



# Woodley Herald

March 2016 Issue 35

## Brown Bag now at the Oakwood Centre

We are delighted to welcome Brown Bag to the Oakwood Centre. The new coffee shop opened on 1 March, following a week's closure for a refit and rebranding. Many of you will be familiar with Brown Bag's coffee shops in Wokingham and Woodley and we look forward to our visitors and customers at the Oakwood Centre receiving a first class service from our new partners. Brown Bag will be catering for all our business bookings as well as running the café and will be our 'in house' caterer offering menus for social functions. Director Tony Edwards said Brown Bag are thrilled to be partnering with the Oakwood Centre. "This is a fantastic opportunity to provide an exciting range of hot and cold food with an emphasis on the very best of ingredients and superb customer service. We look forward to welcoming everyone to our new venue in Woodley."



## Woodley town centre public toilet gets go ahead

The council will be proceeding with the installation of a public toilet in the town centre, having received the summary report of the Residents' Survey. The survey results showed support from 62.9% of those responding for the provision of a standalone, accessible public toilet being provided in Woodley. Council Leader, Councillor Keith Baker, said the Council had agreed to seek people's views through the doorstep and online surveys carried out by independent company HMR, and that the project would now proceed following the clear majority in favour of a new toilet. The Council is continuing discussions with Wokingham Borough Council on the preferred site for the toilet (in Crockhamwell Road car park) and will apply for planning permission once the site is confirmed.

The single standalone, semi-automatic and accessible toilet will be supplied by Danfo, who were selected following a tendering process. It is not possible at this point to be definite about the installation date because of the permissions to be agreed before work can start. A copy of the Residents' Survey Summary report can be downloaded from the Town Council's website.

**Whether you are looking for space to hold a business meeting or for training, a hall for a community group activity or just want to meet with friends over a coffee – the Oakwood Centre has it all.**



**See [www.theoakwoodcentre.com](http://www.theoakwoodcentre.com) or call 0118 9690356 for more information**

## 3rd Generation all weather pitch project

The Council has now had the final sign off from planners at Wokingham Borough Council for the planning conditions that needed to be met before construction could begin on the all weather pitch. Works are scheduled to start on 7 March. This project also includes the refurbishment of one tennis/netball court, additional parking on part of the former hard surface area and the remodelling and resurfacing of the access road and the main car park area. Once works start there may be some disruption to parking and access to Woodford Park Leisure Centre, especially when the resurfacing takes place. We will try to keep our customers up to date on the resurfacing arrangements by notices and on our website.



## Oakwood Centre

### Blood Donors

2 & 23 March; 20 April; 4 & 18 May  
15 & 22 June; 13 & 27 July; 17 & 31 August  
To book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23

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

Sessions 7.30 – 8.30pm  
9 & 23 March; 13 & 27 April; 11 & 25 May  
22 June; 6 & 20 July; 3 & 17 August  
Contact Two Left Feet for information  
on 07723483881

### Weight Watchers

Thursdays 9.30am

### Woodley & Earley Art Group

Last Thursday in the month 7 – 10pm  
Art Exhibition 15 & 16 April

### Acorn Community Acupuncture

Thursdays 6 – 10pm  
Call 07551 726077 for an appointment or  
visit [www.acornacupuncture.org.uk](http://www.acornacupuncture.org.uk)

## Oakwood Theatre

### Woodley Theatre

#### Raving by Simon Paisley Day

19 – 23 April 7.45pm  
Box Office 07939 210121 or  
[www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Woodley Theatre

#### Troubled Times

18 – 21 May 7.45pm  
Box Office 07939 210121 or  
[www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Woodley Theatre

#### Rough Crossing by Ferenc Molnar

14 – 18 June 7.45pm  
Box Office 07939 210121 or  
[www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Mostly G&S

#### The Merry Widow

31 March – 2 April 7.45pm  
Box Office 0118 988 2526 or  
[www.mostlygands.co.uk](http://www.mostlygands.co.uk)

### YouShine Theatre

#### Showcase

28 May 2pm & 7.30pm  
Box Office email [info@youshine.co.uk](mailto:info@youshine.co.uk)

### Going South – where Opera meets West End

4 June 7.45pm  
Box Office 07786 288374 or  
[www.goingsouth.co.uk](http://www.goingsouth.co.uk)

### Mo's Dance & Drama Schools

#### Woodley Dance Showcase

17 July Time TBC  
Box Office [www.mosdanceanddrama.co.uk](http://www.mosdanceanddrama.co.uk)

## Woodley Town Centre – north end project

The joint project led by Wokingham Borough Council, in partnership with Woodley Town Council and Woodley Town Centre Management Initiative, to refurbish the north end of the town centre (the Headley Road end) is now at the initial design stage. The main works will be the removal of the pagoda and the installation of a new shelter, which will be set further back towards Headley Road to open the space up, and the addition of new seating and lighting in this space as well as new play activities for children. When detailed drawings are available, these will be displayed at the Oakwood Centre, on the Town Council's website and via the WBC Facebook page so the public can submit their comments.



## Woodley Community Carnival – 11 June 2016

This year's Wild West themed Woodley Carnival promises to be a great event with many attractions on the day and the welcome return of the evening concert event with a fireworks display, funded by the Town Council, to round the day off. See [woodleycarnival.org.uk](http://woodleycarnival.org.uk) for more details and to book a stall or to take part in the procession.

## Ancient Egypt lectures

The Thames Valley Ancient Egypt Society is holding the following lectures at 2pm the Oakwood Centre:

12 March – Foreign connections: Egypt and the outside world before the New Kingdom – Dr Garry Shaw

9 April – Ancient Egypt in the Pitt Rivers Museum – Beth Asbury

7 May – Local worlds in Middle Egypt: Fresh fieldwork at Zawyet Sultan – Dr. Richard Bussmann

4 June – The Iconography and Ideology of Nefertiti and the Amarna royal women – Lucia Gahlin

Non members of the society are asked for a £3 donation to attend.

## Charter status for FC Woodley Zebras

FC Woodley Zebras have been declared an FA Charter Standard club after being handed the award at the Oakwood Centre in early January. The award, which is only passed to well run clubs that prioritise safe and high quality coaching, is a further celebration of the strong and ever growing football community that we have in Woodley. The Zebras are also one of our partner clubs for the exciting 3G pitch project that is due to be completed this year.



**Congratulations also go to Woodley Under 16s Netball team/squad who were awarded Team of the Year at the Get Berkshire Active Awards.**

## Woodley United FC winners

Congratulations to the Woodley United under 10 Memphis Belle girls team. The girls came through the preliminary rounds to lift the trophy in the Autumn League Trophy final against Wargrave Sharks.



The club was also awarded the Wokingham News Cup for Service to Sport in the Community – pictured are members of the club and Jason Leonard OBE, President of the RFU, with the award.

## Woodley 10K road race

After a year's absence, the popular Woodley 10km road race returns on Sunday 8 May and is now organized by Barnes Fitness. The slightly changed course is still fast and flat and is certified by RunBritain as exactly 10 kilometres. The chip-timed race is open to runners aged 16 and over and starts from Woodford Park at 9.30am. Entry fees are £15 for UK Athletics-affiliated runners and £17 for non-affiliated.

There are prizes courtesy of Mizuno for the first three men and women across the line as well as for age group winners. Woodley United FC will be distributing drinks to runners and handing out medals and goody bags at the end of the run. Barnes Fitness will be supporting Woodley Town Council Mayor's charity DrugFAM, with £1 from every entry going to help the charity in its work supporting families dealing with drug addiction.

To enter and see route go to [www.barnesfitness.co.uk/event/woodley-10km](http://www.barnesfitness.co.uk/event/woodley-10km). Online registration closes at midnight on Thursday 5 May, with on-the-day entries if there's still capacity.



**Free training from Heartstart for medical emergencies is available in the Wokingham area. The scheme is part of a British Heart Foundation's initiative. Visit [www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk](http://www.heartstartswallowfield.co.uk) or call Gary on 07768 068 270 for more information on dates and venues.**

## Link Visiting Scheme

The Link Visiting Scheme is a local charity that aims to help people who feel lonely to make friends and engage again with their community. It aims to combat the effects of social isolation by arranging a volunteer visitor to visit an elderly person for a couple of hours once a week. Spending quality time with someone can be transforming for lonely people. If you would like to volunteer the scheme would love to hear from you. They ask for a regular commitment of a couple of hours once a week or fortnight at a time that suits you. If you are someone who might benefit from the Link Scheme service please be encouraged that there are many people in your community who care and there are people who would love to help you. Call the scheme on 0118 979 8019 or email [mandi@linkvisiting.org](mailto:mandi@linkvisiting.org) or visit [www.linkvisiting.org](http://www.linkvisiting.org).

**citizens  
advice**

Citizens Advice Wokingham is an independent charity providing free, confidential advice to people and helping to improve policies and practices that affect people's lives. It helps people with all manner of problems including benefits, employment, housing, consumer, relationships, family issues and debt – for which it has a specialist debt advice service.

For more information on please see [www.wokingham-cab.org.uk](http://www.wokingham-cab.org.uk) or you can call Adviceline on 03444 111 306. You can also email [public@wokingham-cab.org.uk](mailto:public@wokingham-cab.org.uk) or drop in to one of the offices – in Woodley next to the Library on Mondays and Wednesdays – 9.30am to 3.30pm or in Wokingham at Waterford House (2nd floor) Erfstadt Court RG40 2YF from Mondays to Thursdays 9am – 3pm and Fridays 9am – 1pm.

## Town Centre

### Saturday Market

Every Saturday 9am – 3 pm

### Farmers Market

16 March; 20 April; 18 May; 15 June;  
20 July; 17 Aug  
9am – 1.30pm

### Car Boot and Table Top Sale

6, 13, 20, 27 March; 3, 10, 17, 24, April  
8 & 22 May; 12 & 26 June; 10 & 24 July  
14 & 28 August  
8am – 1pm

### Easter Chicks Hunt

23 March – 8 April

### Flower & Gardening Day

2 May 11am – 3pm

### Reading Spring Garden Band

7 May, 18 June, 2 July  
11am – 1pm

### Children's Fun Day

30 May 11am – 3pm

## Council meetings

### Full Council

10 May (Annual Meeting), 28 June 8pm

### Leisure Services Committee

5 April, 31 May 8pm

### Community Services Committee

12 April, 24 May 8pm

### Plans Committee

18 April, 17 May, 7 June, 5 July 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.

See Oakwood Centre events and information

[www.theoakwoodcentre.com](http://www.theoakwoodcentre.com)



Centre between 9 and 24 March.  
for the Easter school holidays.

## Woodford Park Leisure Centre



### Easter Holiday Children's Camps

Keep an eye out for our ever popular and affordable children's camps over the Easter holidays. Camps on offer include trampolining, soccer skills, dance and an Easter Extravaganza camp.

For more information on our exercise classes and holiday camps contact us on: [healthyhabits@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:healthyhabits@woodley.gov.uk) or 0118 9216969

### Boxercise

Punch your way to a leaner and fitter you. A great class for stress relief! Fridays 6.45pm – 7.45pm

### Bootcamp

Exercise focused on the whole body approach with an aim to get you to burn as many calories as you can! Sundays 9am – 9.45am

## Christmas Postal Service

The 2nd Woodley Scout Group send their thanks everyone who supported their Woodley Community Traditional Christmas Postal Service – and look forward to your continued support for Christmas 2016.

## Queen's birthday celebrations at St John's Church

St John the Evangelist Church in Church Road Woodley are holding a special Thanksgiving Service on Sunday 12th June at 11am to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. This will be followed by a Hog Roast lunch and birthday party. Tickets £2 pp or £5 per family. Anyone 90 years + free. Everyone welcome. Further information on the church website: [www.stjohn-woodley.com](http://www.stjohn-woodley.com) from mid March.

## Friends of Woodford Park

We're looking for more volunteers who would like to help with ideas and activities to improve Woodford Park. If you would like more information on how to get involved contact Kevin Murray on 0118 969 0356 or [kevin.murray@woodley.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.murray@woodley.gov.uk)

## Reminder to dog owners

We know most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their dogs, however, we are seeing dog mess being left in our parks in areas used by children and where sports take place. We have also had several reports of people finding dog mess bags being put in gardens or drives. Please clear up after your dog and please dispose of the bagged mess either in a dog bin or take it home to your own bin.



## Precept and Budget information 2016/17

This is my third year as Leader of the Council of this exceptional Town and it has been a great privilege working on behalf of you, the residents. Recognising the continuing financially constrained times for residents, one of our priorities has been to try and reduce the Town Council tax they pay. As a retired person I know firsthand about the impact that low interest rates have on pensioners' savings. My children, now grown up with children of their own, tell me all about the difficulty of coping with minimal or no pay rises year on year.

With these points in mind we tried very hard to achieve a reduction as we still believe the Town Council Tax is too high. Unfortunately a number of financial "uncertainties" like automatic enrolment in pensions and increased

National Insurance have hit us this year. Therefore it was not possible to reduce the council tax but we are going to freeze it to the same level as last year. We fully intend to resume the downward pressure in 2017/18.

At the same time as making these savings we have started the work on our ambitious plans to regenerate the North End of the Town Centre together with the new 3G Football Pitch. Future projects for later this year focus on Woodford Park covering both the leisure centre and the park itself.

Last May, following the Town Council elections, a large number of councillors are no longer on the Council, either due to retirement or not being re-elected. I would like to thank all of them for their supreme efforts over the previous

years, some going back many years. Their contribution to making Woodley such a wonderful place is fully recognised.

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. In particular their supreme efforts in coping with the financial unknowns whilst maintaining services that you value.

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 2015/16				Budget Estimates 2016/17		
Income	Expenditure	Net Exp		Income	Expenditure	Net Exp
203210	693323	490113	Strategy and Resources	165667	715050	549383
285644	448763	163119	Leisure Services	340422	461047	120625
9848	112606	102758	Community Services	63280	163719	100439
	294316	294316	Capital and Projects		305640	305640
498702	1549008	1050306	Total Revenue Exp/Income	569369	1645456	1076087

The Town Council's 2016/17 precept (the annual charge that is made for Woodley Town Council services and facilities) has been set at £105.65, the same level as the previous year. These tables show the budgets for this year and the budget summary for 2016/17. Please see our website or call 0118 9690356 for a copy of the precept leaflet that will give you more information about the services and facilities the Town Council provides to Woodley residents.

Budget Summary 2016/17	
Estimated opening balance 1 April 2016	387252
Precept	1039607
Precept support grant	34576
Less: Net Expenditure Budget 2016/17	1076087
Budgeted balance as at 31 March 2017	385348