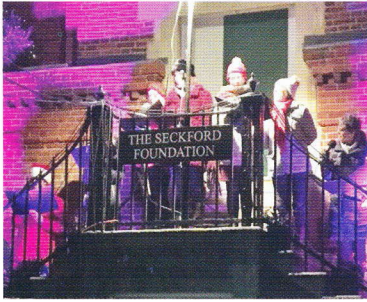


**WOODBIDGE ROTARY CLUB
CAROL CONCERT**



On Wednesday 18 December, Woodbridge Rotary Club held their 68th annual carol concert on Woodbridge Market Hill. We presented the Christmas Tree to the people of the town and Father Christmas presented sweets to all the children present.

Major Alan Hill of the Salvation Army officiated at the service, ably helped by Rotarian Ron Hepworth

MBE who conducted the singing and welcomed Father Christmas. The Bull Hotel provided mulled wine and hot chocolate, carol sheets were handed out and a voluntary collection for EACH raised £1,000.

Our big challenge year by year is the rising cost of putting on this event, which this year amounted to approximately £1,000. This included £300 for audio hire, £100 for first aid provision, £65 for hire of the Shire Hall and an amazing £366 for road closure, all of which the club had to absorb from its funds.

Thank you to all who attended; see you all again this year.

WOODBIDGE SPRING CLEAN 2020



This year's Great British Spring Clean runs from March 20 to April 13 and for the fifth year, Transition Woodbridge plans to organise several litter picking events during that period in Woodbridge and Melton.

In 2016 a group led by Transition Woodbridge and Woodbridge WI organised a litter pick over a March weekend as part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign to *Clean for the Queen*. Enthusiastic volunteers turned out to remove an appalling amount of litter from our streets, roadside verges, car parks and open spaces in several areas around the town.

Sadly, litter continues to be a problem. There are many individuals who regularly pick up litter on their daily walks and the rubbish walks led by Jason Alexander (each month on every fourth Sunday) encourage more people to help clean up the town and the river side.

The Great British Spring Clean litter picks give even more folk the chance to get together to show the love they have for our town and remove the cigarette butts, car park tickets, bottles, cans, sweet and crisp packets, take away food and drink containers and dog poo bags that others carelessly drop. We all hope that one day soon everyone will want to do the right thing and put litter where it belongs – in the bin.

Until that happy day please look out for the posters about the Great British Spring Clean litter picking events in Woodbridge and Melton. To register your interest email to springcleanwoodbridge@gmail.com and check out the Transition Woodbridge website where you can find further information on Jason's walks: www.transitionwoodbridge.org.uk

We also hope to join forces with Woodbridge Sea Scouts for the third time this summer for a river clean. It is so important for the health of our rivers and seas and all marine life that we treat our River Deben with respect and do not allow our rubbish to get into it.



ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN SYRIA AND THE YEMEN?

Would you like to know more about these complex situations and the work being undertaken in the UK and internationally on peacekeeping and conflict resolution?

Woodbridge resident Ashley Meyer plans to set up a branch of the United Nations Association (UNA-UK) for Woodbridge and Suffolk Coastal.

UNA is a completely non-party political organisation.

**POPPING IN FOR A CHINWAG
COULD MAKE YOUR DAY!**

Most of us love a good old natter over a cup of tea and Age UK Suffolk has recognised this with their continuing series of Pop-Up Chinwags – monthly social groups for older people in community venues.

The latest Chinwag to 'pop up' is in Woodbridge and will be held every first Friday of the month at Woodbridge Community Centre between 10am and noon. The event is free and is open to anyone in Woodbridge and surrounding areas who would like to come along, make new friends, enjoy some light entertainment and, if wanted, take the opportunity to find out about support services that Age UK Suffolk may be able to offer.

The groups are all about encouraging social inclusion and are a simple format of lots of tea (or coffee), entertainment and refreshments. Although the groups are free to attend, there is usually a tombola, so you may even bag yourself a bargain!

Come along on your own, with a family member or friend, or as a group. All of the groups are dementia friendly so if you are someone living with memory challenges or are supporting a friend or family member, it's a great opportunity to relax and have fun for a couple of hours.



For further details, contact Tracey:
01473 298683 / tracey.evans@ageuksuffolk.org



ECO CRACKERS GO WITH A BANG!

Kyson Primary School and their PTFA have been working really hard to cut down on plastic use in school and at school fundraising events. Having discovered that it's entirely possible to find eco-alternatives to festive favourites, like Christmas crackers, the headteacher, Year 4 pupils and a PTFA army made more than 400 paper crackers for the school Christmas lunch. They were all plastic free and fully recyclable and worked just as well as normal crackers. The children had lots of fun opening them and really hope the 'plastic-free' message travels far and wide this year.

The initial plan would be to hold at least three public meetings a year where expert speakers would be invited to discuss these issues. Following these meetings, the branch might decide to give support to specific initiatives. An inaugural meeting is planned for March.

If you would you like to support this initiative please contact Ashley:
07960 923125 / ashley.meyer@sky.com