

Campton and Chicksands Parish Council Newsletter January 2010



Happy New Year

**Welcome to the Campton and Chicksands Newsletter
Published by the Parish Council**

Have you got an event happening next month that needs including
in the Diary of Events?

Is there something you want to share with the rest of the community?

Let people know your news and views by contacting the editor.

Please let me know if you wish to submit an item.

This should then be submitted by the 15th of the
month prior to publication.

Malcolm J Willis, 1, Gravenhurst Road, Campton, SG17 5NY

Tel: 812747 or Email: malcolmjwillis@yahoo.com

Campton & Chicksands Parish Council

Central Beds Councillor Lewis Birt has raised the issue of Campton Lower School, to ensure that their requirements are included for future funding purposes. Central Beds is currently carrying out a condition survey of all schools, and the findings will be available in the new year.

Work has started on the new Health Centre in Shefford, which will provide more and better healthcare facilities for residents of this area.

Once again the issue of lack of street lighting and footpath between the A507 and Chicksands homes has been raised, and suitable action will be taken as soon as possible.

Cllr. Neil Francis has sent photos of the War Memorial to the Imperial War Museum for inclusion on the records of War Memorials, and also details for inclusion in records of recreation grounds dedicated to those who fought in the First World War.

The next meeting of Campton & Chicksands Parish Council will be held on Wednesday 6th January 2010, 7.30 p.m. in Campton Village Hall. If you have any queries or comments, please contact the Clerk to the Council, Deryck Irons, on 01234 268111.

Carol Sawyers, Chairman.

News from the Tower

In January these visiting bands are coming to ring at All Saints:
Friday, January 8th, 2.30pm – 5.30pm, full peal,
Hertford County Association of Ringers.

Saturday, January 9th, – approx 7.00pm to 8.30pm, general ringing,
Bedfordshire Association of Ringers, Biggleswade district AGM

Saturday, January 23rd, 2.30pm – 5.30pm, full peal,
Suffolk Guild of Ringers.

John Loveless.

PLEASE NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS FOR ARTICLES
BEING SENT TO THE EDITOR
malcolmjwillis@yahoo.com

News from the Pews

A big 'Thank you' to Roy Brown and Bill Roberts for the beautiful tree they have provided for the church this Christmas. It is dressed in white and silver and features items that tell the story of the scriptures in the style known as a Jesse Tree.

For the Christingle service we were delighted to welcome so many children with their parents. With the first carols of Christmas and the children's' delight at receiving their christingles it was a joy to be in church. We learnt the significance of the Christingle and the generous collection was sent to the Childrens' Society who work on behalf of underprivileged children throughout the country.

We wish you all a Healthy New Year.

3 ^d	11am	Parish Communion
10 th	11am	Morning Prayer
17 th	11am	Parish Communion
24 th	8am 11am	Communion from the Book of Common Prayer Family Praise
31 st	10am	Benefice Service

Kathy Taylor (816108), *Sue Hayhurst* (811849), Churchwardens.

Walking with Margaret and Campton W.I.

The latest set of walks are ready and waiting for you in the walks folder in the church porch. These are shorter walks, none more than 2 miles, and are on the way to (or from) a shopping town. The idea is to take advantage of the good weather spells and combine some fresh air with necessary chores. I always walk the dog, and then shop, so I don't have to go out twice. I'm sure you'll know some of them but have you discovered the new forest planting at Shocott Spring, Cotton End or Fenlake Meadows near Cardington Tesco? I hope you enjoy them and that we get plenty of good weather days.

Remember that Margaret walks every Friday morning at 9.30a.m. - just ring her first to say you are coming (811592)

Anna Maudlin.

News about Campton Plantation Wood

Hello, my name is Trevor Smith, and I am the Countryside Sites Officer for Central Bedfordshire Council. I have been involved in the management of Campton Plantation Wood for over 30 years.

Some of you may be wondering where is Campton Plantation Wood?

Well, the wood is situated along the A507 between Chicksands roundabout and the roundabout at the top of Amphill Road, Shefford.

Campton Plantation Wood is 15.4 hectares in size and has some magnificent trees; it also has varied flora and fauna of interest. The woodland provides a varied habitat for wildlife as well as giving local residents a place to walk and relax. There is always something interesting to see if you know where to look.

Recently there has been some sad news regarding a number of the large oak trees that are looking very sick. A black staining / weeping on the main trunk of the tree is the first sign and some of the trees have already died. This is caused by a disease called "Sudden Oak Death" which has become a nationwide concern and a variety of official bodies are busy looking for a possible cure. Let's hope it does not turn into another catastrophe like "Dutch Elm" disease.

The oak trees that are completely dead will be reduced because of health and safety reasons. This means that all the upper branches will be removed but the main trunks will be left standing. While the contractors are there, there will also be some reduction work undertaken on several of the beech trees. All the trees that are identified for work have been checked out for any wildlife inhabitants during the survey work, and will also be checked during the tree surgery.

The plan is to turn the reduced oaks and cut timber into wood sculpture, and the standing oak trunks will become themed totem poles. There will also be a circular walk sculpture trail, which I expect to be of particular interest to local schools and families with children.

I hope that when the wood sculpture artists are at work the wood will still be open for demonstrations for anybody that would like to come and watch.

Other improvements to the woodland will include the installation of resting benches along the trail, a small picnic area, improvements to the entrances to facilitate access, the installation of extra dog bins and new interpretation signage. The addition of natural play facilities will make the area known as the Dell, situated at the Chicksands end of the wood even more appealing to the teenagers who already use it.

The improvements to the area should not adversely affect the tranquillity of the site. There will still be plenty of quiet areas in the woodland and the lower area near the river will not be touched because of the fantastic in show of snow drops in the Spring. We are not currently planning any changes to the paths; retaining these will enable us to keep the feel of the natural woodland.

All of the improvements have been devised to enhance the enjoyment of the woodland for all local residents within Campton, Chicksands and Shefford and we hope there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

We are currently bidding for external funding to undertake some of these improvements to the wood. Once we have been awarded a grant, we would plan to complete all the works within a two year period.

Formal consultation will be undertaken as part of this process and we will be looking to engage local schools and start a 'friends' group for the wood. In the meantime I plan to conduct a couple of walks in the wood over the winter to show people how the wood will change and this would be a ideal time to get some ideas from you. Look out for the posters in the wood and in the Parish / Town magazines. Please come along and join in. Goodbye for now.

Trevor Smith, Countryside Sites Officer.

Neighbourhood Watch - The Bobby Van Scheme

Do You Feel Vulnerable In Your Own Home? Do You Know Someone Who Is? Are You An Elderly Person? Are You Worried About Bogus Callers? Do You Want To Do Something About It?

Bedfordshire Police Partnership Trust and Bedfordshire Police have a scheme called "The Bobby Van" which improves your home's security and provides advice in order to prevent bogus callers from achieving their aim. The service is carried out FREE OF CHARGE by our team of



"Bobby Men" who are all trained carpenters and crime prevention advisors. They will assess each case individually and fit the most appropriate security devices for your needs to ensure that your property is secure. If you would like the Bobby Van to visit you, please call Bedfordshire Police on 01234 842619 and ask for Janet Heinsen, the scheme administrator or contact Gill Richardson at

01234 842567, e-mail: SNT.Shefford@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Pat Williams, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator (Greenway).

Looking Forward to 2010!

A new year and some new activities in the village to look forward to!

Campton Armchair Travellers.

Do you have itchy feet and yearn to see the world? ... or, would you just like an interesting and fun evening out, just a stroll away from your own front door? During 2010 you could be climbing to the summit of Mt Everest, overlanding on a truck from Delhi to Kathmandu, taking the Trans-Siberian Railway to China and visiting other exciting destinations. No airport delays, lost luggage, jet lag or malaria tablets! Just come along on Friday evenings, (bi-monthly) to All Saints Church to hear this series of talks by some adventurous Campton residents and their friends. (Please see advertisement for details of our January event!)

Flower Festival ... "Campton, Past and Present"

With lunches and teas, exhibitions and children's competitions.

Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th June in All Saints Church.

Put the date on your 2010 calendar now ... this will definitely be an event not to be missed!

If you have old photographs of the village that you would be willing to loan, please contact Linda Garton or Kathy Taylor.

The Return of the Safari Supper

Maybe not a new activity, but certainly an event to look forward to! The Safari Supper went on safari in 2009, but it's back in 2010, this time in the Spring, when we can take advantage of lighter evenings to wander around the village, bottle of wine in hand, in search of our starter, main course and dessert! Date to be confirmed in the February newsletter.

For more information about any of these events, please watch this space or contact Linda Garton on 01462 819074 or linda@grangegardens.co.uk

ARMCHAIR TRAVELLERS

All Saints' Church, Campton

Friday 22nd January. Doors open at 7.30pm. Talk begins at 8.00pm

Join Gill and Mac MacLaren on

A Long Walk in Spain

following the pilgrimage trail to Santiago de Compostela

Tickets £5 (includes a glass of wine/soft drink)

from Linda Garton (01462 819074 or linda@grangegardens.co.uk)

or on the door.

BGC's

VALENTINES DANCE

To Be Held At

Putnoe Heights Church Hall, Putnoe Bedford

13th February 2010

Dance to a Live Swing Band

From 7.30pm Till 10.30pm

£20 a Ticket including Buffet

1940's /1950's Dress

Valentines Raffle & Tombola

For Tickets Contact Tim Or Sharon on 01234 352899

BGC is a local charity which offer day care provision for adults with learning disabilities and behaviour that challenges.

We run work experience (gardening and furniture recycling), educational projects and independent living skills training for adults with learning disabilities behaviour that challenges.

BGC also offers social activities including a Saturday club and the chance to go on holidays both abroad and in the UK. BGC aims to provide equal opportunities for adults with learning disabilities and challenging behaviour and to assist them to integrate within the community.

This is just a taste of what BGC offers please contact Sharon on 01234 352899 if you would like to find out more or look at our website:
www.bedsgardencarers.org.uk

Shed some of that Christmas excess!

At Hardly Athletic Community Badminton Club. We meet Wednesday evenings from 8PM – 10PM at Robert Bloomfield School New Sports Hall. With a total membership of 40 ranging from 16 to 60 the atmosphere is relaxed, we all have fun and all abilities continue to be welcome. Due to insurance we are still only able to accept those aged 16 and over at a cost of £4 per session. For more information ring 07789878101 or email paula.hayes@talktalk.net

David Hayes.

Parish Newsletter Diary of Events for January

Wed	6	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting, Village Hall.
Sat	9	9am 2pm	Shefford Farmer's Market, High Street. Campton Res v AFC Kempston Town Res, Recreation Ground.
Mon	11	9.55am - 10.15am	Library Link - home delivery service only, The Glebe.
Wed	13	7.30pm	Women's Institute.
Sat	16	2pm	Campton v Ickwell & Old Warden, Recreation Ground.
Thu	21	10.25am - 10.45am	Mobile Library, Greenway.
Sat	23	2pm	Campton v Biggleswade United Res, Recreation Ground.
Mon	25	9.55am - 10.15am	Library Link - home delivery service only, The Glebe.
Wed	27	8.15pm	Charity Quiz Night, White Hart.
Fri	29	7.30pm	'A Long Walk in Spain', All Saints Church
Sat	30	2pm	Campton v Woburn, Recreation Ground.

See '**News from the Pews**' for details of Church services and group meetings.

Also:

- Tuesdays 3.40pm Children's dance classes, Village Hall.
 8.30pm Darts Winter League, White Hart.
- Wednesdays 3.50pm Children's dance classes, Campton Lower School.
- Thursdays 2.00pm Carpet Bowls, Village Hall.
 8.30pm Dominoes, White Hart.
- Fridays 9.30am Margaret's Walks, Greenway.
 10.00am Baby and Toddler, Village Hall.

Additional articles and further information about the Parish, including its history, diary dates, walks etc., is available on the website.

<http://www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk>

Information for the website should be sent to webmaster@camptonandchicksands.org.uk