

WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2022

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

What a jolly time was had by all!

The four days of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations were celebrated in style at various venues across Woburn Sands. Union flags were flown down the High Street and bunting adorned the public buildings. Street parties in all four corners of the town, music concerts, a retro event with vintage cars and a flypast of a Spitfire and a Lancaster bomber and a civic church service all celebrated the Queen's long reign.



MEMORIAL HALL, 4 HIGH STREET, WOBURN SANDS, MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8RH
CLERK: ALISON JORDAN
TELEPHONE 01908 585368 (24HRS) E.MAIL a.jordan@wstc.org.uk

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CHANGES TO WOBURN SANDS NEWSLETTER

After many years of collating and editing the Woburn Sands Town Council Newsletter and submitting content for the monthly Hogsty End, Cllr Jackie Jeffries has stepped down and her place has been taken by Cllr Richard Lanyon-Hogg and Cllr Jo Green aided by Alison Jordan, the Town Clerk. The Town Council would like to thank Jackie for the work she has put into both these publications.

As a part of the change, there is a slight alteration to the timings of the newsletter. There will still be four editions a year but the Summer newsletter (this one) will be distributed in early July, prior to the schools breaking up for their summer holidays; the Autumn edition will report on summer activities and prior notice for activities later in the year and will be distributed in early

October; the Winter edition will have news of Christmas activities at all the churches in the area and will be distributed in early December; while the Spring edition will come out before Easter



with similar ecclesiastical news and other spring like articles.

The deadline for content for the Autumn newsletter is Friday 16th September, so if anyone in the community would like to put forward news to be included in this, please send in to The Town Clerk by that date.



EAST WEST RAIL

By the time of the publication of the current newsletter, East West Rail will have run a public drop-in session for Woburn Sands. The aim of the event was to enable members of the public to meet and speak to members of the project team.

EWR is still in the process of reviewing the feedback received during the second Non-Statutory Consultation and so do not have any new information to provide now, they want to listen to local views and will offer as much information as possible at this stage.

Get in touch



Should you wish to contact East West Rail or the event, please contact the East West Rail team as follows:

you can email EWR at
contact@eastwestrail.co.uk (External link)

call them on **0330 1340067**,

write to them at:

Freepost EAST WEST RAIL

send them a message online at:
www.eastwestrail.co.uk/get-in-touch
(External link)

Contract Update

Whilst we await news of the EWR plans for the line passing through Woburn



Sands, the Department for Transport (DfT) is preparing to set aside almost £2.7bn to pay for contracts for the delivery of the next stages of East West Rail (EWR).

As you will be aware, EWR is a new high-speed rail line between Oxford and Cambridge that is being overseen by East West Rail Co. (EWR Co.), an organisation specially created by the DfT, rather than Network Rail. Work is currently underway on Connection Stage 1, which is seeing the line built from Oxford to Bletchley (Milton Keynes), with a delivery date of early 2025.

The rest of the line is split into Connection Stage 2 (CS2), which will see the line extended from Bletchley to Bedford and Connection Stage 3 (CS3), which will see it taken from Bedford to Cambridge.

Previously, the funding for building CS2 and CS3 had not been assured, but the DfT has recently updated its commercial pipeline document and has outlined six forthcoming EWR contracts. These include a £676M contract for the delivery partner on CS2 and CS3 and a £1.12bn contract for civils work.



CLIMATE SURVEY

Results of Woburn Sands Town Council's Community survey ... On proposals for reducing transport-related carbon emissions and promoting a healthier local environment for both people and wildlife.

This survey, produced by the Woburn Sands Climate Change Group on behalf of the Town Council, was distributed throughout the town and put up on the TC's website in January, 2022. A total of 379 completed survey forms were eventually returned from about 3400 delivered. The survey form and a summary of the numerical results (as bar charts showing proportions of graded positive to negative responses to each question) can be accessed as downloadable pdf files on the TC website (please ask at the TC if you can't access them).

Concerning **transport** (Section A of the survey), most respondents were evidently keen to reduce the impact of excessive motor traffic on the town and to encourage more walking and cycling. Thus there were substantial overall majorities (>75%) in favour of Woburn Sands becoming a 'Low Traffic Neighbourhood', with a uniform 20mph speed limit throughout the town, and also for a campaign to discourage engine-idling. Clear majorities (>60%) also supported making the High Street more pedestrian-friendly and



extending the MK Redway network within Woburn Sands, and a sizeable minority called for more cycle racks (46% for; 12% against). Addition of new pedestrian crossings likewise received more support (46%) than opposition (17%); but more respondents opposed, than supported having a one-way traffic system in the town (38% for; 42% against).

There was overall majority support for all the proposals concerning the **environment and biodiversity** (Section B), with substantial majorities (>75%) in favour of more trees being planted around the town, and more wildflower growth on some grassed areas and in hanging baskets to help conserve pollinating insects, as well as the installation of bird and bat boxes on trees and TC buildings. Clear majorities (>60%) also supported street lighting being switched off in the early hours of the morning, and completely ending the use of herbicides on TC land, to reduce the impact of light and chemical pollution on wildlife.



The Town Council considered these responses at its monthly meeting on May 9th 2022 and the following actions were approved:

- As most of the proposals in Section A would require the approval of Milton Keynes Council, especially its Highways Department, we will send them the results from that section of the survey and request a meeting with their officers to explore the possibilities for action on those measures that received substantial, or clear majority support (with more specific local consultation conducted where needed).
- Most of the proposals in Section B, by contrast, can be progressed directly by the TC, and some are already being acted on, such as the planting of trees from the 'Queen's Green Canopy' Jubilee Project around the town and encouraging wildflower growth and seed-set in part of Mowbray Green by not mowing over the spring and early summer, and by modifying the planting regime for our planters and hanging baskets in favour of a more pollinator-friendly make-up. Other measures will be pursued as resources allow.

Peter Skelton, Chair of WSTC

Environment Committee, and Mayor
2022-23 (May 2022).



NEW NAWT SHOP



The newly refurbished shop in the High Street for the National Animal Welfare Trust was opened by Greg Rutherford and the CEO of NAWT Rob Mitchell.

NAWT are currently recruiting retail volunteers to help in their charity shop on Woburn Sands High Street. If you are interested in joining, then please pop into the shop or contact them through their website. To find out more!

[https://www.nawt.org.uk/
contact-woburn-sands-shop](https://www.nawt.org.uk/contact-woburn-sands-shop)

They look forward to welcoming you to their team!



FROM IAIN STEWART MP

I hope this finds you well after a joyous month of celebrating Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. I thoroughly enjoyed attending and getting involved in local events over the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday weekend to celebrate this wonderful achievement, especially with the glorious weather we had.



On that note, I am absolutely delighted that Her Majesty The Queen has awarded Milton Keynes city status. Whilst I note I may be biased, I truly believe that Milton Keynes is one of the best cities in the world. The city of Milton Keynes has so much to offer to residents and visitors of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. It is an absolute honour and privilege to represent Milton Keynes in Parliament and I am thrilled to have played my part in securing city status for Milton Keynes.

The month of July sees the launch of the MK MP's Best Café Competition, where me and Ben are looking to find the best destination for a hot drink, a sweet treat and good atmosphere. I am pleased to have multiple cafés across Milton Keynes signed up to compete for the title and I look forward to visiting the ones that have entered in my constituency. Voting opens on the 1st of July and will run until the 2nd of September with a winner announced on the 9th of September. For more information on who is participating and how you can cast your vote, you can visit my website: www.iainstewart.org.uk

As ever, if I or my office can be of any help, please do get in touch at iajn.stewart.mp@parliament.uk or on **01908 686830**.

LITTER PICK:

The litter pick on the 28th May went well, covering Russell Street, the High Street, Station Road, Theydon Avenue, Wood Street, The Leys, Hardwick Close and Mowbray Green. A big Thank You to the Town Clerk Alison Jordan for readying the equipment and to all the litter pickers.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Many thanks go to Lorraine Hearn who led a band of volunteers who created yards of additional bunting to dress the various public buildings in the High Street.

Zoe McCarthy is to be congratulated on organising a large Platinum Jubilee event at St Mary's Church and was instrumental in organising the flypast of the Spitfire and the Lancaster bomber. The latter flew over Mowbray Green three times, much to the appreciation of the crowd gathered to listen to The Woburn Sands Band.



Thank you MK Community Foundation for funding our Jubilee event



BOWLS CLUB CELEBRATES CENTENARY

The Woburn Sands Bowls Club celebrates its Centenary this year. There was an initial membership of 41 men – no ladies were allowed until 1958. Originally there were four rinks but this was extended in 1958 to six rinks.

In 2015 the Club moved from their premises in what is now the Greens complex to new premises off Common Lane. The Club enjoys an excellent Clubhouse, a first class green, and four artificial rinks allowing members to play throughout the year. There are some 160 members which makes it one of the largest in the area. Over the years the Club has been successful in various national and regional competitions, winning the Bucks Plate last year.

The Club is celebrating its Centenary with matches arranged against teams from the President of Bowls England and the President of the Bucks Bowls Association. A number of local VIPs were invited to help celebrate the Centenary on June 10.



To contact the Club visit
www.wsbowls.co.uk

JUBILEE TREE PLANTING

The three trees donated from the Queen's Green Canopy scheme have been planted at Edgewick Farm, Parklands and the Allotments.

Huge thank you to Dr Peter Skelton, Bob Holland and the Edgewick Farm volunteers for the Edgewick Farm tree, and to David Hopkins and Jo Green for the Parklands and Allotment planting. All were planted in early May.



NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

On Sunday 5th June the **Queens Platinum Jubilee** civic service took place at St Michael's Church followed by a Jubilee tea party in the afternoon. Over 60 people attended including 20 children. The event was held inside the Church due to inclement weather but it was still a great success.

Ukraine Update: Four people have volunteered to be St Michael's Church and Woburn Sands Town Council

Ukraine co-ordinators and a co-ordinating group has now been formed. The group email is **ws.ukraine.coord@gmail.com** The aim of the group is to be a source of useful information and to co-ordinate offers of support and requests for support from those who are hosting refugees from Ukraine. Do get in touch with any offers or requests!

Revd Diana Young,
Vicar, St Michael's Church
revdianay@gmail.com;
07887 296588; 01908 584598



IMPORTANT SEMK NEWS

O & H Land are holding a consultation on their proposals for a phase of the SEMK development. They already own an area of land next to Parklands and are submitting plans to build there as part of the SEMK development.

This consultation is online only at **my.engaged.space/semk-east** but they will send a leaflet if you call **0800 170 1223**.

Woburn Sands Town Council are trying to arrange a meeting with O & H, the council is unhappy there is no face-to-face public consultation. We want to ensure all residents have the opportunity to have their say, not just those on social media or with internet access. So far, consultation by developers has not been successful and their leaflets have shown misleading images. We want to give O&H the opportunity to do better.

MAYOR'S GATHERING



MK mayors at the Buckinghamshire Service of Thanksgiving for the Queen's Jubilee.

Left to right,
Olney, Wolverton, MK,
Newport Pagnell and, of
course, our new Woburn
Sands mayor
Dr Peter Skelton



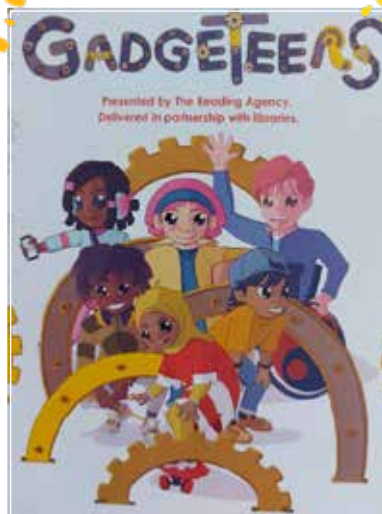
LIBRARY NEWS

School's Out, Summer Reading Challenge is In!

When brainstorming for activities to occupy children across the summer break do remember your local library has lots to offer and most things are free of charge – especially helpful if you have more than one little person in your care. All branches have free story times and at Woburn Sands Julie or Anna will make sure your children have fun whilst listening to popular stories and rhymes. **Storytime** is **11.15am each Tuesday** and is now running through the school holidays.

'Gadgeteers' is the name of this year's summer reading challenge and your youngsters can follow along with the six characters whilst reading their six books to qualify for certificate and medal. As usual there are stickers to collect (be warned, some of them are smelly!) and lots of associated activities both in the library and on-line at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk Come to the Woburn Sands library to register for the challenge as soon as term finishes.

This year we plan to bring back our **Summer Workshops** - ticketed sessions where for a small charge your



school-aged child will be supported by experienced professional tutors to create special craft items. As in previous years, we are very grateful to the Town Council for making this possible. Look out for our summer schedule of workshops.

Our **Duplo/Toy club** will continue through the summer, **4-5 pm on Fridays**, another free activity and somewhere to meet up with other young families, it follows our regular **'Knit and Natter' session 2pm till 3.30pm.**

To get the latest updates for all the Milton Keynes group branch libraries, please visit our Milton Keynes library website.



CELEBRATING THE WSTC YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST AWARDS 2022



We are pleased to report that our Young Environmentalist Awards took place as part of the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations held on Saturday June 4th 2022 on Mowbray Green.

We send our appreciation to all those young people who took part and are now giving WSTC the opportunity to highlight their environmental actions and interests to the wider community. We also wish to express our gratitude to all those in our community who enabled young people to take part in the awards, so our thanks go to parents, carers, and guardians as well as those involved with St Michael's Church, Swallowfield and Fulbrook Schools.

Big thanks also go to...

Frosts for providing gifts for all participants and gift vouchers to those receiving special awards. We are pleased to report that entrants were highly delighted and appreciative. **Milton Keynes Council** were also able to provide small items to encourage recycling activities.

WSTC were supported in the judging of the Award by **Bob Holland**, a resident of

our community who many of you will know from his environmental work in support of Edgewick Farm, he was a key player in the judging process. We are very grateful to him for his expertise.

YEA! Aims, Objectives and Outcomes

We wanted to find a way of recognising the positive environmental actions that Woburn Sands Young Environmentalists are engaged in and to showcase their activities. Thus, we began publicising the WSTC Young Environmentalist Awards. We had a display and entry forms in the library and information on our website, notice boards and in our newsletter. Local families, local schools and church communities all took an interest in the awards idea.

In total 37 young people between the ages of 5 and 15 took part in the awards. They all gained a WSTC Young Environmentalist Certificate for their efforts. 34 entrants received a range of small items to encourage them in their recycling and a bird box to paint, along with their certificate. The 3 winners of special awards received a range of different items such as a bird feeder, a bug hotel or wildflower seeds and a



Frosts gift voucher to spend on items of their choice, along with their certificate. Every certificate was accompanied by remarks from the judges which recognised the positive contribution to their environment the young people were trying to make.

Showcasing Young People's Interests and Activities

Completed entry forms arrived at the WSTC in May accompanied by evidence of individual actions and thoughts which were illustrated in a range of ways such as videos, pictures and drawings, photographs, and writing. The entries set out young people's environmental concerns.

Here are just some examples of what our young people said in relation to:

The need to reduce environmental harm contributed to by littering pollution, especially plastic pollution.

Picking up plastic helps the environment and I do it so the world will stay healthy and plastic free for the future generations to come (**Isabel 14yrs**)

I try to keep my school clean and tidy by picking up litter (**Alexander 6yrs**)

While we were cycling we found lots of rubbish on the pathways, people throwing their rubbish out of their car windows so we decided to grab a litter picker and a black bag and a recycling bag to pick up the litter. It's bad for the environment and it doesn't look nice (**Lily 8yrs**)

To increase and improve where possible all forms of recycling and reuse.

I recycle at home with my mum and dad and I always check that they've put it in the right bin as dad sometimes gets it wrong (**Clara 7yrs**)

We went into the woods to collect unused plastic tree protectors we picked up lots of bags full of them it felt very good to do it because there are lots of sharp edges and they could have injured the wildlife that we saw like rabbits and birds so it was good to help them (**Finley 14yrs**)

I reused old furniture that was waiting to go to the tip, old toys and clothes to make a scarecrow. I had lots of fun saving the environment especially making my scarecrow Bob (**Jasper 7yrs**)

To encourage everyone to be more thoughtful and careful about the use of fossil fuel driven energy.

I scoot to school to help with pollution, it means there are less cars (**Stanley 7yrs**)

At home I'm responsible for turning the lights and TV off if no one is using them. I'm inspired by David Attenborough (**Lorima 8yrs**)

I like to conserve energy by switching off lights and electrics at home and school (**Gracie-Mae 9yrs**)

To look for simple ways to encourage and support wildflowers, pollination, and the bee population in our town.



I put a bee house in my back garden. Then I put sunflower seeds around it to attract the bees. So will pollinate the flowers. I enjoy watching the bees visit the house
(Daisy Mae 7yrs)

I have planted flowers to attract and help bees. We need bees to pollinate
(Daisy 8)

I think it's important that we all have bee friendly flowers in our gardens to encourage them so that it helps the local plants and farmers with their crops for us all to have food
(Archie 9yrs)

To find ways to actively encourage a healthy and diverse bug population in our gardens.

I have got a bug hotel. We need insects for a healthy garden or vegetable patch
(Molly 6yrs)

I created a bug home with twigs old fruit skins and the bugs moved in to make compost
(Isabella 9yrs)

To create the best possible environment to support our bird population and access to sources of food.

I made some bird feeders out of toast peanut butter and bird seed I put them in the garden and around Parklands to attract more birds
(Holly 6yrs)

I like to see birds feeding and having a bath and making nests in the box to help them live
(Ella 6yrs)

I want to do my part for the earth so I've been planting fruit and vegetable seeds

(Ellie 9yrs)

I dug a hole planted the tree and fertilised it with horse manure and straw
(Henry 9yrs)

Our Special Award Winners

We were able to present three of our young people with special awards for their excellent entries. All are pupils at Swallowfield school, they were Phoebe aged 5 years for her detailed and creative ways to promote environmental awareness and to fund litter picking tools and Archie and Holly aged 5 and 9 years who had put their ideas into positive actions to support the bird and bee population, as well as taking action to create a mini meadow.

In The Future

It was very encouraging to see our young environmentalists taking action in their homes, schools and out in our local green spaces to create a healthier environment for people and wildlife in the future. We wish them all the very best in their environmental activities going forward.

Now the Awards are over for 2022 we want to share the ideas from the award entries to meet another of the main aims of the awards which was to stimulate other members of our community to engage in environmentally friendly changes now to contribute positively to lives in Woburn Sands in the future, the environment that our young people will grow up in. You can look forward to seeing more about the ideas and thoughts that the young people had. We will also be in discussion with schools, local organisations, and groups to see how we can take the awards forward in the future.



MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA

**Summer Bank Holiday
Music Extravaganza.
All totally free. What a bargain!**

Enjoy a wide range of music genres over the Summer Bank Holiday.

The popular **Woburn Sands Music Festival** plays out on **Saturday and Sunday (28th/29th August 2022)** from 1.00 on the Rec and the pubs 'til 10.30pm. The main stage is in the Recreation Ground while smaller, more intimate renditions will be staged at The Weathercock, The Fir Tree Inn, and The Royal Oak. This brings together the whole town in a joyous cacophony of sound and celebration, while helping to raise money for local charities.

Last year £800 was raised - £400 each for Love Woburn Sands and Friends of Wavendon School. This year they are supporting Love Woburn Sands, Al's Pals and Keeping Kids Off the Streets.

There should be something for everyone to enjoy.

Bring the whole family and your friends, a picnic and something to quaff, support local eateries and drinkeries (is there such a word?!), and laze away the summer day. You will not only be helping to raise funds (bring lots of loose change) but also the High Street businesses which have kept Woburn Sands vibrant through the long hard years of the pandemic.



For the traditionalists, **The Woburn Sands Band** will be playing from 1.30 on Mowbray Green on Monday 30th August.

Bring a chair, a blanket and broly (if needed) and listen to the mellow sounds of the Brass Band. We are so lucky to have such an organisation in Woburn Sands and will enjoy listening to all ages play favourite melodies.

The results of The Woburn Sands Garden Competition will be announced and prizes (courtesy of Frosts Garden Centre) awarded, while the band committee will be raising funds for the band with refreshments and a raffle draw at 4.15.

Now it's your turn to support the community of Woburn Sands.



WOBURN SANDS GARDEN COMPETITION IS OPEN TO ALL!

We would love to see some new entrants this year, you do not need to have a big garden or even any garden - you can enter pots and hanging baskets.

There are generous prizes from Frosts Garden Centre as well as trophies for the winners.

See the poster below for further information.



Woburn Sands Annual Garden Competition

Sponsored by Frosts Garden Centre

We are pleased to announce that, once again, Frost's Garden Centre are sponsoring the prizes for this year's Woburn Sands annual garden competition. We are most grateful to Frosts for their continuing support of all Woburn Sands gardeners.

All residents of the Woburn Sands community who love their plants and gardens are most welcome to enter. It would be great to see new participants entering this competition whether green fingered or not!

The theme for this year's competition is

Beautiful Environmentally Friendly Garden

The four categories are the same as last year:

- Front Garden
- Back Garden
- Container Garden (pots, hanging baskets, window boxes)
- Community/Business Floral Display

There will be prizes for the best three in each category and certificates for the best Community and Business entries.

To enter email ajordan@frosts.org.uk giving your name, address, and which category you are entering; or telephone 01908 585368. Deadline for entries is 9am on Friday 15th July.

Judging will take place on Monday 25th July. You do not need to be home but please let us know how to access the rear garden if applicable.

THANK YOU MIKE

After many long years of stalwart service, the Town Council would like to thank Mike Smith for his many years of loyal service to the community.

We all wish Mike a very happy and well-deserved rest in his retirement.



NETWORK RAIL FOOTPATHS

Network Rail are going to be working on two footpath schemes, one widening the path along Cranfield Road and one through the Recreation Ground, both designed to provide safer walking routes near the level crossing. It is unfortunate that despite pressure from the Town Council to build a bridge to replace the old School Crossing, this will not be the case.

Work on the former will be weekdays

from 9.30-16.00

Tuesday 28th June-Tuesday 19th June

and the latter weekdays

from Thursday 21st July-

Friday 19th August.

UPDATE ON SUPPORT FOR THE HIGH STREET

Following the success of the High Street map and information leaflet, the Woburn Sands High Street tote bags, and the new High Street notice board in the car park, all of which were supported by the Additional Regeneration Grant backed by Milton Keynes Council, The Town Council will be applying for funding from the Economic Regeneration Grant to improve the infrastructure of the High Street. This will include amongst other things an external power supply on the Memorial Green side of the Institute, a new bench on the Memorial Green and repairs to the seat by the bus stop.

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL ARE RECRUITING

We are looking for a reliable, trustworthy person for weekend cover of our hall bookings. You will:

- be the person called in case of emergencies at weekends
- support hall hirers by phone (provided) at the weekends

The successful applicant will need to be available most weekends. You will not be necessarily have to go out to the halls, but you need to be able to go out if needed.

For further information

email a.jordan@wstc.org.uk or phone **01908 585368**

