



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2023

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

**Season's greetings
to all residents!**

**Have a wonderful Christmas
and a prosperous,
healthful New Year.**



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COMMUNICATIONS FROM WOBBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

You may have seen some of the Woburn Sands Town Councillors from the Communications committee on their stall at the Community Market last August and October. We have been delighted to have had the opportunity to chat with you and hear your input, suggestions and feedback on our presentations and the work of the Town Council. So wanting to uphold the sense of community in Woburn Sands we will be manning a market stall once every three months as an opportunity for us to talk face to face with you and hear your views.

In addition, there is so much happening in our surrounding area now and in the future, that in 2024 we plan to hold some Open Town Meetings. Our intention is to outline what is being planned, and to ask for your input and suggestions on future plans: for example, what you would like to see in the new community and green spaces that are being planned in South East Milton Keynes (SEMK). We will keep you updated with more

information closer to the time. There is an article on the South East Milton Keynes (SEMK) plans on page 4 of this newsletter.

Future newsletters will also have a new regular feature which reports on the work of the various committees of the Town Council.



ACT OF REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12TH NOVEMBER 2023

Members of local youth organisations, community groups and residents of Woburn Sands came together for the solemn remembrance of those who were killed in both the First and Second World wars. After a Church service at St Michaels in Aspley Heath, over 250 people, young and old, paraded down Church Road to Memorial Green led by the Woburn Sands Band.

Twenty one wreaths were laid at the Cenotaph, firstly by the Mayor of Woburn Sands representing the Town Council, then a range of other groups. Two minutes silence was observed at 11am, the names of those listed on the war memorial were read out, prayers were said, hymns were sung, eulogies proclaimed and trumpet pieces blown.

Despite it being a rainy morning, the event was very well attended. It was one of the largest Acts of Remembrance and public show of gratitude in the whole of Milton Keynes, ably organised by Ken Circuitt and supported by Rev Diana Young and Chris Batten.

Thanks go to all those who volunteered and helped to make this another memorable occasion. If you are passing Memorial Green, you might like to view the wreaths which will be displayed for a few weeks as well as read the names of the local people killed in these atrocities. It is so interesting but sad to see the number of

people from the same families killed in both wars.

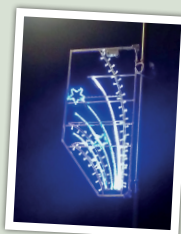


CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND HIGH STREET LIGHTS ILLUMINATION SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2023.

November also brought another event enjoyed by the whole community. The Christmas Fayre, organised over the previous 12 months by a dedicated committee, had a plethora of attractions from quirky gift stalls, street food, Santa's Grotto, fairground rides, hot and seasonal drinks, charity stalls and other festive draws. However, top of the list were the Christmas lights. Buildings of Woburn Sands are adorned with over 65 real Christmas trees, kindly donated by Frost's Garden Centre, and decorated and mounted by a band of faithful and intrepid volunteers.

These jewel-like lights are always a welcome sight. This year, the larger lights mounted on the lampposts in the High Street and down Station Road are of two new designs. It is hoped that they will attract people to the High Street over the festive period. Thanks go to Milton Keynes City Council for making the purchase of these possible, funded from a central government Economic Regeneration

Grant, and to Cllr Trudie Sutton for relentlessly pursuing their installation. Well done to all and thanks to the many volunteers who made this event possible!



EST. 1968
FROST'S
BETTER LIVING
LIVING BETTER

Funded by  Milton Keynes City Council



UPDATE ON SOUTH EAST MILTON KEYNES (SEMK)

South East Milton Keynes (SEMK) now has two outline planning applications for the land between Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands from the Bow Brickhill Road to the train line: L&Q application covering most of land from Bow Brickhill to Woodley's Farm, and O&H covering most of land from Woburn Sands to Woodley's Farm. The outline plans are not likely to go before MK Planning until the summer of 2024. These applications add up to around 2500 dwellings (houses and flats). The land nearest to Bow Brickhill will contain a primary and secondary school, and a space which could provide local amenities – such as a health centre and shops (although the details of these have yet to be decided). The land nearest to Woburn Sands is planned to have an allocation of 'green buffer' land to the west of Elm Grove and Parklands and includes the Fishing Lake.

It is possible that as a town we have an opportunity to influence what we would like for both the green buffer zone, with suggested ideas including football pitches (full-size and 5-a-side), cricket pitch, 'country park' and walks including around the lake, and the community area further to the west. The Town Council is working with both The Futures Panel and the SEMK Stakeholders' group to influence what both areas will look like.

Woburn Sands Town Council has concerns about both applications and we are talking to both MK City Council and the developers on your behalf.

The concerns we have repeatedly raised are:

- We need clarity on East West Rail's plans before outline plans are finally submitted. EWR plan a consultation in the summer of 2024.
- Road and other transport infrastructure has yet to be planned in detail. The Town Council will be campaigning to keep large grid roads out of the area described above, and any road bridge connecting the site to the rest of Milton Keynes to be structurally sympathetic to local communities and well landscaped.
- 2500 dwellings are a high number for this space leaving little leeway for houses to be allocated to development in the parcel of land north of the trainline.
- In line with Woburn Sands Town Council's Environment Policy, we will be campaigning hard to minimise the removal of established trees, hedges and greenspace (and ecosystems) and to reduce their replacement with 'linear parks' (strips of green along railway and roads). This is not in keeping with our town and surrounding areas.

WSTC would like to involve the residents of Woburn Sands to come up with ideas and as outlined on Page 2 of this newsletter are planning some public meetings next year to inform you further, get your opinions and understand what is important to you. Please look out for further announcements.



NEWS FROM WOBURN SANDS LIBRARY

Trends this year, if Woburn Sands stats are anything to go by, have indicated a stronger than ever interest in libraries. In August alone we had 72 new library members and most months in 2023 saw around 2,000 visitors. Customers come not just for reading material but to photocopy, scan, print and use the computer or free wi-fi. We have had school and nursery groups visiting for 'World Book Day', held Town Council funded craft workshops enjoyed by 64 children, and regularly see people for other activities such as Knit and Natter on a Friday afternoon 2 – 3.30pm.

Due to recent interest, we plan to start up chess again, on a casual drop-in basis initially, beginning Friday January 12th, 3.30 – 4.45pm. Again, due to local interest, a new reading group 'Porter's Picks' will commence January 16th and meet thereafter on the 3rd Tuesday of each month - so please enquire at the desk if you are looking to join a book club

It has been especially interesting this year to note the way in which the library building has developed as a community space enjoyed by local people of all ages: the pre-schoolers attending Storytime with Julie and Denise and the school age children participating in the summer reading challenge, the children at Lego/Duplo club (Fridays 3.30 – 4.45pm) the teenagers doing their Duke of Edinburgh placements, parents and carers bringing youngsters to craft workshops, Citizen's Advice representatives and Community Police Officers chatting to visitors as well as leading special Storytime's. Testament to the place the library holds in the minds of the local children is the

beautiful textile wall-hanging made for us by holiday club (photographed) which will be on display again after Christmas. Critical to the running of the library during the hours outside staff time is the work of the many volunteers organised by Brenda and Maggie. On Wednesday 20th December we say thank you to them for another year of volunteering. Pam and Alan (photographed) are 2 such volunteers and we note and appreciate how many more customers can be reached this way.

Sadly, this year we lost two of our loveliest regular customers, Dee and Jane. It was a privilege to have known them and to have helped them with their reading requests over the years. Finally, thanks of course to all our customers who have continued to support and be involved with the library in 2023 and we wish you a peaceful Christmas break and a healthy and prosperous 2024.



CHRISTMAS NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES IN WOBURN SANDS

St Michael's Church, Church Road

We look forward to welcoming members of the community to our Christmas services this year. For the Carol Service and the Crib Service please remember to come early, or park a distance away and walk if you can, as parking on Church Road is quite limited.

Traditional Christmas Carol Service

– Sunday 17 December at 4.00 p.m. –
followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Christmas Eve Crib Service

– Sunday 24 December at 4.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve Midnight Holy

Communion – Sunday 24 December
at 11.00 p.m.

Christmas Morning Family Communion

– Monday 25 December at 9.45 a.m.

After Christmas we're looking forward to the start of our building project to put an accessible toilet and kitchen inside the church at the back and to ramp the entrance to church. We should still be operating as normal on Sundays, but please see our website and Facebook pages for details of mid-week activities which may be affected while the building work is done.

Our website is www.stmichaelsws.org.uk
or our Facebook Page – St Michael's Church
Woburn Sands.

Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to
you all!

Revd Diana Young

Methodist Church, High Street

Carol Service

– Sunday 17th December at 3.00pm

Christmas Eve Communion

– Sunday 24th December at 10.30am

Christmas Morning Service

– Monday 25th December at 9.30am

St Mary's Catholic Church, Aspley Hill.

Christmas Eve Communion

– Sunday 24th December at 7.30pm

Christmas Day Mass

– Monday 25th December at 11.00am



SNIPPETS

It seems a long time since the Music Festival was held over the 2023 August Bank Holiday. Local businesses, and residents of Woburn Sands and surrounding communities enjoyed listening to a variety of music genres at the six venues, as well as giving so generously to support both the festival and local charities. £1500 has been donated to each of three local charities: Friends of St Michael's; Fulbrook School's PTFA; and Men in Sheds Netherfield (who you may remember made the crazy golf holes for the Coronation celebrations). The Music Festival Committee worked very hard to make this another brilliant and well supported Woburn Sands event and they should be proud of their achievements.

The **Town Council office** will be closed over Christmas and New Year from Monday 25th December reopening on Tuesday 2nd January 2024

Woburn Sands Band will be holding their usual **Carol Concert on Mowbray Green** on Sunday 24th December from 7-8pm. Remember to bring a chair if you need one and wrap up warm if it is cold. This is yet another well-loved tradition which makes Woburn Sands the vibrant community it is. Many thanks to all the members and supporters of the band and especially to Len Jenkins, Karen Boote and their helpers for organising this.

Recycling REAL Christmas trees – this year Milton Keynes City Council Recycling will be collecting your old REAL Christmas trees after the festive period. Watch out for announcements about both this and any changes to the bin collection regime over the Christmas and New Year period. Please do not put out artificial trees for collection. Dispose of these in the black bins or take them to the council waste sites.

The Recreation Ground is looking a bit sorry for itself after Anglia Water vacated the site in November, but work to reinstate it will be ongoing in the spring. The area will be re-seeded and then returned to all those who want to use it.

Train services on the *Marston Vale Line* will be back to a full timetable in the spring. In the meantime, it is running peak time trains only, supported by replacement bus services.

To Bedford: Mornings - 07.29 and 08.11. Afternoons – 15.56 and 17.56

To Bletchley: Mornings – 08.39 and 09.17. Afternoons – 17.16 and 19.18



Woburn Sands Town 50th Birthday Celebrations.

Plan to get your glad rags on for the chance to party! 1974 saw the creation of Woburn Sands as a town. Previously, it was a village! So, 2024 marks 50 years since it was awarded Town status.

The date that has been chosen by the Town Council to mark this once in a lifetime celebration is Saturday 13th July. Individual events will take place round the town, but the main activities will be centred on The Recreation Ground. Local organisations, schools and community groups will be contacted to contribute to ideas in the new year. More details will be publicised in the Spring and Summer newsletter, the monthly Hogsty End publication, the Town Council Web site and Facebook page leading up to the day itself.

If you have some brilliant ideas to raise this event to the heights it deserves, please contact the Town Council office: 01908 585368.

News on East West Rail (EWR)

The company ran a drop-in session for invited representatives of community groups in Woburn Sands at the Summerlin Centre on Friday 17th November. A total of 15 people attended this session, but some of them may have been from organisations outside the town as others were invited. The news at present is that they still plan to run three trains an hour each way (two fast and one stopping), that Woburn Sands is still one of the main stopping stations on the Marston Vale section of the line, that the level crossing will not be closing and that they do not plan to move Woburn Sands station. However, nothing is set in stone. The company will be carrying out their statutory consultation in the spring or summer of 2024 which the Town Council will be responding to. When we know the details of this consultation and how you can get involved, we will let everyone know. The business case for the line has still to be made, so again, it is not known whether they have the funding for the extension of the line from Bletchley to Cambridge.

WARNING!

We may not be allowed sheep at Edgewick Farm any longer if dog owners do not clear up after their dogs!

