

News for where YOU live

Homeground

Winter 2016 issue

Campbell Park Parish Council is a **REAL** 'star'...

CPPC takes Runners-up spot in nationwide contest!

● **Campbell Park Parish Council has just been voted the VERY best – bar one – among England's 9,500 parish and town councils. And as testimonials go...they don't get much better than that!**

Chair Cllr Isabella Fraser said: "We see this Star Councils award as recognition of the way everyone in CPPC strives to provide our residents with the very best services we can, given the resources available to us." ■

Full story of NALC award success on pages 6 & 7





Campbell Park Parish Council
Caring within the community

Campbell Park Parish Council serves some 5,800 households in the Fishermead, Newlands, Oldbrook, Springfield, Willen, Winterhill and Woolstones areas.

How to Contact us

By telephone

01908 608559

By fax

01908 694248

By email

admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

By post – or call in at

1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead
Milton Keynes, MK6 2AS

On twitter: **@campbellparkpc**

Office opening hours:

Mon-Thurs: 10am-4pm, Fri: 10am-3pm

Check out our new website and tell us what you think

www.campbell-park.gov.uk

For advertising sales call

ICS Ltd on 01908 270000

● For councillors' / staff members' email addresses, put their name followed by the CPPC generic address.

For example Cllr Katherine Kent's address is: **katherine.kent@campbell-park.gov.uk**

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Elected Members of Campbell Park Parish Council

Fishermead



Penelope Halton-Davis
01908 696034



Adan Jama Kahin
01908 608559



Darron Kendrick
01908 669067



Ama Oguntola
01908 608559



Martin Petchey
01908 605488
07712 485255

Oldbrook



Isabella Fraser
Chair, CPPC,
01908 607271
07857 275836



Tom Fraser
01908 607271



Brian Greenwood
07956 384000



Larry Harris
01908 675766



Katherine Kent
01908 608559



Tubo Uranta
01908 982626



Vacant Seat

Springfield



Terry Baines
Vice Chair
CPPC
07846 697237



David Priest
07508 312412



Vacant Seat

Willen



Phil Shrimpton
07813 093304



Derek Taylor
07972 710850

Woolstone



Chris Brown
01908 608559



David Pafford
01908 608559

CPPC Staff

Clerk to the Parish
Dominic Warner



Finance Officer (part time)
Lisa Bradley

Deputy Clerk
Elaine Webb

Receptionist (part time)
Tracey Waistnedge

Environment Officers



John McLinton

Community Officer/Committee Clerk (part time)
Tracey Jones



Mitch Mitchener

COUNCIL MEETINGS

● Please come along and see how the Parish Council conducts its business. Parish Council meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.30pm, at the Oldbrook Centre,

Oldbrook Boulevard (opposite Oldbrook Green). Visitors are welcome. The next meeting dates are:

Jan 19, Feb 16, & March 15

We asked what you think we should do in this year's budget...

AND THIS IS YOUR VERDICT

Thank you to the hundreds of people who responded to CPPC's latest budget consultation.

The 566 (9.5%) of questionnaires returned were well up on the previous two years (367 in 2014 and 372 in 2013) but not quite the 608 of 2012.

How you voted

189 (36.84%) for no precept increase

229 (44.64%) for an increase of up to 5%

80 (15.59%) for an increase of 5 to 10%

15 (2.92%) for an increase over 10%

So 36.84 per cent voted against any increase, and 63.15 per cent for one of up to 5 per cent.

CPPC was due to decide in December what its April 2016 to March 2017 precept will be.

We are grateful for your responses which help us to set a precept based on your wishes. Also important are your comments, some of which I have responded to below.

Milton Keynes Council (MKC)

Issues which most upset you, and Parish Councillors, are: waste/street-cleaning, landscaping, parking, street lighting, highways, and noise pollution.

In the coming weeks CPPC will be putting strong pressure on MKC to give greater attention to the complaints and concerns you have raised.

We will also be examining possibilities which may allow CPPC to participate in solutions to some of these problems.

Campbell Park Parish Council (CPPC)

Issues you have highlighted for CPPC, with your priorities in descending order, are:

Environmental estates issues, dog waste and litter bins, Parish recreation and sports grounds, play area improvement, community centre provision and improvement, legal representation on planning issues, grants to community groups, allotment provision, family picnics and fun days, community cohesion events.

Thames Valley Police (TVP)

Bad parking, anti-social behaviour, street football, school parking on Willen and Fishermead, noise pollution. All are issues CPPC cannot deal with, but your comments have been passed to the police and we will

continue to keep pressure on TVP.

Things CPPC can do

We have spent some time looking at the issues you took the time to flag up, and which included: overgrown footpaths and alleyways, rats, fly tipping, roundabout hedge trimming, playground cleaning, pavement repairs, tatty signage in need of cleaning, tree maintenance, more and better schools.

Some of these are solely MKC matters and some – while not ours – we CAN do some work on, which will be on-going.

All the issues you have given us, and which are managed by MKC, have been passed directly to Milton Keynes Council's senior management team.

Your environmental estates (and dog-waste & litter bins) issues also include: rats, fly tipping, overgrown footpaths & alleyways, publicising of rubbish collection days and costs of litter collection, some education for non-English speakers, playground cleaning, fences for play areas, and consideration of using wheelie bins instead of sacks.

Over the next few months CPPC's Community & Environment Committee (C&E committee) will be looking at these issues, determining what we can do and slotting them into a work programme for the coming year.

Playground refurbishment: we have started with three playgrounds in the Parish due for upgrading, and others for painting and tidying up.

We have consultations coming forward on the **Woolstone Local Park**, and that for **Willen's Conservation Area** is continuing).

Tree Maintenance: for trees owned by the Parish, we have a tree management policy and an ongoing work programme.

For trees in MKC or Parks Trust ownership, CPPC's environment officers liaise and work with officers of those organisations to ensure residents' concerns and safety are addressed.

Our C&E Committee is to investigate the **difficulties residents face getting in and out of their estates on to grid roads**, and the effects grid road speeds have on this.

They will also be looking at the developing rat-run on Oldbrook between the H6 and H7.

Other issues raised

● The need to preserve our green fields and spaces will be covered by our emerging Neighbourhood Plan, about which we have already consulted you.

● Oldbrook Green: we will look at the possibility of CCTV. The path round the green is owned by MKC, and we will press them for repairs.

● Bins at Willen Lake: this land is owned by the Parks Trust which has a 'no dog bins' policy. However, we can look at the possibility of siting some at exits to the lake – providing they are in CPPC's area.

● Provision for pensioners in our centres: we will look into this urgently.

● Allotments: CPPC currently has sites in Willen and Woolstone. As to further provision, we own a small site on Fishermead which would be our only chance of providing further allotments.

● Grants to community groups in our area will continue.

● Community Centre Provision and improvement was addressed in the autumn issue of *Homeground*.

CPPC owns two community centres: the Springfield Centre was completely refurbished and reopened in 2015; the Oldbrook Centre has seen needed updating and is now in good shape. It is, however, the smallest of our centres and provides the smallest space for local residents. We outlined our plans, in the autumn issue, on how we might deal with this.

Fishermead has a large, and recently updated, centre. CPPC has plans for a sports hall on our Fishermead land – though that is two to three years away.

Willen has an excellent centre only two to three years old, and Woolstone has a small centre owned by MKC.

● Immigration also featured in your comments...but that is an issue which requires the government to address.

Once again, dear residents, CPPC thanks you for the valuable input you have given us ■

Cllr Isabella Fraser,

Chair, Campbell Park Parish Council

YOUR vote counts...so make sure YOU are registered to USE it!

Don't lose YOUR vote – YOUR vote is YOUR voice: the means by which YOU can have YOUR say about what happens in the area where you live, and even in the country as a whole.

And you need to make sure you are properly registered to use it, as in May every Campbell Park Parish voter can help elect:

- Councillors to Campbell Park Parish Council
- Their local Milton Keynes Council councillor
- A Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley Police (the force covering Milton Keynes)

Because the way that you become registered to vote has changed – every voter must now register individually – you may no longer be registered...so please check that YOU are registered by phoning 01908 254706.

To register go online at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

You will need your national Insurance number, as well as your address. If you don't have internet access you can phone 01908 254706

Who can register?

Anyone and everyone who is:

- Over 18 – register as soon as you're 16 or 17 – and either
- A British citizen, or a citizen of a Commonwealth country, the Republic of Ireland, or a country which is a member of the European Union (EU).

The recent film *Suffragette* showed how hard some people had to struggle to win the right to vote. Please don't throw away that right through neglect or forgetfulness.

Please register your vote and use it ■

**YOUR VOTE MATTERS
MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN**



Could you do your bit for the local community?

There are many things parish councillors can and DO tackle

In May all Campbell Park Parish Councillors will stand down at the end of their terms, and a new council will need to be elected.

Some of the current members will be seeking re-election, others will not, and two seats were already vacant prior to the election.

What sort of people become Parish Councillors?

They are local people living and or working in the wards they serve and typically share a passionate belief in the power of 'local people doing local things'. For the most part parish councils are non-political.

Local people doing local things can make a huge difference in the areas in which we all live.

While there are some things parish councils cannot do (and which are the responsibility of MK Council) parishes can still make a difference on such matters by putting pressure on, and lobbying, MKC and other bodies/ authorities.

There are a whole range of things local (or parish) councils can do. They can manage our own community buildings, sports fields, parks and allotments, and have small grants programmes or educational trusts with which to

benefit deserving local causes and people.

Councillors can listen to and consult local residents on a whole range of subjects.

Your community...



They view planning applications, and can make official comments on them, and can provide advocacy for residents.

And there are many other things parish councillors can and do tackle.

Could you be part of all that?

There are no special criteria needed to become a parish councillor: but common sense, a willingness to work with others, and a love of the place you live in can all help.

Parish councillors come from all walks of life, from every age group, and from every educational background (or none).

You may have all sorts of skills (some acquired in the 'school of hard knocks') you can bring to the Parish Council and service of its residents.

Please think about what YOU could bring, as to keep moving forward your council needs fresh new blood and new ideas.

There are several things you can do, right now, to get a better idea of what being 'on' a council involves and whether or not you want to do your bit at 'grass roots' level.

● Come to a council or committee meeting. (They are open to the public and all are welcome). Come and see what goes on.

● Phone, or come in to the Parish office where, by appointment, you can chat to a councillor.

● Call in (or write in) for a CPPC Councillor Introduction pack which explains the work of the Parish Council, tells you what it can or cannot do, what commitment is required, and what training is available.

CPPC always welcome new blood and new ideas.

Your Council does need YOU. Come and see CPPC in action, or for a chat and cup of tea.

You will be welcome ■

What you get is far more than you see

CPPC councillors representing the estate noted with interest a recent newsletter from Oldbrook's Residents Association, and compliment ORA on their interest and efforts on behalf of our Oldbrook residents.

Oldbrook members of CPPC thought it was perhaps timely that we refresh residents' understanding of what services they get from their councillors and Campbell Park Parish Council.

CPPC currently has six councillors representing its Oldbrook ward. All live on Oldbrook, and some have done so for many years.

They live on the estate, and are constantly 'in touch' as they are around every day, talking to residents of all ages – and to a man (and woman) love the estate they live on. Two of them walk their dogs around the estate, daily.

But it is not only our Oldbrook councillors that CPPC brings to the table in providing services to Oldbrook (as we all do in our various wards): it is also CPPC's office and staff members.

Our office is open five days a week with staff taking residents phone calls and e-mails, and there is almost always a councillor or two at the office who residents can talk to.

We also have two environment officers: John McLinton our officer for land & environment, and Mitch Mitchener our officer for buildings, who provide an invaluable service to the people of our community. Equally important are the two vans they use, liveried with our instantly recognisable parish logo.

Our environment officers have a huge range of skills and have been highly trained in all aspects of environmental issues. They patrol all parts of CPPC's area and, together with our six Oldbrook councillors, are the Parish's 'eyes and ears' on the ground.

Our office, between members and staff, gets daily updates on fly tipping, dumped rubbish, overgrown landscaping, faulty lights, broken pavements, pot holes and all the other daily trials of life.



Because we have a 20 year history of working closely with our partners, CPPC's officers have many routes of direct contact with MK Council, the police, and other partners through which we are able to promptly action your complaints.

Another extremely important aspect of our work, is that with schools in the Parish – working with, and educating, the next generation.

CPPC's 'Councillor Penny' (Cllr Penny Halton-Davis), John and Mitch, together with Cllr Larry Harris, are regular visitors to school assemblies. They (and our vans) are known and recognised by our children.

Part of our work in schools is that we hold regular competitions for the children...and we pride ourselves in helping our young people take pride in the place in which they live.

CPPC values the views of residents: it is always a matter of great satisfaction to us that so many of you respond to our various consultations, and are so willing to freely give us your views.

Please keep that up. Without your input we would not be able to give you the service that we do ■

Campbell Park Parish Council

CPPC meeting dates

The meetings of Campbell Park Parish Council and its committees are open to the public unless otherwise notified or, in specific circumstances due to the confidentiality of information being discussed, the Councillors present pass a motion to exclude the press and public.

Council (7.30pm start):
 ✖ Jan 19, Feb 16 and March 15

Planning & Policy Committee (7 pm start):
 ✖ Jan 4, Feb 1 & March 7.

Finance & Administration Committee (7.00pm start):
 ◆ Jan 5, Feb 2 & Mar 1.

Community & Environment Committee (6.30 pm start):
 ✖ Jan 25, Feb 22 & Mar 21.

Communications Committee (6.30 pm start)
 ◆ Jan 26, Feb 23 & Mar 29

Personnel Committee (6.30 pm start)
 ◆ Jan 11, Feb 8 & Mar 14.

✖ = Held at the Oldbrook Centre, Oldbrook Boulevard

◆ = Held at the Parish Office, 1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead

Live on Oldbrook & want to talk?

ANY PROBLEMS, NEED ADVICE, HAVE IDEAS? COME AND TALK TO YOUR LOCAL PARISH COUNCILLORS
NO APPOINTMENT NEEDED

Oldbrook Councillors regularly hold surgeries to talk to residents, on the third Saturday of the month
 1pm to 3pm @ Oldbrook Centre, Oldbrook Boulevard

If you wish to discuss problems, need advice, or have ideas to improve your Parish, we will be pleased to meet you for coffee and biscuits in a friendly and informal atmosphere

Dates for the next three meetings:
 ● Jan 16 ● Feb 20 ● Mar 19
Looking forward to seeing you

Campbell Park Parish Council... **Gains national recognition!**

CPPC – the very best in the land bar one! That was the verdict of judges in ‘Council of the Year’ awards open to all 9,500 parish and town councils across England!

But that is only part of the story. Campbell Park Parish Council has also been listed as an ‘Exemplar Council’ – a model for others to emulate – in a new guide issued by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC).

And CPPC was singled out for praise by government minister Marcus Young MP as he opened the NALC awards ceremony in Birmingham.

Receiving the award on behalf of CPPC, Chair Cllr Isabella Fraser said: “While we would love to have won, to have come second out of 9,500 councils leaves us, none-the-less, quietly delighted.

“It was a great surprise to find ourselves among the many, many nominations for council of the year and then to find CPPC was one of the three finalists.

“CPPC was up against far bigger players with far bigger budgets.

“Hopefully this award will help residents recognise that we are a council punching well above our weight: coming up with unique solutions to some of the

problems, and often unique problems, which we face.

“I was very proud indeed in being privileged to represent this great Milton Keynes parish council at the awards ceremony.” ■



Grand re-opening of CPPC's Springfield Centre.

Highlights from the life and times of CPPC...

National ‘Star Awards’ fact-file

● The 9,500 English town and parish councils which are members of the National Association of Local Councils have, between them, some 80,000 councillors handling annual budgets totalling in excess of £1 billion.

In this year’s inaugural eight-category Star Council Awards, CPPC found itself up against some far larger, longer established, competitors – ‘bigger hitters’ which are also of a different nature to CPPC.

Of the other two finalists, one, Frome Town Council in Somerset, has 17 councillors, nine wards, 16 staff, an electorate of 27,500 and an annual budget of £1.3 million.

The other, Oswestry Town Council in Shropshire, has 18 councillors, six wards, 17 Staff, an electorate of 12,500 and an annual budget of £3.2 million.

Campbell Park Parish Council has 19 councillors, six wards, 11 Staff, an electorate of 10,000 (16,500 residents) and an annual budget of £750,000 ■



MK Dons’ Pete Winklemen opening CPPC’s Oldbrook Green trim-trail

Recent weeks have seen a number of religious festivals celebrated locally, most recently Christ’s birthday on December 25. There has also been the festival of Hanukkah, the birthday of Nanak Dev Ji, the Sikh Martyrdom of Guru Teghahadur, and the festival of Diwali (the festival of Eid having been celebrated some months earlier).

**CPPC WISHES YOU
A VERY HAPPY
AND PEACEFUL 2016**

...and a few more of CPPC's many success stories



Youth football



Packed public meeting in support of keeping Willen Surgery open

Woodland management



Parish fun days

Some of the projects helping make CPPC an 'exemplar' ...an example to others

- Taking on and restoring Fishermead Sports ground with return of youth football facilities
- Opening Oldbrook Green 'trim trail'
- Acquisition of Woolstone Sports Ground
- Acquiring and refurbishing Springfield Centre
- Refurbishing Oldbrook Centre
- Funding barrister to successfully oppose (at public inquiry) motocross at Pineham
- Reinstatement of Willen Surgery
- Developing local emergency plan – successfully deployed in aftermath of Fishermead fire last summer
- Managing local woodlands
- Parish 'fun days'

Community is praised following blaze

Dealing with aftermath of Fishermead fire

BY SALLY MURRER
sallymurrer@press.co.uk
01908 651009

Community spirit has turned tragedy into triumph for families whose homes were gutted in the Fishermead fire.

The estate has rallied round to replace everything lost in last week's inferno, which turned the contents of three terraced houses in ashes. "People have been in-



Parish fun days

Why our parish plan has been 'on ice'

Having invested a lot of time, effort and money in developing a Neighbourhood Plan, CPPC had reached the point of finalising its latest draft for circulation to residents for consultation and any further comments or amendments.

That Plan had been started following the government's introduction of its 'Localism Agenda', which was intended to put power into the hands of local people and give them a say in the development of their areas

However...together with a number of other Milton Keynes parish councils, Campbell Park Parish Council has, for the moment, suspended work on its plan.

That was because Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has, in recent weeks, refused to take Central Milton Keynes Town Council's (CMKTC) Business and Neighbourhood Plan into account when determining a planning application (from owners Intu) to redevelop Midsummer Place).

That was in direct contradiction – driving a coach and horses through it – of the CMK Plan which had received 86 per cent public approval in a referendum held in May of last year.

The Secretary of State has since 'called in' MKC's approval of the

Midsummer Place scheme, and a planning inquiry will now be held.

CPPC believes that is exactly the right decision: that when local people have been presented with the reasons for having such a plan, and responded to consultation on it, then they have a right to have their voices heard.

In securing an inquiry we have proved the value of town and parish councils standing together in defence of their residents's rights.

With the government having given us the tools to protect residents' interests and wishes, that is something we will continue to do to the best of our abilities and in the strongest of terms.

● During its latest meeting, CPPC's Planning & Policy Committee decided to resume work on its neighbourhood plan – work which will include circulation of the current draft for consideration by residents.

When complete, the plan will form part of a 'tool kit' with which the Parish Council can represent and protect residents' wishes in any future planning issues ■

CPPC Planning & Policy Committee

Come and get dug-in - CPPC has allotment plots ready and waiting!



Growing
your
own can
be fun

● A councillor who took on a CPPC allotment plot is so delighted with the experience that she wants to encourage others to share the pleasure she and her family are now enjoying.

I would like to take you through a year on our allotment starting with winter, and in future issues of *Homeground*, the other seasons.

Starting in December we had got the digging done and horse manure scattered over the plot before we covered it up – intending that the lack of light would stop the growth of weeds.

That gave us time to do repairs, tidy up and make preparation for the planting and growing to

come. For instance as part of that we made a cold frame in which to grow peppers.

We then discussed and planned what would be grown in summer, as this is the time when there is not so much physical work to do – and you can think and plan.

We bought our seeds, ready for planting in trays, and worked out a schedule for when they will be put in.

This is normally in March or April when seeds can be grown in trays, or planted directly into the ground.

At this time of year we usually spend six or seven hours a week on our allotment.

In March the harder work will start. That's when we will uncover the soil and dig in the horse manure which was scattered months before. We will also weed

where necessary, to prepare for the new stock.

In the next issue we will be back to tell you what we will be doing from April through to June, which is one of the busiest times of the allotment year, and we hope you will join us.

Having an allotment is not only a means of getting fresh nutritious food: it also provides extremely healthy exercise.

Come and join us, and grow your own. It can be great fun ■

● If **YOU** are interested in taking on a vacant plot please contact the Parish Office on 01908 608559 or email Admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

Camera, action, lights - thanks to CPPC

● Four films have been produced with a grant provided by Campbell Park Parish Council to Junior Filmmakers.

The films: 'Best Friend's Revenge', '10 Second Breakthrough', 'Stalker of the Night', and an animated film 'Food Fight', were all produced by young people aged seven to 15.

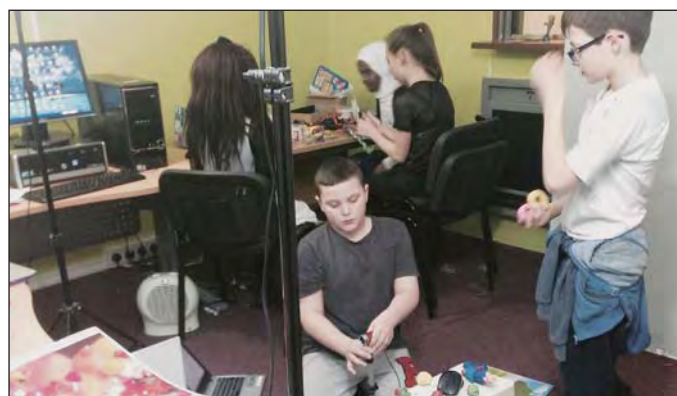
The funding was provided by CPPC to ensure that young people from within the Parish could enjoy the opportunity to learn film-making skills.

It allowed them to go through the Junior Filmmakers programme and learn story and script development, script writing,

scheduling, casting, crewing, filming and editing.

The films were then premiered, with the film-makers receiving certificates of achievement.

All four films are available to watch on the Junior Filmmakers *you tube* channel: Junior Filmmakers Official ■



PLEASE: scoop the poop and use the bins!

Woolstone Party Venue

Picturesque 13th C Listed Building for Hire

Why not book this outstanding venue for your next event?

- This community centre/church can accommodate functions ranging from birthday and anniversary parties to wedding receptions and evening functions
- *The perfect setting for your event photos*
- Facilities include: seating for approx 80, car park, fully-equipped kitchen, beautiful maple floor, disabled access and toilet with wheelchair access

Call 07840 924532

or visit www.thewoolstones.co.uk

New signs and railings

Improvements in safety and clarity

New signs and hand-rails have been installed on Oldbrook Green to make life simpler and safer for everyone using the area.

The new signs spell out clearly what people can, and should not, do on the Green.

Among other things they deliver the message that no unauthorised group

events are allowed: anyone wishing to hold such an event should contact the parish office to obtain the necessary written consent (that needs to be done in advance...giving a minimum of 12 weeks notice, please).

Campbell Park Parish Council has also installed railings at the junction of the two footpaths by Johnston Place.

That has been done following a number of accidents at that spot, and complaints from residents, (some of whom have had falls there) about the 'dangerous' slope at the junction.

CPPC has already had a number of 'thank you's' from some of its more elderly residents.

There were also complaints that the nearby dog poo bin was sited on a slope – making it difficult to access in bad weather when the slope could become slippery.

The bin has been re-positioned near the new railings, on a flat surface which makes it easier to use in bad weather.



A handful of residents have since complained that the new railings now block an unofficial path directly across the green, and have asked for that track to be made permanent.

That will not happen.

CPPC did consider the idea...but found the cost of putting a formal path straight across The Green would be in the region of £40,000.

Such an outlay was not seen as viable – especially when there is a perfectly acceptable path just yards away.

CPPC has checked the distance on both the path and the unofficial track.

The unofficial route is just 40 metres shorter than the hard-surfaced formal path...and at a normal walking pace saves walkers only ONE minute per trip!

Therefore CPPC urges people to use the formal footpath when crossing The Green – as many other Oldbrook residents have been doing for the past 33 years ■



Plight of the refugees: how you can help them

People all over Europe have been moved by the plight of millions of men, women and children forced to leave their homes in Syria because of civil war and – often in peril of their lives – to seek refuge and safety elsewhere.

Last year's blanket media coverage may have faded...but the human tragedy is still continuing, so how can people in Campbell Park Parish – some themselves refugees of other conflicts – help?

Donations of clothes are, of course, welcome. The Church of

Christ the Cornerstone in CMK is collecting socks, gloves and toiletries, which are apparently what is most needed, and you can donate such items at the reception in the church foyer.

There is a Milton Keynes group formed to co-ordinate such efforts – go to <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1004285692949437/> to contact them via Facebook.

Some refugees will arrive in Britain as guests of the British people, and a few will come to Milton Keynes at the invitation of MK Council.

Need help getting around?

● During its first two months – and with just eight volunteer drivers – the CA:MK Community Car Service has given lifts to 130 local people who needed help getting to appointments.

If you – or someone you know – struggle to get to a doctor, dentist, hospital or other essential appointments, and live on Woolstone, Springfield, Fishermead, or Oldbrook, then this could be the answer.

The Community Car Scheme matches



passengers who struggle to use local public transport with volunteer drivers who will help.

To find out more call 01908 670309 or email vdsmk@communityactionmk.org ■

Mrs Knight (pictured with driver Geoff) lives in Willen, saw the scheme advertised in *Homeground*, tried it, and said of its door to door service: "It has been a God-send."

Its existence and future expansion depends on the availability of volunteer drivers, who get 45p a mile to cover their fuel costs.

Anyone interested in offering their services should contact Laura or Tracy via the number and email address given above ■

Backed by *Citizens MK* – the local branch of *Citizens UK*, a non-political group organising communities to act together for power, social justice and the common good – a group of local folk are preparing a welcome.

Their first objective is to find houses where the refugees can live, but other needs will also have to be met.

They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm in CMK. If you can help the campaign, please contact the group at: refugees@citizensmk.org.uk ■

What's on at **SPRINGFIELD Centre**

● (H1) = hall 1 (H2) = hall 2

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
08.30-15.00	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School		
09.00-11.30	Jumping Beans (H1)		Jumping Beans (H1)		Jumping Beans (H1)		
10.00-11.00						Junior (H2) Filmmakers	
10.00-13.00		MacIntyre (H1)					
10.00-12.00							Goodlife Ministries (H1)
12.30-15.30							Salvation Ministries (H1)
11.00-14.00						Melting Pot Cafe (H1)	
13.00-15.00			MacIntyre (H1)				
13.00-16.00				Alzheimers Support (H1)			
16.00-18.00							Karate Club (H2)
17.30-19.30					Junior (H2) Filmmakers		
18.00-20.00			Martial-arts club (H2)				
19.00-21.00		Tai Chi (H2)					
18.00-21.00	Springfied Initiative YC (H1)		Springfied Initiative YC (H1)				

What's on at **OLDBROOK Centre**

● (SR) = Small Room

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
08.30-15.00	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School	Ducklings Pre-School		
10.00-12.30							Divine Christ Church
13.00-16.00							Christ Shelter Ministries
18.30-20.30			Weight Watchers				
19.00-21.00		Meditation Group (SR)		Meditation Group (SR)			
19.30-21.30					Christ Shelter Ministries		

TO BOOK EITHER VENUE

Call 01908 608559 - or email admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

Parish emergency planning

CPPC's emergency plan was put through a real-life test during last August's Fishermead fire and – though proved to be excellent and fit for purpose – is subject to continuous improvement.

CPPC has a number of centres which can be used by both the public and emergency services during an incident. A CPPC councillor has qualified as a Community First Responder, and the Parish has bought a first responder kit.

CPPC's plan is three pronged.

ONE: if CPPC's office became unusable, alternatives would include temporarily using the small office in Springfield Centre, staff working from home, and renting office space.

TWO: covers dealing with emergencies in the parish area, and there are many poten-

tial scenarios, including fires, explosions, flooding, a canal burst, and major crimes such as shootings. The possibilities are numerous and complex. CPPC would not be a lead authority in such cases, but would need to support its residents.

On a more routine basis, CPPC has to monitor grit bins around the Parish and ensure that MK Council is keeping them topped up; and also has to be aware of vulnerable groups and where to obtain any necessary help for them.

THREE: coping with emergencies or disasters outside the Parish.

MK City Centre probably poses the greatest neighbouring potential for emergency or disaster, and because it is so close, many of those being evacuated from the centre would have to come into or through the Parish.

In today's world, scenarios which cannot be ignored or predicted in advance include chemical attacks and explosions.

In any such event CPPC's Emergency Response Team would be at the disposal, and under the direction of, the principal authorities and emergency services ■

CPPC Grants to local groups

Between July and September last year, CPPC awarded more than £2,400 in grants to local groups and good causes.

During the previous six-months, it had made grants totalling almost £7,000.

The latest recipients are as follows:

- **£416.95:** *Dexter House Residents Association* (Sheltered Housing) for gardening equipment and decorations for their communal garden and entrance lobby
- **£250.00:** *South Central Ambulance Service* – contribution to cost of a life support pack for a community first-responder
- **£500.00:** *Thames Valley Police* – contribution to cadet section uniforms, a

programme seeking to turn around behaviour of potential young offenders

- **£500.00:** *Milton Keynes Food Bank* – to support services to Parish residents and maintain a weekly emergency food-serving session for Oldbrook

- **£250.00:** *Springfield Court Residents Association* (Sheltered Housing): towards costs of a Christmas party with food and entertainment for elderly and disabled residents

- **£493.75:** *MK Gallacticos* – towards provision of a full kit, for a junior football team.

- *Any group within the Parish area may apply to be considered for a CPPC grant. Forms are available from the Parish office ■*

A word to all cyclists...

Many cyclists in the Campbell Park Parish area, including schoolchildren, ride responsibly – but for those who do not...

PLEASE make sure you have working lights on your bike (switched on) after dark – it is illegal not to.

PLEASE remember it is illegal for cyclists to go the wrong way round roundabouts.

PARENTS: please see all young riders stay safe.

Looking for places to party - look no further!

- Both centres are bright, spacious, and can be hired for meetings, group activities, parties, weddings etc

For hire: the Springfield & Oldbrook Centres

SPRINGFIELD

- Two meeting halls, each with its own kitchen, separated by large entrance hall.
- Hall 1: 6 x 16 metres – seats 72 comfortably. Hall 2: 6 x 8 metres – seats 40 comfortably.
- Situated off Springfield Boulevard (near Tesco) with landscaped areas front and rear

(fenced patio at front) and adjacent parking

OLDBROOK

- Two meeting halls, kitchen, and fenced outdoor children's area at the rear.
- Hall 1: 9 x 9 metres – seats 72 comfortably. Hall 2: 6 x 3 metres – seats 12 comfortably.
- Situated off Oldbrook Boulevard (overlooking Oldbrook Green) with parking to rear of building



Springfield



Oldbrook

To book either venue: 01908 608559 or email admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

Something for younger residents of the Parish...

Kids' Corner

Did YOU have fun?

Hello Children – Cllr Penny again. So, did you all have a lovely Christmas? We have a busy Kids Club again and we hope you will all read the Hedgehog Family story and see our first Pet Club photo.

- If you would like to join Pets Club, all you have to do is send in your pet's photo and tell us about them, their name and age and your full name and age and your address. If they are featured in Kids Corner you will receive a £10 Pets at Home gift card for your pet.
- Please have a go at finding the missing word in the Word Search, and if you take your completed puzzle into the Parish Office at 1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead, you will get a free bottle of bubbles. Or you can take it into your school and I will collect it from there. Please don't forget to put your name and address on it, and the closing date to get it in by is February 14.

● During the winter we try to look after the wildlife in our gardens. Feed the birds and leave out water for them, if the water freezes, throw it away and put out fresh water.

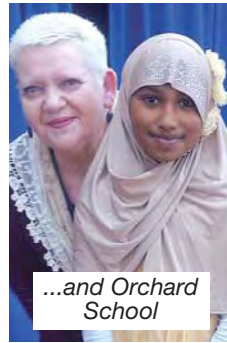
If you don't have any bird seed, then small pieces of dry bread (but not the white sort, it is bad for birds) or toast will do. It can be great fun watching the birds feed as they get up to all sorts of mischief and tricks.

● Look out for the new dog poo signs in Springfield, Woolstone and Willen. Children in Orchards School had great fun designing signs and the Parish Council has had the best one made into signs to put on lampposts

● If Willen Lake, the canal or any large area of water where you play is frozen, **please, please, please DO NOT GO ON THE ICE!** it might be too thin and you could end up in the water – **remember ICE IS DANGEROUS.**



Harvest plate competition winners: Oldbrook School



...and Orchard School

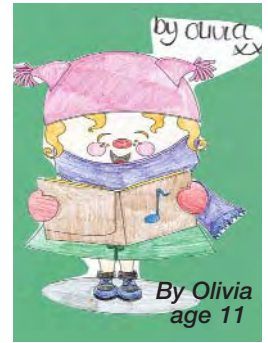


Pets Club

'Jolly' by Alfie Brown, 9



By Emily age 9



By Olivia age 11

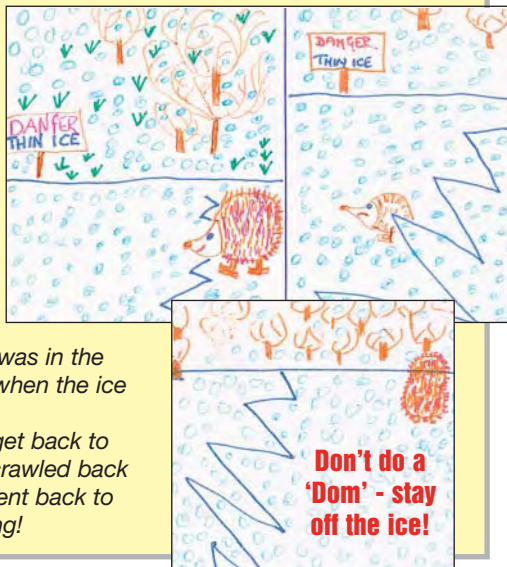
Hedgehog Land...

The sun came shining into the den.

Dom just had to go and have a look outside.

He did not see the 'danger' sign and silly Dom was in the middle of the lake when the ice went CRACK!

He managed to get back to the bank, then he crawled back into the den and went back to sleep until the spring!



Word search fun

Enjoy solving this puzzle and finding the missing word

S	N	W	B	D	O	G	D	O
N	I	I	W	O	N	S	C	B
D	A	N	R	K	A	I	I	A
O	R	T	S	W	O	G	S	D
O	L	A	K	A	D	N	W	G
D	P	A	H	Y	R	S	A	E
R	A	B	K	C	N	C	N	R
E	R	S	R	E	R	H	R	S
T	H	D	L	C	O	O	I	C
N	O	L	C	I	R	O	B	H
I	I	A	W	S	I	L	A	O
W	D	O	O	F	B	I	R	D

FIND: winter, snow, ice, Willen Lake, bird food, badger, hedgehog, Orchard School, dog sign, sky, rain, swan

Please do take care...



John

● Mitch and John – the Parish Council's environment officers – will be out and about as usual, so say hello to them.

But, when it comes to other people you do NOT know, please remember **STRANGER DANGER** and keep away from them when you are out playing. **DO KEEP SAFE** ■



Mitch