

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter January 2022

Saturday 8th January
3:30pm and 6:30pm @ All Saints Church
Ringing by members of the Biggleswade District Ringers

Tuesday 11th January
7:30pm @ Village Hall
Pruning Advice from Rob McCleaud



Queens Platinum Jubilee - June 2022
See page 3 for how you can get involved
and create a celebration to remember!

Welcome to the Campton & Chicksands Newsletter
published by the Parish Council
www.camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk
If you have any news or views you wish to share
please contact the Editor, Liz Bishop - details on back page

A call for Parish Councillors

What do the following have in common? The Pnyx! Thingvellir! Westminster! Campton Village Hall! Yes, you got it in one: they're all cradles of democracy! Extra marks if you can say which democratic meetings belong to which place.

Now we've sorted that out, I'll get to the point: **we're short of councillors for the Civil Parish of Campton and Chicksands**. We're a fantastic four, where we could be a magnificent seven.

If I'm honest, you're not going to make momentous decisions, such as making a treaty with a foreign power; or listen to law recited from memory by an old bloke on a rock, (although Joe can be compelling listening); or ...whatever happens at Westminster. Anyway. It's more street lights, planning applications and grass cutting. But it's democracy, the smallest, least influential democratic institution you can find. **But it's democracy, all the same!** Shall we let it die? **If there aren't enough of us (we need at least three) we get taken over by Central Bedfordshire. Yes! By people who don't live here!**

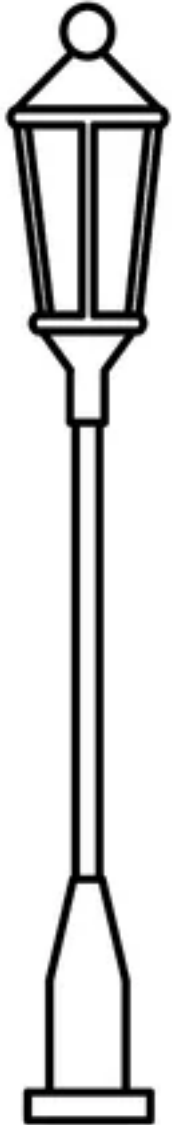
Is the light of democracy to go out here, in this place? Not if there's someone to care for our lamp posts, it won't.

We have eleven meetings a year (a holiday in August to do something normal), and it's my aim to keep meetings to an hour if possible. You can just turn up if you want. That's it.

If you're interested, please contact our clerk, Tammy Medley, Say Charles sent you.

tammy.medley@btinternet.com

Charles, Chair of Campton and Chicksands Parish Council



Queens Platinum Jubilee

As most people are aware, next summer the Queen celebrates her platinum Jubilee having served as Queen for 70 years.

The Government has announced that Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th June 2022 will be Bank Holidays making a four day weekend!

The Parish Council would like to celebrate this event and are looking for volunteers and ideas on what our Parish might do.

If you are prepared to help on a small working group to organise an event, please contact Paul Booton at Paulbooton10@btinternet.com or call on 01462 812488

News from the Pews

Thank you all for supporting our Christmas Festival on the 4th December 2021 and a very well done to all our competitors who made the Parish look so beautiful.

We hope you had a lovely Advent and Christmas. The season of Advent first emerged in the Church in the 4th and 5th centuries and lasted for 40 days. Later tradition developed the Advent we know today of the 4 Sundays before Christmas Day. Each week leading up to the 25th December a different coloured candle is lit on our Advent wreath. The season of Christmas lasts for 12 days, culminating in another feast - that of the Epiphany on January 6th when we recall how Jesus was first revealed to the wider world in the visit of the Magi (or Wise Men).



Happy New Year to all and a very warm welcome for those new to our Parish! If you would like to join any of our church services you are all welcome. Our Sunday Service is at 11.15am. We pride ourselves on being a friendly and inclusive community.

Thank you to everyone who donated food to our food bank and for entering our reverse advent calendar.

Church Wardens: Linda Garton 07702 590024 lindagarton61@gmail.com and Beth Sullivan Ash 07523 079507
Rector: The Revd Roni Goodman 01462 339962 / 07533 376880
The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall, SG17 5NA ronigoodman@gmail.com
Website: <https://churchofallsaintscampton.com/> Please like us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/All-Saints-Church-Campton-912375595529639>

Recipe Share

As another year begins I find myself searching for inspiration for new meals we can prepare at home. I am certain there are is a wide range of cooking knowledge and expertise in our Parish so I had the idea to start a "Recipe Share". Each month I will include a recipe in this newsletter and also publish it on the Parish Council website.

Would you like to our first contributor? Please get in touch using my details from the back page of this newsletter.

Thank you in advance! Liz Bishop

News from the Tower

All **was** going well with Tuesday practices and Sunday ringing, but as of mid-December we are subject to COVID restrictions, so no ringing until things change and ringing is permitted again.

Future visitors to Campton (subject to regulations permitting)

- On Saturday 8th January we will be hosting the AGM of Biggleswade District Ringers. There will be ringing 3.30pm to 5.30pm and 6.30pm to 8pm approx.
 - On Thursday 13th January, 10am to 1.15pm, there will be a peal attempt
- John Loveless, 07803 206161



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER WINNERS:

1st (£40) - No. 88 - R McMurray

2nd (£25) - No. 110 - P Radelat

3rd (£15) - No. 98 - Mr M K Newman

BONUS PRIZE: No. 27 - Mr P Mossman

Campton Village Hall

With the continuing situation around Covid and rising infections with the spread of the new variant, it still remains vitally important to remember that care needs to be taken when visiting the hall, including good hand hygiene, mask wearing and social distancing. We as a Committee can only do so much, therefore we continue to rely on all users of the hall to be responsible for not only themselves, but also to show consideration towards others during these challenging times.

We are still on the lookout for more volunteers to join the Management Committee or to help with odd jobs around the hall and garden area. If you would like to get involved and can spare a little of your time, why not find out more by getting in touch using the contacts below.

For up-to-date information regarding the hall, booking form, policy documents etc, please visit our webpage on the Campton & Chicksands Parish Council website:-

<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/village-hall/>

HALL CONTACT:- Tel: 07950 458940 / Email: camptonvh@outlook.com



Services open to everyone
Cash fares and concessionary travel passes accepted
Travel to Biggleswade, Cambridge, Hitchin and Welwyn Garden City

For further information on excursion pricing please do get in touch.
Tel: 0300 123 3023
www.wanderbus.org.uk e-mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

I would like to wish you all a Happy and Healthy 2022.

We are looking forward to welcoming you all back for a very informative evening with our guest speaker Rob McCleaud who will guide us on the correct procedures in pruning our gardens - not to be missed! - he has excellent knowledge to pass on.

Our next meeting is 7:30pm on Tuesday 11th January at Campton Village Hall.
Maryika, 01462 851729

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council held their most recent meeting on 1st December 2021 in the Village Hall. At the time of writing this report, like everyone, we are aware of the new Omicron variant of Covid-19 but do not know the full impact. However, I do hope that you have all had an enjoyable and safe Christmas. Please remember to stay safe in the coming months and have a Happy New Year.

Unfortunately, Cllr Sue Barnard is leaving the Parish Council. Sue was a key member of the council, representing residents at Chicksands Private amongst other responsibilities. We are sorry to see Sue leave and thank her for all her work as a councillor.

At the December meeting two residents from the outgoing NP Steering Group presented several local walks in the parish that they have written up and would like to share with all residents and visitors. The Parish Council will be arranging for a new noticeboard to be installed in the centre of Campton village to display the walk routes, and a QR code so that walkers will be able to access the routes using their phone. I would like to thank the two residents on behalf of the Parish Council and hope that lots of locals will have pleasure in walking the routes through our beautiful countryside.

I am sure you will have noticed that we are continuing to make improvements at Campton & Shefford Cemetery. We are currently conducting a survey of the health & safety of the memorials at the Cemetery, any memorials that are deemed dangerous or unsafe to cemetery visitors and staff have been laid flat. We are in the process of trying to contact the grave owners and/or family members of the memorials but if you have any information or guardianship over any of the affected headstones, please contact Francesca Fitch on 01462 816321 or towncouncil@sheffordtown.co.uk. In the new year we will be carrying out improvements to the entrance and parking area and we will be creating a peaceful seating area for cemetery visitors.

Councillor Mark Liddiard was able to confirm that funding of £1.5 million has been agreed for a household support fund, helping vulnerable families over this winter. Some of the funding will be given via supermarket vouchers and some via free school meals over the holidays. Support is available via the CBC website.

Due to the recent drop in overnight temperatures CBC Highways started gritting early this winter, they have a plan for gritting throughout the winter and have a good stock of grit. CBC are also trying out a new type of grit, which defrosts the ice more efficiently.

The University of Bedfordshire are researching the Arts and Culture provisions across Central Bedfordshire.

In my report last month, I mentioned a P3 (People, Projects & Partnerships) meeting I was arranging to identify possible areas within the village that could benefit from the scheme, the meeting will be 19th February 2021 at 11am in the Village Hall. If you would like to join the meeting, could you please email or telephone me in advance so that I can ensure everyone is safe and able to socially distance whilst in the village hall.

Central Bedfordshire Council have seen a rise in Covid 19 cases in recent weeks and hospitals are under pressure from an increase in Covid-19 patients, please do take care and follow the covid-19 advice promoted by the Government.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont...

Parking remains an issue in Campton village, and I have been contacted by a number of concerned residents. The junction of Rectory Road and Gravenhurst Road and the area of Greenway near the centre of the village is an area of concern, cars are regularly parking right up to the junction and obstructing the view of drivers turning. Could you please ensure that you park considerately for the safety of other drivers and pedestrians? Increased parking on Saturdays due to football fixtures is also a problem. At the suggestion of the Parish Council, CBC are happy that football players or supporters park at the Priory House car park and walk down to the ground. The Parish Council will be putting forward this proposal to the football club at a future meeting. I met with the Principal Highways Officer for the area last week and raised the village parking issues, she has carried out one site visit and now plans to gather evidence prior to suggesting a plan to address the situation. I am sure most residents would like to avoid parking bays and yellow lines within the village, and these can be avoided by considerate parking.

Lastly, the Parish Council discussed the budget for the 2022/23 financial year. Unfortunately, we are seeing the costs of service provision and our commitments to the community rising significantly. Increases in the minimum wage, the price of fuel and expected increases in energy costs, along with increased maintenance costs associated with running Campton & Shefford Cemetery must be accounted for within the Parish Council budget. Councillors have agreed that an increase in the Parish Council precept, one of the lowest in Central Bedfordshire, is inevitable. To meet expected net outgoings in the next financial year Cllrs agreed a precept increase of 11.9%, equivalent to an increase of £4.03 per annum for the average B and D property.

You may have noticed that the Parish Council have recently carried out play equipment repair works and replaced the safety surface at the Recreation Ground. The Cllrs have also identified a few projects that they would like to start in the New Year and are keen to demonstrate a proactive approach to service and facility provision for the benefit of the community.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 5th January 2022 7.30pm via Zoom due to the increase in Covid cases. To take part please contact me for details of joining the video call.

Clerk to the Parish Council, Tammy Medley:

tammy.medley@btinternet.com

Tel 01908 505558 / 07955 521174

<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/>



2021 Christmas Festival with Arts & Craft Fair

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who entered the Christmas Festival. It was lovely to see all the fabulous ideas and displays, Campton certainly looked Festive.

A big thank you to everyone who walked around the Village and came into the Village Hall for refreshments and to take part in the tombola on a cold Saturday afternoon to support and raise money for the charities, **Keech Hospice** (provides care specifically for terminally ill children in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Milton Keynes), and **All Saints Church, Campton**. The total raised was **£780.95** so well done all! The prizes and Tombola Prizes were kindly donated by many individuals – thank you.

The day was about the taking part and having fun however there was a vote of the favourites. Once again the count was awfully close and the winners are shown below – congratulations!

Open section:

Tree Buttercup Barn, 4 Campton Court

Window 13 Gravenhurst Road

Door 43 Rectory Road

Children's section:

Tree 12 Greenway

Window 19 Gravenhurst Road

Door Campton Academy

Many thanks to all the stallholders and those who helped on the day & behind the scenes, this event could not happen without you all.

Thank you once again for your support of this event - Maggie

Winning tree from open section:



Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop no later than 15th January 2022
Email: candnewsletter@gmail.com Tel: 01462 819058