

OLD WUGHTON

# News

The Newsletter of Old Woughton Parish Council



OWPC Coronation Big Help Out

PO Box 7575  
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Summer 2023

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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, Green Spaces,  
Transport

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

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Communications,  
OWIS/IT

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### Woughton on the Green South



**Ray Brown**  
Allotments, Planning,

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**Charlotte Hall**  
CHAIR

Finance & Budget,  
Planning, Liaison for Parks Trust,  
Communications

chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

### Woughton Park



**Vanessa  
Freeman Gwynn**  
VICE CHAIR

Liaison for MKCC and Parks Trust,  
Communications, Planning

vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk

**Geoff Long**

Dog & Litter Bins, Green Spaces,  
Liaison for Canal & River Trust,  
OWPC Representative – Welfare Trust

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### Passmore



**Mary Major**

Liaison for Parishes Forum,  
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**Roshini  
Wickramasinghe**

Liaison for Canal & River Trust

rwickramasinghe@oldwoughton.org.uk

### Clerk

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



**Vicky Mote**

CILCA QUALIFIED

Finance & Budget, Environment, OWIS/IT, Data  
Protection Officer, Responsible Financial Officer,  
Liaison for Parks Trust, Parishes Forum and MKCC

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



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**Nana Oguntola**

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**Paul Trendall**

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Our Next Parish Council  
Meetings Are On Monday:

10th July, 11th September & 13th November  
7.30pm.

VENUE: St. Mary's Church

### CONTACT US

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Friends of  
Old Woughton PC

# Editorial

**What a strange Spring that was – some very cool days and rather drawn out, but did it stop us from being outside - it did not! - and in this issue we share the many opportunities to enjoy Old Woughton.**

We start though with a reflection on the recent months: the 2023 marathons on their new routes through the parish; the first blossoming of the Jubilee trees; and, of course, the Coronation, where the prize goes to Woughton Park for guessing the best day to party (a selection of everyone's photos on the **centre pages**).

Unbelievably, on **page 6**, we are able to report on the first anniversary of the Jubilee trees - so far, so good, but all waterers welcome!

On **page 7** we carry the Parks Trust's new '30-mile cycle challenge' which, unsurprisingly due to the quality of the parks locally, loops through the parish quite extensively. Happily, you can join or leave the route shown at any point!

As we were going to press, your Annual Parish Meeting had just been held using a new format of keynote speaker and then stands for other partner bodies, where we could all have refreshments and ask our questions in a less formal way. This year's speaker represented Nicholas Hannon, MKCC's Head of Environment & Waste and it is no co-incidence that on **page 8** there is a reminder of the substantial changes being made to local refuse collections, which are going to be a learning exercise for all of us and don't forget that, with effect from September, the collection day itself also changes back to Tuesday.

That, however, is quite enough mention of the Autumn for now – happy Summer everyone!

The Comms. Team

*Charlotte, Phil & Vanessa*

[communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk)

## ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2023

This meeting of residents was being held as we went to press, so a fuller report will appear in the next issue, but suffice to say that nearly 100 people came to St. Mary's on a warm evening and stayed for nearly 2 hours!

For the first half there were presentations from MKCC Officers from both the Landscape Commissioning and Operations departments, as well as the Wheelie Bin roll out team – with its full array of multi-coloured props.

Everyone had the chance to put their question(s) and then we broke for refreshments and the opportunity to visit the stands of the newly-refreshed Neighbourhood Watch, as well as the MK Dons SET, which now manages the 25 year long Woughton Playing fields and pavilion contract on behalf of MK City Council.

Thanks go to all our visitors, who were so generous with their time and to all of you who came along and supported the event.



## The Chair

OLD WOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

**As with any delicious cake – the balance of ingredients are key and how they are blended essential....**

Our Coronation Parish Celebrations on the 8th May had just the right measures of entertainment, refreshments and fun brought to the mixing bowl! A huge thank you to everyone involved (see page 7) for making such a successful afternoon. There were over 200 guests, and the icing here has to be a lovely opportunity to come together as a community and the promotion of some of the volunteering opportunities locally and more widely. Do take a look at the centre pages where we hope we have captured a 'flavour' of our event and others across the parish over this historic weekend.

The Annual General Meeting on the 15th May confirmed a full complement of Councillors (x 9) and the re-election of myself as Chair and Vanessa as Vice-Chair. It is a privilege to again continue to work with such a dedicated and hardworking team of volunteers. We are very fortunate - and my sincere thanks to colleagues. In May 2024 we will all stand for election. I would like to take the opportunity here also to thank our Clerk Vicky Mote who guides and advises us in our duties and responsibilities.... no easy task!

It was super to see so many of you at our Residents Meeting on the 20th June. We will take forward to the next edition outcomes here. A huge thanks to our visitors and speakers and group leads.

The focus in our work continues to build on community engagement and support, and projects seeking to address local matters where we can. We will be continuing our Citizen Advice Bureau outreach sessions and will share further details in due course. For those who have shown an interest in a particular working group or activity (Speed Watch; Canal matters etc) we will be in contact to move things forwards. Do please continue to share your ideas and raise any issues with us [communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk)

Whilst one celebration has finished, we have our own to mark later in the year with the 50th year of our very own Patch Allotments Association! With over 200 plots we are very proud of the work of the Association, Trustees and dedicated teams that have made our site fully tenanted and vibrant. We hope that you will come along and share in this anniversary at the Allotment Open-Day on Saturday 15th July starting at 10am (page 8 events calendar).

*Charlotte*

# The King's Coronation

**It was great to be able to mark the Coronation of King Charles III with a parish wide event, held on Monday 8th May 2023.**

Threatening skies and sombre forecasts were held at bay with the Woughton on the Green microclimate winning through to ensure a dry day for us all.

Folk music, swing dance, and the sound of the church bells filled the air. The whole place came alive as people started to arrive along the tree lined driveway decorated with bunting and flags. It was nice to see neighbours, friends and family gathering together in the historic setting of the hotel grounds and adjoining St Mary's Church.

Judging by the 20 pints of milk, 175 jam and cream scones, dozens of homemade cakes that were enjoyed and the long queues to ring the church bells, we think around 200 people attended across the day.

The Big Help Out was a new addition with a focus on opportunities to volunteer with local groups and activities. Information and sign up sheets were dotted around to allow residents to find out more about how to get involved.

Quite a number of people signed up for the scouts, canal volunteers, and the bell ringers. One or two added their names to the litter picking and the Woughton Heritage group. Some groups were equally able to raise their profile and awareness of what's available and what is needed in our area. For example, I was fascinated to learn about the Blind Readers service, with active volunteers in our Parish.

If you want to find out more about volunteering locally, please contact us, your parish council. We run various activities ourselves for residents to get involved in, or we can let you know what is available more widely and will do our best to put you in contact with the right people. Volunteering is a great way to meet people and feel connected to your community.

As with the Platinum Jubilee celebrations last year the involvement of the Scouts, Patch Allotment Association, the Church, and our local artists really enriched the day.

Many thanks to all of the following who helped shape the Old Woughton Coronation celebration and make it such a success. Thank you to the residents who joined the OWPC organising group, Vicky Gladstone, Craig Barlow, Sam & David Bradford, Norma & Brian Baldwin, and Sue Dixon. Thank you to Sonny & Usaid at the hotel and the number of hotel residents who did some of the very heavy lifting with the tables and chairs.

Thank you all who volunteered and came along on the day, it was a great team effort and a memorable day.

The big question is what next?!

**Robert Grindley**





Here we say thank you to our partners and friends who made our Coronation celebrations happen!

The fabulous **SWING DANCE TROUPE** from Swing Dance MK. They have a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/SwingDanceMK> and if you are interested in learning how to swing dance there is a Swing Union Dance School, <https://www.facebook.com/theswingunion>



It was a pleasure to listen to our band '**FreeFall**' – enquiries to [michaelsquire@gmail.com](mailto:michaelsquire@gmail.com)

How super to see our **LOCAL ARTISTS** again and their beautiful work!

Our thanks go to the **WOUGHTON HOUSE HOTEL AND RESIDENTS** for allowing us to use their grounds and providing tables and chairs and a helping hand. We were glad that you could all join our party!

The 1st Middleton **SCOUT GROUP** and Leaders who provided portable gazebos, tables and benches and brilliant activities!

**ST MARY'S CHURCH and TOWER TEAM** – who opened their doors and welcomed guests to have a go at ringing the church bells... what a treat this was – and exceedingly popular!! They brought the event to a close with a beautiful quarter peal.

We are grateful also to the **PATCH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION (PAA)** for putting up their marquees, delivering a raffle and bringing along some plants and good cheer!

...And finally and of course well done to our **CORONATION STEERING GROUP** of residents and Councillors across the Parish....and our **VOLUNTEERING** leads who brought the 'BIG HELP OUT' to our celebrations and for all of the lovely **YUMMY** contributions for us all to share.

## Jubilee Trees

It was last May, just over a year ago, that the belated delivery of trees for the Queen's green canopy was made. Ask any gardener and they will tell you that you should plant trees when they are dormant in Autumn or early Spring. The parish was presented with quite mature tree specimens that were in full leaf and in one case in blossom at the start of what many would call a drought, by English standards! That is not to say that we aren't grateful for being given these trees.

The circumstances required groups of volunteers to help with the movement of the trees to the planting locations and then digging the holes, positioning the trees and staking them. In some ways that was just the beginning as the prolonged dry spell required these newly planted trees to be constantly watered by volunteer residents that had the pleasure of living close to the planting locations. Watering bags were supplied with the trees. Once filled these drip water slowly to the roots.

It is pleasing to see that all the trees have survived and are looking good. The early May rains avoided any thoughts of tree watering, but the recent dry spell has got everybody nervously reaching for their watering cans! The locations of the Jubilee trees are identified in the article on our web page here, <https://oldwoughton.org.uk/2022/06/23/queens-green-canopy/>. The adjacent QR code links directly to the web page from your mobile phone.



# Around and About

## Er, what? ERLASS!

After several years of beavering away on the devolved landscaping agenda, we have become quite familiar with technical terms in the Highways Department.

One such is ERLASS, strictly an acronym standing for Estate-related Landscape and Street Services. This turns out to be important, because included within it is responsibility for local footpaths, which are not formally Highway for maintenance purposes. They are particularly apparent when new estates are developed and before the final footpaths are adopted as routes around development.

In the parish, it turns out we have quite a few of them on Passmore, Woughton Park and Baskerfield Grove/Goodman Gardens estates and OWPC has had very mixed success in trying to progress maintenance requests on them and now we know why: they're treated by MK City Council as temporary. You will recognise them immediately and probably use them regularly:

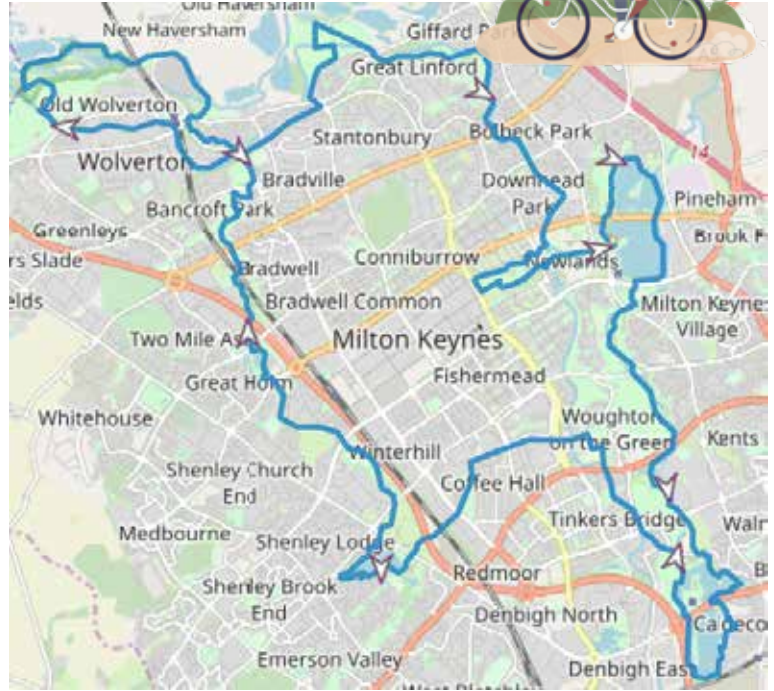


The good news is that having joined up these dots we have now been successful in persuading MKCC to address their condition.

## 30 MILE CYCLE CHALLENGE

New for the summer, the Parks Trust has produced a route for cyclists taking in some of MK's loveliest open spaces and several sections of Old Woughton feature – obviously! From the map you can see that the circuit loops south from Willen Lake down through the Ouzel Valley Park to Caldecote Lake then north via the towpath to Furzton Lake and back to Willen. You can join or leave at any point, so let us know how you get on!

(<https://www.theparkstrust.com/media/9065/milton-keynes-30-mile-challenge-cycle-pdf.pdf>)



## TOWPATH CODE

Ease off the pedal power and stay safe

Some individuals are simply cycling too fast and need to slow down or someone will be hurt. Towpaths are shared spaces and pedestrians have priority.

If you're cycling, you must go slow enough to mind and give way to other people, and to be able to stop safely if you need to. If you're in a hurry, you need to take a different route away from the canal.

On the towpath, ease off the pedal power, enjoy the slow ride and make sure the canal can be enjoyed safely by everyone.

## SHARE THE SPACE : DROP YOUR PACE : IT'S A SPECIAL PLACE





# MK Marathon 2023

The weather was again good for the runners, neither raining nor being too hot. The men's course record, set last year, was not beaten this time round, with the winning time this year being 2 hours 30 minutes and 30 seconds, 54 seconds slower than last year. The route of the course did change this year, hence the runners going right through the parish from south to north along the length of Newport Road, so direct comparisons may not be entirely accurate.

The women's race was won in a time of 2 hours 53 minutes and 56 seconds. As with the men it was close to the course record, missing that target by 1 minute and 14 seconds.

The main action point in the parish was at the end of Baskerfield Grove where there was a water station and toilets for the runners. The organisers cleared up all the discarded cups very rapidly once all the runners had made their second trip round the loop that included Newport Road.

The marathon relay was won by a mixed team with the very apt name of "Kenya Run As Fast As Us" Their time was 39 seconds slower than the men's marathon winner, but a course record for the marathon relay. The half marathon was won in a time of 1 hour 14 minutes and 1 second for the men and 1 hour 23 minutes and 24 seconds for the women. Neither time close to the course record for the half marathon.

The annual MK event is consistently ranked in the top 10 UK marathons. It is an AIMS (Association of International Marathons and distance races) certified race and has BARR (British Association of Road Races) Gold accreditation for outstanding race management.

Runners can use it as a qualifying event for London and Boston marathons as well as an Abbott World Marathon Majors Wanda Age Group World Championships qualifier. It is also an England Masters qualifying race.

**GO LIVE DATE** for the new bins is  
**5TH SEPTEMBER**

Please note the collection day moves from  
Wednesday to **TUESDAY**



## EVENTS

**Saturday 15th July from 10am until 2pm**

Patch Allotments – OPEN DAY

**Saturday 22nd July – Litter Pick**

Meet on seat opposite Pub : 10.30-11.30

**Friday 28 July – Litter Pick**

Passmore meeting at the post box / noticeboard at 2pm

**Saturday July 29th - St Mary's Summer Event**

(2- 4pm Church Open ; 2-5pm Grounds open)

**September 9th : Walk & Talk: Common Edible Plants – Ouzel Valley Park**

£5 via the Parks Trust @10am

**Saturday September 9th at 6:30pm - Quiz Night - St Mary's Church**

Book via Charlotte 07885 330 797 (Woughton Heritage event)

**Saturday October 21st - Apple Day**

(The Parks Trust) 12-3pm Woughton on the Green Orchard



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