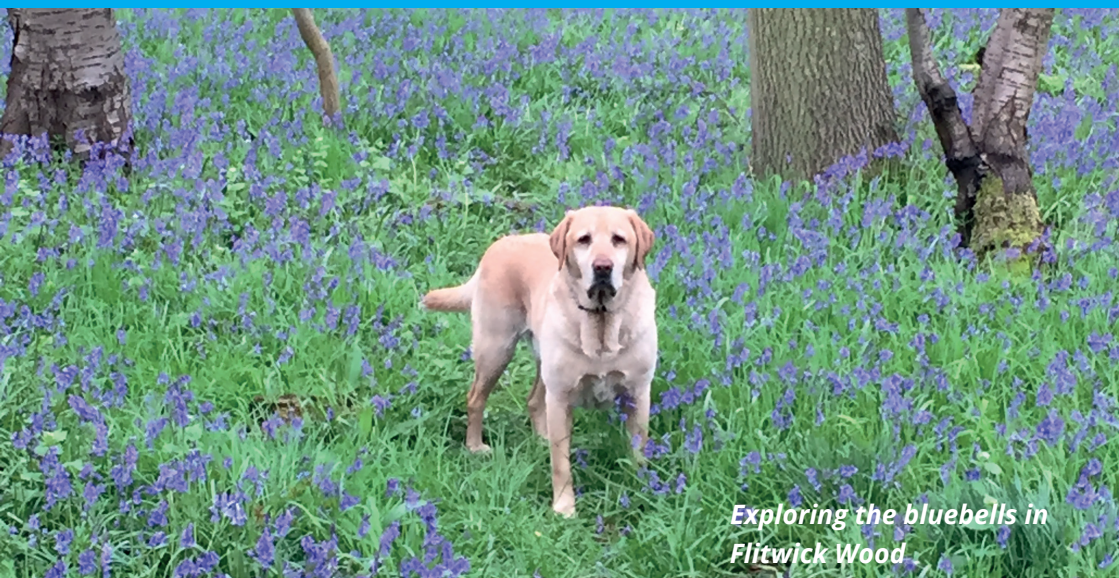


# Flitwick Papers

## Summer 2021



*Exploring the bluebells in  
Flitwick Wood*

## What's Inside...

- Calendar Competition
- Flitwick Youth Panel
- 'Happy to Chat' Benches
- New Outdoor Gyms

## What's On...

- Friday Nights@Rendezvous:  
Live Music, 18th June
- Flitwick Foodie Fest: 27th June,  
25th July, 29th Aug & 26th Sept
- Scarecrow Festival:  
3rd-10th July



### Flitwick Town Council

The Rufus Centre  
Steppingley Road  
Flitwick  
Bedfordshire  
MK45 1AH

### Follow Us



t: 01525 631900  
e: [info@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:info@flitwick.gov.uk)  
w: [flitwick.gov.uk](http://flitwick.gov.uk)

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## Your Town Councillors

Contact your Town Councillors via email: [firstnamesurname@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:firstnamesurname@flitwick.gov.uk) or call using the numbers below.

| Ward | Name             | Contact      |
|------|------------------|--------------|
| E    | Keith Badham     | 630868       |
| W    | Ian Blazeby      | 634585       |
| E    | Ashwin Chacko    | 07515 739026 |
| W    | Jeremy Dann      | 713751       |
| W    | Paul Dodds       | 07841 908862 |
| W    | Patricia Earles  | 07929 638404 |
| E    | James Gleave     | 07958 350159 |
| E    | Howard Hodges    | 717778       |
| E    | Ann Lutley       | 712837       |
| W    | Gareth Mackey    | 712537       |
| W    | Martin Platt     | 713017       |
| E    | John Roberts     | 716360       |
| E    | Russ Shaw        | 07784 867921 |
| W    | Andy Snape       | 07590 572440 |
| W    | Dan Toinko       | 649992       |
| W    | Clare Thompson   | 07734 866479 |
| W    | Maureen Williams | 714714       |

Flitwick Town Council deal with: Allotments, Burial Ground, Community Grants, Environmental Improvements, Events and Activities, Play Areas, Parks and Open Spaces, Manor Park, Youth Hub, Hub Car Park and The Rufus Centre.

**Telephone 01525 631900**

### 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**

I hope this edition of Flitwick Papers finds you safe and healthy and that you are looking forward to slowly returning to some form of normality after what has been a challenging time for everyone in our community.

As Town Mayor, I'd like to formally welcome Cllr Howard Hodges and Cllr Ashwin Chacko to the Council. Our two new Councillors bring a wealth of skills and experience and take us back to the full complement of 17 members. We have a very motivated and capable team of Councillors serving on Flitwick Town Council supported by an excellent staff team. Your Councillors are here to help you with any local issues - please get in touch.



Many of you will know that an important part of the Town Mayor's role is to raise money for charity. I have chosen to support **Respite at Home Volunteers West Mid Beds and Ivel Valley** and **Mind BLMK**. Both charities do fantastic work within our local community and are helping people to recover from the impact of COVID-19.

Finally, I want to take the opportunity to draw your attention to a new campaign run by local residents to make Flitwick a 'Hedgehog Friendly Town'. This group of volunteers are keen to make sure Flitwick's hedgehog population flourishes in a town where hedgehogs have made their home. Please take a look at their article in this edition of Flitwick Papers.

We have a very busy calendar of community events over the summer, and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible.

Cllr Andy Snape  
Town Mayor

Meetings Calendar

June

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 10th | Business Services  |
| 15th | Town Council       |
| 22nd | Corporate Services |
| 23rd | Planning           |
| 24th | Personnel          |

July

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 6th  | Community Services |
| 8th  | Business Services  |
| 15th | Planning           |
| 20th | Town Council       |
| 27th | Corporate Services |

August

|      |                    |
|------|--------------------|
| 3rd  | Community Services |
| 5th  | Planning           |
| 12th | Business Services  |
| 24th | Corporate Services |
| 26th | Planning           |

Meetings start at 7.30pm  
View the full Meetings Calendar  
[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk)  
Joining instructions can be found on  
the meeting agenda or contact:  
[stephaniestanley@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:stephaniestanley@flitwick.gov.uk)

## Share Your Views

How do you see the Town? We want to hear residents' views on a new draft Flitwick Town Council Strategy 2021-2025, launched at the Annual Town Meeting on 6th May.

The draft strategy sets out the broad vision and ethos of Flitwick Town Council and includes a more focused view of the Council's updated priorities for the next four years.

The consultation will enable the Council to understand residents' strength of feeling about the new 'vision' for the Town and the main themes that will be the focus of the Council's activities.

You can view the draft strategy and share your views by completing a short online survey on the Flitwick Town Council website [www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk). Scan the QR code below to take you directly to the page.

Alternatively, paper copies of the survey are available to pick up from the Town Council offices at The Rufus Centre. You can also call 01525 631900 or email [info@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:info@flitwick.gov.uk) to request a copy of the survey and draft strategy document to be sent to you.

Thank you to everyone who has responded to the consultation so far. The consultation has been extended to **13th June 2021**. All feedback will be used to inform the Council's adoption of a final strategy document at the Town Council meeting in June.

[Scan the QR Code to view the draft strategy and complete the online survey](#)





## Meet Your New Councillors

Flitwick Town Council is delighted to welcome two new Councillors for East Ward. Howard Hodges was elected Town Councillor in the local elections on 6th May. Ashwin Chacko was co-opted to serve as a Councillor at the Town Council meeting on 18th May.

Commenting on his co-option Councillor Chacko, who has lived in Flitwick for six years said: "I'm passionate for this town and its needs. I will aim to work towards ensuring the town continues to offer community space, infrastructure to support the town's growth and making it safer for all groups. I hope to work and interact for you all."

Councillor Hodges has had a long career in IT and is currently an IT Problem Management specialist for a construction group.

"I've lived in Flitwick for over 20 years, and I love the character of the area. I'm keen to protect the open spaces we have which can be used for recreation and to preserve the green belt where we can. I commend the Council for the provision of play areas in the town, and for the development of Flitwick Manor Park for residents."

With the co-option of Councillor Ashwin Chacko, and the election of Councillor Howard Hodges, the Town Council is now back to a full 17 Councillors.



*Cllr Ashwin Chacko*



*Cllr Howard Hodges*

### Committee Structure 2021/22

At the May Town Council meeting, Cllr Andy Snape was elected Town Mayor and Cllr Jeremy Dann elected Deputy Town Mayor.

The Committee Chairs for 2021/22 are:

**Business Services** - Cllr Andy Snape; **Community Services** - Cllr Clare Thompson; **Corporate Services** - Cllr Ian Blazeby; **Personnel** - Cllr Keith Badham and **Planning** - Cllr Paul Dodds.

# Annual Report

The Annual Town Meeting on 6th May was held online this year, for the first time in its history. Despite this, we were delighted that a number of residents were able to join us virtually.

The Annual Report was presented by Cllr Jeremy Dann, Town Mayor 2020/21. Reviewing one of the most challenging years for everyone, Cllr Dann's report commented on different areas of work the Council had been able to carry out, when lockdown restrictions permitted.

Although many events had to be cancelled, staff have kept in touch with residents who regularly attend events, preparing online activity packs for children and arranging home deliveries for people who normally attend the Over 60s Lunch Club with the help of some Councillors and volunteers.

The pandemic has seen the people of Flitwick being very creative and supportive in helping their neighbours, offering their time to the Community Lifeline. Volunteers have shone through helping people in so many ways, including helping the Vaccine Hub at The Rufus Centre run smoothly.

Refurbishment of many areas of The Rufus Centre has taken place. The opening of the Rendezvous Café & Bar has been a great success and is already a popular meeting place for the community.

A lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to set the stage for a range of improvements to how the Council delivers services. The Council has reviewed a number of areas and will be seeking a formal accreditation for how it operates through the Local Council Award Scheme (LCAS).

Members have also worked on a draft Strategic Plan on how we see Flitwick and the Town Council developing over the next five years, and what might be our priorities for developing services and amenities. The public consultation on this is still open and we hope that residents will take the opportunity to contribute to the future of Flitwick.

**You can read the Annual Report, with individual reports from all committees, by visiting our website [www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk) or if you would like a copy sent to you please email [info@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:info@flitwick.gov.uk) or call 01525 631900**



*Lunch Club Home Delivery*



*Vaccination Hub Volunteers*



*Rendezvous Café & Bar*

Special presentations took place at The Rufus Centre at the beginning of May to the winners of the Flitwick Community Awards 2020.

Like so many events, our original plans for the Community Awards evening scheduled for April last year had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. The presentations were made by Councillor Jeremy Dann (Town Mayor 2020/2021).



Recipient of The Rowland-Thomas 'Lifetime Achievement' Award was Lynda Gazeley (*pictured above*) for all her work, support and dedication to Flitwick Eagles Football Club. The Stephen Mitchell 'Local Hero' Award was presented by Marcia Mitchell to Ian Cook (*pictured below with Marcia Mitchell*), who has worked tirelessly for the Step Free Access campaign.

Congratulations to all the winners and to everyone who was nominated. Thank you for your dedication and contribution to our community.

News of the relaunch of the Flitwick Community Awards 2022 will be published in the autumn.

### Award Winners:

Lifetime Achievement - **Lynda Gazeley**

Local Hero - **Ian Cook**

Local Business - **Littles Freedom Fit**

Local Organisation - **The Big Beds Clean Up**

Local Group - **Forget Me Not Volunteers**

Volunteer - Joint Winners:

**Sue Ashton** (*Sea Cadets*)

**Judy Jeffs & Sue Lister** (*Stitchers' Project Group*)

Community Facilitator -

**George Karaiskou** (*The Big Beds Clean Up*)

Carer - **Christina Moore**

### Town Mayor's Thanks:

**Michael Eves** (*Royal British Legion*) & **Cllr Martin Platt**

*Visit [www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk) to view photographs of all the presentations*



# FLITWICK YOUTH PANEL

# YOUTH DECIDE

*CALLING ALL FLITWICK YOUNG PEOPLE  
AGE 13–18 YEARS*



## HAVE YOUR SAY!

*Flitwick Youth Panel are launching soon & are  
looking for members .*

*If you are interested in becoming a  
**YOUTH** Councillor, please contact  
[susandred@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:susandred@flitwick.gov.uk)*



Organised by Flitwick Town Council

For more information: 01525 631900 or [susandred@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:susandred@flitwick.gov.uk)



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



## Fundraising Launches For Town Mayor's Charities

The first fundraising event for the Town Mayor's chosen charities for 2021/22 took place on 21st May with a Coffee Morning at the Village Hall during Flitwick Market – the first coffee morning this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

A total of £94 was raised during the morning which will be split between the two charities; Mind BLMK and Respite at Home Volunteers West Mid Beds and Ivel Valley.

Mind BLMK works across the community to support positive mental health and wellbeing. Working closely with a range of partners, the charity offers a number of activities from their wellbeing centres and local venues to make a difference to the mental health and wellbeing of people in Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes. Their aim is to make sure that no one has to face a mental health problem alone.

Respite at Home Volunteers are a group of amazing, caring people who give up their free time to help and support people with life limiting illnesses and give their families and carers some respite and time off from caring for their loved ones.

***Look out for more fund raising events in aid of the Town Mayor's charities later this year, including the Calendar Photo Competition on page 20.***



### Share Your Story

We're delighted to return to printed editions of Flitwick Papers instead of digital only.

If you have a story to share please get in touch with us via email:

beverleyjones@flitwick.gov.uk or call us on 01525 631900.

Flitwick Papers is initially returning on a quarterly basis so the next issue will be published in September.

### Come And Work With Us!

The Council is looking for a part time Administration Officer to join our Corporate Services Team.

You will be the lead person for taking and preparing minutes for Council meetings and provide key administrative support. For more information and to download an application pack visit:

[www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk) or call 01525 631900.

Closing date: **14th June 2021**



## For The Love Of Hedgehogs

An exciting campaign is underway in Flitwick to help Britain's iconic spikey little friends. With talks on the local radio, leaflet drops and ambitious plans, enthusiastic volunteers are keen to make sure Flitwick's hedgehog population flourishes in a town where hedgehogs have made their home.

The last few decades have seen an alarming decline in hedgehog numbers and reasons include less places for hogs to roam to find food and mates. A hedgehog can cover up to 2km in one night looking for slugs and other creepy crawlies, making them a formidable natural pesticide.

Since starting this March, the campaign email address has been busy with Flitwick residents sending in photos of their nocturnal visitors. They encourage them by cutting a 13cm x 13cm 'hedgehog highway' into a gate, fence or wall. This size means dogs can't get through but hedgehogs can.

Many residents also provide fresh water along with supplementing their natural diet with some kibble or meaty cat or dog food (not mealworms) and enjoy seeing hogs snuffling around in their garden.

Not using pesticides so hedgehogs don't eat poisoned snails and slugs is a big help, as is ensuring ponds have a sloped side or escape ramp for any who might fall in. Also, building a log pile or a hog house using British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) templates encourage hogs to sleep or nest in gardens.

Often reported in Flitwick is the amount of hedgehog casualties on our roads. Hedgehog's eyesight is poor and won't see a speeding car until it's too late. Their defence mechanism is to curl into a ball when threatened which is no match for a vehicle. So please slow down.

If you find a hedgehog staggering around, lying still (not in a nest) with flies around it or spread out in the sun, or otherwise obviously sick or injured, use gardening gloves or a towel to gently pick it up, put it inside in a newspaper lined box, cover with a towel or fleece and offer some meaty cat or dog food and water. Once the hedgehog is settled, call the BHPS on 01584 890 801 or a vet for further advice.

**If you would like to join the campaign to make Flitwick a 'Hedgehog Friendly Town' or have any questions, please get in touch by emailing Helena at [hogspot@outlook.com](mailto:hogspot@outlook.com)**

*Thank you to Helena from Hog Spot for sending in this story!*





## LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

COME HUNGRY!

12pm-6pm

Millennium Park, Flitwick  
MK45 1HP

## Forget Me Not

A group to support carers and people with  
memory problems or Dementia

1:30pm—3:30pm

At The Rufus Centre

Steppingly Road, Flitwick, MK45 1AH

Drop-in Sessions — Come Along and Join Us

July 12th

August 10th

September 14th

October 11th

November 8th

December 13th

The sessions provide vital support because not only are loved ones looked after by devoted volunteers, but carers can spend time sharing their experiences and supporting one another whilst facing the intensely challenging process of caring for somebody with Dementia or memory problems. Carers are welcome to come along on their own if they wish.

It can be quite daunting to turn up to a new group but one thing's for sure, if you want to speak to people in a similar situation to you, Flitwick Forget Me Not Group is a good place to start.

Healthcare professionals do not run it but the carers who come along regularly say they get a lot of invaluable help and support from it.



Organised by Flitwick Town Council

For more information: 01525 631900 or [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk)

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

[f /FlitwickTC](https://www.facebook.com/FlitwickTC)

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

## Forget Me Not Returns

The Forget Me Not group will return to meetings in person on **12th July** at The Rufus Centre.

The group meets once a month to support carers and people with memory problems or Dementia and is run by a wonderful group of volunteers.

These are drop-in sessions so there is no need to pre-book.

*Congratulations to the Forget Me Not volunteers who were winners of the Local Group category in the Flitwick Community Awards (see page 7 for more details)*

## Who's Your Hero?

We are celebrating heroes this summer in Flitwick's first ever Scarecrow Festival taking place **3rd to 10th July**.

Perhaps your hero is someone in your family, someone who has helped you through lockdown - a doctor or nurse, or maybe a comic book hero such as superman!

This is your chance to get creative, and recycle old clothes and accessories to make your scarecrow stand out from the crowd.

The festival is free to enter but you need to complete an entry form to take part. Download a copy from our website [www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk), email [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk) or call 01525 631900. Alternatively pick up an entry form from the Town Council offices at The Rufus Centre or on our stall at Flitwick Market when we are there on the first and third Friday of the month.



*A special map featuring all the entries will be available to download from our website so you can explore at your leisure!*

## Happy to Chat? Take a Seat!

Lockdown restrictions have made it very difficult for people to connect with one another, with many people feeling lonely and isolated.

Now that restrictions are lifting the Council is launching 'Happy to Chat' benches to encourage conversations in the community and help bring people together. The scheme has been popular in other parts of the country and we are hoping that it will be popular in Flitwick too.

You'll be able to spot the designated 'Happy to Chat' benches by special signs. They are in three locations; Dunstable Road, near to the entrance of Manor Park and the bench at the top end of Manor Park.

We hope residents will take the opportunity to meet new people. If you see someone sitting on their own why not stop and have a chat?

Please share your experiences of the 'Happy to Chat' benches with us - we would love to get your feedback on the scheme. Please email: [stacielockey@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:stacielockey@flitwick.gov.uk) or call 01525 631900.



FLITWICK'S FIRST

# SCARECROW FESTIVAL



**FREE  
ENTRY**

**Theme:  
HEROES!**


**DISPLAY  
YOUR SCARECROW  
FROM  
SATURDAY 3rd JULY  
TO  
SATURDAY 10th JULY**

Celebrate your favourite hero!  
Scarecrows can be BIG or SMALL,  
just get creative!



Organised by Flitwick Town Council

For more information: 01525 631900 or [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk)

 @NewsFTC

 /FlitwickTC

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

## Speed Watch Need You!

We are looking to launch a new Speed Watch group in Flitwick and Steppingley and we need volunteers to help run the scheme.

The Community Speed Watch is a scheme to help residents reduce the dangers, and impact, of traffic speeding through their neighbourhood. Groups are formed by local community volunteers, with the aim of making the community a safer, better, place to live.

All volunteers are police trained and insured.



**If you would like to volunteer for the Flitwick & Steppingley Speed Watch group please contact Stacie Lockey, Environmental Services Manager on 01525 631900 or email [stacielockey@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:stacielockey@flitwick.gov.uk)**

## Queen's Award Nominations Open

Nominations are now open for The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service (QAVS) 2022, the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK.

The Award was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's Coronation and is the MBE for volunteer groups, awarded for life.

If you would like to nominate one of our amazing local groups for the award and national recognition, you need to complete an online form.

Nominations close on **15th September 2021.**

The Awards are published each year on 2nd June, the anniversary of Her Majesty's coronation.

For more information and access to the online nomination form please visit: <https://qavs.culture.gov.uk/>





Another big event in the community calendar that had to be put on hold due to lockdown restrictions was the presentations to the winners of the first ever Flitwick Festive Fun competition. These finally took place in April!

The competition was held in December to help brighten up the town over the festive period with the finalists going to the public vote to decide on the overall winners.

Each winner received a trophy and £100 to donate to a registered charity of their choice. Congratulations to:

### **Best Shop Front, School or Community Building:**

#### **Lowe-Go's Embroidery and Printwear**

Chosen charity - The Need Project

### **Best Window Display - Matthew Wilding**

Chosen charity - British Heart Foundation

### **Best Outdoor Display - Lesley & Oliver Barrett**

Chosen charity - Bowel Cancer UK



*Lesley & Oliver Barrett*



*Matthew Wilding*

*A big thank you to everyone who entered the competition and to all those who took the time to vote for their favourite displays.*

*Look out for news of Flitwick Festive Fun 2021 later this year!*



*Michala Lowe  
Lowe-Go's*

## Wildflower Project Flourishes

Wildflower corridors in Millennium Park, Hinksley Road Recreation Ground and Station Road green space are now in place.

A stone burier machine made light work of preparing the soil in April before the Public Realm Team scattered the wildflower seeds.

Wildflower corridors help bee and butterfly populations, providing an important source of pollen and nectar for pollinating insects. They also provide habitat and food, directly and indirectly, for many other species.

The Town Council is also planning wildflower corridors at The Rufus Centre field and ditches. If you have suggestions where you would like to see new wildflower corridors please get in touch.

Look out for news on how you can volunteer to get involved in maintaining the wildflower corridors and help with selective weeding and litter picking so that these beautiful areas can flourish naturally.



## Cattle Return To Manor Park

Limousin-cross cattle returned to graze in the paddocks in Manor Park in June.

Manor Park is maintained in line with a Natural England Stewardship Scheme. The Stewardship Scheme provides funding towards the maintenance of the park, and requires grassland in the paddocks to be managed and improved. Cattle are the best and recommended way to manage wetland grass. Cattle grazing helps maintain the structure and composition of wildlife habitats upon which a variety of plants and animals depend for their survival.

Look out for the new arrivals next time you visit Manor Park!



A big thank you to Samuel Humphrey who has just completed three months of litter picking at Hinksley Road Recreation Ground as part of his volunteering commitment for the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Samuel, a Year 9 student at Redborne Upper School, has collected a huge amount of litter since he started the campaign in February, keeping a litter picking journal each week of what he has found in the field and hedgerow as evidence for the Award.

The Council is very grateful for Samuel's hard work clearing the litter, but it's been very disappointing to read his journal and see exactly how much litter is being left on a regular basis.

Samuel said:

*"If we all took responsibility of taking home our own litter, the countryside would remain a fresher and cleaner place. Manmade material never breaks down but we keep making more and more of it. Everyone can spare five minutes in picking up their litter, dog poo, cans and bottles which causes harm to communities and wildlife. It is entirely preventable!"*

If you visit Hinksley Road Recreation Ground, please place your rubbish in a bin or take it home with you for recycling and do not throw items in the hedgerow (or hang dog waste bags in trees!). Sadly, as well as glass bottles, cans, plastic, etc., Samuel found other objects discarded such as a table lamp, toy buggy, pieces of carpet and half a skateboard.

*Since lockdown it's been great to see more people than ever out exploring the local area. If bins are full, please take your litter home with you and recycle where you can. We all need to play our part in keeping our parks, play areas and green spaces clean for everyone to enjoy.*





## New Outdoor Gyms

You will soon be able to exercise outside on new outdoor gym equipment being installed in Hinksley Road Recreation Ground and at Millennium Park.

Four pieces of gym equipment focusing on cardio and strength exercises will be installed at each location.

The new equipment is due to be in place by the end of June and has been funded by Section 106 monies and a grant from the Flitwick & District Youth Association.

With summer fast approaching we hope residents will enjoy using the new equipment in an open air setting.

Thank you to the Flitwick & District Youth Association for their generous support.



## Regular Activities Set To Return

Our Community Services team are looking forward to the return of all of our regular community activities that have been on hold during lockdown restrictions. Government guidance permitting, we hope that our regular activities such as the Over 60s Lunch Club and Painting Circle will return in July.

If you want to check start dates for an activity you want to get involved with please call 01525 631900 or email [info@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:info@flitwick.gov.uk) and we will let you know the date we expect to return to meeting in person.

## Publicise Your Event

If you are planning an event in Flitwick you can now upload the details to the Calendar of Events on our website to help publicise what you have planned. And, if you are looking to find something to do, it's a great place to start looking as you can view what's planned day by day.

Simply visit <https://www.flitwick.gov.uk/whats-on/calendar-of-events/>

If you don't have online access just give us a call on 01525 631900 and we will add the details for you.

If you know a young person looking for something different to do in Flitwick, Flitwick Youth Hub is a great place to head for.

4YP are commissioned by Flitwick Town Council to run the youth services provision in Flitwick. They offer a range of weekly sessions at the Youth Hub in Coniston Road for different age groups. There's a wide range of activities and workshops such as graffiti art, with a fantastic space for young people to get together and use the facilities. They can also get advice, support and sign posting.

Recently introduced is a new wellbeing drop in session 'Time to Chat' for young people aged 12-18 every Tuesday between 4pm-6pm.

Find out more about what's happening on their Facebook page or contact Wendy Millgate on 07780 448599, email: [wendymillgate@4ypuk.com](mailto:wendymillgate@4ypuk.com)



## Time to Chat



Flitwick Town Council

**An open access drop in to support emotional well-being**  
**Chat, create, take time out, get advice**



**For young people 12-18 years**  
**Starting Tuesday, 13 April**  
**4.00 – 6.00 pm**  
**Flitwick Youth Hub**

For more information please contact Wendy on 07780 448599 or [wendymillgate@4ypuk.com](mailto:wendymillgate@4ypuk.com)

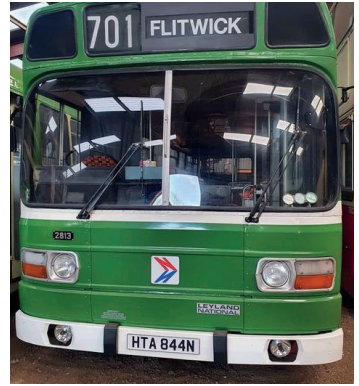


## Car Show

Make a date in the diary for **Sunday 1st August** when the Flitwick Lockdown Car Show returns after last year's popular launch event.

Taking place all over the town the organisers have arranged for a vintage bus service to help people get around to see all the cars and bikes on display. The whole event is free and will run from 10am until 4pm.

If you want more information please get in touch with the show organisers via the Flitwick Lockdown Show Facebook page.



## Flitwick Calendar - Send Us Your Best Shot!

The Lockdown Car Show could be the perfect location to take a great shot for the Flitwick 2022 Calendar.

New this year, the calendar will showcase some great images taken in the town, ranging from our beautiful parks to urban scenes, and we need you to send us your images to help bring the calendar to life!

Proceeds from the sale of the calendar will be shared between this year's Town Mayor's charities - Respite at Home Volunteers West Mid Beds and Ivel Valley, and Mind BLMK.

Send your images for consideration by the judging panel to [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk) by **30th August** and you could be in print in January!



**Sunday 1st August 2021**

# **Flitwick Lockdown Car Show**

**Join us for a great day around the town**

**Car show  
covering the  
whole town  
to aid social  
distancing**



**Book your space now!**

**10:00 to 16:00**

**Follow us on  
Facebook for  
up to date info**

**Find our Facebook page or call 07368 117032**

# Flitwick Library News

## Home Library Service

The Home Library Service, offered by Central Bedfordshire Council Libraries, is a library outreach service available to people of all ages who want to read or listen to books at home but are limited in accessing to their local library. To be eligible for this service at least one of the following criteria must be met: if you do not wish to visit a public space due to COVID-19; have difficulties visiting a local library due to disability or ill health; cannot access a local library without help or are a carer who may find it difficult to visit the library due to the nature of their caring duties.

The Home Library Service offers eligible customers a home delivery of up to 10 items which may be any combination of regular or large print books, spoken word CDs or children's board books and picture books, all tailored to what you like to read or listen to. The Home Library Service is free of charge and will be delivered directly to your home.

To find out more about the Home Library Service, including how to register for this service, contact Flitwick Library on 0300 300 8057 or email [flitwick.library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:flitwick.library@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk). More information regarding the service and the eligibility criteria can also be found on our website: <http://www.virtual-library.culturalservices.net>

## Thank You Volunteers

Flitwick Library would like to recognise the dedication and hard work of our wonderful gardening volunteers, Andrew and Kelly.

As they are not inside the building, they were able to continue with their efforts during the lockdown and the area is looking blooming lovely, perfect now that we can allow customers back through the doors.

Thank you so much to you both from all of the staff and customers at Flitwick Library - you are so very much appreciated



**Flitwick Library is now open for browsing and computer use. Call the Library on 0300 300 8057 for the latest information**



## Have You Any Wool?

Can you help us with boosting our wool supply for the Stitchers Group? We are looking for wool donations we can use for community projects at our fortnightly group meetings at The Rufus Centre.

We are already planning our next Stitchers' project - a colourful autumn tree to go on display at the Village Hall.

We need red, brown, orange and yellow squares. Squares can be 6", 8", 10" or 12", knitted, crocheted or created from felt and fabric. Plain or with decorations in one corner, you can be as

imaginative as you like! It's a great project for all the community.

Please drop wool and squares to the Town Council offices at The Rufus Centre or come and see us at Flitwick Market on the first and third Friday of the month. Contact Zoe on 01525 631900 or email [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk) for more details.



## Great British Spring Clean

Thank you to everyone who came along to the litter picks we organised with **The Big Beds Clean Up** as part of this year's Great British Spring Clean campaign.

Over 30 people joined us on the first litter pick at Manor Park on Sunday 30th May. It was great to see so many families getting involved in helping to keep Flitwick clean.



Three more litter picks are planned in June at Millennium Park, The Mount and Hinksley Road Recreation Ground.

Join us on **Sunday 13th June** 12 noon - 2pm at Hinksley Road for the final litter pick. All equipment will be provided. For more information contact Susan on 01525 631900 or email [susaneldred@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:susaneldred@flitwick.gov.uk)

## Front Garden Competition

Love your garden? Enter the Flitwick Front Garden Competition and share your beautiful blooms for all the community to enjoy.

It's free to enter and you could win a £50 garden centre voucher if you are the winner of one of the three categories; Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket and Best Pot or Tub.

Judging will take place on **Saturday 14th August** so there's plenty of time to take part.

Download a copy of the entry form from our website [www.flitwick.gov.uk](http://www.flitwick.gov.uk), email [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk) or call 01525 631900. Alternatively pick up a form from the Town Council offices at The Rufus Centre.



## Seedbox is Open!

Flitwick Gardeners' Association (FGA) is for anyone interested in gardening who live in or near Flitwick. Run by volunteers, they have a shop - 'Seed Box' - selling garden supplies at excellent prices to members. Members also receive four magazines a year. In more normal times FGA run three shows each year and plan for these to resume when possible.

If you would like to join them pop along to the 'Seed Box' behind the old leisure centre on Steppingley Road, on a Saturday afternoon between 2pm and 4pm. There is a small joining fee and annual subscription. You can find more information on their Facebook page.

## Flit Valley Walk

The Greensand Country Festival in May was the perfect opportunity for people to explore the Flit Valley Walk that runs from Westoning to Silsoe. The Council organised two events as part of the festival, one exploring Manor Park and the other walking a section of the route between Manor Park and the Jack Crawley Barn in Flitton.

We will be producing a new leaflet on the Flit Valley Walk soon which you will be able to request from the Town Council offices or download from our website so that you can explore the Flit Valley Walk at your own pace.







**Flitwick**

# Front Garden Competition

Enter for your chance to win a £50 Garden Centre voucher

Want everyone to see how beautiful your flowers are?

## REGISTER NOW TO ENTER!

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

Categories:



**BEST FRONT GARDEN**



**BEST HANGING BASKET DISPLAY**



**BEST POT DISPLAY**

**FREE ENTRY!**

Judging will take place:

**SATURDAY 14th AUGUST**



Organised by Flitwick Town Council

For more information: 01525 631900 or [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk)



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/FlitwickTC

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

# The Rufus Centre

The Rufus Centre has continued to be open for essential meetings and training courses and, as restrictions lift, we are now welcoming more people back to the Centre's newly refurbished meeting rooms and public areas.

Investment in the latest technology for our meeting rooms will enable hybrid meetings to take place with in-person/face-to-face attendees connecting virtually with other meeting attendees.

We have also seen the welcome return of exhibitions with the Gauge 3 Society and AGM on 28th May and will be hosting our first wedding of 2021 in June.

The Vaccine Hub in the Lockyer Suite has been going from strength to strength as the national vaccination programme continues. This pharmacy led collaborative project with Hilton, and H is for Health Primary Care Networks, involves a fantastic team of staff and volunteers who have been assisting visitors every step of the way from the minute they arrive.

The Rufus Centre has also launched its own programme of essential training courses.

The next one scheduled is a 'First Aid at Work', three day course on **19th-21st July**. If you would like more details please get in touch or visit Eventbrite to book.

## Rendezvous Café & Bar

The team at the Rendezvous Café & Bar are delighted to be back open for indoor and outdoor dining, Monday to Friday 8am to 4pm and Saturdays 8am to 2pm. A full takeaway service is also available.

The popular Friday Nights@Rendezvous programme of events has also returned having had to be put on hold after the second lockdown was announced. A new evening menu has been introduced so that guests attending events can dine with us as well as enjoying the entertainment.



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)

# RENDEZVOUS

## *Café & Bar*

# Friday Nights @Rendezvous

**New Event Programme - don't miss out!**

**Doors open at 6.30pm : Events start at 7.30pm**

**All Live Music & Event Tickets £5**

**Bottomless Pizza & Prosecco Night £15\***

**11th June - Quiz Night 'On Screen' theme!**

**18th June - Live music with Noel Da Costa**

**25th June - Bottomless Pizza & Prosecco\***

**Pre-book  
tickets only  
01525  
631905**

\*Bottomless pizza & drinks (prosecco, beer or soft drinks) from 7pm for 90 minutes

**Licensed Bar : Socially Distanced Tables**

**Special 'Friday Nights' Menu available to order on the night**



**The Rufus Centre, Steppingley Road, Flitwick, Bedfordshire, MK45 1AH**  
**01525 631905 [www.therufuscentre.co.uk](http://www.therufuscentre.co.uk) [events@therufuscentre.co.uk](mailto:events@therufuscentre.co.uk)**



**/TheRufusCentre**



**@RufusCentreFTC**



**/FlitwickTC**



**@NewsFTC**

# Give Us your Best shot!

Town Mayor Charity Fundraiser



## How do you see Flitwick?

If you would like to see your photo displayed in a  
Town Mayor's fundraiser calendar for 2022

Get creative!



**Submit your images by 30th August 2021 to:**  
**[zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk)**



**Organised by Flitwick Town Council**

For more information: 01525 631900 or [zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk](mailto:zoeputwain@flitwick.gov.uk)



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