

# Campton & Chicksands Community Newsletter

Issue 100

March 2004



Campton Lower School  
"New Headteacher appointed"

Produced & Published by:-  
Campton & Chicksands  
Parish Council

Printed by   
MEDIA RESOURCES CENTRE  
CHICKSANDS

## EDITORIAL

This issue marks a milestone in the Newsletter's history – the 100<sup>th</sup> edition. Unfortunately I do not have a copy of the first publication but I do have number two. It is dated November 1993. The big story then was the restrictions on the river bridge and the date for its replacement. Much water has flowed under the bridge since then!

The original Newsletter was produced jointly by the Parish Council and the Parochial Church Council. Printing was done on a Gestetner duplicator. Only simple line drawings could be used. Now, thanks to computers and the kind services of the Media Resource Centre at DISC, Chicksands, photographs and drawings are a regular feature. Perhaps one day the whole magazine may be produced in colour, in the meantime a colour version is available online at the Parish website – [www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk](http://www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk).

Two items are worth repeating from the second issue – “(The Newsletter) is open to Groups, Organisations and Individuals who wish to report happenings in the community or advertise forthcoming events” and “remember success depends on *your* contribution.” Sometimes it is difficult to fill eight pages so your contributions are most important. Especially welcome are articles from individuals, let other villagers know your news! Also, is there someone who might like to write a children's page for our younger residents?

Finally, may I thank the contributors, and the collators and distributors who deliver the Newsletter to your home each month. A special thank you goes to to Neill Jackson and his team at the Media Resource Centre for doing such an excellent job in printing it.

Here's to the next one hundred!

David Tollman

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We had a delightful, light-hearted meeting – just right for a February evening. Slowly but surely Institute members are increasing, and we always have a warm welcome for new members and guests.

Our Speaker for the evening was Dott Wigg of Gravenhurst. Dott is now Bedfordshire County WI Chairman and, as such, was thrilled to be invited to one of the Garden Parties at Buckingham Palace. She shared with us the fun of “having” to buy a new outfit (!) and the happiness of the “day”, in a

beautiful garden on a lovely summer day with so many interesting people.

On March 10<sup>th</sup> we have a chance to learn how to face paint and play with this different art form. You are, as usual, very welcome to join us.

Sue Hayhurst

## **ALL SAINTS' CHURCH**

We are approaching the time of year when Annual Meetings are to be held. The Church is no exception and our Annual Vestry Meeting and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on Wednesday March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7.45pm in the Church. Anyone who is resident in the village is most welcome to come and hear reports from Church representatives.



**DEDICATION OF CHAIRS** will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March during the Family Communion Service. If you have sponsored a chair we hope you will be able to come

## **AT THE FOOT OF THE CROSS**

A modern meditation on the Stations of the Cross in Drama, Music and Dance.

We still need some actors, singers and dancers, and readers to take part though many have committed themselves already. These services will be in Holy Week:

Wednesday, 7 <sup>th</sup> April	Campton
Thursday, 8 <sup>th</sup> April	Haynes
Friday, 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Clophill

If you would like to take part please contact Audrey Brand 850001 or Judith Tollman 851303

**SEVEN WORDS TO THE CROSS** is the Lent Study Book.

Groups, beginning 25<sup>th</sup> February will be: Sundays, after said Evensong at 6.00pm at Clophill Church – to end by 7.30pm, or Wednesday afternoons at 2.30pm at Haynes Vicarage

If you would like to take part, please sign the list at the back of the Church or see a Churchwarden.

## **MOTHERING SUNDAY – 21<sup>st</sup> MARCH 11.15am**



This is our special service of the year when we especially remember Mothers, Grandmothers and Great-grandmothers. We look forward to welcoming you all.

Traditionally, Mothering Sunday was a day when children, mainly daughters, who had gone to work as domestic servants were given a day off to visit their mother and family.

PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

Someone put into my post last week a poem which had been written by an older lady who was pleading for things to stay as they were in the church - no more change, she asks. While I have an understanding of the feelings, I am afraid that change is simply something that is built into the lives of the human race.

Think about these for a moment. For example, if you choose to look at a map of the world that is a mere four years old, you will find that it is already out of date. There will be countries that no longer exist, some that have new names - it's longer ago than four years but remember Rhodesia? Your children won't. Then there are the other changes that may not show up - huge areas of forest gone, coastline eroded, little islets drowned. Then look at a tin of baked beans, something you probably have replaced on your shelf for many years. It is not marked 'genetically modified' but it does contain modified maize starch, so there's a possibility that at some point on its journey, it too has been changed to contain more than the humble bean. Finally look at a picture of a young member of your family that is also four years old, and I imagine they will have changed greatly from when the photo was taken and so will almost everything else about their lives. Incidentally we're still wondering about those passport photos for babies!!

These things illustrate the unassailable fact of *change*. Because in reality, change is our only constant. It is the one thing we can be sure of - things change. By the time we are forty, we have not one single cell in our bodies that we had when we were ten years old.

What I believe that we find hard is the speed of change. There has probably been more change in the last century than ever before and now we have the means to know about it. Some has been very good, but some has been destructive. And it is the same with the Church. But more than any other institution the Church should change because, as Christians, we believe that we are made in God's image, but we are not made perfect and our worship of God is not perfect either, so we must keep on trying to do better. Hope should be the key that unlocks our willingness to change. It was the hope that Jesus offered people that allowed him to create a community open to the utterly new and strange fact of the resurrection. May our Church community become like that.

*Marynet*

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH SERVICES 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2004 – 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2004**

Sun 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Second Sunday of Lent	Parish Communion	11.15am
Sun 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Third Sunday of Lent	Parish Communion Followed by Lenten Lunch	11.15am
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> March	Mothering Sunday	Mothering Sunday Service	11.15am
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Fifth Sunday of Lent	Holy Communion Morning Prayer	8.00am 11.15am

## **Important Notice**

# **THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF THE PARISH OF CAMPTON & CHICKSANDS**

will be held on

**Friday, 26th<sup>th</sup> March 2004 at 8.00 p.m.**

**in Campton Village Hall**

## **AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2003.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Chairman's Report.
4. Presentation of the Accounts of:
  - a) Parish Council..
  - b) Campton & Shefford Joint Burial Committee.
  - c) Campton United Charities
5. Parish Plan
6. Any Other Business

ANY PERSON may attend the Meeting but only those listed on the current Register of Electors may speak and exercise their right to vote on issues raised by the meeting.

This is your opportunity to learn about the work of the Council and take part in general discussion on local matters when your views and questions will be welcome.

Please bring this agenda and last year's minutes with you to the meeting

**B. J. THOMPSON**  
Council Chairman

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council  
Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on  
Friday, 28th March, 2003 In the Village Hall, Campton at 8pm

**Chairman, Mrs. M. Olley welcomed 22 electors to the meeting. 6 Parish Councillors attended. The clerk, Mrs. J. Gibson was in attendance.**

1. The guests for the evening, PC Malcolm Wherry and PC Nick Baftams spoke about policing in the area.  
The majority of crime in the parish has been burglary from buildings. The hot spot area has been identified as Gravenhurst Road. Greenway also has problems. Rowney Warren has a problem with vehicle crime. The area is patrolled and a poster campaign has been carried out.  
PC Nick Battams is now the Beat Manager for the Parish. He is based at Shefford and can be contacted by telephoning Bedford Headquarters.  
Anybody who requires security advice can contact either Nick Battams or Malcolm Wherry.  
Anti-tamperproof labels are available from Malcolm Wherry - this highlights that the property has been post coded.

Mrs. Olley thanked PC Wherry and PC Battams.

2. **Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 22nd March 2002**

These were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**Proposed: D. Tollman**

**Seconded: B. Thompson**

3. **Matters Arising**

Parish Footpaths evidence was collated and returned by Mike Hayhurst.

4. **Chair Report**

Mrs. M Olley was elected to chair for one year. The Council has met eight times. A Public Meeting was held to look at the proposals for the District Council Offices.

During the year the Government Code of Conduct has come into force, which all existing Councillors should adopt. The actual Code of Conduct does not present any problems, but the declaration of Financial Interests was felt to be an intrusion on privacy. This resulted in the resignation of a Councillor.

D. Tollman set up a Jubilee Committee and organised a fantastic weekend. It was agreed that the residue of funds could be used to organise a further event.

The Parish Council, as a whole, has looked at working practices. This year, a Standing Order of 15 minutes at the beginning of each meeting has been introduced allowing anyone resident in the Parish to raise concerns before the meeting. It is felt that this works well.

Services have been closely looked at. The Council has been unhappy with the services provided by the lighting contractor. This year we have returned to a contractor who previously carried out the work and gave excellent service.

With regard to Grass Cutting, in previous years the lowest tender has been accepted.

Under 'Best Value' the lowest tender no longer has to be accepted. The Council has not been satisfied with the services provided by previous contractors for verge cutting. We have appointed Mr. D. Granger who is more expensive but is providing a much-improved service.

A location has not yet been decided for seating within the village, with the exception of two seats which are to be sited on the Recreation Ground.

Planning applications come through on a regular basis - Parish Councils have the legal right to be consulted.

It is always helpful to receive feedback from residents, as the Parish Council is always keen to improve the facilities within the Parish.

## **5. Presentation of Accounts**

(i) Mrs. Gibson presented the Parish Council accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2002.

137 expenditure was queried. It was advised that this can be given to individuals or groups within the community.

(ii) Campton & Shefford Joint Burial Committee

Each Council is precepted. There is a lot of expenditure. There is income from every burial and cremation plot.

Grave space is running out, but is looking at acquiring a piece of land between the bypass and the cemetery.

Cash flow is between £8,000 and £10,000 each year

## **6. Village Hall Lease**

B. Thompson, Churchwarden, spoke about the lease of the Village Hall. The Village Hall is owned by the Diocese of St. Albans held in trust. A peppercorn rent of £1 per year has been paid. Legally, the trust says that the hall must be used for ecclesiastical purposes. It was leased to the village, but the lease ran out in 2000.

The building was valued and an annual rental figure of £3,000 was concluded. This was more than the Village Hall Committee could afford. The local Church, All Saints, would like to operate at a lower rent. However, by law, the £3,000 figure had to go ahead. The Village Hall Committee have done up the hall and have now discovered that the £3,000 could be treated as a return on investment. If the Village Hall Committee can come up with a work plan, rent could be offset against this and the rental figure could then be brought down to a reasonable one of approximately £500.

**7. Council Offices at Chicksands**

A plan was displayed on the wall, which showed minor alterations to previous plans. The proposed plan is going forward next month.

A public meeting was held, although the presentation was not as expected it was more about the actual building as opposed to infrastructure.

Resident, Jim Best, produced reports and these were submitted to County Council, District Council and Highways. The report concluded that the roundabout was sub-standard. This was an individual submission and is available for all to see.

Robin Younger (County Councillor) advised that, in the opinion of the Highways Agency, there should be an underpass.

Much discussion took place about volume of traffic etc., that will result from the move of MBDC to Chicksands.

Mr. Younger advised those present that if they feel aggrieved they should write to Chris Valentine - the more individual letters that are received, the more effect it will have.

**8. Any Other Business**

S. Hayhurst raised the subject of dog fouling outside the recreation ground. Could there be designated pavements in Rectory Road? It was advised that this is not possible due to the width of the road, hence white lines. It was queried whether something could be done to increase the width of the road. This has been tried previously, but failed. **CLERK WILL LOOK INTO.**

Mrs. P. Williams was thanked for her efforts in setting up the Parish website.

Mrs. Olley thanked all Councillors as the end of the four-year term approaches. The Council finishes Office on 14th May and, on that date, hands over to the new Council.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

**NOTES**

## COMMUNITY POLICE NEWS



Two Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are now working from Shefford Police Office looking after Arlesey, Stotfold, Shefford and the surrounding Parishes. Leigh Iddon and Gill Richardson work mainly ten hour shifts covering the period 8.00am – 11.00pm. They will be patrolling on foot, in uniform and in pairs and will deal with aspects of Anti Social Behaviour (ASB) helping to reduce the fear of crime in the community.

They have restricted powers and, at present, do not have the powers to detain but they can:-

- 1) Obtain names/addresses of people engaged in acts of ASB.
- 2) Gather intelligence on ASB which is forwarded to the Beat Managers for further action to be taken.
- 3) Confiscate and dispose of alcohol and tobacco from young persons
- 4) Authorise the removal of abandoned vehicles in line with Force policy.
- 5) Seize vehicles used to cause alarm, distress and annoyance (for example nuisance motorcyclists)
- 6) Enter premises to save life or prevent serious damages.

Leigh and Gill can be contacted through Beds Police on 01234 841212 extension 2567. They are both approachable and extremely helpful and I have no doubt that the residents of Campton and Chicksands will embrace them as a valuable asset to community life.

The issue of nuisance motorcyclists using the “rough rec” (the field behind the Recreation Ground) was raised at the Parish Council meeting. I have checked the Incident Recording System from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 until 1<sup>st</sup> February 2004 and can find no recorded reports of Nuisance Motorcyclists for Campton. If you are concerned with this or other aspects of Anti Social Behaviour please report incidents to Beds Police as it is much easier to deal with in the early stages.

On a positive note, three males from the travelling community were disrupted during a Hare Coursing session at Campton on 20th January. The driver of the vehicle used, was arrested and charged with Road Traffic Offences, he was also given a warning under Section 59, Police Reform Act 2002, which empowers us to seize that or any other vehicle he has if used for the purpose of Hare Coursing.

Nick Battams Beat Manager

### Crime Records for Campton, between 1 Dec 2003 and 31 Dec 2003

Offence	Committed	Address	Recorded
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	6/12/2003	GRAVENHURST RD CAMPTON	14/12/2003

There were no reported crimes in January.

## **FRIENDS OF ALL SAINTS'**

Had you noticed, during the evening of the last but one Saturday in January, numerous local residents making their way to the Village Hall carrying well wrapped oddly shaped objects, you may well have wondered what was going on. Well, this strange ritual was, in fact, part of the preparation for the Friends of All Saints' Campton Annual Burns' Night Supper. The oddly shaped objects were haggis, tatties and neeps and a selection of sweets and puddings, expertly made by various village ladies!

The evening began with a recital of some Burns' poetry by our tame Scot, Bruce Porteous, complete with full regalia (well, a kilt anyway). This was followed by the consumption of large quantities of the aforesaid haggis (free range, freshly caught that day), tatties and neeps. Some of the latter had even been prepared by my own fair hands. There was also some vegetarian haggis, which presumably before they were caught could have been seen wearing pale green, baggy, hand knitted sweaters and other stereotypes. Later, the sweets went down extremely well.

Jimmy Milne's amusing speech was prolonged somewhat by the need to prepare the raffle tickets. At least that was his excuse. After that, Audrey Brand valiantly battled against a cold to lead the Scottish Dancing, which was highly enjoyable if generally rather incompetent.....(except Audrey and Victor, of course! Ed) At this point my memories of the evening become a little vague, owing to the disappearance of a glass or seven of the best vintage red plonk.

I do however remember Auld Lang Syne, performed, we were told, in the correct manner with hand crossing only permitted at the officially recognised moment! Thus ended another very enjoyable evening which raised £682. It was made possible by the efforts of quite a few people, in particular Gill MacLaren who expertly organised the catering, and even provided instructions to those like myself with little expertise in that direction!

See you next year for more of the same.....

P.S. Open Gardens will be on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June and Safari Supper this year is set for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September, so make a note in your diaries!

Phil Taylor.

## **CAMPTON LOWER SCHOOL**

Mr Stephen Grint has been appointed as Headteacher of the school. He has been acting Headteacher since Mrs Carol Bone left last year. We wish him well in his challenging role.

## **CAMPTON AND CHICKSANDS PARISH COUNCIL**

The Parish Council met on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February. Mr Mark Chapman (District Councillor) pointed out that the figure of £1.5 million pounds as the cost of the cycleway from Chicksands to Shefford mentioned in a letter to a local newspaper recently was wrong. The LENGTH of the cycleway is 1.5 kilometres!

The next meeting of the Council will take place on Monday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm in the Village Hall. As always, fifteen minutes at the start of the meeting is set aside to allow Parishioners to make verbal representations to the Council. Residents are welcome to attend Parish Council meetings.

## CAMPTON VILLAGE HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

100 CLUB DRAW		
Win	DRAW 12 JANUARY 20 <sup>TH</sup> 2004	No.
£100	R. Webb	79
£30	D. Chesney	122
£20	T. Purslow	148
NEW SEASON		
DRAW 1 FEBRUARY 10 <sup>TH</sup> 2004		
£50	W. Greenwood	190
£30	H. Hayes	35
£10	V. Brand	101

The 100 Club 2004 member list has increased once again, we now have 222 members and, as a result, the prize money has been increased yet again. Total prize money is now £1480, 51% of the income. The £100 top prize months are April, July, October and January 2005. On these draws the second prize has been increased to £60 and the third to £30. The draw takes place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month in the White Hart at 8 o'clock.

The Committee would like to thank all those residents that have renewed their membership and also thank all those new members who have joined. We now have several members from Annington homes at Chicksands as well and would like to welcome them to the Club.

### Front Entrance.

The front entrance and lavatories have now been redecorated and new floor tiles are in the process of being laid. This has been partly paid for with a grant from Mid Beds District Council.

### Annual General Meeting

The Campton Village Hall Management Committee Annual General Meeting will be held at the Village Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at 8pm. All are welcome to come and hear what the Committee has been doing and what is planned for the future. Graham Williams

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**Will be served on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup>  
March at 12.45 in the Village Hall**

**Tickets:                      Adults £5 Children £2.50**  
**Available from:**

Dorothy Clark                      816994  
Joyce Thompson                      813159

Come and enjoy soup and a  
Ploughman's lunch, tea and coffee

## **Volunteers Wanted Campton and Chicksands Carnival**

This will take place on Saturday June 12<sup>th</sup> at the Recreation Ground, Rectory Road, Campton starting at midday. As well as many traditional games and competitions there will be a display of country dancing by the children of Campton Lower School, a mini-ring by All Saints' Bellringers, a dog-agility display, bouncy castle, outdoor carpet bowls, lamb roast and refreshments. There will be some surprises too!

Also, in the morning, bike trials will be held at Camptonbury Farm and, in the afternoon, a Treasure Hunt will take place at All Saints' Church.

As always, the more volunteers and helpers there are, the more successful the day will be. Can YOU bring any skills to the Carnival? We are looking for face painters and for people to help run stalls and games.

So, make a note in your diaries Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> June - the Campton and Chicksands Carnival.

All offers of help or for more information please contact David Tollman, Chairman, Golden Jubilee Committee (851303).

Proceeds from the Carnival will go towards a permanent memorial for the Golden Jubilee.



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**Have you visited the Parish Website?**

[www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk](http://www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk)

The "Information" button gives a mine of local information including the online edition of the Newsletter, crime statistics and crime reduction information, local information, travel news, weather and attractions, statistics from the 2001 census and a "Kiddie Corner". All comments, material and suggestions always welcome.

Pat Williams, 6 Greenway, Tel: 814086, e-mail: [prwilliams@bigfoot.com](mailto:prwilliams@bigfoot.com)

