



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2021

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

Dear resident,

With the COP26 summit starting very soon, you will find in the following pages some articles showing what Woburn Sands is doing to help reduce carbon emissions locally and how YOU can get involved. There's also news on Christmas events which we hope will be more of a normal Christmas for everyone, unlike last year.

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The cover photo is courtesy of Madeleine Jordan

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CO-OPTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Sadly, Cllr Paul Farrant has recently resigned from our Council. Paul joined us in October 2010 and has been a much valued and active member of our team. He has been particularly involved with the groups running the Christmas Fayre and the Community Market playing a key role in the establishment of this latter, now very successful, venture. We wish him well as he plans to spend more time travelling and visiting family in Australia.

His resignation means we are now in the position of being able to co-opt someone to join our team. You need to live in or within 3 miles of Woburn Sands and

be keen to get involved in the many issues which affect our town and all our residents. It can be rewarding work! We meet monthly on a Monday evening and other meetings are arranged as needed. We correspond with each other a lot via email in between times.

Please give this careful thought and contact Alison Jordan our **Town Clerk** on **01908 585368** or via **a.jordan@wstc.org.uk** for further details and how to apply. Previous applicants are welcome to reapply.

COP 26: TACKLING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Councillor Peter Skelton has written a brilliant and informative article on COP 26 which we urge you to read on our website, this is an edited version.

1. What's the problem? As the latest report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) concludes 'Human-induced climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in

every region across the globe. Evidence of observed changes in extremes such as heatwaves, heavy precipitation, droughts, and tropical cyclones, and, in particular, their attribution to human influence is strengthening.'

Here's how the Earth's climate system works. Sunlight heats the Earth's surface, which in turn warms the atmosphere





with heat gradually lost out to space. However, the average temperature of the atmosphere at the Earth's surface i.e. 'global mean surface temperature' changes in response to fluctuations in the energy coming in from the sun, which we can't change, but also from changes in what's in the atmosphere.

In particular, 'greenhouse gases', notably carbon dioxide trap more heat in the atmosphere thus increasing the Global Mean Surface Temperature. We humans are the chief cause of historically increasing levels of CO₂ in the atmosphere, much of it derived from the burning of 'fossil fuels' (coal, oil and gas).

2. Whose responsibility is it to tackle the climate problem? The short answer is that it's down to all of us. After all, it is we, especially in the richer parts of the world, who have caused the problem in the first place.

At the highest level, world governments have a vital responsibility to ensure we limit the increase of global mean surface temperature to within 1.5°C – beyond which the combined effects of accelerating climate heating and sea-level rise may prove beyond our ability to cope – by reaching internationally binding agreement on measures to limit

greenhouse gas emissions at the 'COP 26' meeting in Glasgow next month (26th meeting of the Conference of Parties hence COP 26). At the national level, the UK parliament declared a Climate Emergency in May 2019, as did Milton Keynes, though unfortunately it has no binding effect on the UK government. We now await a climate change and ecological emergency bill requiring the UK 'to take responsibility for its fair share of greenhouse gas emissions, to actively restore biodiverse habitats, and to stop damaging our natural world through the production, transportation and disposal of the goods we consume'.

3. So what can we do to help here in Woburn Sands? In January 2020, Woburn Sands Town Council resolved to support MK Council's Declaration of a Climate Emergency, and in the following month established a 'Woburn Sands Climate Change Group', with membership drawn both from within the Town Council and from the local community. The group has explored a number of possible ways of reducing our local community's net greenhouse gas emissions, such as the planting of street-trees, traffic-calming measures with improved scope for cycling and walking, and improving the condition and biodiversity of local environments. So next month, we'll be carrying out a consultation of the local community – to coincide with COP 26 – to gauge the strength of support for these proposals, to determine which ones we can progress with.... **Watch our website!**



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

First of all a huge thank you to many people in the community who have supported our **Clock and Bell Appeal** and this year's Gift Day Appeal in aid of our building fund. We are very grateful for your generosity. The clock appeal is now closed as we have sufficient funds, and we are moving ahead with organising the repairs as fast as we can. The building project will take longer, but we are also making steady progress with our plans for this.

Please save the date and plan to come to our **Silent Auction at 7.00 p.m.** in church on the evening of Saturday 13 November in aid of church funds.

Our church services are now almost back to normal, with the choir singing, although we are still being cautious. I'm very aware that the last eighteen months or so have been very difficult for anyone who has faced bereavement. Many have not been able to say goodbye properly. We warmly invite anyone who has lost someone dear to them to our **'In Loving Memory' service** at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 31 October.

On **Sunday 14h November** we look forward to welcoming a small group from Woburn Sands Band, with representatives of civic and uniformed organisations to our **Remembrance Sunday service** at 9.45 a.m. Please get in touch with me if you plan to bring a group from your organisation and have not yet made contact with us. We need to ensure that we avoid crowding in the church in order to keep everyone safe. We are working with the Town Council and Churches Together on preparations for the Act of Remembrance

at the War Memorial which focusses on the two minutes' silence at 11.00 a.m.

This year we plan to hold all of our usual **Christmas services**, including a Christingle at 3.00 p.m. on Sunday 5 December, Carol Service at 6.00 p.m. on Sunday 19 December and Crib Service at 4.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

For more up to date details of what is on, and any booking requirements, please see our website – www.stmichaelsws.org.uk or our Facebook page St Michaels Woburn Sands.

From Revd Diana Young, Vicar,
revdianay@gmail.com; 07887296588; 01908 584598



We are delighted that the hard working Christmas Fayre committee is able to announce the Fayre is back! This wonderful local event filling our High Street will be held on **Sunday 28th November**. From watching the lights go on, to enjoying a glass of mulled wine, or going on one of the fairground rides, or browsing the many street stalls and spending your money, or sampling delicious street food, there's something for everyone on the afternoon of the Christmas Fayre. And, of course, **Santa Claus** has agreed to be here too. See you there!

It's also fun to get involved and volunteer for a variety of tasks, such as Santa's helpers or as a road steward, for an hour or all day!

Please contact **Keith** at kj_temple@hotmail.com to see how you could help in this great community event.



SUMMER GARDEN COMPETITION



This annual competition, generously supported by Frosts Garden Centre, was judged on one of the hottest days of the summer and what beautiful gardens there are in Woburn Sands....

Well done everyone who entered. All the prizes were awarded at the Woburn Sands Band concert on August Bank Holiday Monday and photos of all the winning gardens are on our website.

Do take a look and be inspired...and think about entering your own front or back garden next year. It would be great to have some new entries.



SANDS SINGERS ARE BACK!



Members are meeting again after the 18 month enforced Covid break. Meetings are held **every Friday** in the Memorial Hall starting at 7pm and are open to absolutely everyone...no auditions. All possible precautions are being taken to ensure everyone's safety but you'll find the joy of singing with others, "in the flesh" is really worthwhile and rewarding.

This community choir at present is just revisiting old favourites but will soon be tackling some new music and maybe working towards a Christmas event... **watch this space!**

Sunday 5th December at 4.00 p.m.



presents the **65th** concert in the Drakeloe Series

The Christmas Concert

The Stables Theatre

Wavendon, Milton Keynes

Tickets £12.00 (16 & under: £5.00)

The Concert Secretary on 07790 454149

(No booking fee, free postage)

or The Stables Box Office 01908 280800

Please note that tickets cannot be exchanged, nor money refunded.



Whether patrons should pay just £7.50 for the ticket of their career.
The Woburn Sands Band is a Registered Charity.



FREE! full-colour Souvenir Programme to all patrons.



EXCITING NEWS - WOBURN SANDS YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS

Please let all your friends and family know that we are starting out on a new venture aimed at the children and young people in our community.

Look out in schools, activity groups, in the library, on our notice boards and Town Council Website <http://www.woburnsands.org.uk> for lots more information in the coming months about the Woburn Sands Young Environmentalist Awards. But just so that you have a really good idea of what we are planning, who can enter and how to enter here are some quick pointers and a whistle-stop tour of the why, what, how and when of this important new venture for our town. So please do all you can to help us to get the word out about the **Woburn Sands Young Environmentalist Awards – YEA!**

Why set up a Young Environmentalist Award?

It is important to showcase the positive environmental actions of the Children and Young People of Woburn Sands. No better time than now to draw attention to Children and Young People's own purposeful environmental contributions - whether it be at school, at home, or as part of other activities. We want to recognise the determination they have to improve the environment and share their knowledge, experience, and enthusiasm with all the members of our community. This is one way of offering our support to



the younger members of our community who, like thousands of other children and young people who have been surveyed worldwide, are likely to be worried about the health of the world they are growing up in. We want to support their wellbeing and provide them with the opportunity to share their environmental actions and creative solutions through the Award process.

What

We will be looking for entrants for the award to capture and report on environmental action or activity they are involved in from the smallest to the largest as it can all make a positive contribution. Perhaps this will relate to one of the following themes: Climate Change, Plastic Pollution, Litter, Wildlife, Recycling or Nature but we would really welcome other ideas that are clearly in line with the Young Environmentalist ethos and ideal which is to be *'Actively involved in creating a better environment.'*



How

Entrants themselves will determine how to record and report on their activity. That might be visual evidence such as photographs, drawings, a collage, a piece of artwork or a video while others may prefer written evidence such as an essay, journal, or project notebook. These are just suggestions, and we will be open to receiving as many types of entry as possible including the use of new technologies to record evidence.

Everyone who wants to take part will need to have the permission of a parent or guardian and to fill in an entry form which will be widely available both in paper form and electronically. We will not be able to accept any entry without a completed entry form.

When

Because we know that different types of environmental actions have very different time scales, we thought it was important to let Children and Young people know about the award well in advance of the need to submit evidence. This way they can be thinking about what activity they want to record and when.

Entry forms should be widely available from the start of 2022. The closing date for submissions will be Friday 29th April 2022 and the awards will be made in June 2022. Those providing the necessary evidence of their actions/activities will be awarded a WSTC Young Environmentalist Certificate. We hope to have some special prizes for the

top entries, and we plan to showcase as many of the activities as possible on, for example, the WSTC website, via WSTC Social Media, the WSTC Newsletter and hopefully at a WSTC event.



REMEMBRANCE DAY SUNDAY 14th NOVEMBER

The people of Woburn Sands have always turned out in force to remember those who sacrificed their lives in two World Wars, and we trust you will do so again. As in the article from St Michaels, after the Church Service, there will be a parade down to the High Street where we will gather at about **10.45am** for the **short Remembrance Day service** by the War Memorial. We look forward to seeing residents gather for the two minutes silence. This year you will notice barriers which will be up to keep the Woburn Sands Band and participants in the Memorial Service socially distanced. This is for everyone's safety so please respect these boundaries and consider wearing a mask if you are standing in a crowd.

PS We will need a few volunteers to control road closures. Please contact the Town Clerk if you can help.

Woburn Sands Band
would like to be able to resume the
Christmas Eve festive music
on **Mowbray Green at 7pm,**
as long as Covid restrictions allow by then.



WOBURN SANDS ELECTRIC VEHICLE & VEHICLE CHARGING SURVEY

Milton Keynes is one of the most advanced local areas when it comes to the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, having installed over 400 charging points in the past 6 years including 6 in our own car park.

To help residents of Milton Keynes make the move to electric vehicles, Milton Keynes operates the Electric Vehicle Experience based in the Centre: MK, where residents can get independent advice on electric vehicles and their charging and the chance to test drive some different vehicles. With a ban coming on the sale of new petrol and diesel driven cars coming in in 2030, you may have bought your last fossil fuel car!

Woburn Sands Town Council now has the opportunity to install more charging points with funding from the Government and we would like to hear from you some suggestions of suitable locations. **Please complete this short survey and return it to the Memorial Hall on the High Street or do it online at our website.**

1. Do you drive an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid for personal or work travel?

- Yes – Electric Vehicle
- Yes – Plug-in Hybrid

Please also indicate the MAIN place you charge the vehicle/s:

- At home from a garage, drive or private parking space
- At home at the roadside
- At my place of work from a car park
- At my place of work at the roadside
- Other (please specify) _____
- No



If 'no', do you intend to purchase either an electric vehicle or plug-in hybrid within the next three years?

- Yes
- No (now go to question 3)

2. Considering opportunities to charge your vehicle/s at HOME. Please indicate ALL of the statements that apply to you, whether you currently own an electric vehicle or intend to in the next three years:

- I have a drive, garage or private parking space from where I can charge my vehicle
- I have my own dedicated e-vehicle charging point
- I plan to have a dedicated e-vehicle charging point installed
- I charge my vehicle via a standard plug socket
- I charge my vehicle on the roadside near my home
- Other (please specify)

3. Do you think that your street would be suitable place for roadside charging points?

- Yes (if yes, please name street)
- No (if no, could you suggest a preferred location)

