What a Christmas Present!

Parish Council Chair Kay Coles welcomed nearly 50 villagers to a public meeting on Tuesday 1st November 2016, to provide a much anticipated update on the Woodford Embankment.

Also supporting the meeting were our Parish Councillors, along with District Councillors Liz Griffin, Jo Gilford and Bob Patchett.

The first public meeting about the Woodford Embankment was eighteen months ago on Thursday 9th April 2015, to consider the impending sale by auction of land in the village. This was the former railway embankment by the Co-op, going down to the corner of Phipps Road and Byfield Road, then back along the river flood plain opposite the Woodford Football Club area, to the river behind The Terraces - an area just over 21 acres. Attended by about 150 people, an almost unanimous vote instructed the Parish Council to try and secure the area as a village amenity.

This first public meeting resulted from an impromptu roadside gathering on Sunday 29 March 2015 to “Keep the Wood in Woodford”, arranged through social media (Facebook). Villagers have been vocal and supportive in seeking this area as a heritage for future generations, with lots of ideas on how it may be used... Bottom of the list was housing!

First investigations established who owned which parts of the area, with clarifications regarding the peppercorn rent area next to the railway arches and that the Parish Council will not be liable for any maintenance of the arches.

Then there were concerns over the twin Victorian tunnels which take the river beneath the embankment, which used to be maintained by the railway. These had to be professionally inspected and the village will have to maintain them, to mitigate the risk of flooding back at The Terraces.

Continued overleaf...

Councillor Gary Denby, Editor
What a Christmas Present!  ...continued from front page

Parish Council insurance was a concern, as was the potential personal liability of Parish Councillors. The Parish Council had to seek permission to borrow the funds required (more complex than a mortgage). Then we had negotiations on price and tying-up of all the paperwork, for which the Parish Council are grateful to Councillors Kay Coles and Bob Snedker, together with former Councillor David Hawes for their many hours of endeavour. Somewhat timely, the Council’s mortgage liabilities on the Memorial Hall comes to an end in 2017. Thus the land can be purchased over the next 25 years, without significantly increasing villagers’ Council Tax. However, maintenance costs are another matter….  

The Parish Council thanks the former owner for releasing the Woodford Embankment to villagers. This could so easily have been auctioned as a brownfield site for housing or other developments. The Parish Council paid a fair price for this as a non-commercial amenity, though with a claw-back provision if any parts of it are developed for-profit in the future.

At the November meeting (above), Councillor Coles went on to consider what happens next with the former railway embankment and associated land, for which the Parish Council took full responsibility (its land and its features) on Thursday 15th September 2016. It is proposed to have a Management Team (Parish Councillors and Community Members) responsible for the on-going maintenance and development of the land, as a public amenity and a forestry business. In addition to those residents who confirmed their interest in joining project groups, the Council would also like to hear from anyone else able to offer their time, expertise and enthusiasm. Please contact the Parish Clerk on:-
PC_woodford@daventrydc.gov.uk

Residents are reminded to take great care when enjoying the land and its features, which they use at their own risk.

On a lighter note, perhaps villagers and our social media friends have ideas for a fitting name for the area?  Kay Coles and Gary Smith have proposed ‘Central Woods’, since they are so much at the heart of the village, with connotations of the former Great Central Railway… Are there any other suggestions?

THE GREAT BROWNIE BAKE OFF!
The theme is... CHRISTMAS!
Saturday 3rd December   2pm - 4pm
Woodford Dryden Hall
Open to the public, friends and family with a raffle stall and games which will be drawn at 3.30pm.

Each Brownie will have baked at least one large family size cake or a set of 6 cupcakes, cookies etc. which will all be judged based on presentation at 2.10pm – so please don’t be late! All cakes are then going to be put up for sale, with proceeds to the girls’ funds!

Christmas Thanks
The WOW editorial team would like very much to give our thanks and appreciation to our doorstep distributors of WOW, month-in and month-out, come rain or shine... particularly the following volunteers (with apologies if we’ve accidentally omitted anyone – there’s nearly 50 of them):-
Alison Amos, Sam Brown, Isobel Burbidge, Judy Collett, Pat Conlon, David Curtis, Gary Denby, Lynda Dowd, Rob Gilling, Samantha Hanley, Maggie Humphreys, Paul & Rebecca Hymers, Sue Invernizzi, Susan & Andy Jackson, Debbie Jarvis, Nancy Jay, Elaine Jones, Josephine Lincoln, Nicola Moloney, Gill & Joe Pitt, Heather Price, Liz Pym, Joyce Randell, Val Reynolds, Emily Richardson, Mrs Rignall, Yvonne Roberts, Bernadette Rogers, Debbie Sanghera, Liz Shepherd, Pam Stilwell, John Suddens, Derek Thornton, Fred Thathan, Maureen Tregonning, Regan Usher, Glen Warner, Pat Wilkins, Julie Williams and Claire Young.

We would also like to give special thanks to our super-distributors, those who take the mountain of 1,700 copies of WOW from the printers and distribute them out to the doorstep deliverers. Over the past year this has included Wayne Cooper, Lynda Dowd, Claire Rose, Fred Thathan and Julie Williams.

Have a well-earned rest, everyone, and see you all again at the start of February 2017. Best regards and a Happy Christmas from Councillor Gary Denby, Julie Williams and others on the WOW Team. If any would like to assist, we still lack deliverers for Woodford Meadows, Winston Flats, membris Way and Brookside (copies are in the Library).
Rear access is a right of way!

Residents of Sidney Road are kindly reminded that the rear access to the properties is a public right of way. Please be considerate to your neighbours and buggy users. Please do not block the access with your wheely bins or other abandoned items.

Stuck for a gift – visit Woodford Library!

If you’re stuck for a last-minute gift, we have some brilliant items for sale in our Library Shop, including an array of gorgeous newly-arrived greetings cards for all tastes. Our ‘Books for Sale’ shelf is updated regularly and all we ask for is a small donation. For those interested in family history, we subscribe to websites such as Find My Past and Ancestry.com – free for you to use, even from home!

There’s no need to leave the Village if your printer breaks down either – we offer printing and computer facilities to everyone, even those without a library card. Of course, if you do want to sign up to the Library, it’s free to do so and only takes a few minutes. Borrow a book for free, or rent a DVD at £2.50 for a whole week! Take an audiobook home to listen to while in the kitchen or on a long car journey. The Library can even renew your Bus Pass for you, or assist with checking documents and taking the photograph for your Disabled Blue Badge application – Bryony Magee (Miss)
GYM
LOCAL - CONVENIENT - AFFORDABLE
Contact: Mark Vincent
07935 246612
- or call in for membership details
Located in Popsons Pharmacy Basement

Woodford Garage
Great Central Way, Woodford Halse Tel: 01327 260088
Your local garage for -
SERVICING • ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS • AUTO ELECTRICS
BRAKES • EXHAUSTS • BATTERIES • CLUTCHES • TIMING BELTS
WELDING • AIR-CON RE-GAS • BRAKEDOWN RECOVERY
Courtesy Car by arrangement

Tim Williams
Specialist Advisor in Inheritance Matters
• Can’t be bothered to make a Will?
• Don’t need to make a Will?
• Won’t all my assets pass to my partner or my spouse automatically anyway?
• Don’t care if the Government gets 40% Inheritance Tax on my death?
• Don’t care if the Government gets all my assets on my death?
• Don’t care if the family home is sold to pay for long-term care on my death?
ARE YOU SURE?
Safeguard your family’s interests.
Get peace of mind - make a Will!
Contact me on 01327 261262
to make an appointment
www.planningawill.co.uk

Ruth Curzon
Residential Letting Agency
LANDLORDS & TENANTS WANTED
We are an independent Letting Agent and Property Management Company.
We cover all popular areas of Daventry and surrounding villages.
We act with integrity to build long term relationships.

Thanks for your support!
Karen and the crew at Top To Toe would like to thank all our generous customers, family, friends and people of Woodford Halse, for helping us to raise £1094.06 for #wearitpink (breast cancer research).

Guilt-free Beer!
As well as flowers, The Blossom Shop stocks craft beer and cider under the trading name of The Guilt Free Beer Shop. The idea of this is that men can buy themselves some beer without any guilt if they take their wives /girlfriend some flowers at the same time! Similarly, she can buy herself flowers without guilt if she buys him beer as well. Currently, they have 12 different ciders including one made by the Eydon Cider Company, and 34 different beers including 9 from our local Gun Dog Ales brewery in the village. For Christmas, they are selling gift packs and periodically do beer tasting sessions; find out about these on their new Facebook page - www.facebook.com/theguiltfreebeershop

Thanks for your support!
Karen and the crew at Top To Toe would like to thank all our generous customers, family, friends and people of Woodford Halse, for helping us to raise £1094.06 for #wearitpink (breast cancer research). We couldn’t have raised this fantastic amount without your help!
A Christmas Reflection
And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained glass windows hue,
A baby in an ox’s stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a child on earth for me?

For me these words from John Betjeman's Christmas poem sum up the heart of the Christmas message. That it is true that God who created the world came on earth amongst us as a tiny baby? The true meaning of Christmas is Emmanuel ‘God is with us.’ Jesus’ presence in the world as a tiny baby is a powerful and poignant call for us to respond to him, as parents respond to their own new born baby. By offering our love totally and unconditionally. That is a rather awesome demand but it is the only response we can make.

We will be having many opportunities to reflect over the Christmas period, each with their own character and we would love to share them with everyone. I always feel that Carol Services give a chance to obey ‘the writer of the psalms and ‘make a joyful noise unto the Lord.’ I expect there will be a lot of noise at our Crib Service on Christmas Eve. All are welcome but especially the younger members of our village. A more solemn (but still joyous) celebration will take place at 11.30pm of Christmas Eve as we see Christmas in with Midnight Mass. Or maybe you will join us on Christmas morning?

My colleague Rev Geoff Moore and myself both look forward to seeing you over the holidays and we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.
With best wishes - Stevie

Woodford Churches Together Tea & Coffee Morning
at Hinton Methodist Church, Woodford Halse
Saturdays 3rd December, 7th January & 4th February
All welcome including family, friends and neighbours - and have a free cup of Tea/Coffee with cake at Hinton Methodist Church.
You can also buy gifts to support the chosen charity.

Church Services for the Benefice of Aston-le-Walls, Boddington, Byfield, Eydon and Woodford Halse, with those of Hinton Methodist Church and Sacred Heart RC in Aston-le-Walls (Mass at 10.45 every Sunday)

December Services
3rd 10.00am–11.30pm  Woodford Churches Together - FREE Tea, Coffee and Cake Morning at Hinton Methodist Church
4th 8.30am BCP Communion at BYFIELD
  9.30am Parish Communion at BODDINGTON
  10.30am Morning Worship at EYDON
  10.30am Carol Service at Hinton Methodist Church
  11.00am Communion at St Mary’s Woodford Halse
11th 10.00am Café Church – getting ready for Christmas
  10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church with Communion
  4.00pm Evening Prayer
18th 10.30am Hinton Methodists at Upper Boddington Methodist Chapel
  4.00pm Christingle Service at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, Banbury
  6.00pm St Mary’s Carol Service – a service of carols and songs with Christmas readings; with mulled wine and mince pies afterwards
24th (Christmas Eve) 4.00pm Crib Service – a fun time for all the family.
  Come and get Christmas off to a good start as the children re-enact the Christmas Story
  2.00pm Hinton Methodists at Crib Service at Upper Boddington Methodist Chapel
  11.30pm Midnight Holy Communion
25th (Christmas Day) 10.00am Family Communion
  10.30am Hinton Methodists at Christmas Day Service at Upper Boddington Methodist Chapel

January 2017 Services
1st 10.00am BENEFICE COMMUNION AT BYFILED
  10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church
7th 10.00am–11.30pm  Woodford Churches Together - FREE Tea, Coffee and Cake Morning at Hinton Methodist Church
8th 10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church
  11.00am Holy Communion at St Mary’s
15th 10.00am Cafe Church
  10.30am Hinton Methodists at Upper Boddington Methodist Chapel
22nd 10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church
  11.00am Holy Communion
29th 10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church BENEFICE SERVICE - Venue to be confirmed

February 2017 Services
4th 10.00am–11.30pm  Woodford Churches Together - FREE Tea, Coffee and Cake Morning at Hinton Methodist Church
5th 10.30am Service at Hinton Methodist Church with Communion
12th 10.30am Hinton Methodists at Circuit Service at Fairway Methodist Church, Banbury

St MARY’S DROP IN for COFFEE and CHAT on Thursday mornings will continue until December 15th and then re-open after the Christmas Break on 12th January.

St Mary’s church is open during daylight hours for private prayer or a time of quiet reflection.

Hinton Methodist Church: Please note that we have a website with more of our activities on - www.banburycircuit.org.uk/hinton.html
For Christenings, DedICATIONS, Marriages or Funerals or require a home or hospital visit, please ring Rev Lin Francis on 01295 262602 or Hazel Stagg, Methodist Circuit Pastoral Co-ordinator on 01295 660294.

St Mary’s Church: Should you require transport to a service not at Woodford Halse, please contact one of the Church Wardens. To arrange Christenings, Marriages, Funerals or for any church matters please contact: Rev. Stevie Cross at The Rectory, Byfield  01327 260204.

Roman Catholic Church: Fr. James Evans, in Residence at:-
The Presbytery, Main Street, Aston-le-Walls. Tel: 01295 660592
email: sacredheart.awl@btinternet.com Web: www.sacredheart.btck.co.uk
For availability of weekday Mass & other services - please check our website.