

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter

March 2023



Peal attempt by visiting band
Thursday 2nd March - 10am to 1pm approx
at All Saints Church, Campton

Coffee and Chat!

Friday 3rd March 10:30am to 12:00pm
at All Saints Church, Campton



Trugs & Trowels Gardening Club
Monday 6th March 7:30pm
at Campton Village Hall

Churchyard Working Group
Saturday 25th March 10am to 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton

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

News from the Tower

RING FOR THE KING' – YOUR FINAL CALL!

The aim of 'RING FOR THE KING' is to ring all the bells in the country – that's in 6000 churches - for the Coronation of King Charles the third on May 6, 2023.

This is the final call - if you want to ring on May 6 2023 you need to join our team and learn immediately.

To learn more please join us on a Tuesday evening 7.30pm to 9.00pm at All Saints Church Campton or contact me, John Loveless, on 07803 206161 or email jloveless5040@outlook.com

There will be peal attempts at All Saints Campton on Thursday, March 2, 10am to 1pm approx, by a Northamptonshire visiting band, and on Wednesday, March 29, 10am to 1pm approx, by a visiting Hertfordshire band.



Churchyard Volunteer Working Group

The next Churchyard Volunteer Working Groups are planned for

Saturday 25th March from 10am to 12 noon

Saturday 15th April 10am to 12 noon

Please bring your own tools, and if possible, your own garden waste recycling bins/bags.

For more information, please contact Maggie on 07989 082743 or by email marsh.mam@gmail.com

**Wanderbus is a fixed
route bus service open
to everyone.**



Wanderbus offers the below services for Campton residents:

Every Monday - W3S: Biggleswade
Every Tuesday - W12B: Hitchin
4th Wednesday - W6: Cambridge
1st Thursdays - W14: Welwyn Garden City

A regular bus service open to all. Cash Fares and Travel Passes
accepted on all routes.

A monthly excursion programme is now planned for 2023:

27th April - Coton Manor Botanical Gardens
25th May - Gotha Gardens, Ashwell
22nd June - Raptor Foundation, Woodhurst
27th July - Stowe House and Gardens, Stowe
24th August - Barnsalde Gardens, Eaton
28th September - Audley End House & Gardens
26th October - Bletchley Park
23rd November - Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market

For excursion pricing please contact Wanderbus on 0300 123 3023.

**16 seater buses available for PRIVATE HIRE to schools, clubs etc.
Please call for details and pricing.**

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

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council held their most recent meeting on 2nd February.

Last month I reported that Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) were looking to make a nil increase on the Council Tax for the forthcoming financial year. They have consulted with Central Bedfordshire residents and 75% of residents agree with their decision. 600 residents responded in total.

The A507 underpass to Shefford has been flooded on several occasions recently. CBC teams initially cleared the drains, but the underpass flooded again after rainfall and have now re-attended and established there was a problem with the electric control panel that controls the sump pump. Whilst writing this, CBC have vehicles & equipment available to empty the sump chamber when required whilst they deal with the electrical problem. Hopefully by the time you read this, the issue will be resolved, but thank you to all of you that kept me updated.

The Parish Council have now made the arrangements for the installation of a children's climbing wall at Campton Recreation Ground. It is due to be installed on 14th March ready for parish children to enjoy over the summer months. The Parish Council will be treating the grass surfaces with a feed and weed dressing in the near future and will also be trimming back some hedges and associated deadwood before the bird nesting season commences.

The defibrillator on the wall of the Village Hall is regularly checked by a resident in the village and by the Parish Council. When the defibrillator was first installed the Parish Council arranged a training session for residents, the session covered some basic first aid and specific training for the use of the AED device. The Parish Council are considering arranging another similar course for residents and we are currently trying to gauge how many residents would be interested in attending? The course would be either morning or afternoon session and would last approximately 3 hours. If you would be interested in attending the course could you please let me know.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) are preparing for the local and parish elections which take place on 4 May 2023. CBC are encouraging all eligible residents to make sure they are "Vote Ready". Please ensure that you are registered to vote. Residents are also reminded that, following a change in government legislation, voter ID will be mandatory at polling stations. Acceptable forms of ID include a government-issued ID, such as a driving licence, passport, as well as travel passes and proof of age ID cards. A comprehensive list of ID acceptable can be found on the CBC website.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

For anyone that doesn't have any of these forms of ID, they can apply to CBC for a postal vote or the new Voter Authority Certificate.

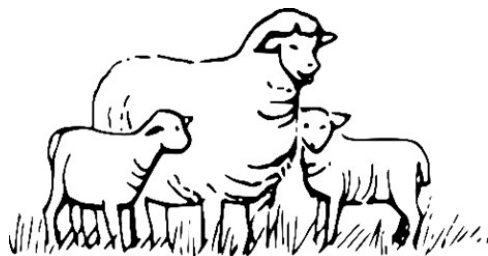
CBC will soon be delivering a household notification letter, this will further advise residents who is currently registered to vote at the address, and will also contain a leaflet on voter ID.

Following the adoption of our Neighbourhood Plan in 2021 the Parish Council have been looking to make improvements to street lighting within Campton village. The Parish Council is responsible for some 24 streetlights and have recently agreed that the current lanterns will be replaced by modern LED based lanterns. This will ensure consistency with those streetlamps already upgraded in the village by CBC, will reduce our Carbon footprint and save the Parish Council a considerable amount of money on energy and maintenance. Indeed, parts for the existing lanterns have now been discontinued and sourcing replacement casings and bulbs has become difficult. In the long term they would all need to be replaced. It is also hoped that the new lanterns will help to reduce light pollution as they are designed to cast light downwards better than the old sodium lamps. The Parish Council have obtained quotes for the works and have decided to instruct Andy Muskett Ltd., the company that is currently responsible for our lighting maintenance.

I have started to put together an Emergency Plan for the Parish. The plan will specify procedures for handling a sudden or unexpected situation within the Parish e.g., a complete loss of power for several hours. The Parish Council Emergency Plan will consider ways we can support residents affected by offering shelter, food and drink etc, whilst supporting the Emergency Services who will deal with the actual emergency. If any residents feel that they as an individual or as a community group running in the Parish could assist in an emergency could you please contact me.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 2nd March 2023 7.00pm in Campton Village Hall.

Clerk to the Parish Council, Tammy
Medley: Tel 01908 505558 / 07955 521174
tammy.medley@btinternet.com
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/>



News from the Pews

It is now the season of Lent, a forty day period when we reflect on our lives in preparation for the celebrations of Easter. Many people forego their favourite things, following the example of Jesus who fasted in the wilderness. Some give to charity or simply go out of their way to help others. There will be no flowers in church during Lent, so a rest for our wonderful team of flower arrangers to whom we are ever grateful.

Upcoming events:

3rd March - Coffee and Chat: home made bread/cake this month.

14 April - Coffee and Chat: (not the 7th this month, because it coincides with Good Friday)

Church services:

Mothering Sunday – 19th March, 11.15am

Palm Sunday - 2nd April, 11.15am

Maundy Thursday – 6th April, 7.30pm. This is a benefice service.

Good Friday Devotions – 7th April, 2pm.

Easter Sunday - 9th April, 10.30am (nb not 11.15, the usual Sunday service time)

Beth Sullivan Ash 07523 079507 and Audrey Brand 01462 850001
Rector: The Revd Roni Goodman 01462 339962 / 07533 376880
The Rectory, Church Road, Meppershall, SG17 5NA
ronigoodman@gmail.com
Website: <https://churchofallsaintscampton.com/>

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

Hear we are halfway through February and this pre-spring sunshine means we can get a head start on the winter clear up. If like me you will be cutting down all dead leaves and shrubbery, along with plants lost in the harsh frosty spells. Lots of jobs to be getting on with in your gardens and greenhouses:

- Preparing beds for spring. This is one of the most important jobs. Digging over will aerate, drain and warm the soil, incorporate plenty of homemade compost or composted manure. Alternatively give the beds a dressing of organic matter then cover in plastic for a few weeks to reduce weeds and warm soil.
- Planting
- Lang yourself some Rhubarb keeping the buds of the crown level with the soil surface.
- Five good seeds to sow in February, flowers and vegetables. Helping you extend the season by repeat sowing. All you need is a sunny windowsill or a propagator. Our top five include Cosmos which always look great in borders. Kale a lovely leafy green vegetable. Sweet peas remembering to soak your seeds overnight. Tomatoes which germinate within two weeks, a variety is good to include tumbling for your hanging baskets. Salvias which bring structure and height. Top tips for successful propagation, always maintain good light and air levels, use fresh compost mixed with perlite, all watering to trays below pots, good ventilation during the day.
- Cutting back - time to cut back late flowering Clematis and any Wisteria side shoots to three buds. Trim back ivy and virginia creepers.
- Prune Buddleja and Elder to its base.
- Split Herbaceous perennials, divide winter Aconites, also split snowdrops when they have stopped flowering.
- Sprinkle slow release fertilisers around the base of roses. Feed fruit trees and bushes with a sprinkling of sulphate of potash.

During our last gardening club on the 6th of February we held a most enjoyable evening listening to Janet Hyde and her childhood as a Head Gardeners daughter. On 6th March we have an equally exciting speaker as Martin the owner of Cottage Farm Nurseries in Cardington will be joining us to deliver a very knowledgable insight to gardening along with a question session. One not to be missed.

All welcome 6th March 7.30 £3.50 non members, refreshments, raffle and free and swap table.

There are places still available on our Ashridge Estate trip and Ashridge House Garden on 15th April 2023.

Maryika,
01462 851729

Campton Village Hall

We are still looking for a **new Bookings Secretary** for our Village Hall. If you feel you would like to take on this role or discuss it in further detail please do get in touch.

Please contact us by phone: 07526 797944 or by email: camptonvh@outlook.com
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/village-hall/whats-on/>



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FEBRUARY WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 140 - A Brand
2nd (£25) - No. 171 - G Spicer
3rd (£15) - No. 76 - I Partington

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 58 - K Holland
2nd (£25) - No. 111 - M Needham
3rd (£15) - No. 164 - M Herron

Campton & Chicksands Local Walks

As the evenings start to become lighter and the days are warmer with the mid-day sun, why not remind yourself of the local walks highlighted during the Neighbourhood Plan environment Working Group planning.

Now is a perfect opportunity to start some of the walks on our Parish website:
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/walks/>

- Walk No 1 Chicksands Wood
- Walk No 2 Polehanger Wood
- Walk No 3 Crackle Hill
- Walk No 4 Sheffod Hardwicke
- Walk No 5 Campton Plantation
- Walk No 6 Sandy Smith Nature Reserve
- Walk No 7 Sandy Smith / Druids Grove
- Walk No 8 Sandy Smith / John Bunyan Trail

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop no later than 15th March 2023
Email: camcnewsletter@gmail.com Tel: 01462 819058