Flitwick papers

December 2018/ January 2019



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



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www.flitwick.gov.uk

/FlitwickTC

@NewsFTC

Christmas Round-Up

Quiz Night

Community Awards

Flitwick Business Group

Citizens Advice Mid Beds

Contents

Your Local Representatives										page 2
Town Council News										page 3
Town Council Diary										page 3
What's Been Happening?										page 4
The Rufus Centre										page 8
Get Involved In The Community \dots										page 9
Christmas Services										page 10
New Year, New Challenge										page 11
Local Organisation Notices										page 12
What Do They Do?										page 14
Treading The Boards With Flit Valley										page 16

Please note the Town Council office is closed from 5pm on Friday 21st December 2018 until it reopens again at 9am on Wednesday 2nd January 2019.

Your Local Representatives

Flitwick Town Councillors

Name	Contact
Janet Blakeman	712078
lan Blazeby	634585
Mark Bonner	Contact TC Office
Jeremy Dann	713751
Patrick Feerick	Contact TC Office
Adam Larkins	Contact TC Office
Ann Lutley	712837
Gareth Mackey	712537
Martin Platt	713017
Keith Quantrill	715904
John Roberts	716360
Michael Sheehan	Contact TC Office
Dan Toinko	Contact TC Office
Phillip Thompson	716 504
Maureen Williams	714714
	Janet Blakeman lan Blazeby Mark Bonner Jeremy Dann Patrick Feerick Adam Larkins Ann Lutley Gareth Mackey Martin Platt Keith Quantrill John Roberts Michael Sheehan Dan Toinko Phillip Thompson

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

Name	Contact
Fiona Chapman	290177
Charles Gomm	712328
Andrew Turner	752670

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

Telephone 0300 300 8000

Town Council News



STAFF VACANCY **Town Clerk & Chief Executive Flitwick Town Council**

Flitwick Town Council is an active, progressive and forward looking organisation. The successful candidate will play a pivotal role in delivering Town Council initiatives.

The Town Council is advertising for a Town Clerk & Chief Executive who will be responsible for all aspects of the managerial, financial and administrative areas of the dayto-day work of the Council.

Candidates will be required to complete a recruitment pack which you can download via the Council website www.flitwick.gov.uk. Please note that we are unable to accept CVs.

Should you require a hard copy of these documents, they can be picked up from The Rufus Centre from now until 21st December 2018 at 5pm or from Wednesday 2nd to Thursday 3rd January 2019 at 5.30pm.

Salary Scale: SCP 52 to SCP 56 (£48,383 to £53,401). Depending on experience.

Closing date for applications is gam on Friday 4th January 2019.

Interviews will be held on Friday 11th January Previous applicants need not apply.

The run-up to Christmas is always an extremely busy time for Flitwick Town Council as we prepare for all the Christmas celebrations. We are very grateful to the many volunteers and sponsors who have helped make our events so special for the local community. Thank you to all of you who have come along and supported the events this month which have raised over £250 for the Mayor's Charities and £364.63 for The Salvation Army. Look out for lots more community events in 2019.



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

January

10111	Planning Committee	/.45pm
10th	Business Services	7.45pm
15th	Town Council	7.45pm
23rd	Corporate Services	7.45pm
31st	Planning Committee	7.45pm

February

6th	Community Services	7.45pm
14th	Business Services	7.45pm
19th	Town Council	7.45pm
21st	Planning Committee	7.45pm

What's Been Happening?

Christmas Lights Big Switch-On

Hundreds of people braved the cold weather to join in the Christmas Lights celebrations on Sunday 25th November. Tesco car park was transformed into a festive arena with lots of different stalls and a funfair for the children. Smartie Artie entertained the crowds and Father Christmas made a special appearance.



One of the most popular attractions were the two donkeys, Milo and Digby, who had travelled from Hampshire to join us for the afternoon.

Well done to eight year old Lillie-Mae Herbert for pressing the big red button to officially light up the town!

A big thank you to the sponsors of the Christmas Lights Switch On - The Swan at Flitwick and the One-O-One Service Centre.



Trip to Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre

It was a very cold, frosty morning in November when a coach of Flitwick residents set off to Bury St Edmunds for the fantastic Annual Christmas Fayre. The weather thankfully warmed up and remained dry allowing people to sample the abundance of food and drink on offer, including a range of artisan pies and sauces and a multitude of fruit gin and liqueur stalls. There was also a range of unusual contemporary and traditional crafts, including photography and paintings. A traditional funfair provided entertainment for younger shoppers and various local musical groups and singers added to the Christmassy atmosphere.



Away from the hustle and bustle of the market, the Cathedral of St Edmundsbury offered a quiet refuge where shoppers could gaze at the stunning stained glass windows and take a moment or two for reflection. There was even an opportunity to participate in a service. A very enjoyable trip!

Christmas Raffle Prize Winners

Christmas came early for the lucky winners of the Christmas Raffle held at the Christmas Lights Switch-On. First prize of a laptop donated by Zest Solutions was won by Steve Beglan-Witt. Well done Steve! Thank you to all the other companies who donated prizes - Center Parcs, Flitwick Jewellers, Tesco and Upstage Theatre Company.



Older Persons Christmas Lunch

A wonderful time was had by 140 guests who joined us at The Rufus Centre for the Older Persons Christmas Lunch on 7th December.

Entertainment was provided by Flitwick singer Mark George and the Templefield Lower School choir who were amazing.

A traditional turkey dinner with all the trimings was served by a team of volunteers including people from the Flitwick WI, XPO Logistics and sponsors of the event, Rebecca L Faret Solicitors. Thank you to everyone who helped on the day

and to Priestley Farm Shop for donating all of the vegetables.









Christmas Carol Concert

Rounding off the Christmas Celebrations on 10th December we were delighted to welcome the biggest crowd ever to our annual Carol Concert at The Rufus Centre.

The Luton Salvation Army Band provided wonderful music for the carols and the Jubilee Singers and pupils from Flitwick Lower School gave fantastic performances to get everyone in the Christmas spirit. Readings were provided by Rev. Andrea Maffei, Flitwick Church; Deacon Philip Pugh, Sacred Heart

Catholic Church; Cllr Gareth Mackey, Cllr Philip Thompson, Cllr Ann Lutley and children from Flitwick Lower. Selected members of the audience enjoyed reading the Christmas Cracker

jokes!

Thanks to the generosity of everyone who attended we raised an amazing £364.63 for The Salvation Army.





Bus Shelters Update

Following on from our article in the last edition of Flitwick Papers we have had several requests from our residents for bus shelters in different locations around the town. We will be looking at all requests in the New Year so if you wait for a bus at a location that could benefit from a bus shelter there is still time to let us know by calling 01525 631900 or email: info@flitwick.gov.co.uk

A New Year - A New Fitter, Healthier You!

Have you got green fingers? Do you know your onions? Do you eat your greens?

If you answered yes to these, then have you considered having an allotment?

Flitwick Town Council currently has vacancies at our two sites: Steppingley Road and Station Road and now is the time to apply for one! You could be serving your very own baby potatoes in melting butter within a few months or you could try growing something a little more exotic like asparagus or chillies – the choice is yours.

The benefits are immense - allotments are good for the environment, they are a great way of keeping fit and enjoying the fresh air and can be a really sociable place so are great for meeting new people and making friends. Allotments are a place to unwind, relax and take time out from a hectic lifestyle and can be a brilliant family activity – or suit those who want a hobby of their own!

Starting one from scratch can seem daunting and yes, they do need your commitment and regular attention, but there is countless advice and suggestions to be found on the internet to inspire you. A standard plot costs £25.13 for the whole year which works out at less than 5op a week!

If you would like more information, please visit our website www.flitwick.gov.uk and click on the section for allotments. We have a welcome pack that has loads of

Keep Fit for 60+

New Year is the perfect time to start something new. If you are over 60 come and join the keep fit classes held in Flitwick during term time only. On Mondays the sessions are held at Flitwick Village Hall from 8.20am to 9.20am and feature a mix of aerobic, strengthening and stretch exercises.

On Thursday between 9am to 10am at the Royal British Legion Hall in Station Road you can join a fun packed session with gentle dance routines, aerobic and stretch exercises.

Classes cost just £4 and suit all level of fitness so everybody welcome. For more information contact Zoe Putain on 01525 631900 or email zoeputain@flitwick.gov.uk



uiz Night

The Rufus Centre Steppingley Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH

Friday 22nd February

Starting at 7pm ~ £8 per person Teams up to 8 people Includes Vegetable Lasagne, Salad & Garlic Bread Or

Chilli Con Carne, Salad & Garlic Bread

To book a team or for more information contact. susaneldred@flitwick.gov.uk 01525 631900



Organised by Flitwick Town Council proceeds to Flitwick Christmas Lights Appeal 2019



The Rufus Centre

It's very much been party time at the Rufus Centre this month. We have hosted two children's parties in our Lockyer Suite. All children had great fun on the indoor bouncy castles, soft play areas and loads of fun was had with bubble machines and face painting too. The Lockyer Suite lends itself well to children's parties and its generous space has plenty of room for the likes of bouncy castles and craft and food tables; still allowing loads of space for children to run around having fun.

We hosted a Christmas themed Ceroc dance evening on Saturday 8th December. Guests enjoyed the music and dancing, bar, cakes and coffees throughout the evening. The Ceroc nights have become a regular addition to our calendar and are well supported and great fun for all in attendance. A number of evenings are planned for next year – look out for dates on the website calendar!

On Sunday 9th December, Flitwick Scouts Group hosted their annual Christmas Party for 100 boys and girls. Great fun was had crafting, playing musical bumps and a special Christmas story was read by Santa. A great way to get everyone excited for Christmas.

Looking forward to 2019 we are busy planning anniversary parties and weddings, celebrations. If you are looking for somewhere to



hold your special event next year please give us a call - we would be delighted to show you around.

Conferences & Meetings

Once again it has been a very busy month with conference and meeting bookings at The Rufus Centre with a wide variety of businesses and organisations choosing us for their events, meetings and training days. This included the Society of Local Council Clerks, Beds and Herts Local Medical Committee, Orbit Independent Living and the East London Foundation Trust.

The Flitwick Business Group had their relaunch here early December which attracted lots of interest and we are looking forward to the next event at The Rufus Centre on Thursday 7th February.

One of the biggest events was the 'Find Your Future' event organised by Central Bedfordshire Council on 28th November. (story continued opposite...)

Tel: 01525 631905

Email: Bookings@therufuscentre.co.uk







www.therufuscentre.co.uk

The careers and employment event was divided into two sessions with local schools invited to attend the exhibition and a series of workshops in the morning and in the afternoon and evening the exhibition was open to anyone looking for inspiration for a new career, advice on apprenticeships, further education opportunities or a new



job. The event was extremely well attended with visitors travelling from across Central Beds.

Get Involved In The Community

Flitwick is proud of its community and the events that take place throughout the year that everyone can enjoy.

The Council is now working on two big events for next year, the Community Awards in April and the Flitwick Carnival in June, and we are offering some fantastic sponsorship opportunites for local businesses to be involved with.

There are a wide range of sponsorship packages available that can really help raise your profile in the local community. If you would like to know more about the opportunities on offer please email zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk or call 01525 631900.



It was good to see so many local businesses come along to the re-launch of The Flitwick Business Group on 5th December at The Rufus Centre

The organisation is set up and run by businesses in Flitwick and the surrounding towns and areas who are committed to work together to promote local trade with and between local businesses.

The group were giving an inspiring presentation by Emerson Patton, founder of Bright Business Advice and an award winning business advisor, trainer and mentor.

The next meeting takes place at The Rufus Centre on Thursday 7th February between 8.15am to 10.00am and will feature a presentation from PNC HR on Mental Health in the workplace and the support that is available to help your business.

if you are a local business owner and would like to come along please register at https:// flitwickbusinessgroup.co.uk/breakfast-networking-february-2019/



Christmas Services

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 Methodist Church

23rd December 10.30am

Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve -11.15pm

Christmas Eve Communion Service

Christmas Day - 10am

United Service

Ampthill Methodist Church

Flitwick Baptist Church Christmas Celebrations

Sunday 23rd December

Christmas Family Service 10am Tuesday 25th December

Family Christmas Day Celebrations 10am

Kings Road, Flitwick www.flitwickbaptistchurch.com

Flitwick Church of England St Peter and St Paul

Christmas Eve

2pm - Carol Service 1

4pm - Carol Service 2

6pm - Carol Service 3

11.30pm - Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am - Holy Communion

10.30am - All Age Christmas Celebration with Communion

Could You Be The Voice Of Your Community?

If you've ever thought that you would like to represent the interests of your local community and help shape decisions on the services where you live or work, then becoming a Central Bedfordshire councillor is a great way to make a difference.

Perhaps you think that 'you're not councillor material' as you don't belong to a political party or you don't see yourself as a 'stereotypical' councillor. Central Bedfordshire Council wants its residents to be well represented and believes that it is important that councillors reflect the communities they serve and bring a broad range of skills and life experience.

We have arranged an informal event as we recognise there's value in talking to councillors face-to-face to find out what's actually involved, in terms of the time and level of commitment that it takes to be an effective councillor. Come along to Priory House at 6pm on 14th January to hear first-hand from councillors, to ask questions and seek advice which should help them to decide if they want to represent their community.

You can find out more at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/be-a-councillor

New Year, New Challenge

If one of your New Year resolutions is to get active or get involved there are some great opportunities for you with local organisations and groups.

School Governor Vacancy

Kingsmoor Lower School Governing Body are currently looking for a co-opted governor to join our friendly governing body. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share a common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school.

We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:-

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community
- Has spare time and the energy for the role
- Is able to work well as part of a team
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

This is a volunteer position, Co-opted governors are not elected by a parent election but are instead appointed directly by the governing body.

For further details please contact Simon Cliff-Reid - Chair of Governors. Kingsmoor Lower School at scliff-reid@kingsmoorschool.co.uk

Anyone for Hockey?

There must be some people out there as we approach Christmas or in the New Year who would like to try something new to keep fitter and healthier! Why not come and try indoor hockey?

A weekly, hour session on Sunday at 5pm of friendly but competitive games.

equipment provided and standards welcome - beginners, experienced, men or women. We play at the Alameda Sports Hall in Ampthill.

If interested yourself or as a group of friends please contact Andrew Baker on 07714 493100.



Voluntary Treasurer Required for Local Charity

Link-A-Ride Community Transport require the services of a Treasurer to prepare financial reports and guidance to the Management Committee.

In addition, run the monthly payroll and pay suppliers. At the year end present the auditors with a final set of accounts. There are also several statutory returns to be made during the course of the year.

This is a voluntary position and would require a commitment of about 20 hours a month

If you are interested in offering your services to this charitable organisation, please contact Cheryl on 01525 840511.

Local Organisation Notices

Flitwick Health Walkers

For more details or to request a programme contact Roy 01525 715730

2nd January 10.15am

Silsoe, Outside Church

9th January 10.15am

Bedford Priory Country Park

via Danish Camp

Meet in Car Park

16th January 10.15am

Woburn Wood, Longslade Lane Car Park

23rd January 10.15am

Flitwick, Outside Library

Bedford Organ & Keyboard Club Present popular entertainer lan Griffin in Concert

Wednesday 30th January 7.30pm - 10.30pm

Refreshments/Bar/Raffle

Members £5 Non-Members £6 (Pay at the door)

For more information contact: 01234 344423 - at the Addison Centre, Kempston, Bedford, MK42 8PN

Do you have a story to tell?

If you are part of a local organisation or charity and would like your news published in a future edition of this paper, please get in touch with us via 01525 631900 or email beverleyjones@flitwick. gov.uk

Pulloxhill Players 'Pied Piper' Pantomime for all the family

Pulloxhill Church Hall Saturday 19th January at 2.30pm Friday 25th at 7.30pm

Saturday 26th January at 2.30pm & 7.30pm

(Doors open 30 minutes before performance)

Tickets: £10 Adults & £7 Children
BOX OFFICE

Gail - 07846 147408

Karen - 07512 830187

For more information contact pulloxhillplayers@virginmedia.com

Flitwick Library

For more details on other activities in January call 0300 300 8057

Friday 21st December 10.30am

Santa Craft

Saturday 22nd December 10.30am

Snowflake Craft

Saturday 12th January 11am

Language Cafe

Come along and share your language skills, learn the basics and meet new people

CHUMS Charity Cinema presents... PRETTY WOMAN

Saturday 19th January 2019 7pm Parkside Hall, Ampthill

Tickets £15 (include a drink on arrival and a luxury dessert box for the film)

Visit www.chumscharity.org or call CHUMS Charity 01525 306667.

Flitwick Young Leaders Visit to No 10

Beaver Scouts (boys and girls aged 6 to 8) got into the festive spirit when they made paper reindeer. They have also earned their cooks badge when they made pizza and fruit kebabs. The Beavers have also been trampolining and attended the Flitwick Lower School pantomime. Finley Harper said, "I really enjoyed eating my pizza, especially as I had made it myself."



The Cub Scouts (boys and girls aged 8 to 10 ½) made

Danish Hearts and gingerbread biscuits. They have also been to Laser World, had an evening problem solving and celebrated 'National Toilet Day'!

The Scouts (boys and girls aged 10 ½ to 14) have been making sedan chairs, pioneering, a VIP dinner and a film night.

Some of the Young Leaders (boys and girls aged 14 to 18) took the opportunity to visit 10 Downing Street. They were given a tour of the building and were also permitted to sit in the Cabinet Room.

Lead volunteer for the Group, Jonathan Smith was recently awarded the Chief Scout's Commendation for Good Service. The main reason for this was that since he has held the role, the number of young people in the Group has increased by over 40%.

For further information about Flitwick Scout Group please visit www. flitwickscoutgroup.org.uk

The Wildlife Trust

Monday 21st January, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall 'A Moor For All Seasons' - a talk by Nancy Reed £3 per adult

is the WLT Senior Reserves Manager for Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire. She will give an illustrated talk about the management of Flitwick Moor.

This lovely and varied site is an SSSI and one of Bedfordshire's most important reserves.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you spare some time on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th January to help take down and put away the Christmas Lights? Please contact Zoe Putain on 01525 631900 or email zoeputain@flitwick.gov.uk

What do they do?

Mid Bedfordshire

Citizens Advice Mid Beds

A thirst for knowledge; a desire to help? Join the Citizens Advice Team.

For more than 30 years Citizens Advice volunteers have been helping people in the towns and parishes of Mid Bedfordshire. With a growing population and

increased demand for its services, Citizens Advice is now looking for new volunteers to join

Citizens Advice is a registered charity that provides free, independent, confidential and impartial advice to everyone. Based at Ampthill and with an office in Biggleswade and drop in centres in Sandy and Stotfold, Citizens Advice Mid Beds currently has a team of 44 people delivering advice and information.

Volunteers help people with issues including debt, benefits, housing, employment and family matters. In the last three years the service has helped nearly 6,000 people and managed more than 11,000 cases. As well as advice-giving, the service has volunteering roles in support of social policy, fundraising and recruitment.

Typically team members volunteer for one or two of the five-hour sessions per week. The biggest attraction to the work is being able to help other people resolve often complex and varied problems, with the satisfaction of helping them to move forward.

Learn New Skills

the team.

All sorts of people volunteer for Citizens Advice. For some it is a role after retirement that offers an opportunity to learn new skills and to keep on learning. For others it is a route back into work or a change of career.

A thirst for knowledge and a willingness to undertake training on an ongoing basis is important. Volunteers are trained to use the information system provided by the national Citizens Advice organisation. Advisers and assessors receive free formal accredited training with all expenses paid.

If you are interested in volunteering or would like more information please contact

recruitment@midbedscab.cabnet.org.uk or call us on 01525 404715. We will then send you more details about the various roles and how to apply.

Citizens Advice is a registered charity and depends upon local people and organisations for its funding. If you or your company or organisation would like to provide a donation to support the important work of Citizens Advice please contact 01525 404715.

Citizens Advice based in Ampthill



Do You Know A Community Champion?

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

Nominations are now **OPEN!**

Make your nominations by Friday 15th February 2019



BUSINESS

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT

CARER



Treading The Boards with Flit Valley

The Flit Valley volunteers were busy at the end of November installing a new boardwalk on the Flit Valley Walk - where it goes through the Greenfield part of Flitwick Moor.

The Flitwick P3 Group put all the screws in the decking boards and finished tidying around it, including sawing off the rod ends.

If you are looking for a great place to walk off the excesses of Christmas make sure you head down to Flitwick Moor and admire their handiwork. It's a beautiful place to visit whatever the weather.

Article sent in by David Sedgley.







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Charter 🐙



Monday Nights

7.30pm

Instruments available to try on the night (Donations of ukuleles gratefully received)



Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Beds, MK45 1AH

For more details call Jeremy Dann 07828 508621



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Advertising Space Available

Flitwick Papers advertising space is sold on a first come, first served basis with external businesses occupying 25% of the publication.

For more details contact Beverley on 01525 631900 or email beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk

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 on the Quiz Night and Flitwick Community Awards 2019



Forget Me Not Group Monday 14th January 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Alzheimers Society on the Herbert Protocol

The Forget Me Not Group is for people with memory problems or Dementia and their carers.

Come along for a cup of tea and a chat



We welcome newcomers.



Strictly Dancing with Sandra & Richard Saturday 19th January

7.30pm - 11pm

Dances incorporate a mixture of Ballroom, Latin & Sequence steps on an excellent dancefloor. No need to book just turn up!

Men's Club Over 655 **Monday afternoons** 1.30pm - 3.30pm Flitwick Club, High Street £2 per week - first week free!

Chance to meet and socialise and play darts, dominoes and pool. Free tea, coffee and biscuits. Bi-monthly trips to places of interest. Everyone welcome.

Bingo Afternoons Last Friday of each month at 2pm Flitwick Village Hall - £1 per card

Over 60's Lunch Club

Friday 11th January at 12.30pm £7.50 per person (Flitwick residents) £8.50 per person (Non-residents) Must pre-book!

Main Course

Sausage Casserole, mash potato & seasonal vegetables

Dessert

Syrup Sponge & Custard