

## **Woodstock@900 meeting**

### **Monday June 15<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm**

**2010** marks the 900<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first enclosure of a Royal Park at Woodstock. An historical note establishing the original events in 1110 is available from the Town Hall (info@woodstock-tc.gov.uk) and on the Council's website (<http://www.woodstock-tc.gov.uk/>). The idea is to use this anniversary as a reason for celebrations which raise the profile of Woodstock across Britain and the world. The meeting tonight is both to involve you all in planning W@900 celebrations and to receive your views, ideas and suggestions on the outline plans for the anniversary.

Plans so far:

- His Grace the Duke of Marlborough has kindly agreed to be our patron.
- The Council has appointed a temporary Woodstock@900 Committee which will make recommendations to the full council on the concept and policies for the centenary.
- Representatives of Wake up to Woodstock and Blenheim have been co-opted onto the Woodstock@900 Committee, which also includes [4] councillors, the Town's three honorary townsmen, County and District Councillors Ian Hudspeth and Jill Dunsmore and a representative of West Oxfordshire District Council's Leisure and Tourism Department.
- The Council has also entered into a collaboration agreement with Wake Up to Woodstock under which WUTW will be responsible for the management and operation of festival events, including the engagement of a festival director.
- Blenheim has undertaken to be a fully supportive partner in our planning,

Possibilities already suggested for W@900 activities:

- an opening occasion with perhaps Prince Harry (as it was a Henry who first enclosed the Royal Park)
- a major exhibition relevant to the anniversary which could be on display in the town over several months in the summer
- a street party
- an extended Carnival
- major fund raising on a long term basis for a significant project.

The timing of celebrations needs to be mindful of events of wide public interest such as District and also probable General Elections (early May or very early June); World Cup matches (July/August); significant events at Blenheim etc..

A Fund raising team convened by the Mayor will meet in July. It is hoped that it will be possible to appoint a Festival Director.

We hope you as members of the public and perhaps representing local groups will both greet these ideas positively and develop your own ideas for how your organisations can join the celebrations.

On a longer term basis, if W@900 develops (or at least begins to develop) some significant funding for a major project - as yet undetermined - so that the anniversary leaves a long term legacy for the town, do you have views over what sort of long term legacy this might be? (If the project is big, 2010 would be only the beginning of any fund raising).

**PTO for your comments**

***WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS?***

There may not have been time for you to present your ideas at the meeting or perhaps you think of things later. If you have comments or suggestions, please write them below. Hand them in at the meeting or post to the Town Hall later.

**Name and Address.** (We need this so we can come back to you about your ideas).

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**Comments.**