

Old Woughton Parish Council Newsletter

Woughton Park

Woughton-on-the-Green

Passmore



KEEPING YOU IN TOUCH!

*Welcome to the February 2017
issue of the Old Woughton
Parish Council Newsletter.*

Budget 2017 - 2018

You will be pleased to know that the Parish Council has voted unanimously to keep the precept the same as the last 2 years. We maintain tight control over our operating costs and scrutinise all expenditure as if it was our own cash! Money has been spent on the Allotments and the War Memorial and we agreed to develop a list of Parish Improvement Projects to be paid for with our surplus reserves and any other available grant funding. Your views were sought and we have received some further ideas, more are always welcome. In the last newsletter we asked for your views on MKC's budget plans to devolve non-statutory tasks such as landscaping to Parishes without the transfer of money to pay for them. We will be formulating our policy on this at the March PC meeting and would be grateful for the views of residents who haven't yet offered them.

Rose Beds

It has been suggested by a resident of our parish that the rose beds located at the junction of the footpath between Castle Rose and Foxton where it crosses the Redway are in serious need of care. These were a picture of red roses all summer long but in recent years have been neglected; they are now full of nettles and tree saplings. It would be great if they could be restored as an enhancement to the environment. There is a rose bed on Passmore which is maintained by two residents and is much appreciated.

Perhaps there is a desire in the parish to set up a gardening group that would be willing to care for such areas? OWPC could provide some initial funding to get the project and group up and running. If so, please contact us via the clerk: clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk Also, you might like to visit our website and look for "Grow Wild" at

<http://oldwoughton.org.uk/2017/01/24/grow-wild-funding-for-2017/>

Canal Adoption

Adoption of our stretch of the Grand Union Canal is currently in progress but there are some procedures that have to be formalised by the Canal & River Trust before the agreement is finalised.

When these are complete we will receive a certificate and the relevant documents.

C&RT will then agree activities with us and provide relevant support, training and supervision, whilst we will endeavour to support their aims and objectives.

This is all about us owning and celebrating the waterway running through our community so do come and join in on the volunteer days. There will be a variety of activities including towpath repairs, litter picking and possibly hedge trimming.



Allotment Break In



Unfortunately there has been a break-in at the Allotments in Woughton on the Green, during the night of 11th January. Items were stolen from the hut, shop and storage container. If anybody saw or heard any activity at the allotments that night, please contact the police using 101.

Moving House?

When you move, you are not automatically registered to vote at your new address, even if you pay council tax. If you don't register you may not be able to vote in elections etc.

Registering to vote is straightforward, go to

www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Or call 01908 254706



Woughton on the Green Secret Orchard

The Mid Shires Orchard Group now runs the orchard on behalf of the Parks Trust. This orchard is next to the community orchard but is not open to the public apart



from event days. It has over 100 varieties of apple, pear and plum trees and is a lovely place to be - a hidden sanctuary of peaceful retreat and natural beauty in the heart of the city. There is now an opportunity to visit and partake in activities every third Saturday of the month. The next meeting will be on February 18th at 1pm. Congregate at entrance of the Orchard and bring working gloves and pruning shears. Children and well behaved dogs welcome.

Feasting and Carols

Towards the end of November, around 25 residents of Passmore enjoyed their annual pre-Christmas meal at the Inn on the Lake. The food was excellent and there was much laughter.

On Christmas Eve upwards of 40 residents of Woughton Park gathered in Foxton for the annual carols. Mulled wine flowed and there were plenty of nibbles to accompany it. Many of the old favourites were sung plus a rendition of



a couple of specials from the "Singing4fun" Group. The session ended with a rip roaring chorus of "We Wish You a Merry Christmas". Thanks must go to the Houghs for supplying the venue, and for keeping the voices well and truly lubricated.

In mid-January, the residents of Passmore again met for fun and food, this time in a home on the estate. 26 folk gathered for a delicious spread and there was a brief musical interlude supplied by some residents on the piano.



On the 23rd January Woughton Heritage, together with over 120 residents enjoyed a relaxing coffee morning to celebrate the official 50th Birthday of Milton Keynes. Visitors had the chance to view some of our material and enjoy delicious coffee, cake and conversation! A huge thank you to Mercure Parkside Hotel for their fantastic hospitality and generous welcome! Further information will be available in the next newsletter about forthcoming events. In February we start to plan our next exhibition: the development of the area since 1967. If you would like to join the group:

Please contact: Woughtonheritage@gmail.com



Parish Council Meetings 2017:

Monday 13th March 7.30pm

Monday 10th April 7.30pm [Annual Parish Meeting]

Monday 8th May 7.30pm [Annual General Meeting]

*All held in St Mary's Church,
Woughton on the Green*

The first 15 minutes of each meeting is reserved for the public to address the Council with questions or issues you wish to bring to our attention.

How to contact us:

Email us through the clerk:

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk

Telephone: Landline: 01908 465811

Mobile: 07866 412706

Write to us:

P.O. Box 7575, Milton Keynes, MK11 9GR

For all Email contact details visit our website at

www.oldwoughton.org.uk

Also find us on **Facebook**

Search "Friends of Old Woughton"