

# TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Summer 2018

From the Town Mayor,  
Cllr Peter Jay

A man can scarcely get a drink to his lips in a Woodstock pub without hearing loud opinions about parking. It is much the same in the Council chamber apart, that is, from the drinks.

Should restrictions be enforced or was the 'light touch' regime better? What about the residents? What about our shops and their vanishing customers? What about the suspended bays in Rectory Lane, now lasting months longer than originally expected? What about all that space behind the walls of Blenheim? Would charging, after the first hour, flush out the long-stay parkers leaving more space for visitors?

All this has been sparked by the visible return of parking wardens to our streets following action by WODC after our Annual Residents' Town Meeting in March passed a motion calling for enforcement in High Street and Market Street and the Council supported this. It is noticeable that since the wardens reappeared available spaces have appeared all over town. But so have unhappy residents organising themselves to contest the changes.

It is the Town Council's job to digest all this and to engage with WODC, as well as with Blenheim, to devise arrangements which will allow the town centre not to have the life choked out of it while also respecting the proper interests of residents. With the help of our District Councillors we are trying to do that.

OCC	-	Oxfordshire County Council
WODC	-	West Oxfordshire District Council
WTC	-	Woodstock Town Council



Town Council Annual Meeting  
May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018



Cllr Peter Jay,  
Town Mayor 2018-2019

Deputy Mayor: Cllr Ann Grant  
Member for Finance: Cllr Frank Collingwood  
Member for Property: Cllr Ann Grant  
Member for Environment: Cllr Philip Redpath  
Other Councillor roles can be found on WTC webpages: [www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk](http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk)

## District Council Elections May 3<sup>rd</sup> Woodstock & Bladon ward

Dave Baldwin (Labour)	125
<b>Julian Cooper (Liberal Democrat)</b>	<b>604</b>
Betsy Glasgow (Conservative)	403
Mathew Parkinson (Green)	152
Sharone Parnes (Independent)	154

### **New Town Councillor: Mathew Parkinson.**

Just after publication of the last WTC newsletter we had the second election this year for a new Town Councillor. The results were as follows:

**Mathew Parkinson 292**

Tracy Wray 110

We welcome Mathew warmly to the Council perhaps particularly because he is significantly younger than many of the present Councillors. We hope his presence will encourage other young people to stand for WTC or other local government positions.



**Cllr Mathew Parkinson**

Mathew was brought up in Stonesfield but has lived in Woodstock for eight years with partner and stepson. He has had a varied career so far, starting in the hospitality trade at the age of 16 and moving up to chef at The Star. He has also been a teaching

assistant at the Marlborough School; football coach for Kidlington Ladies team and Oxfordshire County and, in the process, helped the development of several local and now international footballers. He is an active volunteer on the Mock Mayor committee and with various charities. He is the Green Party representative for Woodstock & Bladon and this interest is already apparent in his contributions to Council discussions.

Thank you, Mathew, for standing for office and enjoy your work as a Councillor.

### **Woodstock Exhibition Foundation**

Do you have a son or daughter under 25 years old in, or about to begin, tertiary education or post school training course? The Exhibition Foundation is an ancient Woodstock charity which provides modest financial awards for young people with at least one parent residing in Woodstock. Application forms are available from the Town Hall office. Closing date for applications is 12 noon on the third Wednesday in September (**September 19<sup>th</sup>** this year). Awards, made annually, may be applied for more than once.

### **All change at St. Mary Magdalene Church.**

After eight years in Woodstock, the Rector Adrian Daffern and his wife are leaving as Adrian has been appointed Vicar of Great St Mary's Church – the university church – in Cambridge. Adrian and Megan will be a loss to this town and we are sad to see them go. We thank them for all their contributions to the community in their time here and wish them happiness and success in Cambridge.

### **Woodstock: a single-use-plastic free town?-**

At its June meeting WTC resolved unanimously:

*to encourage and support action towards making Woodstock a single-use plastic free town by*

- *Promoting the work of Sustainable Woodstock and others aimed at reducing the presence of single-use plastic in the town*
- *Leading by example through removing single-use plastic within WTC premises when practical*
- *Naming a WTC member to represent the Council on the single-use plastic free town steering group currently being developed.*

Increasing awareness of the impact of plastic waste on humans, wildlife habitat and climate change has resulted in many towns engaging in initiatives to tackle these issues. We believe the support of the Town Council for action by local groups such as Sustainable Woodstock can promote interest from local people in such groups. Penzance and Frome are already towns with "single-use" plastic free status.

Residents do not need to wait for the steering group to confront them in the street or on the doorstep. Action can begin now:

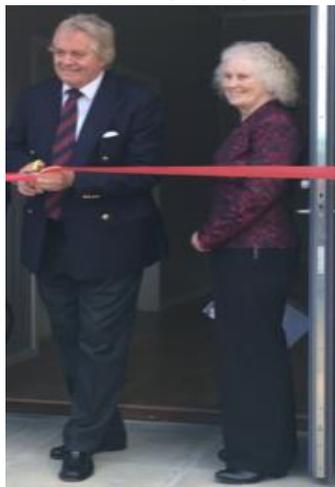
- Remember your refillable water bottle
- Keep a reusable coffee cup.
- Refuse single-use plastic as take away cups; packaged items; drinking straws; condiment packages; or items for the bathroom.
- Use your own re-usable shopping bag
- Avoid plastic cutlery. Take your own.
- Pick up litter. Recycle or dispose of it

Further info: [www.sas.org.uk/plasticfreecoastlines](http://www.sas.org.uk/plasticfreecoastlines) and

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg2383178-0-100-fixing-planet-plastic-how-well-really-solve-our-waste-problem/>

## Woodstock Youth Centre: Grand Opening

On a beautiful sunny 10<sup>th</sup> May, Woodstock Town Councillors and others from the community attended the Grand Opening of the new Youth Centre in



**The Duke of Marlborough & Cllr. Ann Grant at the opening**

Recreation Road. The President of the Youth Club, His Grace the 12<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough gave his personal thanks to all who had helped to achieve this long-awaited project. It was a great example of a community pulling together for the good of the young people of Woodstock and nearby villages. Then, a cut of the ribbon...and the centre was open.

As the assembled company moved inside, committee members showed guests around with pride. Visitors were impressed by the size of the Main Hall with its subtle grey décor, oak flooring and high ceiling, and by the Art and Craft facility with kitchenette. The fully fitted kitchen overlooks a superb café area and games room decorated in greys and creams and complemented by wooden floors that blend well with the wooden building. In addition there are access and toilets for the disabled.

Whilst enjoying the excellent refreshments, guests had opportunities to chat with the architect, builders, funders, club members and others. All who attended were very positive about the building and there were many pleasing congratulatory comments. The whole event was captured on film and some attendees were interviewed by the media representatives present. An exciting and enjoyable day but, for those organising it, an exhausting one as well.

Some work, mostly outside the building, is still pending. However the Club, with signage very generously donated by Blenheim, will open for activity shortly.

## QAVS for the Bus Museum

Congratulations to the Oxford Bus Museum in Hanborough on gaining the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. Cllr Frank Collingwood is a long-standing member of the volunteers. Volunteers created the Museum 'from scratch' fifty years ago and only volunteers have maintained it ever since.



## Thirty Years

WUFA (formerly known as Woodstock Under Fives Association) held its open day on the morning of Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May. The sun shone, and attendance surpassed all expectations. The activities and stalls were enjoyed by everyone and raised around £2000!

The intention is to use the funds raised to buy a defibrillator to be located on the outside gate so it can be used both on and off site as necessary. Once the defibrillator is in place WUFA will offer a full training session for Councillors and members of the community for a minimal fee.

The open day commemorated thirty years since of the formation of WUFA and the construction of the present building following intensive fund raising.

The event was opened by Cllr. Trish Redpath, Town Mayor 2017-18 and a founder member of WUFA. Attendees included members of the formative committee one of whom, Lynda Pencherz, was WUFA chairman at the time the building was completed and opened.



**Children, parents and home-made goodies at the event**

## Farewell fields. Hello homes!

Work has just begun on the Woodstock East site but a blaze of poppies in the still fallow field next to the Hensington estate has created an astonishing sight: Nature celebrating the centenary of the Armistice?





## WOODSTOCK TOWN HALL

← The historic **TOWN HALL**, in the centre of Woodstock, offers opportunities for weddings, naming ceremonies, other celebrations in the beautiful Mayor's Parlour or upstairs (stairlift available) in the Assembly Room, as well as providing facilities for post-event receptions.

Or looking for a central venue for small groups, business meetings or classes?

← The **TOWN HALL** is an ideal venue

Facilities: Versatile room set up

Kitchen

Disabled access

Impressive setting



Or as an alternative venue:

← **WOODSTOCK COMMUNITY CENTRE** Suitable for small or large events this light, versatile, space is ideal for activity classes, private functions, group meetings, clubs, birthday parties, and receptions.

Facilities: AV equipment,

Kitchen,

Flexible staging

Disabled access.

## TOWN EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

### Woodstock Carnival

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> 2pm onwards. Town Centre**

Theme: "Circus Circus" A celebration of the circus  
A great free day for all the family in our beautiful town

### Mock Mayor Making

**Saturday July 21<sup>st</sup> 2.30pm until late. Black Prince pub.**

Ancient traditions, traditional games, BBQ, stalls and live music

### CountryFile Live 2018

**Thursday August 2<sup>nd</sup> – Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> . Blenheim Park**  
9.30am – 6.30pm (5.30pm on Sunday)

### Woodstock Live

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Town Square**  
The annual eclectic music festival

### Blenheim Palace Festival of Literature, Film & Music

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**

For details see [blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com](http://blenheimpalaceliteraryfestival.com)

### Woodstock Poetry Festival

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November.**

For further details see [www.woodstockbookshop.com](http://www.woodstockbookshop.com)

### Act of Remembrance

**Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup>. War Memorial just before 11am**

Followed by service in St Mary Magdalene Church

Published by Woodstock Town Council, Town Hall, Market Place,  
Woodstock OX20 1SL  
Printed KMS Litho Ltd., Railway Bridge House, Station Road, Hook Norton,  
Oxfordshire, OX15 5LS