



WOODSTOCK TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Subscriber,

Welcome to our February 2024 EMail Newsletter.

News from the Council

NOTICE REGARDING THE OWL STEPS. The OWL steps have been temporarily closed. The steps are in need of repair and quotes have been obtained. At the Town Council meeting on 16th January 2024 at which these quotes were submitted, it was suggested that there could be an issue with ongoing access to the OWL steps and it was decided that this must be investigated before public money is spent. A vote was taken and it was unanimously decided that, while the Town Council awaits confirmation regarding access rights, it would be best to temporarily close the steps for public safety. More information will be provided when we have it. Thank you for your understanding.

Hensington Road Parking. WODC are doing a survey of parking in Hensington Road – please [follow this link](#). The survey finishes on 12 February.

Botley West. The second phase of consultation on Botley West started on Thursday 30th November 2023 and finishes on Thursday 8th February 2024.

Stop Botley West are asking residents, whatever their views, to complete a questionnaire about the consultation process [click here](#).

More details of the whole scheme can be found on the developer's own website: <https://botleywest.co.uk/Home-Botley-West.html>, or on Stop Botley West's website: <https://stopbotleywest.com/>.

Woodstock Town Council voted against this development, in its current form.

Forthcoming Council Meetings (all at 7pm)

Friday 9th February Extraordinary Town Council Meeting

Tuesday 13th February Town Council Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 12th March Town Council Monthly Meeting

Tuesday 26th March Annual Town Meeting (in the Community Centre)

Agendas are normally published on the preceding Wednesday and can be found [here](#)

Minutes from Past Meetings

Minutes from past meetings (once approved) are available to see [here](#)

Brief Report from Town Council meeting of Tuesday 16th January 2024

Five members of the public spoke at the start of the meeting, all about the Botley West Solar proposal.

The Clerk was unable to attend the meeting, so a large number of items were deferred.

A proposal was made about rebuilding the OWL steps, but the Council decided that the access issue needed sorting first, and so it was agreed to close the OWL steps.

Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 7th February 10am to 3pm - JS Fine Art are holding an Antiques Valuation Day in the Town Hall. Please bring along any valuables/collectibles for expert advice.

Friday 9th February at 2pm (and every 2nd Friday of the month). Singing for fun plus tea/coffee and chat for the over-60s at Woodstock Social Club. Free, all welcome, no need to be a member

Saturday 24th February at 3pm, St Hughs Centre The Woodstock Literature Society has a talk given by Professor Carolynne Larrington on The Norse Myths that Shape the Way We Think

WOODSTOCK HISTORY NOTES

A Right Royal Borough...

There is in the Council's archives a document dated 1461, sealed with a wax impression. The first of Woodstock's seals with which that impression was made is still in the Council's possession - it can be viewed on the first floor of the town's museum.

Because its lettering refers to the *royal town of Woodstock* the seal is likely to have been made before Henry VI granted Woodstock its first charter in 1453, thereby transferring it out of the king's hands and into those of a mayor and corporation.

Not surprisingly, in view of the town's early and long-standing association with England's monarchs, Woodstock's loyalties seem to have remained with the king as evidenced by the names of pubs *The King's Arms* and until recently *The King's Head* (now *Back Lane*).

That other symbol of a town council's authority, the mace, was made during Oliver Cromwell's interregnum in 1655 only to undergo a swift and expedient re-modelling in 1660 to include the royal arms in recognition of the restoration of Charles II to the throne.

Email Contacts:

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To view list of all Councillors: <https://woodstock-tc.gov.uk/council-members/>

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