

# Flitwick papers

December/  
January 2020



Flitwick Town Council  
The Rufus Centre  
Steppingley Road  
Flitwick  
Bedford  
MK45 1AH



Over 60s Christmas Lunch

☎ 01525 631900

📠 01525 631903

✉ info@flitwick.gov.uk

🖱 www.flitwick.gov.uk

📘 /FlitwickTC

🐦 @NewsFTC

## What's Inside:

Christmas Celebrations

Community Awards 2020

Little Mix Tribute

Home-Start Central Beds

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Please note the Town Council office is closed from 5pm on Monday 23rd December 2019 until it reopens again at 9am on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

## Your Local Representatives

### Flitwick Town Councillors

Ward	Name	Contact
E	Keith Badham	630868
E	Janet Blakeman	712078
W	Ian Blazeby	634585
E	Ryan Coleman	Contact TC Office
W	Jeremy Dann	713751
W	Paul Dodds	Contact TC Office
W	Patricia Earles	Contact TC Office
E	Mike Halligan	Contact TC Office
E	Ann Lutley	712837
W	Gareth Mackey	712537
W	Martin Platt	713017
E	John Roberts	716360
E	Russ Shaw	Contact TC Office
W	Andy Snape	Contact TC Office
W	Dan Toinko	Contact TC Office
W	Phillip Thompson	720582
W	Maureen Williams	714714

Flitwick Town Council deal with; Allotments, burial ground, grants, environmental improvements, events and activities, play areas, Youth Hub, parks and open spaces, Flitwick Manor Park and The Rufus Centre.

### Central Bedfordshire Councillors

Neil Bunyan	0300 300 8512
Charles Gomm	0300 300 8522
Gareth Mackey	712537

CBC deal with; Environmental Services, Grants, Grass Cutting, Highways, Industrial Estates, Planning, Recreation and Leisure, Refuse Collections, Litter Clearance, Recycling, Amenity Areas, Education, Libraries, Archives, Social Services, Street Lighting, Trading Standards, Traffic Management and Youth Services.

**Telephone 0300 300 8000**



It's been a very busy time for Flitwick Town Council as we prepare for all the Christmas celebrations across the community. We would like to thank the many volunteers and sponsors who have helped make all of our events so special including the team who put up the Christmas lights to brighten up the town.

Thank you to all of you who have come along and supported the different events and helped to raise money for the Town Mayor's charities and for The Salvation Army. We look forward to seeing you at our community events in 2020!

**On behalf of the Mayor, Councillors and all the staff at Flitwick Town Council we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**



## Town Council Diary

*All meetings listed are held at the Rufus Centre unless stated otherwise*

### Christmas Tree Recycling

Real Christmas tree recycling will be available from **6th-17th January 2020.**

Please place the tree next to the recycling bin on your scheduled waste collection days.

Christmas trees must be no taller than 6' and trunks must be no thicker than 3" diameter.



### January 2020

7th	Community Services	7.45pm
9th	Planning	7.45pm
14th	Town Council	7.45pm
16th	Business Services	7.45pm
29th	Corporate Services	7.45pm
30th	Planning	7.45pm

### February

4th	Community Services	7.45pm
13th	Business Services	7.45pm
18th	Town Council	7.45pm
20th	Planning	7.45pm

A full list of meeting dates can be found on the Town Council website:

**[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk)**

Members of the public are welcome to attend any of the Council meetings.



## What's Been Happening?

### Gary Barlow Tribute Night

It was a packed house at The Rufus Centre on 6th December as we welcomed back Dan Hadfield as Gary Barlow.

Guests were treated to a medley of hits from both Gary Barlow's solo career and from Take That. Dan also performed some popular swing numbers from his new album.

The next tribute night in the calendar is 'Glory Days' A Tribute to Little Mix on **Saturday 16th May 2020**. Tickets on sale now.



### Christmas Carol Concert

A great evening was had by all at the Christmas Carol Concert on 9th December at The Rufus Centre. The evening was hosted by Rev Lucy Davis who made sure everything ran smoothly including the Christmas Cracker jokes with the help of some of the audience.

The Luton Salvation Army Band provided the wonderful music for the traditional carols and The Jubilee Singers performed two special songs during the evening.

Readings were given by Cllr Maureen Williams and Rev Lucy Davis. Mulled wine, tea, coffee and mince pies were served before and after the concert. All proceeds from the evening will be donated to The Salvation Army and the Town Mayor's Charities.



### Evie's A Winner!

Congratulations to Evie Morgan who was the lucky winner of the Christmas Lights Draw. The prize draw was open to all Flitwick school children.

All proceeds from the £1 donation to enter the draw will go towards the Christmas Lights Appeal for 2020.



### Santa Pays A Visit

Our Community Services Team were at the Village Hall Christmas Fayre to help Father Christmas with his magical grotto.

Flitwick's special elf welcomed children and their families to the grotto and made sure they all had enough time to speak to Santa during the afternoon.





## Over 60s Christmas Lunch

The Christmas spirit was in full flow at the special over 60s Christmas Lunch on 11th December. 150 guests joined us for an afternoon of fun and entertainment complete with a three course traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings.

The wonderful choir from Flitwick Lower School entertained the guests with a selection of carols and festive favourites along with Flitwick singer Mark George who got the crowd singing (and a few dancing!) with hits from the decades. After lunch Father Christmas made a special appearance with a gift for everyone.

A team of volunteers from Rebecca L Faret Solicitors and the Flitwick WI together with FTC Councillors and staff ensured smooth service for all the guests throughout the afternoon.

A big thank you to Rebecca L Faret Solicitors for sponsoring the event and special thanks to Priestly Farm Shop for donating all of the vegetables for the lunch.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time to help with the lunch and for making the afternoon so special for all of our guests. We had some lovely comments from the guests who said how much they enjoyed the event. See you again next year!



## Join The Christmas Lights 2020 Campaign

Would you like to get involved with the Christmas Lights Campaign for next year? We would love to get as many people involved as possible to help plan the lights and 'Big Switch On' event for 2020 (unfortunately there was no event this year due to logistical issues).

We've arranged a meeting for **Monday 13th January 2020** at 7.30pm in The Lockyer Suite at The Rufus Centre. We know there has been much debate about it all in the town so please come down and find out more, share ideas and help make Flitwick's Christmas Lights 2020 the best ever!

If you want more information before then please call Susan on 01525 631900 or email [susandred@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:susandred@flitwick.gov.uk)



## **Flitwick Church of England St Peter and St Paul**

### **22nd December**

6.30pm - 'Blue Christmas'

For all who find Christmas difficult because of bereavement or any other reason.

During the service Christmas stars of remembrance will be hung from our Church Christmas tree. Please call 712369 if you would like to dedicate a star to a loved one.

### **Christmas Eve**

2pm - Carol Service 1

4pm - Carol Service 2

6pm - Carol Service 3

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

### **Christmas Day**

9.00 am – Holy Communion

10.30 am – All Age Christmas Celebration with Communion

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## **Flitwick Catholic Church Sacred Heart**

### **Christmas Eve**

6pm - Mass of Christmas (especially for families and children)

9pm - Mass of Christmas (Midnight Mass)

### **Christmas Day**

9am - Mass of Christmas

## **Flitwick Baptist Church**

### **Sunday 22nd December**

Carols by Candlelight 5.30pm

*(followed by refreshments)*

### **Wednesday 25th December**

Family Christmas Day Celebrations

10am

Kings Road, Flitwick

[www.flitwickbaptistchurch.com](http://www.flitwickbaptistchurch.com)



## **Flitwick Methodist Church**

### **22nd December**

10.30am - Nine Lessons and Carols

### **Christmas Eve**

11.30pm Communion Service

### **Christmas Day**

10am Christmas Morning Service



# Do You Know A Community Champion?

Help us celebrate people who contribute to the  
community life of Flitwick

## Nominations are now OPEN!

To request a nomination form please contact:

zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk or call 01525 631900

by Friday 14th February 2020

VOLUNTEER

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BUSINESS

LIFETIME

CARER

YOUNG PERSON

ACHIEVEMENT

LOCAL GROUP



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[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk)



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## Events & Celebrations

It's been another busy month for The Rufus Centre team as the party season continued for all ages.

Children's parties have been particularly popular with two taking place on the same day including an early evening disco for a 10th birthday.

Most weekends have been busy in The Lockyer Suite with 40 children enjoying the space whilst being entertained by the *DJ Factory* on 20th November and the next day 45 children had a brilliant time being entertained by *Me and My Princess Parties*.

The following weekend The Lockyer Suite was the venue of choice for a birthday party for 50 children. Great fun was had by all on the bouncy castle, at the glitter table and at the popcorn and candyfloss station. What more could you want!

We were also delighted to host a very special 90th birthday celebration for a lovely family. Our dining area was used for this celebration with background music provided, whilst the group of family and friends tucked into a homemade Afternoon Tea.

We have also had a number of Town Council community events including the Gary Barlow Tribute Night and Over 60s Christmas Lunch.

The last Ceroc gathering of 2019 took place at the end of November. A well attended event as always, we already have regular bookings in place for 2020.



Tel: **01525 631905**

Email: [Bookings@therufuscentre.co.uk](mailto:Bookings@therufuscentre.co.uk)



[/TheRufusCentre](https://www.facebook.com/TheRufusCentre)

[/WeddingsAtTheRufusCentre](https://www.facebook.com/WeddingsAtTheRufusCentre)



[@RufusCentreFTC](https://twitter.com/RufusCentreFTC)

# The Rufus Centre



Meet, Work, Celebrate

[www.therufuscentre.co.uk](http://www.therufuscentre.co.uk)



## Conferences & Meetings

Conference and meetings have been equally busy with different events taking place including Carers Conference and Carers Partnership which was very well attended.



The Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce held their Members' Christmas Reception on 5th December.

Over 100 guests came along on the evening to meet fellow members and talk to a range of exhibitors in The Lockyer Suite. A fantastic buffet was provided by our in-house catering team.



## Farewell Susan

This month also marked the end of an era as our wonderful Catering Co-ordinator Susan Palmer (pictured with Town Mayor, Cllr Phillip Thompson) retired after 9 years of service at The Rufus Centre. A special presentation took place to mark the occasion and all of Susan's friends and colleagues wish her the very best for the future.



## Wedding Fair Coming Soon

Make a date in your diary in the new year for the Wedding Fair at The Rufus Centre on **Sunday 16th February 2020**. Organised by *Events in a Box* you will find inspiration and a whole host of suppliers who can help make your special day magical.

***If you are planning a wedding or looking to celebrate  
a special event in 2020***

***Flitwick Residents get 10% Discount on Room Hire at The Rufus Centre.  
Call 01525 631905 or email [events@therufuscentre.co.uk](mailto:events@therufuscentre.co.uk) for more details.***

***Look out for some 'special offers' in January***

## Link-A-Ride Campaign Need Your Help



Link-A-Ride no longer have funding from Central Bedfordshire Council. We've been working hard behind the scenes to replace that funding without raising the prices that our members would have to pay, and we're still doing everything we can to save the services we provide to our members, but sadly we are coming to the end of the road. If we are unable to secure funding for next year, we will have to close. At the moment, we can run until **31st December 2019**.



Link-A-Ride have provided community transport for over 30 years to local people who are unable to use public transport due to age or disability, but we are so much more than that. We play a key role in supporting vulnerable residents and reducing social isolation and loneliness through community events such as afternoon teas, Christmas lunch and regular trips offering the opportunity to shop and socialise. We work in partnership with organisations like the MS

Therapy Centre and Headway to give individuals the flexible support they need to attend vital therapy sessions. For many, our service is a lifeline that enables them to take part in their community and without us, they would rarely leave home.

Our drivers go above and beyond the call of duty and our members look forward to seeing their familiar faces, especially those who do not receive many visitors.

We are still doing everything we can to try and find additional funding, but we don't have much more time. Since CBC funding was withdrawn, Link-A-Ride have worked hard to reduce costs and increase alternative sources of income without cutting services to their members.

We would need to charge £10 extra per trip to break even, but the impact of such a huge price rise on members would be significant, so we need to raise £72,000 to continue to run Link-A-Ride at the current level of service for 12 months.

Over the last 12 months we have provided 6,354 trips for local people and transported 2,273 wheelchair users

To help us with our campaign you could contact your local councillor and tell them how much Link-A-Ride services mean to you.

If you can donate to our fundraising campaign please visit:

[www.gofundme.com/f/save-mid-beds-link-a-ride](http://www.gofundme.com/f/save-mid-beds-link-a-ride).

You can follow our progress on our Facebook page @midbedslinkaride

Thank you for your continued support.

*Article sent in by Link-A-Ride*

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### Wildlife Trust

#### Tree Walk with Colin Carpenter \*

**Saturday 25th January, 10am/12.30pm**  
**Maulden Woods**

Woods are fascinating even in the midst of winter. Colin's knowledge of our native trees and shrubs, and of Maulden Wood will be familiar to many. This event is open to all ages but terrain can be muddy and uneven and is unsuitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs. Please wear appropriate footwear. Children should be accompanied by an adult. \*£2 per adult.

#### Conservation Grazing by

#### Matthew Johnson\*

**Monday 27th January, 7.45pm**  
**Maulden Church Hall**

Matt, BCN's Livestock Officer, will give an insight into the vital conservation work done by grazing animals. It is not just releasing sheep and cattle into an area - much work is done before, during and after animals are put on a reserve.

\*£3 per adult.

For additional information please email [flitvale.info@gmail.com](mailto:flitvale.info@gmail.com) or call Ann on 075801 78889 between 6pm and 8pm or at weekends.

### Sheerluck Holmes Panto

#### Maulden Players

**Fri 24th Jan at 8pm &**  
**Sat 25th Jan 2pm & 7.30pm**

#### Maulden Village Hall

**Tickets £10 Adult, Concessions £7**

**Box Office: 01525 402706**



### Flitwick Health Walkers (1.5hrs walk)

#### Ampthill Country Park

**Wednesday 8th January- 10.15am**

Car Park Nearest By-Pass

#### Heath & Reach

#### Rushmore Park Visitor Centre

**Wednesday 15th January - 10.15am**

Visitor Centre Car Park

#### Flitwick - Manor Park

**Wednesday 22nd January - 10.15am**

Meet outside Flitwick Library

### Maulden Recreation Ground (The Brache)

#### Walk to Ampthill

**Wednesday 29nd January - 10.15am**

No walks scheduled for 25th December & 1st January

Contact Chris on 01525 714729 or

Pauline on 01525 630191

### New! Craft Workshop

Starting **8th January at 7.30 pm** then every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

#### The Chapter House,

#### St Peter and St Paul's Church

Open to people of all ages and of all abilities from beginner to expert; everyone is welcome. A chance to get together and learn new crafting skills or improve existing skills while creating lovely things.

We will tackle a new project each month under the guidance of Louise Daw.

Cost £2 per session.

No need to book, just come along.

For more details call 01525 712369.



**Flitwick Library**  
**Christmas Reading Challenge**  
**Until 7th January**

Take part in our Christmas Reading Challenge! Get a stamp for every book you read! Fun, free and for everyone! If you manage to read three books, children will get a prize and adults a free request.

**Festive Crafts**

**Saturdays 21st, 28th Dec & 4th Jan**

**Language & Conversation Cafe**

**Saturday 11th January at 11am**

Fancy learning a new language, sharing your skills or just want to learn the basics for a holiday abroad? Come and join us!

**Code Club**

We are now taking names for the next sessions, please let a member of library staff know if you would like to put your name on the waiting list!

**Scrabble Club**

Scrabble Club starts on Tuesdays at 10am in the New Year.

**Christmas Opening Hours**

Tuesday 24th December - Open 9am-1pm

Wednesday 25th December - Closed

Thursday 26th December - Closed

Friday 27th December - Open 9am-6pm

Sat 28th December - Open 9am-4pm

Tuesday 31st December - Open 9am-5pm

Wednesday 1st January - Closed

Thursday 2nd January - Open 9am-6pm

**No Good Afternoon Talk in January**

**Gardening Volunteer**

We are looking for a volunteer who can help us improve the appearance of the landscape around the library. Gardening volunteers may get involved in planting new plants, maintaining flowerbeds and other tasks. Please contact volunteering@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk if you're interested and would like to apply.

**Pulloxhill Players**  
**Treasure Island Panto**  
**Church Hall, Church Road,**  
**Pulloxhill,**  
**MK45 5HD**

**Saturday 18th Jan 2020 - Matinee 2.30 pm**

**Friday 24th Jan - Evening 7.30 pm**

**Saturday 25th Jan - Matinee 2.30pm &  
Evening 7.30 pm**

Now in their 45th year, Pulloxhill Players are proud to present their version of 'Treasure Island' a story of fun, laughter and skulduggery on the high seas.

*There's not just treasure to be found; Sam and Luke want to find their father, Ben Gunn, whose been missing presumed lost from the not so good ship Hispaniola. Luke's mum, Peggy, isn't going to let her son loose to find the treasure and discover the truth about his pa. She's going with them along with her old flame, Long John Silver and a rather large parrot. But what will they find and will they ever return home to tell the tale?*

Adults £10.00 Children £7.00

Box Office

Gail 07846 147408/Sandra 01525 751403

pulloxhillplayers@virginmedia.com

**Tea & Chat**

**Flitwick Methodist Church**  
**Wednesdays 2.30pm-4pm**

Join us in the Church Hall for a drink, cake and a bit of a chat, with a group of friendly folk.  
Everyone welcome.

## What Do They Do?

Home-Start has been supporting local children in Bedfordshire since 1984. Our charity helps young children and their families who are struggling with physical and mental ill-health, disabilities, bereavement, domestic abuse and more.



We believe that every child deserves a safe place to live and play as well as protection from the effects of poor physical and mental health. Working directly in the homes of families across the county, we help parents to build better lives for all our children. Our vital support is often given through our volunteer home visiting service. Additionally, we run regular support and prevention groups for women suffering from mental ill-health and domestic violence or abuse.



We always aim to help families with young children get through hardship and back on their feet; providing support until they no longer need us.

There are many ways that you can help our cause. Over 100 parents in Central Bedfordshire use their parenting experience to volunteer with our charity. Each week we are contacted by parents with young children in need of our help. With just a few hours of spare time, you can make a big difference to them and their children's lives. We are particularly interested in hearing from Flitwick parents and grandparents to support local children.



We were really pleased this year to receive the award from Central Bedfordshire Council for being the Volunteer Group of the year. I was really pleased to see our volunteers recognised as they are unsung heroes who mean a great deal to the families that they support.

**Your support really does mean the world to us and we'd love to hear from you! For more information about volunteering or fundraising, please visit [www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk](http://www.home-startcentralbeds.org.uk)**

# Glory Days

## A Tribute to Little Mix



**Saturday 16th May**

**The Rufus Centre, Flitwick, MK45 1AH**

**£12pp**

**Box Office: 01525 631900/Eventbrite**  
(booking fees apply)

**Doors Open: 6pm**

**Starts: 6:30pm**



Organised by Flitwick Town Council



@EventFTC



/FlitwickTC

[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk)

## Flitwick Scouts Up For A Challenge!

Flitwick Scout Group provides a wide range of opportunities for children age 6 to 13. They also provide opportunities for young people aged 14 to 17 to be young leaders where they can develop numerous skills; and they provide opportunities for adults to help young people develop and to share their skills and knowledge with others.

The Beavers have been trampolining, building models using Lego as part of their Builder badge and making snowmen using rather large marshmallows. They have also been singing carols to the residents of Howard Court.

The Cubs have been on an evening hike across Flitton and Flitwick Moors. They have also worked towards their Astronomer badge; have been bowling and learnt about road safety. During their Christmas craft evening the children learnt how to sew using decorative cross stitching. The road safety evening included them finding out about different types of pedestrian crossings, identifying road signs and car safety. They were able to put the theory into practice on their evening hike.

The Scouts have also been working towards their Cooking and Navigator badges. Members of both Scout Troops participated in 'Green Beret' organised by Hertfordshire Scouts. The event lasted two days and involved team working, encouraging each other and leadership. Luke Humphreys and Daniel Green said: "The activities included getting a ring off a rope, catapult building, pulling a jeep, rifle shooting, folding up a tarpaulin whilst standing on it, orienteering, karaoke, getting out of a maze and an obstacle course. The conditions for the event were rather wet and muddy."

Some of the Scouts who attended the event have used the opportunity to work towards their Media Relations and Marketing badge. Edmund Jarrett said: "I really enjoyed 'Green Beret'. I thought it was good because even though it was hard when we finished it was very rewarding. The catapulting was fun as we got extra points for ingenuity. Climbing the pole was my favourite activity because you had to work as a team to hold the pole whilst one person climbed it and put a bucket on the top."

Adult volunteer Simon Baldwin said: "Green Beret took all of the Scouts and the adults out of their comfort zone. All of the Scouts worked well together and they achieved some great results. They had gone into this event without much knowledge of what the challenges were going to be. Everyone enjoyed it and I'm sure we'll be there again next year."

**For further information about Flitwick Scout Group, please visit:**  
**[www.flitwickscoutgroup.org.uk](http://www.flitwickscoutgroup.org.uk)**



*Article sent in by Flitwick Scout Group*





Rebecca L Faret  
Solicitors

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[www.nevillefuneralservice.com](http://www.nevillefuneralservice.com)



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***If you are organising an event in  
Flitwick or have some news you  
would like to share with the local  
community please get in touch.***

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/FlitwickTC



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# What's On

For more details on anything advertised here please call 01525 631900

All events on this page are held at **The Rufus Centre** unless stated otherwise  
**[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk)**

**Look inside for details of the Comedy Night, Community Awards & Little Mix Tribute Night**



## Forget Me Not Group

**Monday 13th January**

**1.30pm-3.30pm**

### Bedfordshire Police

The Forget Me Not Group is a group to support carers and people with memory problems or Dementia.

Come along for a cup of tea and a chat.

**We welcome newcomers.**

## Tea Dance with

**Peter Rogerson**

**Thursday 9th January**

**2pm- 4.15pm**

**Entry £4** (inc. refreshments)



**Strictly Dancing with Jenny & Tig**

**Saturday 22nd February**

**7.30pm-10.30pm**

**Entry £5** (Bring your own refreshments)

**No need to book - just turn**



## Stitchers

**Wednesday mornings - drop-in**

**15th & 29th January**

**10am - 12 noon**

Bring any type of craft, have a chat and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with friends.

## Bingo Afternoons

**Flitwick Village Hall**

**Last Friday of each month at 2pm**

*There is no Bingo at the end of December - join us in January*

## Men's Club

**Monday Afternoons**

*Next date is 6th January!*

**Flitwick Club**

**1.30pm to 3.30pm**

**£2 a week first week free!**

A social club aimed at men over 65.



## Over 60's Lunch Club

**PRE-BOOK EVENT ONLY**

**Friday 10th January 2020 at 12.30pm**

**£6.50 per person (Flitwick residents)**

**£7.50 per person (Non-residents)**

**(Pre-book by 12 noon on Tuesday 7th Jan)**

### Main Course

Sausages, Mash Potato,  
Seasonal Vegetables & Onion Gravy

### Dessert

Caramel Apple Pie & Custard