

Flitwick papers

January/
February 2020



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



Stunning December Sunset at The Rufus Centre

 **01525 631900**

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 **info@flitwick.gov.uk**

 **www.flitwick.gov.uk**

 **/FlitwickTC**

 **@NewsFTC**

What's Inside:

Precept Report 2020/2021

Honorary Citizen

Little Mix Tribute

Language Café

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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

Central Bedfordshire Council 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



This year's increase in the precept for the Town will raise an estimated additional £41,000, taking the total to around £854,000 for the year. For the Town Council element of Council Tax, householders in the Band D category will see an increase of £5.39 over the course of the full year - equivalent to a couple of coffees at a local coffee shop or just over 10p extra a week per household.

The Council is conscious that the increase is above the current inflation rate, which has been our guiding measure for the past few years. The recent years have seen significant additional contributions to the precept from new housing development in the town, which has enabled us to keep precept increases to a minimum, while maintaining the range and level of services that we are able to offer. In the last 12 months the development of new houses has slowed down so our revenue base has stayed static. We also require additional funding to enable a number of key projects and additional events to be undertaken.

We are committed to investing in the fabric and management of our base at The Rufus Centre, which is necessary to protect future revenue streams from the rental of both tenanted offices and conference, meetings and events space, which enable us to offer free/reduced rates to local organisations and charities.

Over two years around £120,000 will be spent on The Rufus Centre, installing a permanent café on site for use by all residents, as well as visitors to the Centre itself. Our aging IT kit is being renewed and the Wi-Fi service upgraded within the building. Redecoration of our conference and meeting rooms with new furniture, as well as refurbishment of the toilet facilities, will all be completed within the next 12 months. We have launched a new Rufus Centre website to promote the wide range of facilities available and have employed a full time Rufus Centre Manager to drive the commercial revenue that the Centre provides as a invaluable top up to the precept.

We have also agreed to establish formal budgets that will enable us to take over the delivery of the annual Remembrance Service and to establish the basis for funding a Christmas lights switch on in 2020, and stage a wider range of events for the local community to enjoy.

We will continue to invest in services for young people at the Youth Hub and support a wide range of local youth organisations, either through the provision of low-cost facilities or direct grant funding.

(Report continues overleaf)

We are also budgeting for capital investment in renewing playground equipment and the continued maintenance and active improvement of green spaces. Having invested in CCTV to protect our Town Centre assets, we will continue to work closely with the Police to take other sensible measures to manage anti-social behaviour.

Resident Driven Projects, where you suggest and drive publicly voted for initiatives, will also continue to feature in the next 12 months, allowing direct input into our spending plans to help shape the Flitwick that you want.

If we have learned anything from 2019, it's that we need to provide better communication with all our residents, organisations and businesses, to ensure improved visibility of, and accountability for, the decisions we make on your behalf and the processes that sit behind them. We will continue to deliver our monthly Flitwick Papers magazine to every household, to keep you all in touch with what is going on in the Town (but we will be giving it a thorough make-over) and we are just finalising the re-launch of a new Flitwick Town Council website which we aim to make the focus of information not just about the work of the Council, but as a platform for individuals, organisations and businesses to use to highlight all the events, activities and services available in our local area.

The Town Council is committed to providing services and developing facilities that will benefit all members of our community while ensuring we achieve best value from our budget. We are fortunate to have a strong community spirit in Flitwick and we look forward to working together with residents to help to build on this further in 2020.

Cllr Phillip Thompson, Town Mayor

You can download a copy of the report at www.flitwick.gov.uk

Town Council Diary



January

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

All meetings listed are held at The Rufus Centre unless stated otherwise.

A full list of meeting dates can be found on our website www.flitwick.gov.uk

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

Would You Like To Work For FTC?

We have two exciting staff vacancies at Flitwick Town Council based at The Rufus Centre.

Receptionist - (Part Time)

We are looking for a friendly, customer focused receptionist to welcome visitors to our offices and to support the Town Council's administrative function and events. Two days a week (Thursday and Friday) plus holiday cover.

Finance Assistant - (Part Time)

If you have finance experience Flitwick Town Council has a vacancy for a Finance Assistant to assist with the day to day finances of the Council and ensure all financial processes are carried out efficiently.

This is a part time position for 20 hours a week worked Monday to Friday. Working days are negotiable.

Application packs for both vacancies are available to download from our website www.flitwick.gov.uk. Alternatively call 01525 631900 or email reception@flitwick.gov.uk

Closing date: Thursday 30th January 2020 at 9am

We will also be recruiting soon for a Town Clerk - keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more details.



Christmas Lights 2020 Project

Despite the awful weather on the night we had more than 20 people attend the Christmas Lights 2020 planning meeting on Monday 13th January at The Rufus Centre. It was a really productive meeting with lots of ideas and thoughts on what we could do for the 'Big Switch On' event this year.

The next step is for the Flitwick Christmas Lights Committee to start planning and exploring fund raising ideas. We've arranged the next meeting for **Monday 27th January 2020** at 7.30pm in The Davis Suite at The Rufus Centre.

We would love as many people to come along and get involved to make it the best Christmas celebration ever in the town.

If you want more information before the meeting or can't make the meeting but want to get involved call Susan on 01525 631900 or email susaneldred@flitwick.gov.uk

Thank You To The Volunteers

A huge thank you to the wonderful volunteers for their help, support and dedication in putting up and taking down the Christmas lights in the town whatever the weather. It is only a small number of volunteers that transform Flitwick over the festive season and we really appreciate everything they do for the community.

What's On

Our Comedy Night on 14th February is now sold out – who said romance is dead! The good news is we have booked the next Comedy Night for **6th November** with Nathan Caton headlining. Tickets now on sale directly from us or via Eventbrite. You can find out more details on the poster on page 11.

If you missed out on getting a team together for the Quiz Night on the 31st January our next Quiz Night is booked for **16th October**. £8 per person, teams of up to six people with a choice of chilli con carne or vegetable lasagne.

Bookings for both events are now open. Call 01525 631900 or pop down to The Rufus Centre between 9am and 5pm during the week.

Allotments Available

Do you feel inspired to grow your own fruit, vegetables or flowers? We have allotments available to rent at both our sites – Station Road and Steppingley Road.

It's a great way to enjoy the outdoors, meet new people and keep active. Not forgetting all the delicious fresh produce you can grow.

Standard 5 pole allotments are just £25.13 a year. If you would like to give growing your own a try but don't want a full plot we have some smaller plots available at a reduced rate.

If you would like to find out more information please give us a call or email stacielockey@flitwick.gov.uk



Honorary Citizen

As well as the annual Community Awards in April which celebrate the people who make a real difference to our community (*see poster opposite*) the Town Council also acknowledges the contribution of dedicated residents by awarding them an Honorary Citizenship.

If you know someone who has made a significant contribution to the Flitwick community you can nominate for them to be recognised as an Honorary Citizen. All nominations will be considered by the Town Council with one nominee chosen as an Honorary Citizen.

You can download an application form from our website at www.flitwick.gov.uk or call 01525 631900 for more information.

Nomination forms should be returned by **Friday 6th March**.

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

COMMUNITY FACILITATOR

LOCAL HERO

BUSINESS

LIFETIME

CARER

YOUNG PERSON

ACHIEVEMENT

LOCAL GROUP



Organised by Flitwick Town Council



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/FlitwickTC



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The Rufus Centre

Looking for the perfect location for your party this year?

Whether you are celebrating a birthday milestone, anniversary, engagement, retirement or just want to party, the Lockyer Suite offers an amazing space to make it a night to remember for you and your guests.



And if you book your party before the end of February you can take advantage of an exclusive winter offer!

You can decorate the room to your own theme or pick from our optional decoration packages, choose our catering or supply your own, we are totally flexible.



Special Winter Promotion



**£295 for Evening Hire of
The Lockyer Suite**

PLUS

**A complimentary glass of prosecco or
orange juice for all your party guests
on arrival**

Price Includes:

Hire from 7pm to midnight, access to set up between 6-7pm, bar service, door security, free parking and Party Co-ordinator.
Optional catering and decoration packages available.

Valid for all bookings made by 29th February for any date in 2020

Tel: **01525 631905**

Email: bookings@therufuscentre.co.uk



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

The Rufus Centre



Meet, Work, Celebrate

www.therufuscentre.co.uk

To give you an idea on how the Lockyer Suite can be transformed here's a selection of room layouts for some of the celebrations we have hosted at The Rufus Centre.

Please give our Events Team a call on 01525 631905 or email events@therufuscentre.co.uk if you would like to discuss the different options or come and visit and take a look at the room. We would love to see you.



Are you planning a wedding?

The Rufus Centre has fabulous rooms and gardens for your wedding, civil ceremony or evening reception. If you would like to know more please give our dedicated Wedding Co-ordinators a call on 01525 631905, email events@therufuscentre.co.uk or visit our new website www.therufuscentre.co.uk

Don't forget 2020 is a Leap Year - could this be the perfect time to pop the question?

Get Involved - Try Something New!

Come and join us on Thursday afternoons
2pm—4pm (term time only)

Painting Circle
A self help group for
budding artists!

Flitwick Village Hall
Dunstable Road,
Flitwick
MK45 1HP

FREE
Parking

£2.50 per
session

Taster
Session
FREE

For more information or to book your FREE taster session please
contact Julie or Zoe at Flitwick Town Council 01525 631900.

There is so much going on in Flitwick for people of all ages to enjoy - why not make 2020 the year you try something new.

The Painting Circle self help group has moved to a new location at Flitwick Village Hall. Open to all ages it's a great chance for budding artists to get together and share advice. You can go along for a free taster session by calling Zoe or Julie on 01525 631900.

Men's Club Now For 55+

We've lowered the age of Men's Club this year to 55+ so that more people can come along every Monday and join us for a social afternoon with darts, dominoes and pool.

There's also an interesting programme of days out coming up this year include a visit to Tring Brewery and a behind the scenes tour of Luton Town Football Club.

Full details of the Men's Club can be found on the back page.

Keep Fit, Keep Active

If one of your New Year's resolutions is to keep fit we have spaces at both of our 60+ *Dance Fitness @ Flitwick* classes. You can choose from Mondays at Flitwick Village Hall from 8.20-9.20am and Thursdays at the Royal British Legion Hall from 9-10am. Term time only. Call Zoe on 01525 631900 or email zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk

Check Out Flitwick Youth Hub

For young people looking for something different to do this winter Flitwick Youth Hub runs several evening sessions each week offering a whole range of activities such as pool, table tennis, football games, crafts, cooking, music, projects nights or the opportunity to just chill with friends.



Mondays is open access for 13-15 year olds from 6-8pm; Wednesdays open access for 15-19 year olds between 6.30-8.30pm, and Thursdays is Junior Youth Club for children between the ages of 9 and 12 years with different activities each week from 6-7.30pm.

If you are not sure where The Hub (*pictured left*) is located you can find the building next to Flitwick Library, opposite Tesco in Conniston Road.

You can get more information on what is happening on The Hub's social media pages or contact Wendy Millgate on 07780 448599 or email wendymillgate@4ypuk.com.

Facebook: [Flitwick Youth Hub](#), Instagram: [4ypuk ltd](#) or Twitter: [@flitwickhub](#)

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Flitwick

6th NOVEMBER



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'The Nathan Caton Show'.

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Over 18s only - Bar available

BOX OFFICE: 01525 631900/EVENTBRITE (booking fee may apply)



Organised by Flitwick Town Council &



Castle Comedy



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FlitwickTC



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.

Quiz Night

February 7th, Maulden Village Hall

7.00pm for a 7.30pm start

Come along for a fun evening and help support local wildlife activities.

Teams up to six. We can match people to teams if needed. Entry with fish supper/vegetarian option £10.00

to book please email

flitvale.info@gmail.com or

call Ann on 075801 78889 between 6pm and 8pm or at weekends.



Flitwick Health Walkers (1.5hrs walk)

Walk to Amptill

29nd January

Maulden Recreation Ground (The Brache)

Flitwick via The Mount & Pussy Pond

5th February

Outside Flitwick Library

Across Fields to Steppingley

12th February

Flitwick Leisure Centre Car Park

Woburn

19th February

Car Park opposite Church

Marston Vale Forest Centre

26th February

All walks start at 10.15am

Contact Chris on 01525 714729 or

Pauline on 01525 630191



Going For Gold!

Congratulations to Natalie Baker, Elizabeth McFarlane and Robert Taberer on their Gold Chief Scout Awards.

This is the highest award a Scout can achieve whilst in the section. To achieve the award they must complete the nine Challenge Awards and earn six activity or staged activity badges.

For more information on Flitwick Scout Group visit www.flitwickscoutgroup.org.uk

Flitwick Library

Language & Conversation Café

Saturday 8th February at 11am

Fancy learning a new language, sharing your skills or just want to learn the basics for a holiday abroad? *(You can read more about Language Café on page 14)*

Good Afternoon Talk - 2.30pm

Wednesday 5th February

Come along for Linton Guise's talk 'A Beginners Guide to the Night Sky'. All of us have looked up at the night sky on a clear evening and wondered just what's out there. Linton will take us on a tour of many of the fascinating objects in the night sky.

Scrabble Club

New Scrabble Club on every Tuesday at 10am. Come and join the fun.

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.

Alzheimer's Society Needs Volunteers!

Flitwick Activity Group

First and Third Thursday of the month.

2pm – 3.30pm

Flitwick Library

For more information or to apply, please contact Sophie Gadsden on 07714 074105 or email volsbedfordshire@alzheimers.org.uk

Volunteer Drivers Urgently Needed for Agate House

Can you spare some time to help with local short trips to support our service users to attend church groups, clubs and hospital appointments?

To find out more please contact 01525 403247 or email agate@leonardcheshire.org

Craft Workshop

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month.

The Chapter House,

St Peter and St Paul's Church

Everyone welcome, from beginner to expert. A chance to get together and learn new crafting skills or improve existing skills while creating lovely things.

Cost £2 per session.

No need to book, just come along.

For more details call 01525 712369.

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Monday 3 Feb:	5 to 5.30 pm & 5.30 to 6pm
Saturday 15 Feb:	12 - 12.30 pm; 12.30 - 1pm; 2 - 2.30 pm; 2.30 - 3 pm
Sunday 16 Feb:	12 to 12.30pm; 12.30 to 1 pm
Sunday 1 March:	12 to 12.30pm; 12.30 to 1 pm

SAFER LIVES - NOT DRUGS AND KNIVES IN OUR COMMUNITY

lifestyles @ flitwick

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The facility is managed in partnership with

SLL

What Do They Do?

Language and Conversation Café

No sooner is Christmas past, than it's time to think of the next holiday. So, what if you're going abroad? A language app, or a phrasebook, will help you order a coffee - or something stronger - but what about getting to know someone? Nothing helps better than a chat.

That's why, in 2017, Central Bedfordshire Libraries had the idea to start its very first Language and Conversation Café at Flitwick Library. It was a way to bring people together and to develop their confidence in languages. Now around 15 of us, from a wide range of ages and abilities, meet at 11am, usually on the second Saturday of every month. We vary our activities each time, including games, puzzles, learning exercises, and, sometimes, home-baked food from around the world. Our latest meeting even had a live video chat with speakers in France.



You don't have to be confident in a language. At the moment our interests are in French, German, Spanish and Italian, but we welcome all languages. Some people want to learn the basics for a holiday; others want to resurrect what they forgot at school; others want to help new learners. A few are experts, some are even native speakers, but we all learn from each other and, at the end of the session, nobody is in a rush to leave!

That's not all either. For several years, Flitwick has been connected with the lovely historic town of Calvisson, near Nîmes, in the south of France, with which residents and council members have exchanged visits and ideas. The Town Council also provided funds, through the Market Towns Regeneration Fund, to develop the excellent Language section at Flitwick Library. Both these initiatives spurred the creation of the Language and Conversation Café.



If you're interested, why not get in touch? Our next three meetings are February 8th, March 14th and April 11th and you'll be very welcome.

Richard Luscombe, Coordinating Volunteer

For further information contact Flitwick Library: 0300 300 8057

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

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/FlitwickTC



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Memorial Bench For Manor Park

Next time you are walking in Manor Park you'll be able to sit and enjoy the view on a new bench that has been donated for all to enjoy in memory of Steve Mitchell, former Town Mayor.

Steve, who was a Town Councillor from 1991 until he died in 2017, was instrumental in the negotiations to purchase Manor Park for the local community and was Chair of the Flitwick Manor Steering Group back in 2004.

Marcia Mitchell, Steve's widow very kindly decided that she would like to buy a memorial bench for Steve to be placed in the park. He and Marcia were regular users of Manor Park and Marcia still walks their dog Poppy (pictured right) there. A special presentation of the bench took place in December.



Is Retirement Living for you?

Private and secure one bedroom apartments available to let at Howard Court, for people over the age of 55.

A dedicated Court Manager is on-site during the week and a 24/7 emergency alarm system is there if you need it. Howard Court has a variety of on-site communal facilities and is close to local amenities.

Pets are more than welcome too! Housing benefit accepted.

To find out more and to arrange a viewing, call the Court Manager on **0370 192 4116** or email **Leah.Ambler@housing21.org.uk**

Howard Court | Dunstable Road | Flitwick MK45 1HN

housing21.org.uk    

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The Rufus Centre

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01525 631900 or
email**

**beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk
to check availability!**



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@NewsFTC

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

Look inside for details of a new Comedy Night, Classic House & Garage Night and Little Mix Tribute



Forget Me Not Group

Monday 10th February

1.30pm-3.30pm

Memory Boxes with Julie Tyler

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 Bob Watts

Thursday 13th February

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 up!

Stitchers

Wednesday mornings - drop-in

29th January, 5th & 19th February

10am - 12 noon

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

Painting Circle Every Thursday

Village Hall (term time only)

see page 10 inside for details

Bingo Afternoons

Village Hall

Friday 31st January at 2pm

Men's Club

Monday Afternoons

Flitwick Club

1.30pm to 3.30pm

£2 a week first week free!

A social club aimed at men **over 55.**

Play darts, dominoes & pool.

Over 60's Lunch Club

PRE-BOOK EVENT ONLY

Friday 14th February at 12.30pm

£6.50 per person (Flitwick residents)

£7.50 per person (Non-residents)

(Pre-book by 12 noon on Tuesday 11th Feb)

Main Course

Salmon en Croute with Seasonal Vegetables

Vegetarian option: Roasted Vegetable Parcels

Dessert

Chocolate Mousse with Fresh Cream