



## Former Horticultural Shed makes way for new Woodley Pre School building

In February we said a fond farewell to a building in Woodford Park that was the centre of the Woodley Horticultural Society's activities from 1969 up until the winding up of the society in 2010. The Horticultural Shed has been demolished to make way for Woodley Pre School's new modular building which will sit on the shed's former site and should be open for business at the beginning of the summer term.

The shed was the trading centre for the society which had 2,000 members at its height and organised many social and horticultural events for members including garden competitions, dances, lectures and quizzes as well as visits to gardens and historical sites. Mr Tony Burden held the position of Trading Manager from 1973 to 2010 and was supported in this by his wife, Pat, and other long-term members of the society.



## Bulmershe Leisure Centre – new beginning

Plans are underway to replace the existing leisure centre on Woodlands Avenue with a modern building which will include a 6-lane swimming pool and a teaching pool, a gym and 4-court sports hall along with a studio and a café. Wokingham Borough Council has appointed a new social enterprise leisure contractor, Places for People Leisure, who will run the new centre once it is open.

The centre will close on 27 April and removal of internal fittings will be carried out, with the demolition of the building taking place in the summer holidays so as not to impact on the nearby schools and their students. Once the plans have been approved, work will start on the new building. It is estimated that the total project will take 18 – 24 months.

Bulmershe Leisure Centre was built by Berkshire County Council and opened in 1971. The Town Council funded the centre's public leisure provision until 1995 when it then took over the running of the centre under a lease agreement. 1Life has been running the centre since 2014 when the centre transferred back to Wokingham BC.



## Festival of Business Woodley

Last October's Festival was reported to be the most successful to date. The event, sponsored by Mass Media Design, attracted a record number of 40 exhibitors and 140 attendees and enabled exhibitors to showcase their business and products to a large number of local businesses. Speakers covered topics relating to websites, social media, HMRC changes to digital tax and the design and development of the Sittingwell cushion. The organisers thanked Woodley Town Council for the use of the Oakwood Centre and Addington School, Cozzie, Waitrose, Greggs and Red Rose Indian Restaurant who all provided refreshments at the event.



## Businesses support local charity

Jacqueline Harris, Chair of the Woodley Festival of Business event committee, recently presented a £500 donation to ARC

Counselling to support the confidential service its volunteers provide to young people in Woodley. ARC Coordinator, Paul Cassidy, thanked members of the Woodley business forum for their kind donation which would help continue ARC's service in the town.

**Jacqueline Harris presenting a cheque to Paul Cassidy**

## Woodley and North Earley Community Forum – Annual General Meeting

The new Woodley and North Earley Community Forum will be holding its first Annual General Meeting (AGM) at 7.30pm on Thursday, 12 April 2018 at the Oakwood Centre. The forum has been set up by Thames Valley Police, local residents and representatives of local organisations with the aim of working together to reduce crime in our communities. At its first meeting last June the local policing priorities included antisocial behaviour, illegal encampment, bicycle theft, theft from cars and speeding. Progress on all these issues has been made. Agreed priorities for the first quarter of 2018 are antisocial behaviour, speeding and protection of vulnerable people from computer fraud and telephone scamming. Residents of Woodley and North Earley who would like to contribute to the discussions on local policing would be welcome to attend the AGM and future scheduled meetings of the forum.



## Grant presentation

Presented with grants at December's Council meeting were: representatives from Berkshire Vision, Home-Start Wokingham District, Wokingham Volunteer Centre, Woodley Adopt a Street Project along with William, Alexander and Rosie Cowan and Hannah Evans who were awarded grants for their GB sporting activities in Tumbling and Archery. Please see our website for guidance on applying for community and individual grants.



## ReadiBus in Woodley

The Town Council supports the availability of the ReadiBus service in Woodley. This alternative bus service is available to residents with restricted mobility, such as elderly and disabled people, who are not able to make a bus journey using mainstream buses. Bus journeys with ReadiBus are door-to-door and are shared with other users of the service. There is no fare to pay if you have a bus pass.

One resident told us, "ReadiBus means freedom to me. I don't know what I'd do without it. I meet new friends on the bus. I'm over 80 now and many of my friends have moved or died so it is easy to become isolated and it is a terrible thing – isolation. Everybody I speak to says the same about ReadiBus, we chat to each other and I look forward to going on the bus. We go via lots of places so it makes it interesting. I have had nothing but kindness from the drivers, they have such patience and are really very kind. ReadiBus is definitely my lifesaver."

To register to use the service, visit the ReadiBus website at [www.readibus.org.uk](http://www.readibus.org.uk) or telephone 0118 931 0000.

**A BIG  
THANK  
YOU**

**To all of last year's  
customers of the Scouts'  
Woodley postal service –  
we appreciate your support**

**2nd Woodley Scout Group**



## Woodley Carnival

HEROES and villains will be making their way through Woodley on Saturday 9th June to celebrate the town's annual carnival. Last October the Oakwood Centre shook with the sound of marching stormtroopers and other famous characters when Woodley Community Carnival launched its 2018 theme of 'Heroes and Villains'.

The carnival just wouldn't be the same without the procession and this is your chance to be a Hero or Villain for the day. It's never too early to register your float, taking part in the procession is FREE, it's fun and easy to get your group or business involved.

Offering a great afternoon and an evening of fun with a range of acts, shows, stalls and activities to suit all tastes, there is something for everyone! The Woodley Community Carnival showcases the talents of our local clubs and organisations and is a great way to watch, promote and support local groups. The carnival evening is a fantastic family friendly 'Party in the Park' where the community spirit is on full display. For more information: [www.woodleycarnival.org.uk](http://www.woodleycarnival.org.uk)



A cheque for £500, raised from the 2017 Carnival football tournament at Woodford Park's 3G pitch, was presented to Launchpad, the charity supporting homeless people in the Reading area. The winning team went on to play a team made up of former Reading FC players as one of the Carnival's showcase events.

### Woodley Schools' Bake Off

Year 5 pupils at Highwood, Rivermead and South Lake schools recently took part in Woodley's very own Bake Off competition, hosted and supported by The Bulmershe School and their students. The children worked in pairs to create imaginative, exciting and varied 'Showstopper Bakes' which were judged on their appearance and creativity as well as their taste. Each pair baked a cake and biscuits for the competition and took part in a icing skills test.

A great day was had by all and the children all worked well together - having fun as well as learning valuable skills such as baking, measuring and the importance of reading the instructions carefully! Cllr Keith Baker and Bulmershe Head Teacher, Mrs Woodfin, judged the events and prizes were awarded for the skills test and outstanding teamwork. The overall Showstopper winners were Isabella Fry and Annie Sullivan, from Rivermead School who created a beautiful cat and are pictured with The Mayor, Cllr Jenny Cheng and Mr Matt Hickey (Head of Highwood and Chair of the Woodley Schools Cluster).



## The Gym on the Park

Membership includes free access to classes including Legs, Bums and Tums, Zumba Gold, Boxercise and Body Balance. Monthly fee: £24.99 for Woodley residents, £26.99 non residents. For more information see [www.woodley.gov.uk](http://www.woodley.gov.uk)

## Woodley 10K road race

This year's race will take place on Sunday 15 April – 9am start. Barnes Fitness will be organising the event – see [www.barnesfitness.co.uk](http://www.barnesfitness.co.uk) for more information and road closures plus arrangements for the 2.5K run at Woodford Park. Once again, volunteers are needed to assist with marshalling the event, please contact Barnes Fitness if you can help.

## FA Wildcats scheme coming to Woodley

Woodley United FC, supported by Woodford Park Leisure Centre, is pleased to announce that it has been awarded permission to run a FA Wildcats Centre. The FA Wildcats scheme is aimed at encouraging girls between the ages of 5 and 11 years old to get involved in football and will be run for a period of sixteen weeks on Sunday mornings at Woodford Park's 3G pitch, starting mid-April. This is a great boost for the FA Charter Standard Community Club whose women's team is enjoying a successful season in the league and at cup matches. Contact [www.woodleyunitedfc.co.uk](http://www.woodleyunitedfc.co.uk) or [mark.rozzier@woodleyunitedfc.co.uk](mailto:mark.rozzier@woodleyunitedfc.co.uk) for further details.



# What's On

## Oakwood Centre

### Blood Donors

21 March, 18 April, 23 May, 27 June, 11 & 25 July  
To book an appointment call 0300 123 23 23

### Weight Watchers

Thursdays 9.30am

### Woodley & Earley Art Group

Last Thursday in the month 7 – 10pm

### Art Exhibition

20 April 10.00 – 17.00 & 19.00 – 21.00, 21 April 10.00 – 17.00

### 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](http://www.acornacupuncture.org.uk)

### Libra Pilates

Until 23 March:  
Tuesdays 10 – 11am, 11am – 12pm  
From 17 April:  
Tuesdays 9.30 – 10.30am, 10.30 – 11.30am,  
11.30am – 12.30pm  
Contact 0118 969 7769

### White Yoga

Wednesdays 6.15 – 7.15pm & 7.15 – 8.30pm  
Contact Kat 07599 988126

### Energy Share Meetings – Various Alternative Therapies

One Wednesday per month  
Contact lizziejones8384@aol.com

### Jewellery Classes

Mondays 10am – 12pm, 1 – 3pm, 6.30 – 8.30pm  
Contact janetrichardson.co.uk 07840 538353

### Woodley Women's Club

Every other Monday 7.30 – 10pm  
Contact Sheila Smith 0118 969 2076

### 'It's your Life' health show

Sunday 6 May 10am – 4pm

## Council meetings

### Annual Meeting

8 May 8pm

### Full Council

26 June 8pm

### Leisure Services Committee

10 April, 5 June 8pm

### Strategy and Resources Committee

17 April, 12 June 8pm

## Alan Cornish Theatre at the Oakwood Centre

### Mostly G&S

### The Yeoman of the Guard

22 – 24 March 19.45

Box Office: 01635 522750 or email [mostlygands@gmail.com](mailto:mostlygands@gmail.com)

### Woodley Theatre

### Someone Who'll Watch over me by Frank McGuiness

24 – 28 April at 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121 or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Woodley Theatre

### Jazz

12 May 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121 or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### Woodley Theatre

### Jeeves and Wooster in Perfect Nonsense by the Goodale Brothers

26 – 30 June at 19.45

Box Office: 07939 210121 or [www.woodleytheatre.org](http://www.woodleytheatre.org)

### I Am The Manic Whale – Gathering The Waters

5 May 19.30

Box Office: [iamthemanicwhale.bandcamp.com](http://iamthemanicwhale.bandcamp.com)

## Town Centre

### Saturday Market

Every Saturday 9am – 3 pm

### Farmers Market

21 March, 18 April, 16 May, 20 June, 18 July 9am – 1.30pm

### Car Boot and Table Top Sale

25 March, 8 & 22 April,

13 & 27 May, 10 & 24 June, 8 July 8am – 1pm

### Easter Chicks Hunt

17 – 31 March

### Bracknell & Wokingham Concert Band

28 April 11.00 – 13.00

### Waltham St Lawrence Silver Band

12 May 11.00 – 13.00

### Children's Fun Day – Free Activities

28 May 11.00 – 15.00

### Bracknell & Wokingham Concert Band

7 July 11.00 – 13.00

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



### Planning Committee

27 March, 24 April, 22 May, 19 June, 17 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

 @oakwoodcentre

 The Oakwood Centre

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