and was a councillor at Woodley Town Council for almost five years. He served as Chairman on the Leisure Services Committee and

was the town's Deputy Mayor in 2018/19. As a councillor, he developed a particular interest and involvement in the ongoing improvements to Woodford Park Leisure Centre and associated facilities. David was an active member of the Bowls Club and a keen allotment holder, serving as a member of the Allotment Tenant's Committee. Our thoughts are with his family.

## Citizens' Awards

Each year, Woodley Town Council celebrates local heroes at its Citizens' Awards ceremony for individuals whose good works and deeds benefit an individual or organisation in Woodley. These might be people carrying out voluntary work, or those who care for people in our community or helpful neighbours who all go above and beyond in their kindness and help. Nominees can be any age and there is a youth category for nominees aged 19 or under. Mayor Cllr Kay Gilder will present the awards at a Civic Reception on the evening of 27 March 2020 to which the award winners, their family and friends, and the nominators will be invited. If you know someone you think deserves recognition for their work in Woodley, you can make a nomination by filling in the form and returning it to the Council offices at the Oakwood Centre by Monday 20 January 2020. Forms are available on the Council website: [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk) or please call to request one on 0118 9690356.



## Silver win for Woodley town centre

Woodley Town Centre won Silver at the recent Thames and Chilterns Regional Britain in Bloom competition in the Town Centre category. Delighted with the award, town centre manager Brian Fennelly said: "We've received some great feedback from residents saying that the floral displays have looked better than ever this year. Lots of people were involved in making the town centre look great, however, I wanted to pay a special tribute to the Woodley Adopt a Street Project (WASP) led by Shelagh Flower who worked incredibly hard and with great enthusiasm to get the town centre looking at its very best for the judging day."

## Woodford Park to turn purple

Woodley residents who visit Woodford Park this spring will be in for a delightful display of purple crocus. The Rotary Club of Loddon Vale have once again supplied the crocus bulbs and the Friends of Woodford Park arranged for members of the community to help with the planting. The Rotarians and Friends were particularly delighted that the 1st Woodley Cubs and Beavers could help with the planting and almost 4000 crocus bulbs were planted. The colour purple is chosen to symbolise the Rotary Club's international Purple4Polio awareness campaign, representing the village children who, when given their polio injection, have a finger stained purple to show that they have been immunised.



## New chairperson for WANE

Woodley and North Earley Community Forum have appointed new chairperson Jackie Rance, who took over from the October meeting. Further scheduled meetings will be held at the Oakwood Centre from 19.00-21.00 on 20 November and 12 February 2020. All residents are welcome to attend the meetings to discuss issues in the local area. Minutes of all meetings are available on the Town Council website: <http://www.woodley.gov.uk/partnerships/other-community-partnerships>

### VE Day celebrations in Woodley

8 May 1945 – were you there? If so, we'd love to hear from you. Please email: [admin@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:admin@woodley.gov.uk)

### Woodley Carnival is 60 in 2020!

As part of their work on Woodley's history, the U3A would love to hear local residents' memories and experiences of the Carnival and hope to provide a display at the Carnival in 2020. Please call Ann Smith on 0118 9783430 or email [wokinghamsmith@gmail.com](mailto:wokinghamsmith@gmail.com)

## Climate conscious

At the Full Council Meeting in October, Woodley Town Council adopted a motion to commit to a declaration of a 'Climate Emergency' with the aim of becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030, in line with Wokingham Borough Council. The Council will actively participate in the creation of the Borough-wide climate change strategy to ensure we are fully engaged in its creation for the benefit of its residents. We will explore, with all parts of the community, the

development of a local action plan in support of, and to compliment, the Borough Council's climate change strategy plan for those parts relevant to Woodley and invite local residents to email in their ideas and suggestions to: [admin@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:admin@woodley.gov.uk).

We will also continue our commitment to climate change through our current campaigns and initiatives, including supporting local habitat and wildlife, exploring and using renewable energy

and energy efficient products, and reducing, reusing and recycling where possible. The Council was recently awarded Green Flag status at Woodford Park for the second year running, which includes climate conscious maintenance.

A Climate Change leaflet is available at the Oakwood Centre or online: <http://www.woodley.gov.uk/woodley-town-councils-commitment-to-climate-change>

## Christmas Woodley postal service

The 2nd Woodley Scout Group is once again providing an inexpensive, fast and reliable Christmas postal service within Woodley. Anyone can drop off their Christmas post in Woodley Town Centre (near Barclays Bank) on Saturday 7 December and Saturday 14 December, between 10.00 – 13.00 and pay only 20p per letter to be hand delivered in the Woodley area. The post is given a special Christmas stamp and aims to be delivered the next day.

## Useful information

### Citizens Advice Help to Claim Service

is available in its Woodley branch every Tuesday 09.30-14.30 and in its Wokingham branch Monday to Thursday 09.00-15.00.

Free helpline: 0800 144 8 144

### Thames Valley Police's 'Little Book of Scams'

provides guidance on spotting and reporting different types of scam. Please view it at: [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk)

### Thames Water Free Priority Service

for customers who find themselves in vulnerable circumstances. Please contact: Extra Care Team on 0800 0093652 option 3, or visit [www.thameswater.co.uk/priorityservices](http://www.thameswater.co.uk/priorityservices)

### Remap Berkshire

provide free innovative, custom-made equipment to help find practical solutions to everyday challenges for people with disabilities that is not available to buy. Please visit: [www.makeability.org.uk](http://www.makeability.org.uk) or [www.berkshire.remap.org.uk](http://www.berkshire.remap.org.uk)

# What's On

## Oakwood Centre

### Blood Donors

6 & 27 November, 22 & 29 January

5 & 26 February

To book an appointment call

0300 123 23 23

### Weight Watchers

Thursdays 09.30

### Woodley & Earley Art Group

Last Thursday in the month 19.00 – 22.00

### Woodley Photographic Club

Mondays 19.45 – 22.15

From September – June

### Acorn Community Acupuncture

Thursdays 18.00 – 22.00

Call 07551 726077 for an appointment or

visit [www.acornacupuncture.org.uk](http://www.acornacupuncture.org.uk)

### Libra Pilates

Tuesdays 09.30 – 10.30, 10.30 – 11.30

& 11.30 – 12.30

Contact 0118 9697769

### Energy Share Meetings – Various Alternative Therapies

One Wednesday per month

Contact [lizziejones8384@aol.com](mailto:lizziejones8384@aol.com)

### Jewellery Classes

Mondays 10.00 – 12.00, 13.00 – 15.00,

18.30 – 20.30

Contact [janetrichardson.co.uk](http://janetrichardson.co.uk)

07840 538353

### Woodley Women's Club

Every other Monday 19.30 – 22.00

Contact Sheila Smith 0118 9692076

### GymCats

Thursdays 19.00 – 20.00

Contact [GymCatsPT@gmail.com](mailto:GymCatsPT@gmail.com)

### Meditation Class

Tuesdays 19.30 – 20.30

Contact [karenproudfoot@live.com](mailto:karenproudfoot@live.com)

07960 966020

### Yoga

Wednesdays 19.30 – 20.30

Contact Kassi Milne-Smith 07960 858675

## Alan Cornish Theatre

### Woodley Light Operatic Society

#### The Mikado

10 – 13 December 19.45,

14 December 15.00 & 19.45

Box Office: [www.wlos.co.uk](http://www.wlos.co.uk)

### Berzerk Productions

#### Into The Woods

18 – 20 December 19.30,

21 – 22 December 14.00 & 17.00

Box Office: [www.berzerkproductions.com](http://www.berzerkproductions.com)

## Woodley Theatre

### The Thrill of Love

26 – 30 November 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121

or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Jazz Concert

25 January 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121

or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Things We Do For Love

18 – 22 February 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121

or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

## Town Centre

### Saturday Market

Every Saturday 09.00-15.00

### Artisan & Produce Market

Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month

09.00 – 13.30

### Car Boot and Table Top Sale

10 & 24 November, 15 December

12 & 26 January, 9 & 23 February

8 & 22 March, 08.00 – 13.00

### NEW Vegan Market

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month

from 15 March 2020

**Christmas Lights Switch On  
& Carol Concert**  
Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 16.30 – 17.30  
**23<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Extravaganza**  
Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December 10.00 – 15.00  
(See separate leaflet for more details)



@WoodleyTCMI

[www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk](http://www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk)

## Council meetings

**Full Council** 10 December, 4 February 20.00

**Town Electors** 3 March

**Leisure Services Committee** 19 November, 14 January 20.00

**Strategy and Resources Committee** 26 November, 21 January 20.00

**Planning Committee** 5 November, 3 December, 7 & 28 January, 25 February 19.45

Meetings are held at the Oakwood Centre.

A Town Forum is held before each Full Council meeting at which members of the public can pose questions to the Council on issues affecting the town or on Town Council matters.



@oakwoodcentreak



The Oakwood Centre

[www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk)

Do you need somewhere to celebrate a special occasion?

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Birthdays  
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[www.theoakwoodcentre.com](http://www.theoakwoodcentre.com)

Oakwood  
Centre

## Children's Activities – January 2020

	<p><b>Silly Soccer</b>            A soccer session just for babies and toddlers. This is a no pressure “free play” session where parent supervision is required. Our on-site staff will hand out simple game cards for parents and little ones to tackle together.</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays</b>  <b>13.00 – 13.45</b>            Ages ‘walking’ – 4 years            Visit our website to view the latest course dates and prices</p>
	<p><b>Mini Soccer</b>            A fun and engaging session for little ones looking to get their first experience of coaching, with the aim of developing the basic skills of football. Sessions take place indoors.</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays</b>  <b>16.00 – 17.00</b>            Ages 3 – 6 years            £4.00 (HH) or £4.50 per session</p>
	<p><b>Junior Soccer</b>            Our junior soccer is the perfect follow up to the mini soccer session. A more structured session with lesson plans focused on passing, shooting and dribbling mixed in with fun football themed games.</p>	<p><b>Tuesdays</b>  <b>17.00 – 18.00</b>            Ages 5 – 8 years            £4.00 (HH) or £4.50 per session</p>
	<p><b>Mini Movers</b>            A fun-filled, highly interactive toddler class for your mini movers. You can expect exciting games, dancing, music, instruments, bubbles and creative props with relaxation to end.</p>	<p><b>Wednesdays</b>  <b>10:00 – 10:45</b>            Ages 2 – 5 years            Visit our website to view the latest course dates and prices</p>
	<p><b>Racket Pack Badminton</b>            These fun-filled and engaging sessions are led by our very own Badminton England coaches, and are focused on ensuring a positive first experience of badminton.</p>	<p><b>Wednesdays</b>  <b>16.00 – 17.00</b>            Ages 5 – 12 years            £4.00 (HH) or £4.50 per session</p>
	<p><b>Judo Courses</b>            Develop strength, stamina and improve your overall fitness with this fun martial art. Children will learn a variety of Judo techniques including lifts and throws that students can practice safely.</p>	<p><b>Saturdays</b>  <b>09:00 – 10:00 or 10:00 – 11:00</b>            Ages 5 – 18 years            Visit our website to view the latest course dates and prices</p>

**T: 0118 9216969**

**E: [sports@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:sports@woodley.gov.uk)**

**Contact us for more information and to book in for a free trial session**

### Walking netball

Walking Netball for women is a new sport soon to start at Woodford Park Leisure Centre every Thursday at 11.30 – 12.30 from 9 January 2020. The sport has evolved from a growing demand for walking sports and is a slower version of the game – netball but at a walking pace. The game has been designed so that anyone can play it regardless of age or fitness level. Sessions are also available for 8-10 year olds on Monday evenings 17.00 – 18.00 at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

For more information and to register your interest please contact Liz Creighton on 0784 2111868 or [liz\\_creighton@sky.com](mailto:liz_creighton@sky.com).

### Charity Christmas Open Day

On Monday 23rd December, Woodford Park Leisure Centre will be open to all in support of the Mayor's chosen charity, Prostate Cancer UK.

All are welcome to come along and make use of the Centre's facilities and take part in a selection of our timetabled sessions where the standard fee has been waived.

Instead, we will be asking all who come along and take part to donate a minimum amount of £1.00 to Prostate Cancer UK.

A taste of what's on offer:

- Staff cake and biscuit sale
- Tea and coffee
- Pilates course taster
- Access to The Gym on the Park
- 3G pitch hire
- Silver Circuits Christmas party
- Badminton court hire
- Our Monday evening, Body Balance, Circuits, Boxercise, No Strings and Zumba sessions.

For more information please contact us on: [sports@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:sports@woodley.gov.uk)

