

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter April 2024

"Thank you for your time and thought"

Compliments have been received referring to how fantastic our village flower beds are looking at the moment with the spring bulbs.
Well done and thank you to all involved!



Parish Council Meeting - all welcome
Thursday 4th April 7:00pm
at Campton Village Hall

Coffee and Chat

Friday 5th April 10:30am - 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club
Monday 8th April - 7:30pm
at Campton Village Hall



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

I don't know how long your Easter Eggs will last - but the church continues to celebrate Easter for 7 weeks and until Pentecost - this year on May 19th. In fact, we continue to celebrate Easter the whole year long with each Sunday being a celebration of the Resurrection...a little Easter. But apart from all the chocolate - why is Easter so important to Christians?

So many people look at a grave and see only death. Love, loss and happy memories come to mind surely - but turned to grief and uncertainty. In Jesus' empty tomb, however, we see death yield to life; despair turn into hope; sorrow into joy; and uncertainty into the sure confidence of eternal life in the loving presence of God "who loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in Him may not die but may have eternal life". (John 3:16) For those who believe Jesus' empty tomb has become a place of hope, and a place of life...because death simply could not hold the Lord of Life.

And the joys of Easter seem to reverberate throughout our world as we turn our heating off, throw open windows and doors into the garden - to hear the birds singing, to see the spring bulbs in flower, the buds bursting on the branches and to wonder as our whole world 'springs' back to life.

Sadly, many people in our world are still living a "Good Friday" experience, amid poverty, fear, sickness and war...but they will still hold on to the Easter message. As Christians all over the world continue to look for the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven, I pray that Easter hope, Easter joy and Easter peace will fill our hearts and minds and strengthen us to serve God and one another in the days to come.

Church Diary:

Friday 5th April: 10.30 - 12 noon Coffee and Chat in the Church
Sunday 7th April: 10.30am Benefice Communion at All Saints in Campton
Sunday 14th April: 11.15am Morning Praise
Sunday 21st April: 11.15am Holy Communion
Sunday 28th April: 11.15am Morning Praise

And a special "Thank You" to Paul and Sue Booton and all who supported the Church Quiz night... around £300 was raised. Thank you everyone!

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

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

Here we are heading into spring. Perfect time to sow your onion sets March/April as soon as the growth can be worked when temperatures are likely not to dip below -2C/28F. Onions are hardy cool season biennials usually grown as an annual crop. Onions take 80 to 150 days to mature for harvest, growing in full sun with minimal maintenance, growing in the ground or in large tubs.

It's time to get your garlic in, a spring planting cultivar. Pop singular cloves into well draining soil using a trowel as not to damage the base and pointy end up and eventually digging whole bulbs this summer, a generous multiplying trick if ever I saw one. Some cultivars store for months others shorter shelf lives - choose carefully. Picardy white and Carcassonne white are spring planting.

Onions and garlic for millennia was the go to natural remedy for a wide array of ailments additionally its culinary virtues well known making it a popular food staple since ancient times. Evidence exists originated from Allium mutation occurred in Central Asia a medicinal food source for over 7000 years nearly as long as written records began. Egyptian burials would often use onions, traces of onions were found in the eye sockets of the Pharaoh Ramesses IV(1155-1149BC). Ancient Egyptians fed garlic to the labourers who built the pyramids to increase strength, stamina and protect from disease.

In Greece, Hippocrates the father of medicine advocated it as a cleanser for pulmonary problems/abdominal growths. Piney the Elder the Roman naturalist prescribed garlic to aid ailments gastrointestinal disorders, animal bites, joint disease and seizures. In ancient China and Japan garlic was prescribed to aid digestion and diarrhoea, rid intestinal worms, and alleviate depression. Garlic was recommended in India to treat heart disease and arthritis. In Europe in the middle ages onions had such importance they were used as currency to pay for essentials such as rent. Until the mid 1700 onions were used as a currency in Siberia.

Today, all these many years on, garlic is used as a herbal supplement to prevent heart disease, lower high cholesterol and high blood pressure, along with boosting the immune system. It is said rubbing an onion on cold feet will get the circulation going, along with all your friends!

So where did the onion loving Beret wearing french onion sellers originate from? French onion Johnnies arrived in the UK every summertime to peddle their wares from Roscoff Brittany, going door to door from July to December all across the UK then return to Brittany northern France. Many of them were called Yann, a common Breton name for John, but soon were renamed "Onion Johnnies" by the British. This the only contact many brits had with Frenchmen assumed all french wore Berets.

Continued on Page 7

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) held their most recent meeting on 7th March 2024. Along with our Ward Councillors it was good to have some residents joining the meeting and taking part in public participation.

The recent Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) public consultation regarding proposed policy changes to Home to School Transport ran from 7th February 2024 for 8 weeks and will close on 3rd April 2024. If the proposed changes are agreed, they will be effective for in-year school applications from the start of the 2024/25 academic year and at the start of the 2025/26 academic year for new compulsory school transport applications and post 16 applications.

The CBC budget for 2024/25 has now been agreed, there will be an increase of 5% in council tax to residents. To help cover the budget, the council will also be drawing on their reserves to reach expected expenditure targets. Residents should be aware that green garden waste bins will no longer be collected free of charge from early April, and there will be an annual charge of £55 for each property for those that wish to continue to receive this service. At this stage we are unsure how this new scheme will be instigated and administered but as soon as we receive any further information, we will share it with you. CBC are also looking to extend the winter period when there is no green bin collection by approximately a month. Another big change is to waste food collections; CBC will no longer be supplying food bags free of charge, residents can choose to use their own bags, but they must be biodegradable, hopefully CBC will provide us with more details on this soon.

CBC are to develop a new Local Plan and have already started to engage with local Town & Parish Councils. Whilst the existing Local Plan was only adopted in 2021, it is national policy that all Local Plans are reviewed after 5 years. However, new national policies and central government plan making reforms mean that a review and/or partial update is not a realistic option for CBC. As a result, significant changes are necessary, and a full new style plan is to be developed with the challenging target of adoption in late 2028. The PC have been consulted regarding the new vision and strategic objectives and are trialling a digital "Have Your Say" portal that CBC will use during the development of the new plan. Initially Parish Cllrs will be submitting comments in line with the 2021 Neighbourhood & GI Plan outcomes. Informal public engagement by CBC is expected to run later this year, and as with any project of this nature formal statutory public consultations will follow in due course. The PC will provide more information as and when we are made aware. There will be a new Call for Sites towards the end of this year to identify possible areas for development across Central Bedfordshire.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

The Joint Burial Board (JBB) have agreed that works will be undertaken to repair some pathways within the cemetery, as in places the pathways have fallen into disrepair. We will aim to have the works completed in the spring. The water in the cemetery has been temporarily switched off, this was due to a split and leak in the tap, a replacement tap has been ordered and will be fitted as soon as its available. The grounds maintenance company will be topping up some of the graves in the cemetery over the coming weeks and will plant more grass seed in areas where required. The JBB has also agreed for the bricks to be removed from under the chapel gates, an area of tarmac will be also removed and replaced with a granite set. This will ensure the gates close smoothly and prevent pedestrians tripping on the uneven entrance surface. We apologise in advance for any disturbance this causes during the works being carried out.

As mentioned in some previous newsletters the Parish Council has been looking at improving accessibility for wheelchair, scooter and pushchair users within the village of Campton. These users may depend on using dropped kerbs to cross the highway safely. Can we please ask that all residents be mindful of where you, or your visitors, park vehicles in the village. If you could try not to block dropped kerbs, particularly those by Mill Lane and Elm Close, it would be greatly appreciated. It can be difficult for some residents to gain access to pavements if the dropped kerbs are obstructed.

Thank you to those residents that took the time to email me regarding the possible reinstating of the Good Neighbour Scheme, we have had enough interest to consider this further. The next step will be to establish if we have any residents who would be willing to volunteer some time to assist others in the community regarding getting to appointments etc. This could be getting involved in the organisational side, taking the telephone call and request and allocating a driver or it maybe by being a driver? If you would be able to offer some time to help and would like to get involved then please do contact me on either tammy.medley@btinternet.com or 01908 505558/ 07955521174

The dates of the next 2 meetings are our Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 4th April (which will be followed by a full council meeting), and the following meeting will be Thursday 9th May 2024. Both meetings will start 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

There is much training of new ringers learning to ring at Campton on Tuesday evenings.

Bedfordshire Young Ringers hold all their monthly practices at All Saints, Campton, with the next practice on Sunday April 14, 2.30pm - 4.30pm. A great opportunity for some resident Campton youngsters (age 9+) to come forward to check out ringing. Our National Bellringing Youth Contest in London on Saturday July 6, a great day out! Pop in and see us!

We still need to teach more ringers. As a volunteer you can help us produce the loudest noise anywhere in Campton in the oldest and most fantastic building in the village. People from age 9 to age 80 are bellringers! Bellringing is a centuries old skill and bellringers are part of the wide church community!

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



Hedgehog Highway Project

Do you have Hedgehogs in your garden? Would you like to help these Hedgehogs to flourish locally? The Parish Council is supporting Hedgehog conservation in our parish and has purchased several Hedgehog Highway Surrounds that are now available to residents on request.

What is a Hedgehog Highway? A Hedgehog Highway is a 5-inch gap in a fence or wall allowing access for Hedgehogs. These gaps are becoming essential in the battle to conserve our endangered spiky friends. A Hedgehog Highway allows hedgehogs to forage more widely for food, meet mates to breed and access more nesting sites.

Why should I install a Hedgehog Highway Surround? The Hedgehog Highway surrounds look super cute, they raise awareness to hedgehogs' struggle for survival, they create a talking point and encourage others to create a highway of their own and take part in the project.

Why not talk to your neighbours about creating a Hedgehog Highway? If you would like to obtain a Hedgehog Highway Surround with an information leaflet, please contact the Parish Clerk (Tel: 01908 505558) who will tell you when and where you may collect one. Initially, these surrounds will be limited to one per household until we have ascertained demand.

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club cont.

This first began in 1828 when a french man Olivier decided it was easier to sail to the UK and sell his onions which soon became common practice for many french growers. Not an easy life as onion strings could weigh up to 46 kilograms slung over shoulder poles. Bicycles were introduced in the 1930's which eased their day and became part of their image. The onion Johnnies worked from the age of 10 years old and went to every city and hamlet in the UK. This peaked in 1929 when there were 1,400 Johnnies selling 9,000 tons of onions to the British. These traders had no idea they were creating a Beret clad stereotype that would follow their countrymen for many years to come. In 2004 Roscoff opened a Onion Johnnie museum to honor this almost forgotten profession.

Our next meeting will be April 8th when we are joined by a willow weaver. We shall also judge our arrangements in an eggcup. Please feel free to join us, all welcome. In addition we shall have our usual free and swap table for seeds, plants, tools, magazines and a monthly raffle. We are growing stuttgarter Giant for our Autumn Competition.

Maryika Wilding - 01462 851729



A regular bus service open to everyone.

Cash fares and concessionary travel passes accepted. Travel to:

Biggleswade every Monday @09:16 Greenway - all stops

Hitchin every Tuesday @09:18 Greenway - all stops

Cambridge on the 4th Wednesday of the Month

@08:46 Greenway - all stops

Welwyn Garden City on the 1st Thursday of the Month

@08:48 Greenway - all stops

Monthly excursions take place on the 4th Thursday of the month, please contact Wanderbus for more details.

Forthcoming trips include:

25th April - Bury Lane Garden Centre

23rd May - Wimpole Hall and Gardens

27th June - Kelmarsh Hall and Gardens

25th July - Elton Hall and Gardens

22nd August - Stowe House and Gardens

Tel: 0300 123 3023

www.wanderbus.org.uk

e-mail: thewanderbus@gmail.com

Village Hall Booking Secretary required

The Village Hall Management Committee are looking for a new Booking Secretary to start by December 2024.

The role involves responding to enquiries, maintaining the booking calendar, requesting & receiving payments and enabling access to the hall for one-off bookings. Our regular bookings have keys for ease of access. Over the last 6 years our current Booking Secretary has refined the role to be as easy as possible for them and potential hirers. You would be welcome to make further improvements agreed by the committee. We hold a committee meeting every 2 months.

We would love to hear from you if you are keen to support your local community facility. If you would like more information or to discuss the role in more detail please contact us: camptonvh@outlook.com

Campton Village Hall

Due to the ending of a long term business booking, the Village Hall is now free to hire Thursday mornings and all-day Friday. The hall is also available Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

There are also other opportunities to hire the hall throughout the week between current regular bookings. Weekends are generally free for one-off events, childrens' party bookings or family celebrations.

To enquire about hall hire or to inspect the facilities please email:

camptonvh@outlook.com

For a booking form and other information go to:

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

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop no later than 15th April 2024
Email: candcnewsletter@gmail.com