

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter December 2023



Coffee and Chat!

Friday 1st December - 10:30am to 12:00pm
at All Saints Church, Campton

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club
Monday 4th December 7:30pm
at Campton Village Hall



Parish Council Meeting - all welcome
Thursday 7th December 7:00pm
at Campton Village Hall



Society of Royal Cumberland Youths Peal attempt
Sunday 10th December - 2pm to 5pm approx
at All Saints Church, Campton

New Year's Day Peal
1st January 2024 - 1pm to 4pm approx
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 Pews

We look forward to welcoming you to All Saints over the festive period. Our Christmas services are as follows:

Sunday 10th December at 11.15 am **Christingle Service**

All children and their families and the wider community are warmly invited to come along to receive a Christingle and light a candle! This is always a lovely start to the Christmas period.

Sunday 24th December at 6pm **Nine Lessons and Carols**

Come along with family and friends to our very popular service. Our choir will be singing a new composition by Bob Chilcott. Hear it first at this service!

Monday 25th December at 10.30am **Christmas Day Service**

Everyone is very welcome.

You are always assured of a very warm welcome at any of our Sunday services, held each week at 11.15 am. Thank you for continuing to support the Food Bank. Contributions may be left in the church porch.

With best wishes to everyone for a joyful and peaceful Christmas.

Church Warden: 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/>

Christmas Choir

Rehearsals start for our Christmas Choir on Monday 27th November at 7.00pm in All Saints Church. No need to read music as practise tracks will be provided. All very welcome.

We will be singing at the Nine Lessons and Carols service at 6.00pm on Christmas Eve at All Saints Church.

Please contact me to let me know if you are interested, and if anyone has any queries on 07899 858767. Thank you. Joy Curtis

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

Here we are, December is part of a wonderful season filled with spectacular beauty with colourful foliage on the turn after a cooler summer and an unseasonably warm start of a new season. Days are shorter and as temperatures now drop the trees prepare for winter withdrawing nutrients from their leaves which in turn rewards us with incredible Autumn displays. This signals the time to protect, prepare and bed down our gardens until we welcome spring time.

- Rake up all leaves: remove them from borders and ponds, bag in black bags dampen and add air holes. Leaf mould takes about a year to mature and makes a great top dressing for woodland plants like Rhododendrons, a great homemade substitute for peat.
- Dig in organic matter into your soil and you will reap the benefits
- If you whitewashed your greenhouse for summer shade, remove all for winter light and insulate with bubble wrap.
- Put your pots and containers on feet to prevent them waterlogging and freezing. All plants in pots or ground which cannot be lifted will need insulation, wrap pots in bubble wrap/fleece.
- There is still time to get your winter bedding in with slow release fertiliser for more flowers.
- Prune your roses.
- There is a cabbage for every season and hopefully you have chosen a bed where you have grown brassicas within the last couple of years. To avoid club root prepare for overwintering by adding plenty of organic matter and net/cover with fleece, protecting from pigeons and frost.
- Cannas Dalias and pelargonium (commonly known as geraniums) can be lifted and stored in semi dormant state over winter. Cannas and Dalias can be lifted after foliage blackened by first frost, remembering to label all plants. Tubers must have all soil removed and allow to dry off along with corms and rhizomes. Then ensure to ventilate well which will prevent any rotting.
- As grass will continue to grow from 5 degrees you may need to mow it therefore it's important to raise mower blade 1/4 inch. Keep off your lawn if its frozen or waterlogged, to help the drainage spike with fork.

Our next meeting is a Christmas Social and Raffle which will bring 2023 to an end. Our first gardening club of 2024 will be held on the 8th January for registration and a look back and forward to our new diary of events. Thank you all for your support this year, have a wonderful Christmas and New year and enjoy your family time.

I look forward to welcoming you all - new and old members - on January 8th.

Maryika 01462 851729

Campton Village Hall

The Village Hall Management Committee are continuing with a busy bookings diary and improving the offering at the village hall with maintenance and new ideas discussed at each meeting. If you would like to join the committee please do contact us.

We held an October Social evening however attendance was lower than we would have hoped for. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Several competitive games of Rummikub provided the accompaniment to conversation and snacks! The Village Hall Committee will continue to offer free social evenings at the hall to give our community the opportunity to come together. Future evenings will be advertised in this newsletter.

Tuesday mornings and afternoons are available slots in the weekly bookings diary. If you are looking for somewhere to hold your activity or event please get in touch.

*The Village Hall Management Committee would like to
"wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas"*

Please contact us by email: camptonvh@outlook.com

For a booking form and other information go to:

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



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

NOVEMBER WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 106 - S Twigg
2nd (£25) - No. 158 - J Cook
3rd (£15) - No. 108 - S Kitely

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR

DECEMBER WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No.145 - G Parrish
2nd (£25) - No. 31 - L Mullins
3rd (£15) - No. 43 - W Langley

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR DECEMBER BONUS WINNER:

Bonus - No. 131 - M Tyler



Wanderbus, your Community Bus service based out of Meppershall, has received delivery of its new 73-plate bus.

Their 2015 bus has been replaced after 8 years of service and they now have a brand new Fiat 16-seater bus built by Mellor Coach & Bus Company of Rochdale. This is the 5th bus Wanderbus have had built by Mellor's since the start of their services back in 1989.



Wanderbus is run entirely by volunteers and is OPEN to all passengers, the same as any other bus service, with destinations across Beds, Bucks, Cambs and Herts and fixed weekday routes picking up from the towns and villages around Shefford & Stotfold.

As from November 1st 2023 Wanderbus have joined the DfT Government sponsored scheme where anyone paying cash will be charged £2.00 or less per single journey. The scheme runs until December 2024. (This does not affect child fares nor bus-pass users).

This offers great value to get directly to Cambridge, Milton Keynes, Welwyn Garden City, St Albans, St Neots and all the more local destinations including Hitchin, Biggleswade (Centre & A1 Retail Park), Bedford and Letchworth. Wanderbus also operates excursions throughout the year so watch out for the 2024 programme that will be launched early next year.

Wanderbus relies on 'numbers of passengers' for receiving reimbursement from County Councils for concessionary bus passes as well as any cash fares taken. So please support them as often as you can.

Call 0300 123 3023 or email thewanderbus@gmail.com for a timetable and come join the "friendly service".

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council held their most recent meeting on 2nd November 2023.

The Parish Council (PC) recently arranged for East of England ambulance service to run a defibrillator training session for residents in the village hall. Thank you for all the residents who attended and thank you for all of the positive feedback we have received, the Councillors and I are pleased that you all found it beneficial.

The PC and the Joint Burial Board (JBB) are now going through the process of budgeting for the next financial year, considering expected inflationary increases in general costs as well as projects Councillors would like to focus on during 2024/25. The budget and precept will be agreed ready to submit to Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) in January 2024.

The Assistant Director for Highways at CBC recently carried out an inspection of the roads in Campton with input from our Ward Councillors. He will be recommending a repositioning of the 30mph limit on the Gravenhurst Road & Campton Road approaches to Campton. The current speed limit terminates at the junction between Campton Rd and Gravenhurst Rd, where the main built-up area begins. It is agreed that it would make sense for the 30mph limit to begin at the same location as the Campton village signs, to reinforce the need for the limit as you enter the village. He will also be recommending resurfacing work in Mill Lane, it is on the 3-year programme and is likely to be resurfaced in 2025/26, subject to available budgets.

Kerbside collections of household garden waste will pause as usual during the winter months across Central Bedfordshire. Garden waste collections will be suspended for 12 weeks from Monday 4th December 2023 until Friday 23rd February 2024, inclusive. Residents are encouraged to check their last collection date for their area, which depending on where they live will be either the week commencing Monday 20th November or week commencing Monday 27th November. The collections will resume from Monday 26th February. During this period, all other waste collections will operate as normal.

The JBB have instructed a contractor to carry out the required works to repair the church wall, the contractor hopes to start works in the spring, but this will be weather dependent. We will keep you updated once we have actual confirmed dates.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

From 1st November 2023, visitors to Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) - also known as tidy tips - in Central Bedfordshire will be asked to show proof that they live in the area. CBC will be implementing a policy of requiring visitors to provide proof of address when using any of its four HWRCs. This brings Central Bedfordshire Council in line with many of its neighbouring authorities and means that visitors to sites at Ampthill, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Thorn Turn (Houghton Regis) will need to bring along valid ID to gain entry to the tidy tip.

Acceptable forms of ID include a current UK driving licence (photo card or paper licence will be accepted); a council tax bill from the current financial year; a utility bill (gas, electricity or water) which is less than a year old; a letter from HMRC or the Home Office which is less than a year old; current bus pass or a current disabled parking permit.

All four sites are open seven days a week from 9am to 5pm including Bank Holidays, except Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve when sites are open 9am to 1pm. For more information visit, www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/tidytips

In the last Newsletter we reported that the PC have been looking for opportunities to improve the availability of publicly accessible green infrastructure for recreation and leisure in the parish. This aspiration results from outcomes of our 2021 Neighbourhood Plan and related consultation. We now understand that one such opportunity may come about in the near future and the PC are actively exploring options regarding a possible site purchase within Campton village. In support of this consideration the PC have submitted a community grant application for external funding from CBC, the outcome of which should be known in January next year. Clearly it is very early days, but the PC will keep you updated when, and if, we have more information on the viability of pursuing this interesting opportunity.

The Councillors and I would like to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year.

The dates of the next 2 meetings are Thursday 7th December 2023 and 4th January 2024, both at 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 Tower

We have several new ringers learning to ring at Campton on Tuesdays. A young lad of 12 who has taken to it very quickly, a teacher of IT in a local secondary school and a scout leader who popped in to church one Tuesday evening at the end of August saying he was keen to learn to ring. Clearly a quick learner with an aptitude, the result is that he now handles a bell very well and joins in the team's ringing.

On Sunday December 3 there will be an advanced Bedfordshire ringers practice, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

There will be a peal attempt at All Saints by members of the Society of Royal Cumberland Youths on Sunday, December 10, 2pm to 5pm approx.

Our New Year's Day peal will be on January 1 2024, 1pm to 4pm approx

STILL YOUR TURN TO LEARN?

We still need to teach more ringers.

How about if it were YOU that came forward to learn? Bellringing is about acquiring a centuries old skill that's part of the fabric of our community and is it's loudest noise. Teamwork and fellowship goes with it and bellringers are part of the wide church community, performing in the oldest and most fantastic building in our village.

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

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