

SANDON TOPICS

Winter 2019 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council



www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year! It looks as if it is going to be too mild for snow, so unfortunately not a white Christmas this year.

We are once again supplying the Christmas tree outside St Andrews Church in Sandon, and look forward to seeing you and Father Christmas at the lighting on Saturday 7th December at 5 p.m., followed by hot chocolate and mince pies in the Church.

We are delighted that Rev. Terry Brown is back following his recent illness and looking well, wishing him all the best on his full recovery.

The Parish Community Outdoor Cinema Event in August of 'The Greatest Showman' was really successful. The Church, Bell Ringers, The Sports Club, and others, provided very tasty eats and drinks. We were fortunate in that the weather was very kind. Thank you to everyone who assisted in making this a great event.

A meeting was held for residents and users of The Sandon Hall Bridleway in Howe Green to discuss the possible replacement of the dangerous cracked concrete. Bretts Aggregates, who own the road, are proposing to repair this with Type 1 crushed concrete. The meeting was very well attended and some very useful suggestions were made. We will get Highways on board as footpath 22 runs down the centre of the Bridleway. Hopefully, they will get in touch with Bretts as well to ensure the surface is safe to walk on. Residents and users preferred to have the concrete repaired, rather than Bretts suggestion of crushed concrete, and emails have been sent to pass the results on to them from this meeting.

The Sandon Neighbourhood Development Plan is moving forward due to the enthusiasm of the residents' group. Policy documents have now been written and passed to Chelmsford for their comment. We are continuing to bring it to the attention to all parts of the community, from the Scouts/school children to WI/resident groups. Please have a look at the website on <https://ndp4sandon.co.uk/>. Your comments would be very welcome.



SUMMER FILM NIGHT

On August 22nd an open air cinema experience was held on Sandon Sports field organised by the Parish council. This was our first free community event for a while. The event was free to attend and all parishioners and their families were invited to participate. The film chosen for the event was the Greatest Showman. This was enjoyed by all.

The Parish Council would like to thank all those who attended and supported the event and made it a success. We would particularly like to thank The Friends of Sandon Church for the excellent barbecue they provided, the Church Choir for delicious tea and cake, Sandon Sports Club for the bar and not be forgotten, the Village Hall for the use of their facilities.

Thoughts are now turning to next year's event and we invite anyone with an idea for a community event to contact the council. We very much look forward to see you all next summer at our next event.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Please remember that we are a non political body who make payments for various items. For example, we provide services i.e. Sandon Parish Council staff, and pay suppliers, on a regular basis. We also purchase new assets. We have recently bought a new “agile” grass mower which is more suited to the smaller areas that we service, as oppose to the thirteen year old large grass mower. We have replaced three dog ‘poo’ bins that have disappeared, or now have been deemed necessary. We also manage projects which can cost a large amount of money. The most recent concerns the allotment site. We are now owners of extra land behind the current site at the bottom of Hall Lane. We are planning to convert this into extra plots so as to reduce the waiting list for allotments that we have.

We pay for various organisations to train the Councillors and staff as required. For example, one of us went on an allotments course recently and learnt a lot, not only about agriculture, but also the rules we have to follow. We regularly have to pay fees to professional organisations such as the NALC and EALC. These are the national and local council bodies. Note that we are reviewing whether to join the more local CALC as well. We have to pay insurances on assets and vehicles, together with audit fees. Last year, we paid an internal professional auditor as required under the rules, as well as an external auditor. These cost a total of nearly £500.

Local council rules have changed and we are now “allowed” to “hire out” services that were previously illegal. However, this brings a lot of form filling and risk which we have talked about but not proceeded with at this time. Other regular payments include software updates, internet charges, website costs and security. Earlier this month, a window in the office was broken and had to be replaced. A one off cost again.....

With regards to income, as well as the precept that you pay us via Chelmsford City Council, we receive rent from allotment holders and levies that CCC charge on housing and commercial developments. These are known as CIL monies, or Section 106 fees. For example, if a person is building a new house in the parish, then a certain percentage of this payment to the builder would go to CCC. They would then give this to us “to be spent on a range of projects that CCC agrees with”. It is sometimes a long time coming! The clerk has a list of monies which are ring fenced for those projects that are eligible. The extension to the allotment site is one such project that can qualify for this CIL money.

GET HELP IN APPLYING FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT

Talking about money, there are certain residents in our parish that are struggling to make ends meet through no fault of their own. Christmas can be a particularly tough time. If you are on a low income, or know someone else who is, then please note that they may be eligible to apply for Universal Credit. Note that you may be entitled to this even if you are working. The idea behind U.C. is to raise your monthly income to a level that enables you to survive on a day to day basis. If you find the forms difficult to complete, or you would like more information about U.C., then Chelmsford Citizens Advice Bureau are keen to make everyone aware of the service that they can offer. Please see the below information that they have supplied to us:

Chelmsford Citizens Advice and Universal Credit

Our Help to Claim service can support you in the early stages of your Universal Credit claim, from the application, through to your first payment. Help to Claim is a dedicated service from Citizens Advice. It’s free, independent and confidential. Our trained advisers can help with things like how to gather evidence for your application or how to prepare for your work coach appointment.

Call us for free: 0800 144 8 444

Visit us: www.chelmsfordcab.org/universal-credit.

You can also learn more in general about Universal Credit by visiting our [YouTube channel](#). Just go to YouTube and search for Citizens Advice Chelmsford, where you will find many useful playlists on various topics including Universal Credit.

WELCOME PACKS

Welcome!



Sandon Parish Council would like to introduce a “Welcome to the Parish” pack, adopting the idea from the folks in Howe Green who already have one. As someone who has only recently arrived (some six years ago), I think, for example, it would have been helpful to know that there is a shop and Post Office in East Hanningfield, to know where our local pub is and nearest restaurants, for example. The local farm shops, butchers and any other local producers, crafts and places of note or interest would have been a nice introduction to what’s around and a welcome from the community. Please do let us know what you would have found helpful when you moved in, like the church timetables, bus routes and timetables, and activities such as the sports and social club and what goes on in the village hall. For those longer standing members of the community, maybe you’d like to provide some pointers for the hidden gems that take a while to find...

Please contact the Parish Clerk – Ted Munt with your ideas. We look forward to hearing from you!



ADULT MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING COURSE



Sandon Parish Council facilitated a half day course on Saturday 23rd November in St Andrews Church Hall. This is part of an established programme being rolled out across the country by Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England. Our facilitator, Michelle, gave us a useful introduction to some of the issues around mental health. The course is designed to help us pay attention to our own mental and emotional well being, thinking especially about some of the stressors in our lives. She introduced the idea of a stress container. The idea of this is to help us to identify our stresses but also to identify what helps us to cope with these, before it starts to impact adversely on our mental health. The concept of Taking Ten together toolkit is focused on helping us to start the conversation about mental health, either our own or someone we are close to or maybe someone we work with who may appear to be struggling in some way or is not quite themselves.

If you are interested in knowing more about mental health, this course is a good starter. Do contact Ted Munt at the Parish Council if you are interested in attending a course. If we have enough interest, then a further course can be arranged in the parish.



Thank you to all those who came along. We do hope that you will spread the message about the importance of looking after our mental health and may feel able to start a conversation with someone you have perhaps been worried about for a while.



“SANDON, A VILLAGE HISTORY” BY REG BUSH –what a fantastic Christmas gift!

It's that time of the year when you are driven frantic trying to work out what presents you could give to your loved ones. Luckily enough, we can provide an answer to all of your concerns – the Reg Bush book “Sandon, a village history.”

This is a fascinating read which covers the history of the village from its earliest known origins up to the end of the twentieth century. Do you think you know everything about where you live? This book will certainly help fill in some of the gaps. What better way to understand the history of village and learn more about some of the fascinating characters that populated our parish.

Copies are available for sale from the Parish Council. They cost £10 each and can be ordered from the Clerk. He can be contacted in person either at the Parish Office, by phone 01245 477111, or by email parishclerk@sandon.info. If you live in the parish, then the book could even be hand delivered to your door. What are you waiting for!

Note that all profits from this wonderful and interesting book will go to “The Friends of St. Andrews”.

Order a copy NOW and remind yourself about the history of the Parish, as well as supporting the upkeep of the church

Reg Bush
SANDON
A Village History



The author was born at Sandon in February 1911 and educated at Great Baddow. In 1926 he joined the staff of the County Council at the Shire Hall, Chelmsford, and ten years later was made responsible for the preparation of the Electors' Lists and the Jurors Book for Essex and for the conduct of parliamentary elections in the eight County Constituencies.

When elections were suspended at the outbreak of war in 1939 the Home Office offered him the appointment of Clerk to the Government Referees on Evacuation. After two years in that office he joined the Royal Navy and while serving in the Mediterranean as a Lieutenant-Commander in May 1945 he was urgently summoned home to supervise, in Essex, the forthcoming general election.

Retiring in 1974, he was recalled in the following year to work with the Home Office in planning the Referendum, and then to organise and conduct the Referendum and the count for the whole of Essex.

Elected to Sandon Parochial Church Council on the 5th March 1929, he has now completed seventy years as a member.

In 1950 he married Margaret (Peggy) Mott and they took up residence at Graces Cross, where they spent the next thirty-three years. They have two children, Anthony (John) and Diana, and four grandchildren.

FRIENDS OF SANDON CHURCH



There is nothing better than seeing a magnificent old building in a historic setting. Most people assume that the building and its grounds are someone else's responsibility, but this is not the case with a church.

Churches "belong" to the community they serve, and the community has a responsibility to help preserve them. We have a duty to make sure that when our descendants pass by, they too will see the magnificent building and all the history it contains.

During October 2014, the Friends of Sandon Church was formed as a registered charity with the aim of raising money to help maintain the fabric of the church. Some of their aims are:

- To preserve the church for future generations to enjoy
- To maintain and improve the building for use by the whole community
- To support the conservation of the country churchyard as a haven of peace

How you can help.

- You can give a donation to help
- Become a Friend of Sandon Church by contacting one of the committee members.
- By joining the Friends Committee
- By supporting the fund raising events
- By helping with working parties in the churchyard
- By remembering The Friends in your will

Please make sure you are part of the history of Sandon

We do hope that you can help us maintain and enhance St. Andrews Church Sandon

For further information, joining rules or donations, please contact:

David Farrar-Secretary davidchris1812@yahoo.co.uk

Darren Chaplin-Treasurer drnchpin@aol.com

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

TED MUNT – CLERK Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 parishclerk@sandon.info Hours 09:30 – 12:30 Mon a.m. and Wed a.m.			
Parish Councillors		Areas of responsibility/representation	
DEE HYATT Peartree Lodge, 2 The Old Orchard, Howe Green CM2 7TX Tel: 01245 763744 dee.hyatt@virgin.net		CHAIRMAN Planning Sandon Quarry Liaison Committee Rep	
MARTIN CROSS Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 martincross@gmail.com		VICE CHAIR Finance Parish Transport Committee	
CEDRIC CALMEYER 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 ccalmeyer8@gmail.com		Maintenance Allotments	
ALAN KALBFELL 4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel: 07802 762620 alan@amdark.co.uk		Sandon Sports Club Committee Rep Sandon Village Hall Rep	
ELAINE WILLIAMSON Contact the clerk		Personnel	
JAMES COLBECK 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 jameshcolbeck@gmail.com		Parochial Church Council (PCC) Rep	
ESSEX COUNTY COUNCILLOR IAN GRUNDY Tel: 01277 840737			
CITY COUNCILLORS (LITTLE BADDOW, DANBURY & SANDON)			
RICHARD AMBOR Tel: 01245 222874		2 Hay Green, Danbury, Chelmsford, CM2 4NU richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk	
BOB SHEPHERD, MBE Tel: 01245 223709		2 Chase Cottages, Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow, CM3 4AU b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk	
IAN WRIGHT Tel: 01245 226289		Farm Cottage, Sporhams Lane, Danbury, CM3 4AJ i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
Chelmsford City Council	01245	606606	
Police	01245	491491	Ask for S Woodham Ferrers
Broomfield Hospital	01245	443673	
Citizens Advice Bureau	01245	205605	For U.C. 0800 1448444
Neighbourhood Watch	01245	471589	
LOCAL ORGANISATIONS			
St Andrew's Church - Priest in Charge	Revd Terry Brown	01245	698988
Church Wardens	Mr M. Puffett	01245	222066
	Mrs J. Cecil	01245	224747
PCC Secretary	Dr M. Worboys	01245	224612
PCC Treasurer	Mr N. Bobeldijk	01245	471756
Bell Ringers	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
Women's Institute	Mrs D. Gray	01245	223609
Howe Green URC		01702	342120
Howe Green URC Elder	Mrs P Knott	01245	471691
Village Hall Management Committee	Ms J. Fisher	01245	475976
Village Hall Bookings www.sandonvillagehall.webs.com			
Cubs	Mr Steve Eatley	07957	802898
Scouts	Ms J. Blake	07956	580404
Sandon Tiny Tots/Mother and Toddler Group	Mrs A Read	01245	474858 or 07720 718372
Chelmsford Rambling Club	Ms M Say	01245	381262
Sandon Parish Magazine Editor	Mr R. Cecil	01245	224747
Sandon Sports Club	Mrs V. Kohler	07957	300027
Are your details correctly listed? If not, please contact the Parish Council Clerk on 01245 477111			

All Parish Council information is available on our website including minutes of meetings at www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk. The Council meets at 7.15 pm on the 2nd Monday of each Month at St Andrews Church meeting room and on alternate months at Howe Green Chapel. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS