

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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Dear resident,

May we wish you all the very best for 2016. In this newsletter you will find plenty of information about your local community as well as opportunities to get involved in a variety of ways. Most people who like living here say how important it is to feel part of the local community, and we hope you will also want to help to continue to make this a great place to live.

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Winter Newsletter 2016

VACANCY ON TOWN COUNCIL

Owing to the resignation of Cllr Ian Macleod who regretfully had to leave us as he and his wife moved to Lincolnshire, we now have a vacancy on the Town Council and we can co-opt a member to the Council. We would like to do this in early February, so if you feel you can contribute something to our work, please send a brief CV along with a letter stating your reasons for wishing to join us to the Town Clerk by the end of January. You must be living in or within 3 miles of Woburn Sands and at a minimum be available to attend most of our Council meetings which are held on the second Monday of every month except August. In addition there are some sub-committee meetings and, depending upon your interests, involvement in a number of other meetings both here and at CMK, so you will ideally have some time to spare! Whilst we can pay any travel expenses associated with meetings out of Woburn Sands, there is no other remuneration for being a Councillor. We look forward to hearing from you. Our Vice Chairman for this year through to May 2016 is Cllr Clive Cowmeadow and he has now taken over as Chairman and Town Mayor following Ian's resignation.

WOBURN SANDS SPRING MARKET



**Woburn Sands Spring Market
will be held Sunday 13th
10a.m. – 2p.m.**

Here is a picture of the very
successful Christmas Market,
despite the dreadful weather.

LIBRARY NEWS

You are probably aware that Government is cutting back on funding to Local Authorities and as a consequence, MKC has to find further substantial monetary savings. Certain services cannot legally be cut back, so there are limited ways for MKC to implement the necessary savings. Unfortunately, Library services is one where most Local



Authorities, including MKC, are therefore looking to make substantial further savings. MKC has carried out a series of consultations on this matter and aims to reduce the annual budget for Library Services by some 40% in the period from 2014-2018. Although, thanks to the library here moving premises to the Town Council owned property at The Institute, our library here is the most economical in Milton Keynes, we fear that sadly there will be a further reduction in staffed hours as from 1 April this year. We will be negotiating with MKC over the coming weeks on the level of cut back from our existing 26 hours of professional cover but we very much hope that much of this shortfall can be met by volunteers, and to this end we would ask anyone with some time to spare who is interested in maintaining our library opening hours to contact the Town Clerk. A short training course is given by MKC and you would join a group of volunteers here who already extend library opening hours. Doing this would be a really valuable contribution to your local community.

Another new venture is starting shortly in our Library on Monday mornings, run by Love Woburn Sands, which will provide further opportunities for those wishing to **improve their IT skills** by bringing along their own tablets, i-pads, i-phones etc. **The proposed start date is Monday 18th Jan, 10.30 – 12.30**, but please check in library for confirmation of details.



PLANNING MATTERS

Plan:MK which is currently out for public consultation is looking at the future of MK over the next 15 years as well as a longer term strategy. Once adopted, it will replace the Core Strategy so it is important to think about it as whilst the Core Strategy was reasonably satisfactory from our point of view, the Inspector who agreed it only did so on the understanding that MKC would produce a replacement document very quickly and this is Plan:MK. *The full text can be found on MK's website.*

Crucially, there are 4 Options for further expansion to consider:

1. Development to the west, southwest and south of the City
2. Development east of the M1
3. One or more satellite settlements in the rural area of MK
4. Intensification and redevelopment within the urban area of MK

Clearly Option 1 above would have most impact upon us, and Option 2 to some extent and it also requires co-operation from Central Beds. A combination of bits of all is also a possibility.

The Site Allocations Plan is also out for Public Consultation. There are 5 sites identified within our parish boundary, and we will object to all of them: all are against Policy WS6 of our Neighbourhood Plan.

The Town Council's response to both these important documents is on our website and we would encourage as many of you as possible to make a brief response yourselves to MKC on these two consultations.

The two major applications, Parklands Phases 5 and 6, and the Old Signal Box Yard, referred to in our previous newsletter are both being "reconsidered" by the developers. This follows lengthy responses to the applications from both the Town Council and Network Rail as both lie immediately south of the railway line, so both developers presumably feel the need to amend their applications to overcome some of the objections. However, both will undoubtedly return so thank you to all those who also wrote about them and you will probably need to do so again! We will keep you informed.....so watch our entry in Hogsty End and look on our website in case either reappear before our Spring newsletter in April.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD

As our parish church, the Town Council has an obligation to contribute to the upkeep of the church yard each year, and we have also negotiated a substantial sum from the Nampak/Parklands development within the Section 106 payments under a pot of money set aside by MKC for Crematoria and Churchyards. Here is what St Michael's are planning to do with that money:

Message from Chris Beales

We are very grateful for the generous donation towards maintaining and improving the churchyard received from Woburn Sands Town Council and for its continuing support, and the support of Aspley Heath Parish Council. This gives us the opportunity to ensure that our churchyard remains open and in use for decades to come. We plan to remove some smaller trees and bushes to create more space for burials and also want to create a new area for the burial of cremated remains, as the present Garden of Remembrance is now quite full.

For the burial of cremated remains, we plan to clear an area along the inside of the wall boundary with Bishops Walk, extending from the left side of the main entrance and following the wall around to the gate on the north side. Cremated remains will be buried along the inside of the wall, with space for a plaque containing the person's name and dates of birth and death. A kerbstone about 7 feet from the wall will run along the front, carefully designed to create a beautiful area which can be easily maintained. We will, of course, be careful not to disturb or damage protected trees. More details and a diagram will shortly be available in the Church. In the existing Garden of Remembrance, many engraved stones have sunk below the grass surface and become uneven. We want to restore this area, making it level, attractive and easy to maintain— so we wish to lift the stones, where necessary, and re-settle them on a gravel base, approximately 50cm proud of the levelled grass between the stones.

We still have to obtain a faculty (special permission) from St Albans Diocese to carry out this work and everything in the churchyard will be done with the utmost respect and care. We will publicise exactly what we wish to do and responses to our proposals will be most welcome. We wish to carry out this work during 2016.

For more information, please contact the church wardens:

Keith Price – 01908 582 992

Geoff Cooper – 01908 584 177



In December, Fulbrook School Choir took part in Barnado's Christmas Carol Concert at Westminster Cathedral in London. Here is a Year 7 pupil's account of the concert:

In the evening we took our places, ready for the concert to begin. Everyone felt nervous and excited all at the same time. We sang some Christmas songs and carols with the audience and then, finally, it was our time to shine! I felt on top of the world as we were singing. We sang 'The Christmas Children' by Douglas Coombes, who had come to see us in the previous week to see how we were getting on and 'Lullaby Jesu' (a traditional Polish carol) followed by 'Thank You for the Christmas' (a traditional West Indian carol). We were led by Douglas himself for these pieces. Everyone was relieved to have finished and delighted by the performance.

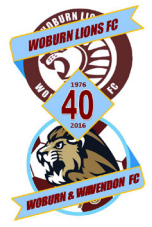
I would like to thank Mrs Thomas, our specialist singing teacher, for preparing us each Thursday lunch time. Also, Miss Spallin, Fulbrook's Head of Music, for organising the trip. Many other members of staff gave their own time to be at the evening concert and so many thanks to all!

Marion, Year 7 Fulbrook pupil



WOBURN LIONS.....ANY OLD LIONS?

Woburn & Wavendon Football Club has 30 teams playing football, from Under 6's through to adult. With a Lionesses section for girls & ladies, and a Lions section for all, there really is a team for everyone to join in with. From volunteers to coaches, players to match officials, WWFC is always delighted to welcome new members from our community. However, with the Club set to celebrate its' 40th anniversary next year, they are also keen to hear from *former* players, parents, coaches and helpers. Most will have known the Club in its original guise...*the Woburn Lions*.



“We know there are literally thousands of people out there with memories of our Club” commented WWFC Vice Chairman, Robert Hill. “We want them to tell us all about those great games, those funny incidents, the friends they made, and how ‘real’ football used to be in their day. All too often grassroots football is just about dealing with the here and now. We try to make time to plan for the future, but the past rarely gets a look in. This is something we want to put right, and is as much about learning from our heritage as it is re-establishing links for the future”.

If you have experiences to share, or know someone who does, please get in touch with **Robert Hill** (email:- robert.hill62@btinternet.com). The Club wants to celebrate 40 years in style, however they need to hear from YOU, so please don't be bashful !



SNIPPETS

Christmas Fayre:

The end of November seems a way ago now, but our thanks must go to the Fayre Committee and all those who helped on the day and before in putting up the Christmas Tree lights, both the main one which looked great, and those on the shops. The cost of all the Christmas lights on the lamp posts is shared by the Fayre Committee and the Town Council, and without that committee and its helpers, we would not be able to have a Christmas Fayre. So here's another earnest plea for help: we ideally need some more committee members to run the event and in particular some able bodied people prepared to climb ladders to help with the Christmas Trees. ***Please contact woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com for information on what is needed.***



Christmas Concert by Sands Singers:

A lovely concert which deserved a packed hall and raised over £100 for local charities. *Why not exercise your lungs for the New Year?* The Sands Singers **meet every Friday in the Memorial Hall 7-9 p.m** and all are most welcome. A considerable variety of music is attempted from classical through to pop, something for everyone, and no auditions are held.



Christmas Carols and Songs:

Held as tradition now dictates on Mowbray Green on Christmas Eve, and with over 200 people joining in the community spirit. Our enormous thanks to Len Jenkins and the Woburn Sands Band for this festive evening and all the other occasions when they play for us e.g at The Remembrance Day service, the Christmas Fayre.



Trees and Shrubs from the Tree Conservation Society:

Edgewick Farm Friends ordered lots of these freebies and had a busy day planting some 50 shrubs around parts of Edgewick Farm and The Copse alongside it. Some Town Councillors planted about 30 trees, mostly flowering wild fruit trees around the edges of the Rec to hopefully enhance the wooded appearance of that area.

Get fit for 2016!

A new venture started in December at the Rec run by military trained personnel who run a boot style session every Session times **Monday 09.30-10.30 and Friday 09.30-10.30**. The first session is FREE and if you want to join it's £37 per month, all equipment provided.