

**Campton & Chicksands Parish Council  
Newsletter**

**March 2006 Issue**



Welcome to the Campton and Chicksands Newsletter,  
published by the Parish Council

Please let us know your news and views—contact details  
inside

**To Timbuktu ... and back!**  
**The African Adventures of a (slightly!) Mature Gapper**  
Part two...

The second part of the trip was spent on an overland truck travelling through Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso, and Ghana. I had been concerned about how I would cope for 5 weeks with few (or any!) facilities, but armed with my sleeping bag, Immodium and the world's biggest supply of Wet Wipes, bush camping in, literally, the middle of nowhere, was a highlight of the trip.

We visited so many amazing places ... Djenne, which has the biggest mud built mosque in the world and a huge colourful market; Mole National Park, with warthogs, baboons and elephants; Ouagadougou and Bobo Dioulasso ... such brilliant names; palm fringed beaches and slave forts, with their tragic history, on Ghana's Gold Coast; sailing along the River Niger in a traditional wooden boat, hippo spotting, and just driving through such remote rural areas observing everyday life.

The highlights for me were trekking along the foot of a spectacular escarpment in Mali between the villages of the Dogon people, who retain a fascinating traditional way of life. Sleeping on the roofs of village houses, under the stars and watching the traditional masked dance to pray for a good harvest were all memorable experiences. Equally worthy of note (though perhaps experiences not to be repeated!) were sampling the staple diet of millet porridge with baobab leaf sauce and Dogon toilets!

... and, of course, reaching Timbuktu! It has to be said that it is not the most exciting of places. When Bob Geldof arrived in Timbuktu, he is quoted as saying "Is that it?" There are a few interesting mosques, lots of Tuareg nomads and camels wandering round ... and an Internet Café! ... but in reality it is just a dry, dusty town on the edge of the Sahara. Nevertheless, unlike so many explorers before me, I can say that I've been to Timbuktu ... and back!!

Such an amazing trip, which has given me a very different perspective on life, and I'm so glad that I didn't catch that first flight home!

There are more details of my "adventure" on the Campton and Chicksands website ([www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk/email\\_from\\_africa](http://www.camptonandchicksands.org.uk/email_from_africa)) and I am planning to give a talk about my trip, with photos, early in March ... watch this space for details!

Linda Garton

## W.I.

This month we heard from one of our own members and Campton resident, Linda Garton of her recent travels to four West African countries. We welcomed several visitors who joined us for this open meeting.

Linda was a fascinating and passionate speaker. She had spent time in Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Ouagadougou and Timbuktu. The slides Linda has brought with her showed many aspects of African life and the wonderful sights and wildlife she'd seen from a boat and from trekking over an escarpment. We were all envious of the beach photos where Linda rounded off her adventure. She was able to relax and revel in a flushable toilet and other conveniences we all take for granted.

On March 8th we meet to hear about Nepal. We welcome visitors and hope to see you then.

Deborah Maggs

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### Contact numbers

The Parish Council Chairman is Carol Sawyers—01462 814340

Clerk to the Council is: Deryck Irons, who can be contacted on: 01234 268111 or email: [deryckirons@aol.com](mailto:deryckirons@aol.com)

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We want to hear about your news/events happening!!!

The editor of the Newsletter is: Jess Sawyers

If you have anything you would like to see published in the newsletter—please email: [newsletter-editor@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:newsletter-editor@hotmail.co.uk) or contact Jess on 01462 814340. Items for each newsletter should be submitted by the 15th of each month

## **News from the Churchwardens, All Saints Campton**

We are working productively with the Churchwardens from Clophill & Haynes in pursuit of a new Rector for Campton. All three churches' PCCs met with the Bishop of Bedford in early February and we mapped out the schedule for selecting our new Incumbent. We are busily writing the Benefice Profile which will include details of all three parishes as well as photographs and local information. Our aim is to find the right person to join us in the autumn.

Until our new Rector is in post, the service pattern remains as before:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday – Parish Communion
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday – Morning Prayer
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday – Parish Communion
- 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday – Family Praise

All of these services are at 11.15 and we hope to have Fair Trade refreshments available after Morning Prayer and Family Praise. Where there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in a month, we will join with Clophill and Haynes for a Benefice Service at 10 am, location to be notified.

On Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, we shall be celebrating St George's Day with a traditional afternoon tea in the village hall – details to follow next month or look out for posters around the village.

We continue to support a young boy, Rafiqul, through World Vision, and recently received a letter and drawing from him. We raise the money to support him with a collecting box in Church for your loose change – do help us to help him!

Biggleswade Chronicle community vouchers will be welcomed – Gill Maclaren is amassing these for the Church with a view to exchanging them for children's items and craft materials for Sunday School.

We look forward to seeing you in Church!

Barry Thompson  
Kathy Taylor

The following is an excerpt from Kelly's Directory 1865

Received from Margaret Banfield

**CAMPTON** is a small village and parish, 10 miles south-east from Bedford, and 1 mile south-west from Sheffield station, in the hundred of Clifton, union and county county court district of Biggleswade, rural deanery of Sheffield, archdeaconry of Bedford and diocese of Ely. The church of All Saints is a building of stone, in the Decorated and Perpendicular styles, consisting of chancel, nave and aisles, and a Perpendicular tower at the west-end of the south aisle, containing 4 bells; the chancel is Decorated; in the nave is a brass to Richard Carlyll esq. and Joan, his wife, both of whom died Feb. 14th, 1489; the church contains several monuments and the mausoleum of the Osborn family: Bloomfield, the post, who died at Sheffield, Aug. 10th, 1823, was buried here. The register, including Sheffield, dates from the year 1568. The living is a rectory, with Sheffield chapelry annexed, joint net yearly value £375, with residence, in the gift of Sir George Robert Osborn bart. and held since 1870 by the Rev. George Montague Osborn M.A. of Trinity College, Cambridge. An addition of 1 acre was made to the churchyard in 1857, under the control of a burial board of 5 members. The Manor House, now the residence of Miss Osborn, was, in 1645, the seat of Sir Charles Ventria, whose narrow escape from assassination is recorded in the following inscription, still preserved on a panel, which, having received the contents of a market, has never been repaired. "In the year 1645, Sir Charles

Ventria, knight banneret, created by King Charles for his valour in the Civil Wars, was, in the night time, by Oliver's party, shot at as he was walking in this room, but happily missed him." Highlands, an elegant building, was erected in 1876, and is occupied by Henry J. R. Osborn esq. J.P. Many interesting Roman and Anglo-Saxon antiquities have been discovered in the neighbourhood. John Lewis ffytche, esq. D.L., J.P. of Thorpe Hall, Louth, Lincolnshire, is lord of the manor. The principal landowners are Sir G. R. Osborn bart. of Chicksands Priory, Biggleswade D.L., J.P. and E. Powers esq. The soil is strong clay; subsoil, varied. The chief crops are wheat, barley, beans and peas, and ordinary garden produce. The population in 1881 was 555; the area is 1,120 acres, including Sheffield township; rateable value of Campton, £1,664.

Parish Clerk, William Stevens.

POST OFFICE.—Charles Britain, sub-postmaster. Letters through Sheffield S.O. arrive at 7.50 a.m. by Sheffield at 11 a.m.; dispatched at 6.50 p.m.; there is no Sunday post. Sheffield is the nearest money order & telegraph office.

A School Board of 5 members was formed in 1875; H. Vandervord, Langford, clerk to the board.

Board school, erected, with teachers' house, in 1875, at a cost of £7,800, for 120 children; average attendance, 90; Miss Charlotte Woodhead, mistress.

Blundell Mrs. Joseph	Burnage Joshua, baker	Farratt James, market gardener
Osborn Rev. George Montague M.A. [rector], Rectory	Bygrave Thomas, shopkeeper	Rowlett William, market gardener
Osborn Hy. John Rt. D.L., J.P. Highlands	Campton & Sheffield Churchyard (A. S. Wade-Gery, clerk to the burial board)	Staubridge Frederick, bricklayer
Osborn Miss, Campton Manor house	Hare George Henry, miller (steam) & corn merchant	Thompson Samuel, beer retailer
Wade-Gery Arthur Staunton, The Grange COMMERCIAL.	Jordan George, New inn	Tingey Jn. market gardener & coal dealer
Balls Joseph, market gardener	Kempson Abel, bricklayer	Wade-Gery Arthur Staunton, solicitor, The Grange, Campton; & at Sheffield
Britain Charles, tailor, & post office	Lamb Sarah (Mrs.), farmer	Whitbread William, blacksmith
		Wilson Mary Ann (Mrs.), White Hart P.N.

Village Website

Why not have a look at the village website to find out more about the area around Campton and Chicksands. The website address is:

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

There is a section for local trades to list their services—plumbers, electricians, gardeners etc please send your details to:

Pat Williams

[Webmaster@camptonandchicksands.org.uk](mailto:Webmaster@camptonandchicksands.org.uk)

## Village Notices

### **Race Night—Saturday 4th March**

The Village Hall Management Committee regrets that this event has been postponed until further notice

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### **Mobile Library**

The 'library link' bus will call on the 4th Friday of every month.

The next visit of the Library link bus is scheduled for: 24th March and will be at:

The Glebe: 13.15-13.45

Greenway: 13.50-14.10

The mobile library is a service provided by Shefford Library.

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Do you know anyone who is organising a community event this year which may require Police or Community Support Officers to be present?

Bedfordshire Police have a mobile Police office available with information about crime prevention, and home/personal security as well as cycle, mobile phone and property marking kits. Also, lots of freebies for the children.

Interested? Contact Nick Battams for more information on:  
[nicholas.battams@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nicholas.battams@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

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The National Childbirth Trust is holding a Nearly New Sale on the 4th March in Langford Village Hall from 2.15 pm —3.30 pm

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 6th March	7.30 pm	Parish Council Village Hall  Anyone may attend and listen to the meeting. 15 minutes are allocated from 7.30 until 7.45 pm for members of the public to raise issues with the councillors
Wednesday 8th March	7.30 pm	WI Meeting Village Hall
Friday 24th March		Mobile Library Service
Wednesday 29th March	8.00 pm	Quiz Night White Hart pub
Saturday 13th May	8.00 pm	Music in May Campton Bells Appeal
Saturday 1st July		Annual Barn Dance More details to follow

Carpet Bowls takes place in the village hall every Thursday from 7.30 pm until 10.00 pm

Quiz Nights are held in the White Hart on the last Wednesday of the month. The next one is on Wednesday 29th March at 8.00 pm



Campton Bells Appeal

## **Music In May**

*An evening of light classical music*

**Saturday 13th May 2006**

7.00 pm for 7.30 pm

At

**Millennium Barn**

**Lodge Farm**

**Chicksands**

*By kind permission of the Parrish family*

Ticket Price: £25.00

Includes: Champagne Reception  
and dinner

Dress Code: Black tie

Raffle

Wine Bar

Tickets available from:

Linda Garton 01462 819074

Kathy Taylor 01462 816108

Carol Sawyers 01462 814340

Maryika Wilding 01462 851729

