

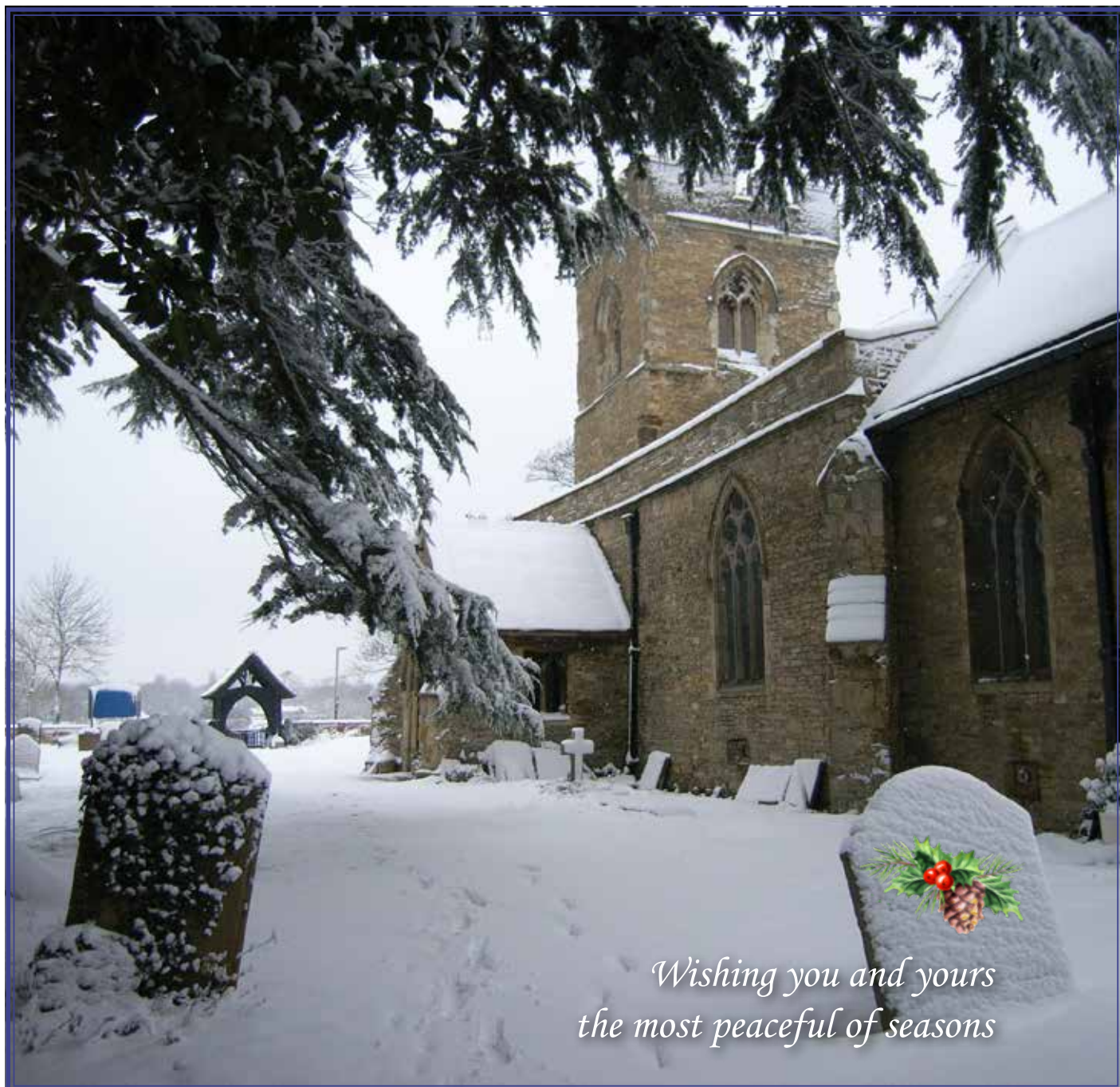
OLD WUGHTON

News

The Newsletter of Old Woughton Parish Council



OWPC
● ● ● ●



*Wishing you and yours
the most peaceful of seasons*

PO Box 7575
Milton Keynes
MK11 9GR

E: clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk

T: 01908 465811

W: www.oldwoughton.org.uk

Who's Who in the Parish

OLD WOUGHTON 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,
Liaison for Woughton
Playing Fields/Pavilion,
Transport

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,
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,
Communication

chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton Park



**Vanessa
Freeman Gwynn**

Planning, Projects,
Liaison for MKC Consultations,
Parks Trust, Liaison Canal and River Trust,
Communications

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,
Finance and Budget,
Liaison for MKC Consultations,
Liaison Canal & River Trust'

mmajor@oldwoughton.org.uk



Jeremy Morrison

Liaison for Canal and River Trust,
Communications Projects

jmorrison@oldwoughton.org.uk

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,
Data Protection Office

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



Terry Baines

terry.baines@milton-keynes.gov.uk

T. 01908 730314 / 07846 697237



Paul Trendall

paul.trendall@milton-keynes.gov.uk

T. 07793 080425



Ric Brackenbury

ric.brackenbury@milton-keynes.gov.uk

T. 01908 691691 Civic Offices



**Our Next Parish Council
Meetings Are On Monday:**

**January 13th 2020
March 9th 2020**

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

TIMES OF MEETINGS : 7.30pm

CONTACT US



www.oldwoughton.org.uk



01908 465811



clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



OWPC, PO Box 7575,
Milton Keynes, MK11 9GR



*Friends of
Old Woughton PC*



This quarter we bring you **tidings of comfort and joy!**

The **comfort** of the familiar:

- the Chair's column and his sound budget pronouncements and annual Precept projection;
- the results of the latest Communication survey – all quiet on the concerns front with helpful ideas for the future still coming;
- the latest partner review, where Age:UK MK explains what it's like to be our neighbour and how they'd like to deepen that relationship; and
- the back page delight of regular fixtures and festive recycling arrangements.

There is real **joy** too – rather a lot of it actually:

- The first recipient of OWPC's new Recognition Scheme is announced (p7);
- A celebration of the bells of St. Mary's and the story of the bell ringers' success and national standing (pp4/5);
- The delivery of the PC's first Old Woughton calendar; and
- A lovely example of 'Well done Old Woughton!' from statutory partners, with MKC's Mayor Cllr. Sam Crooks joining the Towpath Team in November (below)

Finally, our attention turns to those pesky **New Year's resolutions** and, in our continuing efforts to be helpful, might we tempt you to further exercise by:

- taking on an allotment, if you haven't already?
- joining a quarterly litter pick – they rotate through each of the four parish wards, should you fancy a change of scene (always check the back page for details);
- becoming part of the Towpath Team, who will get back in harness as soon as the Spring weather arrives; and/or
- signing up to OWPC's Notification Scheme for alerting you to urgent items flagged to the parish council – just go to: Communications@oldwoughton.org.uk

Well, that's it for 2019 folks, enjoy every moment of your winter festivals however you take them!

The Comms. Team - Charlotte, Phil & Vanessa

EMAIL: Communications@oldwoughton.org.uk



MK Mayor, Cllr Sam Crooks pictured with the Towpath Team - 8th November 2019

Lest old acquaintance be forgot...

So many neighbours and partners have helped us in the development of Old Woughton News during 2019 and OWPC appreciates that very much indeed. Especial thanks this year must go to Hayley Price of Bespoke Media, for styling our articles for your better enjoyment. Thank you one and all!



The Chairman

OLD WOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Great news! At long last Woughton Park has a brand-new bus shelter to enclose our seat which used to pile high with bird droppings. Much of the credit for this achievement must go to Peter McDonald when as Ward Councillor he persuaded MKC to put us on their list! The formal opening and ribbon-cutting took place on 25th October. Working in partnership really gets results.

Talking of working together, we have completed our current programme of litter-picking in each parish ward. MKC provides the bags and collects the full ones, the Parish Council provides the equipment and numerous residents have joined in to clear the hedges and ditches of rubbish that has been there, in many cases, for years. In the same spirit, our joint efforts with the Canals & Rivers Trust and the Parks Trust have been forging ahead with our project to re-surface the towpath. We are almost done with just the last major stretch between the Peartree pub and the old bridge at the top of the allotments still to complete. The Mayor Sam Crooks joined us on 8th November and got a real feel for our enthusiastic community involvement.

It's budget time again. We proposed a budget for 2020 – 21 at our November meeting and you will see the details on our website and on the notice boards. Please take a look and give us your comments because we must finalise the budget at our January meeting. Our core operating expenses have remained about the same so the good news is we will not be raising the precept. We are also making strenuous efforts to spend some of our reserves which are still over £50k. The Ward projects are making very good progress and residents are actively engaging to plan how the £2000 per area is to be spent. Please let us have your views on these and any other ideas.

Looking ahead, we are moving into uncharted times over the ways that landscaping services can be delivered in Milton Keynes. There may be alternatives to 'doing it ourselves' including possibly the Parks Trust taking on the role. What we can probably guarantee is that money will become tighter and tighter but, you can depend on us to be vigilant and to adopt the most cost-effective policy.

Finally, your parish council; Charlotte, Jeremy, Julian, Mary, Phil, Ray, Rob, Roy, Vanessa and I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and we look forward to working with you in 2020!

RINGING THE CHANGES

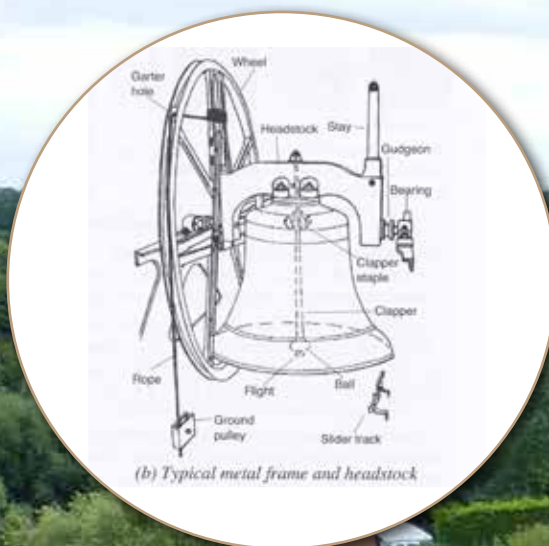
Handling change has become a significant factor in all our lives and this was certainly the case in September 1974 when my wife Norma and I, together with Chris and Rachael (both under 10), drew up outside 28 Passmore, the removal van having left the sleepy village of Portishead, then in Somerset, early that morning. My reason for bringing the family to MK was to take up a new national role in business systems development.

Determined to get involved in the local community we found our way to St Mary's church which was also embracing change with major refurbishment internally, a new congregation and facing the concept of Ecumenism, however that is another story. My first task at St Mary's was to clear out the room at the base of the tower. A simple enough task except that this 14th Century tower had hidden secrets to yield including a William IV Coat of Arms, an ancient clock, a peal of bells, a weathervane, a leaking roof and crumbling masonry. All of these have been part of my life since joining St Mary's, particularly the bells. There is a lovely view of the whole parish from the roof of the tower. A moment and place for reflection on life's purpose.



William IV Coat of Arms

I knew nothing about ringing church bells in 1974 and as far as I could establish the bells had not been rung regularly by a local band since before WWII. The first steps were to climb that ladder, repair the wooden wheel on No 3 bell and find somebody in the area who could teach me to ring. That person was Derek Stainsby, from Loughton, whose link with Woughton was his wife Ann, the daughter of the village policeman, who lived in North Cottage on the Green.



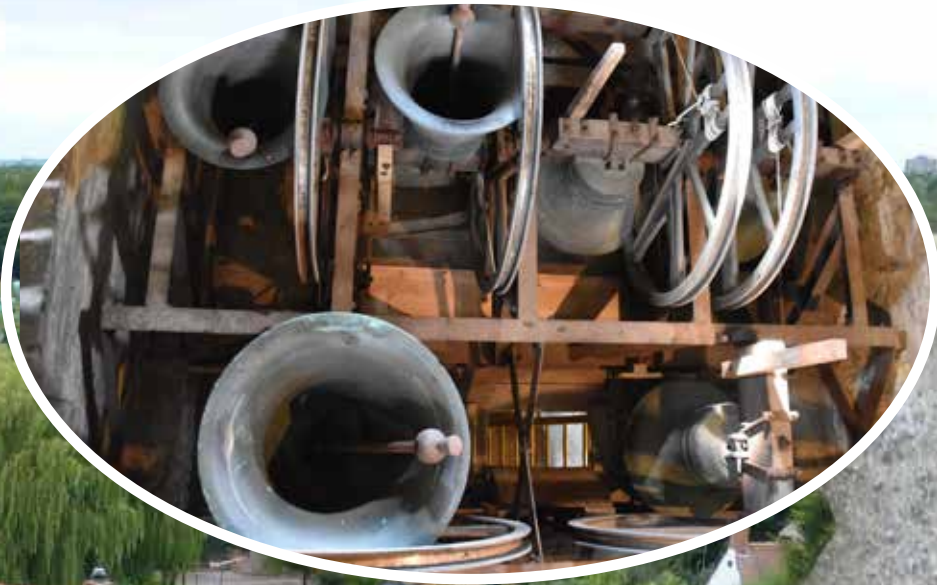
(b) Typical metal frame and headstock

Campanology is the study of bells. It encompasses the technique of tuning, and rung, as well as the history, methods, and traditions of handbells. I have been the Tower Captain at Woughton for the last 10 years, I am a member of the North Bucks Branch and a Distinguished Member of the Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers.

Bell founding is the casting and tuning of bells in a foundry for church buildings. The process in Europe dates to the 4th or 5th century AD. British churchyards have revealed furnaces, which suggests that bells were cast in pits dug in the building grounds or within the church. Before the 18th century bells tended to be itinerant, travelling from church to church to cast. In the 18th century foundries became dominant with the coming of railways which made it easier to transport bells. Such as the Whitechapel Bell Foundry (recently closed after 300 years) and the Loughborough. The latest development is for the casting of bells in a specialist sand casting bronze foundry near Stoke-on-Trent.

THE WOUGHTON BELLS

Bell	Date of Origin	Weight	Markings
1 Treble	1926	2 cwt 1 qtr	Mears & Stainbank London O God for the life and w
2	1926	2cwt 3 qtrs	
3	1653	3cwt 1 qtr	No 100/4 Richard Chan
4	1717	4cwt	No 974 Richard Chandl
5	1701	5cwt 2 qtr	Richard Chandler Made
6 Tenor	1771	7cwt	Pack & Chapman Bernard Chovell - Gent



It is not surprising that this topic (as an App), being both musical and mathematical, has found its way onto laptops and mobile phones with databases of tower information and methods available on the internet. The latest trend is for rings of bells to have a simulator installed (sound control plus another App) with sensors fitted that detect movement.

This is translated into sounds within the ringing room whilst no sound is heard outside. Good idea for practice nights.

ology of bells - how they are cast, of bellringing, both tower and last 45 years, currently Secretary Oxford Diocesan Guild of Church

use in churches, clocks, and public y. Archaeological excavations of at bells were often cast on site in e nineteenth century, bell founders bells on site. More centralized allowed easy transportation of bells, 0 years) and John Taylor & Co of s to take place in the Wesley Group's

ndon "Thanks be to thee york of Bertha Whittaker"

ndler Made Me. Gillett recast me in 1887 er Made Me. Gillett recast me in 1887 e Me

leman Thomas Lucas - Warden



- A BRIEF HISTORY -

English style change ringing (a full wheel turning the bell through 360 degrees) goes back at least 400 years but bells have a much longer history. The Chinese had them 5,000 years ago, they were associated with church worship in Italy in the 5th Century and this reached Britain in Saxon times. Medieval monasteries would chime different combinations to signify different religious observances and this spread to parish churches as they acquired more bells. As well as being used in connection with worship they were rung to mark the curfew, fire warnings, end of harvest, opening and closing of markets, visiting VIPs and so on. Ringing was ordered by "The Vestry" who provided what we now call local government. The ringers became largely independent, formed their own organisations and were paid for their services. The Ancient Society of College Youths dates from 1637 and flourishes to this day. Change ringing as we know it today (systematically varying the order of bells) probably began in the 16th century. For those of you who like numbers it is possible to ring the extent of 720 unique rows on six bells in approx. 25 minutes. A quarter peal is 1260 changes and a full peal is 5040 changes. This would take approx. 2hrs 40mins on the light 6 at Woughton. Bellringers ring methods (not tunes) and the different patterns of change are given names e.g. Plain Bob Minor or Cambridge Surprise Major. There are thousands of different methods. The chart below, just 8 rows, is the very first step in "Ringing the Changes". Plain Hunt on 4 bells.

1 2 3 4	Rows		
2 1 4 3	No of bells	Unique Changes	
2 4 1 3	4	24	
4 2 3 1	6	720	
4 3 2 1	8	40,320	
3 4 1 2	10	3,628,880	
3 1 4 2			
1 3 2 4			
1 2 3 4			

There are approx. 50,000 active ringers in the world and 6,000 rings of bells with the vast majority in this country. There are 28 towers and 200 ringers in the MK area with just 8 ringers at Woughton. We practice on Thursday evening, ring regularly for services, weddings, national celebrations and other events. Skilled training is available. If you are looking for a team activity, global friends, a great mental workout and wish to help maintain a traditional skill then please come along. It is challenging, fun and has a competitive edge aimed at setting standards. Competitions at Branch, Diocese and National level require discipline and rhythm to achieve success. The winner has the least number of faults. Pointless is the aim!

Author - Brian Baldwin

A Neighbour Writes

Did you know that just across the Old Woughton Parish border is 'The Peartree Centre' a vibrant community hub?

The Centre hosts a diverse range of community groups and is the home of Age UK Milton Keynes, a local independent charity supporting the city's older residents. The range of groups varies from craft clubs; lunch clubs; and specialist support groups such as Age UK MK's Memory club for people living with dementia. Regular fundraising events are also held from quiz evenings to craft fayres and summer BBQs, so if you would like to pop along to see what's on offer or just drop off clothing or bric-a-brac donations you will receive a warm welcome from the staff and volunteers. The Peartree Centre is open to the public from 9.00am to 4.00pm and is located in Chadds Lane - just over the canal at bridge 87 and well within walking distance of the parish.



Margaret looks forward to a regular walk with volunteer Caroline

Could you benefit from a short walk with a supportive volunteer?

Age UK Milton Keynes' free Walking Befriending Service is for older people who would like to benefit from regular exercise but, perhaps, feel nervous going out by themselves. Those who have been recently bereaved, or perhaps had a serious illness, can rapidly lose their confidence and find their world has shrunk. Age UK MK provides volunteers to accompany older people on a short walk near their home – perhaps you've seen us enjoying Old Woughton? By giving encouragement and friendly support, the Walking Befriender can help people overcome barriers which might be preventing them from being active in later life.

Who do you know?

Who could benefit from our free Befriending Service, perhaps a neighbour or family member who is feeling lonely or isolated and unable to get out as much as they'd like? Please get in touch and we will find a volunteer to visit once a week to offer companionship and friendship

Did you know?

You can support this local charity by donating your unwanted clothes and books and saleable household items, bric-a-brac and furniture to our charity shops. Alternatively, why not donate online via www.ageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk (or set up a direct debit) and, if you shop online, don't forget you can support us through 'Amazon Smile' and 'Give as you Live'. All moneys raised stay in MK.



"The walk with my befriender is the highlight of my week. We both enjoy noticing the changes in the trees and we chat about football together. I feel so much more positive now."

New Year's Resolution?



Why not become a volunteer and find a role that suits you? With a variety of roles available, we urgently need **car owner/drivers; fundraisers; admin support; event organisers; befrienders and retail assistants.** Whatever you choose to do, and however much time you have to give, your time is the most precious gift of all and can help us to make a positive difference for older residents locally.

Newsflash

We currently have spaces at our Lunch/Social clubs.

Come along and make new friends whilst enjoying a freshly cooked meal and social activities.

Please contact us for more details and how to book

Age UK Milton Keynes,
The Peartree Centre,
1 Chadds Lane,
Peartree Bridge,
Milton Keynes
MK6 3EB

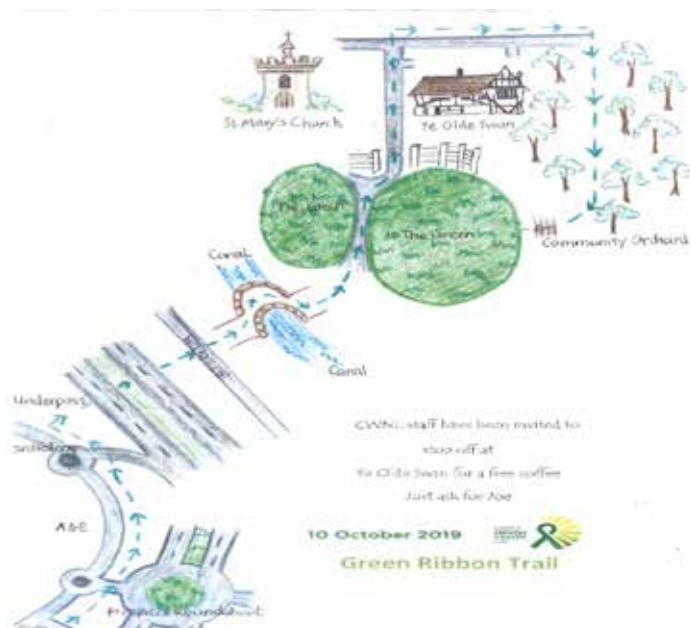
(01908) 550700
Registered charity 1079773

www.ageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk

World Mental Health Day

You may have been completely unaware that World Mental Health Day fell on 10th October. You may also have been unaware of the significance of the green ribbons tied to various features in the village marking out a route through the parish for staff from MK University Hospital and organised by Central & North West London NHS Foundation Trust's Mental Health Department.

What we do hope you recognise is Old Woughton's growing reputation as a stand-out parish for leisure and relaxation opportunities, a place to sooth body and mind at the centre of a growing metropolis, beautifully captured here by the organiser's own plan:



Well done to Ye Olde Swan for supporting the staff with complimentary coffees

Bravo Brian!

Made Under the New Recognition Scheme

Old Woughton PC is delighted to announce that the first award to be made under its new Recognition Scheme is Brian Baldwin, long-term resident of Passmore, where he has lived for 45 years with his wife Norma, who many of you will also know well. In a typically well-researched article Brian has also provided the centre pages for this edition, so you can appreciate for yourselves the depth of his commitment to his craft.



Award : Lifetime Award

Criteria for Nomination set against Policy:

Without personal benefit: yes!

For a length of time: 45 years of committed service to the care, repair and restoration of the church and in particular the church tower, bells and clock.

Unusual Service: Steward, Tower Captain and champion of the Church Tower and Tower Team.

Significance: Reaching award winning standards as Tower Team of high calibre. Promotion of this heritage asset through community involvement and engagement.

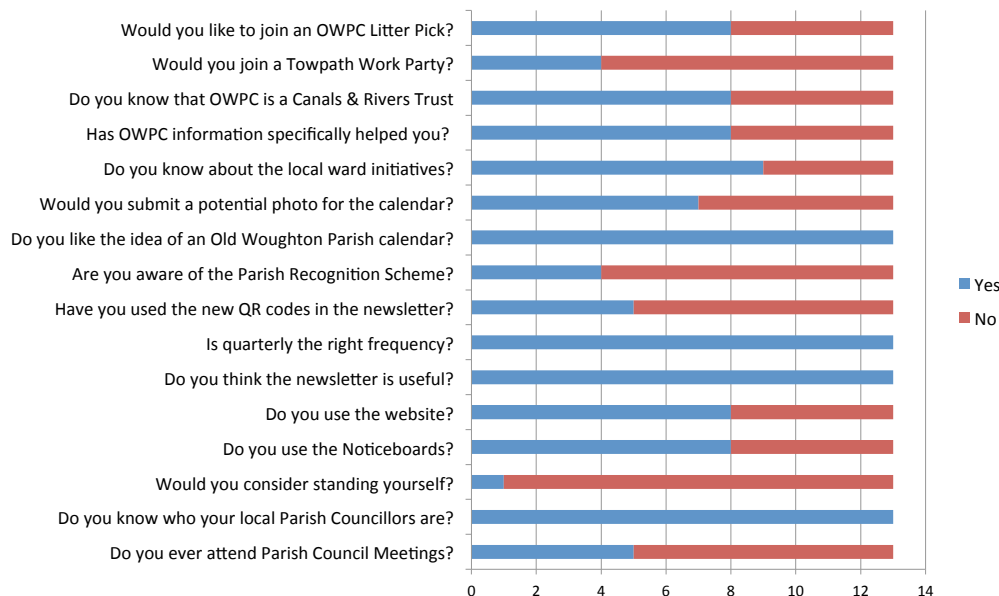
Heritage – St Mary's Church is the oldest building in terms of the heritage landscape and of importance and significance within the parish of Woughton on the Green.

To make your own Nomination – just go to:
<http://oldwoughton.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/OWPC-Recognition-Scheme>



Brian will be formally presented with his award at the Parish Council's Annual Meeting on 11th May 2020 and all are welcome to come along and enjoy the moment.

Meanwhile, we want to say **'Thank you very much, Brian, you've helped make this parish the special place that we all enjoy. Ring out those bells....'**



Thank you

to all those who took part in our survey. It certainly helps us determine what is working and what we could do better. Besides the answers to the simple yes / no questions shown in the table on the left we received a lot of very useful suggestions. It is clear there is much support for a Parish calendar.

(See the article on page 8.)

UK Last Posting dates - don't be late

18th Dec. 2nd Class and 2nd Class Signed For
20th Dec. 1st Class and 1st Class Signed For
and Royal Mail Tracked 48
21st Dec. Royal Mail Tracked 24
23rd Dec. Special Delivery Guaranteed &
Worldwide Express 24

For more info:
<https://www.royalmail.com/christmas/last-posting-dates>

Revised Waste Collections

Christmas 2019



Normal Date

Wednesday 25th December
Wednesday 1st January
Wednesday 8th January

Revised Date

Friday 27th December
Friday 3rd January
Thursday 9th January

Normal collections resume Wednesday 15th January

For more info:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/collectiondays

The Household Waste Recycling Centres are
open 7 days a week from:

8am to 5pm from 1st October to 31st March
Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and
New Year's Day.

HWRCs will close at 1pm on Christmas and New Year's
Eves.

Please arrive at least 30 minutes before they close to
ensure you have time to tip.

For more info: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/HWRC

EVENT CALENDAR

December

22

Nine Lessons
& Carols
6pm
St. Mary's Church

December

24

Midnight Service
11.30pm
St. Mary's Church

December

25

Family Service
9.45am
St. Mary's Church

January

02

Litter Pick
10.00 - 11.30am
Passmore
(meet by noticeboard)

March

20

Litter Pick
10.00 - 11.30am
Woughton Park
(meet by parish board)

April

18

WoTGS
Litter Pick
Meet at seat opposite pub



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an electronic copy of the
newsletter just scan
the code

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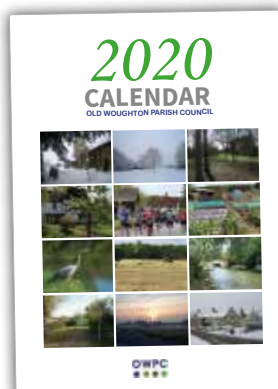
Happy New Year!

That's a date then!

Thanks to everyone who responded to our piece about
producing an Old Woughton calendar. Several of you
doubted whether there was a call for a paper version
these days, but those replies were outnumbered not only
by those supporting the idea in principle, but also by those
asking how to obtain additional copies!

At its meeting in November, therefore, OWPC agreed to
produce a 2020 version as a trial and every household in
the parish should now have received its complimentary
copy. Included in the same envelope was a slip to complete
for purchasing further copies, which are being distributed
with this Newsletter.

The print run is limited, so do place your order speedily
at: communications@oldwoughton.org.uk
Or Telephone **Charlotte** on **07885 330 797**.



To enable us to judge the
success of this trial, we do need
your feedback please.

But for now our thanks go to
those neighbours who provided
photos through the year, which
helped make for such a
striking set of images.
Do keep them coming!