

OLD WOUGHTON

Spring 2019

News

OWPC
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Milton Keynes
MK11 9GR

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Who's Who in the Parish

OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Old Woughton is divided into 4 small wards.
Details of your local Councillors are listed below.

Woughton on the Green North



Rob Grindley
Planning, Projects,
Transport, Liaison
for Woughton Playing
Fields/Pavilion

rgrindley@
oldwoughton.org.uk



Roy Kenyon
Allotments, Finance
& Budget, Projects,
Liaison for Transport

rkenyon@
oldwoughton.org.uk



Phil Nash
Allotments,
Communications,
OWIS/IT, Projects

pnash@
oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton on the Green South



Ray Brown
Allotments, Finance &
Budget, Planning, Projects,
Village Greens/
Rights of Way

rbrown@oldwoughton.org.uk



Charlotte Hall
VICE CHAIR
Finance & Budget,
Planning, Projects Lead, Liaison for Parks
Trust, OWPC Representative - Welfare Trust

chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton Park



**Vanessa
Freeman Gwynn**
Planning, Projects,
Liaison for MKC Consultations,
Parks Trust

vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk



Andrew Humphries
CHAIR
Finance & Budget,
Village Greens/Rights of Way, Projects,
Liaison for MKC Consultations,
Woughton Playing Fields/Pavilion

ahumphries@oldwoughton.org.uk

Passmore



Mary Major
Dog Bins,
Noticeboards, Projects

mmajor@oldwoughton.org.uk



Vacancy

The Borough of Milton Keynes is divided into larger wards, OWPC is part of the Campbell Park
and Old Woughton Ward. *Your ward councillors are:*

Clerk



Julian Vischer
Finance & Budget,
Environment, OWIS/IT

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



Terry Baines

terry.baines@milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 01908 730314 / 07846 697237



Peter McDonald

peter.mcdonald@milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 01908 673279



Ric Brackenbury

ric.brackenbury@milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 01908 691691 Civic Offices



Our Next Parish Council Meetings Are On Monday:

8th April 2019 - Annual Parish Meeting
13th May 2019 - AGM
8th July 2019

VENUE: St Mary's Church,
Newport Road MK6 3BS

TIMES OF MEETINGS : 7.30pm

CONTACT US

www.oldwoughton.org.uk

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*Friends of
Old Woughton PC*

Editorial

OLD WOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Hello and welcome to Old Woughton P.C.'s Spring Newsletter. It's amazing to think we're already a quarter of the way through 2019, but getting to the start of British Summer Time keeps us wishing weeks away and why wouldn't you crave lighter evenings for walking this lovely parish of ours – and maybe taking the winning photograph for the next Newsletter cover page?! Thanks to all those neighbours who have already provided **shots for this edition** – the idea is building and the Comms. Team had an enjoyable time choosing this quarter's winner – we hope you agree that it maintains the standard perfectly. Keep them coming!

The Spring also brings a **new financial year** for the parish council from 1st April and, as the Chair set out last quarter, a nil increase has been achieved for 2019/20, whilst still allowing for small projects to be implemented. Don't forget that the budget now includes an earmarked sum of £2,000 for each of Old Woughton's four wards to address very local initiatives and so if you have issues you'd like speedily addressed do please contact your local councillor (see page opposite) and let's get to work on these soonest.

There is currently another **parish council vacancy** for the Passmore Ward and so we include in this issue some basic information about why becoming involved with the first tier of British governance might be the opportunity to contribute that you've been looking for. We'd like to hear from you if you'd want further information on this subject since May 2020 brings 'All Out' elections (ie all 9 seats on Old Woughton P.C. are to be contested together). This will be only the third time this has occurred since our inception in 2012. Why not think about it – you can help make things happen and working with our partner agencies can be very rewarding.

A case in point is the **Milton Keynes Parks Trust** and our centrefold this quarter is given over to its crucially important role on our doorsteps. MKPT is a registered charity and is responsible for raising all its own funds and yet how many of us realised that it is responsible for the management of almost all of the public open space in Old Woughton. If you enjoy this partner focus, please contact us with others you'd like us to cover in future editions. Meanwhile, happy gardening everyone!

EMAIL: Communications@oldwoughton.org.uk
CHARLOTTE, PHIL AND VANESSA



The Chairman

OLD WOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

We in Old Woughton Parish Council welcome you all to a busy new year. You can rest assured that we are ready to deal energetically with all the challenges that face us. These include getting the playing fields rights of way registered, seeing the conservation area review through to a satisfactory completion, guiding us to the right decision over who does our landscape maintenance, and several other smaller, pressing tasks. We have just agreed our budget for 2019/20 and you will all be glad that there will be no increase in the precept – this is the 6th year in a row. We pride ourselves on our parsimony, after all, it's your money we are spending.

On the 8th April at 19.30 we will be holding our Annual Meeting in St Mary's. We will give you a 'state of the nation' presentation reviewing all we have done in the last year, all we are doing this year and our plans for the future. You can ask questions and make as many points as you like. In particular we are always interested in hearing your views and ideas for Parish Improvement Projects. Do come along, it's a social evening with refreshments and a chance to say hello to friends, neighbours and your parish councillors.

ANDREW HUMPHRIES
Chair, Old Woughton Parish Council

E-MAIL: ahumphries@oldwoughton.org.uk

MK MARATHON WEEKEND – 5TH & 6TH MAY 2019

Picturesque Old Woughton parish will again play host to a section of the route for this year's Milton Keynes Marathon. As with previous years the three events on the day, the marathon, half marathon and marathon relay, all cross the green from Peartree Bridge and head north up Newport Road. There's plenty of opportunity to come out and support all the runners. It does mean that the Green will be closed to traffic between 10:15am and 11:50am and Newport Road north of the Green will be closed between 10:30am and 12:10pm on **May 6th**.

There is also a **5K run** on **May 5th** called the MK Rocket 5K. This does not pass through Old Woughton parish, but will cause parts of Saxon Street south of the city centre to be closed before 10:30am on May 5th.



For full details of all road closures in Milton Keynes on May 5th and 6th you can visit the MK Marathon website at <http://mkmarathon.com/road-closures/>

The Parks Trust – Keeping Your Green Space Beautiful and Inspiring All Year Round

The Parks Trust is an independent charity that looks after over 6,000 acres of green space across Milton Keynes. This includes several sites in the boundary for the Old Woughton Parish Council (coloured in green on the map above), such as Ouzel Valley Park as it runs between Woughton on the Green and Monkston Park, and Walton Lake.

The Parks Trust is self-financing, which means it creates the money it needs to manage and maintain the city's parkland itself, without relying on any funding from local or central government. It is completely separate from the council and does not receive any of the money generated by council taxes. One of its key methods for generating income is through an extensive and varied property portfolio, which includes offices, industrial workshops and storage units and retail opportunities – many of which are located in Milton Keynes itself.

Alongside looking after the parks and landscapes, The Parks Trust also organises and enables over 450 events every year in its green space. Ranging from large events such as Festival of Nature and World Picnic, through to organised runs and walking groups, there is something for everyone, whatever your age or ability.

Over the next few months, there will be a variety of events held in or around the Old Woughton Parish Council area:

Thursday 4th April, 10am: Women's Walking Network, Ouzel Valley Park. Meet in the car park at Woughton Playing Fields, Newport Road, Woughton on the Green.

Monday 15th April, 10am: Community Litter Pick, Ouzel Valley Park. Meet by the 'Water Garden' car park, Newport Road, Woughton on the Green.

Sunday 12th May, 10am: Orienteering, Caldecotte Lake. Park in the car park behind the Windmill Pub, Lakeside Grove, H10 Bletcham Way.

Sunday 2nd June, 10am: Parks and Run, Caldecotte Lake. Park in the car park behind the Windmill Pub, Lakeside Grove, H10 Bletcham Way.

Wednesday 26th June, 6.30pm: Discover: Tree Identification, Ouzel Valley Park. Meet by the 'Water Garden' car park, Newport Road, Woughton on the Green.



Copy Right and Thanks to the Parks Trust

The green spaces in the Old Woughton Parish Council area managed by The Parks Trust are patrolled regularly by a dedicated Community Ranger, who can monitor for any issues, interact with the public and relevant community groups. Landscaping work including tree management, repairs and planting is then handled by the area's specialised team – whose details are found at the end of this article.

Over the next couple of months there is no major work planned, however ongoing maintenance will continue with mowing completed in April. In addition, during the summer months resurfacing will be carried out on the Canal Broadwalk and some of the supporting leisure routes as it travels up towards the V7 from Verley Close. (See opposite)

The Parks Trust tries to manage land in a way that fits in with traditional uses, while understanding that it is multi-faceted; functioning as wildlife habitat, flood defence and general public open space, including specific visitor attractions. As part of this, certain areas of its land are used for farming; both providing grazing sites for cattle and livestock to graze and growing grass to be cut as hay. Thanks to the combination of grazing in areas such as the Floodplain Forest, and production of hay from parkland such as sections of Monkston and Simpson as well as the Green at



The Parks Trust - Facts and Figures

It costs the Trust around **£6million** each year to care for the parks and landscapes in Milton Keynes

The Parks Trust owns over **135 hectares of wildflower-rich meadow land**, the equivalent of around 193 football pitches

Over **130 ponds** are flourishing in The Parks Trust's care and are important habitats for dragonflies and other wildlife

The Trust's **sheep and cattle graze around 750 acres** of its parkland, helping to create a richer diversity of wildlife and encourage the growth of wildflower rich meadows

On average The Parks Trust **plants around 40,000 new trees and shrubs each year** to replace plants dying out or those affected by utility works and landscape remodelling

The Parks Trust provides **environmental education programmes for around 6,000 people**, and is **supported by over 200 volunteers** from the local community

Woughton on the Green, the Milton Keynes green space provides a food source for cattle all year round.

The Parks Trust works with a farming partner (Luke Stacey), who looks after herds of sheep and livestock for the Trust. This relationship functions very much like those at the historical, grand homes across the UK; The Parks Trust is the estates manager, while Luke is the farming manager. Revenue from the sale of these herds is used to fund the farming enterprise and invested back into the estate, allowing such activities as conservation management of hedges and grass swards (e.g. encouraging conditions for wildflower to grow).

If you would like to find out more about The Parks Trust and the work it does then visit www.theparkstrust.com or follow us on the Trust's dedicated pages on **Facebook, Instagram** and **Twitter**.

The Parks Trust is always happy to answer any questions you may have. Please do contact us on the details below.



Your Parks Trust contacts for Old Woughton: Tel: 01908 233600

Mark Colton – Area Manager

Frank Gill – Landscape & Direct Works Manager

Susi Jensen – Community Ranger

Canal & River Trust



"My name is Laura and I work for the Canal and River Trust as the Volunteering Leader for the South East region. My role is really varied, covering both the Grand Union and Oxford Canal, working with volunteers from all walks of life from lockkeepers to community groups, to Duke of Edinburgh students. I have been in post for six months now and still have much of the network to visit, however I have been to see the Old Woughton stretch of the Grand Union and was kindly

shown around by Judith and Vanessa. I was blown away by the hard work I can see that the local community here have undertaken to improve the towpath, and it really is a great example of what the Trust wants to achieve across its wider networks, building relationships with local people to make the waterways as accessible and usable for everyone.

If you took part in these improvements then I want to say a huge thank you from everyone at the Canal and River Trust. Since access for towpath materials to be delivered by road has been exhausted in the area, we have hit a few hiccups in progress with our creaky old crane boat breaking down not once, but twice en route to deliver new materials. However this is merely a temporary bump in the road (or towpath, as it were).

We are also working with members of the volunteer team to plan other improvements to the area, such as cleaning up graffiti and replacing missing bricks from Peartree bridge, so watch this space for volunteer activities near you soon!"

LAURA
Canal and River Trust



Parish Councillor - could it be you?

Allotments; community safety; litter; rights of way; street furniture; and war memorials. These are just some of the local issues Old Woughton P. C. progresses on your behalf. In MK, we are the first of three tiers of government responsible for public service delivery, together with MKC (the Principal Authority) and the UK Government. Although each tier works intensively with the others, they are quite independent and hold their own elections with successful candidates accountable to you, their constituent.

Being a parish councillor can be incredibly rewarding and need only take a few hours of your time each week, depending upon what you choose to get involved with. The public meetings, for example, are a bi-monthly commitment of approximately 90 minutes. There is also case work, where you get to help neighbours resolve individual matters, whilst contributing to planning consultations and managing the precept. There is a broad power of community interest on behalf of residents' concerns, which allows action to be taken in many areas. A case in point is liaising with partner bodies, and elsewhere in this issue we focus on the Parks Trust in the first of a series showing the benefits of time invested in collaborations such as this.

DID YOU KNOW THAT OWPC:



- Has nine councillors serving its four wards (see p.2)
- Councillors are volunteers (qualifying expenses are re-imbursed)
- Elections are held every 4 years (the next are due in May 2020)
- Councillors represent very approx. 40 dwellings each
- Is a corporate body and its decisions are taken collectively
- Has a paid Clerk for 5 hours per week (Julian Vischer)
- Band D Precept is roughly 41p a week Per household
- Meets every two months at St. Mary's Church

Co-options

In the event that a councillor cannot complete their full 4-year term, the parish council has the ability to Co-opt a parishioner by application and interview. This process is currently underway in Passmore ward and the successful Co-optee will serve until the All-out elections in May 2020.

Thank you, I'm convinced,
how do I express an interest?

You can approach any of your local councillors or the Clerk for an informal discussion or e-mail the Comms. Team on communications@oldwoughton.org.uk we'd love to talk to you.

Our Rowan are going...



Photo: Lucas Place, Woughton on the Green.
MKCDC Archive.

Did you know that in 1975-77, when Lucas Place was first built, each house facing the road had its own tree? This means there were originally 34 rowans, yet only ten survive today, with most of those (6no.) located at just one end of the street.

Hedgehog Highway!

At this time of year many of you will be planning a number of maintenance projects and opportunities to develop and re-design your gardens and green spaces.

The parish of Old Woughton is very lucky to have such a special 'rural' core and so we take this opportunity to remind you what you could do to help support the hedgehog community which has over recent years been decimated by a number of factors. If you feel the urge to replace or upgrade a fence, *why not leave a gap or hole in your structures, to allow hedgehogs to move between gardens and green corridors.* Did you know that a hedgehog can travel up to a mile during the night. As a rule of thumb, the hole or gap needs to be a minimum of 13 x 13cm.

Water – is a significant factor – why not leave out a shallow bowl – (easily accessible and which will allow a hedgehog to escape should it fall in). The birds will love this too!

Sick Hedgehogs – you will find that if a hedgehog is seen in daytime, they are likely to be unwell: ticks, lung worm (you will hear a rasping sound), starving (loss of nursing parent), dehydration or disturbed environments will force hedgehogs out into the daylight hours.

Remember also that if you put out food for hedgehogs that they are unable to digest milk and fish, so use the meat varieties of cat and dog food / biscuits which they will love (always have water available).

Why not leave a 'wild corner' in your garden and a potential home for our prickly friends!

If you find hedgehogs are out during the day and of low weight

Rowan trees (or Mountain Ash), are small ornamental trees developing colourful red berries from summer onwards. These berries are a good source of food for over wintering birds including blackbirds and thrushes and, if you look carefully in the hedging alongside the footpath, you can see the odd stump or indentation where the old trees used to be:

There is a possibility that the Parish Council could assist with planting replacement trees and wants to know whether local residents think it is a good idea before embarking on a project. We would also be interested to hear from anyone with old photographs or, indeed, memories of Lucas Place, especially if you are a resident who has lived in the area from when they were first built. If you have any views on these proposals or have your own ideas please approach the local parish councillor Robert Grindley at no. 1.

email

rgrindley@oldwoughton.org.uk

in the autumn (less than 600 grams by November) then you can take them to '**Tiggywinkles**'..... Who will get them well and fit to be reintroduced back into Old Woughton at the appropriate time.

'Twiglet' was found out in the middle of a very hot day – he was underweight and suffering from lung worm and a tick infestation. Tiggywinkles treated him and made him ready for an independent life.

Tiggywinkles is a unique wild animal teaching hospital- why not go and pay a visit.....you will be amazed at their work. www.tiggywinkles.com



'Twiglet' was found in the road - The Green - last Summer

Does my Bin look big like this?

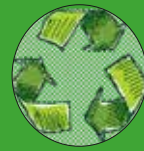
M K Council provides every property with a green wheelie bin for grass, weeds, leaves, clean sawdust, hay and bark, small branches (under 15cm in diameter) and almost all food waste, which helps keep the streets clean especially on bin day itself. Leaving food waste in your black sack encourages wildlife like foxes, birds and rats, which are attracted by the smells, to rip them open to get at the food, often leaving residents to clear up.

However, the big green wheelie bin (140 litres) may not be right for you if you have neither a garden nor a place to store it, for example. If this applies to you then help is at hand as you can request an exchange for a more manageable green caddy (23 litres), which is ideal for weekly food scraps plus a small amount of garden waste and best of all is easily stored away, perhaps in your bin cupboard or neatly next to your front door.

You can request this exchange directly by visiting the website:

<https://mycouncil.milton-keynes.gov.uk>. Alternatively, a Parish Councillor can organise this for you. If this is of interest, just provide your name and address stating **'yes, I would like to exchange my 140 litre green bin for a 23 litre green caddy'**. All responses will be collated at the end of April 2019 and sent to MK Council as a bulk change request.

email
rgrindley@oldwoughton.org



EASTER WASTE RE-CYCLING Bank Holiday Recycling arrangements

Easter Sunday (21st April)

Normal Date
Wed 24th April

Revised Date
Thurs 25th April

May Day (6th May)

Normal Date
Wed 8th May

Revised Date
Thurs 9th May

Spring Bank Hol (27th May)

Normal Date
Wed 29th May

Revised Date
Thurs 30th

The household waste site at Bleak Hall is open from **8am to 8pm** from the **1st April to 30th September**. For further information

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/>

Progress @ The Patch

There is a formal Devolved Management Agreement between the Patch Allotment Association (PAA) and the Parish Council, which enables the PAA to manage the Patch allotments on its behalf. It came into effect at the start of the new patch year in October 2018. The PAA itself is run by an elected committee of tenants, supported by a management team responsible for day to day allotment management. The PAA also elects three independent Trustees (who do not have to be tenants), to help ensure delivery of the PAA's obligations to OWPC under the new Agreement.

Has the recent Spring weather given you itchy feet?

Have you been cheered by the sight of the snowdrops and daffodils bravely leading the charge towards the growing season or do you just think a buffer against any Brexit shortages is a sensible plan?

Then there is good news: **the Patch has 6 prime plots**, (yes, just six from over 200 plots) available to rent now! So, come and visit The Patch any morning between 10.00-12.00 to look round and sign up. The Patch has excellent facilities, including a shop and toilet. Alternatively send an email to



allotments@oldwoughton.org.uk

and we can arrange to meet you there at your convenience.

Cleaning Up!

Quietly going about their business, many neighbours return from walks buoyed up by the fresh air, but weighed down by litter left by people who don't love our parish like we do. To each of you many thanks from the parish council, you are making a visible difference!

For those of you who prefer team activity, there are opportunities to get involved right on the horizon:

5th April brings the Inland Waterways Association canal-side clean up. The litter pick starts at Fenny Lock at 10.00 before progressing through the parish during the morning. Please e-mail: pat.durham@team.waterways.org.uk to volunteer.

6th April brings Keep Britain Tidy's 'Great British Spring Clean'. Parish councillors will set off from the tree bench opposite Ye Olde Swan at 10.00 (and may well return there when hunger kicks in!). Come and join us for some fresh air fun. E-mail: communications@oldwoughton.org.uk for more details or just turn up.

