

## Woodley town centre improvements

Works to improve the north end of the town centre started at the beginning of February. The works have been jointly funded by Wokingham Borough Council, Woodley Town Council and the Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative. The approved plans include the replacement of the pagoda with a new covered performance area, new seating and lighting and a play space for children. Works are due to be completed within 16 weeks. Information boards with details of the project can be viewed at the Oakwood Centre and a video giving a fly through of the changes is available on the Council's website [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk).

## Residents Survey – We need your views!

Every year the Town Council conducts a residents' survey to understand what issues are important to you and hear your views on the services we provide.

This year the survey will be carried out in March, so please do take the time to take part if one of our researchers knocks on your door.



## Public consultation on lake improvements – Woodford Park

Our project to improve the ecosystem, quality and use of the lake area is in full swing. We would like your views to help us shape how this area will look and be used in the future. Please take the time to attend the public consultations next to the lake (dates listed below). Alternatively, visit the Council office at the Oakwood Centre or our website at [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk) to view the proposals and leave comments. Suggestions so far include: a pond dipping platform & boardwalk, new wildlife habitat and improvements to paths and seating.

**Consultation dates:**  
**10 – 2pm on 6th and 8th April**

## Grant recipients

Woodley Town Council grants were awarded in December to individuals and organisations that serve Woodley residents or act for the benefit of the town. Grants were also awarded to u21's within the parish who excel in sporting or cultural activities.

L to R back row: Pat Birt (Woodley and Earley Art Group)  
Tom Conlin (Berkshire Vision), Jenny Cheng (Mayor)  
Martin Leech (Woodley Festival of Music & Arts),  
David Provins (Friends of Woodford Park),  
Martin Rolfe (WEAG)

L to R front row: Hannah Evans (GB Archery),  
William and Alexander Cowan (GB Tumbling squad),  
Steven Polak (Wokingham Job Support Centre),  
Charlotte Ryall (Cruse Bereavement Care)



## Oakwood Centre

### Blood Donors

22 & 29 March; 3, 10 & 24 May; 21 June

To book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23

### Two Left Feet – tasters of different dance techniques

Sessions 7.30 – 8.30pm

8 & 22 March; 5 & 9 April; 3, 17 & 31 May

14 & 28 June

Contact info@twoleftfeet.org or 0772 348 3881

### Weight Watchers

Thursdays 9.30am

### Woodley & Earley Art Group

Last Thursday in the month 7 – 10pm

Art Exhibition – Friday 31 March &

Saturday 1 April

### Woodley Photographic Club

Mondays 7.45 – 10.15pm

From September – June

### Acorn Community Acupuncture

Thursdays 6 – 10pm

Call 07551 726077 for an appointment or visit

www.acornacupuncture.org.uk

### Woodley Festival of Music & Art

Woodley Festival of Music & Art

4/5, 11/12, 18/19 March

www.woodleyfestival.org.uk

### Woodley Carnival

10 June Noon - 10.30pm

## Oakwood Theatre

### Woodley Theatre

#### Groping for Words by Sue Townsend

4-8 April 7.45pm

Box Office 07939 210121

or www.woodleytheatre.org

### Cats Protection

#### Wokingham & Bracknell

#### Musical Concert

25 March 7.30pm

Box Office 0345 371 4212

### Stage Ability

#### Honk! Jr.

30 April 4pm & 7pm; 1 May 3pm

Box Office www.stageability.ticketsource.co.uk

## Woodley Theatre

### Jazz – Martin Hart Trio

13 May 19.45

Box Office 07939 210121

or www.woodleytheatre.org

### Thames Valley Gay Chorus

#### Folk Songs and Fairy Tales

24 June 7pm; 25 June 2pm

Box Office www.thamesvalleygaychorus.org.uk

## New Gym on the Park – Open for fitness!!

Tuesday 24th January saw the Mayor officially open Woodford Park Leisure Centre's new Gym on the Park.



The Mayor, Cllr Jenny Cheng, with trainer Matt Gaeton, Leisure Services Manager, Ed Whitesmith and members

We now have a superb, bright modern gym and fitness facility that is both welcoming and perfect for members of all fitness levels.

Trainer Matt Gaeton teaching gym members how to use equipment and working with them on achieving their goals



Membership is growing daily and mini exercise classes are taking place within the gym that complement the large number of classes already on offer at the Leisure Centre...

Zumba, Boxercise, Circuits, HIIT training, Boot Camp...all of which are included in the joining fee. If you enjoy or would like to learn Yoga and Pilates our new 'PiYo' course could be just the thing for you...it's a fusion of both!

Gym membership is £24.99 per month for residents of Woodley or £26.99 per month for non-residents. For further details email: sports@woodley.gov.uk or telephone 0118 9216969.

## Term time sports courses and school holiday camps

If your young ones are looking to try a new activity or like to stay active and entertained in the school holidays then why not try out a term time course or holiday camp at Woodford Park Leisure Centre.

Camps are suitable for 5-9 yr olds and complement the leisure centre's popular term-time children's courses that include British Gymnastics Trampoline Courses and Saturday morning Judo.

To find out more please contact us at: Tel: 0118 9216969 Email: sports@woodley.gov.uk. Or visit the website: www.woodley.gov.uk



## Loddon Mead area – youth project

The Council has agreed to consider arrangements to lease the area under the A3290, next to Loddon Mead open space, to develop a project with local young people. A request for suggestions for this site showed that Parkour (or free running) and BMX were the most popular ideas. The Just Around the Corner charity (JAC) plans to use the site once a week, from springtime, to meet with interested young people to discuss and plan what would work on the site. This exciting project for the youth of Woodley will be a collaboration between the Town Council, JAC and the Woodley Community Youth Partnership.

## New Park Warden

Welcome to our new volunteer park warden Paul Morris who will be working with the Council to ensure Woodford Park is clean and welcoming for all our residents. We are still looking for further volunteers. Please contact admin@woodley.gov.uk for more information.

## Public Toilet

The installation of the public toilet in the town centre has moved a step forward, with the planning application for the semi automatic and accessible toilet submitted in January. At the time of going to press no decision had been made on the application.

## Thames Hospice – seeking volunteers



The Thames Hospice shop in Woodley is keen to welcome new volunteers to its team. The shop helps to raise vital funds for the Hospice to provide services free of charge to local people and their families. Shifts are flexible to suit your availability; there is a wide range of tasks in the shop for you to get involved in to put your skills to good use.

Drop into the shop at 147 Crockhamwell Road to sign up to a taster session, or call Beth on 01753 848 940.

## Wokingham Libraries Home Library Service

A free book delivery service including large print books and audio books is available for people who find it difficult to get to the library. The Home Library Service is for people who are housebound, have mobility issues or are caring for someone. The library service arranges for a volunteer to make home visits with books matching readers' tastes. Details at: <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/libraries/library-services/home-library-services/>

## Woodley Neighbourhood Police Team

Woodley's neighbourhood police team publish regular reports of their work in the town. These updates can be viewed on the Town Council website and on the Thames Valley Police site.



It's important that residents report non urgent crime or incidents to the police so that their work can be targeted to areas of concern and need. This can be done by ringing 101. You can also report these kinds of incidents online at: <https://reportonline.thamesvalley.police.uk>.

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 if you want to report a crime anonymously.

## Reading Road Allotments

If you fancy growing your own fruit and vegetables, Allotment plots are now available. Please fill in an application form online at [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk) or contact [admin@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:admin@woodley.gov.uk)

## What is a Community Navigator and how can they help you...

Voluntary and community groups provide a vast range of help and support in the Wokingham Borough – but finding your way to the right place is not always easy – the new Community Navigators are there to help. Community Navigators are volunteers who can provide a friendly face, a listening ear and a guiding hand to help people find activities, services or support that could benefit them.

GPs and professionals are referring people to the navigators scheme but you can also contact them yourself or on behalf of a friend, neighbour or family member on 01344 383 515 or visit [www.involve.community/navigators.php](http://www.involve.community/navigators.php).

## u8 Football Sessions

Woodley United FC continues to expand its mini-kickers football with sessions on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings on the 3G pitch at Woodford Park. The club's aim is for the children to play fun games that allow them to develop a love for the game of football and helps nurture them as both a good player and a great person. To join or find out more visit [www.woodleyunitedfc.co.uk](http://www.woodleyunitedfc.co.uk).

## Town Centre

### Saturday Market

Every Saturday 9am – 3 pm

### Farmers Market

15 March, 19 April, 17 May, 21 June  
9am – 1.30pm

### Car Boot and Table Top Sale

12 & 26 March, 9 & 23 April, 14 & 28 May,  
11 & 25 June  
8am – 1pm



 @WoodleyTCMI

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

## Council meetings

### Annual Meeting

9 May 8pm

### Full Council

27 June 8pm

### Leisure Services Committee

11 April, 6 June 8pm

### Strategy and Resources Committee

18 April, 13 June 8pm

### Planning Committee

28 March, 25 April, 23 May, 20 June 7.45pm

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.

**For Woodley Town Council and Oakwood Centre events and information please follow us on twitter and facebook.**

 @oakwoodcentre

 The Oakwood Centre

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



Dear Resident

Entering a new financial year as Council Leader of this exceptional Town I recognise it is a great privilege working on behalf of residents. Every year I am amazed by the activities of individuals who quietly work to make Woodley even better. They will have the full support of the Council. Can I take this opportunity to thank them all in their huge contribution in making Woodley the great town that it is.

The town centre continues to thrive with new shops renting empty units quickly. Simultaneously we have seen a revolution of the centre at night with some new restaurants and coffee shops opening. It has gone from an unwelcoming area at night to a bustling centre enjoyed by all.

Last year I spoke of our ambitious plans for Woodley Town. Those plans are becoming reality. We now have one of the best 3rd generation artificial grass football pitches in the Borough, opened a new fitness gym at Woodford Park Leisure Centre, the regeneration of the north end of the town centre (partly funded by the Town Council) started in February and the planning application for the new public

toilet has been submitted. We are not stopping there - with work to improve Woodford Park's lake area underway and potential projects to replace the play areas in the town centre and Woodford Park. More details can be found elsewhere in this leaflet.

All of these projects have to be funded and we have managed to find the funds from a variety of sources including reserves. In order to continue our ambitious plans for the future we need to replenish those reserves to pay for them. Therefore, we are increasing the Town Council precept by 1% or £1.06 per year for a band D property. The extra income from this will be ring fenced for projects.

At this point I would like to publicly thank all the staff, both full and part time, for all their hard work during the year.

Finally, may I thank you, the residents, for the continuing support you give the Town Council through your participation in everything we do. We will never forget that this is your money that the Council is spending so it is important that we know how you feel about this and would welcome any feedback you might have.

Councillor Keith Baker, Leader of the Council

Budget Estimates 2016/17				Budget Estimates 2017/18		
Income	Expenditure	Net Exp		Income	Expenditure	Net Exp
217653	779669	562016	Strategy and Resources	225688	799503	573815
351716	529666	177950	Leisure Services	408091	568465	160374
	30481	30481	Planning		31498	31498
	305640	305640	Capital and Projects		307429	307429
569369	1645456	1076087	Total Revenue Exp/Income	633779	1706895	1073116

Budget Summary 2017/18	
Estimated opening balance 1 April 2017	422701
Precept	1081303
Precept support grant*	25932
Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2017/18	1073116
Budgeted balance as at 31 March 2018	456820

\*The precept support grant is funding from Government via Wokingham Borough Council to mitigate the impact of changes to the council tax benefit arrangements which were introduced from 1/4/13.



The Woodley Community Carnival has been at the heart of our community since 1960 and is a much-loved tradition. Every year it brings together the local community and provides a fundraising opportunity for our local groups. The theme for this year's 57th carnival on Saturday 10th June is "Planes, Trains and Automobiles" and promises to be a great event with many attractions making an afternoon packed full of family fun for all ages. The carnival procession will be travelling the streets of Woodley, so be

sure you catch it en route as it makes its way towards the carnival field arriving around 2.30pm. Stay into the evening and enjoy the concert with a fireworks display – generously funded by the Town Council – to round the day off. See woodleycarnival.org.uk for more details, to book a stall or take part in the procession.

Sponsored by



## Community Fun Day

Community Fun Days are back for the second year running – with even more inflatables!!

Come and join the fun, on 2 and 3 June at Southlake Crescent (behind Alexandra Place), Woodley.

All welcome.

