



Woodley Herald

November 2016 Issue 36

The Gym on the Park

We are delighted to announce that Woodford Park Leisure Centre will soon be opening its new fitness facility: The Gym on the Park. Our aim is to provide

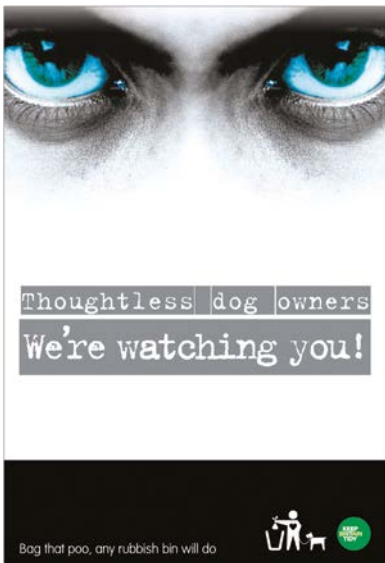
a welcoming, friendly and affordable gym for our soon-to-be members.

Building works are currently underway and everything is on schedule for a January opening...just in time for all those healthy New Year resolutions! The gym will be fitted out with equipment supplied by Pulse Fitness and will have a dedicated area for small group exercise sessions and floor work.

Woodley residents will be able to take advantage of discounted monthly membership, including a limited pre-opening offer of just £16.99 a month (normally £24.99). Membership will also cover free access to a range of new group exercise classes, including Stretch and Tone, Bootcamps and Zumba Gold.



To keep updated with developments at the Gym on the Park follow @woodfordlc on Facebook. To find out more about membership and sign up for the pre-opening offer visit the leisure centre or call us on 0118 9216969.



Dog fouling

Although unpleasant, dog fouling in our local parks needs to be talked about. Recently, the volunteer group Friends of Woodford Park conducted a month long survey to determine how bad the dog fouling situation is within Woodford Park. In one month, helpers bagged up 497 incidents of dog mess.....that equates to a massive 5,964 incidents a year.

The Town Council is therefore calling on all Woodley residents who own dogs to be responsible dog owners and mindful of other residents who use the parks and Town Centre. Please use poo bags and either take the bag home with you or deposit in a dog bin in the park.

To help us drive this message home, the Council has launched an initiative called We're Watching You. This campaign is run in conjunction with the environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy and sets its sights on irresponsible dog owners. Recent research has shown that dog walkers are more responsible and pick up after their dogs when they think that they are being watched. A test campaign run by Keep Britain Tidy last year reported a 46% reduction in the levels of dog fouling and identified that dog owners are more likely to leave dog mess at night when they feel they can't be seen 'under the cover of darkness'.

The campaign will use edgy new signs and volunteer Park Wardens to remind dog owners to pick up after their dogs.

Call to action: If you see a dog owner acting irresponsibly, please do not confront the person, but come to the Woodley Town Council offices in the Oakwood Centre and give a description (of the person and dog). Thank you.

Volunteer Park Wardens – would you be interested?

If you have a little spare time and an interest in ensuring Woodford Park is clean and welcoming for all our residents, we'd love to hear from you.

The role includes: discouraging dog foulers by providing information to owners, litter picking, help with identifying park improvements and being a 'go to' person for any visitor in the park. For further information go to www.woodley.gov.uk or contact admin@woodley.gov.uk.



Blooming Woodley

It was a double success for Woodley this year in the Thames & Chiltern in Bloom competition.

First time entrant, The Friends of Woodford Park, were awarded a Level 4 'Thriving' for their beautiful new Queen's Birthday Garden adjacent to the War Memorial on the Memorial Ground. Chair of The Friends of Woodford Park David Provins said "Having only recently formed, we are delighted to have been recognised with an award for our first project. We could not have achieved this without the enthusiasm of our volunteers, the engagement of the Town Council or the generosity of our local sponsors, The Hicks Group and Just Tiles Ltd." The Friends of Woodford Park are still keen to expand, so if you would be interested in joining, contact fowpc.woodley@gmail.com.



Woodley also won the Silver Award in the 'Town Centre' category for the wonderful hanging baskets and planters. Town Centre Manager Jacques Lherbier commented "I am absolutely delighted with the award. The hanging baskets were magnificent this year and I have had many compliments from shoppers and residents."



Oakwood Centre meeting room and

Do you or your business ever need local meeting or function room at the Oakwood Centre. From meeting rooms that seat 3, 12, 20 business meetings, presentations and functions. In-house catering meetings from our on-site caterer and coffee shop Brown Bag. A tour or further information please contact bookings@woodley.gov.uk

Woodford Park Lake consultation

The Town Council is working on a project to improve the ecosystem and quality of the lake area in Woodford Park. The project is progressing well with scientific surveys of the ecosystem, topography and trees now complete. With this information in hand the Council is now considering what improvements can be made, how best to achieve them and how much the work will cost. We will be consulting with park users about these improvements in the very near future. For up to date information please check the Council website.



What's On?

Oakwood Centre

Blood Donors

16 & 30 November; 14 December;
4 & 11 January; 1 & 15 February
To book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23

Two Left Feet – taster of different dance techniques

Sessions 7.30 – 8.30pm
11 & 25 January; 7 & 22 February; 8 & 22 March
Contact the Oakwood Centre for further dates on 0118 9690356

Weight Watchers

Thursdays 9.30am

Woodley & Earley Art Group

Last Thursday in the month 7 – 10pm

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

First 3 weekends in March

Oakwood Theatre

Woodley Theatre

Quartet by Ronald Harwood
22 to 26 November 7.45pm
Box Office 07939 210121 or
www.woodleytheatre.org

The Lodge School of Theatre Dance

Swing and Sing
2 & 3 December 19.00
Box Office 0118 986 1040

Woodley Light Operatic Society

West End Hits
6 to 10 December 7.45pm
Box Office 0333 666 3366 <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/woodleylightoperatic>



3G pitch update

The new 3G pitch is proving to be a fantastic asset to Woodford Park Leisure Centre, hosting many local adult and junior football clubs and the Centre's own fitness classes and junior sports courses. In the summer, we were delighted to have Manchester City Football Club Women's team use the pitch prior to their competitive Women's Super League match against Reading FC. Players in attendance included England internationals Karen Bardsley, Lucy Bronze, Nikita Paris and England Women's Senior Squad Captain Stephanie Houghton (pictured).

Pay and Play at Woodford Park's New 3G pitch

WPLC have recently launched 'Pay and Play' sessions for u16's.

At £1 an hour per person for groups of ten or less, it's the perfect place to come with a group of friends who are bored of playing FIFA 17 at home and want to try out all their new skills on a real pitch!

Availability most afternoons (including weekends) and school holidays. Please always check availability before you turn up by calling 0118 9216969.

Function room hire

rooms? If so, we have 8 to choose from here to a flexible series of rooms ideal for large groups. It is available for breakfast, lunch and evening events. Audio visual equipment also available. For a quote, please contact us on 0118 9216969 or www.wplc.gov.uk.



brown bag

Local activities for Over 50's

Afternoon Club:

A choice of badminton and table tennis followed by tea, coffee and biscuits.

Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30pm – 4:00pm

Zumba Gold:

A modified version of the popular Zumba formula with moves and pacing to suit the needs of everyone.

Thursdays, 10:30am – 11:15am

Town Centre public toilet update...

The proposed site, at the south end of the town centre next to the car park, has received initial agreement from Wokingham Borough Council Highways. Plans are underway to submit a planning application for this site.

Council meetings

Berzerk Productions

Elf the Musical

15 & 16 December 7.45pm

17 & 18 December 2pm & 5pm

Box Office www.berzerkproductions.com

Woodley Theatre

Jazz Concert Martin Hart Trio

21 January 7.45pm

Box Office 07939 210121 or

www.woodleytheatre.org

Woodley Theatre

Dial M for Murder by Frederick Knott

7 to 11 February 7.45pm

Box Office 07939 210121

or www.woodleytheatre.org

Full Council

6 December; 7 February 8pm

Leisure Services Committee

8 November; 17 January 8pm

Strategy and Resources Committee

22 November; 24 January 8pm

Planning Committee

15 November; 13 December;

10 & 31 January; 28 February 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.

The **Town Electors meeting** will be held

at 8pm on Tuesday 7 March 2017 at the Oakwood Centre, Headley Road. This is an annual opportunity for residents in Woodley to make representations or put questions to the Council about local and Town Council matters.

Please follow us on



@oakwoodcentre



The Oakwood Centre

Lions Club unveil new defibrillator in Town Centre

In September, the Mayor and members of the Woodley and Earley Lions Club proudly unveiled a defibrillator for Woodley residents. This life-saving device has been installed at the base of the clock tower in the town centre.

Defibrillators can rapidly improve survival rates for people who suffer from heart failure. The machine provides both verbal and visual aids which allow anyone to use it. Town Centre Manager Jacques Lherbier said "We would like to sincerely thank the Lions Club for donating funds to buy and install the unit that will provide an extremely valuable service where speed is of the essence when helping to save somebody's life."

Mayor of Woodley, Jenny Cheng and Lions Club Publicity Officer Colin Gibson



William Grey School opening – were you there?

This picture was very kindly sent to the Town Council by Mrs Gissing of Lincolnshire, who wondered if it would be of interest as a record of the history of William Gray School (now Highwood School). Pictured with the children on their first day is Mrs Charlotte Curwen, who we understand was the Head Teacher at the new school when it opened in the 1960s. Does anyone recognise themselves in the photo? – we'd love to hear from you. Mrs Curwen retired to Lincolnshire and lived there until her death two years ago at the great age of 95. The Council intends to make arrangements for the Mayor, Mrs Jenny Cheng, to present the original photograph to the school for their archives.



Addington Swim Team Success

In a follow up to our last newsletter Addington School did us all proud at the South of England Panathlon Championships in July this year, coming 3rd out of 10 qualifiers in the championship. Mel Pengrave, Head of PE at Addington, commented: "It's been a wonderful experience for our students and supporters to come to such an amazing venue, which promotes all the Olympic values we promote at school. Our swimmers had been looking forward to it since we qualified back in May and it certainly didn't disappoint. Our team spirit was just magnificent to witness."

Addington team member Daisy Cripps



Home-Start Wokingham District is a voluntary organisation which supports young families where at least one child under five years of age is experiencing difficulties.

Volunteers visit families in their own homes once a week for up to three hours to provide practical help with children and emotional support and friendship to the parents. Home-Start volunteers come from all walks of life and are a variety of ages. They are all parents themselves and understand the stresses and strains of bringing up young children. If you are a parent or grandparent who feels you could help a young family, please contact Lindsay for more information on 0118 988 8025 or email Lindsay@home-startwd.org.uk.

Charity Santa Run

Fancy joining in the Roc Search Reading Charity Santa Run this December? The Rotary Club of Reading are organising their annual 5km run for adults and 1km run for under 10's on the 4th December starting at Forbury Gardens. To register go to www.readingsantarun.co.uk.



What's On in the Town Centre?

Saturday Market

Every Saturday 9am - 3 pm

Farmers Market

16 November, 21 December, 18 January,
15 February
9am - 1.30pm

Car Boot and Table Top Sale

6, 13, 20, 27 November, 11 December
Continuing in the New Year
8am - 1pm



@WoodleyTCMI