

## Our News & Events

Herald, Marketing, PR & Event enquiries:  
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www.woodley.gov.uk  
@WoodleyCouncil  
@WoodleyCouncil  
Woodley Town Council



## Woodford Park Leisure Centre

Feeling the pinch this winter?

The Gym on the Park has relaunched its popular Feel Good Membership for January 2023! For just £20.00 per month, new members receive access to the gym as well as a wide range of exercise classes to help you burn off those Christmas luxuries. Offer valid from 1 January until 31 January 2023. New members only.

# The Gym on the Park

Contact: sports@woodley.gov.uk for more information or visit: www.woodley.gov.uk

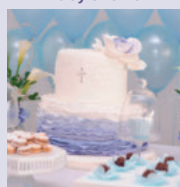
## Are you looking for an affordable space to celebrate a special occasion?

The Oakwood Centre is a flexible and versatile venue, which is fully staffed and ready for you to style to suit your theme. It can be configured for up to 150 people, providing the perfect space to celebrate your special occasion. All of the rooms overlook Woodford Park; a perfect backdrop for photos and to extend your party into an outside space. Our on-site caterers, Brown Bag, can provide delicious food and a bar, or you can use another licensed provider. With special rates for Woodley residents, enquire now and book your celebration.

Contact Nikki Syers, Venues Manager:  
bookings@woodley.gov.uk / www.theoakwoodcentre.com



Baby Shower



Christening



Afternoon Tea



Engagement



Party



"Woodley Town Centre were delighted to win the 'Town Centre' category of the Thames & Chiltern Britain in Bloom competition. We were pleased to have St Dominic-Savio and Highwood School produce two fantastic floral displays and, once again, we had great support from the Woodley Adopt a Street Project, which did a great job in making sure the town centre looked at its best on judging day. We'd like to wish everyone in Woodley a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year," Brian Fennelly.



Saturday Market  
09.00-15.00



Wednesday Artisan Market  
09.00-14.00



Every 2nd & 4th Sunday  
08.00-13.00

(contact Nicholas & Lorraine Harris: 01932 761985)

Town Centre Manager: Brian Fennelly  
tcm@woodley.gov.uk / 07506 741591  
www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk

@WoodleyTCMI  
@WoodleyTownCentre

## Council Committee Meetings

Planning & Community: 3 & 31 January, 28 February, 28 March, 25 April  
Leisure Services: 17 January, 11 April  
Strategy & Resources: 24 January, 18 April  
Full Council: 7 February  
For more information please email: matthew.filmore@woodley.gov.uk

Committee Meetings are held at the Oakwood Centre. They are live recorded and available to watch on our YouTube channel.



T: 0118 969 0356 E: admin@woodley.gov.uk www.woodley.gov.uk



# Herald

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## Key events so far this year

### Queen's Platinum Jubilee

We ran a competition for young people in Woodley to design Jubilee-themed stones, which were then set into a permanent memorial around The Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree in Woodford Park. The winners sat at the Top Table with the Mayor at our Big Jubilee Lunch in the town centre. The Mayor also lit The Queen's Beacon as part of our celebrations.

### Queen's Memorial

We mourned The Queen's passing along with the nation and held several official events during the mourning period, including a Book of Condolence at the Oakwood Centre. The Mayor read the Proclamation in the town centre to announce the ascension of King Charles III.

### Green Flag

Woodford Park was awarded Green Flag status for the fifth year running, officially recognising it as one of the country's best parks and the only park in the Wokingham Borough area to have this status.

### Woodford Park play area

Woodford Park's new play area opened in June, with an opening event attended by over 600 local residents. The new play area has been designed specifically with inclusivity in mind, and offers a stimulating, exciting play experience for children of all abilities.

### Sensory Garden

The Sensory Garden in Woodford Park's new play area was dedicated to the late Cllr David Stares who, as chairman of the Leisure Services Committee when the new play area was first suggested, was at the forefront of driving the project forward.

## Cllr Sam Rahmouni

Sadly, Cllr Sam Rahmouni passed away in October. Sam was first elected to Woodley Town Council in 1999, to represent Coronation West. During his time he also represented Coronation Central and, most recently, Bulmershe ward. He was an active member of the Town Council and was on several committees during his time including the Planning & Community Committee. Sam also served as Deputy Town Mayor for the Municipal Year 2017-18 and Woodley Town Mayor for 2018-19. Woodley Town Council Leader, Cllr Keith Baker, knew Sam for many years:

"I have known Sam for over a decade and found him very much a man of the people. His passion for helping Woodley residents was second to none. As a Town Councillor he was always willing to offer his services to the Town Council in whatever capacity was required. During his career he was both a Borough and a Town Councillor reaching the pinnacle of being Woodley Town Mayor. His activities, on behalf of Woodley residents, was always carried out in a very quiet way shunning any publicity. "Outside of his political career, he had a passion for the pub, with many regulars of the Chequers knowing him well. The other passion was at Christmas time when he religiously created jars and jars of pickled onions, which were delicious. I will certainly miss him as a friend, a political colleague and a provider of great pickled onions. He had a heart of good and will be greatly missed by all." Our thoughts are with his family and friends.



Woodford Park play area



Green Flag Award



Cllr Sam Rahmouni

## Mayor's Christmas message



I have once again thoroughly enjoyed being Woodley Town Mayor this year and have had the pleasure of attending several events. A particular highlight for me was hosting my first charity Afternoon Tea, which raised over £400 for my chosen charity, Keep Mobile. Thank you to everyone for their generosity, especially in these financially challenging times.

It was also a pleasure to celebrate The Queen's Jubilee with the residents of Woodley and to be part of the commemorative events to mourn Her Majesty's passing. I was also honoured and privileged to publicly read the Proclamation announcing the ascension of His Majesty King Charles III.

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.

*Woodley Town Mayor, Cllr Janet Sartorel*

If you would like to invite the Town Mayor or Deputy Town Mayor to an event, please email: [Matthew.Filmore@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:Matthew.Filmore@woodley.gov.uk)



Woodley Town Mayor,  
Cllr Janet Sartorel



T: 0118 969 0356 E: admin@woodley.gov.uk www.woodley.gov.uk



# Cost of Living Support

Wokingham Borough Council

Get help if you're struggling

The council is working alongside local charities to show all the support you could use for saving money this Winter.

- Pension credits
- Winter Fuel Payments
- Warm spaces open this winter
- Discounts on household bills
- Energy bills advice
- Healthy food vouchers
- Low income NHS help
- What to do if you can't afford food
- Mental health support
- What to do if you're in debt



SCAN TO GET HELP WITH COST OF LIVING

Keep up to date with new support on offer

[www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living)

Can't get help online?

Call the Citizens Advice Wokingham One Front Door. Open to all residents in Wokingham borough

**0808 278 7958**

Open 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

[citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor](http://citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor)



## How to get help

The latest round of Wokingham Borough Council's Household Support Fund is now open for applications. This is open to those struggling with rising costs of living, struggling to buy food or pay bills, as well as people in receipt of benefits. The Council's partners can provide £120 in the form of food, fuel or cash vouchers. Pupils getting means-tested free school meals can get £15 per week, per eligible child, during school holidays. This applies for half terms, Christmas and Easter holidays. Apply through First Days Children's Charity, or: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/household-support-fund/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/household-support-fund/)

## Volunteer

Want to help others this winter and give something back to your community? Register as a volunteer with the Wokingham Volunteer Centre and be matched with a local voluntary organisation near you. [www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk/volunteer/](http://www.wokinghamvolunteercentre.org.uk/volunteer/)

Make your home more energy efficient for free

Check if you're eligible for a grant or subsidised improvements

## Free energy efficiency improvements

If your household income is below £30,000 and you have a low energy performing home, you could reduce your bills through free or subsidised home improvements to make your home more energy efficient and help you to save money. Apply here: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/housing-and-tenants/private-housing/energy-saving-and-climate/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/housing-and-tenants/private-housing/energy-saving-and-climate/)

## Social tariffs

Social tariffs are cheaper broadband and phone packages for people claiming Universal Credit, Pension Credit and some other benefits. Some providers call them 'essential' or 'basic' broadband. They're delivered in the same way as normal packages, just at a lower price. Amid rising living costs, Ofcom is encouraging companies to offer social tariffs to help customers on low incomes. Find out more here: [www.ofcom.org.uk](http://www.ofcom.org.uk)

Get help with your bills

Apply to water and energy companies if you're struggling with cost of living

Save £500 on energy this winter

Energy Saving Trust's top tips for annual savings

## Government Energy Support Scheme

The Energy Bills Support Scheme will see households receive a non-repayable grant of £400, paid as £66 in October and November, then £67 from December to March. Please contact your energy supplier to find out how you will receive it.

## Warm Home Discount

You could get £150 off your electricity bill, under the Warm Home Discount Scheme. The money is not paid to you - it's a one-off discount on your electricity bill, between October 2022 and March 2023. The discount will not affect your Cold Weather Payment or Winter Fuel Payment. [www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme](http://www.gov.uk/the-warm-home-discount-scheme)

## Cold Weather Payment

You could claim the Cold Weather Payment if you get certain support and the average temperature is recorded as forecast to be zero degrees Celsius or below for seven days in a row (applies from 1 November to 31 March): [www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment](http://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment)

Appliances off at socket - £65	Shower in four minutes - £95
Draught proof windows/doors - £125	Swap baths for showers - £20
Turn off lights not being used - £25	Avoid overfilling kettle - £13
30-degree washing cycle - £34	Completely fill dishwasher each time - £17
Avoid tumble dryer - £70	Insulate hot water cylinder - £70

# Cost of Living Support

## Older family members

If you've got older family members, they may be entitled to:

- Pension Credit if they're 66 or older. [www.gov.uk/pension-credit](http://www.gov.uk/pension-credit)
- Winter Fuel Payment if they were born before 25 September 1956. [www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment](http://www.gov.uk/winter-fuel-payment)

## One Front Door

Not able to pay for food?

[www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor](http://www.citizensadvicewokingham.org.uk/onefrontdoor)

Not able to pay energy bills?

Contact the One Front Door to get help



## Free School Meals

If you receive certain benefits, you can apply to a scheme called the pupil premium. This gives your school extra funding - up to £1300 per year, to help with your child's education, including free school meals up until they leave. Find out more here: [www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-information-and-services/free-school-meals-and-the-pupil-premium/)

## Warm spaces

Many local organisations and businesses are offering warm spaces for free. All of Wokingham Borough Libraries are offering this service as places you can go to stay warm during their opening hours. [www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries)

## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle this Christmas - and save money

- Donate unwanted items to charity shops or take to the Re3 recycling centres in Reading or Bracknell, which have been working with Sue Ryder since 2011. You might also pick up a much-wanted Christmas gift for your loved ones at a far cheaper price.
- Swap your gift wrapping for recyclable paper or reuse gift bags and ribbons to save money buying more. There are also many tips online to teach you how to wrap presents without using sticky tape.
- Make sure to use all of the food you buy for the Christmas period and recycle any unwanted food or leftovers in your food waste caddy. [www.lovefoodhatewaste.com](http://www.lovefoodhatewaste.com) has some great recipes using food that you would normally throw away, saving you the need to buy more food.
- Many charities take away real Christmas trees for a small fee, which are then recycled. Alternatively, you can take them to be recycled at your nearest Re3 centre or reuse an artificial tree year after year, which will save you money each year.
- Batteries, glass, textiles and soft plastics, such as carrier bags, can often be recycled at your local supermarkets. You can also reduce how much you spend on batteries and carrier bags by investing in rechargeable batteries and reusable bags for life.
- Head to the Re3 website for more tips and to see what items can be recycled at the centres: [www.re3.fccenvironment.co.uk](http://www.re3.fccenvironment.co.uk)



## Benefits calculator

The Citizens Advice benefits calculator can help you find out what benefits you may be able to claim. The calculator is free to use, and the details you provide are anonymous. Find the calculator here: [www.citizensadvicewokingham.entitledto.co.uk/home/start](http://www.citizensadvicewokingham.entitledto.co.uk/home/start)

## Priority Services

If you or your family members are potentially vulnerable this winter, remember to register for priority services with utility providers to get priority support if services are cut off by things like power cuts. This includes older people, those with young children, disabilities or long-term conditions or if you're pregnant. [www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/household-bills/priority-services/](http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/cost-of-living/household-bills/priority-services/)

## Healthy Start Vouchers

Apply for Healthy Start Vouchers to help pay for items such as milk, fruit and vegetables: [www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/how-to-apply/)

Get funds for fruit, veg and milk for kids

If you get income support, apply for NHS Healthy Start vouchers



## Link Visiting Scheme

In its 11th year, the Link Visiting Scheme's Christmas Day event is also looking for donations. Please contact them if you can help: **0118 9798019**.

Know someone spending Christmas Day alone this year?



We are now accepting referrals for our Christmas Day event, bringing joy and companionship to those who would otherwise be spending Christmas on their own

At The Link Visiting Scheme, we understand how difficult and painful the Christmas period can be for those on their own. So, for the 11th year running, we're planning to bring festive cheer to those who are alone and who would love some extra company. This will include a friend to talk to, gifts and a delicious, traditional Christmas dinner at a local venue.

For more information, visit [linkvisiting.org/christmas](http://linkvisiting.org/christmas) or call our office: 0118 9798019

