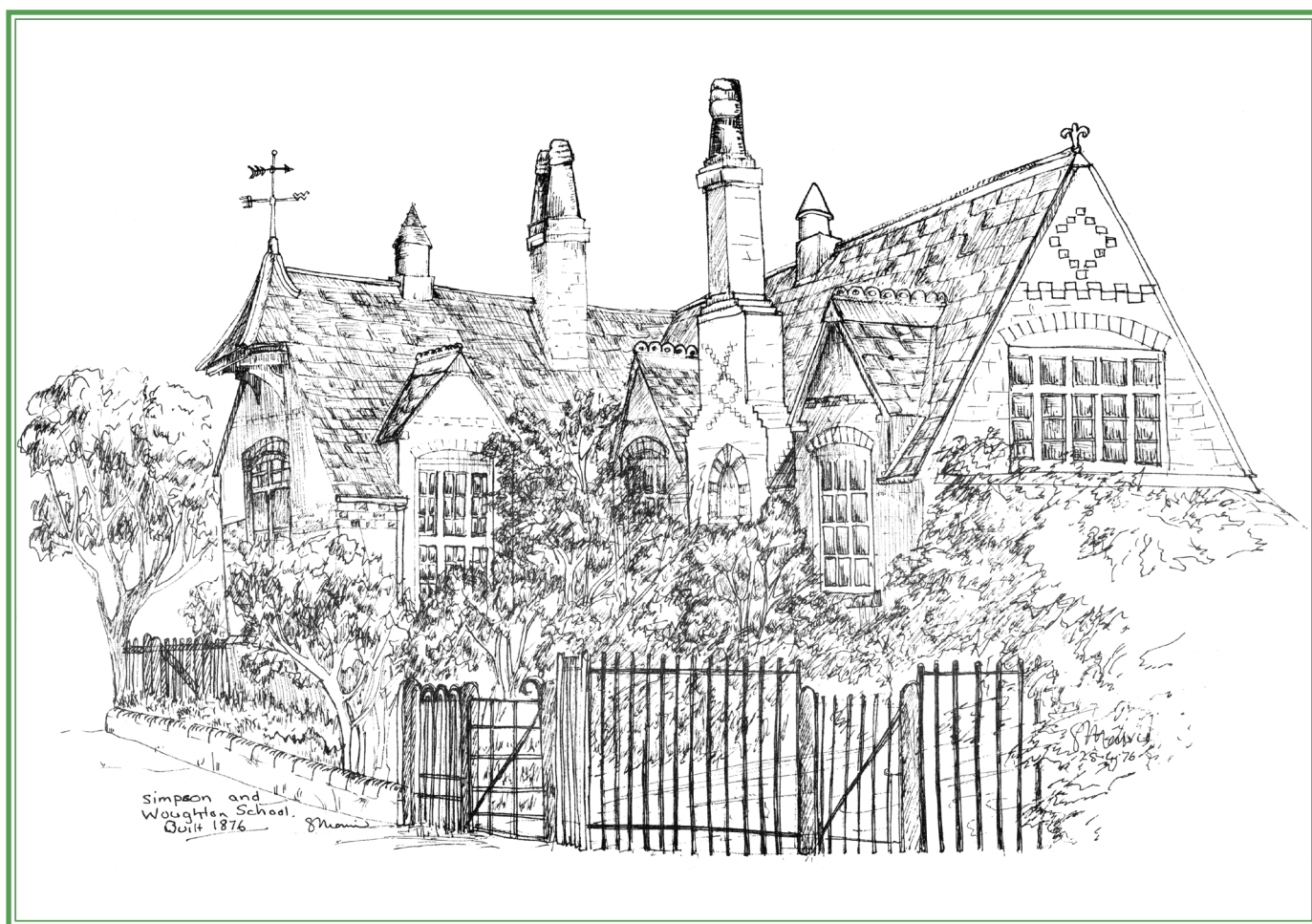


OLD WUGHTON

Autumn 2026

News

The Newsletter of Old Woughton Parish Council



Print of a drawing by Sue Monvid c. 1970s

PO Box 6548
Milton Keynes
MK10 1AB

E: clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk

T: 01908 465811

W: www.oldwoughton.org.uk

Who's Who in the Parish

OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

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

Woughton on the Green North



Rob Grindley
Planning, Transport,
Liaison for MK Dons
Community Trust
rgrindley@
oldwoughton.org.uk

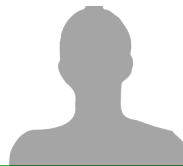


Ryan Gillies
Canal & River Trust, OWIS/IT,
Allotments, Speedwatch
rgillies@oldwoughton.org.uk



Phil Nash
Allotments,
Communications, OWIS/IT,
Speedwatch
pnash@
oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton on the Green South



Ray Brown
Allotments, Planning,
Finance
rbrown@oldwoughton.org.uk



Charlotte Hall
CHAIR
Communications, Finance & Budget,
Planning, Transport, Liaison for Parks Trust,
MK Dons Community Trust, Parish Forum
chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

Woughton Park



**Vanessa
Freeman Gwynn**
VICE CHAIR
Liaison for MKCC and Parks Trust,
Communications, Planning
vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk



VACANT

Passmore



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



Ade Akande
aakande@oldwoughton.org.uk

The Borough of Milton Keynes is divided into larger city wards, OWPC is in the Ouzel Valley Ward.
Your ward councillors are :

Clerk and RFO



Katherine Harmsworth
kharmsworth@oldwoughton.org.uk



Uroy Clarke
Uroy.Clarke@
milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 07737 803138



Jenni Ferrans
jenni.ferrans@
milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 07775 926993



**Macsene
Isles-Ahite**
Macsene.Isles-Ahite@
milton-keynes.gov.uk
T. 07775 617806



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

9th November,
11th January, 8th March
at 7.30pm

VENUE: St. Mary's Church

CONTACT US



<https://oldwoughton.org.uk>



01908 465811



clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



OWPC, PO Box 6548,
Milton Keynes, MK10 1AB



Friends of
Old Woughton PC

Editorial

It was exam result season as we were finalising this quarter's articles, so we thought we would follow good practice and tidy our desks ready for the new academic year.

So, on pp 4 and 5 there is a collection of current issues affecting the public realm locally – more infrastructure works, highway repairs and resurfacing; graffiti responses; mowing information and so forth.

On pp 6 and 7, you will find the formal record of this year's Residents Meeting. We continue to be impressed by your support for this annual event as are our speakers, which helps us in attracting other bodies to come and address your questions. Please do contact the Comms. Team here at OWPC, because your prompt suggestions for speakers helps us get into their diaries early.

We will be reporting progress on these matters in the winter issue starting with that 150th anniversary of the Old School – quite literally back to school then! Meanwhile, enjoy the Autumn, the colours are already looking gorgeous in our parish.

Charlotte, Phil & Vanessa

The Comms. Team

communications@oldwoughton.org.uk

NEW PASSMORE COUNCILLOR

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our new councillor for the Passmore ward, Ade Akande. Ade has a professional background in digital technology, public services and governance. He is interested in supporting the Parish Council's work, engaging with residents and helping to address practical issues affecting Passmore and the wider Old Woughton community.

OLD WOUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Chair

The changing seasons - a not so natural world...

I sit, trying to write my Chair's piece for our Autumn Newsletter, and just feel so conscious of not even understanding the seasons anymore and what they normally mark and show on the ground with the changing natural year. Are there even four seasons now?

Whilst a Parish council cannot change climate change or worldly matters, there is still a marked impact within our communities that we support and steward. Little things... such as litter-picking seems even more important, ensuring the glare of a discarded bottle is not enough to ignite a fire; should we be planning for 'cold' spaces, rather than warm to help support our most vulnerable and how best do we work with partners and neighbours and services to give the best joined-up-approach in times of a crisis and emergency.

In short, it is a real time of reflection and working towards doing better, whenever and wherever we can.

I have to applaud here – the work of all of our services and emergency services that deliver and have had to endure extreme temperatures over these recent months. We have had a number of 'not natural' fires in our parish and must thank, from all of us, the fire services across the County for their amazing work. We are very grateful. (See Page 8.) I have also, to thank all of our amazing residents that report and make that call to 999, and raise the alarm. It is so often too easy to think... someone else has done it...

On a more uplifting note we welcome Ade to the team as our new ward councillor for Passmore. We are very fortunate to have such an active and engaged community.

Charlotte



150th Year School Anniversary

This year sees the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Simpson and Woughton School. The beautiful line drawing shown on our cover page, shows the school and schoolhouse on the Newport Road.

To mark this event, Woughton Heritage and Simpson History Group joined forces to deliver a heritage afternoon on

the 12th September at St Mary's Church. It was a super occasion and a great opportunity to bring in research material, memories, anecdotes, conversations with past pupils from both the Old School and the 'New' School, which arrived in the early 1970s (located on Groveway), and more.

It was also an opportunity to bring the community together to learn more about the history of the local area, our villages, landscapes and people, at the very heart of our city...

More to follow in our Winter Edition!

Charlotte –

Chair of Woughton Heritage



Public Realm Briefing – Autumn 2026

Milton Keynes City Council is our key partner in the provision of local environmental services. In this briefing, we take a look behind the scenes at what's on its agenda currently.



How to Report Damaged or Loose Utility Covers

Most utility covers on roads and footways are actually owned and maintained by utility companies, not the council. Reporting the issue directly to the owner can help get it resolved more quickly.

Utility covers provide access to important infrastructure such as water, sewerage, electricity, gas and telecommunications networks. Many covers include markings or abbreviations that indicate who owns them, such as **FW** (foul water), **GAS**, **ELEC**, **BT** or **FO** (fibre optic). These markings can help you identify who to contact.

Before making a report, try to gather as much information as possible. Check the cover for any identifying markings, note the exact location, and take a photograph if it is safe to do so. Useful location information includes the road name, a nearby property number, or a What3Words reference.

Most utility companies offer online reporting forms and dedicated customer service channels for defects and hazards. When reporting, provide the location, a description of the problem, details of any safety risks, and photographs where possible. For serious hazards, such as a missing cover creating an immediate danger, contact the utility company's emergency line.

There are some situations where Milton Keynes City Council may still be the correct organisation to contact. This includes covers that appear to form part of the highway drainage system, problems that relate to the surrounding road or footway surface rather than the cover itself, or cases where ownership cannot be identified. The Council can then help determine who is responsible.

The Streetworks team in Highways can issue a Section 81 notice to a utility cover owner which is a formal notice requiring them to inspect and repair defective utility apparatus, such as a damaged or dangerous utility cover, within a specified timescale, however reporting directly to the utility owner can often avoid delays.

A guide to reporting utility covers is available on our website **Gullies and flooding on the highway | Milton Keynes City Council**

Grass Cutting

Milton Keynes Council (MKCC) manages over 10 million square metres of grassland across the city. Grass cutting is carried out on a cyclical programme from Spring through to late October. We cut grass where it is required for highway safety, while also prioritising biodiversity. In some areas, grass is intentionally left uncut to encourage wildflowers and support local wildlife. Before mowing begins, litter is collected wherever it is safe to do so, with a safety buffer maintained from highways. On high speed roads, central reservations and roadside verges cannot be cleared in advance due to narrow working spaces and fast-moving traffic. In these locations, mechanical sweepers are used after mowing to remove any remaining grass cuttings, dirt, and litter from the road.



HEAT TRANSFER PIPELINE WORKS – planning application

Over the summer, OWPC was consulted on the construction of an underground pipe network and overground crossings (including replacement bridge) and associated work and made the following response:

"Proposed Site 1: Grand Union Canal Crossing - along the H8 Standing Way.

The reports and drawings illustrate the proposed pipework emerging from the ground, encased in galvanised metal sheeting, and visible in the central reservation of the H8 as it crosses the canal.

Our concern is that the chosen material will exacerbate the road noise along the H8 Standing Way and impact nearby residential properties and wildlife along the Grand Union Canal.

Our request is that the application is amended to include an accredited acoustic barrier used in place of sheet metal. If the application cannot be amended, we request that a condition is added where an appropriate acoustic barrier is secured as part of the detail design - prior to construction commencing."

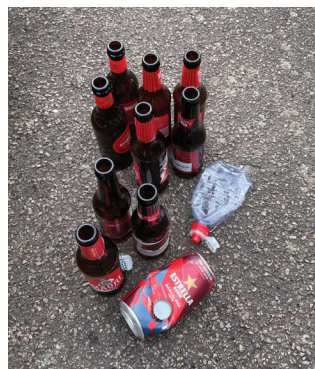
To view the Application documents go to MK City Council's Planning Portal and search for Application no. PLN/2026/1342. MKCC's decision will be reported in the Autumn Newsletter.

Environmental services and this quarter we

Fed Up With Litter?

We have received the following update and request for evidence in support of this Order renewal 2027 – please contact: Clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk if you have any information here.

The existing Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) in the city, relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places is due to expire in October 2027. Before the Order can be renewed for a further three years, the Council is required to undertake a formal review, which includes a public consultation. Formal Consultation will take place in June/July next year which will help inform any decision regarding the future of the Order.



The Alcohol PSPO is not a ban on drinking alcohol in public places. Rather, it provides authorised officers with powers to address anti-social behaviour linked to alcohol consumption. If a person is causing, or is likely to cause, anti-social behaviour, they may be required to stop drinking and surrender their alcohol. Failure to comply with this request may result in a £100 Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) or prosecution through the courts, which can lead to a fine of up to £500.

The PSPO is currently in force within 15 areas including **Old Woughton Parish**.

To support the process of renewal, gathering evidence over the next 12 months will help demonstrate the ongoing need for the PSPO and support for its renewal for a further three years:

- Photographic evidence of alcohol-related litter in public spaces.
- Reports from residents and community members concerning street drinking and its impact on the local area.
- Encouraging the public to report alcohol-related anti-social behaviour to Thames Valley Police

Community Safety Officer

Woughton Park – Road Surface

The Parish Council met with Highways to discuss the deterioration of the road surface in Woughton Park. A large section had been re-surfaced a couple of years ago, but quickly deteriorated in sections. We are pleased that the worst areas have now been repaired.



Marlborough Street Traffic Signs

You will be aware of the traffic management work being applied to Marlborough Street (V8) - with speed monitoring and other signage... encouraging drivers to slow down. This is an ongoing project being applied due to the complexity of the junctions along this stretch. There is data of poor driving (U turns at junctions) casualty data, including pedestrians walking / crossing the dual carriage way here. This programme has been implemented and will be developed with speed cameras in due course to change 'traffic behaviour', provide safety around these junctions and piece of roadway.



Each year, the Council's contractor, Suez, removes graffiti from council infrastructure, including buildings, street furniture and underpasses. The council receives an average of 150 enquiries each month about this problem and there are two full time crews who clean or paint areas prone to persistent graffiti. This work forms a key part of maintaining the appearance of the city, but it does come at a high cost. Graffiti removal and prevention costs the council over £300k each year.

The crews clean off graffiti as quickly as possible from council-owned buildings, bridges or street furniture but it can take longer to do if the damage is extensive and requires specialist cleaning methods or it is inaccessible.

For example, graffiti located at height or on or near the highway will require either additional equipment or traffic management to keep staff safe. Due to the high cost of traffic management, the council will often coordinate this work with planned highway maintenance to minimise disruption and expense.

The Council does not remove graffiti from privately owned buildings, nor does it offer a removal service so reports should be directed to the landowner. Property owners and organisations are encouraged to take responsibility for maintaining their assets, helping to keep Milton Keynes an attractive place to live, work and visit.

Graffiti on Council-owned land or property can be reported via the Council's website or by calling 01908 252570.

If the graffiti is on a bus stop, please report it to Passenger Transport on the Contact Us form.

Annual Residents Meeting – 16th June 2026

Another year, another fantastic residents' meeting — and another trio of brilliant guest speakers. More than 70 residents joined us at St Mary's Church, filling the room with energy, curiosity and plenty of good conversation. The parish council is calling that a win.

A Deep Dive into Our Water Future — The Grand Union Canal Transfer Project

We began with **Sarah-Jayne O'Kane, Stakeholder Engagement Lead** from Severn Trent, who gave a clear and eye opening overview of the Grand Union Canal Transfer Project. Her message was simple but striking: at our current rate of water use, parts of the UK could face serious shortages within 25 years.

The project links two regions with very different fortunes. Severn Trent, supplying the Birmingham area, has surplus water; Affinity Water, serving Cambridge, is already under pressure. The solution is to move water from where it's plentiful to where it's needed most, using the Grand Union Canal as the route. In return, the Canal & River Trust receives essential funding to support its role in the transfer. If all goes to plan, the system will be operational by 2033.

Additional points raised:

- The continued expansion of MK and the construction of Universal have been taken into consideration.
- Water will be pumped into the canal, with engineering works ensuring it flows in the correct direction. Locks will be bypassed using gravity or pumps.
- Further confirmation is needed, but it is hoped that no works will be required on bridge 88.
- Leakage reduction is ongoing, but even eliminating all leaks would not remove the need for this project.
- Desalination may seem an obvious solution for an island nation, but it remains difficult and expensive; coastal water companies may explore it further.
- During heavy rainfall, safeguards are in place to prevent foul water entering watercourses. This year alone, Severn Trent is investing £5 billion in sewer upgrades and larger storm tanks.
- Water levels in our area will not be impacted.

Celebrating 50 Years of Orchards — Mid Shires Orchard Group

Next, **Claire Conway-Crapp, Chair of the Mid Shires Orchard Group** brought a lovely slice of local heritage. This year marks

50 years of the orchards in Woughton on the Green — a milestone well worth celebrating.

The Parks Trust owns both the Community Orchard and the cider orchard and they keep the grass mown, while the Mid Shires Orchard Group cares for the fruit trees. They meet monthly on Saturday afternoons for pruning and general TLC, and everyone is welcome, no experience needed.

Dates highlighted:

- Summer Picnic — 25th July
- Apple Day — 17th October

The Future of Milton Keynes University Hospital

Our final speaker was **Lisa Antonini Deputy Head of Communications and Engagement** (Communications and Engagement Lead for the New Hospital Programme) at Milton Keynes University Hospital, offering an inspiring look at how MKUH is evolving to meet the needs of our ever growing — and ageing — city.

Recent developments include a new radiotherapy centre and the Oak wards, designed to support older patients with dignity and comfort. Even more significantly, MKUH has secured £500 million through the national New Hospitals Programme to build a new maternity and children's facility — a major investment in local families.

Additional points raised:

- A new 450 space car park has opened, providing dedicated staff parking and freeing up spaces elsewhere.
- Work continues to secure a bus service running through the hospital grounds.
- There are currently no plans to amalgamate with Bedford Hospital.

It was a wonderfully engaging evening, full of learning, local pride and a real sense of community spirit. Thank you to everyone who attended, asked questions and helped make the meeting such a success. We're already looking forward to the next one — and hope to see even more of you there.



Milton Keynes University Hospital – New Hospital Programme

“Milton Keynes is one of the fastest-growing cities in the UK, and our hospital must grow and evolve to meet the needs of current and future generations. Through the government’s New Hospital Programme, we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform healthcare facilities in Milton Keynes, creating a modern, sustainable and digitally-enabled hospital designed around the needs of patients, families and staff.” (MKUH September 2026)

Further to their presentation at the Annual Residents Meeting this June and the related Notification on 11th August 2026, MKUH held its public consultation event for these proposals on site on 7th September. For those of you who couldn't go along in person, there is now an opportunity to contribute to the associated on-line public consultation survey, but be quick the survey closes on 25th September - there are just 7no. questions:

www.mkuh.nhs.uk/mkview

There will be a further opportunity to comment as the necessary planning application documents are released and when Old Woughton Parish Council will also set out its formal views, For the moment, however, OWPC welcomes the national investment in the local health community, but notes that the development as currently proposed, is equivalent in height to the Hotel La Tour in the city centre.



Representation of the development proposal – finish subject to revision

THANK YOU!



We thank the Fire Services and teams for their work at this most challenging time who have been actively protecting our landscapes and communities over the last months:



Parks Trust Green Flag Award

We would like to congratulate the Parks Trust on being awarded the prestigious Green Flag Award for the tenth year running! Here is their press release:

“This international mark of quality for expert management of green spaces recognises the hard work, passion and dedication of our team, contractors and over 240 volunteers caring for Milton Keynes’ 6,000 acres of parks, woodlands, lakes and landscapes. The Parks Trust is proud to be the only organisation in the country to achieve a single Green Flag Award for a whole city-wide network of parks.

The **Green Flag Award** scheme, managed by environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy, recognises and rewards well-managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of green spaces across the United Kingdom and around the world.

Plus, **Great Linford Manor Park** has also achieved a Green Heritage Site Accreditation for the management and promotion of its historic

features and sharing that history with visitors. The scheme’s Green Heritage Site Accreditation awards are specific to places of physical, social and cultural historic interest where efforts have been made to preserve, develop and share that history with visitors.”



EVENT CALENDAR

October 2

Litter Pick

2pm

Passmore

(meet by the noticeboard)

October 9

**Citizens Advice
Session (free)**

10-1pm

St. Mary's Church

October 10

Litter Pick

10.30-11.30am

Woughton Park

(meet in car park)

October 17

Golden Jubilee

Apple Day

12pm-4pm

Orchard

November 7

Litter Pick

10.30-11.30am

WoTGS

(meet on seat opposite
the pub)

November 8

Remembrance

Sunday

10.45am

St. Mary's Church

November 21

Litter Pick

10.30-11.30am

WoTGN

(meet in paddocks car park off Newport Road)

Sat November 28

Christmas Fayre

2-4pm

St Mary's Church -
Newport Road



The Parks Trust
MILTON KEYNES

Apple Day

Discover the delights of the season and celebrate all things apple! Explore the orchard, enjoy tasty treats and browse lots of stalls and activities!

SAT 17 OCTOBER
12-4pm



Woughton on the Green
Community Orchard

what3words /// fees.belong.bolt

01908 233600
events@theparkstrust.com



Full event listings
& booking information on
theparkstrust.com/events



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Advice Sessions

For residents of
**Simpson, Ashland and
Old Woughton**



Citizens Advice Milton Keynes is working with both Simpson & Ashland and Old Woughton Parish Councils to provide advice surgeries for local residents.

Our advice is free, impartial and **confidential**.

See below for details of when and where we'll be in the area:



9th Oct 2026 - St Mary's Church

**22nd Jan 2027 - Simpson Village
Hall**

10am - 1pm

11am - 2pm

11am - 2pm

We can advise you on a range of problems including:



- Debt and Money Issues
- Benefits and Universal Credit
- Housing and Homelessness
- Work and Employment
- Family Law
- Immigration
- Consumer Problems

**citizens
advice**

**Milton
Keynes**



UK City of Culture 2029

Further to the article in the Summer Newsletter, OWPC received this announcement from the City Council on 10th August:

"Today, as Milton Keynes submits its bid to become UK City of Culture 2029, we want to recognise the thousands of people who have helped shape it. More than 2,500 residents, artists, community groups, businesses and partners have contributed ideas, experiences and ambition to create a bid that reflects the creativity, character and confidence of our city.

This bid belongs to everyone who has helped build Milton Keynes over the past six decades and everyone helping to shape what comes next. The spirit of those 'hippies in helicopters' lives on in a city that still thinks big, welcomes new ideas and believes in its future."

The decision follows early next year.