

SANDON TOPICS

Summer 2021 Newsletter from Sandon Parish Council



www.sandonparishcouncil.co.uk



Chairman's Message – June 2021

Well done to every one for enduring such unprecedented times with such good grace and obedience. The UK has set a wonderful example to the rest of the world. I hope most of the eligible adults have now had at least their first COVID vaccination. Our condolences go to all those who have lost loved ones during this crisis. Such sad times. We also mourned the passing of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. The couple married in 1947, and had four children – Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward. At the age of 97 the Duke retired from royal duties. His last public outing with the Queen was at the polo in June 2018 and Prince Philip died peacefully at Windsor Castle on 9 April 2021, aged 99. Such a shame he didn't make his 100th Birthday and receive his telegram! We now need to look forward to happier times. Hopefully, this will mean coming out of the lockdown and restrictions completely, and having the freedom to move about and even go on holiday this year.



Spring was very late this year with a lot of our plants suffering from all the frosts and very cold winds but they mostly seem to be recovering and everywhere is looking very green now. The birds are busily nesting and singing and life starts again. I have four nest sites in my tiny garden, so looking forward to seeing the babies fledge.

Our groundsman, Keith Dobson, retired in May after a long service with us, keeping the grass cut, the litter picked, and bus shelters looking spruce and well maintained. Many thanks to him for all his hard work and we wish him well in his retirement. The picture shows Keith being presented with a gift of gardening implements to show our appreciation from Cllr Calmeyer. Our new groundsman, Andrew, will be out and about now, so don't forget to say hello or give him a wave.

Vacancy for a Parish Councillor

Unfortunately, one of our current councillors will be resigning this summer. This will leave a vacancy for a councillor to the parish council. Note that anyone in the village is able to apply. Although the parish council is the lowest level of government, you do not need to be political or have an interest in local politics. All that you need to have is an interest in your local community and the desire to try and keep our village well maintained, and be a place that we would all wish to live in.

One of the lessons of the recent pandemic is the importance of communities, with people working together and looking out for each other. Being a councillor gives you that opportunity. Note that you are a volunteer so can do as much, or as little, as you wish. The minimum that we ask of you, is that you attend the two hourly monthly parish meeting which is held on the second Monday of each month. Of course, if you want to do more, then we won't stop you!

Being a councillor is a great way of getting to know your community. This could be a good way for any newcomer to the village to get to know the residents. Alternatively, this might be a good stepping stone for a young person who wants to develop their C.V. and demonstrate to future employers what a well rounded person they are. Note that you would have to be over 18 years old though! Some of you may have recently retired, or are spending more time at home due to remote working. Being a councillor could give you a new interest!

If you want to find out more, or "try before you buy", then please contact me (the parish clerk) or any of the councillors. Our contact details are at the back of this newsletter. You are also welcome to attend any of our monthly meetings as an ordinary member of the public.

Dangerous Roads

The following article is a contribution from one of our residents

“After living in Sandon for a couple of years and now using the roads more often, it is clear that with increasing traffic, the main road running through our village is not safe.

The 40 mph sign on Woodhill Road seem to give most drivers a nod to accelerate towards it and not pay attention to the 30 mph zone. Once in the 40 mph zone, drivers are often driving too fast for the road layout. Speeding on our roads is dangerous with many hidden driveways, blind exits and junctions, narrow and winding roads with a cocktail of large cars, cyclists and pedestrians it is only a matter of time before a serious incident occurs.

Chelmsford Council and ECC Highways have a reactionary view of road safety instead of a preventative one, not listening to the residents’ concerns until a serious incident does occur. Simple re-designs will quickly make our roads safe, with the use of width restrictions on the way in and out of the village to create an obstacle to slow down for, convex mirrors to improve visibility and reducing speed limits from 40 mph to 30 mph in all residential areas of Woodhill Road.

We need residents to sign up to the Community Speed Watch Scheme to help promote our concerns for this issue and enable action before a major incident occurs. Email Cllr Hyatt on cllrhattsandonpc@gmail.com to show your interest in providing regular speed checks on the roads of Sandon, once trained by the Police. Quite a few residents are needed to enable this to happen.”

Note that the parish council has no jurisdiction over the roads and signage in the parish. It is Essex Highways that have this responsibility. We, the Parish Council, can write to our ECC councillors on your behalf. However, weight of correspondence is often a more effective way to attract our county councillors’ attention. If you wish to raise your concerns individually, then please email the current Highways Councillor, Kevin Bentley, on cllr.kevin.bentley@essex.gov.uk

Litter picking



The problem of littering is a real issue for all of us. Although CCC and ECC send out regular litter patrols, they can’t keep up with the amount of rubbish that is thrown out. The Parish Council are more than happy if volunteers wish to collect any rubbish that they see on their walks. Note that this will be at your own risk! Please be very careful where you pick, and wear suitably bright clothing to protect yourselves. We have spare litter pickers in the office that we can give to any community minded people that want to get involved. Contact the parish clerk if you would like one.

Showcasing local talent

Here are a couple of pictures from local resident Edd Mitchem. Very sadly, Edd died earlier this year. However, here are two examples of the fine paintings that he made during the latter stages of his life.



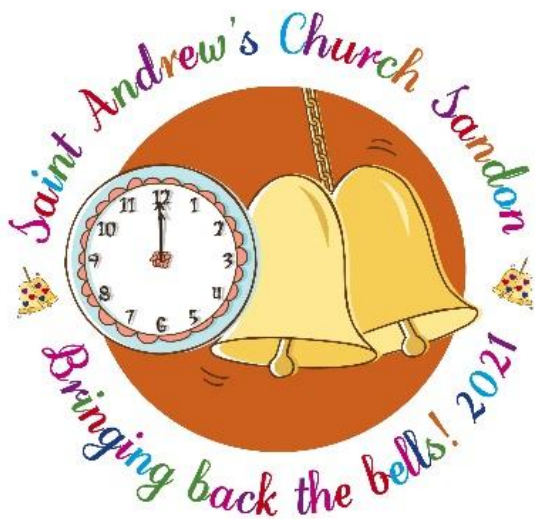
Alexander Mews



East Hanningfield Road

Bringing back the bells!

This is an exciting time to be a bell ringer! Firstly, the response to the village Bell Restoration Appeal has been nothing short of fantastic, so a massive 'Thank You' to all those who have donated. Secondly, after months of Zoom and virtual practice in Ringing Room online, we are back in the tower ringing real bells. As you'll read



below, we're not quite there on either front but 'Bringing back the bells!' is finally underway.

We have achieved our first restoration milestone earlier than expected and raised sufficient funding to place the order on Nicholson Engineering Ltd. They have a slot in their schedule to start work in early March 2022 and complete by mid-April, an earlier start and a quicker turnaround than we expected (and an update from the dates in the June 'Sandon Voice' item!). This places pressure on the fundraising but also gives us some focus to get the money raised and the project completed.

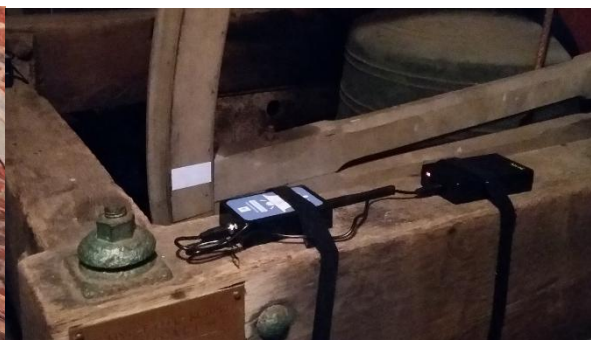
Personal donations are still very welcome and, just in case the appeal leaflet is buried in your 'to do' pile, it's blue and well worth a second look! The Village Walk is on 19 June and this year the funds raised will go to the Restoration Appeal. If you would like to join the walkers and be part of the event, which promises to be a good day, you are very welcome – just contact David Farrar or myself to find out details. If you haven't been

approached for sponsorship and would like to sponsor a bell ringer you can sponsor me! On 11 September the church will be open as part of the national Heritage Open Days scheme and, subject to national guidelines, we will be organising free trips up the tower to visit the bells and enjoy the view from the top.

We are finally back in the tower and able to ring! However, the ropes are too close to comply with social distancing guidelines, so we are practicing on a single bell with the clapper tied so it doesn't sound outside the tower. We have a training simulator that runs a programme called Virtual Belfry. This enables us to ring one bell with five simulated virtual ringers projected on a wall. It's not very social but it is great for getting back in practice and making good use of the time until we can hopefully get all six bells ringing again from 21 June.



Clapper 'tied' so the bell can't sound



Simulator sensor that tracks the bell motion

In early June, we have plans to take the families of the logo competition entrants (aged 8 and above) up the tower and they have been invited to chime (for real) one of the oldest 1653 bells (the uncracked one!) so, if they sound like beginners, some of them hopefully are!

To find out more about the project and stay in touch with progress, please visit the church to see the exhibition or look at the church website.

Mike Worboys,
Tower Captain, Sandon
01245 224612
mike.r.worboys@gmail.com

IMPORTANT CONTACT DETAILS

TED MUNT – CLERK Sandon Parish Council, Recreation Ground, Rectory Chase, Sandon, Chelmsford, CM2 7SQ. Tel: 01245 477111 parishclerk@sandonpc.plus.com 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 cldrhyattsandonpc@gmail.com		CHAIRMAN Planning Sandon Quarry Liaison Committee Rep	
MARTIN CROSS Magrathea, East Hanningfield Road, Howe Green CM2 7TQ Tel: 01245 478910 cllrcrosssandonpc@gmail.com		VICE CHAIR Finance Parish Transport Committee	
CEDRIC CALMEYER 25 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 01245 478900 cllrcalmeyersandonpc@gmail.com		Maintenance Allotments	
ALAN KALBFELL 4, The Tythings, Howe Green CM2 7TU Tel: 07802 762620 cllrkalbfellsandonpc@gmail.com		Sandon Sports Club Committee Rep Sandon Village Hall Rep	
ELAINE WILLIAMSON cllrewilliamsonsandonpc@gmail.com		Personnel	
JAMES COLBECK 51 Hall Lane, Sandon, CM2 7RJ Tel: 07949849674 cllrcolbecksandonpc@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 richard.ambor@chelmsford.gov.uk		2 Hay Green, Danbury, Chelmsford, CM2 4NU	
BOB SHEPHERD, MBE Tel: 01245 223709 b.shepherd@chelmsford.gov.uk		2 Chase Cottages, Riffhams Chase, Little Baddow, CM3 4AU	
IAN WRIGHT Tel: 01245 226289 i.wright@chelmsford.gov.uk		Farm Cottage, Sporhams Lane, Danbury, CM3 4AJ	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS			
Chelmsford City Council	01245	606606	
Police	01245	491491 or ring 101	
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 C. Jefferies	07725 973624
PCC Secretary		Mr R. Cecil	01245 224747
PCC Treasurer		Mr N. Bobeldijk	01245 471756
Bell Ringers		Dr M. Worboys	01245 224612
Women's Institute		Mrs D. Gray	01245 223609
Howe Green URC		Rev Paul Stein	07810 396410
Howe Green URC Elder		Mrs P Knott	01245 471691
Village Hall Management Committee		Ms J. Fisher	01245 475976
Village Hall Bookings https://www.sandonvillagehall.co.uk			
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. Note that we are now meeting face to face again. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

WE EXTEND A VERY WARM WELCOME TO ALL NEW RESIDENTS