

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH

Clerk: Mrs L.J. Stapleton

Telephone 01908 585368 (24hrs.)

E.mail l.stapleton@wstc.org.uk www.woburnsands.org.uk

Dear Resident,

May we wish you all the very best for 2014.

It looks like another busy year ahead for the Town Council with more headaches on the planning front, and funding cutbacks on local authorities having its inevitable consequences for us. We are very sorry to see the closure of Woburn Sands Garden Club, one of the town's longest running clubs but delighted at new ventures opening up. Read more on all these matters inside and don't forget to contact the editor: Cllr Jacky Jeffreys on Jeffreys.j@talk21.com on 01908 583526, or the town clerk, if you have anything for inclusion in the next newsletter (by mid March, please).

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Winter Newsletter 2013

Planning Matters

Our Neighbourhood Plan continues its progress and attracted a visit from Nick Boles, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, on 9th January, as ours is one of the first in the country to reach this stage. He was very impressed with the Plan and congratulated us on the process and content as well as the fact that we had not used consultants to undertake the work. Many local organisations sent along representatives to join us for coffee with Nick Boles and Iain Stewart, our MP.



A bigger test will be had on 29th January when the Inspector appointed to judge its validity will hold a hearing at The Memorial Hall starting at 9.30am. He is particularly concerned to ensure that the Plan conforms to the provisions of Milton Keynes Core Strategy and has invited those developers who indicated that they felt it did not do so to speak. Contributors from Milton Keynes Council and from the Town Council will be able to respond. The hearing is scheduled to finish by lunch time and members of the public are welcome to attend. If all goes well, the final stage is a town referendum to adopt it when you will all be able to vote. A simple majority “Yes” vote will make it binding on any future developments within the parish.

Connelly Homes will shortly be commencing their conversion of Greens Hotel to flats whilst also getting the new Bowls Club built at the common in Aspley Guise, and the new bowling green prepared. We will endeavour to ensure that Milton Keynes Council can impose restrictions to mean minimum upset to neighbouring streets during what is likely to be a very difficult construction period in terms of noise and heavy vehicles.

Taylor Wimpey have sought amendments to their Phase 3 application at Parklands, most of which is now built. It will mean more 1 bedroom flats replacing 2 bedded ones, but no change in the overall numbers or affordable % which was decreased to 20% at the end of last year. Phase 4 construction will be proceeding this year.

The first phase of the developments in the SLA has just been submitted close on the heels of the adoption of the Development Framework. These are 2 outline applications, one 13/02382/OUT is for Glebe Farm land, south of A421, off Newport Road, Wavendon, which is for mixed use including up to 1187 dwellings, and the other, 13/02381/OUT, is further east and south of the A421 at Eagle Farm South for up to 387 dwellings and mixed uses. We are putting some details on our website but if you wish to view them in more detail, they will be on MKC website. Sadly, but not unexpectedly, some of the restrictions included in the Framework document have been ignored by the developers, most significantly for us being the construction of a signal controlled access point onto the A5130, Newport Road, exactly what we fought to avoid or at least delay. The key points of our objections will be on our website, and your support by more letters of objection will be very helpful. The developers are displaying their plans in a public consultation 4pm-9pm on Wed 29 Jan at Wavendon Community Centre.

News from the Library and....

Milton Keynes Library service is keen to train some volunteers who would then be able to extend our library opening hours by providing staff cover. This will be an opportunity for some more people to get involved in the Library and to ensure its continuing success. If you could consider taking part in this scheme, please contact the Town Clerk. It is hoped that any given volunteer would not be called upon more than once or twice per month and just for a couple of hours. We also need to hear from any of you about library opening hours. When would be a good time for the library to be open beyond its existing hours. Would new users who find it difficult to get to the library in its current opening hours, use it if it was open more at weekends? Please contact the Clerk with your thoughts on this.

The Institute is more than just a library.

The recently started **Knit and Natter** group held every Tuesday in the library 3.45- 4.30pm has proved popular with children and adults alike. Do join them sometime, whether you are a beginner or expert knitter.



Another popular weekly event in the library is the **Wednesday morning Senior Friends**. The numbers have increased since its launch 6 months ago and most people, once they try it, want to come back. It's a relaxed and informal environment with some staying the full 2 hours of opening (10am –noon) whilst others just drop in for a coffee and cake. A couple of recent comments from senior citizens about this group were: "I love it. It turns a lonely day into a happy one" and "I've met so many lovely people whom I didn't know and I love coming here". Praise indeed, and huge thanks to the organisers, Adrienne Rutter and Julie Nicholls and The Co-op for the provision of tea and coffee.

The Woburn Sands Book Club has been running for nearly three years and it now has a vacancy for one lucky person! It meets on the second Tuesday of every month in the library for just an hour starting at 6pm. There are 10 in the group with books chosen by the group from an extensive list provided by MKC Library service. Contact the editor or the librarian if you would like to join the group.

The Age UK advisory service continues to offer advice to anyone seeking it in the mornings during library weekday opening hours. This is funded by the Town council.

The Library hosted an evening of seasonal poetry in December, enjoyed by the few who attended. We hope to have more evenings of perhaps music and poetry readings during the year. **The library is an ideal venue for small informal gatherings** outside library opening hours. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to book this facility.

What Gareth Malone started...

...Or rather inspired, was our very own **community choir**. Following the TV series four years ago, some of us decided we could do this here in Woburn Sands. We were singularly fortunate in having Jerry Breslin living in our midst and every bit as capable and enthusiastic about setting up the venture as Gareth himself. Our inaugural gathering saw over 80 would-be singers come along and thus **The Sands Singers** was formed and has flourished ever since. It recently gave a delightful evening of Christmas songs in the Memorial Hall as well as performing at the Christmas Fayre.



The choir is open to everyone, no auditions held, and meets on a Friday evening in The Memorial Hall, 7-9pm in term time. This term runs from 10 Jan-11 April, and the summer term from 25 April-18 July. Do pop along any Friday and give it a try: you will be most welcome.

More info on www.sandssingers.co.uk.

The original choir has spawned three further groups:

- *The Sands Cryers*, a small group of about 20 who specialise in early choral music ranging from sacred pieces to bawdy madrigals. The name of the group emanates from the market cries of Elizabethan traders.
- *The Sloop Groggy Dogs*, which consists of a group of male voices singing sea shanties and songs of peril, adventure and regret...no idea where this name came from! They would like to perform in any clubs or pubs locally, so do contact them at sloopgroggydogs@gmail.com
- *The Greensand Singers*, an Irish folk song group who aim to put on a great session in a local pub on St Patrick's Day.



Fantastic Fulbrook Response

Year 8 pupils, Nathan, Bertie, Cameron, Josh, Ethan and Oliver decided that they wanted to ask their Fulbrook friends to help them to raise money for the 'British Red Cross Philippines Appeal'. The news reports they saw in the days following 'Typhoon Haiyan' left them with a firm conviction to do something to help.

Their coin collection, Year 8 showing of the film 'Woman in Black', non-uniform day and the generous donations made at the St. Michael's Church Carol Service, has raised nearly £1,200. This money has been sent to the appeal and Mr Cardwell, the Head, commended the boys for their initiative. The coin collection will continue into the New Year.



Christmas Carols

The Choir went 'on tour' in recent weeks singing their 'Christmas Carol' hearts out to senior citizens in two Woburn Sands' Residential Homes. Many residents joined in with the singing and had a chat after with Fulbrook pupils: reminiscing on their own choral days. All enjoyed juice and a biscuit too! This is an event that the school choir organises each year, as well as the Carol Service at St. Michael's Church.

Christmas Fayre

The weather was kind for the Annual Christmas Fayre and we greatly appreciate the work of the committee, all local volunteers, who organise this event. The aim is threefold: to provide a fun day for the community, to organise the shop front Christmas trees and the big focal one at the top of Chapel Street, and to support local organisations. The cost of all the lights is shared with the Town Council, and this year a donation of £1000 from the proceeds was given to The Daniel Estick Trust, a local charity benefiting local children.

If you enjoyed the day, please consider getting involved in the planning for the 2014 Fayre by e-mailing: woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com.

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www.gdadscollectables.co.uk 01908 226802 gdadscollectable@aol.com

Find us Canal-side at The Galleon Wharf - turn down the side of The Galleon pub off the Old Wolverton Road, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes. For sat-nav users, please do not follow instructions to the end as this will take you to Dickens Road. Once you are on Old Wolverton Road, keep a look out for The Galleon pub.

Snippets and Diary Dates

Sat 18 Jan and Sat 15 March: Barn Dances (ceilidhs)

at the Summerlin Centre, 7.30-11.00pm, licensed bar.

Fund raisers for Folk Festival (Sat 12 July this year....put it in your diary NOW).

Sun 19 Jan, Fri 24 and Sat 25 Jan: local children's theatre group,

Encore Theatre Company, presents "Sleeping Beauty."

Contact 01908 583640 for tickets.

Fri 15 Feb: another Folk Festival fund raiser. **The Linda Watkins Band** and supporting artistes in The Memorial Hall from 7.30pm.

Tickets £10 at the door. Licensed Bar.

Wed 19 March will be our first **coach trip** of the year.

Venue to be announced see web site.

Fri 21 March: another chance of a **Barn Dance**, this one a St Michaels Family Barn Dance at Summerlin Centre 6.30-9.00pm.

Sat 5 April: Woburn Sands Band has its next concert at The Stables. If you haven't heard them before, you'll be amazed at the local talent, and if you have been, you'll no doubt want to book your tickets now!

For information and tickets Tel.01908 377325 or 07790454149

Large numbers of people were on Mowbray Green on Christmas Eve to listen to the Band and sing along with popular Christmas carols and tunes: a great community spirit occasion.

Thank you to Len Jenkins and all the performers.

The-
**WOBURN
SANDS**
-Band-

Finally, we hope you approve of the newly painted **Town Sign** outside The Institute.

The next meetings of Woburn Sands Town Council are on Mon 10 Feb and Mon 10 March in the Town Council meeting room, (adjacent to The Memorial Hall), with the Annual Town Meeting on Thurs 10 April in The Summerlin Centre.

