

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter

March 2026

Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club
Monday 2nd March at 7:30pm
Campton Village Hall



Parish Council Meeting
Thurs 5th March and Thurs 2nd April
7pm start at Campton Village Hall or via Zoom

Coffee and Chat
Friday 6th March 10:30am - 12 noon
at All Saints Church, Campton



Bellringing Peals - details page 7
Thurs 19th and Weds 25th March
All Saints Church, Campton

What's On at Campton Village Hall?
See page 6 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



The Fight to Save our Village continues.



As I write, 178 objections and 3 comments, but zero supporting responses to the large-scale outline planning application for 260+ homes on Greenway (on top of the already agreed 66) have been made. I am told at least 50+ objections are to be added to this total.

So - **thank you so much to everyone who has put in an objection and signed the petition.** After a bit of a battle with CBC, the Planning Dept are taking the 940 signatures on the petition into account to indicate the general local feeling about the development. We now wait to see whether CBC actually takes notice.

The **next step in the process** is that the committee which assesses potential development land for the next CBC Local Plan, will meet soon. The Committee Chair is one of our Ward Councillors, Tony Brown. The other Ward Councillor, Mark Liddiard, has contributed to Parish Council and the Save Campton Action Group discussions. Our MP, Alistair Strathern, has publicly come out to support us particularly as the land is not part of the Local Plan. He has also spoken about how Central Bedfordshire seems to have become a dumping ground for development. The MP for North Beds recently spoke in Westminster about over-development across the whole of Bedfordshire – apparently, we have 2 to 3 times more development in Bedfordshire than the national average!

Once we hear about whether the land has been accepted for development or not, it will be the turn of the Planning Dept to make their decision. If it is rejected, we can expect the developers to appeal. They will raise the pressure and could resort to Court action. All these processes are likely to take quite some time; the Save Campton Action Group will decide at what point we should act further, if at all. We will of course come back to you all to give you information and may request your support and further contributions.

Please keep everything crossed for a successful outcome for our campaign and watch this space and/or the Facebook page for further news.

Many thanks from us all in the Action Group

Carpet Bowls

Sadly, Campton Carpet Bowls Club is suffering from a lack of members and a leader.

Unless anyone is willing to take over, I am sorry to say that we shall have to close the group down.

If you are interested in solving this problem, please let me know.

Thank you, Lesley Turner - 01452 815606.

News from the Pews

March is here - aconites, snowdrops, daffodils, crocuses and primroses are here... and Easter is on the way! As we arrive in March - this year we are part way through Lent, which is traditionally rather a solemn time as we prepare to recall the last days of Christ's life, his passion and death.

There is still time - if you would like to - to download the free Everyday Faith App and to join in Draw Near - Life giving habits for Lent - habits and patterns which help us grow as disciples of Christ day by day. Each week a different contributor explores a different aspect of Christian discipleship - worshipping together, praying, exploring the Bible, sharing communion, offering service and sharing the good news with others.

Friday March 6th is the World Day of Prayer - and there will be a service followed by refreshments for all in this area at St Michael's in Shefford at 2pm. This year's prayers have been prepared by the women of Nigeria with the theme "I will give you rest, come...." and in these troubled times offer insights into finding rest in God.

Mothering Sunday, falls on the 15th March this year with all its joys and celebration.

And there is one further Lent Lunch in aid of Christian Aid in Shefford Community Hall at 12noon on 28th March. Lent is traditionally a time to share with those in need - so do join Churches Together in Shefford for a soup lunch to support Christian Aid as they work with partners around the world, serving the world's most vulnerable people, regardless of their faith, seeking to eradicate poverty worldwide.

The 20th March is officially the first day of Spring. The start of this year seems to have been unusually grey and cold and wet so far - with many of us looking forward to warmer days and sunshine. Although Lent is undoubtedly linked to penance and sackcloth and ashes - it does not have to be a long, grey, dreary time of doing without the little things that cheer us ... like chocolate, and cake! I think that even as Spring comes to bring new life and new colour to our winter weary countryside, so Lent is meant to be a journey into our own new Spring time - to Easter and to the colour and the fullness of life Jesus came to bring us.

Sunday March 1st	11.15am	Holy Communion
Friday March 6th	10:30am - 12noon	Coffee and Chat
Sunday March 8th	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday March 15th	11.15am	Holy Communion.Mothering Sunday
Sunday March 22nd	11.15am	Morning Praise
Sunday March 29th	10.30am	Benefice Communion in St Michael's Shefford. Palm Sunday

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

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

The Parish Council (PC) held their most recent meeting on Thursday 5th February 2026.

CLlr Liddiard attended the meeting to discuss the Outline application for development along Greenway, Campton. If the application is presented before the Development Management Committee at CBC, then CLlr Liddiard will make representation and will oppose the application. If it is called to the DMC, a representative from Campton and Chicksands Parish Council will also have the opportunity to attend and speak to the Committee to explain why the Parish Council is opposed to the application. CLlr Liddiard is awaiting an update as to whether the Planning Officer calls this application into the DMC. The current Local Plan is in place until 2035 and this piece of land was not identified as a piece of land suitable for development.

The development of 66 houses has already been agreed, although a number of conditions still need to be addressed. If the developer from the proposed development (260 houses) were to amend the layout of the 66 houses then a new planning application would need to be made.

Thank you to all the residents that have taken the time to oppose the application and to the action group who are working together to build a case. A petition of nearly 1000 signatures has been submitted to CBC, to the Planning Officer. It is fantastic to see the Community coming together to protect the Parish. The Parish Council will keep you all updated as information is received.

The new healthy living field is mostly now complete, bases for the benches have now been completed with the benches are being installed in late March / early April. The wildflower seeds have been purchased. A resident has agreed to turn over the soil in parts of the centre area ready for the seeds to be scattered and a resident has rolled and cut the pathway, and it is already looking a lot flatter. Councillors would like to thank the volunteers who have helped with preparing the area and hope to see lots of residents enjoying it as the weather improves. An opening ceremony will be planned for Spring 2027.

A special thank you must go out to the volunteers in the village who are crocheting and knitting poppies for a Campton Remembrance Sunday drape. They have made 2000 out of the 6000 that are needed, this really will look beautiful later in the year.

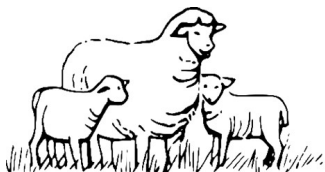
The next meeting of the Parish Council will be on Thursday 5th March 2026. The following meeting will be on Thursday 2nd April at 7pm. Both meetings will take place in Campton Village Hall.

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council cont.

Residents are welcome to join meetings via video link, please email the clerk with at least 24 hours' notice and a link will be sent to you.

Clerk to the Parish Council, Tammy Medley - 01908
505558 / 07955 521174

clerk@camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk
<https://camptonandchicksands-pc.gov.uk/>



Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club

March and its magic - Even if the weather is freezing there is optimism in the air, the sap is flowing, shoots are showing promise and things are happening in the garden.

Daffodils are undoubtedly the flower of the month which radiate joy, but can you just plant them and let them look after themselves? After all clumps of daffs often spread and get better each coming year. In most cases the answer is yes, just snip off the faded flower and leave the foliage to die down naturally for at least six weeks allowing the greenery to photosynthesise. Daffodils can come up blind (without a flower), this can be due to a lack of energy in the bulb or a lack of sunlight. So, pop them in a sunny position. One of the earliest to flower is Narcissus Rijnveld's Early Sensation often blooming in early winter followed by the aptly named February Gold along with Early Bride and Tete-a-tete. Hundreds of varieties nodding a welcome right through to late flowering varieties at the end of April such as Narcissus Jonquilla, Poeticus, Thalia and Bridal Crown.

Many other Spring flowers are also coming up, like Bergenia (elephant ears) ground cover with floral spikes of pink, red, purple and white. Hellebores love this time of year, happy in shady spots but dislike extremes, very dry or very wet soil. Rhododendrons are about to burst out with blousy blooms and like ericaceous soil or acidic soil, as do Camillias, Heathers, Blueberries and some Hydrangeas. The simplest way to assess your soil type other than soil tests is to look around your neighbourhood to see what is performing well. Late March we will be enjoying Forsythias with its astonishing yellow splash. If planting, consider flower farm collections; Zinnia, Feverfew, Yarrow, Delphinium, Snapdragon, Scabiosis, Statice, Strawflower, Cosmos and not forgetting Foxglove, a super colour template to suit all tastes.

Later on in 2026 we are invited to visit Hill Top Commercial Growers in Gravenhurst where I am sure a lot of these varieties will be on show. If they can do it I truly believe you can do it.

Please join us on the first Monday of every month at Campton Village Hall at 19:30, except April and May which are Bank Holidays. These months Gardening Club will be on Tuesday 7th April and Tuesday 5th May. Everyone welcome.

Maryika - Tel: 01462 851729

What's On at Campton Village Hall

Monday: Yoga @ 9:30am with Rick and Taekwondo with Sam @ 6pm

1st Monday of the month: Trugs and Trowels Gardening Club @ 7:30pm

Monday/1st Tuesday: Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 7:30pm

Tuesday/Wednesday: Campton School of Dance lessons

Wednesday: Full Bottle Fitness with Tina @ 9:30am

1st Thursday of the month: Parish council monthly meetings @ 7pm

Thursday: Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 7:30pm on Thursdays

Saturday: Even more Bounce Fitness with Emma @ 8:30am on Saturdays

School holidays and weekends: Community events, extra classes, and private parties.

Please get in touch if you would like to hire the hall to host your event! One-off hire charges are from £13 per hour for residents of the parish.

Contact us at camptonvh@outlook.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR MARCH WINNERS:

1st (£35) - No. 21 - V Morgan

2nd (£25) - No. 63 - L Eckert

3rd (£15) - No. 98 - M K Newman

Calling All Crocheters & Knitters!

Can you crochet or knit? Would you like to learn?

We have been delighted to welcome several new crocheters and knitters to help us make the poppy drape which has been approved by our Rector to be hung from All Saints Church, Campton. This will be to commemorate our brave service men and women on Remembrance Day from this year and for future years.

We are hoping that as many people from far and wide will get involved and help us to achieve this.

For further information please contact Daria at acc.campton@gmail.com



Image: Janet



**Alzheimer's
Society**

Thank You!



Thank you to all those who attended, helped and supported our Afternoon Tea on Sunday 15th February 2026 at Campton Village Hall in aid of **Alzheimer's Society** in memory of those we have lost to Dementia and to help those currently living with Dementia.

We are delighted to have raised **£1565** to contribute towards the wonderful work carried out by the Alzheimer's Society.

We also raised **£433** for All Saints Church via tombola and donations.

Volunteers Needed for Village Borders

Can you spare just 30 minutes a month?

We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help keep our village borders looking beautiful. We will come together proximity once a month for a short, half-hour session of weeding and general tidying.

It's a great way to meet fellow villagers and make a visible difference in our community. If you are interested, please contact Daria Taylor on

acc.campton@gmail.com

News from the Tower

Bellringing is an important, centuries-old tradition at All Saints Church and also for the wider community in Campton. We're keen to find and teach new ringers to join our team.

Our ringers, all volunteers, ring for special occasions for the village as well as on Sunday mornings for 11.15am service. Bedfordshire Young Ringers Group hold their monthly events here, so a great place for young people to ring and make the village's greatest noise!

We practice on Tuesday evenings 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:

- Sunday March 8 - Beds Young Ringers - 2.30pm to 4.30pm
- Thursday March 19 - Peal - 10am to 1pm approx.
- Weds March 25 - Quarter Peal for a 90th birthday - 4pm to 5pm approx



WANDERBUS

A regular bus service open to everyone.

QUESTION: How can you get directly by bus, without any changes, to Cambridge or St Albans or St Neots or Welwyn Garden City or Milton Keynes for a stay of 3-4 hours for just £6.00 return!

ANSWER: you use the Wanderbus service!

We travel to each of these destinations on a once-a-month basis.

Are there any restrictions? NO!

Whatever your age the same fare applies.

(It could be even less if you are young enough!!)

All of the Wanderbus services are open to **everyone**, just like any other bus operator!

In fact, our fares are £6.00 return to all destinations under the current Government scheme.

We also accept concessionary bus passes on all routes. Monthly excursions take place on the 4th Thursday of the month.

Check our timetable on www.wanderbus.org.uk or the CBC web site or request a hard copy via email thewanderbus@gmail.com or call us on 0300 123 3023

Items for the next Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor, Liz Bishop, no later than 17th March 2026 for the April 2026 edition
Email: candnewsletter@gmail.com