

## Light at the end of the tunnel!

Spring has arrived and it is well and truly brightening everywhere up, and so is the news from the government that restrictions will start to be eased over the coming months! As we go to print some key points from the roadmap for lifting lockdown are as follows: From **March 29<sup>th</sup>** groups of six from two households can meet outdoors Outdoor sports like tennis and football can also resume from **March 29<sup>th</sup>**. The earliest date given for non-essential retail is **April 12<sup>th</sup>**. This is also the date to look for when it comes to pubs and restaurants opening, but this will be for outdoor seating only at this stage. Personal care should also reopen on **April 12<sup>th</sup>**. All limits on social contact could be removed after **June 21<sup>th</sup>**. For more detail, please head over to the government website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021>

**Middleton Pavilion** is planning to reopen on Monday **April 12<sup>th</sup>** at Midday until 9pm. On Sunday **April 18<sup>th</sup>** they are planning live music and a BBQ. Outdoor seating only. Check their Facebook page for more information.

**Information above is correct at time of going to print.**



## New Noticeboard at Brooklands!

We have installed a new noticeboard in Brooklands Square. Please keep an eye on here for important updates, meeting agendas and minutes.

## Defibrillators >>>

We now have the defibrillator fully installed & operational in the phone box in Milton Keynes Village, you may well have seen it when you have been out on your daily walks. The defibrillator unit in Broughton Village is also due to be installed very soon. This unit has been funded by both a huge amount of fundraising of £2000 by Angela Price in memory of her son Alden, and a £500 Parish Council grant. Sadly, Alden passed away from a sudden cardiac arrest in May 2017 aged just 18. Not content with just the one defibrillator, Angela is continuing to fundraise to enable even more defibrillator units to be installed in our local community to help save hearts. Her next mission is to get one installed to the exterior of Middleton Sports Pavilion



**If you would like to donate head to:**



<https://communityheartbeat.enthuse.com/cf/help-alden-help-a-heart>

## Landscaping News >>

Our landscape contractor's RTM have been busy over the last few months keeping our green spaces looking healthy and in top condition. Some of the work you may have spotted was removing a few of the trees around the parish which were unfortunately diseased, and therefore potentially hazardous. On Middleton Cricket field, we have removed the distinctive line of large poplars due to the damage caused by the burrowing larvae of the hornet moth. We also had to remove two trees from a line of cherry blossom in Milton Keynes village due to large amounts of ageing decay. RTM carry out in depth tree surveys each year & will only remove trees that are in poor and unhealthy conditions, or if they cause a potential danger to people & the surrounding area. Since we do not like removing trees, we are now producing a tree replacement policy, and some aspects of this have already begun. RTM are also proudly working with us on a couple of exciting projects which will help to create beautiful biodiverse habitats for wildlife. Earlier this year RTM planted 18 trees across the parish as part of a commemorative display. These projects will not only help to replace some of the trees we have lost, but will also create hedgerows, ponds and meadows which will help to increase wildlife across the parish and create new community greenspaces for locals to enjoy.



## Middleton Allotment Project >>>

This project was announced in Autumn last year and it aims to convert a retired allotment site into a community wildlife garden and commemorative display. We have now created a dedicated project page on our website to share regular updates on its progression. We are currently unable to officially create the new community garden until we have received the necessary legal permissions from The Secretary of State, however, in anticipation we will be starting to prepare the site. In first instance we have ordered 18 native trees; 10 of which will supply a striking tree avenue in the garden, and the remaining 8 will be planted around the parish. The trees to be planted around the parish will represent the heart of our commemorative display, and we will be working closely with The Parks Trust to accomplish this. The intention is to supply two trees per estate or village including Oakgrove, Middleton, Broughton and Brooklands. We hope that these trees will stand out in their areas and will be strategically placed by benches to encourage locals to sit and reflect. In the future, we also have plans to incorporate these trees into an interactive tree trail on various days of remembrance, such as VE Day, Remembrance Day, and over significant days of remembrance.



## Allotment News >>>

It is the start of a brand-new allotment season, and we are all ready to get outside more, get our hands dirty, and enjoy the warmer weather! This has been a busy winter for the allotment sites in our parish. We have experienced the lows of the flooding and frosts but luckily the good has outweighed the bad and we have had plenty of achievements to share with you all.

Broughton Road Allotments got a big makeover, and we cleared two skips worth of old historical litter that had been on the site for many years. At our Cranmore Circle site, we have managed to create five new plots from splitting larger plots, in order to accommodate for our long waiting list. At Kemsley Crescent Allotment site, we have welcomed the organisation 'Community trees Mk' who will be using one of our plots for a tree nursery. These trees will hopefully then go on to be planted across the parishes of Milton Keynes. We have also created a new 'members only' page on our website that allows allotment tenants to get a personalised experience when looking up allotment information. We have now started planning into the future and are working on creating two new allotment sites in Brooklands, so make sure you watch this space! These achievements would not be able to happen without the positive input of our community, contractors, and allotment tenants, so we want to say a big thank you to them all.

## Community Support >>>

As we move into Spring, Middleton & Milton Keynes Village Community Support Group is still here if you need a helping hand from your neighbours. We are also supporting the Covid vaccine rollout by helping to manage the flow of people through the process. If you live in Middleton and would like some help, or you would like to volunteer, please contact us at [MiddletonCommunity@gmail.com](mailto:MiddletonCommunity@gmail.com) or (if you don't have email), text or call 07783 362838 but not too early or too late please.

## New Parents >>>

At Broughton there is a new Mums & Babies Meet Up Group. Every Thursday 10am till 11am at Broughton Rectory, London Rd, MK10 9AA.

A great opportunity to safely meet other new parents!

Babes in arms welcome, sorry no walkers!

This is a group that is limited to 15 people. It is an outside group with everyone seated 2m apart.

Refreshments available to purchase from the 'Really Awesome Coffee' van who will visit the group!

For more information contact the organiser, Revd Ruth Maxey on 07791 901468

## SPOTLIGHT on – Volunteers in our Parish >>>

### Help the homeless for the cost of a coffee.....

Back in December 2010 the average temperature was -1°C, but the lowest temperature recorded was -23°C. Despite the freezing temperatures and thick snow there were many homeless people around Milton Keynes. As there were limited options to support those in need, the Winter Night Shelter MK began.

They provide emergency accommodation and meals to homeless people who would be rough sleeping during November to April, along with year-round welfare support and help to rebuild lives.

People come for many reasons. They can be old or young, men and women, long-term homeless or newly in crisis. They may have domestic issues; have lost jobs and no longer be able to pay for accommodation. Illness, disability, mental health struggles, language barriers and lost or stolen identity documents can all play a part in someone ending up on the street. Unfortunately, the economic and psychological consequences of Covid may add to the number of people in our community affected by these.

As a volunteer for several years, I would normally be leading a team of volunteers to provide a bed, a warm evening meal, breakfast and a friendly face to 15-20 guests that would be taken to the Wednesday night venue that I lead.

Since the arrival of Covid last March we have been unable to run overnight accommodation but our centre, Unity Park Station, has been focused on providing food and welfare support to the many homeless placed into emergency hotel rooms by the Council. This winter the WNSMK has been supporting up to 75 people with welfare appointments, meals (a takeaway service whilst in lockdown), showers and a friendly chat when most other support services have closed.

Someone recently told our volunteers that he braved the subzero temperatures to come down because more than anything he just needed to talk to someone and have some human company. He stayed for two hours in the freezing cold drinking copious amounts of tea, but he said it was the most normal he felt for ages. We cannot wait until it is safe to open our doors again and share tea with people in the warm.

So, how can you help? You can fundraise, donate or give a small regular gift such as £3 a month, the cost of a takeaway coffee, at [www.winternightsheltermk.com](http://www.winternightsheltermk.com). Please help us to keep helping the homeless.



Many thanks to Winter Night Shelter Volunteer and Middleton resident Andrew Wadsell for this fascinating and informative article.

If you volunteer locally and would like to be featured in our next newsletter then please get in touch using the contact details on page 4.

## Get in touch >>>

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to contact us.

Although the office is closed we are all still working, when calling please leave a short message with your number so we can return the call.

### **Broughton & Milton Keynes Parish Council**

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**Thanks to all our likers & followers on social media – 1,295 of you follow us on Facebook, 394 Instagram & 98 Twitter followers!**

**Wherever you are & whatever you are doing, you can keep up to date with what WE are doing on social media!**

### **Facebook**

@BroughtonandMKParishCouncil

### **Instagram**

@broughtonmkparishcouncil

Twitter @BroughtonMK\_PC

Find us on 



## Foodbank >>>

Since early December we have been operating a Foodbank serving centre from the Oakgrove office. In that time Foodbank volunteers have given out 21 adult food parcels and 19 children's parcels.

Oakgrove Foodbank serving centre is open every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 2:30 till 4pm.

If you need help, please first call the Food Bank Helpline on 0300 303 4933 or text HELP 07874 964505 to discuss your situation in confidence with experienced staff. The Helpline is open between 10:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday.

Clients can receive a food parcel 6 times within a rolling 12-month period.

### **How you can help Foodbank:**

### **Buy-a-Box or Back-a-Rack – Take part in Foodbank's BRAND-NEW fundraiser!**

The Food Bank has been supporting the Milton Keynes community with emergency food parcels since 2004.

Relying solely on donations of food and money from the local community, schools, churches, & corporate sponsors, they distributed over 27,500 parcels to Milton Keynes residents in 2020 alone.

With growing demand on their service, they have outgrown their current premises & are on the move.

They would like to invite you to become part of our new home, by buying a box for £5 or backing a rack from £100. To thank you, when you Buy-a-Box or Back-a-Rack, Foodbank will gift you an exclusive window sticker to display your support with pride. Take a selfie with your sticker & help spread the word to your friends, family & colleagues. If you Back-a-Rack Foodbank will display your or your company's name on the shelf and your logo on the website.

To find out more head over to the Foodbanks website <http://mkfoodbank.org.uk/back-a-box-back-a-rack/>

**You can still donate food** – Check online to see what Foodbank is running low on, and then use the drop off points at any of the local Supermarkets.

## Easter Church Services >>>

Our local partnership of Churches (Walton Churches Partnership) welcomes you to their services and events over the Easter period both online and in-person. Please check out the websites for up-to-date information:

[www.mkchurchwithoutwalls.org.uk](http://www.mkchurchwithoutwalls.org.uk)

[www.allsaintschurchmkvillage.co.uk/](http://www.allsaintschurchmkvillage.co.uk/)

