

OLD WUGHTON

News

The Newsletter of Old Woughton Parish Council



Jubilee Oak c. 1939

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PO Box 7575
Milton Keynes
MK11 9GR

Spring 2022

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,
Green Spaces, 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.
rbrown@oldwoughton.org.uk

Charlotte Hall
CHAIR
Finance & Budget,
Planning, Projects Lead, Liaison for Parks Trust,
OWPC Representative - Welfare Trust,
Communications
chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton Park



**Vanessa
Freeman Gwynn**
VICE CHAIR
Projects,
Liaison for MKC Consultation and Parks Trust,
Communications
vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk

Geoff Long
Dog & Litter Bins, Projects, Green Spaces,
Liaison for Canal & River Trust
glong@oldwoughton.org.uk

Passmore



Mary Major
Liaison for Parishes Forum,
Projects, Noticeboards, Finance & Budget
mmajor@oldwoughton.org.uk

Emma Wilson
Projects
Retiring in May 2022
ewilson@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



Vacant



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



Paul Trendall
paul.trendall@milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 07793 080425



Charlotte Hall
charlotte.hall@milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 07885 330797



Our Next Parish Council
Meetings Are On Monday:

9th May 2022 (AGM) ; 11th July 2022

7.30pm

VENUE: St. Mary's Church

CONTACT US

<https://oldwoughton.org.uk>

01908 465811

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk

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



Friends of
Old Woughton PC



Editorial

OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

Hello everyone and welcome to this Spring issue of Old Woughton News.

It's a rather interesting position for the UK currently as it both enters the 2022 season of rebirth and renewal whilst, at the same time, looking back over 70 years of the reign of our monarch Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. We try to capture this balance by sharing local archive material of previous jubilees (pages 4 & 5), whilst planting for the future as part of the Queen's own Green Canopy initiative. Unashamedly, we also promote an Old Woughton street party (page 8), though in our own image within the grounds of the Woughton House Hotel as part of the long Bank Holiday at the beginning of June – all are very, very welcome to join in!

Elsewhere, looking back we report on the 10th anniversary of Old Woughton Parish Council itself coming into being (page 6), whilst advertising a new vacancy for a councillor at Passmore going forward. Details of how to apply are also on that page.

In her Chair's column opposite, Charlotte reports back on the outcome of the OWPC Precept consultations reported in the winter edition, whilst on page 7 we congratulate the winner of the Christmas colouring page competition – go Amber!

So, see you at the street party for the next celebration, which will be here quicker than you think and, meanwhile, Happy Easter to all!

THE COMMS TEAM - Charlotte, Phil & Vanessa

BUDGET 2022/23 APPROVED

With thanks to those who responded to the parish's budget consultation exercise this year. OWPC has been able to unanimously agree the revised Precept exactly as proposed in the Winter Newsletter. No objections were received.



- STOP PRESS -

As this Newsletter goes to print, the remarkable bravery of the Ukrainian people is obvious to see. We wish them continued strength in the battle for their beloved country.

The Chair

OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

As we emerge from winter and move on from two interrupted years, what better way to bring us all together than through celebrations and opportunities to mark significant events. Firstly, and after comprehensive consultations with parishioners, we submitted our Precept decisions for 2022/2023 to MK Council. It is the first 'marker' of any year and especially this one as OWPC increases its Precept for the first time since our formation in 2012.

The increase is a small one at 36p per month (Band D), but it both drives and underpins our budget for the coming year, reflecting bigger aspirations as a Parish Council (PC) to the changing governance and growing responsibilities we now find at our door-step. In short, we need to be prepared to engage more actively with e.g. local landscaping, and have the tools to deliver for our residents in a rapidly changing environment.

Our parish may be 'small' geographically, but it is undeniably 'huge' in so many other ways. We are a 'jewel' in this 'City' (fingers crossed!), as our heritage and green landscapes have shown again through the pandemic - drawing in so many more visitors. Consequently, there has been significant impact and pressure as we see more car parking over-spill on our roads; more verge parking and weight of traffic (in all forms); as well as increased littering; anti-social behaviours; and 'wear-and tear'. As a PC we must be creative and energetic in looking to 'protect' and preserve the very environment that is so very evidently valued by us all - just look at the 'community voice' that sang out in successful challenges to not just one, but two 5G Mast planning applications.

Our Conservation Area Review (CAR), which is so very long overdue, has still not reached a conclusion, despite all of our endeavours and input since 2014. It was our CAR, originally designated in 1978, that triggered the review of all MK's Conservation Areas. The Woughton CAR finally went to a MKC Delegated Decision meeting in December 2021, but the decision on the night was to defer so that the 'decision maker' (in this case the Council Leader himself) could have the time and opportunity to come out and visit with Officers and although this happened in February, we still don't have a new decision date at this time.

A date we very much do have is our 10th anniversary as a new local council in April this year - OWPC's boundaries were only established in 2012 - and our former Chair, Andrew Humphries reflects on the successful campaign we fought - Small is Beautiful!

The Platinum Jubilee, celebrating the extraordinary life and work of our monarch is another date to take pride in the village, where the Green still shows those celebratory markers and visible historic events of Elizabeth II's grandmother in our original Jubilee Oak (see front cover) and the village apple trees that were also planted in 1887. So, it feels to me that we need as a whole community, to mark the 2022 Jubilee and leave a new historic footprint and moment for future generations and communities to recall. We have successfully applied for trees to plant across our four Wards as part of the Queen's 'Green Canopy' campaign and, whilst we await delivery, OWPC hopes that you will join us for a community celebration in the grounds of the Woughton House Hotel to designate our own 'marker' at the heart of a historic and very special community. Current details on the back page, so please let us know if you would like to join the Jubilee steering team or just let us have your views: communications@oldwoughton.org.uk

Clr. Charlotte Hall, Chair OWPC

Celebrating... Historic Landmarks!

WOUGHTON JUBILEE OAK

Did you know that we have a Jubilee Oak that was planted in 1887?



As we celebrate this year the extraordinary reign of Queen Elizabeth II in this Platinum Jubilee Year (70 yrs as Queen) it seems fitting, and a bit special, to reflect on our own historic Royal celebrations that connect our past to this very special occasion. Evidence of these historic Royal celebrations is still visible on the ground in our own Parish. Besides the Jubilee Oak, we can still see the last one of the Coronation Cherry Trees,

and the stumps of the others, that were planted along the road leading to the Green in 1952 to mark the Coronation and ascension to the throne of our young Queen Elizabeth II.

Our Jubilee Oak was planted - as happened in many other villages across the country at the time, in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. It is captured for posterity in the logo of Woughton Heritage, below

It is interesting to note that one of the bells in St Mary's Church (dating back from 1653) was recast in 1887 in preparation for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Indeed, we have a resident that has family connections to the planting of this tree - Jack Shouler, (Grandfather of Mrs Pamela Sinfield) born in 1874 helped plant the oak as a boy.

We have successfully applied for trees to plant across the four Parish Wards as part of the Queen's 'Green Canopy' campaign and we await the outcome. We hope to dedicate one tree opposite to the Jubilee Oak, to mark this historic moment as part of our Jubilee events in 2022. The Jubilee Oak has suffered over the years due to the impact of Lorries and traffic around its roots and indeed at one point was nearly removed as it was seen as an 'inconvenience' to the building of MK as a New Town because building traffic struggled to manoeuvre around it.

The series of dated pictures shows our Oak across 135 years of history of the Parish and the village of Woughton on the Green.



Looking East toward St Mary's Church. This photograph taken by Percy Baker and is assumed to have been taken during WWI.

Date as estimated by Bucks County Council

Looking South down Newport Road towards the Ye Olde Swan (note the man on a horse). The young oak tree has railings to protect the slender trunk.

Date as estimated by Bucks County Council Photo Archive.



Looking South towards Ye Olde Swan (note the 3 children playing and the pub timbers painted black).
The tree is now around 50 years old and surrounded by a wooden fence.

Date as estimated by Bucks County Council Photo Archive.



1944

Looking South towards Ye Olde Swan. The wooden fence has been removed.

Date as estimated by Bucks County Council Photo Archive.



1967

Aerial photograph looking North East.

The tree now 80 years old clearly visible in the middle of the village.

1967 was also the year that Milton Keynes was designated a New Town

READY RECKONER FOR ESTIMATING THE AGE OF AN OAK TREE

We determined and verified the age of our Jubilee Oak by measuring the trunk at 1.5m from the ground. The trunk measures 307cm



Girth of tree in feet and inches	Girth of tree in metres and centimetres	Equals Estimated age in years	Historical connections
6ft 2ins	1m 85cm	75	1930, George V Amy Johnson's solo flight to Australia
6ft 7ins	1m 98cm	80	1926, George V Year of the General Strike
8ft 3ins	2m 48cm	103	1903, Edward VII First manned flight by the Wright Brothers
10ft 4ins	3m 10cm	138	1868, Victoria Thomas Edison patented his 1st invention, an electric voice machine
12ft 4ins	3m 70cm	181	1825, George IV Stockton to Darlington Railway opens (1st in the world)
14ft 5ins	4m 33cm	232	1815, George III British victory over Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo
16ft 6ins	4m 95cm	291	1715, George I First Jacobite rebellion in Scotland
18ft 7ins	5m 58cm	358	1638, Charles I Last year of the English Civil War



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Happy Anniversary!



- To strengthen democracy in the areas concerned and increase local participation;

- To create a clear-minded, self-reliant parish that would be an asset to Milton Keynes.

Although the campaign started with a small team it was not long before many enthusiastic residents got involved. I was its first co-ordinator - Lorraine took over in the final days of the campaign. We met regularly. We published newsletters and publicity materials, carried out resident surveys (designed and analysed by the late Phil Wareham) and petitions, organised public meetings and, attended and spoke at MKC council and public meetings. We also encouraged and supported residents to raise their voices in support of our aims. We published letters and articles in the local press and kept all Milton Keynes Ward Councillors and other stakeholders such as neighbouring Parish Clerks, the CEO MKC, MK Parks Trust, Thames Valley Police, Broughton Fire Service, MK Dons, British Waterways and local businesses informed of our campaign's progress.

OLD WUGHTON PARISH IS 10 YEARS OLD!

The very first meeting of Old Woughton Parish Council took place in May 2012. It was chaired by Cllr. Lorraine King. However, this momentous event was just the culmination of a strenuous campaign lasting 24 months by residents and Ward Councillors to convince MKC to allow us to break away from the Woughton Community Council and form our own Parish. This briefly, is the story of that crusade.

Back in the late autumn of 2009, our ward councillor alerted us that boundary reviews were due in 2010 and this might be an opportunity for us to raise the possibility of forming a new parish. For some time, there had been disquiet in our mainly rural area that our democratic voice was lost within a very large urban parish.

In the spring of 2010 a number of residents from Passmore, Woughton Park and Woughton on The Green got together and looked at the options. Woughton on The Green could join with Woolstone; Woughton Park could join with Simpson and Ashland or, the three areas could just 'gang together' and form a new parish. MKC's Democratic Services lead, (who guided us through the process from beginning to end), carried out a residents' survey. 83% voted for change and the 'one for all' solution was the most popular and most logical choice.

Under the working banner of 'Small is Beautiful' our campaign committee was formed to make the case for establishing a new parish that would later be named 'Old Woughton'. The words 'Small is Beautiful' were chosen by the local residents because they exemplified their feelings, desires and strong belief that they were a community. The area encompassed a cohesive group of like-minded people, brought together by their views and needs, irrespective of geographical boundaries.

The objectives were:

- To have clear accountability to both residents and MKC;
- To focus on developing the immediate local environment in a sustainable way;
- To preserve and support the balanced diversity of the area;
- To provide increased support to older and more vulnerable residents;
- To implement controlled financial management in line with the clearly expressed wishes of its residents;

Unfortunately, we failed to convince MK council members in March 2010 – probably because we had not had enough time to 'get our act together'. However, on Tuesday 19th October 2011 at a full council meeting chaired by the Mayor - residents, campaign committee members and several ward councillors spoke eloquently in our support and 'we won the day!' I clearly remember one Councillor addressing the chamber: "The residents have overwhelmingly made their wishes clear. If we ignore them (he implied for party reasons) then they will not give up and will keep coming back to us." Our official Proposal which we widely circulated in Milton Keynes is available for you to download on the parish website [see Foundation page on the OWPC website].

MKC's Democratic Services lead and our Ward Councillor were both present at our inaugural Parish Council meeting which was also attended by many residents. Our Ward Councillor said "I wish the essence of the democratic spirit demonstrated by Old Woughton Parish could be bottled and distributed across the rest of Milton Keynes." Ten years later I believe these words sum-up vibrant Old Woughton and its parish council.

Andrew Humphries,
OWPC Chair 2014-2020



RSPB in Woughton on the Green

Kenny Cramer of the North Bucks RSPB group and his ringing team were recently in Milton Keynes at the Community Orchard at Woughton on the Green. Kenny tells us:

Sparrowhawk

“It was a proper wintery morning that started with me crunching across my frozen lawn to chip the ice off my car. The thermometer read -2C but with little to no wind, (and several pairs of socks) this was surprisingly comfortable and I even broke a bit of a sweat as I began the task of opening the nets. I anticipated a busy session and I was not wrong with the totals coming in at 157 birds processed with just 5 retraps, consisting of 13 species.



Winter thrushes were our target today and we certainly got them! 2 Fieldfares, our first of the winter so far, were joined by 2 Song Thrushes, 12 Redwing and an impressive 33 Blackbirds! These birds can travel surprising distances so we'll be keeping fingers crossed for an interesting continental recovery. Of course we fully expected this to be a bit of a tit-fest so 57 Blue Tits and 27 Great Tits came as no surprise (and no less painful on the fingers!) Other birds of note today included 5 Woodpigeons, 6 Greenfinches, a Bullfinch and a fearsome looking adult male Sparrowhawk.”



**Amber From
Passmore,
OUR COLOURING
IN PAGE WINNER FROM
THE WINTER NEWSLETTER**




Amber loves playing football, treasure hunts, playing with her friends and drawing or colouring with mummy. She also enjoys walks round the canal and feeding the ducks

MK Marathon Weekend


1ST & 2ND MAY 2022

A sign that potentially the pandemic may be behind us is that the organised running events that cross our picturesque parish have resumed their regular dates. The MK Festival of Running has just taken place on the 13th March and the MK Marathon weekend will shortly be upon us. As with previous years the three marathon 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, especially as they turn into Newport Road at the Jubilee Oak, where there will be the usual inflatable arch and music playing. It does mean that the Green will be closed to traffic between 10:00am and 11:50am and Newport Road north of the Green will be closed between 10:15am and 12:10pm on May 2nd.

There is also a 5K run on May 1st 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 1st.



For full details of all road closures in Milton Keynes on May 1st and 2nd you can visit the MK Marathon website at <http://mkmarathon.com/road-closures/>



**ROUNDBOUT
HERE**

You may be wondering what is happening at the entrance to Walton Drive on Groveway H9.

These are enabling works prior to the opening up of the new residential development site behind Hoechst to be known as Walton Manor.

Up to 174 new homes are being provided and so a new 4-arm roundabout on the Groveway is being installed. Works are scheduled to be completed between April-October 2022.

For latest information on progress go to:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/roads-redways-and-footways/roadworks-road-maintenance#Top>

Save the Date:

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE

SUNDAY 5TH JUNE 2022
2PM - 5PM

This event is open to all parish residents. Its success will depend on you simply joining in. If you have ideas, want to be involved in the organising or just want to tell us you're coming along then please let us know:

Cllrs Robert Grindley, Charlotte Hall
and Vanessa Freeman Gwynn
jubilee@oldwoughton.org.uk



At a recent Old Woughton Parish Council meeting a resident asked if there were any plans to mark this special Jubilee year. We are pleased to announce that, yes! Exciting plans are emerging to hold a parish wide Jubilee 'street party' event in the grounds of the Woughton House Hotel off Newport Road. Open to all residents of the Parish it will be a free and fun way to celebrate and maybe get to know a few more of your neighbours in the lovely setting of the hotel.

Did you know that there is an old photograph of the villagers of Woughton gathering to celebrate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 - it was taken in the grounds of Woughton House 135 years ago, perhaps something you can help recreate in 2022?

Although the Portaloos have already been ordered, other plans are still taking shape, so your ideas are still very much welcome. Current proposals include:

- the planting of a commemorative Jubilee Tree
- a quarter peal of St. Mary's bells using the Platinum Place Doubles method
- a Patch Allotments stand with plant sale and honey bee display
- live local music
- a jubilee flag and bunting for photographs

Tables, chairs and hot drinks will be provided by the hotel, so all you need to bring is yourselves and your own choice of food. Disposable plates and cutlery are recommended. Her Majesty has invited us all to create a new cake in her honour and so we would be delighted to see everyone bringing along an example that we could all then share. The cake table will be guarded by the Scouts - have faith!

We look forward to seeing you there and, meanwhile, Happy Jubilee Ma'am!

COULD YOU MANAGE US IN 7 HOURS A WEEK?

Have you grown to appreciate Old Woughton even more since the lockdowns – the open spaces, the quality of the natural environment, the opportunity to help your neighbours? If you've been thinking of how to get more involved, then what about applying to be our next Clerk? The post is the only paid employment at OWPC and is very part-time, enabling the successful candidate to fit duties around other commitments.

If you would like to talk through what's involved in the role then **before Easter** please contact our Chair: Charlotte Hall or V. Chair: Vanessa Freeman Gwynn for an informal chat. A high-level job summary is below and accredited training is available.

- To provide a full clerking service to the nine councillors of Old Woughton Parish Council
- To advise the Chair and Members on procedural and other matters relevant to the safe operation of the Council
- To liaise with other Clerks in neighbouring councils
- To maintain learning so that the Council receives up to date advice and procedures are continually reviewed
- To be responsible for the management of the day-to-day business of the Council

communications@oldwoughton.org.uk

PASSMORE 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 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.

Did you know that OWPC:

- ✓ has nine councillors serving its four wards
- ✓ Councillors are volunteers (qualifying expenses are re-imbursed)
- ✓ Councillors represent very approx. 40 dwellings each
- ✓ is one corporate body and its decisions are taken collectively
- ✓ has a paid Clerk for 7 hours per week to support you
- ✓ meets locally every two months at St. Mary's Church

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.

A Vacancy is arising in May for a 2nd Councillor for Passmore

Thank you, I'm convinced, how do I express an interest?
You can approach any of the nine local councillors (see p.2) or e-mail the Comms. Team we'd love to talk to you:
communications@oldwoughton.org.uk



If you would like to view an electronic copy of the newsletter just scan the code