

***Please note all information was correct at the time of publishing**



“ I just wanted to pass on my thanks and appreciation to all the staff at the gym on the park. Myself and my friend joined nearly 4 years ago and we love it. The staff are friendly and helpful without exception. My membership is the best money I spend. I wanted to write at this time to say how impressed we are with the planning around social distancing. Really clear and sensible but the gym still feels welcoming. Thank you. It feels great to be back
Rachel (gym member)

We would like to pass on some feedback on the session, we really enjoyed it and felt safe especially with the social distancing and level of exercise and look forward to the next session. Many thanks.

Sue & Larry (exercise class attendees)

WPLC has always been a great venue for Woodley Netball Club but since Covid the staff have gone above and beyond to do everything in their powers to help get us safely back on court playing the game we love and accommodating our ever-changing requests for court times both in the Sports Hall and on the outside HSA court. Thank you for everything you have done.

Woodley Netball Club

Woodford Park Leisure Centre remains at the heart of the community

While we had to unfortunately close the doors of Woodford Park Leisure Centre during the Covid 19 lockdown, our innovative staff found a way to keep the Centre at the heart of the community once restrictions were eased by opening 'The Gym in the Car Park'. Starting in July and throughout the summer holidays, Ab Attack, Body Blast, Circuits and a range of other classes were held outside in a sectioned area of the car park providing a social and yet socially distant way for members to exercise.

Following Covid 19 guidelines being eased, the Leisure Centre then reopened on 27 July with new safety measures and a new booking system to use the gym facilities and exercise classes. The Centre is currently running a badminton off-peak rate offer at weekends between 09.30-16.30 and is home to a large number of local sports and activity providers who have all worked hard to return following the uncertainty of coronavirus. All facilities and sessions must be pre-booked to help with NHS Track & Trace efforts and all information is available on our website (<https://www.woodley.gov.uk/parks-facilities/woodford-park-leisure-centre>). For more information please email: sports@woodley.gov.uk or call 0118 9216969.



Climate Emergency Action Plan

Woodley Town Council has adopted a Climate Emergency Action Plan to help us deliver our commitment to becoming a carbon neutral organisation by 2030. The Council declared a climate emergency in October 2019, and has been working on a number of initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint.

- We have already significantly reduced this by changing to 'green gas' contracts, with all the gas for our buildings coming from a supplier who achieves carbon neutral gas through a combination of biogas production and carbon offsetting through environmental projects. We will be doing the same with our electricity supplies when the current contracts end
- Solar panels have been installed on the Oakwood Centre and Woodford Park Leisure Centre buildings through a partnership with Reading Community Energy Society, which provides a low, fixed rate electricity supply and returns green energy to the grid
- We have begun replacing the lighting in our buildings with energy efficient LED lighting. This will be an ongoing process along with other energy saving solutions

- Water tanks have been installed to the buildings in the grounds maintenance yard to harvest rainwater, for reuse on flower and shrub beds and washing down vehicles and other water needs. We are looking at the potential to extend this to our other buildings to reduce our reliance on mains water and reuse as much rainwater as possible
- We will be planting 165 saplings in our park areas over the winter period. These were obtained at no cost through an initiative run by the Woodland Trust to increase tree planting across the country
- We are working with Wokingham Borough Council and the other local parish and town councils to target our efforts to maximum effect and play our part in reducing carbon emissions across the Borough.

We still have a great deal of work to do and are looking at opportunities for more recycling in our parks and buildings.

To keep up to date with our Climate Change commitment, please see our website:
www.woodley.gov.uk

Woodford Park awarded Green Flag for third year running

Woodley Town Council is delighted that Woodford Park will be raising a Green Flag Award for the third year running. The Green Flag Award scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy under licence from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for their management across the UK and around the world.

Town Council Leader Cllr Keith Baker said he was proud that Woodford Park has retained the award for the third year running, providing local residents and visitors with a spectacular green space to enjoy.

“Winning the Green Flag award for the third-year running is a great testament to the hard work of the Town Council staff and the volunteers from the Friends of Woodford Park who help maintain such a beautiful facility. This has been all the more important during the lockdown period of Covid 19, where accessing green spaces was vital for mental and physical health. The Council is particularly proud that this is the only park in the Wokingham Borough area to have received and retained Green Flag status.”

Pictured (L-R): Aaron Rogers, Grounds Maintenance Team Member and Terry Gough, Grounds Maintenance Manager



Citizens' Awards 2020

Due to the Covid 19 lockdown and subsequent restrictions, we have sadly been unable to host our annual Citizens' Awards ceremony to commend those nominated. In lieu of the event, we would like to say congratulations to the following Woodley heroes:

Philip Barry for his contribution over many years fundraising for Woodley & Earley Lions Club and in particular as project leader for Santa's Sleigh; **Allan & Mandy Dodd** for their voluntary work and fundraising activities for over 24 years, including the Woodford Singers Choir; **Stephen Moody** who was awarded for his drive, enthusiasm and commitment to the development of youth football in Woodley; **Alistair Todd** for generously giving his time as a volunteer at Woodley Volunteer Centre for over 20 years; and **Aimee Vickery** who was awarded for all the fundraising activities she has undertaken to support the Me2 Club.



Sam Milligan was awarded the Mayor's Award by then Woodley Town Mayor Cllr Kay Gilder. "Over 24 years ago, Sam approached the Town Council with an idea to help reach and support the young people of Woodley who did not want to attend the then provided youth clubs. He converted a van to provide a mobile service packed full of information that was relevant to teenagers, a computer they could use, tea and coffee and a friendly ear to listen to their views and problems. The Town Council then employed Sam as a part time Youth Outreach worker. Just Around the Corner (JAC) was then born through Sam's experience and commitment with young people. Sam is the most dedicated youth worker I have ever met; he and his family have given their lives to help the vulnerable young people of Woodley and surrounding areas and I feel that Sam is truly the most deserving person for the Mayors' Award," said Cllr Gilder.

The Council has also taken the difficult decision to postpone the Citizens' Awards for 2021 until the Covid 19 situation improves and the restrictions are lifted.

Community Grants

The following Community Grants were approved by the Strategy & Resources Committee on 15 September 2020:

2nd Woodley Scout Group £250 to purchase camping equipment and activity equipment;

Berkshire Vision £250 towards the cost of providing services and a range of events and activities to enhance the lives of the visually impaired;

Home-Start Wokingham District £250 towards the cost of running a training course for new volunteers and mentoring current volunteers;

Kick Twist Cheerleading £250 towards the cost of 4 training sessions at the Bulmershe Gymnastics Club;

Me2 Club £250 towards the cost of recruiting and screening 5 new volunteers within Woodley;

Woodley Festival of Music and Arts £250 to help towards the cost of providing the Festival of Music and Arts;

Woodley United FC £250 towards the cost of enabling 4 volunteers to obtain the FA Level 1 Football Coaching qualification.

To apply for a community grant please visit our website in the 'Grants' section.

The logo for u3a (University of the Third Age) is displayed. It consists of the letters 'u3a' in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular background.

Woodley's history

With thanks to Woodley & District U3A, Reading U3A and Wokingham U3A History of Woodley Project, we now have a selection of articles in the History & Local Walks area of our website including Woodley's pubs, shops, churches, VE Day in Woodley, Woodley during WWII and Woodley up to 1900. We are delighted to hear that the U3A team will be putting these articles and others together to create a book about Woodley.

Friendship Alliance

The Link Visiting Scheme, Age UK Berkshire, Involve and Wokingham Volunteer Centre are working in partnership to promote friendship and reduce the impact of loneliness and isolation in older people. The Friendship Alliance provides information on local activities, events, groups, courses and services. More information can be found on its Facebook page: @FriendshipAllianceWokingham.



We are delighted to announce that the Oakwood Centre has a new website with up-to-date information, including the current Covid 19 restrictions. We will be adding more information over the coming months, including an availability calendar. We are able to take bookings that comply with Covid restrictions and guidelines and the Centre is a Covid safe building. To make an enquiry, please email: bookings@woodley.gov.uk.



Council Meetings

In response to the Local Government Act 1972 and Coronavirus Act 2020, Section 78, all of the Town Council Meetings are currently being hosted virtually via Zoom and can be viewed on our YouTube channel (please search for Woodley Town Council). To join a meeting as a member of the public, please email Linda Matthews (linda.matthews@woodley.gov.uk). Council Meeting agendas and minutes are also available on our website: www.woodley.gov.uk.

November 2020 – March 2021

Planning & Community Meeting (19.45) – 2020: 3 November, 1 December; 2021: 5 & 26 January, 23 February, 23 March

Leisure Services Meeting (20.00) – 2020: 17 November; 2021: 12 January

Strategy & Resources Meeting (20.00) – 2020: 24 November; 2021: 19 January

Full Council Meeting (20.00) – 2020: 8 December; 2021: 9 February

Town Electors – 2 March 2021



The Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative has taken the difficult decision to cancel this year's Christmas Extravaganza due to the Covid 19 pandemic and consequent restrictions and guidelines. However, the team have been looking at ways to support local fundraising and are delighted to announce a special Charity Christmas Day in Woodley Town Centre on Sunday 29 November 2020 10.00-15.00. Local charities and clubs are invited to apply for a stall by contacting the town centre manager Brian Fennelly on: tcm@woodley.gov.uk. Furthermore, the Christmas Carol Concert and Lights Switch On will still go ahead as a virtual event and will be shown on the Woodley Town Council YouTube channel at 18.00 on Saturday 28 November 2020.



Woodley Saturday Market 08.00-15.00

Artisan Market every Wednesday 09.00-14.00

Vegan Market third Sunday of each month 11.00-16.00

Car Boot Sale twice a month on Sunday 08.00-13.00

For more information visit:

www.woodleytowncentre.co.uk

