

WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Spring 2022

From the Mayor

Cllr Mathew Parkinson

At its March meeting Woodstock Town Council made the following declaration: "The unprovoked invasion of Ukraine by Russia is causing a humanitarian catastrophe to unfold in Europe. Members of our community are



appalled by Russia's action and in awe of the bravery shown by Ukrainians as well as the bravery of those Russians who have denounced their

government's aggression. Our thoughts and sincere wishes are with the residents of our town who have relatives and friends in Ukraine. Nationals of both Ukraine and Russia may have made homes in our town and we should all come together to support the victims of war. In the light of the event held earlier this evening, Woodstock Town Hall will be a collection site for medical supplies to be sent directly to the front line by Olena". Use the link below for the list of required medical supplies which can be dropped off at the Council's Town Hall Office between 9.30 and 12.30 Monday to Friday. Please ensure items are in date and sealed where appropriate.

<https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/List-of-medical-supplies.pdf>

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING - POSTPONED

The Annual Town Meeting scheduled for March 22nd has been postponed until

Tuesday April 26th at 7.30pm



Support for Ukraine: March 8th

A rapidly arranged informal gathering on March 8th to express solidarity with Ukraine, attracted around 100 residents and local media. Attendees heard an impassioned speech from Dr Olena Seminog, an Ukrainian medical researcher working in Oxford. We can only hope that by the next newsletter there is a happy resolution to this war. If you have room in your home for a refugee, contact Ukraine.support@westoxon.gov.uk



Residents gathering in Market Square for the meeting to show solidarity with Ukraine

Funds for Ukraine

Organisers of the 'Fairtrade Coffee Morning' on March 5th decided all funds should go to the Disasters Emergency Committee Ukraine appeal. (Fairtrade had already benefitted from purchase of the goods on sale). Many thanks to all who gave so generously of time and funds (including the local Co-op team who donated and ran the raffle). A grand total of £1200 went to DEF - a total which clearly expresses the concern of so many for the present international situation.

Green Neighbourhood Plan

We have mentioned the Green Neighbourhood Plan in previous newsletters and some of you responded to the public consultation last year. The documents have now been collated, finalised and sent to WODC who will forward them to the Inspector for comment and approval (or otherwise). Once there is an approved-by-inspection version, it will be submitted to a town referendum. Approval will give increased security to the green spaces in the Plan so they can remain in public use as green areas in our town for perpetuity. We thank past Cllr., Trish Redpath, for leading the Green Spaces Group and Jon Herbert of Troy Planning for all his advice.

Woodstock Parking

You may have already received a letter from OCC about proposed changes to *on-street* parking and introduction of permit parking areas in the town. A four week consultation opens on March 17th. The link to the webpages is in the letter but it is also accessible by clicking on 'Consultations' on the Let's Talk Oxfordshire pages: <https://letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk> from *March 17th*. You can express your views electronically at that site or in writing to OCC quoting the specific reference code in your letter. The proposals include:

-Introduction of Pay & Display bays centrally with exemptions for permit holders. *The first 30 minutes in any 24 hour period will be free.*

-Introduction of some ultra-short stay parking areas.

-New permit holder only parking areas

-Additional 2-hour parking bays

-New cycle parking areas in the town centre

The proposals will be on display with OCC Officers present to answer questions at:

Community Centre, New Road

Saturday 19th March 9.30am - 12 noon

Town Hall, Market Place.

Monday 21st March 6.30pm – 8.00pm

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC)

A Council led Working Group is looking at opportunities to be part of the QGC Project. Any tree/hedge planted between October 2021 and the end of 2022 can be registered as part of the Project. Go to queensgreencanopy.org for further information about planting trees and how to register your tree(s) on the national map. Trees planted this past winter can be registered retrospectively.

We plan to involve Schools and residents with group planting activities in the autumn but no plans are yet in place. If you have views about where planting could take place and what you would like planted, please contact:

Elizabeth.Poskitt@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

Climate Action Heroes

Many congratulations to Hilary and Graham Brown who have been acclaimed Climate Action Heroes with a High Sheriff's Award. This year the awards focused on people and organisations showing 'inspirational' climate change action. Hilary and Graham are longstanding members of Sustainable Woodstock (SusWoo), with Hilary currently Chair of SusWoo. Both of them spent a lot of time planting (with others), and then caring for, trees in the Community Orchard and Woodland; constructing ponds; building hedgehog and bee houses; and very successfully getting residents - young and old - to join in these activities. Hilary and Graham are also vigorous campaigners for plastic waste reduction in the town and enthusiastic promoters of SusWoo shopping bags. They also support wider, national, climate and environmental activities.

Eighteen High Sheriff's awards were given but only six to individuals, so Graham and Hilary are not only thoroughly deserving of the award but a great credit to Woodstock.

Hello Spring, Hello Woodstock

Saturday 26th – Thursday 31st March

Wake up to Woodstock (WUTW)

For about 20 years now WUTW has represented most retailers and businesses in and around the town and worked to encourage visitors to the town to help keep it busy and vibrant.

We are now working on a campaign, funded by the government Welcome Back Fund and promoted by our Town Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, to bring people back into town centres.

We are biased: we think Woodstock is one of the loveliest, small Cotswold towns in Oxfordshire! With a variety of independent shops, restaurants, hotels and even two museums, it is the perfect place for an evening, day, or long weekend, break.

The town will be decorated for this Spring event and many retailers will have special offers or promotions. So, we hope to see our local customers as well as new visitors later this month.

Put **26th to the 31st March** in your diary. Join in, enjoy the week and remind yourself and your friends: Woodstock is lovely for all!
Dennis Allen, Chair of WUTW.



Spring: celandines alongside the A44

Local Elections: Thursday May 5th

Last year was a bumper year with elections in May for County, District and Town Councillors as well as for the Police Commissioner. This year is more peaceful with only the election of one District Councillor. Polling stations will be at the Blenheim Offices (JN & JP register) and at the Bowls & Tennis Club (JO & JQ register) as last year. The Polling Stations are open from **7am until 10pm**. Your vote is as important as ever in demonstrating democracy and choice.

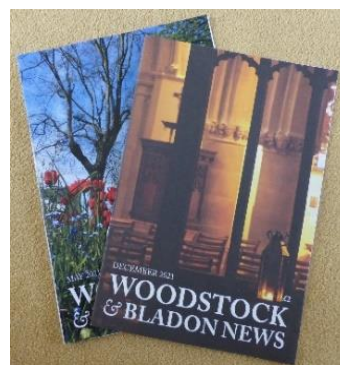
Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The long weekend of **Thursday June 2nd - Monday June 6th** will be the national Spring Holiday in honour of the Platinum Jubilee. We are all being encouraged to celebrate with community events, particularly on the Sunday. Traditionally, these national celebrations have been marked by street parties, often working best when they focus on a small area of town rather than the more complicated process of trying to get the whole town together. (Some parts of Woodstock even managed successful *socially distanced* street parties to celebrate VE Day during the slightly eased Lockdown in 2000). If you are thinking of a party in your street or streets

<https://news.westoxon.gov.uk/news/district-council-provides-advice-for-platinum-jubilee-street-parties> offers helpful ideas and advice.

There will no doubt be other celebratory 'goings on' in and around town that weekend. Where appropriate, please let the Council know of any local events we could advertise on the website – and please do your own advertising through the social media and on our noticeboards. We wish a 'fun' weekend for all of you with the best of June weather and NOT, for those who remember 1953, Coronation weather!

You: a future newspaper magnate?

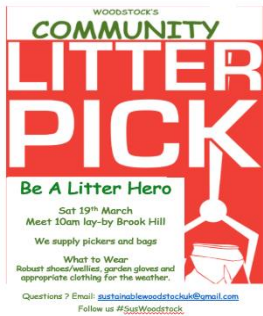


Many residents and others have long depended on Woodstock & Bladon News to keep them up to date over local events and activities, both here and in

Bladon. The last issue of W&BNews was at the end of 2021. The editors felt they did not have time to continue as editors but would be happy to help others produce a similar magazine. Up to the challenge? Contact: admin@woodstock-tc.gov.uk

Annual Litter Pick 10am Saturday March 19th

Meet at layby on Brook Hill with sturdy footwear and gloves. Litter pickers will be provided. Even if you do not have much time, a lot can be collected in a short period. All will be welcomed for what they manage to do. If you cannot come on Saturday, find out how else you might help at: sustainablewoodstockuk@gmail.com



Proposed Expansion of Woodstock C of E Primary School

A public consultation is open until April 6th for views on this proposal. Go to Letstalk.oxfordshire.gov.uk, scroll down the page and click on the relevant statutory notice. Your comments will inform the OCC Cabinet Minister when deciding whether, or not, to approve the enlargement.

CALENDAR

- **SATURDAY MARCH 19TH**

ANNUAL LITTER PICK: 10 am Layby on Brook Hill: strong footwear and gloves.

DISPLAY OF PARKING PLANS. Community Centre New Road: 9.30am – 12noon.

- **MONDAY MARCH 21ST** Town Hall

6.30 – 8 pm **DISPLAY OF PARKING PLANS.**

- **SATURDAY MARCH 26TH–THURSDAY 31ST**

HELLO SPRING! HELLO WOODSTOCK!

Opportunity to enjoy retail and other displays and action around town.

- **TUESDAY APRIL 26TH** TOWN MEETING

Community Centre, New Road 7.30pm

- **THURSDAY MAY 5TH** POLLING DAY

Polling stations at Blenheim Offices, Park Street (JN and JP register) and the Bowls & Tennis Club (JO and JQ register). Stations open 7am -10pm

- **THURSDAY JUNE 2ND – MONDAY JUNE 6TH**

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE HOLIDAY

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

Planning a significant event?

Woodstock Town Council can offer:

THE TOWN HALL:

The Assembly Room: a large airy space suitable for meetings or parties ↓



The Kitchen – for a small friendly meeting ↓



The Mayor's Parlour : for weddings, other ceremonies and formal meetings

←

or

THE COMMUNITY CENTRE:

A large space for classes, meetings, parties ↓



For further information contact:

admin@woodstock-tc.gov.uk or the Town Clerk's Assistant in the Town Hall