

● **What's On**

walking in a ...

Winter Wonderland

SEASONAL

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Santa Claus is coming to town – and along with his merry band of festive fun-makers is set to transform Campbell Park this Christmas.

For the first time ever, the Park will fall under a magical seasonal spell as Winter Wonderland MK arrives. This free family event begins on Saturday (continuing until Saturday, December 22) and includes a range of attractions to keep everyone entertained. With live music from local bands, a fabulous undercover ice rink large enough to accommodate up to 75 skaters, a fun-filled fairground, a big-top circus arena, a Christmas market and lots of stalls providing refreshments, you'll be spoilt for choice! Children will be keen to visit Santa, his elves and the reindeer in the enchanted woodland – and the moving, magical creatures they will see along the way are sure to amuse and delight. There will also be the opportunity to make friends with (and learn all about) the event's resident Husky dogs before they take part in exciting sled races.



HULKING HUSKIES: Meet the magnificent creatures at the Winter Wonderland in Campbell Park

Visitors can also discover more about the community organisations on offer here in Milton Keynes by popping into the Community Marquee and get creative making Christmas decorations and edible gifts in the Craft Tent. Festival organiser Lorenzo Franco said: "We are proud to announce the first ever Winter Wonderland MK. "If you're looking for

fun things to do with your family during the run up to Christmas, make sure this festival is in your diary." Disability charity Papworth Trust is the official charity partner of Winter Wonder-

land MK. Fundraising manager at Papworth Trust Annette Angell added: "It promises to be a fantastic festive event for all the family." Entry to Winter Wonderland MK is free – you just pay for



the attractions you would like to visit. Visit www.mk.co.uk for more.

Lions present a 'roarsome' sale

FESTIVE FAIR

Still got bits and pieces to buy before the biggest present-giving day of the year? Well, don't panic, the Newport Pagnell and Olney Lions Club's 'Last Minute' Christmas Fair on Saturday is sure to have just what you are looking for. Members are looking forward to holding their third festive fair in the hall of the United Reformed Church in Newport Pagnell High Street. From gingerbread biscuits and Christmas cakes to traditional gifts including handmade cards, ladies' bags, jewellery, woodwork and glassware, there will be something to delight even the most discerning friend or family member on Christ-

mas morning. Olney-based artist David Purvis, that's some of his work, below, will also be displaying his paintings at the event, which will take place between 10am and 3pm. > You've been rushed off your feet organising the perfect Christmas so sit back and enjoy the last screening of the year at the Open Film Society on Wednesday. Japanese film 'I Wish' follows 12-year-old Koichi who becomes convinced that when two Bullet trains first pass each other at high speed a miracle may occur. Koichi's greatest wish is to reunite his separated parents so the film focuses on his attempt to use the miracle to bring them together. The magic begins at 6.30pm in the OU Lecture Theatre on Walton Hall Campus.



Bird fans flock to see Mike

RSPB NORTH BUCKS

Wildlife author and photographer Michael Leach will speak at the RSPB North Bucks indoor meeting this evening. Michael has been capturing images of animals in their natural habitat full-time since 1977. This snapper spent five years working on television documentaries before making the transition into books. He works mainly with mammals and birds and over the last 20 years has travelled extensively to track down some of the world's most charismatic creatures, and when he finds them, he produces awesome shots like this one on the right. This evening's talk, In Search of the Flower Kissers, is centred around Hummingbirds, and in all there are 300 species. That's a whole lot of feathers!



FLIGHTY: One of Mike's magnificent shots of a Hummingbird

Doors will open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start at The Cruck Barn, Bradwell Abbey. Entry is £2.50 for group members, £3.50 for visitors and £1 for children.

> Decking the halls will be much easier with a stunning

Christmas wreath – learn how to make your own with the Parks Trust on Saturday. Booking is essential for this adult education course session, held between 10am and 12pm or between 1pm and 3pm, at £10 per person (call MK 255379).

Hark the MK residents sing....

ROUND-UP

Start your Christmas festivities in tune with Hark the Herald Hundred on Saturday. The 100 voices of Milton Keynes Community Choir will blend with Milton Keynes Brass to bring a bright mix of traditional and contemporary festive music to The Venue at Walton High School. Milton Keynes' own nationally recognised conductor, Craig McLeish, is directing the performance, which begins at 7pm. All proceeds will go to Milton Keynes Mind to support their work to promote mental health recovery, wellbeing and independence. Tickets are £8 for adults, £33 for children, visit <http://www.thevenuemk.com/index.php/what-s-on-to-book>. > 'Tis the season to get sing-

ing – and what could be better than another traditional Christmas carol service? Join The Friends of St Lawrence's Church, in Broughton Village, for their community service on Sunday at 3pm. > Jazzy threesome The David Gordon Trio will be taking advantage of the superb acoustics at The Chrysalis Theatre tomorrow when they bring their Jazz Services tour to the new city. Pianist and composer David Gordon, bass player Jonty Fisher and drummer Paul Cavaciuti provide nothing but the best in contemporary jazz so expect a musical experience guaranteed to put a big smile on your face. The 8pm concert will be preceded by a workshop at the Willen Lake venue for Milton Keynes Music Service students (with a special discounted ticket price for the

main show). Tickets are £10/£12, call 0844 870887 or visit ticketsource/chrysalismk.co.uk to book. > We all like to give at this time of year so why not give some time – and some cash – to support a festive fundraising fête on Saturday? Sian Callaghan is running the London Marathon for Children with Cancer UK next year and she has pledged to raise £2,000. In order to reach her goal, she has organised Saturday's Christmas Family Fun Day from 11am until 4pm, at Cross and Stables Church in Downs Barn. Complete with raffle, tombola, kids' crafts, lucky dip, bake sale, jewellery sale and live music, the day is set to be great fun for children and adults alike – and all proceeds will go to Children with Cancer UK.