

ISSUE: Spring 2023

Your magazine from Campbell Park Parish Council

Homeground

WILLEN

WINTERHILL

OLDBROOK

FISHERMEAD

SPRINGFIELD

NEWLANDS

WOOLSTONE

More Easter
Tea Party
photos
on Page 8

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CAMPBELL
PARK
PARISH
COUNCIL

Caring within the community

MEET THE COUNCILLORS

WILLEN



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DIXON**
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WOOLSTONE



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HOWARD**
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FISHERMEAD



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PARISH OFFICE STAFF

CLERK TO COUNCIL
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DEPUTY CLERK
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ESTATES MANAGER
CHRIS HINDSON

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CPPC GRANTS

Campbell Park Parish Council

If you're from a community group or charity, who is supporting local residents in the Campbell Park Parish, visit our website to discover more about our grant funding:

<https://www.campbell-park.gov.uk/services/grants/>

ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT

Campbell Park Parish Council

In the last year, in terms of Planning Applications, CPCC has looked at 92 proposals that were submitted to Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC)



We as a Parish raised objections to over 10% of these, mainly for reasons of overdevelopment within the area. 60% of these objections resulted in MKCC refusing the application.

In planning matters, Campbell Park Parish is a diverse area, with its close proximity to the city centre, and many 3-storey houses that lend themselves for conversion opportunities. It is recognised that with a shortage of local authority housing and an ever-growing waiting list, private sector investment in Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's) is increasing. As a council we have no problem with correctly licensed HMO's that have been granted planning permission as long as they fulfil the criteria set by MKCC. In 2023, we have helped to close down 2 of these properties that met none of the regulations and were not registered. Our diligence as a Planning Committee has meant that residents within our estates are letting us know when building work, unsociable behaviour and similar is occurring. We do need our residents to help us, you are our eyes and ears in the same way that we as a Parish are for keeping MKCC updated.

As a committee, we are trying very hard to work with both MKCC Planning and Enforcement Departments to keep all residents safe, and in a peaceful environment. There have been amendments to

Parking Standards within our area that as a Parish we do not agree with and have submitted our concerns to MKCC as part of their consultation process. The committee is of the view that decision-making based on 6-year-old data is completely at odds with the reality of the situation on estates like Fishermead and Oldbrook. I have voiced our concerns and we hope that this will be reviewed in the near future.

The infrastructure of our estates, especially close to the city centre, is at full capacity, although the nearly finished temporary accommodation housing blocks in Fishermead will hopefully help provide better housing than some available in the private sector.

No doubt many of you have been following the saga on Portland Drive in Willen, the adjustments ordered by the Planning Inspectorate appear to be taking place. This is the very extreme in planning terms, a situation that should have been addressed earlier and shows again why there are strict rules in place for the benefit of all residents in all areas of Milton Keynes. I can only stress again how we as a Parish rely on our residents to help us ensure all planning applications are submitted correctly and are in keeping with the area in which they live. As a Planning Committee, we are always available to help our residents with advice on

any home improvements they are intending to make, it is always more cost effective to improve than move!

Our Planning, Transport & Infrastructure meetings are usually held at the Springfield Centre on the first Monday of each month, we encourage residents to attend and raise any concerns they have. We look forward to meeting you.

Councillor **Brian Greenwood**
CHAIR OF PLANNING

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Annual General Meeting of Council, 16th May, 6.30pm
16th May, 7.30pm
20th June, 7.30pm
18th July, 7.30pm

Committees

Meetings will be held at either the Oldbrook Centre or the Springfield Centre. Please see the website and noticeboards for more information.

Planning, Infrastructure & Transport

3rd May, 6.30pm
5th June, 6.30pm
3rd July, 6.30pm
7th August, 6.30pm

Finance, Administration & Policy

6th June, 7pm

Buildings & Property Portfolio

9th May, 6.30pm
13th June, 6.30pm
11th July, 6.30pm

Community & Social Wellbeing

22nd May, 7pm
26th June, 7pm
24th July, 7pm

Communications

30th May, 6.30pm
27th June, 6.30pm
25th July, 6.30pm

END OF YEAR REPORT **COMMUNITY & SOCIAL WELLBEING**

Campbell Park Parish Council

What a year it has been for the Community & Social Wellbeing Committee. As usual we have had the pleasure of supporting our young community by holding our usual Easter & Halloween tea parties.



This year we also held a Christmas party. All were well attended except for the Christmas event which was impacted by winter illnesses - although those that attended had a good time.

We celebrated the Queen's Jubilee Year by holding a parish wide celebration event at Willen Pavilion which was a great day and very busy for the council staff and councillors. With an array of free activities, entertainment and food options available along with a shuttle bus provided to help get people to the site, hundreds of people joined in with this fantastic event.

We also provided grants and donations to community groups, including the supported living housing complexes, in our parish so that they could hold afternoon teas and social gatherings to celebrate the Queens Jubilee together. Also, as part of the Jubilee celebrations the parish held craft sessions for the children giving the children opportunities to make crowns and bunting.

The summer holidays saw the parish provide sessions with MK Dons and other organisations so that our young people had something positive to do during the summer holidays.

Grants have been provided throughout the year to a variety of recipients

including Milton Keynes YMCA, Action Speaks, Jumping Beans, MBG Community Services, Sierra Leone Community MK, Frank Howe Court Social Club to name a few who applied and were successful this year.

Let's not forget the current concerns regarding the cost of living crisis and the impact on peoples choices on heating and eating during the winter months. The C&SW Committee recognised that there could be issues for residents of our parish and engaged with the wider CPPC Council to see what we could do to help support people. We were allocated funding from MK City Council and along with our own funding were able to bring together a programme of 'warm spaces'. Our parish engaged with some organisations that were already working within the parish and asked if they could expand their services with some additional funding and also established new initiatives and as can be seen from the last edition of Homeground and all our Facebook posts, we managed to provide at least one 'Warm Welcome' session every day during the week along with some Saturdays too, where people could access a warm place, drink and food.

Councillor **Karl Kavarana**
CHAIR OF COMMUNITY & SOCIAL WELLBEING



ARE YOU GOING TO UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE OR TAKING UP AN APPRENTICESHIP THIS AUTUMN?

ARE YOU UNDER 25?

If you live in the certain parts of central/eastern Milton Keynes you may be eligible for a grant from Chapman's Educational Foundation towards your costs.

CLOSING DATE
18th September 2023

To check eligibility or get an application form, send your name and postal address to

jansosborne@aol.com

END OF YEAR REPORT PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Campbell Park Parish Council

Each year, at the Annual meeting of the Parish Council, the election of the Chairperson for the Personnel Committee takes place, along with the election of committee members. The Personnel Committee oversees all matters relating to the employment of staff and the wellbeing of councillors.

The Parish Council has 8 Parish Office Staff. We also have 3 part time caretakers, who look after our Community Centres. Additionally, we have a team of 4 landscape workers, plus a seasonal worker and volunteers, who carry out all of the work to meet the Parish Council's landscaping obligations. This year we have recruited an Estates Manager. The Estates Manager will be part of the project team working on the delivery of our new-build Community Hub in Springfield, as well as overseeing the landscaping team, parish meeting places, allotments, open spaces and play areas.

The Personnel committee continues to ensure that our staff are up to date with training requirements and support their personnel requirements, and also ensure our councillors attend on the necessary training courses.

Some of the items the Personnel Committee deal with include compliance with Health and Safety Regulations, Staff Handbook, Continuous Professional Development, recruitment and also regularly review staff sickness and attendance levels. Annually we consider items relating to Personnel that need to be included in the budget for the following year and also review the Terms of Reference prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor **David Pafford**
CHAIR OF PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The End of Year Report from our Finance, Administration & Policy Committee will be published in the next edition alongside our Draft Accounts for 2022-2023.

END OF YEAR REPORT COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Campbell Park Parish Council



The Campbell Park Parish Council Communication Team has been working hard to collate news and tips that will both inform and educate our residents.

Our dedication has been reflected in our recent magazines, which have been well received. A personal favourite of mine is the continuing feature on ways to wellbeing.

We are currently looking at our communication strategy and how we can better reach the community with relevant and timely information. We believe that as a team, there are always ways we can improve, and we will continue to work towards providing the best service we can for our residents.

Councillor **Chrispina Odunewu**
CHAIR OF COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

'Bins on tour'

A cleaner, greener and safer way to collect your waste

Date: Thursday 25th May **Time:** 11am - 2pm
Location: Willen Local Centre

How can I find out more?
Scan the QR code to sign up for important news and information sent to your email.
Visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling
Coming soon to our website... a postcode checker so you can find out how your waste and recycling will be collected.
We'll also be sending information about what's changing to everyone's homes nearer the time.
If you need extra help, please call our Customer Service team on 01908 252570 (British Sign Language options are available)

END OF YEAR REPORT

BUILDINGS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Campbell Park Parish Council

It has been an interesting twelve months for the committee.

COMMUNITY HUB

A lot of work has been taking place in the background to progress the planning application for the new building which is with Milton Keynes City Council Planning Department. Hopefully this will be given the green light soon, allowing us to move the project forward and provide a useful asset to the residents of the Parish.

LANDSCAPING

The landscaping team have been working hard to bring the parish green spaces, that we are responsible for, up to a good standard. The team are committed to delivering a high standard. With the summer plan now started with the mowing of grass areas.

Our seasonal worker and the two volunteers that work with the landscaping team, have been a valuable addition to the group.

The Parish Council has recently appointed an Estates Manager to oversee all areas that we are responsible for and he brings with him a wealth of knowledge and is an asset to the team. Also, the internal appointment of the Estates Officer will provide much more flexibility within the team.

Milton Keynes City Council have approached the parish council with regards to taking on more landscaping work and discussions relating to this are currently ongoing.

ALLOTMENTS

All of the allotment plots have been rented out and we are carrying out regular inspections of both sites in Willen and Woolstone to ensure that standards are maintained.

There is a waiting list for any resident who wishes to apply for a plot. If you are interested please contact the parish office.

Councillor **Ray Golding**

CHAIR OF BUILDINGS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE



COLLEGE IN THE COMMUNITY DAY 2023

As part of their first College in the Community Day, students from Milton Keynes College recently undertook a repair project for CPPC.

The bench seating on Oldbrook Green was due for a much-needed refurbishment so when Milton Keynes College got in touch and told us about the College in the Community Day, we were keen to get involved.

Once the course tutors had come and inspected what work was needed we confirmed a plan and looked forward to their arrival. On the day the group of carpentry students turned up bright and early and set about replacing the wooden planks which form the seating.

Sally Alexander, Group Principal and CEO of Milton Keynes College Group, said:

“Our first College in the Community Day was a huge success. From visiting many of the projects, it was clear to see that our students and staff were incredibly enthusiastic about supporting these vital organisations and the feedback from the groups themselves has been extremely positive.”

CPPC thinks this is a brilliant initiative, showcasing the work of the students and tutors not only in Campbell Park Parish but right across Milton Keynes and we will definitely look to take part in 2024.

PLAY AREA REFURBISHMENT COMPLETED!

Campbell Park Parish Council

PATTISON LANE, WOOLSTONE

We are pleased to see the play area on Pattison Lane in Woolstone has had its refurbishment completed.

The project was funded jointly by Campbell Park Parish Council and Milton Keynes City Council, each providing funding of £10,000, following a successful application by CPPC to the MK Council's Community Infrastructure Fund.

This has enabled this play area to get a new lease of life with some new play items added and some older items refurbished. The area has also benefitted from a new picnic table and bin as well as some new line markings.

The centre piece of this play area now being a new ball catcher – you can throw a tennis ball in and it will send the ball flying out in a random direction to see if you can catch it again!

PENCARROW PLACE, FISHERMEAD

We were excited to see work in progress at the Play Area on Pencarrow Place in Fishermead.

The works being carried out by Milton Keynes City Council, will provide some new 'sealife' themed play items installed, some of the existing items refurbished and path repairs.



Thank you to the residents

... that responded to our consultation providing ideas of how this play area could be improved with our very modest budget. We have had some lovely feedback already and we hope that you continue to enjoy this play area.



Earache?
Blocked Ears?
Sore or itchy ears?

It could just be wax...

Call Maria on 07398 183247
Ear Care Practitioner
Domiciliary Ear Wax Removal



Registered Charity No. 1185654

info@girlpack.org

@GirlPackMK

Girl Pack is a small charity working in the heart of the communities of Milton Keynes providing period products to those who need them.

We provide period packs to schools, community, family/children's centres, local government offices, community fridges and retailers (to name a few). Our packs contain a full packet of period pads, a pair of knickers, wipes, and hand sanitiser.

There are many reasons for people to use our packs and these range from starting your period unexpectedly to not being able to afford to buy what you need. There's no judgement here, we are here to help no matter the reason for your need.

If you need help with period products, please go to any of our partners and pick one up.

Period Packs can be collected from: Campbell Park Parish Council,
1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead MK6 2AS (behind The Trinity Centre/Co-op)

Easter Party 2023



Once again our Easter Tea Party at Oldbrook Centre was really popular and it was lovely to be able to host an afternoon of fun for local children - we all had a such a wonderful time.

The children were able to interact with the creatures from the reptile roadshow and we had our lovely face painter creating lots of fantastic Easter Bunny designs.

We also had entertainment from Uncle Bob's Magic show. Uncle Bob made lots of model balloons for the children and also gave us a fantastic magic show.

We also had lots of fun with bubbles in the garden, Cllr Dixon had a variety of craft activities to get involved with as well as having a sunflower kit to take home to grow. We also had an Alice in Wonderland themed Fancy dress competition, free refreshments and the children were excited to each receive a chocolate Easter Egg as well as a visit from the Easter Bunny who had lots of chocolate bars to give away!

We received some lovely comments on the day and we really pleased that over 100 people attended.

Due to the popularity of the Easter Tea Party, from next year we will hold this in our larger halls at the Springfield Centre.



WARM WELCOME SESSIONS



We hosted and worked with partners to deliver a range of 'warm spaces' through the winter months. These sessions steadily grew in popularity, with many people regularly attending sessions.

We also had many that attended for the odd session here and there. Some people popped in for a cup of tea and a chat, some people stayed longer and enjoyed a warm lunch or evening meal. These sessions were due to finish at the end of March but, recognising the ongoing need, CPPC took the decision to allocate additional funding to extend some sessions through until the end of April.

These sessions were delivered with funding from Milton Keynes City Council and Campbell Park Parish Council. We also received a donation of £200 from Ward Councillor Paul Trendall towards the Warm Space at Springfield – thank you Paul.

We would like to thank our Warm Welcome partners; Action Speaks CIC, MGB Community Services, Grace Church MK, MK Christian Centre – ForMK project, The Cricketers, Oaktree Court & the staff and Councillors at CPPC for delivering weekday and weekend sessions at Springfield Centre.



All of your hard work and commitment in delivering these sessions has been appreciated.

We are also considering options for continuing some similar activities throughout the year, so look out for more information on this. We expect that next winter the Warm Welcome sessions (with details to be confirmed nearer the time), will be up and running again to support local residents.

If you have any feedback on the Warm Welcome sessions, any comments or suggestions on how they might be improved for next winter – please do let us know.

SPRINGFIELD & OLDBROOK CENTRES AVAILABLE FOR HIRE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION bookings@campbell-park.gov.uk

OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.campbell-park.gov.uk

Tel: 01908 608559

NEWS FROM COMMUNITY BOAT 'ELECTRA'



Electra's volunteer crew. Credit: Lindsey Patraiko

Electra, the community boat on the Grand Union Canal, is seeking more volunteers.

Electra, the accessible, all-electric community canal boat, run by volunteers from the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, already has 49 volunteers, but more are needed as demand for cruises has doubled since the boat was launched in 2021.

Volunteer Chair, Denise Taylor, said "Electra volunteers are a friendly bunch who work as one big team, creating and delivering a range of enjoyable cruises on the Grand Union Canal. Some people crew the boat, others work behind the scenes to get everything ready, and some people do a bit of both!"

"We are recruiting NOW for Cabin Hosts, to welcome and chat with guests and serve a range of food and drinks from the on-board Galley Bar." added Sue Morrison, Lead Cabin Host. Informal interviews will be held in April and training in May/June, ready for crewing from July.

There are also shore-based vacancies in Customer Liaison, Social Media, Marketing, Outreach, Fundraising and Project Management – great opportunities to learn new skills in a friendly, supportive team.

Lindsey Patraiko, Volunteer Social Media Manager, agreed. "I volunteered because it was unique and exciting, and I wanted to enhance and develop my social media skills and use my creativity. If you haven't got a lot of time, there are also a number of short tasks that can be quickly completed."

Volunteer Coordinator, Gill Kirkup, who also volunteers as a cabin host, said "I'm the first port of call for anyone interested in volunteering for Electra and really enjoy meeting new people and finding out about their interests."

Milton Keynes claims to have a higher number of volunteers per head of population than any other UK city, with 84,500 citizens regularly volunteering across the city.

Anyone interested in volunteering is invited to visit Electra's website <https://www.bmkwaterway.org/electra/volunteering/> or email the team on volunteers.electra@bmkwaterway.org for further details.



WILLEN PAVILION NOW HAS WIFI!

For a long time, the Pavilion Management Committee have been frustrated by poor mobile signal along with the main cabling for telephone connections being far away from the Pavilion. This meant being faced with a very expensive project to excavate many metres of land to connect the Pavilion to these services. Thanks to developing technology, Willen Pavilion now has Wi-Fi services being delivered by satellite.

If you would like to hire Willen Pavilion please contact Jo on Mobile: **07545 777585**
manager@willenpavilion.com



COUNCILLOR PROFILE



**OPHELIA
COLE**

My name is Ophelia Cole, and I have lived in Fishermead for over eight years. I am passionate about people and supporting those who are vulnerable to achieving their full potential. I am excited to be living in a multi-cultural community and equally excited about the work of the Parish Council. The memory of Santa driving down my road on our first Christmas in Fishermead, felt like the start of a new annual tradition, although this has stopped it is an experience I still hold dear, as it shows the Council values the community.

In my view, becoming a Councillor is an opportunity to make a huge difference to the quality of life for the people in our Parish. I try to engage with residents as this is the best way to identify their needs and be able to offer help and assistance where possible.

As Councillor, I hope to truly represent the needs of our residents and support them to gain pride and confidence in themselves and the Parish Council. I engage in various areas of community life – together with a team of volunteers, I run a homework club once a week in term time, and hold other community activities such as movie nights, day trips, games nights, youth club etc to engage families and young people as we build a strong and supportive community.

As a Springfield Councillor, I look forward to engaging fully with the residents and encouraging participation in matters of the community.

My years of experience in customer facing roles within adult social care has taught me patience and empathy and to acknowledge that circumstances determines a person's view of life. I am aware that any attempt to meet the needs of residents would require these skills.

I desire to initiate changes to the physical and mental wellbeing of our residents, and to seek to understand their needs, and provide them with the support and training to develop themselves, and transform our community into one where every resident feels valued.

I hope that residents in advantaged position would be able to share their knowledge and skills with those who are less fortunate, equipping them to enhance their life. I look forward to working with the Springfield Councillors and members of the community to make positive changes.

If you wish to volunteer for any activities or events mentioned, or you are passionate about developing a strong local community, please do not hesitate to contact me.



CPPC GRANTS

Campbell Park Parish Council



If you're from a community group or charity, who is supporting local residents in the Campbell Park Parish, visit our website to discover more about our grant funding: <https://www.campbell-park.gov.uk/services/grants/>.

We recently awarded a grant of £500 to **Keech Hospice Care**, to help them to provide community care for children in the Parish with life limiting conditions.

We also awarded a grant to **Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (charity)**. We provided £1000 towards their project to carry out improvements to the neonatal unit relatives room.

For more information about our grant funding, please visit <https://www.campbell-park.gov.uk/services/grants/> or contact the Community Officer at the Parish office on **01908 608559**



ARE YOU A STUDENT, AGED 16 OR OVER? DO YOU NEED FINANCIAL HELP TO PURSUE YOUR STUDIES OR APPRENTICESHIP?

DO YOU LIVE IN THE PARISH OF CAMPBELL PARK?

If you can answer YES to all three questions then this could be for you

The Geoff Taylor Educational Trust was founded in 1994 to assist in the advancement of education for residents of Campbell Park Parish Council. If you need financial assistance with such things as tuition fees, travel expenses, or other incidental expenses the Trust could assist you.

Grants are awarded up to a maximum of £500 – request for amounts over this limit will not be considered.

The Trust also aims to help students in the Parish by assisting them to continue their further education in skilled trades industries, or employment by means of apprenticeships or training at college or university.

Application forms are now available for consideration in September

These may be obtained from the Secretary of the Trust by email david.pafford@campbell-park.gov.uk

Or can be downloaded on the Parish website at

www.campbell-park.gov.uk/services/education-support/geoff-taylor-educational-trust/

Geoff Taylor Educational Trust

1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead, Milton Keynes MK6 2AS

Closing date for applications is Friday 25 August, 2023. Applications received after this date will not be considered.

LANDSCAPING REPORT

Campbell Park Parish Council

WINTER SEASON DRAWS TO A CLOSE FISHERMEAD

All maintenance on the main roads is up to date. Sightlines have been cleared and parking areas opened up. We have also made a start on the courtyards and areas behind the houses. Work in these areas will re-commence in September.

OLDBROOK

All sightlines and footpaths cleared and all the courtyards/areas behind houses have been maintained and have continued maintenance on the previously cut back areas. The long rows of conifer towards the bottom of the Boulevard were heavily reduced to open up the sightlines on junctions from the shoppers car parks and exits onto the main roads.

SPRINGFIELD

Large works were carried out on the courtyards; heavy reductions were necessary as in some areas a large amount of household waste needed to be cleared out. All sightlines and alleyways are cleared and up to date.



“Dead trees, life after death”
A place to live - For birds, bats and squirrels.

A food source – by attracting insects, moss, lichen, and fungi, dead wood becomes a feast for wildlife.

A hiding place – the cavities are used by all wildlife to shelter, store food and find shade.

A soil refresher – billions of microorganisms grow on snags and enrich the soil with vital nutrients.

A snag tree left standing on the Woolstone green car park.

WOOLSTONE

Due to the large number of established hedges much of the work in Woolstone is carried out by the Tractor- flail. With the hand tools coming round to finish up and clear any outstanding sightlines issues and footpath obstruction.

WILLEN

The large-scale job of cutting back the length of the redway from Linford Lane to the shops has been completed. The work was carried out by the tractor-flail with the stretch across the football pitches completed by the hand tools. All sightlines and footpaths have been cleared.

At the time of writing this report, all resident enquiries have been actioned. It is worth noting that we are not responsible for the trees on the land we maintain on behalf of Milton Keynes City Council (only up to the first few meters). These are the responsibility of MKCC who have a dedicated team of tree officers, they will inspect and issue any work if they feel it is required.

SUMMER MAINTENANCE PROGRAMME

The summer programme has now begun, with the mowing of the grass areas well under way. The order is as follow:

WINTERHILL – FISHERMEAD – OLDBROOK – SPRINGFIELD – WOOLSTONE – WILLEN

The mowers are starting at either end of the route and each round will take approximately 3 to 4 weeks to complete.

The strimmers and hand mower will be following up on areas not reached by the mowers.

We will continue to take a more sympathetic approach to applying herbicide this year, most of the areas will be strimmed or left for wild, the exception will be to treat invasive species and the treatment of beds that have been consumed by weeds, leaving the intended shrubs to die. Hard





standing areas will also be treated.

We will continue to leave wide open areas left unmown. Providing vibrant and diverse pollinator friendly spaces and enriching the flora and fauna in these areas. These will remain until July when the nests have all hatched and mini beasts are beginning to move on. The cutting back will happen slowly giving everything time to move on, the cutting back will regenerate the growth for the year ahead.

Bird nesting season runs between March – August which sees restrictions put in place to protect nesting birds. Any resident enquiries we receive during this time regarding shrubs and hedges will be carried forward onto the winter programme. The exception will be, if it poses a threat to public safety and causes access or visibility issues.

URBAN REWILDING

Our team is always looking to learn and implement new ways to increase biodiversity and a greener way of working across the parish. We are constantly trialling and trying new ways of working to keep our green spaces safe and tidy to be enjoyed by all but also that we are working in ways to protect and promote the nature and habitats around us.

We have been trialling some electric hand tools recently and I am confident that we will have added some of the range into our collection this year. We continue to follow market advancements in the larger machinery which for us is yet to meet the demand and intensity of amenity landscaping.

We have continued to leave wildflower areas and reduce our use of herbicide, all of our large reduction works are done outside of the nesting season

and recently we have made changes to the way we approach tree work on our land.

Any tree that is dead, dying or decayed, in the past would have been felled to the ground, but we are now leaving, where we can “snag” trees or “wildlife trees.”

“standing dead and dying trees called

“snags” or “wildlife trees” are important for wildlife in both natural and landscaped settings, a place to nest or den, It provides a source of food for insects, who are in turn food for many other creatures”

If you see these on parish land rest assured, they are perfectly safe and play an important role in sustaining wildlife of the local areas.



Before and after photo – Springfield, courtyard coppice, necessary to remove large amounts of fly tipped household waste.



Before and after - Oldbrook hedge reduction. To open up the pavement and the sightlines issue at the junction.

Before and after Fishermead – Opened up a popular walkway which had complaints of feeling unsafe, Residents have reported they feel much happier on this footpath now it has been exposed.



Before and after Woolstone – an almost blocked path by the laurel hedge. Now reduced to waist height to open up the path and make it easier for future maintenance.

Before and after Woolstone – An area of overgrown land has now been cleared out and opened up, we have kept much of the dead wood in place to encourage nature.





Shepherdswell Academy



EYFS

This term in EYFS, the children have been learning all about animals, they were lucky enough to have a visit from the farm! In English the children shared the story of 'The Little Red Hen'. They acted out the story, discussed the emotions that the Little Red Hen had throughout the story and completed writing activities.

In Maths, the children explored weight and weighed items in the classroom to see which were the heaviest and which were the lightest.

For Shrove Tuesday the children made their own pancakes, they mixed the batter and then Mrs Uwais cooked them. They got to pick their own toppings and discussed their likes and dislikes. Some children even got to have a pancake race on the playground.

The children have also been learning about an artist called Yayoi Kusama who loves polka dots and they have made some very spotty collages.

Year 1

In English the children have been reading 'The Robot and the Bluebird', they have written diaries and their own versions of the story. The children loved this story, and all want a robot to live on our school playground!

In Humanities, the children have been learning about the United Kingdom. They have learnt about the four countries and explored their capital cities. They also learnt about how the countries' national flags and flowers came to be.

In art, the children have been learning about traditional stories from around the world. They have explored African Patterns from the story 'Anansi and the Spider'. The children had excellent discussions about colours, shapes and patterns.



Year 2

In Maths, the children have been learning all about money and have been applying their knowledge of number lines to solve word problems. The children loved playing shops to pay and give change for items.

In History, Year 2 have been learning about the events of The Great Fire of London. They learnt about what it was like to live in London during the Stuart times and linked this with their learning in English, when they wrote recounts as if they were there.

Over the spring term the children have been super scientists by investigating the strength of a chocolate road. They learnt about John McAdam and his road designs, the children then made their own roads and tested to see whose road was the strongest.



Whole School Events

During the Spring Term we have celebrated the NSPCC Number Day, dressed up as adjectives for World Book Day and invited our parents in for wellbeing workshops during Children's Mental Health week. We have also opened our Dragonflies wrap around provision which now includes an after school club as well as breakfast club.

If you would like to find out more about us or organise a tour, please contact the school office on **01908 665418** or **office@shepherdswell.emat.uk**

It has been another busy term in school with lots of fun and exciting learning opportunities for our children to explore.

The children started the new year focusing on a whole school unit of work based around fairy tales. The whole school walked to Milton Keynes Theatre to watch the pantomime, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. They were thrilled to see the singing and dancing and enjoyed joining in with the pantomime punchlines ... oh no they didn't ... oh yes they did! During World Book Day the children and staff enjoyed coming to school dressed as a word. The outfits were amazing and really showed how imaginative and creative our children are. The day was rounded off with lots of amazing story telling to share the love of reading!

The children across the school and nursery have enjoyed a range of other visits and first-hand learning experiences to support their learning journeys this term as well as developing further their understanding of our school community values.

These are at the heart of everything that we do!

If you have a child who is due to start Nursery in September 2023 and would like to find out more about our amazing community school and nursery then please contact the office for further information. Our nurturing school and nursery will enable your child to reach their full potential in a happy and caring learning environment.




**Do you have a child who is due to start
Nursery in September 2023?**


15 and 30 hour places available

Please contact us to arrange a tour.

01908 604689 | office@oldbrookschool.co.uk
www.oldbrookschool.co.uk


Together we make the difference

Respect



Easter Baking

Responsibility



Visiting MK Museum

Teamwork



Spring Bulb Planting

Kindness



Mother's Day

Friendship



Owl Babies



Roald Dahl Library
Visit



Victorian Day



World Book Day
Words



Autism Awareness
Week



The Willows First School and EYC



Willen School



Here at The Willows and Early Years centre we have had an exciting term with lots of great learning.

In the Early Years there has been lots of learning based around toys, pancakes, making cards for Mother's Day and Easter.

For our children in KS1 they have been focussing their learning on the community to which they belong to. They have been out and about exploring Fishermead and looking at those who help us within the community.

The children in the school, particularly on the school council, have been learning about supporting the local community and have committed to making a desert for the Seventh Day Adventist Church each month which can be shared at the community meal on a Sunday.

All the children had the opportunity to design and create costumes and props for World book day and have used their investigative skills to search for eggs in the Easter egg hunts. Our after school clubs have been a real hit and the dance club came alive when they had an end of term audience.



What a busy half term we have had and there is so much more still to come.

We've had a great spring term here at Willen Primary School. Here is a little snippet from the year groups about what we've enjoyed the most!



This term EYFS have enjoyed learning about different countries and finished off by having a visit from Safari Stu who came in with lots of animals from all over the world for us to meet!

This term Year 1 have enjoyed learning all about castles and knights! We started off the term with a Medieval day where we dressed as knights and queens and enjoyed a delicious banquet in the hall.

Year 2 enjoyed taking part in a drama workshop with Perform For Schools as part of their History learning about the Great Fire of London.

This term Year 3 have enjoyed learning about the importance of having a healthy balanced diet. We worked in teams to design a healthy stir fry dish before preparing and cooking our food. It was delicious!



This term Year 4 have been practising really hard for our end of term Easter performance. We have really enjoyed singing all of the songs and learning our lines. We were also lucky enough to visit Bradwell Abbey City Discovery Centre to learn all about the Romans!

This term Year 5 had great fun 'Cracking the Code of Easter' to discover the real meaning of Easter to Christians. Rachel (from Grace Church) led a brilliant interactive workshop with us one afternoon - including quizzes, games, videos and drama.

THE KNIFE ANGEL IN MILTON KEYNES

By Councillor Val Dixon

The statue officially called ‘National Monument Against Violence and Aggression’ but is better known as The Knife Angel.

The Knife Angel visited Milton Keynes from 3rd December 2022 until 7th January 2023. He was sited at the MK Dons Stadium having journeyed from Newport Gwent. The next location was Slough.

It has visited many places since December 2018 having been under construction since 2016. It stays one month in each location. Except when lock down happened when he was in Telford where he stayed until restrictions were lifted.

The visit to Milton Keynes was organised by Thames Valley Police and sponsored by MK Dons SET. MK Dons SET carried out sessions with groups of local school children and other groups. On average 700 people a day came to see the statue, as individuals, family groups or other groups. There were members of TVP force and volunteers there to explain about aspects of the statue. One gentleman was there every day, his son had sadly lost his life to knife crime on New Year's Eve a couple of years ago. He and his family held a midnight vigil to remember the young man.

The statue is made up of over 100,000 blades of all sizes, small kitchen knives to samurai swords and machetes. Some of the blades used in the wings have names and messages on them. These are the names of the victim on which that knife was used. This was done in conjunction with the families of those victims.

The idea came about when the Police were looking for somewhere to store all the weapons that had been confiscated, handed in on amnesty or used in crime. The National Foundry in Oswestry said they would store them in containers on site. There were so many of them that they decided to do something with them. Their artist in residence came up with the idea of the angel. These knives had to be cleaned and blunted. Some of them had been used in crime and still had evidence of the crime on them. Once the statue was in place at the Stadium people were able to visit. Volunteers, including our Parish Councillor Val Dixon, were on hand to answer questions and explain about the statue. The volunteers



came from many groups: police cadets, Rotary clubs, businesses and also members of the public who were concerned with the rising level of knife crime.

MK Dons and MK Dons Sport and Education Trust were awarded EFL Community Project of the Season at the EFL Awards for the anti-violence and knife crime education programme - Knife Angel - in association with Thames Valley Police and MK Council.

5 WAYS TO WELLBEING?

We are continuing with our extracts from the **5 Ways to Wellbeing Toolkit** that had been published by the The Milton Keynes Self Care Steering Group. We hope you find the information and tips it provides helpful.

THIS EDITION WE ARE COVERING "TAKE NOTICE"



Reminding yourself to 'take notice' can strengthen and broaden awareness.

Studies have shown that being aware of what is taking place in the present directly enhances your well-being and savouring 'the moment' can help to reaffirm your life priorities.

Heightened awareness also enhances your self-understanding and allows you to make positive choices based on your own values and motivations.

Take some time to enjoy the moment and the environment around you. Here are a few ideas:

- Get a plant for your house
- Meditate
- Mindful walking
- Nature observation
- Have a 'clear the clutter' day
- Take notice of how your colleagues/family are feeling or acting
- Take a different route on your journey to work or the shops
- Visit a new place for lunch



For more information and resources visit

<https://www.healthwatchmiltonkeynes.co.uk/advice-and-information/2020-06-30/self-care-and-wellbeing-information>

FREE ACTIVITY PACKS FOR CHILDREN

We have activity packs available for the **MAY HALF TERM HOLIDAY** - available from Tuesday 23rd May

& **SUMMER HOLIDAYS** - available from Tuesday 18th July (while stocks last)

The packs will contain a variety of paper based activities and colouring sheets.

To ensure as many families as possible can benefit from this, please only take one pack per child. The packs will be limited in number and only available while stock lasts.

We would also love to see any photos of the children enjoying the packs or the completed activities that we can share. Most of all – we hope that the children enjoy them.

The activity packs can be collected from the Parish Office in Fishermead:

Parish Office, 1 Pencarrow Place (behind the Trinity Centre) MK6 2AS. Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm

If you have any queries, please contact admin@campbell-park.gov.uk or 01908 608559

**COME & CELEBRATE
FISHERMEAD**

**FISHERMEAD
50
1973-2023**

STREET PARTY

Stalls Dancing

Sunday 2nd July

Music MK6 2LA Food

Kid's Corner



Hello Children,

Well at last, Spring has finally woken up!

It took a while, but once the clocks went from Greenwich Mean Time to British Summer Time (that is when the clocks go forward an hour), that is the last Saturday in March each year.

It was as if the sky had woken up after a very long sleep. Some night times there were no clouds in the sky, we could see lots of stars, and lots of satellites. On the full moon in April, the moon looked so close to the earth, it was as if you could touch it with your finger. How wonderful if you could!!!

Did you come to the Easter Parish Tea Party?

Oh what fun we had!

Lots of yummy food to eat. The Reptile Man with all his wonderful creatures, and Rebecca our Face Painter, who did a record number of faces. Almost 60 in 2 hours!!!!!! She was busy all afternoon.

We had a full house all afternoon. We had little girls dressed as Alice in Wonderland and boys as The Mad Hatter. Thank you to all that dressed up. It made the afternoon go with a Big Hop!!!!!!

Great fun was had by all. We hope to see you at the Halloween Party on the last Saturday of October 2023 at the Springfield Community Centre.

In the next Homeground Magazine. I will be revealing the new amendments to the Green Tick Code that will incorporate electric cars, because we can hardly hear them when they are near to us on the roads. So look out for that in August when the next Homeground issue is out.

In this Homeground issue we have Pets Club with a new kitten called Shandy, who is at this time only 5 weeks old. Kids Club will be following Shandy's life for the next year so that we can see how much she grows in that time.

There is also a return of Sunshine in Your Street this year. We had to stop this due to Covid and now I look forward to doing the sunflowers with you all again.

So, all the usual things to remember:

**Stranger Danger. Green Tick Code.
Water Beware: Respect The Water**



Send in a Poem:

If you send in a poem and it goes into the next Homeground you will win a prize.

Jokes:

Do you have any jokes?

If so, send them in and you could also win a prize if we put it into the magazine.

Look after your brothers and sisters if you are out playing. Make you parents/carers a cup of tea if you are older than 10 years of age.

P.S: If you send anything into Kid's Corner we need to know your name, address, your age, and what school you go to, or we cannot send you your prize.

Have a fun!!!!

Cllr Penny.

Activity Packs:

We hope you were lucky enough to collect one of our Easter Activity Packs.

Here is a colouring from Domas, from our Summer Activity Packs. Well done!



Domas attends Orchard Academy and is 8 years old.

Nature Watch:

Spring is coming! Are you planting in your garden or flowerpots, or even growbags?

Your task is to take some photos of whatever you are growing and send it in to us. If you are successful, your pictures will be in the next Homeground magazine.

This could win you a Garden Centre Gift Card.



Pets Club:

This is Dawaid and Shandy the kitten who is 5 weeks old.

Dawaid moved to Milton Keynes in February this year and did not have many friends. So one day, his Mum came home with a little friend to look after. We thought you would like to share in Shandy's progress.



CAMPBELL PARK
COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Let's Talk about Climate Change

Annual Meeting of Electors

AT THE SPRINGFIELD
CENTRE

Come and
share your
views & ideas
We want to
hear from you

All residents
welcome

Tuesday
23rd May

7.00pm - 9.00pm
at the Springfield
Centre, Springfield
Boulevard

Speakers:

**Cllr Jenny
Wilson-Marklew**

MKCC Cabinet Member for Climate &
Sustainability

Transition Town MK

For More Information:

www.campbell-park.gov.uk