

WOBURN SANDS

TOWN COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH

Clerk: Mrs L. J. Stapleton Telephone: 01908 585368 e.mail l.stapleton@wstc.org.uk

www.woburnsands.org.uk

Newsletter Summer 2013

ASPLANDS MEDICAL CENTRE

We know many of you have been concerned that the waiting times for getting an appointment at Asplands seem to have been overlong in recent months. This has partly been due to the surgery having to take on more than 100 new patients from our area who were de-registered from a practice in Bletchley, and partly through the retirement of Dr James Nott and Dr Fiona Anderson and a nurse on maternity leave who has now returned to work. Two new doctors have now joined the practice and we are delighted to welcome Samantha Howell and Peter Robinson as well as Laura Davison who some of you may have met when she was the practice registrar. These three doctors will be doing more sessions per week than were previously offered at Asplands, so the situation of booking appointments should be easing considerably. We hope you all agree that we are fortunate in being served by such an excellent medical centre.

ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION

There is still just time for you to enter our Annual Garden competition which is very generously supported with super prizes by Frosts Garden Centre and is just for those of you in Woburn Sands...not the same as the Citizen's one for the whole of Milton Keynes. There are three categories with more than one prize for each category: Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket /Pot arrangement and Best Back Garden. Judging will take place on Friday 26 July, and all you need to do to enter is contact the Town Clerk before 22 July. We will be especially pleased to see some new entrants this year and the prize giving will be on August Bank Holiday Monday at the Band's Fayre on Mowbray Green.

PLANNING MATTERS

The town may soon be very well off for coffee, snacks and take -always as well as wine! Planning Law does not, of course, take competition into account as a reason for an objection, so although we already have these facilities in Woburn Sands you will soon probably have more choice. Costa Coffee has applied to open up at Station House next to the level crossing in the listed building there, a take away has permission to open at Pete Lowe's at the top of the High Street and Bacchus Wine Bars may be taking over one of the units at what was Harpur's in Station Road for the sale of wine. A decision on the proposed Tesco Express in the High Street is still awaited.

We shall also probably be having yet more properties built in Woburn Sands although we always try to make sure any development does not spoil the identity and character of the town and its community. However, we can only do this within planning rules and regulations. The next phase of the Taylor Wimpey development at Parklands is likely to see permission granted for 95 more dwellings on this brownfield site, whilst Sandy Mount will probably get permission for 6 new homes in its grounds.

A new application is now with MKC for Greens Hotel, ref 13/01117/FUL, for 29 apartments in 2 blocks, one of which involves conversion of the hotel, and the other on the bowls club, plus 6 town houses (all for the over 55's) and relocation of the bowls club to Aspley Guise by the common. The plans are available in the Town Council office as well as on MKC's website. This is an entirely new application, but the previous planning history of the site will be taken into account. The deadline for comments to Nicola McTeer, planning officer at MKC, is 25 July. One advantage of all these potential newcomers to Woburn Sands is that it should increase viability of the High Street at a time when so many others have many vacant shops and they bring new people into the various clubs and societies. Indeed some are already contributing much to our local community, not least our new Mayor, Paul Farrant, who joined our council soon after moving to Woburn Sands and is a Parklands resident.

Remember you can keep up to date with all the planning news on our new website, address above: just click on Council News, and then on Planning.

NEW MURAL AT THE STATION.

If you haven't done so already, do take a look on the Bedford bound platform at the station and admire the mural which was unveiled in June by our Town Mayor, Paul Farrant. It is the work of pupils at Fulbrook Middle School and depicts four scenes which the pupils considered key features of the town...with a bit of artistic licence acknowledging that we are also part of Milton Keynes! Hence you'll see some concrete cows and the Xscape building in the golf club, Aspley woods and the bikers as well as the school itself and the War Memorial in the High Street. Of course we may all be making more use of the railway when the link between Bletchley, Bicester and Oxford is completed possibly in the next few years, and then who knows how much further. According to the Government our little line will become part of a fully electrified line running from Southampton to Sheffield... we'll see! Be assured that we are already in discussions with Network Rail over the plans and the huge impact this will potentially have on Woburn Sands and how this might be solved, but all that is a long way in the future, if ever??

A MESSAGE FROM WOBURN SANDS SENIOR FRIENDS CLUB

The first meeting of this club took place on Wednesday morning, 5 June, with a very pleasing number of people. It is intended as a "drop in" club with no formal membership and open to all senior citizens who can get to the library in the High Street "under their own steam". It has been set up by Adrienne Rutter and Julie Nicholls, both of whom have awareness of older people sometimes becoming isolated in their community. It is hoped that friendships will develop, new avenues be opened and happier times shared. So please drop in too on a Wednesday morning between 10am and noon, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, generously donated by the Co-Op, and a home-made cake from one of several volunteers.

A MESSAGE FROM WOBURN SANDS BAND

The Woburn Sands Band invites you to bring a chair down to Mowbray Green for a couple of events between now and mid-September. First would be Monday 26th August (Bank Holiday Monday) for this year's Annual Band Fayre. This is always busy, with much to do for all ages, and the bonus of our top playing group, our 'A' Band, performing for most of the afternoon. The Fayre is opened at 1.30 by our Vice Mayor, and admission is FREE. (Remember to bring that chair!)

Secondly, on the afternoon of Saturday 14th September, we intend to offer the Inaugural Concert by our latest group, The Woburn Sands Youth Band, from 2-4 p.m. Again, bring a chair if you need one, admission is FREE, and refreshments will be available to purchase.

We shall be pleased to see you at either or both of these events, and trust you will enjoy them.

EDGEWICK FARM IS 10 YEARS OLD

Actually there has been a small holding here for very many years, but for the past 10 years it has been under the ownership of the Town Council with management in the hands of The Greensand Trust and a hard working group of volunteers. The



event was celebrated with a small party with wine and nibbles as well as a Birthday

Cake and some children took part in treasure hunts and orienteering and a number of lovely dogs entered our Scruffs Dog Show...what a well behaved lot they were too! Many thanks to all who braved the weather to join us on this occasion.

SNIPPETS AND DATES

- Don't miss the **Folk Festival** on Saturday 13 July . Groups of traditional folk dancers and musicians will appear at a number of venues during the day and the main events will take place on Edgewick Farm from noon 'til 8pm with a variety of different folk groups performing. Bring a picnic (fingers crossed), or eat from the various food outlets and, of course, they'll be a bar.
- Did you struggle with **heating bills** last winter? If so, you may qualify for a grant next winter from the Wavendon Coals Charity set up many years ago for residents in the ancient parish of Wavendon (Wavendon village, Woburn Sands and Aspley Heath). If you think you may benefit from this small grant, please apply in writing to Susan Hopkins, 80 Walton Road, Wavendon, MK17 8LW and you will receive the necessary form. Of course, at the other end of the scale, if you really don't need the Government's hand out of the winter fuel allowance, this charity will be happy to receive your's...many thanks to those who already do this.
- Need advice on money matters, pensions, benefits, housing, health or consumer issues? Don't forget the **Age UK Advice and Information Service** now available Tues, Thurs and Friday mornings, free to all, in our Library
- Fancy a day out? The next of our popular **over 60's coach trips** is to Bury St Edmunds on 17 July, to Lincoln on 14 August and to Cambridge on 18 September. Contact the Town Clerk for info and tickets.