



## No changes for the 33 as MK revamps bus services

Because of COVID the Parish Council has again decided once again not to distribute a paper edition of Castlethorpe News but that I would give an update available online on our website, where you can see previous Newsletters including my June and September articles. Paper copies are also available in the shop.

We will keep this under review and I hope we can return to distributing paper copies later next year.

Despite the new lockdown, we were able to hold the annual Remembrance Sunday commemoration at the War Memorial after a last-minute relaxation of the rules.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the Borough by the Mayor, Councillor Andrew Geary, who is of course one of our Ward Councillors, and by me, as Chairman of the Parish Council, on behalf of the parish. A third wreath was laid privately by Thames Valley Police.

Thanks to John Earp and Steven Evison for tidying the grass and shrubs by the Memorial.

You are probably aware that COVID cases have been increasing in Milton Keynes including in the rural north – Milton Keynes Council do not release figures at the parish level. Russell Forgham and I registered as “COVID Champions” and Russell is publishing information on our website, [castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk).

Financially, the success in obtaining grants for both the Sports Ground (through the Sports Association) and the Village Hall has meant that the Parish Council has not had to draw on its reserves this year. Furthermore, a new Pre-School, Ducklings, will be starting on 4 January at the Village Hall.

There is an Open Morning on 9 December at the hall,



**By Philip Ayles**

Chairman of

Castlethorpe Parish Council

COVID regulations permitting, so please go along if you are interested. This is great news for the village and particular thanks to Russell who has worked with Ducklings to bring them to Castlethorpe.

The defibrillators are with our contractor and will be fitted at the Hall and Sports Ground later this month.

In the last Newsletter, I said that there was a threat to the No 33 bus because MKC is stopping the subsidised routes and replacing them with Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) which means using an app (or ringing up) and ordering a service which then adjusts its route to pick up passengers.

MKC hadn't consulted with the parishes as it is obliged to do and so Castlethorpe and Hanslope Parish Councils “called in” the decision, which means it was stopped until further discussions had taken place and potentially the decision would have to be retaken at a higher level.

Although we were sceptical, we attended briefings and the new system may work well but it turned out that, because the 33 is half funded by Northants, it was the only subsidised route in MK not affected! If only they had told us that beforehand. So, the 33 continues for the year

*Continued on Page 2*

## Groundsman wanted for Sports Ground

A vacancy has arisen for the position of part-time groundsman for the Sports Ground.

The role will require doing work for both the Parish Council and Castlethorpe Sports Association as follows:

Parish Council – mow and strim grass to the south of the path to a schedule to be agreed with the Clerk to the Parish Council and to

maintain the hedges and trees in that area as required. To keep the area free from litter and in good order.

Castlethorpe Sports Association (CSA) – mow and strim grass areas to the north of the path and mark out football and cricket pitches as agreed with the CSA.

The work will typically take 3 - 4 hours per week to suit your

personal circumstances. For full details and rate please contact the Parish Clerk, Steve Bradbury, 63 Thrupp Close, Castlethorpe, Milton Keynes MK19 7PL. Tel: 01908 337928 or email [clerk@castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk)

All expressions of interest to be communicated by 11 December please.

# Parish Council Chairman's report

From Page 1

until March 2022 but it wouldn't surprise us if they reached an agreement with Northants to convert to DRT then but at least all the other MK routes will have sorted out any teething problems.

MKC have run a pilot to change rubbish sacks to wheelie bins in 2023 and also for households to separate paper and card from glass, plastic and metal recycling.

This would mean each household having four wheelie bins (residual waste, paper, other recycling and green waste) unless it isn't practical in which case smaller boxes, like the current glass boxes, would be provided. The public consultation runs until 24 February and can be found at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/609>

We are still waiting for MKC to come to a decision whether to designate Gobbys Field as a Local Green Space subject to a referendum in May or to proceed without designating it. The Parish Council is obviously pressing for it to be designated.

As I mentioned in the last Newsletter, MKC Conservation and Archaeology are proposing some changes to the Conservation Area and this is out for public consultation until 11 December at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/conservation-and-archaeology/conservation-areas-in-milton-keynes>

The Parish Council is in agreement with most of this though there are discussions about their proposed changes to the boundary in Lodge Farm Court.

Stonewater, the social housing provider which owns Maltings 2, took their planning application to Appeal on 27 October. Both MKC and the Parish Council objected to the application because the Planning Policy in the Neighbourhood Plan says that the new development should take its design cue from Paddock Close and it doesn't. We await the Planning Inspector's decision.

There are two planning applications of general interest

being a change of use from agricultural to storage at Bartholomew Farm and a new house on land at 1 Wolverton Road. The Parish Council has expressed concerns about hours of operation and village traffic for the former and will consider the latter on 7 December.

Generally, COVID has meant that Parish Council activities are necessarily quieter. We have replaced some footway posts (eg in South Street by the path to the railway) and perhaps the biggest was having MKC repaint some of the older heritage style lamp posts some of which were going green with age.

MKC are currently planning to replace all the streetlights with LEDs in 2021/22 and we have asked them for a style more suited to our rural environment. The heritage style in the Conservation Area will remain but it may be possible to upgrade others. We also intend to replace the tree in the Fishponds which blew down and are taking advice on species and planting.

Dave Hinds and I continue to operate the Speed Indicator Device and I am waiting for some information from Thames Valley Police about a further, recent enforcement exercise.

A reminder that the Parish Council is meeting online via Zoom and this seems to be successful with about 25-30 viewers on Facebook and YouTube. Participation is very welcome in three ways: you can send a question beforehand to the Clerk or any councillor, you can join the Open Forum just before the council meeting (joining details are published with the Agenda) or you can comment on the Facebook live stream which is monitored during the Open Forum. The next meeting is 7.30pm on 7 December and then 4 January.

We are hoping to put up Christmas lights again this year again COVID regulations permitting. Dave Hinds is organising a working party 9am Saturday 5 December if you can help.

It will obviously be a muted Christmas this year but hopefully we can get back to "normal" during the first quarter and on behalf of the Parish Council, I wish you a good Christmas and a much better 2021. Take care and stay safe.

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# Joseph cleans up for Duke's award



Our thanks go out to Joseph Maravala, who has volunteered to work for the community in Castlethorpe for his Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award.

This has involved work mostly in the churchyard but also elsewhere in the village, with the aim of regular maintenance and the improvement of areas where work has been done.

In the churchyard Joseph's principal occupation has been grass-cutting. In addition he helped with bush trimming and cutting, producing prunings which he then helped cut down to size for bagging ready for recycling. He also cleared ivy from gravestones. Elsewhere Joseph helped to "clean" the two local bus shelters and vegetation that had begun to obstruct the village shop sign.

John Earp, who has been mentoring Joseph, said: "Particularly while he was grass-cutting Joseph freed up my time, enabling me to make a lot of progress clearing overgrown parts of the churchyard."

## Flu jab session

Hanslope Surgery have received a further supply of flu vaccines for the 18-64 AT RISK category. If you are eligible and have received a letter previously you can now call for an appointment on 01908 510230.

In addition to this they are planning to hold a further large clinic on Saturday 19 December at Roade Village Hall when they have received further vaccines. More details of that will follow via social media.

## Website change

The old village website has now closed and visitors are now being directed automatically to the Parish Council website [castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk), which has a lot more information on it, including up-to-date travel alerts!

# Glenmore Farm

Ian Markham, Bullington End Road, Castlethorpe  
Tel: 01908 511169 Mobile: 07778 180731

Hello folks!

So Christmas is nearly here again and, of course, New Year following closely. Time seems to pass so quickly these days ... but there you go, we can't do a thing about it!

Christmas orders are being taken now. I'm a bit behind ringing around, so if you think I've missed you, I'm still here!

At Christmas we have turkeys and cockerels, plus geese and ducks, together with home-reared well-hung Hereford beef and our home-produced pork.

In the shop we'll have our selection of home-made sausages, our own home-cured bacon and gammon and many more goodies like pork pies, cheeses, fruit, salads and seasonal vegetables.

Please remember you are very welcome to come and see what we have, even if you don't have anything ordered.

The shop will be open on December 22nd, 23rd and 24th from 9am-5pm.

So a very Merry Christmas from Pat and me.

*Ian*

For more information please speak to Ian on

**01908 511169**

or

**07778 180730**



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## Village remembers the fallen

The annual Remembrance Day service of commemoration was held at the war memorial in North Street on Sunday 8 November, observing social distancing.

Wreaths were laid by the Mayor of Milton Keynes,

Councillor Andrew Geary (centre), who attended with his wife Lisa, and the Chairman of Castlethorpe Parish Council, Councillor Philip Ayles, right.

A third wreath was laid privately by Thames Valley Police.

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## Don't give thieves a present for Christmas!

Here's a seasonal reminder from Thames Valley Police about how not to make it a Merry Christmas for thieves!

This time of year more than any other time it is easy to detect who's in and who's out by visitors that are not welcome.

If no lights are on in your home, curtains are not drawn, no car on the drive this is an open invitation to an opportunist burglar that no one is in.

Double check all windows, doors, gates also garage and shed. You can purchase a light timer/shed alarms from any DIY Store for about £5.

**Christmas gift boxes:** Again this is a good indication to thieves of the tempting things you have had new in your home. Break all boxes up into small pieces and discard in your recycling bags.

**Car Crime:** Remember to lock your vehicle and check it's locked. Please remove all your possessions from the car, CHECK you have not left your coat, handbag, mobile, satnav and the holder, briefcase, laptop, shopping or small change in your vehicle.

Basically leave it empty and locked before the thieves do it for you.

And in cold frosty weather don't give car thieves the keys to your vehicle. Stay with your vehicle while it is warming up and defrosting.

The Neighbourhood Policing Teams will be doing extra patrols in the Burglary Hot Spots over the festive season.

And if you spot anything suspicious you can report it by phoning 101 (or 999 if it's a crime in progress).

You can also reach our PCSO Josh Richardson C9866 (right) via 101 or by sending him an email at: [joshua.richardson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:joshua.richardson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



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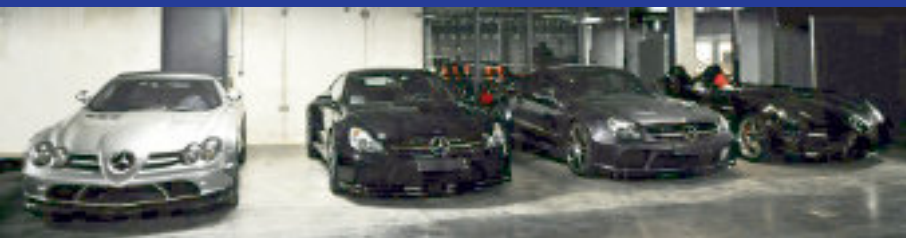
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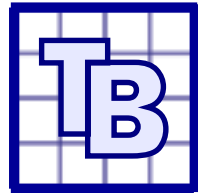


## Ellie's Treatments

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## Changes planned for Conservation Area

Milton Keynes Council is conducting a review of Conservation Area boundaries across the Borough and has just published its recommendations for Castlethorpe for public consultation prior to a final decision.

You can download a copy from the Parish Council website at <https://castlethorpe-pc.gov.uk/Conservation-AreaReviewconsultationNov2020.pdf>.

The Parish Council has been involved and is happy with all but one of the recommendations.

The recommendations are that the boundary remains largely as it is now but:

\* New Road and Nos 1-11 Bullington End Road are included. These are fine Edwardian houses and identified as



“Buildings of Local Interest” in our new Neighbourhood Plan.

\* There are some changes where there has been new development around Maltings Court, Tyrell Close and Thrupp Close.

\* In Lodge Farm Court where Nos 6-12, which were included, are now proposed to be excluded.

It is this last area which is not in line with the Parish Council recommendation, which is that the boundary should be unaltered in Lodge Farm Court.

Broadly, being in the Conservation Area doesn't prevent the householder from doing anything but planning permission may be required to prevent “out of character” changes.

If you would like to comment on the Boundary Review, it has to be sent by email to: [conservationarchaeology@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:conservationarchaeology@milton-keynes.gov.uk) by 11 December.



## CORONAVIRUS TIER 4

## STAY AT HOME

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you live in a Tier 4 area, you cannot join or form a Christmas bubble. You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific purposes.

<b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b>  <p>No household mixing, aside from support bubbles and two people meeting in public outdoor spaces.</p>	<b>BARNS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b>  <p>Hospitality closed, aside from sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	<b>RETAIL</b>  <p>Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only open for click-and-collect and delivery.</p>	<b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b>  <p>Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.</p>
<b>EDUCATION</b>  <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open during term time. Registered childcare, other supervised activities for childcare purposes, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<b>INDOOR LEISURE</b>  <p>Closed.</p>	<b>ACCOMMODATION</b>  <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	<b>PERSONAL CARE</b>  <p>Closed.</p>
<b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b>  <p>You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply.</p>	<b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b>  <p>Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events can continue in a group of up to six. Weddings of up to six can continue in exceptional circumstances.</p>	<b>ENTERTAINMENT</b>  <p>Indoor entertainment closed. Some outdoor attractions may remain open.</p>	<b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b>  <p>Open for private prayer and communal worship, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<b>TRAVELLING</b>  <p>You must stay at home and only travel for work, education or other legally permitted reasons. If you must travel, you should stay local, and reduce the number of journeys you make. You must not leave a Tier 4 area or stay overnight away from home. Residents in Tiers 1 - 3 should not enter Tier 4 areas. Do not travel abroad if you live in a Tier 4 area unless an exemption applies.</p>	<b>EXERCISE</b>  <p>You can leave your home to exercise by yourself, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household. Outdoor sport allowed but gatherings limit applies except for youth and disabled sport.</p>	<b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b>  <p>You can visit relatives in care homes with COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits.</p>	<b>CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE</b> <p>The Clinically Extremely Vulnerable are advised to stay at home as much as possible, except to go outdoors for exercise or to attend health appointments.</p>

For support and more information visit:  
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