

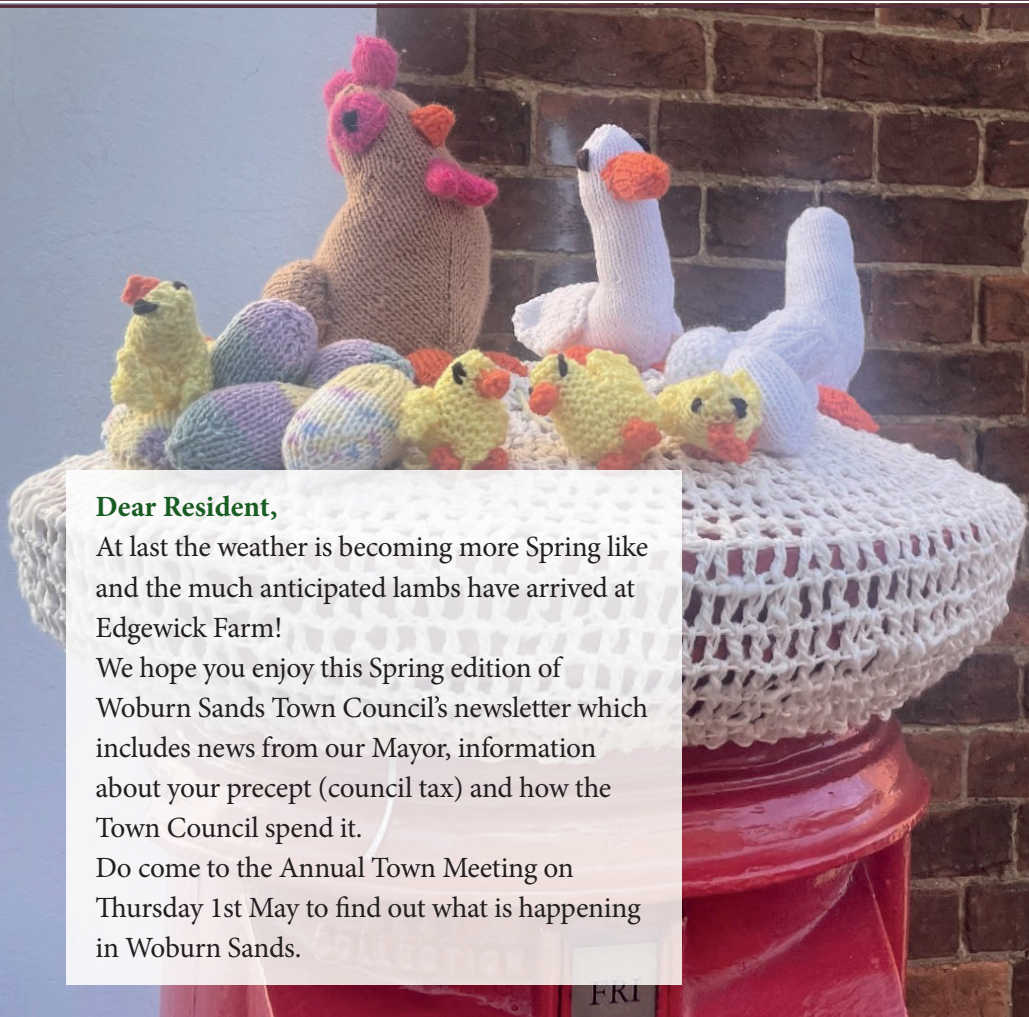


WOBURN SANDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025

[www.woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk)  
(see privacy policy)



## **Dear Resident,**

At last the weather is becoming more Spring like and the much anticipated lambs have arrived at Edgewick Farm!

We hope you enjoy this Spring edition of Woburn Sands Town Council's newsletter which includes news from our Mayor, information about your precept (council tax) and how the Town Council spend it.

Do come to the Annual Town Meeting on Thursday 1st May to find out what is happening in Woburn Sands.

MEMORIAL HALL, 4 HIGH STREET, WOBURN SANDS,  
MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8RH  
CLERK: ALISON JORDAN  
TELEPHONE: 01908 585368  
E.MAIL: [clerk@woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

|        |                                          |
|--------|------------------------------------------|
| PAGE 2 | FROM MAYOR GWYN JONES                    |
| PAGE 3 | JOIN THE FRIENDS OF WOBURN SANDS STATION |
| PAGE 4 | PARKLANDS ESTATE                         |
| PAGE 5 | WHAT IS THE PRECEPT                      |
| PAGE 6 | NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS CHURCH             |
| PAGE 7 | NEWS FROM WOBURN SANDS LIBRARY           |
| PAGE 8 | DEFIBRILLATORS & SNIPPETS                |

## FROM MAYOR GWYN JONES



*Cllr Gwyn Jones,  
Chair of Council*

Since the publication of our last newsletter, a number of events have taken place of which you should be aware. The Flood Prevention Planning Group have met twice led by local resident Lorraine Hearn and she has successfully secured the support of local politicians to seek

to coordinate local services to minimise any future threat of flooding in the town.

A topic of real interest has been the Town Council's precept increase for 2025/26. Please see the article on page 5.

Some four years ago, the Town Council decided to accept the transfer of the Sports Hall on Parklands into its estate, however, the Sports Hall has proved very costly to run. The Town Council is considering inviting a third party company to run the facility on the our behalf. This project is being led by Councillor Gwynn Smitham.

The new bus service is now established and is a welcome addition to Woburn Sands. It is very much a 'use it or lose it' service. You can get to CMK very quickly as I experienced last week.

Sadly, it doesn't seem to matter how politely you ask, individuals still insist on parking illegally on our High Street. I have even witnessed a driver exiting one of our small retail car parks to then, immediately, park across a pavement on double yellow lines. Their reasoning, I guess, is that it saved them five yards of walking. Please don't.

If you're in the High Street you will notice that two new benches have been placed near the Library. We hope that they will become a popular spot to meet and chat on warm days. They will soon be joined by pavement planters that will further enhance the area. Planters are also being placed where Downham Road meets the High Street.

I hope you find this newsletter helpful and informative. Happy reading!



# JOIN THE

FRIENDS OF

## WOBURN SANDS

STATION

Are you passionate about the community, railway and have an interest in gardening and art? Do you want to make a difference in your community? Join the Friends of Woburn Sands Station, a dedicated community group working to beautify and enhance our beloved station.

### WHAT WE DO:

Transform the station with vibrant flower displays

Create stunning artwork for everyone and enjoy working with the community.

Enhance the station making it a better place to wait for the train, showcasing the town as a gateway to the town.

### WHY VOLUNTEER WITH US?

- Connect with like-minded individuals
- Showcase your gardening, artistic or inspirational ideas.
- Make a lasting impact on your local environment
- Join Our Lovely Team!

No experience necessary—just bring your enthusiasm and love for Woburn Sands and its station. Under 18s need to be supervised. And you will need an online Safety Briefing from the Train Operator.

### GET INVOLVED TODAY!

Contact Richard at [rwjc22@hotmail.com](mailto:rwjc22@hotmail.com) or 0794 107 6086 to learn more and join the Friends of Woburn Sands Station.





## PARKLANDS

Since moving onto the Parklands estate just over two years ago I have become passionate about the local area. I have liaised with Milton Keynes Council and Taylor Wimpey, both of whom have responsibility for areas of the estate.

Taylor Wimpey made a temporary repair to a damaged kerb along Drayhorse Crescent last year and will be completing the repair, along with other works, later this year.

MKCC have now erected a new fence around the top end of the pond with some minor finishing touches still to be completed and they have also sound-proofed the metal bridge so that it does not wake the neighbourhood every time a scooter is ridden across it.

There have been several visits by our friends at MKSwan Rescue in recent weeks to capture and remove several swans who were being attacked by a mating pair who felt they owned the pond.

That couple have now moved on and a single swan has moved in. It has also been joined by around 14 Mallards, several Moorhens and a pair of Mandarin Ducks. Earlier in the year several migrating ducks also made the pond their home for a while before moving on.

It is a privilege to have such a wonderful natural environment right on our doorstep which should be embraced and cared for in the best way possible.



# WHAT IS THE PRECEPT AND HOW IS IT SPENT?

Woburn Sands Town Council provides your local services in the parish of Woburn Sands, under the unitary authority of Milton Keynes.

Precept is a term used for the sum of money collected by the council via the annual council tax demand to fund local services and amenities. Milton Keynes City Council sends out the tax demands and part of that tax will go to the parish or town in Milton Keynes where you live.

Council tax band D is the average that all councils look at when working out how much precept to set.

**For the 2025/26 Financial Year, Woburn Sands Town Council is increasing its precept by 10.67% this sounds a lot as a percentage, but it is an increase of only £12.15 over the whole year for a Band D property.**

**A Band D property in Woburn Sands will pay £125.99 (£10.50 per month) to Woburn Sands Town Council.**

Not everyone will pay the full amount of their council tax because they will be entitled to reductions due to their circumstances. If you think you may be entitled to reductions, contact Milton Keynes City Council.

**What does the Town Council provide for £10.50 per month?**

*Woburn Sands Town Council is responsible for maintaining:*

- Public open/green spaces; Mowbray Green and the Memorial Green. Including The War Memorial
- Edgewick Farm

- The Memorial Hall
- The Institute (library)
- The Summerlin Centre
- The Sports Hall
- The Russell Street Car Park
- Chapel Street Car Park (behind the library)

*The Town Council also provides many other services including:*

- Providing and emptying dog waste bins
- Organising the Remembrance Day Service, and this year a VE Day event or service
- Giving grants to local charities and non-profit groups
- Providing floral displays on the High Street
- Street benches and noticeboards
- Quarterly newsletters
- Supporting events including the Christmas Fayre; the Fun Fair; the Music Festival

*What else do we do?*

- Liaise with various agencies and organisations, such as East West Rail and SEMK developers, neighbouring parishes, and Milton Keynes City Council
- Ensure all our venues are safe and up to date with all safety checks
- Plan for the on-going maintenance necessary for our ageing buildings
- Set budgets and accounting for all council spending, completing the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) at the end of the financial year
- Employ eight staff, most of whom are part time, only contracting out work where it would not be practical to employ someone, providing jobs for local people. When we do need to call in contractors we try to use local companies.



# NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

St Michael's is always open as a quiet space during daylight hours, and we welcome visitors to enjoy both our church and our churchyard.

Our next major focus is Easter. We begin on Palm Sunday (13 April), and there are services every day as we mark the last week of Jesus' life. On Good Friday we join with other local churches in a procession of witness starting from Aspley Court at 10.30 a.m. and walking to the Woburn Sands War Memorial. We then share a brief act of witness; everyone is welcome to join us. There will be activities for children at St Michael's on Saturday 19 April from 10.00 – 11.30 a.m.

On Saturday 19 April we have our Service of Light which starts at 8.15 p.m. with a bonfire outside the church just as it is getting dark. We then go into church, and the first part of the service is by candlelight. The big celebration comes on Easter Sunday, 20 April.

There will be an Easter Egg hunt for children during part of our 9.45 a.m. service. After the service we shall be gathering on Bishop's Walk for the traditional Easter Sunday orange rolling competition.

We hope also to be part of the Woburn Sands commemorations of VE Day on Thursday 8 May.

Further ahead, our church choir will be performing 'Saints Alive', a joyful celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, on Sunday 8 June at 4.00 p.m. This will be followed by tea and cake. On Sunday 13 July we look forward to a visit from the Linsdale Singers for a concert at 4.00 p.m., tea and Evensong at 6.00 p.m.

**For more information about all our services and other activities, see our website [www.stmichaelsws.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsws.org.uk) or our Facebook Page – St Michael's Church, Woburn Sands.**

*Rev'd Diana Young*



## NEWS FROM WOBURN SANDS LIBRARY

The library has had a very spring-like appearance lately with a new 'window' display area down the children's end where we have drawing and colouring activities set up.

The last five weeks we have a special focus to Storytime with 5 books sent by the Book Trust along with a sticker collection book and a voting chart. 'Ten Little Ducklings' was voted favourite by our pre-school aged children, with 25 votes. All 5 books are now available to borrow from our branches.

Our first Town Council funded workshop of the year was based around Polar Bear awareness day, and the children made snow globes in a fun craft activity with Julie. 'Lovely craft session for children, engaging, educational and hands-on, Well Done! Would love to see more sessions like this' was a comment from February's session

and don't worry, there certainly will be more like this throughout 2025. This summer break we will have members of the Woburn Sands band with instruments to try out, as well as our popular printing and story bag workshops. Remember to check the library website for upcoming free children's workshops at this and other MK branches.

Please note all MK libraries are closed on Easter weekend 18th through 21st April inclusive so there will be no Lego/Duplo on Good Friday but we do continue with our regular Storytimes 11.15 each Tuesday.



# DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR NEAREST DEFIBRILLATORS ARE?

Woburn Sands Town Council is responsible for two defibrillators locally but there are many more in Woburn Sands provided by community groups and schools. These are important pieces of equipment that can and do help save lives.

**IMPORTANT** if someone has collapsed with a suspected heart attack **phone 999** and the call handler will direct you to the nearest defibrillator.

You will be told how to use them - you do not need any special training - anyone can use them. It may help if you are already familiar with locations:

- On the Library wall outside the building, the corner of the High Street and Chapel Street
- Outside of the Sports Hall on Summerlin Drive
- Outside the Station Tavern on Station Road
- At Swallowfield Primary School on Weathercock Close
- At Fulbrook Middle School on Weathercock Lane
- Outside the Fir Tree at the junction of Aspley Hill and Woburn Road
- Outside Larchfield Nursery on Hardwick Road by Mowbray Green
- At Tesco on the High Street (inside)
- The Swan on the High Street (inside)



## SNIPPETS

**THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
THURSDAY 1ST MAY, 7.30PM  
AT THE MEMORIAL HALL**

The Town Council hosts the Annual Town Meeting for residents once a year in April or May. This residents meeting provides an opportunity for the Town Council and any Woburn Sands groups and organisations to report on their work over the past year and plans for the future. There will be reports and displays from a variety of local groups and organisations, do come along and support them and find out what is happening in Woburn Sands.

**VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
THURSDAY 8TH MAY**

A wreath will be laid at the War Memorial with Rev'd Diana Young from St Michael's Church

**THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING  
WILL BE AT THE MEMORIAL HALL, 7.30PM  
ON MONDAY 12TH MAY 2025**

Often confused with the Annual Town Meeting (above) this is the annual council meeting when a new Chair is elected and councillors agree the committees they will sit on, and meeting dates for the rest of the year. Residents are welcome to attend as you are with all our Town Council meetings.

**THE THREE PARISHES COACH TRIPS**

These popular monthly coach trips have started again this year. They are for anyone over 60 who lives within the parishes of Wavendon, Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill. However, we know you all want to go on the coach trip! So, anyone under 60 or residing outside of the parish is welcome should there be seats available. This is a subsidised trip for residents over 60. Look out for posters on our noticeboards and information on the WSTC Facebook page

**PLAY BADMINTON AT WOBURN SANDS  
SPORTS HALL!**

Our Sports Hall is available to book badminton courts online, just go to the Town Council website [www.woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk) and click on 'Sports Hall' at the top of the page.

