

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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Dear Resident,

Welcome to our Spring newsletter covering the next three months. What happened to winter? Haven't we been fortunate to escape the flooding, thanks in part to the Milton Keynes planners forethought in establishing the great flood control system which serves us well. Lots to report inside, so get reading and hope to see many of you at the Annual Town Meeting.

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Spring Newsletter 2014

You are invited to



The Annual Town Meeting of Woburn Sands Town Council

On Thurs 10th April 2014 at 7.30pm
At The Summerlin Centre

At this meeting we will give short reports on our work during the past year and outline some of the next year's plans. We hope you will find a slight reduction in the amount on your Council Tax which comes back to us (the precept), as we promised to rectify an overcharge from last year which was unintended. Increased numbers from new Parklands residents should mean there is little difference in our actual income to run the Town Council and carry out various projects.

LOCAL PRODUCE MARKET

We have been very encouraged by the large number of positive comments we have received since floating the idea of a Local produce Market here in Woburn Sands. We have now undertaken some initial discussions with MKC about the possibility of a monthly Local Produce and Crafts Market and their response, so far, is also positive. Our research indicates that the most successful local markets were organised and run on a community basis. Accordingly, the Town Council would like to hear from anyone who would like to join this project from the very start: it will be challenging, interesting and very worthwhile. In parallel, we would like to hear from any local food and drink producers, craft persons, artisans etc who might be interested in becoming a stall holder.

Please also let us know which days you think will work best whilst minimising the impact on our small independent retailers. Contact details all on the front page.

EVENTS AT THE LIBRARY

Kids at home in the Easter Holidays? Why not book them in for a **Block Printing Workshop** on Thursday 17 April at the library? There will be two sessions 2.00-3.00pm and 3.15-4.15pm. The workshops are suitable for all children age 4 upwards, although 4-7 year olds need an older helper with them. Children will make their own printing plates and print copies of their work to take home. Block printing mimics wood cut or lino printing but the ink can leave stains, so wear old clothes or bring an apron! The sessions are free and refreshments will be available, but you do need to book your place at the library beforehand as numbers are limited to 10 per session. This event is sponsored by the Town Council and Library Friends.

June may seem a long way off at present, but put Thursday evening 26th June in your diaries now for what promises to be an entertaining evening at the library. It is entitled “**Midsummer Madrigals and More**” and will consist of performances of songs from the Sands Cryers interspersed with some poetry readings from Milton Keynes Poet Laureate, Mark Niel, who a select few enjoyed back in December. His poems are usually short and with a touch of humour, and he will be accompanied by fellow poet, Danni. Hopefully there will also be some summer themed poems read and written by pupils from Fulbrook School. Tickets will be available nearer the time and will include an interval drink. Watch out for details in the library and in Hogsty End Handbook.

The **Age UK Advisory service** is changing its hours of opening at the library from 1st April to Tuesday mornings, 10.00am -12.30pm, and Thursday afternoons, 1.00pm -3.30pm. This is a “drop-in” service open to all but you can book an appointment by phoning 01908 585774

EDGEWICK FARM

For any newcomers who don't know about Edgewick Farm, it is the three fields opposite Mowbray Green on your left at the bend of the road as you go down from the High Street towards Bow Brickhill. This land is owned by the Town Council, managed for us by The Greensand Trust and maintained to a large extent by a group of volunteers, Friends of Edgewick Farm. The aim is to preserve a natural grassland through controlled grazing, with at least two of the three fields open at any time to the public to enjoy and walk through, many with their dogs.



There are dog pooh bins by the entrances to both footpaths leading from the main road into the fields, but sadly, there are still folks who are not vigilant about clearing up after their dogs. This leads to two major problems: first it is dangerous for young children who may pick up an infection as they enjoy a run through the fields, and secondly, as was reported on Country File a week or two back, it is potentially fatal for cattle. We have small Dexter cattle grazing these fields regularly and we do not want them to suffer the same fate as happened to Adam's cattle.

BBC Country File Feb 2014

Adam's microscopic nightmare: quietly infecting livestock. It's called Neospora parasite and is passed from cows to their calves and spread by dog pooh on grassland meadows.

Even 6 months after the pooh has been left, cattle can be infected with this fatal worm disease. We need the cattle to maintain the grassland, so please, if you want to keep the fields open to dogs, ensure you and anyone else you see there, pick up dog pooh and deposit it later when you pass a bin,....not tied to a fence in the hopes someone else will do it for you!!!



Whilst on the subject, a related matter about which residents are complaining to us, is horse droppings. There are several horse riders who understandably want to show off their animals to friends and neighbours, but this involves riding through relatively narrow roads and even across footpaths within the town. Pleasant as this may be for riders, many residents do not take so kindly to weaving around horse droppings and getting pushchair, bike and vehicles wheels dirtied and smelly. We would respectfully ask you not to ride your horses through residential streets which are not en route to a suitable bridleway and there are plenty of the latter around here.

Thank you to all local residents who have already taken part in our doorstep community survey. If you would like to take part, survey forms and postal boxes can be found at the Library and the Summerlin Centre until 5 April. You can also pick up our “What’s on in Woburn Sands and Local Area” guide.



We’ve teamed up with Fulbrook School to run some sessions for those who are not sure how to use their laptops and tablets. These IT community classes are assisted by some computer-savvy pupils. The first course is underway and full, but we hope to run another, so keep a look out for adverts round town.

OH, OH, OH WHAT A LOVELY WAR!

YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU! July 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of the Great War when every village and nearly every family in the land suffered tragic losses. Everyone is now invited to take part in a production of “Oh, Oh, Oh What a lovely war” on 5th July at St Michaels. It is hoped this will be very much a community production with sketches and songs performed by local people with choral and brass band backup with music of the time. Local war details can be brought in. All proceeds will go to Willen Hospice and Help the Heroes. We need musicians, actors, organisers, war details of local events, props, costumes, techies ...oh and sponsors too. ***If you can contribute in any way to this ambitious plan, please get in touch with Jerry Breslin at jerrybreslin@hotmail.com or phone 0797 729 2602.***

FROM REV. CHRIS BEALES AT OUR PARISH CHURCH

People don't always realise that St Michaels, the Parish Church of Woburn Sands, is actually a bit off the beaten track up Church road in Aspley Heath. Please feel free to drop in any time, perhaps for some quiet reflection, as the Church is open every day. All are welcome at our 9.45am Sunday service and we have a thriving Sunday School and crèche for those age 0-15 during the service.

St Michaels celebrates its 150th birthday in 2018 and with the new central heating system recently installed is being used increasingly for concerts and other events: the acoustics are superb! The Church yard is now the focus for improvements with the help of some financial support from the Taylor Wimpey development at Parklands.

We work closely with our Catholic and Methodist friends as part of Churches Together and have launched the Love Woburn Sands project which aims to reach and welcome all newcomers in the area. Together we produce Christian News, a monthly magazine, and we are setting up a social enterprise, Print Cellar, at the Methodist Church in the High Street, which prints all literature and is able to offer you competitive prices for print jobs.

St Michaels vision is threefold:

- To be people of prayer and action, loving and trusting God and serving others.
- To be a place where all can belong, are welcome and accepted and feel supported and inspired.
- To be peacemakers with all others of good will in the struggle for a just and peaceful world.

Our website address is www.stmichaels.org.uk



FROM SWALLOWFIELD SCHOOL

Our School Parliament at Swallowfield was voted for by the whole school where we made a speech about why we would be a good member of parliament. We have a Prime Minister, a Deputy Prime Minister, a Minister for Education and other Parliamentary roles. The members of our School Parliament meet on a regular basis. They discuss any issues that the children in school might have and things they might like to achieve or change in school. We help to raise funds for school activities and other worthwhile causes. We raise funds in many different ways, for example running books sales for Comic Relief and selling cakes for Red Nose Day. At this current time we are supporting the local charity, 'Supershoes' whereby raising money for terminally ill children in the UK. We have also raised money for the remarking of our playground and for Maths resources in school.

NEW TESCO EXPRESS IN WOBURN SANDS

The Town Council recently met with the manageress of our Tesco store and pointed out the traffic problems which have accompanied its opening, as indeed many of us predicted. She is supportive of our wish to remedy this situation. So if you are going to the new shop and driving there, please do not park on the double yellow lines in front of it: they are there for a purpose. Vehicles parked there block the bus stop and this has resulted in the exit from Downham Road being completely blocked. Vehicles parked there also impede visibility from the junction from Downham Road and prevent two lane access to the busy mini roundabout. Worse still are some people who seem to think the pavement is a parking spot; you can be prosecuted and heavily fined for doing so. Inevitably, these parking problems are leading Milton Keynes Council to consider extending the double yellow lines at the top of Downham Road opposite the lay by and this will mean the loss of three valuable parking spaces. Please use the Tesco car park to the rear as much as possible, and do not block driveways and forecourts in Downham Road.

Swallowfield First School PTFA has benefitted from Tesco's generous grant of £1000 which was "an opening gesture" and will be used in providing a double decker bus on the school site which will be kitted out as a library.

Snippets and Diary Dates

Beware of parking charges at Costa Coffee! Parking is free for 90 minutes, but you must register your vehicle number at the desk when entering. Small print on the Parking sign tells you this but has been missed by at least one local person resulting in a £100 cup of coffee.

Woburn Sands Band next concert is at *The Stables on Saturday 5 April*. A few tickets remain at £12 available from The Concert Secretary on 01908 377325 or 07790 454149.



Free concert on Mowbray Green at 2p.m Saturday 28th June by all training bands, refreshments will be available and bring a seat. Weather permitting.

Forthcoming coach trips are to Springfields at Spalding on 16 April. This is a large garden centre with very attractive gardens which should be full of a spring display of bulbs for our visit. It is adjacent to a large retail outlet centre and a canal ride from Spalding for those who would like that option. May 14th will be to Lichfield, June 11th destination to be confirmed. Tickets and enquiries as always to the Town Clerk.

Retirement of Dr Logan. Many residents will be sorry to lose Dr Logan in June. He is looking forward to a much deserved retirement and there will be an opportunity for you to say a *personal goodbye to him at The Summerlin Centre on Saturday morning 14 June 10am-12noon*. A short presentation will take place at about 11am. Dr Logan began a doctor's practice here 37 years ago and set up Asplands Medical Centre with his partners in 1983. We are sure very many residents are grateful for the excellent centre we now have to meet our health needs here at Asplands.

Best Garden Competition. If you are a newcomer you may not be aware that every year Frosts generously sponsor our very own Garden Competition, *judged in July*. Prizes are awarded for front gardens, container and hanging basket displays and back gardens. Watch the web site for details and in the meantime get planting!

Police Station in Woburn Sands. *It is possible you will find the police office in the High Street closed as from 1 April* but we are very much hoping an alternative run by the volunteers can be carried on in the library at certain times. Unfortunately at time of writing this, no details have been confirmed.

Neighbourhood Plan. Unfortunately, despite indications from the Inspector that he would have his report ready by the end of February, we have not yet received his verdict on our Neighbourhood Plan. We will let you know via the website as soon as we hear. We are still hopeful that it will be ready to go to a vote at a referendum to coincide with May elections.

And finally a huge thank you to the Aspley Guise Charitable Foundation for their generous donation of £800 for our library maintenance fund from money raised at their Christmas Lights event. It will go towards the necessary maintenance work on front doors and roof works to be carried out in the next year. We really appreciate this gesture which will help us keep a library here in Woburn Sands for the whole community to use.