

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter March 2025

Trugs & Trowels Gardening Club
Monday 3rd March - Donna Garden Designer
Campton Village Hall at 7:30pm

Parish Council Meeting inc. APM
Thursday 6th March and Thursday 3rd April
7pm start at Campton Village Hall or via Zoom

Coffee and Chat: March 7th 10:30am - 12noon at All Saints
All proceeds to Campton Academy - All Welcome!

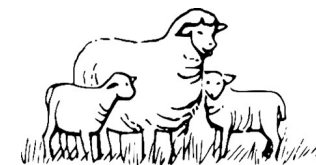
Campton Academy Open Morning
Saturday 8th March 10am - 12noon
See page 8 for details

All Saints Church Quiz
Saturday 22nd March - Start 7.30pm
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 & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) held their most recent meeting on Thursday 6th February 2025.



Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) have expressed an interest in being part of the Government's devolution programme.

On 10th January 2025, CBC submitted a letter expressing their interest in being part of the Government's devolution priority programme. CBC will continue to work with interested local authorities to explore options for creating a new strategic authority. To provide further background a strategic authority enables two or more existing councils to work together and make decisions across normal boundaries. The Government has stated an intention to devolve new powers to such authorities and would like them to be led by regional mayors. There may also be extra funding. The Government has published a white paper and requested a statement of interest from councils by 10th January if they wish to be part of the devolution priority programme, which could see major new strategic authorities in place as early as 2026. CBC met on Monday 6th January 2025 and agreed to seek further discussions with the Government on the subject of devolution.

CBC are introducing cashless car parking. From the week commencing 24th February 2025, all the car parks in Central Bedfordshire will no longer accept cash payments, making them less expensive to run, and keeping payments secure. Blue badge holders remain unaffected by the changes as they can still park for free in any of our Blue Badge spaces in our car parks if they are displaying a valid badge.

Drivers can pay for parking using:

- Pay and Display Machines: these will continue to accept card payments, including contactless and chip-and-pin.
- PayByPhone Service: available via a mobile app, an automated telephone line, or online [MyParking](#).

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

The Parish Council has noticed that several vehicles have been parking on the land to the side of the Village Hall and vehicles are blocking the emergency exit doors. It is vital that these doors and area in front are not blocked at any time, as in an emergency this would prevent hall users from being able to exit the building.

In my last report I updated residents that I had met with a member of the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, and they were able to offer advice on the setting up of the new Good Neighbour Scheme in the Parish. I am arranging a meeting for all the volunteers that have come forward so far, and anyone else that may be interested in helping. The meeting will be on 9th April 2025 at 6.30pm in the village hall. If you have not already expressed an interest or feel you may be able to volunteer some help within the Parish, then please do come and join us to find out more. The Good Neighbour Scheme will offer transport to medical appointments, befriending, small tasks around the house e.g. changing a light bulb, dog walking etc.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 6th March 2025 (with the Annual Parish Meeting starting at 7pm and will be followed by the monthly Parish Council Meeting). The following meeting will be on Thursday 3rd April at 7pm. Both meetings will take place in Campton Village Hall.

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

All Saints Church Quiz

Saturday 22nd March

Start time 7:30pm

Tickets £4 per person

Bring your own refreshments

Tickets available

from paulbooton10@btinternet.com
or at the door!

Afternoon Tea - Thank you!

In Aid of **Motor Neurone Disease Association** and in memory of Sally Strong and all those who fight & have fought courageously with this disease.

Thank you for your fantastic support for the Afternoon Tea, we had an amazing turnout, apologies if you were unable to get into the Hall.

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Tea, making cakes, sandwiches, donating tombola prizes, serving, clearing up and washing up!

The total raised (*before Campton Newsletter went to print*) is a tremendous **£1807.00** Thank you!



Campton Village Hall

Last month we requested some volunteers to help with the mowing the lawn at the village hall. Thank to those who came forward - it is much appreciated.

As the warmer weather and brighter days start we still have some spaces at weekends if you have a family gathering, party or event you need a location for. Please do get in touch! Booking Forms are available on line at <https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/village-hall/booking-form-hire-charges-conditions-of-hire/>



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 42 - R Farndon
2nd (£25) - No. 36 - L Whitten
3rd (£15) - No. 102 - T Archer

News from the Pews

It is lovely isn't it - even as we still seem to be experiencing the chill of winter and grey wet days - to see that Spring is on the way? As I write - there are so many snowdrops bravely springing up, daffodils are in bud, aconites and crocuses and primroses are already providing colour - there are so many signs that warmer, brighter days are on the way.

March is here, drawing us into Lent and looking towards Easter. March 4th is Shrove Tuesday - do you have a favourite pancake? And March 5th is Ash Wednesday and the 1st day of Lent.

News from the Pews cont.

Lent is traditionally a solemn time in church. Churches are kept bare of flowers and decoration. The "Gloria" is not said or sung. The Fourth Sunday of Lent, Laetare or Refreshment Sunday and Mothering Sunday too - tells us we are half way there and provides some relief from the rigour of Lent before worship becomes even more solemn as we recall Christ's passion and death.

I wonder if you will be thinking of giving something up for Lent - and whether you might like to think about praying through Lent too? One free resource on offer is Living Hope, A Lent Journey - which explores what hope means in the context of the Christian faith. Short daily reflections are available in the Everyday Faith app via www.cofe.io/EverydayFaithApp. If you prefer, some booklets will be available in the back of the Church or can be ordered from Church House Publishing via <https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/livinghope>

Although in popular thinking Lent seems to be mostly about "giving up something"... Lent is really 40 days set aside for us to draw closer to God - as we prepare to remember the events leading up to Jesus's crucifixion and death and to celebrate his resurrection. For Christians Lent is a time of fasting (giving up something!) to help us focus on God; it is a time of prayer, reading the Bible, and reflecting on God's love; and it is a time for giving - for reaching out to those in need! I wonder how you will choose to live Lent?

I wish you a happy and holy Lent as you prepare for the Joy of Easter.

Service Dates are:

2nd March	11.15am	Holy Communion Sunday before Lent
5th March	9.45am	Holy Communion in the Rectory (with Imposition of ashes)
5th March	7.00pm	Holy Communion (with Imposition of ashes)
7th March	10.30am	Coffee and Chat (raising for Campton Academy)
9th March	11:15am	Morning Praise Lent 1
16th March	11.15 am	Holy Communion Lent 2
23rd March	11.15am	Morning Praise Lent 3
30th March	10.30am	Benefice Service at St Mary's Meppershall

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

Cheese & Wine Tasting

Saturday 5 April 2025 from 7pm
at All Saints Church, Campton
£20 per ticket - on sale from 1st March

Please contact Michelle for tickets on 07732 634210
Proceeds raised for All Saints Church

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

Looking outside, the garden is starting to perk up from its winter slumber and I am asking the question; How do I jump into the garden journey or advance my current garden/skills?

People haven't grown food throughout the course of human history because they are poor, it's because it is an essential part of being human and connecting to the environment. Getting our hands in the soil outside and experiencing the rhythms of nature. I want you to feel and embrace this essential part of our connection and sustenance if you are interested in growing, planting or maybe creating that special place to relax and absorb the beauty of nature.

I am excited to inform you that on 3rd March 2025 our visiting speaker Donna will be talking garden design, so if you are wanting to know how to set about creating and learning more to address any challenges and make your dreams happen, come along and gain some professional knowledge and guidance which will firmly set you on the right track and support many future projects. On April 7th we will be welcoming Anne Vicars from Ampthill with her vast knowledge of Fuchsias.

This year we are celebrating a fabulous milestone at Trugs and Trowels; our 10th year anniversary, we will be hosting Open Gardens here in Campton on Sunday 29th of June and would welcome willing host gardens to contact me and be a part of this special day.

Anyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings on the first Monday each month (unless its a public/bank holiday). Admission is £3.50 per person and includes refreshments, a free and swap table to pass on your unwanted garden items, plants, seed pots and magazines etc.

Maryika - Tel: 01462 851729

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club cont.

Dates for 2025	Meeting Details
3rd March	Donna Garden Designer - Campton Village Hall
22nd March	Visit Thriplow Daffodils - Transport + Entrance £20/head
7th April	Ann Vicars, Ampthill Fuchsia's - Campton Village Hall
6th May	Mike McConnell - Campton Village Hall
2nd June	Visit Linda Coles, Gravenhurst - Car Share
29th June	Opens Gardens 10 year anniversary incl Campton Manor

News from the Tower

The sound of bells is a longstanding Campton village tradition. To continue this and avoid losing the tradition, we need to find and teach new ringers to join our team who ring the bells at our beautiful 13th century church, All Saints Church, Campton!

- Bellringing is an important activity for our church and also the wider community in Campton.
- We are volunteers who give about 2 hours of our time weekly to learn the skill and we are keen to teach more ringers.
- We have a modern, easy to ring, peal of 8 bells installed in 2007 as a result of considerable fundraising activity in the community to raise £90,000.
- Bellringers are approachable, friendly people who work as a team to maintain and develop the art.
- Anyone from age 10 to 70 can learn to ring
- For young people in the village aged 10-18 interested in learning to ring, come and join our special area monthly Young Ringers practices for the Mid Beds area and check us out!

Interested? Do come along to take a look and meet our sociable team, without any initial obligation. We practice on a Tuesday evening 7.00pm to 9.00pm at All Saints Church, Campton. To find out more speak to any of our ringers or contact me, John Loveless, on 07803 206161 or email jloveless5040@outlook.com

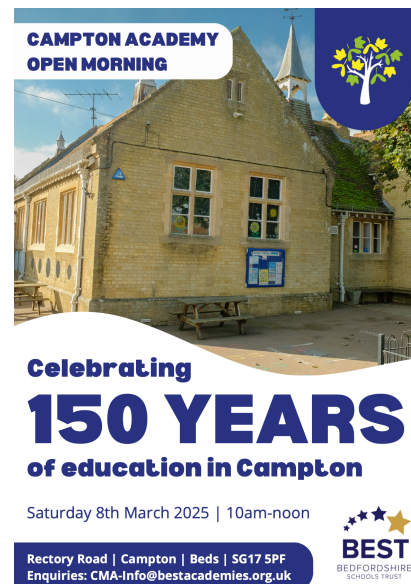
Visiting bands of ringers in March:

Sunday, March 9, 2.30pm to 4.30pm approx – Area Young Ringers practice
Thursday, March 13, 9.45am to 1pm approx - Peal Attempt by Bedfordshire ringers, marking the 150th anniversary of Campton School (now Campton Academy)
Monday, March 17, 2pm to 3pm approx - Quarter Peal, Biggleswade ringers
Saturday March 22, 10.30am to 11.30am approx - South Cambs ringers

Campton Academy Open Morning

8th March 10am - 12noon

Campton School are marking 150 years of education in Campton with a series of special events after half-term.



Pupils will be taking part in a number of activities in their classes, including creating a tapestry.

We will be throwing open our doors on the morning of Saturday 8th March - the actual anniversary date of a school board set up in the parish in 1875.

Come and see our pupils' work, including the tapestry, and tour round the school. Refreshments will also be available.

Everyone is welcome between 10am and noon - we'd particularly love to welcome back any past pupils or staff to celebrate this historic occasion with us!

Community Games Nights

- I wanted to offer games nights to the village to break up the long dark winter nights for us all. Whilst the first couple of months had reasonable attendance, sadly this has not continued and so no further dates will be arranged for the moment. If anyone is interested in attending Games Nights in the future, please do get in touch and we shall look at suitable venues and dates.

Liz - candcnewsletter@gmail.com

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop, no later than 15th March 2025
Email: candcnewsletter@gmail.com