

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter April 2023



Bell ringing Peal attempt
Monday 10th April - 10am to 1pm approx
at All Saints Church, Campton

Churchyard Working Group
Saturday 15th April - 10am to 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton



Trugs & Trowels Gardening Club
Saturday 22nd April - meet at 4pm
at Shefford Hardwick Farm

Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III
5th - 8th May 2023
at All Saints Church, Campton
See page 3 for details



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

Campton Village Hall

Campton Village Hall Management Committee will be holding their AGM on Thursday 20th April at 7:30pm at Campton Village Hall. Please do come along and show your support. During the AGM the Committee will be formed to serve for the next twelve months. So, if you are thinking of joining us, this would be a good time to start!! We are still looking for a **new Bookings Secretary**.

Maintenance jobs continue at your Village Hall with some fans being installed to assist with cooling the room during the regular exercise classes held at the hall.

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

Bluebell Season!

Bluebells usually flower in April and May so 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 6 Sandy Smith Nature Reserve



Image: Liz Bishop

News from the Tower

‘RING FOR THE KING’ – YOUR VERY VERY FINAL CALL!

The aim of ‘RING FOR THE KING’ is to run all the bells in the country - that’s 6000 churches - for the Coronation of King Charles III on May 6th.

This is your final call - if you want to ring on Coronation Day you need to join our team and learn immediately.



There will be an Easter peal attempt at All Saints Campton on Easter Monday, April 10th 10am-1pm approx.

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



Celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III

Friday 5th and Sunday 7th May

How to get involved....



Decorate the front of your house/front garden.

Show your creative flair with flags, flowers, balloons and bunting.

Friday 5th May



Come to **Coffee & Chat** 10.30am - 12pm in All Saints Church.
Dress in red, white and blue. Enjoy cake and a catch up.



Bell Peal 3pm - 6pm. Listen to the "Ring for the King".



Have fun with a **Quiz Evening** at All Saints Church.
7.30pm bring your own drink and nibbles.

Sunday 7th May



Join the 11.15am All Saints Church Service and raise a toast.

There will be opportunities at a later date to get involved with various volunteering events around the village and plant commemorative trees as part of The Big Help Out.



Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council held their most recent monthly meeting on 2nd March 2023. The meeting was preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) are preparing for the local and parish elections which take place on 4 May 2023, they are encouraging all eligible residents to make sure they are registered to vote and to be 'Vote Ready'. CBC Residents are also reminded that, following a change in government legislation, photo 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. Anyone that doesn't have any of these forms of ID, they can apply for a postal vote or the new Voter Authority Certificate.

Full information on the forthcoming parish elections can be found on the Parish Council (PC) noticeboards in Campton and Chicksands, and on the PC website.

The PC have noticed that there has been an increase in dog fouling both on the Recreation Ground and on pavements and footpaths within the parish. I am sure you will appreciate this is particularly unpleasant for everyone, including the grass cutting contractors, children and football teams using the Recreation Ground, and for walkers visiting the parish. Please clean up after your dogs and use the bins provided. Thank you.

The parish P3 Group have been litter picking and trimming pathways throughout the winter and will continue to do so as we see the start of spring, keeping the village looking nice. The PC Councillors are very grateful for the work carried out, and if you have some free time and would like to get involved then please do get in touch.

On a related note, the PC have noticed that foliage from some resident's front gardens is obstructing pathways, this causes difficulties for people using pushchairs, wheelchairs or mobility scooters and can result in pedestrians having to step into the roadway. As the warmer weather arrives and more

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

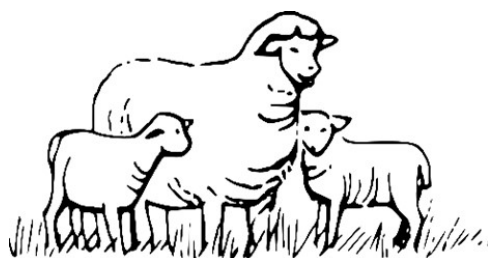
people are out walking, could you please check that the pathways in front of your property are clear, so as to allow people to pass safely. Thank you.

The JBB contractor has just started carrying out this season's grass cutting and grounds maintenance at the Cemetery in Shefford. Any memorials that are non-regulation (regulations allow one plaque and one vase of flowers) may be removed if deemed to be unsafe when maintenance tasks are being undertaken, this includes stone chippings around memorial plaques. Whilst every care is taken by the contractor, the JBB will not be held liable for any breakages or damage to memorials that are outside of the regulations. All Christmas wreaths and flowers will now be removed. If you have any queries regarding this please contact either Clerk for Shefford Town Council or Clerk for Campton and Chicksands Parish Council.

Reverend Roni Goodman has asked if the Church Council can set out an area of grass within the Churchyard that will be left to grow to allow wildflowers to grow and re-seed. The Cllrs discussed this at the March meeting and have agreed to support this. The area will be left uncut from the end of May through to mid-August, when the PC's mowing contractor will cut it and remove all the cuttings from the area.

The date of the next meeting is Thursday 6th April 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

Easter service details for 2023

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 the usual 11:15 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/>



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

APRIL WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 75 - L Turner
2nd (£25) - No. 37 - M Foxly
3rd (£15) - No. 80 - S Winyard

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

If your own sap is sluggish, you might need to inject some enthusiasm. March tells us by its very name what we should be aiming for. We kicked the month off with a well-attended evening and interesting talk from Country Cottage Gardens, Cardington. Martin, a very knowledgeable speaker shared his wisdom, tips and memories of his early life, training alongside Alan Titchmarsh. In addition, potatoes and onions were handed out for the annual growing competition - we look forward to August when our winner will be revealed!

March/April Action Plan:

Look outside and absorb the early spring - you can't fail to notice beautiful bulbs are brightening up the borders, along with enchanting hellebores. Peer closely and you will find buds galore. A promise of glorious blooms to come - azaleas, rhododendrons, camelias, magnolias, bergonias and a host of other spring beauties. Azaleas and some other shrubs were introduced to the UK way back in the 16th century and are currently enjoying a revival in popularity.

To my knowledge the long hot summer took its toll on all our lawns. Now is the time to tackle those problems areas and make some repairs. If your lawn is soggy, pierce the surface with a garden fork at 6 inch intervals to aerate and sprinkle a sand and loam dressing over the top. Remove moss with a rake which has slider, flexible tines. Johnsons have a handy guide to choose the best seed for you (johnsonslawnseed.com). If seeding a whole lawn, choose a dry day and on your prepared area measure out meters with canes. Seed and sprinkle the area by hand or applicator and sow inside the square. Move and repeat to get an even coverage. Give it a good hosing and continue to water if rainfall is low.

Make sure to use wet days and repot any houseplants which have outgrown their pots. Water the plants the day before and then get a layer of grit in a larger pot and use houseplant compost. Press soil flat and water well.

Whilst nesting season is underway in our gardens spare a thought for our declining bird populations which we can support with sustainable solutions by growing plants which provide food, seed-heads and berries as well as hedges, shrubs and trees which give bird habitat and safety from predators. Honeysuckle and nasturtiums attract insects - a great food source for birds.

Please can members note that there have been **changes to some diary dates/times and locations**, as shown in the calendar on page 8. Please make sure to **update your diaries** so as not to miss out!

Maryika - 01462 851729



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club cont.

Date	Event	Location
22nd April	Diversify Bedfordshire Farming	Shefford Hardwick Farm, access from Bedford Road at 4pm
1st May	Red, White & Blue Coronation Social	6pm start, please contact Maryika for address
26th June	Richard Knock - Wildlife Trust and Sheep farming	Campton Village Hall
July TBA	Meppershall Manor visit	Meppershall Manor
14th August	Competition Judging	Campton Village Hall
4th September	Becky Almond - How to care for your garden	Campton Village Hall
2nd October	Richard Knock - Bedfordshire wild orchids	Campton Village Hall
6th November	TBA	Campton Village Hall
4th December	Christmas Social	Campton Village Hall

Churchyard Volunteer Working Group

The next Churchyard Volunteer Working Groups are planned for

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@googlemail.com

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