

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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Dear resident,

Success in local referendum, a number of new ventures for Woburn Sands (market, library, Parklands) all feature in this newsletter along with plenty of opportunities for adults and children to be entertained in what we hope is a long, hot summer.

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**Summer Newsletter 2014**

## Planning Matters

The result of the referendum on our Neighbourhood Plan, the first to be held in Milton Keynes, shows that most residents support the proposals in it, and in fact 89% of the voters said “YES”. With a good turnout of 41% we are very pleased with this result which should help us protect the green spaces within and around the edges of the built up area in Woburn Sands. Unfortunately this does not extend to areas beyond our boundaries and we are faced with applications for developments both at Frosts Landscape land (not the Garden Centre), and in the Strategic Land Area north of Wavendon and south of the A421. We are closely involved in discussions on the latter which cannot be prevented but whose impact we are trying to mitigate. The main problem with this land to date has been the continued refusal of various land owners involved to work together to produce a coherent plan which also complies with the adopted Development Framework. We have written to object to the Frosts application because of its negative impact on our community particularly on traffic in Newport Road although the application is actually in the parish of Wavendon who are also objecting.

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## Local Market

Much work has been going on behind the scenes to establish a local market of our own here in Woburn Sands and we are hopeful that it is all systems go for a trial period for a quarterly market to start on the second Sunday in September, followed by second Sundays in December, March and June. It will run from 10am-2pm in the High Street. A steering committee has been set up under the leadership now of The Woburn Sands Business and Community Association along with members of our own committee. If it proves successful, the aim will be to extend it to a monthly market. All details will be available on our website and on posters over the town when the plans are finalised. This is a venture which has been suggested on several occasions by residents and we wish it every success.

## Annual Garden Competition

As well as sponsoring a garden competition for the whole of Milton Keynes, we are very fortunate that the Frosts Garden Centre also sponsors a competition just for Woburn Sands. Generous prizes are on offer for the best front garden, best back garden and best hanging basket/pot display. You can nominate your own garden or someone else's by simply contacting the Town Clerk by 18 July. Judging will then take place on Monday 21 July and prizes awarded at the Town Band's summer fete on Mowbray Green on August Bank Holiday Monday. We welcome new entrants as well as those whose gardens always look spectacular.

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## Library News

The library in the High Street is now ***open every Tuesday evening*** between 6-8pm for the loan and return of books. This extra session is staffed by volunteers and the first was opened by Milton Keynes Mayor, Brian White, on 27 May. It is hoped that some other activities will also take place during this session and one such will start on 2 September with a ***Councillor drop in session*** 6-7pm at which a member of the Town Council will be present to listen to and hopefully address your concerns. For a trial period, this will continue every first Tuesday. So please drop in with your questions or comments. If you have an idea for perhaps a demonstration, exhibition, something else, for Tuesday evenings, please let the Town Clerk know.



Four of our popular ***summer craft activities*** for children, suitable for ages 5/6 up to 13, will be held in the library, sponsored by the Town Council, and all on Thursdays 2.30pm-3.30pm. These will be on 31 July (make a dragon clay modelling session), 7 Aug (Crafty Cupcakes), 21 Aug (cartoon drawing) and 28 Aug (Wise Owls) You need to reserve a place at the library as places on these courses are limited in numbers.

## Your Parish Councillors

The existing members of the Parish Council have one more year to serve before elections next May. In addition to attending monthly Parish Council meetings where all major decisions are made, councillors take on many additional responsibilities according to their own interests and areas of expertise. Here, in alphabetical order, is a brief outline of the work each one does:

**Meg Bates** is our longest serving councillor and has been our Borough Councillor in the past. Her knowledge of local history and interest in the natural environment along with all her experience is invaluable to the council.

**Pauline Byrne** has a particular interest in enhancing the local community and is an important hands on member of the team when support is required. She recently instigated discussions on a Local Market and is now taking this forward as a member of the steering committee.

**Clive Cowmeadow** is another long standing member of the councillor whose principal role is as chair of the finance committee. This has become an increasingly complex area in recent years and we rely heavily on Clive's knowledge to steer us through the financial maze! As a keen follower of Folk Music, Clive is closely involved with our Annual Folk Festival.

**Paul Farrant** is a comparatively new councillor but has made a substantial contribution already to the work of the council. He takes a keen interest in planning matters, is on the Christmas Fayre Committee and recently did a lot of research into Local Markets and is now on the Local Market Steering group. Paul also attends cross parish meetings in Milton Keynes and of Danesborough Ward.

**Michael Geddes** masterminded the tortuous and time consuming process of our Neighbourhood Plan through to its successful conclusion. He also took the lead in the conversion of The Summerlin Centre to a community hall and in negotiating with Milton Keynes Council on the move of the Library to The Institute. He also attends meetings with neighbouring parishes.

**David Hopkins** is perhaps better known to you all as our Borough Councillor and it is his links to Milton Keynes Council that is of immense value to us as a Parish Council. Despite his very busy schedule, David always finds time to support our work.

**Jacky Jeffreys** is the lead councillor on all planning matters from small house extensions in Woburn Sands, to the much larger developments of recent years including Parklands and those on the periphery of our town which can impact substantially on us. Jacky writes the monthly Town Council item in The Hogsty End Handbook and edits this quarterly newsletter. She is involved in a number of cross parish committees in Milton Keynes and with neighbouring parishes, and is a keen supporter of Edgewick Farm and in fund raising for activities in our new library.

**Ian Macleod** is the most recent addition to the council but proving himself an excellent appointment. His experience in the construction industry means he is of considerable help in dealing with our buildings and their maintenance and he has a keen interest in planning issues. He is our representative on the Woburn Sands Business and Community Association and is on the steering committee for the Local Market.

**Keith Temple** is interested in the wider community, liaises with the police and is involved with both the Christmas Fayre and the Folk Festival. He also chairs our environment sub-committee.

## Snippets and Diary Dates

### *Off to university or apprenticeship?*

If a young person in your family who lives in Woburn Sands or Aspley Heath is off to university or taking an apprenticeship shortly, now is the time to apply for a little extra cash from the George Wells Charity. This is an ancient fund set up many years ago and now managed by the Town Council to award small grants to people under 25 years of age to assist with books/equipment for their studies. It is a simple application procedure and will require receipts to be presented. Contact the Town Clerk for further information.

### *Kids at home first week of summer holidays?*

There are one or two spaces on the Christian Holiday Club week beginning on Monday 28th July. This event has been enjoyed by many children over the past 20 years and last year's was no exception. You may have noticed the wonderful boat the children had constructed during the week which stood outside the Methodist Church for several weeks afterwards. You do not need to be churchgoers to enrol on this week and it will cost you just £25 per child for the Monday to Thurs with an optional trip to Wicksteed Park on the Friday. Activities tend to be based in the Methodist Church in the mornings, starting at 9am and the afternoons are spent out and about before collection at 4pm. Activities are varied and will include crafts, pond dipping, rounders, cooking, all with a "Living Water" theme. Contact Valerie Symon on 583779 or [valeriesymon779@btinternet.com](mailto:valeriesymon779@btinternet.com) for more information and booking form.

### *"Oh What a Lovely War"*

This will be a big community event of songs and short acts to commemorate the start 100 years ago of the First World War. Many local groups are involved and all proceeds will go to two very worthwhile causes, Help the Heroes and Willen Hospice, and we hope as many of you as possible will attend. Tickets will be available on the door, or via Jerry Breslin on [jerrybreslin@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrybreslin@hotmail.com) or 582952 and you may want to bring a cushion for a comfortable seat in the church!

Woburn Sands Remembers.....

**Oh What  
A Lovely War**



**Dave Eurns  
Luke Wiseman**  
YOUR VILLAGE NEEDS  
**YOU**

**Ensemble from WOBURN SANDS BAND  
SUECO GREGGY LOG Led Folio Copies  
FLEBOGE SCIOCE FLAYLES Lynne Eavies  
Eatsy Cocks, Avril Morris, Alec & Sandy Williamsen**

5<sup>th</sup> July St Michael's Church 7.30pm  
Tickets £8 (£5) from St Michael's or 01908 582 952  
All proceeds to Willen Hospice and Help for Heroes

## ***Folk Festival***

The town will be alive with folk music and dancers on Saturday 12 July for our Annual Folk Festival. Singers and dancers will be at various pubs and halls including The Fir Tree, the Swan, The Weathercock, the library, the Methodist Chapel and the Memorial Hall from about 11.30pm until 8pm when festivities will hopefully continue at the Royal Oak up Church Road. This slightly condensed format on previous years is due to the financial restraints of repaying monies owed on the stolen generator from last year.

## ***Parklands Residents Association***



With much of The Parklands development now complete we are delighted that residents have now set up the Friends of Parklands with the main aim “to make a great place to live even better”. They are looking at opportunities to improve their environment and make the place as safe as possible as well as creating opportunities to spend time together. Some 50 residents took part in an initial makeover of some of the landscaped areas and a neighbourhood watch scheme has been introduced. If you are a new Parklands resident and want to get involved, email [wsparklands@gmail.com](mailto:wsparklands@gmail.com) and you will go on the Parklands Friends mailing list, and remember you can also register on the Town Council’s secure e-mail list (contact the Town Clerk).



## ***Want an allotment?***

There are vacancies from time to time on the allotments between Edgewick Farm and the Bow Brickhill Road. If you would like to put your name down for one of these, please contact Anne Stannard on 585250 for further information.

## ***The Leaping Man***

...has arrived in Milton Keynes. Based on the great achievement of our local Olympic hero, Greg Rutherford, the statue depicts a leaping man across the A421 at the Fen Farm roundabout to catch everyone's attention on entering Milton Keynes from Junction 13 of the M1. Cllr David Hopkins, who was behind the whole project, says it also represents the "can-do" spirit of Milton Keynes and its forward thinking.



## **Dates for your diary**

Next coach trips are to Winchester *16th July* and Lincoln *13th August*

*Sat 5 July*: "Oh What a Lovely War" at St Michaels at 7.30pm

*Sat 12 July*: Annual Folk Festival at a variety of venues in town centre

*Sun 13 July*: The Sands Singers summer concert in St Michaels at 2.30pm

*Sun 13 July*: Woburn Sands Training Band on Mowbray Green at 2.30pm

*Fri 18 July*: Deadline for best garden competition entries to Town Clerk

*Mon 25 Aug*: Woburn Sands Band Annual Summer Fayre on Mowbray Green from 1.30pm

*Tues 2 Sep*: drop in session to see a Town Councillor 6-7pm at the Library

*Sunday 14 Sep*: the first Woburn Sands Local Market in the High Street