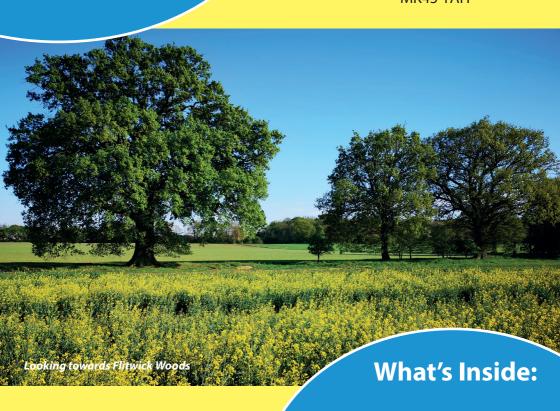
Flitwick papers

August 2020



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



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http://www.flitwick.gov.uk

/FlitwickTC

@NewsFTC

Honorary Citizen

Help Keep Flitwick Clear

New Rufus Centre Café Opens

Lunch Club Delivery



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Your Local Representatives

Flitwick Town Councillors

Thewick fown councilors					
Ward	Name	Contact			
Е	Keith Badham	630868			
W	lan Blazeby	634585			
Е	Ryan Coleman	Contact TC Office			
W	Jeremy Dann	713751			
W	Paul Dodds	07841 908862			
W	Patricia Earles	07929 638404			
E	Mike Halligan	Contact TC Office			
Е	Ann Lutley	712837			
W	Gareth Mackey	712537			
W	Martin Platt	713017			
Е	John Roberts	716360			
E	Russ Shaw	07784 867921			
W	Andy Snape	07590 572440			
W	Dan Toinko	Contact TC Office			
W	Clare Thompson	07734 866479			
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

Town Council Meeting News

Tuesday 21st July

Some residents may have been aware that we had a Councillor vacancy on the West Ward of the town. This vacancy was filled by co-option at the July Council meeting and Clare Thompson was selected by Members. You can read more about Councillor Thompson on page 5.

Councillor Badham advised that the funding application he had submitted to the Police & Crime Commissioner's Office on behalf of the Council had been successful and an impressive £5,000 had been secured. The Council planned to use this funding to install basketball hoops at the Millennium Park on the hard-standing area for the community to enjoy.

Members agreed to respond to the Central Beds Council Local Plan consultation and noted the impact some nearby developments would have on Flitwick.

Full draft Minutes from this meeting can be found on the Council website: **www.flitwick.gov.uk.**

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic

It has been a tough few months since we went into lockdown and the impact it has had on the town, like the whole country, has been devastating.

In this edition we pay tribute to two residents who made a huge contribution to the Flitwick community with Flittabus. We also send our sincere condolences to everyone who has lost loved ones during this challenging time.

The community spirit in Flitwick has been something to be proud of with people offering help and support to friends, neighbours and strangers. The Flitwick Community Lifeline have been just that with their team of volunteers. We thank everyone involved for their dedication.

The Council was delighted to receive a Certificate of Appreciation for the 'People of Flitwick' from The Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, HM Helen Nellis in recognition of their support during the Coronavirus emergency (see top right).



Town Council Diary



Committee Meetings are currently taking place online via Zoom. Members of the public are welcome to join. Please visit www. flitwick.gov.uk or email Deputy Town Clerk via stephaniestanley@flitwick.gov.uk for joining instructions.

August

4th	Community Services	7.45pm
4111	Community services	7.45pm
6th	Planning	7.45pm
13th	Business Services	7.45pm
25th	Corporate Services	7.45pm
27th	Planning	7.45pm

A Message From The Mayor

This is my sixth year on the Council and my first term as Mayor. I am grateful for my fellow councillors putting their trust in me for this year. It is an honour to serve in the role, but it is more about a team effort, and we have a very strong team. All councillors want the best for Flitwick and we all give up our time to make things better.

I want to pay tribute to last year's Mayor, Phillip Thompson, who has contributed a lot to Flitwick life, and to Councillor Gareth Mackey for managing the Community Lifeline and helping many in our community during lockdown.



Many things we do will go unseen, but where we attend public events or accept invitations, these will be publicised on the Council's Facebook page and shared as appropriate to other social media sites. You may have already seen that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Andy Snape and I, along with Councillors Russ Shaw, Maureen Williams and Patricia Earles have helped to deliver lunches to some of the regulars from our Over 60s Lunch Club. We have also started virtual councillor surgeries via the Zoom platform, and you will see plenty of opportunities to speak to your local representatives in the coming weeks and months.

What do I want to achieve during my Mayoral year? To support our local groups and organisations, to uphold our civic traditions and events and to represent Flitwick at events held by neighbouring authorities. I want to see real progress on some of the projects that seem to have been around for a long time - Station Road, the Country Park, the Burial Ground. We are looking with fresh eyes at the options available to us, but also being realistic about the resources available to us.

I want to try to capitalise on the outpouring of goodwill that accompanied lockdown, and support any initiatives that continue to help the people of Flitwick. I will continue to encourage the use of our local assets only in line with Government guidance so that we can all stay safe, and I will do anything I can to support local businesses and services to recover. I am also looking at some ideas to enhance Flitwick's 'green' credentials, and how we can all contribute to looking after the environment.

I really hope to meet as many of you as possible during the year.

Councillor Jeremy Dann Town Mayor

Honorary Citizenship Awarded To Phillip Thompson

Former Councillor, Phillip Thompson has been awarded an Honorary Citizenship for his dedication and hard work serving the Flitwick community over many years.

During his time as a Councillor, Phillip has held many senior roles including Town Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Chairman of Committees. His knowledge in assisting with projects and Council operations has been invaluable.

Phillip's commitment to representing the Council at local civic events, as well as attendance at numerous Council events from Flitwick Carnival and Classic Car & Bike Show to the Christmas Carol Concert and Over 60s Christmas Lunch, has been hugely appreciated by Flitwick Town Council.



An Honorary Citizenship is awarded by Flitwick Town Council to acknowledge the significant contribution a Flitwick resident has made to the town and to the local community.

New Councillor

We are delighted to welcome Clare Thompson to Flitwick Town Council who was coopted to serve as a Flitwick Councillor at the Town Council meeting on 21st July.

Commenting on her new appointment, Councillor Thompson said: "I grew up in Flitwick and am now a home owner in the town. I commute to London for work where I am a Senior Planning Manager for Macmillan Cancer Support, having spent my career in the charity sector. I am also a Trustee of Respite at Home Volunteers and a volunteer tutor for The Access Project.

"I am excited to take my seat on the Town Council and look forward to being part of projects to keep improving Flitwick for all its residents (present and future)."

We would like to thank all of the other candidates who put themselves forward for the Councillor vacancy. There is one more Councillor vacancy to be filled. An election for this vacancy was due to take place in May but due to Covid-19 it was suspended. As soon as a new date is announced by Central Bedfordshire Council we will publicise via social media and



our website www.flitwick.gov.uk

Flitwick Surgery - Update For Patients

To continue to protect our patients and staff from coronavirus and to adhere to government guidance the Surgery has had to to make adjustments to how we work. All appointments must be booked by calling the Surgery. Patients will be assessed by telephone call in the first instance. If a face-to-face appointment is necessary the healthcare professional will advise you on what to do.

Please do not come to the Surgery unless you've been asked to. This will ensure we can continue to provide essential care safely. If you are asked to attend the Surgery please adhere to the social distancing guidance and wear a face covering. You will be asked to wait in your vehicle and you will be called on your mobile phone when the clinician is ready to see you.

Patients requiring repeat prescriptions should do so via the Surgery website, NHS app or through their pharmacy. Paper requests at the Surgery and requests in person cannot be accepted.

The Surgery would like thank all of their patients for their support, understanding and cooperation at this time. Any changes to the above will be posted on the Surgery's website www.flitwicksurgery.co.uk

(Article sent in by Flitwick Surgery)

Help Keep Flitwick Clear!

We need everyone in the town to help make social distancing as easy as possible when we are out on our travels by ensuring that any trees or bushes on their property or land are kept trimmed back so that they do not overhang pavements or roads.

It is important that pavements are kept clear so that people do not have to step into the road to pass others when observing the social distancing rules. It is also important that there are no obstructions for other users of the pavement, including those who are partially sighted, that use a wheelchair or other mobility aid, or have a pushchair.

If you do need to cut back your trees or bushes please remember that CBC garden waste collections will only collect garden waste that is placed in the green bags.

Please do not leave shrubs, bushes or branches on the pavement outside your property, as they will not be collected and could themselves cause a hazard for people walking past.

If you spot any trees or bushes that are overhanging and causing an obstruction on the public highway please report it to Central Bedfordshire Council by calling o1525 300 8000 or you can report online by visiting https://beta.cb-report-it.co.uk/

CBC has just announced that you can swap your two green garden waste bags for a free 240 litre garden waste bin so you can recycle more of your garden waste. These can be ordered online at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/garden-bins

Lunch Club Launch Delivery Service

The Over 60s Lunch Club normally meet once a month at The Rufus Centre but with lockdown restrictions in place the club sadly had to be cancelled until further notice so instead we decided to launch a new Lunch Club delivery.

We have completed three deliveries so far with a range of delicious menus from Ploughman's Lunch to Liver and Bacon.

Thank you to all the Councillors who have given up their time to make the deliveries around the town.

We have received some fantastic feedback from residents who have enjoyed the new service and hope

that it can continue until we can welcome everyone back to The Rufus Centre again.







Funding Boost For Town Centre & Station

CBC has been awarded a grant of £2.219 million for the development of an integrated transport hub at Flitwick Rail Station. CBC has worked closely with its partners at both Network Rail and Govia Thameslink Railways (GTR) to develop proposals that will radically improve how the station functions. This includes a fully redeveloped station forecourt with new pedestrian, cycle and vehicle access; new passenger dropoff and dedicated taxi areas; a public transport interchange with three bus stops, passenger waiting areas, including real time departure information; improvements to Steppingley Road, including vehicle access to both the station and Tesco opposite, and dedicated facilities for Center Parcs Woburn passenger collection and drop off.

The grant is the result of a collaboration between CBC and the South East Midlands Local Economic Partnership (SEMLEP) and has been awarded as part of the Government's new Getting Building Fund. The funding will be added to the council's existing investment in this scheme which, combined, will total in excess of £4 million. The scheme will form the basis of a planning application which is due to be submitted

by the end of August. Construction of the hub is scheduled to be complete by March 2022.

Share Your Story On Our New Website

Would you like to promote your event, club or business on our new website? We want to include information on community events happening in the town, all the local sports clubs, groups and organisations, local businesses, and stories and images of Flitwick past and present.

We will be sharing more information about how you can get involved on social media in the coming weeks but if you would like to know more please contact Beverley on 01525 631900 or email beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk

Christmas Lights

Flitwick Town Council has agreed plans to transform the Christmas Lights display in the town this year, with a whole new look to the festive illuminations.

The contract for the new Christmas Lights has been awarded to a new supplier Lamps and Tubes Illuminations, who are responsible for a number of Christmas Lights installations across many towns in Central Bedfordshire, as well across the UK.

The Council would like to thank Andrew Woolgar and Peter Bottoms for all their support and help in installing the Christmas Lights in Flitwick over a number of years, and to all the volunteers who have helped with the installation over that time.

Stitchers Community Tree

Christmas Project Taking Shape

We're delighted at the response so far to the new Stitcher's project for a Community Christmas Tree made from knitted, crocheted, felt or square fabric to go on display in the town.

Many people have used lockdown to take the time to make green squares to be used for the project.

The Christmas Tree will be made up of green squares measuring 6", 8", 10" and 12". There's no limit to the amount of squares that can be used. The height and dimension of the tree will be set by the number of squares created so the more squares donated the more prominent the tree will be!



You can be as creative as you like as there are no patterns or parameters except for the sizes and the base colour has to be a shade of green.

It's a great project for all the community to get involved with.



If you have already created some squares you can drop them down to The Rufus Centre when convenient.

If you would like more information please contact Zoe Putwain, Community Services Assistant, for more information on 01525 631900 or email zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk



Cattle To Return To Manor Park

Cattle will return to the paddock in Manor Park this month. Two cows with a calf each and one bull, all Limousin-crosses, will be placed in the paddock for grazing.

The paddock will be fenced off to visitors but you will be able to see them settling in to their new home and watch their progress in their new surroundings.

Low intensity grazing of the paddock will

benefit the area greatly, by reducing the dominance of course grasses and creating patches of bare ground for wildflowers to germinate and get established.

All grazing animals are to some extent selective in what they eat, and so grazing will allow the development of a varied structure within the grassland which is important to invertebrates, birds and mammals.

It will also hugely reduce the reliance on mechanical cutting in turn making the management of the area greener and more forgiving on the site, its natural features and its wildlife.

We will feature some photographs of the cattle in their new home in the next edition of Flitwick Papers.

An outdoor cinema is coming to The Rufus Centre field later this month organised by Out There Cinema.

Films will be shown on Friday 21st August to Sunday 23rd August with screenings during the day and evening showing Dirty Dancing, Jurrasic Park, Bohemian Rhapsody, Toy Story, Shrek and Frozen.

Special picnic boxes are available to order in advance from the new Rendezvous Café and Bar. There will also be refreshments available to purchase on the day.

For more information please visit: www.outtherecinema.co.uk



Open Air Cinema



The Rufus Centre

We may have not been busy here at The Rufus Centre with bookings due to lockdown restrictions but we have had lots of activity going on inside the buildina!

There has been a major refurbishment programme taking place to invest in our facilities to attract new business for conferences and meetings and to provide a fantastic event venue and community space in the town.

The biggest transformation is the new café which opened on Monday 3rd August for all the community to enjoy. The Rendezvous Café & Bar is open Monday to Friday between 8am and 3pm for breakfast, lunch, freshly ground coffee and delicious cakes.

We also have a outside seating area to enjoy the summer weather.



New Take Away Picnic Boxes & Afternoon Tea Menu

During lockdown we launched a new range of takeaway picnic boxes for you to enjoy at home or out and about.

The response has been amazing. Picnic boxes start at £10 and we also offer an Afternoon Tea menu. You can choose your cakes, sandwiches and savouries. We also offer a Cheese Lovers Box, Children's Picnic Box and Mini Feast Special.

A range of dietary requirements from vegan and vegetarian to gluten free and dairy free can be catered for.

You can view the range of menus on our website at www. therufuscentre.co.uk. Order by 2pm for availability the next day. Book via our Facebook page or by email at catering@the rufusentre.co.uk or call 07756 651865.





Tel: 01525 631905

Email: bookings@therufuscentre.



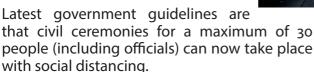




www.therufuscentre.co.uk

Weddings & Civil Ceremonies

The wedding industry has faced some particularly difficult challenges with lockdown, as plans that have been in place for months (and years) were turned upside down. Fortunately for all of the weddings we had booked at The Rufus Centre we have been able to re-schedule for other dates.



Originally, there had been an announcement that wedding receptions for up to 30 could take place from 1st August but this has been put on hold. We are planning to make it easier for those who are looking to get married with a special inclusive package for a civil ceremony and reception which we will announce when they are given the green light! To find out more please call the Weddings Team on 01525 631905.





We're Ready When You Are

The Rufus Centre is now set-up for socially distanced meetings with strict measures in place to ensure socially distanced meetings can take place safely. Extra precautions have been organised to ensure that the venue is Covid-19 safe. With the change to people working from home we realise that there will still be a need for people to meet face to face in a safe and secure way.

To help with this we have launched new short term meeting rates so that if you only want to meet for an hour or two with your team or with a client you have the flexibility to do so.

For more information on what we can offer please contact bookings on 01525 631905 or email bookings@the rufuscentre.co.uk

Are You Looking For Office Space?

We have two fully serviced rooms available for rent. We offer ample car parking and fantastic on site catering. Contact Jon Barkat, The Rufus Centre Manager for more information or if you would like to look round on 01525 631905 or email jon@flitwick.gov.uk

Flitwick Library Update

Library "Select and Collect" service coming soon!

We are busy working towards reopening all libraries across Central Bedfordshire with a Select and Collect service later in the summer. Select and Collect is our first step in resuming our library service and it will enable you to request books. In the meantime, we would like to reassure you that no charges will be incurred during the temporary closure of libraries. Please continue to hold on to your items until we can arrange a safe way for you to return them once we reopen. We please ask that if you find out the start date and know of anyone local to you who does not have the ability to go online, and who you think would benefit from the library "Select and Collect" service, please pass on the information via word of mouth so that as many people as possible can benefit from this new service over the phone as well as online. Thank you!

Silly Squad, Children's Summer Reading Challenge 2020!

This year's Summer Reading Challenge is taking an online twist! Firstly, instead of just 6 weeks, it's been extended to 3 months and started on Friday June 5th! Find loads of great e-books, audiobooks and magazines for children free to download from our RBDigital and Borrowbox virtual libraries. All you need to do is download the apps and login with your library card number and pin. Be sure to visit www.centralbedfordshire. gov.uk/libraries and click on the "Silly Squad" image, then choose the Penguin for Central Bedfordshire Libraries. Here you can find links to our e-resources apps, fantastic children's book lists for ideas on what to read, and most importantly, to sign up to the reading challenge! Record what books you've read (they don't have to be silly) and unlock amazing online activities and games to do from home! Keep an eye out on your walks around town too as some of the Silly Squad have been released on painted rocks! Use #LibraryRocks and tag on Facebook @CBCLibraries if you spot any!

Visit the library from the comfort of your sofa!

Discover the wide range of online services and resources available through the Virtual Library www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries, including e-books, audio books and e-magazines. Not a member? Don't worry you can register or request a PIN online. Other resources including newspapers, are available online by logging in with library card number and pin. Visit the Virtual Library today and check out the follow:

- BorrowBox downloadable audiobooks
- RB Digital downloadable e-books, audiobooks and magazines all in one place
- · PressReader Thousands of national and international newspapers and magazines to be read online or downloaded
- Freegal Millions of tracks to be streamed for up to 5 hours a day or download 5 tracks a day to keep

Social Media, follow us for great online events!

Facebook - @CBCLibraries

Instagram - @CentralBedsLibraries

Twitter - @CBC_Libraries

Events include, Lego Club, Story & Rhymetime, Drawing, Crafts, Code Club and many more!

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this time.

(Article sent in by Flitwick Library)

Special Award For Sir Tom

Captain Sir Tom Moore, the 100-year-old war veteran whose record-breaking fundraising efforts captured the nation's hearts has received a prestigious award after support from his local, Bedfordshire-based Rotary club.

Rotary International, which is one of the world's largest humanitarian service organisations, has recognised Captain Sir Tom with a Paul Harris Fellowship Award.

This is Rotary's most prestigious honour, named after the organisation's founder, and recognises those who have made substantial contributions to society, humanitarian efforts and charitable works.

The Award which has been championed by Flitwick Vale Rotary Club, who are based close to Captain Sir Tom's home in Bedfordshire, was given during a virtual ceremony held over Zoom. The club have also inducted him as an honorary member.

On receiving the award, a family spokesperson said; "We've loved seeing the success and achievement of other fundraisers, young and old, who have been inspired by Captain Sir Tom's walk.

"The support and togetherness that communities are showing across the country, including by Rotary clubs and volunteers, in such challenging circumstances is really heart-warming."

Captain Sir Tom, who aimed to raise £1,000 in aid of NHS Charities Together in the weeks leading up to his 100th birthday by walking laps of his garden, ended up raising more than £32 million.

His positive spirit and determination during the challenging times of the COVID-19 pandemic, have been an inspiration for so many across the country and around the world.

David Straughan, President of Flitwick Vale Rotary Club commented; "Rotary's values are all about going above and beyond to support those who need it most. Our motto is 'Service Above Self' and no one has personified that quite like Captain Sir Tom. As his local club we were extremely keen to recognise his achievements."

His efforts have led to a knighthood, two Guinness World Records and a number-one charity single.

Rotary clubs around the country have been involved in hundreds of projects to support their local communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has ranged from providing local foodbanks with donations, engaging local school pupils with online competitions, to offering essential items and support to key workers.

To get involved in Rotary and make a difference in your community, visit:

www.rotarygbi.org/join

(Article sent in by The Rotary Club of Flitwick Vale)

Obituary

It is will great sadness that Flittabus announce the loss on 24th March 2020 of Chairman Paul Heerey after 19 days in the Critical Care Unit of Bedford Hospital.

Paul will have been known to many passengers as he drove six scheduled routes during the week and was a regular driver on Flittabus trips and Flitwick Town Council journeys. He gave so much of his time to Flittabus and would always offer to step in at short notice if a route was short of a driver.

Paul moved to this area with his wife Linda in 1987 to take up a new role with his employer NatWest in London. After many years of working in the capital he transferred closer to home as a business manager in Milton Keynes and then Bedford.

He progressed through several senior management appointments before taking early retirement in 2015 after more than 37 years service. However, he was very active in retirement, working as a Banking Consultant within his own company H and I. He also gave his time to Wenta, a charity helping small business start-ups. When Paul moved to the area, he joined the local Round Table and then the 41 Club. He was also the Treasurer of Bedford Castle Rotary Club helping to raise money for charity.

Paul was a keen cyclist and had lots of fun as a member of Ampthill cyclists of which he had recently become the Chairman. Last but not least he enjoyed walking holidays with Linda too.

Flittabus was one of the first organisations benefitting from Paul's early retirement when he joined as a driver in December 2015. When Paul committed to an organisation he fully committed, so he became secretary in April 2017 and took over as Chairman in March 2019 when John Thorpe the previous Chairman retired

Recently Paul had been instrumental In working with residents in Harlington to establish a new route to Milton Keynes and was constantly working to improve and adapt routes to ensure that Flittabus met the needs of the local community.

The committee and all members of Flittabus will miss Paul hugely and send condolences to his wife Linda and son Richard.

Paul Heerev

On Friday, March 27th March 2020 Flittabus lost a long standing, much respected and popular member of the committee, John Bromley. After joining Flittabus as a driver, becoming a regular on the Wednesday routes to Bedford, John joined the committee in May 2012.

During his eight years of tireless work on the committee, John's engineering knowledge and love of motor vehicles meant he was the ideal person to oversee maintenance of the buses. John was also the first Flittabus member that new volunteers would meet when he carried out their initial driver assessment. This he did in his typical calm, kind way, making allowances for nerves but always setting high standards.

John was generous with his time, always available on the end of the phone if drivers had concerns about the bus they were driving and willing to tackle mechanical problems no matter what the weather. We thank Ann for being there, supporting her husband in the long standing service he gave to the community in so many ways.

In the words of his children, Sara and Jon, "He was passionate about many things: cars, cricket, old tractors, motor racing, amateur dramatics, liquorice, Carry On films, Marmite, crosswords, the music of Queen (always played too loud), chips, fireworks, Christmas lights and his pets, but, most of all, doing the right thing."

John will be greatly missed by us all at Flittabus for his hard work, expertise and good humour and his family are very much in our thoughts at this sad time.



John Bromley

Thank you to Flittabus for providing these fitting tributes to Paul and John. Both gentlemen leave a huge void in the community. We thank them sincerely for all of their dedication and support to the Flittabus service and to the local community, and send our deepest sympathies to their familes.

Get In Touch

You can call us on 01525 631900 or email: info@flitwick.gov.uk

Our events and regular activities are suspended until further notice. As soon as we have more news of future events we will let you know. See page 9 for details of Open Air Cinema at The Rufus Centre

All of these activities will be up running again soon so watch this space....

