



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

www.woburnsands.org.uk
(see privacy policy)

Dear Resident,

Celebrating 50 years in anyone's life is a momentous occasion. None so great as that in the life of a town. 1974 saw the creation of Woburn Sands as a town, making 2024 its 50th Birthday. Over the last couple of years, residents of Woburn Sands have celebrated joyous occasions to mark royal events in the High Street, so like the Royal Family, Woburn Sands Town Council have chosen an official birthday date of Saturday July 13th to mark the occasion. The programme of events will be publicised over the next few months, starting with information on Page 3 of this newsletter.



MEMORIAL HALL, 4 HIGH STREET, WOBURN SANDS,
MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8RH
CLERK: ALISON JORDAN
TELEPHONE 01908 585368 (24HRS)
E.MAIL a.jordan@wstc.org.uk



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PG 2-3 NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL
PG 3 50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
PG 4 EDGEWICK FARM NEWS
PG 5 NEWS FROM OUR LIBRARY
PG 6 MK NEW CITY PLAN
PG 7 ST MICHEL'S CHURCH NEWS
PG 8 SNIPPETS



NEWS FROM THE TOWN COUNCIL

PRECEPT

The Town Council have worked hard to keep our share of your council tax bill (called the precept) as low as possible this year. Despite a small but necessary increase the amount the Town Council will receive works out as £9.49 per month for a Band D property. Good value we think for all the facilities Woburn Sands Town Council manage and all the events and activities provided for residents. Find out more at the Annual Town Meeting, see below.

THE WOBURN SANDS ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Town Councillors will review the year and the various activities of the council over 2023-2024. There will also be reports from community groups and other organisations. Everyone is welcome.

This will be held on **Tuesday 7th May at 7pm – 9pm in The Memorial Hall.**

NEW COUNCILLORS

The Town Council are delighted to welcome back Cllr Hopkins as a returning Town Councillor. We were happy to hear that he had missed the work he does on our council and he was greeted

back with alacrity! We are also pleased to coopt a new councillor: Richard Townend who lives in Parklands. He is a very good addition to the council and we would like to make him very welcome. We still need two new councillors to bring our ranks up to the full complement of nine councillors, so please think about what you like and dislike about Woburn Sands and consider joining the Town Council to make a difference both now and in the future.

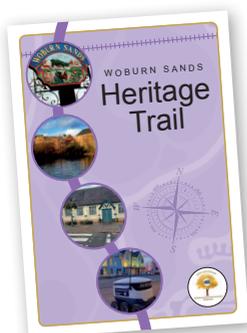
Contact the Clerk a.jordan@wstc.org.uk if you would like to hear more about the work of the council and what is involved in becoming a Councillor.

COMMUNITY CARETAKER

Although a small town, Woburn Sands has a variety of halls and community spaces for all to use and enjoy. The oldest of the halls is The Institute, which now serves as the library, then comes The Memorial Hall, then The Summerlin Centre, then The Old Fire Station and finally the new Sports Hall. As well as these buildings, which all need safety checking and constant maintenance, there are the open spaces and amenities such as the Memorial Green, Mowbray Green, the Recreation Ground, the town car parks and the many notice boards,



all with their constant need for tidying and litter picking. The volume of work has been increasing and it was felt by the councillors that Woburn Sands needed a full-time dedicated community caretaker to carry out the work on a regular basis. The cost of this is being met by the increased hirings of the various halls, overseen by our part-time Bookings Manager. The decision was not taken lightly but was deemed necessary to keep the town and its public buildings well cared for.



50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Save Saturday the 13th July 2024 to take part in a variety of events which will be popping up both in the High Street, various halls, and the Recreation Ground throughout the day.

The day is taking shape and will include: music of different genres, art, performances, an open air cinema and exhibition of memorabilia, all themed to the 1970's. It will involve both schools and community groups as well as our very own blockbusting Woburn Sands Band.

Shops and businesses, and the Saturday market will be joining in the fun. The Mayor of Woburn Sands will preside over the events!

It is not too late for any community group to put forward their ideas for the day. Contact a.jordan@wstc.org.uk

There will be prizes for the best dressed shop/business window, best art creation by the young artists of the town, best 1970's costume worn throughout the day and many more.

There may be some residents who will see the 100th Birthday in 2074, but for most of us, this is a once in a lifetime event. Take part or miss it!

NEW WOBURN SANDS HERITAGE TRAIL

To celebrate the 50th Birthday, a revised Heritage Trail has been published by the Town Council and will be available, free of charge, at the library, the Post Office, various pubs and dining establishments, the Town Council offices and halls, as well as many of the libraries and community hubs in adjoining villages and towns around Woburn Sands.

The Town Council was pleased to secure funding from Milton Keynes City Council as part of the Economic Regeneration Grant, to cover the cost of printing. Paul Cox, who many will know as a local historian, wrote the original copy and has been involved in updating the Trail along with Justin Artingstall, who supplied some of the new photos included in the booklet.

SOME OF WHAT THE TOWN COUNCIL AND ITS COUNCILLORS HAVE BEEN UP TO SINCE CHRISTMAS.

- Maintenance to flooring in Summerlin Centre – both in vestibule and main hall.
- Appointment of replacement part-time Finance Assistant and full time Community Caretaker to start in April.
- Tree and fencing work on Edgewick Farm and Memorial Green
- Training courses and briefings for councillors organised by NALC.
- Briefing by Milton Keynes Planning on MK New City Plan – see P7 for brief resume.
- Discussions with MKCC re street cleaning, pothole repairs, parking and dog pooch
- Reviewing budgets for 2024-2025 and setting a Council Tax Precept for 2024-2025
- Interviewing and coopting new Town Councillor
- Communicating with Taylor Wimpey regarding ongoing Sports Hall issues



THE TURN OF THE YEAR AT EDGEWICK FARM

Nature may appear to take a rest during the winter, but it's actually a busy time both for the wildlife at Edgewick Farm and the humans who tend this treasured local green space.

The latter have been busy this year with a host of maintenance tasks such as pruning the apple trees in the orchard, and trimming back gorse and brambles, replacing wobbly fence posts and channelling water away from one of the entry gates in preparation for the imminent annual arrival of the ewes and lambs. That our valiant band of volunteers still turn up regularly on the first Sunday morning of every month (from 10.00am) testifies to the enjoyment they derive from working together outside – as well, no doubt, as the lure of convivial Elevenses.

Newcomers are always welcome, so why not come and give it a try?

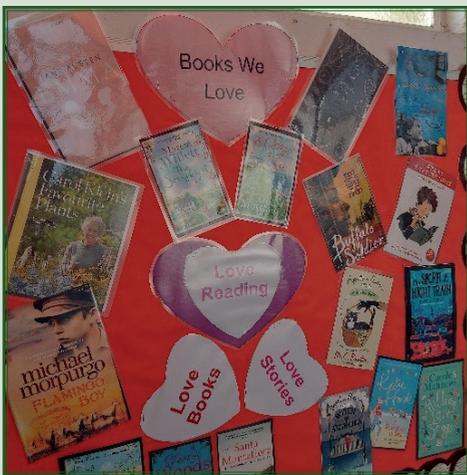
Meanwhile, nature itself is in renewal. On blackthorn bushes, a few desiccated and drab remnants of last year's sloes sit beside buds for the year's bright new flowers. 'Lambs' tail' catkins open on hazel trees and release their pollen for capture by the minute red female flowers on their branches that too easily go unnoticed, but from which the year's new crop of hazelnuts will grow. Dead stems rot, aided by fungi such as spooky-looking 'jelly ear', while flocks of small birds, such as goldfinches, feast on the harvest of seeds and insects in the branches above; and on the ground beneath, spring flowers erupt – a perfect time, indeed, for young humans to discover the riot of beautiful colour and song that is Spring.



NEWS FROM WOBURN SANDS LIBRARY

Our Valentines display board was on the theme of 'Love Stories, Love Reading, Love Books'. The proof that Woburn Sands residents really do love books comes with the footfall and issue statistics which, we learned at a recent staff meeting, are now on the same healthy trajectory they were on pre-pandemic for all our 10 Milton Keynes libraries.

Footfall and issues at Woburn Sands would not have a hope of aligning with the other branches were it not for the team of Town Council volunteers. Currently these 30 reliable individuals provide an extra 16 hours of opening hours each week but it wasn't always that way. Almost 10 years ago, on 27th May 2014, a small group of 6 volunteers began a paired rota to keep the library open an extra 2 hours on a Tuesday. Amazingly, 2 of that original group, Kay and Sue, are still helping us shelve books 10 years on! Any library across the country would be proud of a system and a set of volunteers such as ours: they are testament to what is possible with commitment and an eager spirit.



Friday afternoons see the Lego/Duplo session attracting youngsters from pre-school age and older, and new for 2024 is the availability of chess – to date we have had 2 boards pitting 2 sets of competitors against each other each week, and as this becomes more popular, we will also be adding Draughts to the options. The set-up for chess is purposefully casual, so come and exercise your brain in some screen-free traditional pastimes. Thanks to the Town Council for the purchase of 2 boards.

The library hosts the next few Woburn Sands Town Council funded sessions with an Adviser from Citizens Advice.

Local residents can drop in between 10am and 1pm: The latest dates were 1st March and 15th March.



NEWS FROM THE WIDER WORLD

MK NEW CITY PLAN – EMERGING GROWTH OPTIONS

Three Woburn Sands Town Councillors attended a briefing by Milton Keynes City Council planning officers on the emerging growth options until 2050. Potential sites for development have been identified based on those put forward by developers. A long list of sites which fall into twelve broad locations on all four sides of Milton Keynes are being considered. They will be assessed on a variety of criteria as to their suitability for providing sites for approximately 33,000 new homes to be allocated in the New City Plan, on top of the 30,000 homes already allocated.

The plan is in draft form and will be consulted on in the summer of 2024. It will be subject to change. The sites that have been identified closest to Woburn Sands, and ones that the Town Council are most concerned about are the broad swathe of fields on the LHS of Bow Brickhill Road (as one drives from Woburn Sands) in the lee of the Greensands Ridge and over the road from the SEMK site, and further afield, the land to the East of Newport Road around the old golf course in Wavendon.

The Town Council will be keeping you all informed as to future of these sites as well as any further news on **South East Milton Keynes**, which is still in the Outline Planning stage of discussion with both

major developers and MKCC. The Council is liaising with the Futures Panel, discussing the facilities that could be provided in the communal areas of SEMK. Because of the uncertainty over the **East West Rail** project, the land of SEMK north of the railway line within Woburn Sands Parish but closest to Wavendon, has not had any outline plans submitted. As yet, the future of the location of **Woburn Sand Station** has not been decided but it is hoped by most residents that it will remain in the same location!

The
**WOBURN
SANDS**
Band

Registered charity 266275

Celebratory 70th Concert in the Drakeloe Series

Sunday 21st April 2024 @ 4pm

A Concert of Brass Band Music
with soloists from The Band



The Stables Theatre
Wavendon MK17 8LU
Tickets: Adults £15 (Under 18 £5)
Available from: 07709 184905
or The Stables Box Office: 01908 280800





NEWS FROM THE REV'D DIANA YOUNG AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

I'm delighted to report that after many years of planning and fundraising, and just over six weeks of building works earlier this year our building project is complete. We are really pleased with the result. We now have ramped access into St Michael's Church, and a small kitchen and accessible toilet at the back of the church. We are very grateful to members of the community who have generously contributed to this.

We are planning an open church day on Saturday 27 April to show off our new facilities. There will be refreshments and music in church during the day, and a concert of Spanish classical guitar music from Mark Jennings in the evening. Do come along and join us on 27 April, or just come in and have a look any time when you are passing. We keep the church open every day during daylight hours.

Here are our services & activities for Easter:

Sunday 24 March – 9.45 a.m. - Palm Sunday - Family Communion Service with Procession around the church and dramatised reading of the story of the last days of Jesus' life.

Monday 25 March, Tuesday 26, Wednesday 27 March – 7.00 p.m. Compline - a short reflective evening service.

Thursday 28 March – Maundy Thursday – 7.00 p.m. Holy Communion followed by optional Watch until 9.00 p.m.

Friday 29 March – Good Friday – 10.30 a.m. – We join with other churches in Woburn Sands for a silent procession from Aspley Court to Woburn Sands War Memorial where there is a short Act of Witness to remember the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Friday 29 March – 2.00 – 3.00 pm. – An hour of devotion in church.

Saturday 30 March – 7.00 p.m. – Easter Eve Service of Light – starting with a bonfire outside church just as it begins to get dark and moving inside for readings by candlelight.

Sunday 31 March – 9.45 a.m. – Easter Sunday – Family Communion Service with Easter egg hunt for children and followed by the traditional orange rolling competition – for everyone!

For more information about our services and other activities, please see our website www.stmichaelsws.org.uk or our Facebook Page – St Michael's Church Woburn Sands.

Rev'd Diana Young



SNIPPETS

COMMUNITY EVENTS ON WOBURN SANDS RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground in Woburn Sands is host to a small number of fairly large scale community events each year. The grounds are owned by a charity, the Gravel Pit Close Charity (GPCC), and are managed by Woburn Sands Town Council on behalf of the charity. If an organisation wishes to make use of the grounds, please contact Woburn Sands Town Council before making plans (s.townend@wstc.org.uk). This is so we can comply with Health and Safety regulations and the GPCC's insurance. The Recreation Ground will never be closed to the public because of an event nor will people be charged to access the Rec. Find the booking form and the Terms and Conditions, by going onto the Town Council's web site.

WOBURN SANDS GARDEN COMPETITION

A little reminder that the Garden Competition will be on the theme of 'I can see a rainbow'. Get planting; we look forward to seeing your fabulous gardens! Details on how to enter in the next newsletter.

REPORT A PROBLEM TO MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

There are many issues that Woburn Sands Town Council are not responsible for, nor can they fix them for you. To report problems such as missed bin collections; fly tipping; street light failures; potholes; flooding and others, go straight to the people who can help you. milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-and-apply-report-it.

MARSTON VALE LINE TRAIN SERVICES

These are now back up and running and until Easter you can travel to Bedford for

£1.00 – This is good news all round, even though the level crossing barrier is now down more frequently.

DROWNING IN ...

Woburn Sands is a town of dog lovers, but therein lies the problem. If you don't clear up after your doggie when they do a doggie-do, then we all face a problem. The Milton Keynes Dog Warden is coming to town to assess the problem.... If a dog pooh bin is full (and the Town Council spend an enormous amount of their budget having them regularly emptied by licenced contractors), then take your dog pooh bags home with you and place them in your black bin. As we now have bins rather than black bags then the dog pooh bag will be tucked up safe and sound until your bin is emptied each week. MKCC have assured us that these will be emptied unless there is more than 5kg of dog waste – and that is an enormous amount of dog pooh! Help us keep your streets, pavements, verges and fields clean.

THE CONDITION OF THE RECREATION GROUND

It may seem like a long time ago when Anglian Water were working in the Recreation Ground laying a new water pipe but the natural environment can take a long time to recover. This is also a naturally low-lying area which makes it vulnerable to flooding when we have heavy rain. Anglian Water agreed to make good the Recreation Ground including re-seeding the grass but cannot do this until the weather is drier and warmer. They will also look to see if drainage can be improved. Meanwhile, please be keep out of the fenced off areas to give the ground a chance to recover.

