

With best wishes for a happy, healthy and successful 2006, and welcome to the first e-newsletter of this new year.

**Central Milton Keynes, the future....**

- Are you interested in the new buildings and developments in Central Milton Keynes?
- Are your clients and staff interested in what's happening in their city centre?
- Would they and your business benefit from up to date information?

If your answer is 'yes' please contact either Kay Greenhalgh or Vivien Hoare who will be happy to join your management/staff/team meeting and give a 20 - 30 minute presentation to your group. To arrange this, please e-mail [kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org](mailto:kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org) or telephone Vivien on 01908 389124

**Out and About in Central Milton Keynes**

Milton Keynes is currently enjoying a reputation as one of the safer cities in the region. This is due to groups such as the Retail Crime Initiative (PAC) – keeping the shopping centres safer, Bar Watch – keeping the pubs, bars and clubs a safe 'night time environment' and the Community Safety Partnership. All of these agencies are working together with the Thames Valley Police to ensure that the Central Milton Keynes offer can be safely enjoyed.

**Finding a taxi in the 'early hours'**

We want to ensure that people are safe, not only whilst they are within the city centre, but also when they need to return home after a night on the town. With this in mind, a consultation is being planned to look at arrangements for getting revelers in and out of the city centre with the minimum of fuss and the maximum of safety. This may involve the re-introduction of a Night Bus service, research is to be carried out to ascertain the type of service needed, if any.

At present, there are three safe options of finding a taxi following a night out in Central Milton Keynes..

1. The 'pod' outside KFC (Xscape) is run by Raffles. Join the queue at the 'pod' and on booking a taxi you are given a ticket which should be handed over to the driver as you enter his cab.
2. Black Hackney Cabs line up in the car park to the front of Xscape and collect fares from here.
3. People can of course book their own taxis which will collect them as and when requested.

If you have any experiences or thoughts on the late night transport system, please send them to [kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org](mailto:kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org)

**CMK Station Square – CABE Survey**

[www.mkweb.co.uk/futurecmk](http://www.mkweb.co.uk/futurecmk)

Around 5 million people a year pass through Station Square and now is the time to look at ways of improving it, to make it more welcoming and useable in the short term and to create a vision for the future. There are questionnaires at the information points in Middleton Hall and Midsummer Place (by Debenhams) and at Central Milton Keynes Station. The consultation period runs from 9 January to 27 January 2006 – make sure you have your say.

**Events Calendar**

For some time now there has been a need for a calendar of the larger events being held in and around Milton Keynes. This is especially necessary for event organisers to help them plan future dates that do not compete with other events. We are now in the process of putting a calendar together for 2006 listing the major events within the city centre and also those around the outskirts that may impact on the centre. Once it is ready we will e-mail it to you and publish it online – details to be advised. Of course, it will never be 'complete' as we will be continually updating it, so if you know of anything we have missed, please e-mail [vivien.hoare@cmkpartnership.org](mailto:vivien.hoare@cmkpartnership.org)

## Openings

### **IKEA – Milton Keynes.**

IKEA Milton Keynes, opened to the public on Tuesday **27 December**, two weeks earlier than the proposed date of 12 January 2006.

### **Wagamama**

Wagamama is situated in the centre:mk close to Marks and Spencer. This Noodle Bar, modelled on the ramen bars which have been popular in Japan for hundreds of years, opened its doors on Monday **21 November**. [www.wagamama.com](http://www.wagamama.com)

### **Acorn House**

The Acorn House Conference Suite is now open and available for bookings by the voluntary and community sectors. It has state of the art IT facilities which are hidden in the ceiling and in fancy panels in the wall (is this reminiscent of 'Q' and his Bond gadgets?). For more information contact Megan Coupland on 01908 690267 or electronically on [bookings@acornhousemk.co.uk](mailto:bookings@acornhousemk.co.uk)

### **Age Concern – The Peartree Centre**

Age Concern is moving to their purpose built centre – The Peartree Centre on 23 January. It will be the focal point of contact for all their work and will offer a lifeline to thousands of older people throughout Milton Keynes. [www.ageconcernmk.org.uk](http://www.ageconcernmk.org.uk)

## Developments

### **Campbell Park Extensions**

The first of four park extensions is in progress adjacent to Dalgin Place and into Enterprise Mews. These extensions are important in continuing the greenery of the parkland out through the new residential developments, creating local recreation space and facilities for residents and providing access to surrounding grid squares.

<http://www.mkweb.co.uk/home/DisplayArticle.asp?ID=32336>

### **Sainsbury**

Work is due to commence on site for the Sainsbury development between Avebury Boulevard, Witan Gate and Child's Way in February 2006. Occupation by Sainsbury's, when they will move from the food centre, is expected to be by the end of 2007 with residential occupation commencing earlier.

### **Pedestrian Crossing**

Work has commenced on the new pedestrian crossing at the junction of Witan Gate and Avebury Boulevard and is expected to be complete by July 2006. The granite cladding is being removed for reuse and the underpass infilled with 1500 cubic metres of foamed concrete (now that's really got you excited...).

### **Theatre District**

Work started, mid-December 2005, on site for Phase 2a (grassed area near TGI Friday), comprising 50 residential units, three ground floor restaurants and underground car parking space.

### **thehub:mk**

Previously known as CBX3, this development is set to complete from July 2006 with the opening of the 279 bed 4 star Jury's Inn, followed by the 159 bed 3 star Ramada Encore in September 2006. In October 2005 the earthworks started for the 408 high-quality residential apartments. Earthworks are now almost complete and basement construction is proceeding.

The development programme of phase which includes a central square offering high quality bars, cafes and retail units will follow and we will pass on more information as and when we receive it.

## **Combined Heat and Power (CHP) for Central Milton Keynes**

Planning consent has been obtained and site clearance (on the land behind CBX2) for the first CHP plant installation has commenced with further major earthworks for the main plant expected in January 2006.

Combined Heat and Power is the means by which the heat produced during the generation of electricity can be put to good use, rather than being wasted. The installation of a CHP system can lead to substantial savings in total energy costs. This scheme is being looked at to serve the West End Residential quarter, Sainsbury's development and thehub:mk. For more information on CHP click here [www.districtenergy.org/chp.htm](http://www.districtenergy.org/chp.htm)

## **West End CMK – Sustainable Residential Quarter**

Infrastructure works for Phase 1 (Witan Gate end of the block between Avebury Boulevard and Childs Way) began in late 2005 with earthworks. Deep foul (8 metres) and surface water drainage, surfacing and hard and soft landscaping are currently underway.

## **Road Works – Transport Improvements**

Works are progressing on the central reservation of Grafton Gate between Midsummer Boulevard and Silbury Boulevard and parts of the highways in between. These are all part of the Public Transport Improvements Project which went to public consultation last year. The extra lane under construction on Grafton Gate is as a direct result of the consultation.

Works are currently underway on both Avebury and Silbury Boulevards in Campbell Park on bus priority routes and pedestrian and cycle crossings. Work is expected to be completed by March 2006.

## **What's on in CMK**

### **Milton Keynes Festival**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Milton Keynes Festival will be held from 01 July – 16 July 2006. A variety of events are planned for various locations throughout the city commencing with the MK4U weekend in Campbell Park (01/02 July) and closing with three concerts in Campbell Park. A full programme is being developed and will be available online in March.

We are very happy to announce the appointment of our new Festival Co-ordinator, Sue Quinn who commenced her contract with us on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006. She will be ably assisted by Mike Christensen and Matthew Meech. If you would like to take part in this year's festival as performer, sponsor or team worker please email Kay at [kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org](mailto:kay.greenhalgh@cmkpartnership.org) or call on 01908 398133.

### **Proms in the Park**

Saturday 15 July 2006

The classical music spectacular returns to Campbell Park - featuring the Milton Keynes City Orchestra conducted by Hilary Davan Wetton and the Milton Keynes Chorale, with a firework, laser and light finale. Tickets are available now for the 2006 Proms In The Park concert - Until 1 May there is a £5 early bird discount on adult tickets Adults £22 (standard price £27) Children £12 Children under 5 FREE

For more details or to purchase your tickets visit Customer Services on Silbury Arcade near BHS or call 01908 398115. Please note: A £2 booking fee per ticket applies

### **Fair Trade Fortnight 2006**

6 – 19 March 2006

The Fair Trade Federation is an association of fair trade wholesalers, retailers, and producers whose members are committed to providing fair wages and good employment opportunities to economically disadvantaged artisans and farmers worldwide.

As a Fair Trade City we are looking forward to welcoming two TV celebrities to Milton Keynes to launch Fair Trade fortnight, during which we anticipate there will be the following events in and around the city centre, (so watch this space):

- A photo exhibition on Fair Trade cotton garments in thecentre:mk – Milton Keynes will be one of only 10 UK cities where Fair Trade cotton garments will be launched.
- A schools Fair Trade fashion show
- Fair Trade product tastings at the Community Desk in thecentre:mk
- Fair Trade banners around the oak tree in Midsummer Place.
- Music around the shopping centres
- The Fair Trade Awards (individual achievement awards for companies and community organisations) on Friday 17 March 12.30 – 2.00pm at the Guildhall.

## **MKG**

*Pae White – in no particular order:* 19 November 2005 – 22 January 2006  
Milton Keynes Gallery presents the first solo exhibition in a British public gallery by Californian-based artist Pae White.

Shirana Shahbazi – 4 February 2006 – 26 March 2006  
Supported by Pro Helvetia, Arts Council of Switzerland  
Produced by Centre d'Art Contemporain Geneve, this is the largest exhibition of work in a British public gallery by the Iranian artist Shirana Shahbazi.  
[www.mk-g.org](http://www.mk-g.org)

## **MK Theatre**

*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* : 16 December – 22 January 2003, starring - Richard O'Brien, Suzanne Shaw, Toyah Willcox, Warwick Davis and Duncan Breeze.

*Shakespeare 4 Kidz - ROMEO AND JULIET* : Monday 23 January  
*DanceXchange - MK Arts Education Forum* : Wednesday 25 January  
*The Battle of Trafalgar - MKCO Schools Performance* : Thursday 26 January

*Mozart's Birthday - Milton Keynes City Orchestra:* Friday 27 January, 7.30pm  
MKCO will be celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the musical genius Mozart.

*THE WIZ:* Saturday 28 - Sunday 29 January

*Simply Ballroom:* Monday 30 January - Saturday 4 February  
[www.theambassadors.com/miltonkeynes](http://www.theambassadors.com/miltonkeynes)

## **thecentre:mk**

The Motor Show  
17 – 22 January 2006

The Citizen Recruitment Exhibition  
27 January - 28 January 2006  
[www.thecentremkcom](http://www.thecentremkcom)

Whilst every care has been taken in putting together this e-newsletter any errors of fact or omission are the author's. Please forward any corrections, suggestions and additional names and e-mail addresses for anyone whom you think may be interested in receiving a copy to either Vivien or Kay.

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