

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Autumn 2021

**From the Deputy Mayor
Cllr Jo Lamb**

My thanks to everyone who organised or contributed to our Remembrance Day event as well as to all of you who turned up on the Sunday morning to show your respect for those who sacrificed so much for our democracy.

Christmas is just around the corner....five weeks to go at the time of writing! Woodstock is getting ready to celebrate. We have new lighting contractors for the street decorations in the town centre. They will be working THROUGH THE NIGHTS of 24th and 25th November. To allow the contractors access to the trees being decorated, it is essential that cars are NOT parked next to trees in High, Market, Oxford and Park Streets on these two nights. Please try to observe this request. Thank you to all those town centre residents who have opted to buy a Christmas tree and lighting to deck the outside of their houses. This will contribute hugely to the festive atmosphere of our town. It is a prime example of residents and businesses working together to promote Woodstock. Please also support our local businesses this Christmas.

There is shortly to be a "consultation" within the town. You might have guessed this already: it's about parking! This time it does look as though our County and District Councils are serious about finding practical solutions to the nightmare and deteriorating parking situation we have in Woodstock. A comprehensive proposal was put to Town Councillors at our November meeting, which the majority of Councillors voted to support in principle and to forward for community consultation as the next stage in the process.



After consultation, these proposals will revert back to the Town Council for further discussion and action. Our thanks go to County Cllr Andy Graham and to County Officers in particular, for picking up on the urgency of this difficult issue. It is imperative that we work together as a community for the common good on this one. There are no easy answers but something just has to be done this time round.

Sadly, there will be no Mayor's Carols this year (Covid uncertainty again). Nevertheless, it falls to me on behalf of the Town Council, to wish everyone a safe, healthy and happy Christmas. In order to protect both yourselves and others, *please* have your vaccinations and boosters when you qualify for them and *please* also consider wearing a mask in crowded areas



Remembrance Sunday, November 2021
(photo: Karen Kinch)

Green Neighbourhood Plan

In our previous Newsletter we mentioned the Green Spaces Neighbourhood Plan was out for consultation with stakeholders. After consultation, it is clear that for some sites landowners' views make it difficult to defend these as Green Spaces in the Plan. Inclusion might then jeopardise the whole Plan. As a consequence the Plan will include some of these sites but as 'Designated Green Areas of Outstanding Value to the Community'. Once redrafted, WTC will be asked to approve the Plan going forward to WODC who will arrange for an Inspector to review the Plan. If all then proceeds 'according to plan', a town referendum on approval of the Plan will take place. The Plan will be adopted if at least fifty percent of those voting, vote in favour.

The Plan would provide protection to the named sites at levels at least equivalent to that provided for sites with Green Belt and Conservation Area status.

Further, if the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) ever comes into effect in West Oxfordshire (something dependent on the government Planning Bill), a greater proportion of CIL funding arising from housing development in Woodstock, will come directly to the Town Council for the Council's use.

The Green Neighbourhood Plan Working Group has been greatly assisted by Jon Herbert of Troy Planning & Design in the process of developing the Green Spaces Neighbourhood Plan and for accessing funds to cover the expenses. We thank him warmly for his help.

A mid-week, mid-morning, group →
displaying support for COP26 ambitions
(photo: Hilary Brown)

The Queen's Green Canopy

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022. People across the United Kingdom are invited to **"Plant a Tree for the Jubilee"**.

The initiative is running until the end of Jubilee year 2022. Citizens are encouraged to play their part in enhancing biodiversity and the environment as well as enabling carbon capture, by planting (native) trees from now until the end of the Jubilee year. The aim is to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation which will benefit future generations. The Queen's Green Canopy will also dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service. Villages, parishes, towns and counties are being encouraged to get involved in **Planting a Tree for the Platinum Jubilee**. Advice on major planting projects should be directed through the Office of the Lord Lieutenant in the County. Any planting - from forests to individual trees and hedgerows - can be included in the final recognition provided the Jubilee process is notified.

Woodstock town centre does not have much space for planting new trees. Individuals can be part of the scheme planting in their gardens. Some homes are also adjacent to small green areas. If you would like to be involved in the project locally or have suggestions for possible sites, please email:

Elizabeth.Poskitt@woodstock-tc.gov.uk



To and fro at the Town Hall

Staffing at the Town Hall is undergoing quite a change. Rachel Johnson who was our Finance Officer for six years has moved on and we thank her for all her work for us and wish her success in her new post. Currently Cherie Carruthers is acting Finance Officer. At the time of writing, we have a temporary Town Clerk – Sam Shippen. Jane Hibberd who was caretaker for sixteen years has resigned and we thank her for all her work over the years. Christine Inker, Administrator, continues to serve the town cheerfully and efficiently from the Town Hall Office and Ian Watkins, Deputy Caretaker, continues to care for our property and its users. We thank *all* these people, but particularly these last two members of staff, for all their work and help. We shall keep you informed of any staffing updates in future newsletters.

PCSO Ben Hallam C9608

Woodstock has a new Police and Community Support Officer (PCSO) Ben Hallam. Ben oversees other communities along with Woodstock. His shifts vary but Woodstock will be his base. Ben introduces himself below:



'I am new to Thames Valley Police and come from a background of healthcare and retail. I look forward to meeting the residents of Woodstock and surrounding areas. Please come and say hello if you see me around. I can be contacted via WoodstockNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

In an emergency please ring 999 and 101 for non-emergency calls. You can now report online via the Thames Valley Police website: <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk>.

Please take the time to register your details on the Thames Valley Alert system for crime prevention advice and crimes that happen in your area. You can follow us on Twitter and Facebook @TVP_WESTOXON and TVP WEST OXFORDSHIRE'



One of the modern species parading through Woodstock during Salon Privé at Blenheim in September. For our new PCSO's information: this does not represent most of Woodstock's traffic!

This is Woodstock Day.

Many thanks to all who took part in the *This is Woodstock Day* on October 9th and all who came to visit the stalls. The beautiful autumn day was a relief for the stalls in the Museum garden!. It was a quieter event than previously but many people have yet to have full confidence in public gatherings.

Bins yet again...

Wheely bins left out on our pavements for an entire week do not enhance the appearance of the town. They also obstruct pedestrians. ***It would be hugely appreciated by both businesses and residents, if people would keep their bins within their properties except on bin collection days.***

Local government acronyms

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



Community Centre: A large open space



The Town Hall Assembly Room: for weddings, receptions and meetings



The Mayor's Parlour: a lovely wedding venue

TOWN EVENTS

LAST WEEKEND IN NOVEMBER

WOODSTOCK FESTIVE FAYRE

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26TH from 5pm – 8pm

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 27th 10am – 8pm

St Mary Magdalene's church

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SATURDAY 27th

Live music from about 5.30

Lights switched on 6pm

Late night opening for many shops and galleries

Council Venues for Hire

Council buildings are now fully open for hire although we ask users to observe covid precautions and wear masks whenever possible moving around the buildings.

← The **Community Centre** provides a large versatile open space suitable for exhibitions, activity sessions, parties, and lectures. Use of the attached kitchen is possible.

← The **Assembly Room** and **Town Hall Kitchen** are also available for hire.

The **Assembly Room** is a versatile space for lectures, meetings and celebrations.

The **Kitchen** is adjacent and can be hired separately for small semi-formal meetings.

← The Mayor's Parlour is available for weddings and other ceremonies – observing all government guidelines for such occasions.

**For details about hiring the
Community Centre or Town Hall please
contact:**

Town Clerk's Assistant, Christine Inker:

admin@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

01993 811 216

OXFORDSHIRE CRAFT GUILD'S CHRISTMAS EXHIBITION (and sale)

NOVEMBER 20th - DECEMBER 30TH 10am – 5pm (2pm start on Sundays).

The Oxfordshire Museum, Park Street.

NO Mayor's Carols this year.

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