



Woodley's Centre for Theatre, Celebrations, Business & Community

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

## Our Venue, Your Way....

With prices starting from only £39 per hour for a Woodley resident hiring Carnival Hall, the Oakwood Centre is the perfect flexible and versatile venue to celebrate your special occasion or host a business event.

Newly redecorated, fully staffed and ready for you to style to suit your theme, rooms can be configured for up to 150 people, with Green Flag award winning Woodford Park as a beautiful backdrop.

The Alan Cornish Theatre has tiered seating for 100 people, providing an ideal space for productions, performances, seminars and events.

Visit the Oakwood Centre website for more details including prices, availability and room sizes and configurations.



Join our team!

Are you looking for a new challenge? We're looking for an experienced maintenance officer to help maintain our facilities.

Working within the maintenance team, duties will include maintaining and carrying out general repairs to Town Council owned buildings and facilities, as well as carpentry work, painting and decorating.

Apply now!

Full job description and application form on our website: [www.woodley.gov.uk/vacancies](http://www.woodley.gov.uk/vacancies)

OR scan the QR code:



# Herald

December 2023  
Issue 56

## 6 years for Green Flag award at Woodford Park

Woodford Park was awarded the coveted Green Flag Award for the 6th year running in July, as it was again officially recognised as one of the country's best parks.

"The news that Woodford Park has once again achieved the accreditation - the international quality mark for parks and green spaces - is testament to the hard work and dedication of the team that care for the green space so that everyone can enjoy it," said Cllr Keith Baker, Woodley Town Council Leader.

"The award is the international quality mark for parks and green spaces and I am so proud of the team for their hard work and dedication to ensure that Woodford Park has kept this status for six years running. Each of them always goes above and beyond and I'd like to thank them and also thank The Friends of Woodford Park for the wonderful work they also do in the park," said Kevin Murray, Woodley Town Council Town Clerk.

"Woodford Park has many areas for residents to enjoy, including the lake and boardwalk, the grass areas, two play areas, an outdoor paddling pool, the Garden of Remembrance, the Rotary Garden, the Memorial Ground and beautiful planting by The Friends of Woodford Park. Not many local parks can boast such facilities. In fact, Woodford Park is the only park in the Wokingham Borough area to have achieved and been awarded Green Flag status," said Keith. While Kevin added: "The addition of the Living Wall, planted this year to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III, along with tree and painted stone dedications to our late Queen's Jubilee, is yet another unique feature of Woodford Park, that also involved the community of Woodley. The stones were painted by local children and the wall was unveiled during a community Coronation picnic in the park, which was a huge success and really showcased Woodford Park."



Woodley Town Council Grounds & Amenities team members, Kevin Murray, Town Clerk & David Provins from Friends of Woodford Park

## Youth Support Services Grants

Youth Support Services Grants are now available to assist and facilitate projects that reach, engage and support young people (those aged 21 and under) in Woodley and provide them with better life chances. Organisations are welcome to apply for an amount which will normally be capped at £3,000. However, all applications, including those for amounts in excess of this, will be considered on their own merits. The guidelines can be found on our website.

Cllr Darren Smith, Chairman of the Leisure Services Committee, which will be considering applications, is pleased to be part of this scheme to help the young people of Woodley.

"Woodley Town Council is keen to support youth initiatives with this new grant scheme, especially where help is needed to support vulnerable young people in the area. I very much look forward to considering grant requests, which will make a real difference to those younger members of our community," he said.

Cllr Keith Baker, Woodley Town Council Leader, agrees. "For many years Woodley Town Council have provided grants to charities and individuals every year. This has provided financial support to many Woodley residents over the years, which is great. However, the Town Council, through sound financial management, finds itself in a solid financial position, so the timing is good to extend this concept to an area which we know is close to many residents' hearts. The new grants will be available to support the youth of Woodley, especially those who are hard to reach and those who are disadvantaged. By making it a separate grant with its own budget means the money will be totally ringfenced for the youths of Woodley. As Leader of the Council, I am incredibly proud of this development and once again Woodley Town Council is at the forefront of supporting our young people," he said.



Scan to find out more

## SAVE THE DATE!



6PM - 10PM  
WOODFORD PARK MEMORIAL GROUND,  
WOODLEY

JOIN US FOR A PICNIC IN THE  
PARK TO CELEBRATE THE 80TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

LIVE BAND! FOOD STALLS!  
ENTERTAINERS! DRINK STALLS!

THE TOWN MAYOR WILL  
LIGHT A BEACON AT 9.15PM,  
ALONG WITH THE REST OF  
THE NATION



SCAN FOR OUR WEBSITE  
WE'LL PUBLISH MORE INFORMATION  
ON OUR WEBSITE & SOCIALS

0118 9690356 admin@woodley.gov.uk f @WoodleyCouncil www.woodley.gov.uk





## Cycling Strategy

Woodley Town Council has adopted the following statement as its Strategy for Cycling:

"The Town Council's strategy is to increase the number of cycling journeys in Woodley, both to support our commitment to climate change, and to promote health and wellbeing in the town. We will do this by a programme of communication, collaboration and education in the local community aimed at improving conditions for cyclists, facilitating access to cycles, and encouraging more people to get on bikes. And we'll provide a forum for experienced and new Woodley cyclists to have their say on what's needed to improve cycling in Woodley."



## Have your say on what happens in the Wokingham Borough area

Wokingham Borough Council has several surveys and consultations to engage residents' opinions and suggestions. These can be found on its Engage platform and we encourage residents to get involved and have their say on decisions made about the Wokingham Borough area.



Scan to give your views

## Speedwatch in Woodley

If anyone wishes to join the Woodley Community Speedwatch group, please email Cllr David Bragg: [speedwatch@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:speedwatch@woodley.gov.uk)

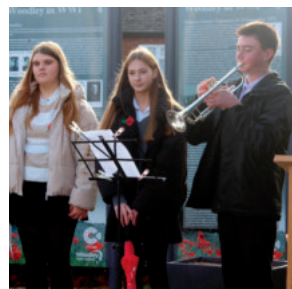
## Woodley Remembrance 2023



Woodley Town Deputy Mayor, Cllr Juliet Anderson



Wokingham Borough Mayor, Cllr Beth Rowland



Woodley school's event



Woodley Memorial Remembrance Sunday event

Thank you to everyone who came to pay their respects, the wreath layers, the local schools and for all of the volunteers who help to run the events. We would also like to thank The Royal British Legion Winners division for its help at our Armistice Day event. More photos are on our website. Lest We Forget...

## Improvements to our facilities

Eleven new projects were approved in September at the Strategy & Resources Committee meeting, to replace or improve certain services and facilities maintained or owned by Woodley Town Council. The projects will be funded from earmarked reserves, which the Council has set aside for capital investment projects.

- Christmas Lighting in the town centre
- Replacement kitchens at Coronation and Chapel Halls
- Line marking in our car parks
- Grass reinforcement on the Memorial Ground path
- Replacement of public noticeboards
- Boiler replacement at the Oakwood Centre
- Refurbishment of toilets at the Oakwood Centre
- Replacement of flatbed pickup
- Replacement of safety surfacing at Malone Park
- An external water refill station at Woodford Park Leisure Centre
- Replacement of the heating system at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

Full details of all of these projects can be found in the Strategy & Resources Agenda Pack, dated 12th September 2023, which is available on our website.



Malone Park before renovations



Malone Park after renovations

## New Town Clerk

Following the retirement of Deborah Mander in June 2023, Woodley Town Council welcomes Kevin Murray as the new Town Clerk.

Kevin joined the council in 2008, and has served in the roles of Service Support Manager, Deputy Town Clerk and more recently Acting Town Clerk.

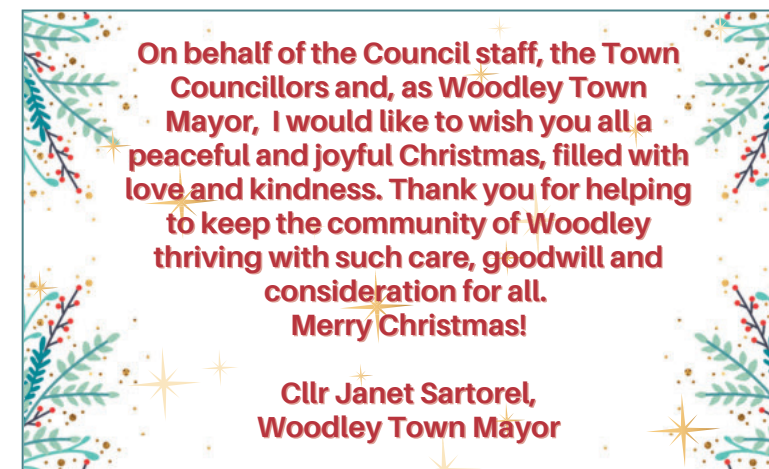
"I am absolutely delighted to be able to continue serving the people of Woodley and delivering our services to the community, in the role of Town Clerk. We have a strong, dynamic Council, a fantastic, dedicated staff team and I'm very excited to be taking the Council forwards in meeting the challenges and opportunities ahead," said Kevin.



Kevin Murray  
Town Clerk



Did you know that you can recycle the Herald? It's printed on carbon balanced recyclable paper and printed using carbon balanced vegetable-based ink - as part of The World Land Trust initiative to offset carbon emissions created in production. The paper is Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) certified that it is made from responsibly sourced wood fibre.



## Remembering those you love

Did you know that you can create a lasting memorial to a loved one by purchasing a memorial plaque in our Garden of Remembrance? You can also request for a tree to be planted in one of our parks in honour of your loved one or sponsor a bench in dedication of their memory.



Scan for more information



## Council Committee Meetings

Planning & Community: 9 & 30 January, 27 February, 26 March, 23 April  
Leisure Services: 16 January, 2 April  
Strategy & Resources: 23 January, 16 April  
Full Council: 6 February, 7 May (Annual Meeting)  
Annual Town Meeting: TBC

Contact Matthew Filmore for more information:  
[Matthew.Filmore@woodley.gov.uk](mailto: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.



Saturday Market  
09.00-15.00



Wednesday Artisan Market  
09.00-14.00



Every Sunday  
08.00-13.00

Woodley Town Centre Partnership meetings in 2024:

- 17th January
- 17th April
- 17th July
- 16th October

Held at the Oakwood Centre, 6pm.

Please contact the Town Centre Manager to attend.

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