

SH & NLS NEWS

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

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NEWS FROM NEWTON LEYS SOUTH
THE BOOK CLUB
MAVIS'S QUIZ
CHURCH NEWS
BUCKS NEWS & MUCH MORE

February/March 2023

www.stokehammondpc.com



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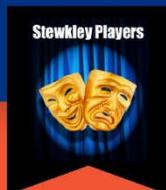
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Stoke Hammond Speeding Working Group



The Speeding Working Group held their first meeting in January, and are starting to collate ideas for reducing excessive vehicle speeds through our village. Aside from physical measures and signage we want to set up a Community Speedwatch to work with the police to record details of speeding vehicles using approved detection devices, but in order to do this we would require some additional volunteers to be part of our Speedwatch team to help operate the equipment. If you feel you are able spare some time, please email gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com or call on 07729 691888



ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO MARCH 2023

FEBRUARY

- 5th Feb: 11.00am Family Service – DW
Note: To be held at SH Community Centre
- 12th Feb: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – JW
Note: To be held at St Mary Magdalene,
 Great Brickhill
- 19th Feb: 09.30am Morning Worship - tba
- 22nd Feb: 10.30am Benefice Ash Wednesday Said HC* – JW
- 26th Feb: 09.30am Holy Communion - JW



MARCH

- 5th Mar: 09.30am Café Church – DW
- 12th Mar: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion – JW
Note: To be held at All Saints Bow Brickhill
- 19th Mar: 11.00am Mothering Sunday Family Service – JW
- 26th Mar: 09.30am Holy Communion – JW

** Said Holy Communion services
 don't have music or hymns.*

Unless otherwise stated, refreshments are served after all services at St Luke's Church

Details of church services are posted on the Benefice Website:

www.brickhillchurches.org.uk

JW – Rev John Waller DW – Dave Webber

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

There can't be many of us in Stoke Hammond and the surrounding areas that haven't yet sampled both the drinks and food on offer at our reinvigorated pub that is The Dolphin, that reopened its doors in early December. It's so brilliant to have our village pub back and judging by the always packed interior when viewed through the front windows, it would seem that many agree.

Normally, because of so much going on in December, including the setting of the next financial year's budget, more of which anon, we don't normally hold a PC meeting, but because of planning applications received and the need for us to make comment, an extraordinary PC meeting was called for the evening of Tuesday 6th December. Details of the planning applications discussed and our recommendations can be found in the 'Planning Updates' section within this edition of the SH & NLS News.

In the last PC News, we made mention of the Parish Councillors who for various reasons had to relinquish their positions on the PC, and regretfully we have to do so again, as our relatively new PC Councillor Dean McCann from Newton Leys South, has also decided to step away from the Council. This means we therefore have two vacancies to be filled, which have been advertised, and it is very much hoped that these can be filled by co-option at our February meeting.

So, returning to the subject of the budget for 2023/4, something which has an impact on all households in our Parish, as the figure we set, determines the level of precept that you pay within your Council Tax. For 2022/23 we set a budget of £55,120 which for a Band D household equated to a precept figure of £69.19. This precept is basically our only source of income and has to cover all the costs associated with maintaining the Parish, such as but not limited to grass cutting, street lighting, general repairs and replacements, supporting local organisations, bringing you this SH & NLS News every two months but also special things like funding/sponsorship for this year's magnificent Platinum Jubilee events and the engagement of specialist contractors to provide what was a spectacular illumination of the Christmas Tree on the Green. In setting our 2023/24 budget we could not be 'blinkered' to what has been happening to prices on almost every commodity and service, and in order that we are able to maintain what you our Parishioners expect from your Parish Council, we have set a new budget of £65,376. Which at 14.45% may seem quite a dramatic increase, but with for this new financial year, there being more homes in the Parish now due to pay council tax, the new precept figure for a Band D household will be £79.19, a rise of just £10.

Some of you may recall that a while ago now, and without any advance warning, that fencing with a padlocked entrance gate was suddenly erected around what was the grassed open space at the entrance to Mount Pleasant from the Leighton Road. This area has been left open for all to enjoy basically since the Mount Pleasant development was built some near 30 years ago. The owners (and there have been a few) for this parcel of land, have tried on several occasions to develop the land, the last for the erection of two bungalows, which the planners in their refusal statement actually referred to this piece of land as being a 'village green'. The residents of Mount Pleasant got together, and with the

land owner not responding to their communications, they sought to get the space officially declared as a Town or Village Green pursuant to S.15 of the Commons Act 2006. Well, it's been a slow process, but Bucks CC have now officially announced a public enquiry which is to be held over 4 days, commencing on the 28th Feb whereby the appointed inspector who will determine the outcome will listen to presentations from all interested parties and supporting witnesses. The enquiry is to be held in the meeting room at the Community Centre, exact times yet to be confirmed. Should Mount Pleasant be successful and the site be declared a Village Green, our understanding is that the land owner would then be obliged to make the space available for all to use.

After some unfortunate delay, the newly formed Stoke Hammond Speeding Working Group had their inaugural meeting at the beginning of the new year to determine an action plan and gather ideas they thought worthy of further investigation to try and reduce some of the excessive vehicle speeds that are being experienced on a 'day to day' basis through the village. It is generally felt that the main highway through Stoke Hammond is much wider than one would normally find in villages, with this being a legacy of pre bypass when this route was the main A4146. This greater width leading to drivers inadvertently travelling faster than they should, so some form of narrowing of the carriageway by temporary or permanent means may well be a positive way forward. The Group are also hopeful that they can reinstate 'Speedwatch' with handheld video cameras to record and log details of vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit. The Group also joined with the PC in expressing their frustration with Bucks Highways, who despite repeated chases by the PC over the last few months, have yet to approve the village entrance locations for the 3 new solar powered MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) that the PC intend to purchase and instal.

Your PC now has regular meetings with the Hill Group the developers of the new housing on the Fenny Road, and are able to quickly report to them any issues albeit these are now thankfully few and far in between, compared to when work first started on this site. Indeed, Hill's would like to engage more with Community and Laureen Kennett their Social Value & Community Manager, will by the time of publication already attended one of the weekly Coffee mornings held at the Sports Club to advise and assist on many of the 'cost of living' matters that we are all facing at this time. You can also see their article in this edition of the SH & NLs News offering an assortment of 'Education to Employment' training and engagement courses to support young people in our parish.

Still on the subject of the Fenny Road development, in that as part of their S106 agreement, the Hills Group are obliged to provide a new bus shelter to the stop as one leaves the village towards the Stoke Road. However, in order to accommodate this new shelter, the current layby would be reworked and infilled as pavement. We were asked for comment, but felt the residents whose homes were closest to the bus stop should first be consulted, so we have written to these residents seeking their thoughts before we return to Hills with our comments.

As aforementioned, the extraordinary PC meeting in December was specifically called to debate some important planning applications, with no further matters discussed, so we move on to our first meeting of 2023 held on the evening of Tuesday 3rd January. Before

going into brief details about this meeting, we should probably advise, that at this meeting all of your Parish Councillors unanimously agreed that they had for many months now not been happy with the way in which our allocated Unitary Ward Councillor Phil Gomm, who was not in attendance, conducted himself in both his dealing with the Council and with members of the public who contacted him for advice and assistance. We were also most disappointed that Councillor Gomm seemed to promise much but achieve very little. It was therefore agreed that our clerk would write to our three Unitary Ward Councillors requesting that Stoke Hammond is represented by one of the other two Ward Councillors. As regards other matters raised/discussed at this meeting, they are in brief as follows, remembering planning matters can be found in the 'Planning Updates' section, and copies of meeting agendas and minutes are available to view and download on our website www.stokehammondpc.com

- Following the recent resignation of Cllr Steve McNally, the first order of business was the election of a new Vice Chair, a position to which Cllr Greg Noble was unanimously elected.
- Cllr Craig Champion wanted to make those present aware of the situation residents in Newton Leys South residing on the Bovis side of the estate, face with regard to the management charges they have to pay to a company called First Port. The PC was sympathetic to their plight, but agreed further investigation was required.
- Cllr Noble on behalf of the Community Centre was pleased to advise that they had been successful in their application for a grant from the Winslow & Villages Community Board to go towards the resurfacing of the playground area at the centre, and that the works were scheduled to take place during the February half-term holidays.
- The matter of the tree engulfed lamppost on Phoebes Orchard was again raised, and having failed to establish on which of the two possible front gardens the tree sits, it was agreed that the PC would write to the two homes, advising of the PC intentions to undertake the lopping of the offending branches.
- Following the recent cold snap and snow showers, it is apparent there are insufficient grit bins across the Parish, with none in Newton Leys South (NLS). Possible locations in both Stoke Hammond and NLS would be investigated.

The dates for our next two PC Meetings are Tuesday 7th February and Tuesday 7th March, both currently planned to take place at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB, starting at 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome to attend these meetings.

Should you wish to contact your Parish Council, please do so via our clerk:

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com
www.stokehammondpc.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Cllr Malcom Newing (Chair) - malcomnewing@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Craig Champion - craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Fran Sharkey - fransharkey@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Greg Noble - gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr David Venn - davidvenn@stokehammondpc.com

YOUR GREAT BRICKHILL UNITARY WARD COUNCILLORS

The Great Brickhill Ward includes the villages of: Drayton Parslow, Dunton, Great Brickhill, Hoggeston, Hogshaw, Mursley, Newton Longville, North Marston, Oving, Pitchcott, Quainton, Soulbury, Stewkley, Stoke Hammond & Swanbourne.



Phil Gomm

It's been a privilege living and being part of the spirited multicultural Aylesbury Vale community all my life. People have always been my focus and as a DJ Presenter and owner of an events company, listening and delivering accurately has been key. Family is extremely important and it's been my pleasure to farm and breed horses with them. Recently, as a County Councillor, Chairman of Thames Valley Crimestoppers and Buckingham Neighbourhood Action Group I've gained a passion for advocating for the best for people which I endeavour to continue.

Email: Philip.Gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Mob: 07778 117647

Jilly Jordan

I am currently working as a Unitary Councillor in the Ivers. I have served on several committees, including planning (local and strategic) and finance, and I am Chairman of the local Community Board. We recently moved to live in the area. I am keen to use experience gained as a member of Buckinghamshire Council to the benefit of the local community. Clearly, we face many challenges, including those presented by major infrastructure projects. I look forward to getting to know members of the local communities and working together to maintain and improve the quality of life in our villages.

Email: Jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Mob: 07740 308468



Iain Macpherson

Iain has spent the last 39 years in business, initially in international sales and marketing roles for multi-national companies travelling extensively, but more recently in medium sized businesses in the food sector in the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire area as Managing Director. He has always taken a keen interest in both national and local politics and has recently supported Greg Smith's campaign pre-election on the doorsteps. He's attended many fundraising events and local activities such as the anti-HS2 rallies. Iain is married to Angela, they have two mature children; Rosanna (31) and Angue (28)

Email: Iain.Macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Mob: Not Avail



Stoke Hammond Neighbourhood Plan

New families, new houses, new businesses:

Have your say on the neighbourhood plan

The Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys South neighbourhood plan is your big chance to influence the way our village and parish evolves. It allows us to set the vision for Stoke Hammond and to guide the planning of new homes, businesses and community facilities.

Have your Say!

We'd love every household in the parish to visit the Community Centre, Bragenham Side MK17 9DB on **Saturday/Sunday March 25th/26th** to learn more about the neighbourhood plan and share your ideas on the future of our village and Newton Leys South. Drop in and find out how you can influence the plan and share your thoughts with your fellow villagers.

Why have a neighbourhood plan?

1. It will give us more control over the types of development that take place in our parish. If we have a view about any future development, what sort of houses should be built, and what kind of business can open in our community, the neighbourhood plan can set out specific requirements for that.
2. To determine the preferred sites within the Parish for future developments.
3. It can help to **protect the character and heritage** of the village. The plan can set out design guidelines to make sure new developments blend in with existing architecture and our beautiful landscape.
4. It can help to **provide funding** for community projects. We can use the plan to bid for funding from organisations like the National Lottery Community Fund or the government's Community Infrastructure Levy.

A neighbourhood plan is the best way to have a say in how our parish grows. You can stay up to date by visiting

www.stokehammondpc.com

Keep an eye out for more information about the March 25/26 event here, on the Parish Council website, on social media and around the parish.

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DETAILS



2 Double Beds



Bunk Beds



Living Area



Kitchen



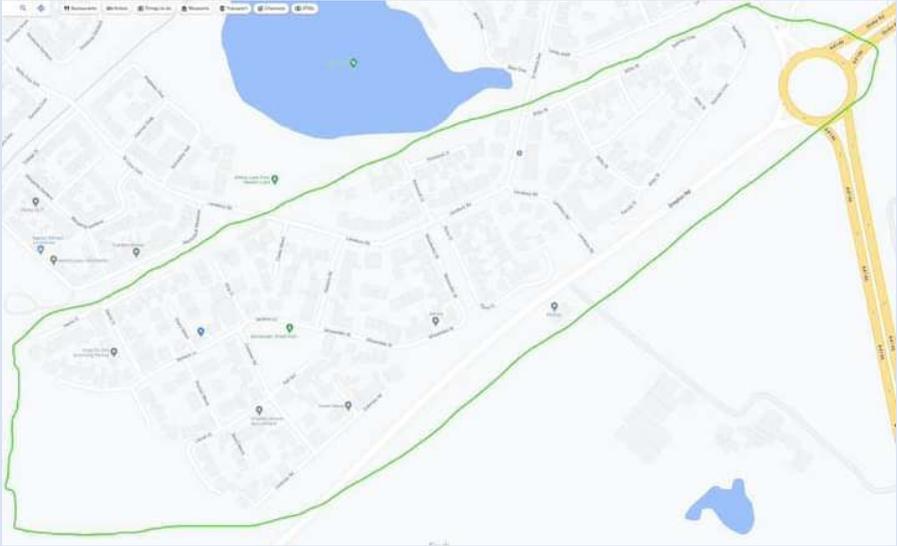
1 Shower Room



2 x WC's



WELCOME TO THE NEWTON LEYS SOUTH SECTION



I hope everyone had a great holiday and New Year.

The Parish Council has quite a lot of things going on at the moment that should see a dramatic shift for residents in Newton Leys. As with everything though, some of these may take a little time so please bear with us.

Facebook page

There is now a Newton Leys South Facebook group. This is aimed to allow communication on items that are specific to residents on the AVDC side of the Newton Leys estate. We had feedback last year from a number of residents that many people didn't realise which Parish Council area they were in. This Facebook page has been set up to address that and has helped improve engagement from residents. If you haven't already then please do join it.

Newton Leys Management Company (Firstport)

Residents on the part of the estate built by Bovis Homes currently pay a service charge to a management company for maintaining the park in Dickens Lane and cutting the grass around the outside of that part of the estate.

The fees charged by Firstport acting on behalf of the management company have increased substantially over the last 9 years and are now over £160 per household each year. We are looking to help residents take control of this management company in order to control these costs. Your Parish Council



2023

Happy New Year to all SH & NLS News readers. No piece this month due to one of the following:

- 1) I've been on holiday
- 2) I'm waiting for an appointment with a Doctor
- 3) I've been too busy working
- 4) I've been on a picket line

Hope to be in touch next time

Grumpy Old Man

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The advertisement features a central photograph of a wedding couple walking down a street. The background is a light yellow color with green leafy branches in the corners.

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is looking at how we can help the residents to achieve this and then how to manage the estate afterwards.

Please keep an eye out on the Newton Leys South Facebook page for updates and residents please be aware that you will have to help and get involved in the process of taking control of the management company.

This will help massively simplify anything that the Parish Council does either in the Dickens Lane park or the grass areas, as it has proved very difficult to get simple things done when we always need the permission of the management company. As an example, we have previously sought to put a potentially lifesaving defibrillator in the park along with a Jubilee bench to mark last year's Platinum celebrations, and despite repeated chasing of the management company, noting the Parish Council would be covering all costs, we have been unable to secure any permissions.

Christmas Tree and Lights

Stoke Hammond has a large and very well-lit Christmas tree on its Village Green. The Parish Council would like to plant a Christmas tree in Newton Leys South and put lights on it. We have identified the area of grass where we would like to plant it, but are trying to make sure we can have power to the site before we proceed. Unfortunately, we couldn't get power to the site in time for this year, but we want to get this in place before next winter. The site proposed is opposite the entrance to Hopkins Road on Lansbury Road next to the park overlooking Willow Lake.

Grit Bins

The Parish Council has agreed to put a grit bin on Coleman Road as that road was treacherous during the recent freezing weather. This is another item that will be easier to do when the residents control the management company, so the Parish Council should be able to instal that before next winter.

Taylor Wimpey Open Areas

The Parish Council is in discussions with Taylor Wimpey about adopting the open grass areas around the newer part of the estate. We have given Taylor Wimpey details of some of the grass areas that it needs to tidy up and lots of trees that also need replacing. We are hoping that some of that landscaping works should be done in the next few weeks.

Cllr Craig Champion – craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com



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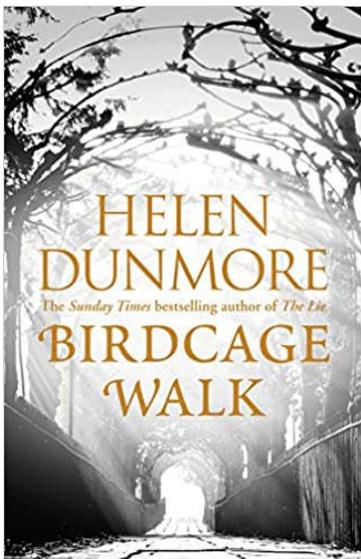
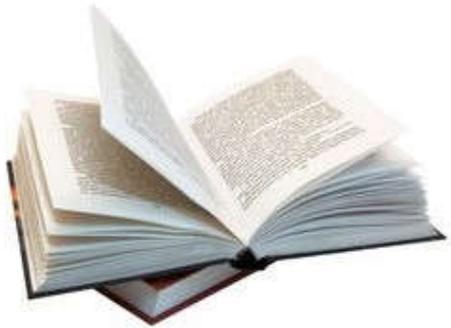
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Rodney Nowik

STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



Birdcage Walk - by Helen Dunmore.

Set around 1792 when Europe was seized in political turmoil we meet Lizzie Fawkes who has grown up in radical circles where each step of the French Revolution is followed with eager idealism. She marries John Diner Tredevant a property developer who heavily invests in Bristol's property boom. His ambitious project is a super expensive terrace of properties to be built above a 200 ft. Drop to the Gorge below - a perfect location. Poor Lizzie is determined to support his scheme as she feels this is her duty but sadly things go very wrong with tension, sexual violence and even murder gradually being revealed in the many aspects of this tale.

The Group all enjoyed it in one way or another, one member knew Bristol very well and was reminded of his childhood there. He was aware of Bristol being a radical city and found descriptions in keeping with his memories. Just one of the group stated that they gave up on it as they found it almost scary. Others remarked that the book captured the era although it could almost be a modern story of property development being lucrative but often risky. Mixed with all the various intrigues including influence of the troubles in France, it was enjoyed by nearly all and described as well written. Sympathies were with Lizzie and although it was said to have dragged a bit in the middle it was a good and worthwhile read.

Conclusion: Interesting, different and a page turner.

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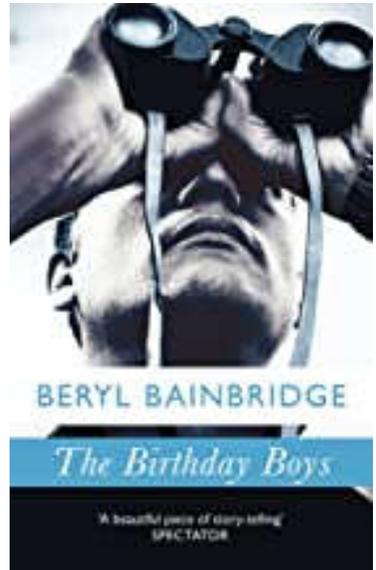
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB

BOOK TWO

The Birthday Boys - by Beryl Bainbridge

This book can be described as a fictionalised account of the doomed Antarctic expedition led by Captain Scott in 1912. The Birthday Boys are Scott and four members of his crew. Each section concentrates on one member of the team and each individual is described in a clear and an entertaining manner. It seems that they were all completely different characters with completely different strengths and weaknesses. However, it seems that what they had in common was that each one despised professional expertise and although all are brave in their own way they are totally doomed - the many sufferings of the trip were almost a rehearsal for the carnage of WW1 in that it is said that many Generals seemed to share Scott's skewed notion of courage leading them all into harm's way and made one realise Scott's influence on his team.



The Group on the whole enjoyed it. They found it unusual in that there was no specific plot and we all knew the eventual outcome but hearing about each separate member of the expedition team's thoughts on the dangers, difficult conditions etc. was fascinating. It also illustrated how, despite their differences, they coped with working together forming a tight team. Some of us were mystified as to why they added to their many problems by attempting additional forays (eg. searching for penguin eggs) but although they were aware of each other's shortcomings they seemed to find mutual respect and each character was brought vividly to life. We all agreed that it was well written and a new and imaginative direction for Beryl Bainbridge.

Conclusion: Enjoyable, unusual and interesting for a variety of reasons. Very different and well worth reading but sad ending.

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- ⌘ Stacey Bushes
- ⌘ Brooklands Farm
- ⌘ Stoke Hammond
- ⌘ Great Linford
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- ⌘ Giffard Park
- ⌘ Wavendon Gate
- ⌘ Newton Leys
- ⌘ Wolverton

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YOUR VILLAGE PRESCHOOL IS OUTSTANDING

Buttons are very proud to announce another Outstanding setting. We are on top of the world. It has been almost five years since our last inspection at Stoke Hammond and for our little village preschool to be awarded Outstanding, is just fantastic, we're over the moon. It is really tough at the moment to obtain an Outstanding outcome with Ofsted, but the amazing team at Stoke Hammond have gone above and beyond to make sure their setting is the best for the children. The celebrations continue as we start a new term as being



OUTSTANDING. Stoke Hammond (a thankful village) has made the children feel welcome since day 1, the interactions that local residents have with the children are beautiful, whether a visit to the local shop, a trip to the canal to watch the barges, treasure hunts or pen pal, the villagers form a wonderful part of the children's daily experiences. Staff at the

preschool are enthusiastic, kind, caring and extremely nurturing, the range of equipment is excellent and allows the children to build on their own ideas, from creating magical boat rides, climbing mountains or just engaging with their friends, every Button has a marvelous journey from the second they arrive each day. I would like to thank every single person that has supported us, every resident that takes the time to say hi, to wave, to visit with books, toys and gifts, to those villagers who offer to read stories and to bake cakes, Buttons is a community preschool in a wonderful community, I could not be prouder of my team, of the children and of course for Buttons, this inspection is the 6th across the portfolio to have this OUTSTANDING outcome, including our sister site in Newton Leys, a feat not matched by another provider locally, here's to 2023 and all it has to offer. We do have limited vacancies for children for April and September 2023, if you would like more information please call us on 01908 533404, email enquiries@buttonspreschools.co.uk, or pop in for a visit, Claire and the team will be waiting to welcome you. You can view/download the Ofsted report via the following link <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50201281>

OPENING TIMES

Monday 9:30-2:30

Tuesday 9:00-4:00

Wednesday 9:00-4:00

Thursday 9:00-8:00

Friday – Closed

Saturday 9:00-4:00



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MAVIS'S QUIZ

In case you missed them, here are the answers to the last quiz where you had to identify the famous World Cup Footballer and the Country they represented.

- 1: Pele* – Brazil 2: Franz Beckenbauer - Germany
3: Cristiano Ronaldo - Portugal 4: Diego Maradona - Argentina
5: Harry Kane - England 6: Jurgen Klinsmann – Germany
7: Bobby Charlton – England
8: Lionel Messi – Argentina 9: Kenny Dalgish – Scotland
10: Gareth Bale – Wales

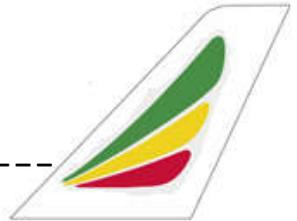
** RIP Pele who sadly passed on the 29/12/2022*



This time, do you know your airlines? From the airplane tailfin logos can you identify the airline name.



1/ I _ _ _ _ A _ _



2/ E _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _



3/ M _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _



4/ A _ _ N _ _ Z _ _ _ _



5/ L _ _ _ _ _



6/ A _ _ C _ _ _ _



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10/A _____



Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found on the 'Planning Section' Page



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Care for those you know and love

New year, new challenge

Florence Nightingale Hospice are looking for people to take on a challenge and help them be there for more patients this year.

Whether you are looking to test your physical limits or set a personal goal, take on an exhilarating experience or journey across the world on a once-in-a-lifetime trip, the charity is there to support you to make the most of the challenge.

“There’s only one feeling better than that of completing a challenge. And that’s completing a challenge for charity and raising much-needed funds for a local charity, who supports people you know and love.” says Bill Richards, Fundraising Officer at the charity. “We have some really exciting challenges planned over the next year for people to join, or can help you design your own challenge and support you with your fundraising.”

With a growing and ageing population, the charity know that the number of patients across Buckinghamshire and its borders who could benefit from specialist care is going to increase rapidly and are determined to be there to support everyone who needs them.

Helen, a Day Hospice patient says, “Until I needed palliative care, I hadn’t realised how much Florence Nightingale Hospice relied on charitable funding. I am incredibly thankful for those who donate and undertake fundraising activities.”



The charity has dates coming up to take part in an adrenaline filled skydive or train for a once in a lifetime experience by trekking across the Saharan Desert next year. Some supporters prefer to take on their own challenges, in previous years these have included headshaves, pub crawls and egg and spoon races!

Sisters Paula & Fiona are taking on The Conqueror’s Lord of the Rings

virtual challenge in aid of Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, aiming to walk over 1800 miles with their much-loved dogs Buzz and Zoe. Already, just a few days into the New Year, they have clocked up 25 miles!

Joyful Tots



Joyful Tots is an inclusive drop-in for parents, carers, or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child. Friendly mums and carers are there to have a natter and babies & toddlers can learn to socialise. Refreshments are also available

Our opening times are 9am - 11.30am on Friday mornings during term times in the side room at Stoke Hammond Community Centre

We are considering organising a coffee morning fundraiser in aid of a children's charity or children's medical charity. If you have any connection to such a charity or have a suggestion for one we could support, please let us know.



Come down and make some friends this Friday! (but not 17th February due to half term)



If you'd like more information please call Linda 07971 134497 or Diane 01525 270409 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)

Paula tells us “We like to do a challenge each year for Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, which has always been close to our hearts – we have had a number of friends who have been looked after by the amazing team. We are so fortunate to have such an excellent facility locally, but like all charities they rely on donations to survive. We are pleased to be able to help in some small way”.

Visit www.fnhospice.org.uk/challenge to start planning your next adventure, or you can email fundraising@fnhospice.org.uk or call 01296 429975

Whatever you chose to do, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity will be very grateful for your support in 2023 and beyond.



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Scouts

High Ash Group

Since our last article we have invested some more new cubs into the group, but we still have space for even more young people so please get in touch if you have a son/daughter who would like to try out the adventure of scouting. We also hope everyone enjoyed the "Blue Peter" themed Christmas Trees that the group had great fun constructing before Christmas.



We finished 2022 with a fantastic Christmas amp in the South of the county (sleeping in a log cabin as it was too cold for camping). The Viking theme saw the attendees' doing activities such as cooking fish and making bread on open fires and being instructed in the art of archery. We had to skip axe throwing as the targets were too frozen to make it safe, however the zip wires and climbing towers were all up and running so everyone had great fun taking on new challenges throughout the weekend. We all avoided frostbite and enjoyed a fantastic Christmas dinner with all the trimmings before settling down to watch England's departure from the World Cup (this was the only part of the weekend that didn't go to plan!!)



This new year's programme is already underway with the group spending an evening playing a trading game to learn more about the realities of the world we live in. By the time you are all reading this we will have seen in the year of the rabbit and raised a toast for Burns Night. Later this term the cubs are looking forward to joining the rest of the Milton Keynes cub packs for a mass sleepover at Gullivers Land, whilst the scouts will be preparing to take on the other local groups for the annual district scout quiz.

Yours in scouting

DAVE POLLINGTON

Group Scout Leader (Baloo)

Dave.Pollington@mkscouts.org

High Ash Scout Group – MK District Scarf

A photograph of a modern living room with large windows covered in horizontal blinds. A potted plant is in the foreground on the left. The room has a grey sofa and a white coffee table.

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February 2023 - Parish News

Good Companions Concert - December 2022

Well done to all the children that took part in our Good Companions Christmas Music Concert. All 283 of our children took part in some way and the standard of music was exceptional. A huge thank you to our Music Teacher Mrs Gray for inspiring the children to want to perform and even create their own bands... a bit like the X Factor!

It was a treat to 'let our light shine' and bring joy to the local community.

Choir at Young Voices in Birmingham - Monday 9th January 2023

The school choir have spent that last few months preparing for the annual Young Voices concert at the Arena in Birmingham. The Young Voices experience is an amazing opportunity where the choir performed alongside over 6000 other children as a single choir to capacity audiences of family and friends.

Reflections this half term....

This half term we are using the parable 'The Good Samaritan' to help us with our campaign to be a Good Samaritan ourselves. We will be looking at what makes a Good Samaritan and answering questions such as: How do we put things right when they go wrong? How do we show kindness when it's not popular? How do we show love to those who might not be our friends?

Easter Service

We are holding two separate Easter Church Services at St Mary's Church in the village for our KS2 pupils (Year 3 to Year 6) and for Foundation and KS1 pupils (Years 1 to 2) during the last week of March.

Easter Cracked

Our Year 6 pupils have been invited to attend Water Eaton Church Centre to join the Bridgebuilder Trust Team in a fast-moving and interactive presentation entitled "Easter Cracked".

February 2023 - High Ash Parish News Continued:

Sporting News and Success....

We have delighted to be participating in inter school sports festivals as well as League Football Matches throughout this academic year.

Girls Football Tournament

On 11th January 9 girls from High Ash School travelled to Cottesloe School to compete in a football tournament. We played Overstone and we won 3-0 with one of the players scoring a hat trick. Next, we played our rivals St Michaels Group C and drew 1-1 followed by St Michaels Group A and won 2-0. Penultimately, we played St Michaels Group B and drew 0-0. Finally, we played Berton School and won 1-0. They received great motivation from their team captain. We played really well and ended up coming second place out of 8 schools that played. The children returned to school with smiles on their faces and medals.

Mrs Kate Goodger
Acting Headteacher
headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk

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THE Lindens

Here at The Lindens, our residents enjoyed the festive period which included musical entertainment from St Luke's Church in Brickhill and the Leighton Buzzard Festival Singers, Christmas quizzes and crafts. There were also Christmas parties held for our Residents with their loved ones where there was musical entertainment, a fabulous festive buffet, party games and a raffle. On the 20th of December we held a Christmas Jumper Day and we were able to raise £107.00 for the Alzheimer's Society. A big thank you to those who supported us, wearing their jumpers and with donations.



On Christmas Day our Kitchen Team cooked a delicious festive feast. Our Director Michael was here with a gift for each resident, then pulling crackers and reading out the jokes inside them.



If you are looking for a career in Care or to develop your skills further, give us a call we will be pleased to hear from you.

Wishing you all a fantastic New Year,

Michael Hannelly

Director

The Lindens

Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN. Tel 01908 371705

Email: info@careatthelindens.co.uk Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

John Harris's Walking in England

Walking in Buckinghamshire

Time to get walking again!

With Spring on its way, we start to think about getting out to walk in the beautiful English Countryside again, but where to find new and interesting walks?

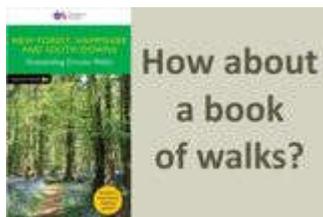
Walking in Bucks <https://www.walkinginengland.co.uk/bucks> has loads of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, details of all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.



John Harris (who maintains the website) said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Bucks (part of the Walking in England website) has brought it together in one place so whether you



are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.



With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So, home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

**www.walkinginengland.co.uk
john@walkinginengland.co.uk**

STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Our pre-Christmas get together took the form of a fish and chip evening at the Sports Club with a quiz. It was great to see so many of our members gathered and after enjoying the meal our Quiz Master read out the assorted questions which each table endeavoured to answer. Our 'artistic' committee member Laraine, who is also a good

cook, had made super mini, beautifully decorated Christmas cakes and each member of the winning table received one as their prize. The Sports Club had been their usual helpful hosts setting out the tables so that we could get everyone in, the bar was open, there was also a raffle and everyone agreed that it had been a fun evening.

We are now gearing up for the Club's activities for 2023. The committee will be meeting soon to start planning - our first event will be the AGM/social get-together probably in early March - members will be able to renew membership, the official business will be conducted, the bar will be open etc. etc. All members will be informed of the date and time and, although we are now swiftly progressing through January, it is certainly not too late to wish all our members a happy and healthy 2023. See you soon.

Eileen pp the Committee

COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE SPORTS CLUB



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Our “Education to Employment” offer
Hill Group will deliver industry leading impact with our communities, we are committed to maximising social value at a portfolio level and actively working with our wider supply chain, leading by example to maximise our added social value.

‘One of our driving forces at Hill Group is creating real, tangible Social Value that leaves a positive, lasting impact on communities now and in the future.’- Andy Hill, CEO.

Our Social Value & Community Managers offer a range of engagement opportunities to support young people making their way through education and support them to make informed choices about their future. We have the resources to support your school, allowing you to achieve the milestones set within the Gatsby Benchmarks. The age range recommended for the below engagement sessions is 14-18.

There are multiple ways we can partner with you, which include:

Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths (STEM) workshop:

We can deliver fun and informative sessions around the various roles that fall under STEM. A presentation would be followed by an interactive activity usually completed in a group, with a winner selected. An example activity would be the ‘Spaghetti and Marshmallow challenge’ or ‘STEM Stereotypes’.

Careers, information advice & guidance (CIAG) workshop:

Various sessions with lengths dependant on need, the workshops cover all bases from CV development to interview skills and how to apply for an apprenticeship. These workshops are designed to support your pupils and understand the importance of transferable skills that all employers look for when hiring new employees. We can work with your students in groups or 1-2-1, to help them understand and uncover the skills and knowledge they have developed during education and discover the confidence needed to prepare them for the world of work.

Mock interviews:

We can support with 1-2-1 sessions that prepare pupils to for interviews. We provide mock interviews, best practice for answers, things to consider, how to research, constructive feedback as well as hints and tips to prepare them.

Work experience programme (Face to face):

We can offer a wide range of work experience programmes, focusing on different specialist areas, such as project management, surveying, finance and technical. It consists of a 3-5 day set project, which promotes innovative ideas and development of new skills such as public speaking, creative thinking, problem solving and more. We can tailor the level of the project to suit year 9 to year 13 students, this programme can be used to support school mandated work experience or in addition to an existing careers programme.

Careers fairs and Talks:

We offer a range of roles at Hill, from Quantity Surveyors, Assistant Site Managers, Administration and Customer Service roles. We also offer a Trainee Management programme, suitable for those finishing A levels. We can inform young people of the options available to them post education, allowing them to make informed choices about their next steps.

Mentoring:

We can offer 1-2-1 and group mentoring to support students in the selection of their next steps after school and inform them of the many opportunities available. Our competent and professional members of staff can provide their unique insight whilst also giving the students an opportunity to have professional conversations, preparing them for the working world.

If you are interested in working together with us at Hill, please don't hesitate to contact me directly and we can arrange an initial meeting to see how we can support you and work together.

Kind Regards,

Lauren Kennett 07563 392330

laurenkennett@hill.co.uk

Social Value & Community Manager - The Hill Group

LADIES THAT LUNCH



'Ladies that Lunch' is becoming very popular, thank you all for coming. The one in February is unfortunately cancelled since I have a dental appointment. However, I am sure The Dolphin would welcome you for a coffee if you want an hour away from the house or work! The March Ladies that Lunch will be held once more in the Sports Club

(thank you Mel for turning the heating on over the winter) on TUESDAY March 14th, the April one follows immediately after the Easter break on TUESDAY APRIL 11th. The MAY one will be held on Tuesday 9th May. For those new to the village, Ladies that Lunch is held in the Sports Club, Bragenham Side with soup and rolls served at 12.30 prompt, followed by cake tea and coffee. The charge of £2 per person goes towards, electricity and rent. All are welcome. The event finishes and the building locked up at 1.45pm.

For more information or to book a seat please contact Hazel Turner 01525 270404 (answerphone available) or email hmt404@hotmail.co.uk



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STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB

We hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a very happy new year. The club had a lovely festive period enjoyed by many of our members. We are in the process of creating a new Facebook page and this

will keep everyone up to date with all the latest news and opening times. As the summer comes increasingly closer, we are starting our preparations for the cricket season. This year we will be looking to get local companies to sponsor the cricket team and have banners put on the fence that surround the pitch. This will be an ideal way to promote local businesses within the community and help support your local cricket club. For more information, please email David Tooth on david2th@yahoo.com and he will assist in helping you with any information you require.

Once again may we please ask that you respect the health of our players by picking up dog's mess from the field. It's so important to pick it up as it is a huge health and safety risk for our players.

We are also looking for a coach for our youth cricket. We would love to help improve our youth section and give opportunity to the youth in the village to come and play cricket within the village. If you feel you can assist, then please again use the above email.

We look forward to seeing everyone over the next couple of months.

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- 12noon Beginners
- 6.15pm Beginners
- 7.30pm Mixed

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Tues, Weds, Thurs daytimes

ZOOM - WEDNESDAY

- 9.30am Mixed
- 12noon Hatha Yoga
- 6.30pm Mixed
- 8pm Mixed

PLACE EIGHT WELLNESS, SWANBOURNE - FRIDAY

- 9.40am Mixed
- 11am Beginners/Improvers

louisa.pilates@gmail.com www.louisaharrispilates.co.uk 07941203589



I visited this enormous waste facility recently with members of Great Brickhill WI. It was a true learning experience! Greatmoor Energy from Waste (EfW) is operated by FCC in a 30-year partnership with Buckinghamshire Council to manage the disposal of all of Buck's household waste (the waste in your GREEN top bin!) by diverting it from landfill. Our waste does **not** go to the Bletchley waste landfill site. More than 25 megawatts of energy are recovered from the process of burning the waste (all contained within huge pipes, machinery, conveyor belts, and an enormous furnace.) This waste is enough to power 40,000 Buckinghamshire homes.

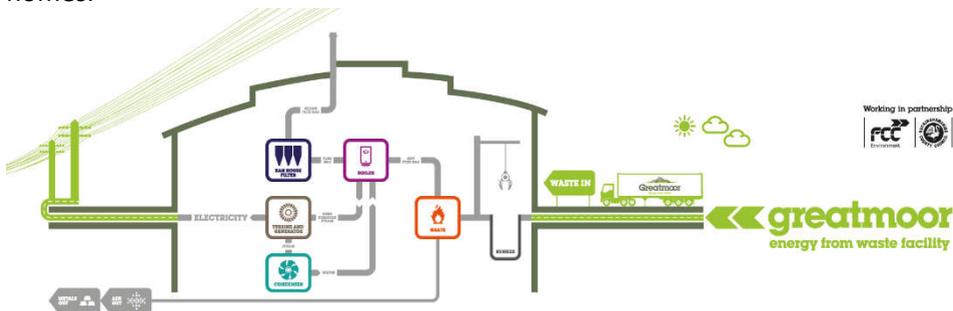
The facility processes 110,000 tonnes of our household non-recyclable rubbish per year with 235,000 tonnes from third party customers. It is a 24-hour operation. Waste is collected across Bucks and delivered to Greatmoor for treatment. It arrives anytime between 6am and 6pm every working day. Our fortnightly ordinary waste lorries takes our local waste straight to Greatmoor (which is the other side of Waddesdon near Woodham) but huge articulated lorries come up from South Bucks. These are loaded at the purpose-built High Heavens Waste Transfer Station in High Wycombe. This ensures waste is transferred in the most efficient way through the saving of road miles and therefore emissions.



The lorries arrive at a weighbridge, vehicles then go and drop the waste into 6 bays from the tipping hall into the 23-metre-deep bunker. The group watched this procedure through a video screen in the control room. The waste is then loaded by an enormous grab crane from the bunker into

the mechanically turning grate where it burns for two hours. The turning of the waste ensures complete combustion.

We were permitted to watch the workers using the grab crane which picks up a full lorry load at a time. They have heavy glass partition between them and the grab crane which moves backwards and forwards along a metal runway. At Christmas time many blow-up Santa Claus decorations were seen flying on these grab cranes, fortunately not when children were around! The ash is used as an aggregate in either breeze blocks or kerbstones. The thermal energy from the combustion process is used to heat a boiler to produce high pressured steam that is fed to a turbine for the production and export of electricity for 18% of our homes.



Gases and fly ash pass through a system that cleans the emissions and after more treatment it passes up a flue into the bag house filter which contains 3,000 filter tubes (which we saw) before going up the 95m. Stack and entering the atmosphere. The emissions from this stack are 99.9% water vapour.



Greatmoor is the UK's largest single-line energy from waste facility it is saving £150million for Bucks over the next 30 years and over 345 thousand tonnes of waste per year is converted into clean energy.

If you are healthy, it is well worth a visit BUT if you fear heights or have any health issues don't go!

AND WE WERE ASKED TO NOTE NEVER PUT GAS canisters in a GREEN BIN!

They have a website: www.greatmoor.co.uk which provides a video of the work carried out there.

Great Brickhill's next WI meeting is in their Parish Hall on February 8th at 7.30pm The Talk is about tea production and there will be tea tasting during the evening. Visitors welcome, it's free but donations welcome.

Hazel Turner.

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St Luke's Church News



It was great to see so many people turn out for our Christmas events: from the Christmas Fayre, to the Christmas Tree Festival, Carols on the Green, Christingle, Carol, Crib and Midnight services. (Congrats to Gillian Gearing who won the Hamper raffle). Thank you all so much for continuing to support your church in your local community. We hope we can support you in return and are always looking for new ways to do

that. Please let us know if you have any ideas. We are continuing to



run the **Food bank**, **Toy Swap Shop** and our regular **Prayer meetings** to support you, in whatever you need.

Forthcoming Services:

A full list of church services can be found elsewhere in the magazine, but our special services over the next two months include a  Said Service of Holy Communion **(22nd Feb)** at **10.30am**. Whilst you



are welcome to attend, this service might not be the best for someone unfamiliar with church! Better to attend our more casual **Café Church** service on **5th March** starting **from 9.30am!** Just turn up between 9.30 and 10.10am to enjoy a light breakfast of bacon or sausage butties, pastries, cereal or toast (or a combination!) with tea, coffee

or juice. Sit round our cosy table and enjoy a chat with your neighbours. At about 10.15am, we'll break off from chatting for a brief and informal service which might include anything from a Bible reading, a prayer, an invitation to share your thoughts on the subject of the day, a brief talk or a song (to recorded music or a cappella). It's usually a combination of a few of

those, finishing at about 10.30



Alternatively, come along to our **Mothering Sunday Family** (all age) **Service** (you don't have to bring children...or your Mum!) on **19th March at 11am**. You'll be made to feel welcome and refreshments will be served afterwards, so don't arrange your Mother's Day lunch too early!



Lent Course:

We are delighted to announce that we are planning to run a **Lent Course** again this year. In the past we have held weekly sessions on **Tuesdays** during the day in the village (with a lunch of soup and a roll included) in parallel with



evening sessions throughout the benefice: we are hoping to provide the same format again. The subject matter will be taken from the Diocesan series on The Beatitudes called "**Come and See**". Anyone can take part in this

(independent of St Luke's course) by going on the Oxford Diocese website at www.oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see and registering for a daily email with a weekly video from Bishop Steven. No experience needed!

If all this has confused you, you're not alone! The church hierarchy can be obscure, but basically the Church of England has 2 Archbishops: the Archbishop of Canterbury (who's the overall leader) and the Archbishop of York. They each oversee a number of dioceses and ours is the Diocese of Oxford. Each diocese has a number of deaneries within it - partly because it would be too much to manage the hundreds of parishes within its boundaries. Our deanery is Mursley Deanery and we're part of a benefice (a group of churches in our local area) managed by a single vicar or rector in our case. In the old days, a rector would gain rental income from farms in his parish - nowadays the diocese gets the income. Parishes in our benefice include the Bow, Little and Great Brickhills.



WE NEED YOU! Most people don't realise that the church is run by a small band of volunteers! We are really grateful to our volunteers at fundraising events and church, but at the moment our PCC (church administration body), consists of the Rector, 2

church-wardens, a Treasurer and another ex-officio member and there are lots of jobs that need doing. Could you help? **We need a secretary, cleaners** on a 6-weekly rota, and someone to **organise the cleaning** rota (& deep cleans), someone to **organise church flowers** (just sort a rota and ensure the church is decorated for special services) an "**odd job man**" (to sort light bulbs, gutters, painting the gate), someone to **apply for grants**, someone **responsible for works projects** (even just one off works project like the church path), someone who could take on **church publicity** (physical and/ or digital) and an "**eco warrior**" to bring us into the 21st century (churchyard planning, energy use, insulation). Please consider if you could help and contact a church member if so. Thank you!

Fundraising Events:

At this time of year there aren't many fundraising events, but the **Community Breakfasts** continue to run on the 2nd Saturday of each month, (**11th February and 11th March**). Orders are taken from **8.30 - 10.30am** and include cereal, fruit salad, pastries, a full English (or vegetarian). Contact us (see below) if you'd like to go on our email list for reminders of social events or services and social events.



Bible verse of the month: *Joshua 1v9: Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

What does it mean?: This passage is taken from the start of the Book of Joshua, just after Moses has died. He didn't get to see the Promised Land because he was disobedient, but God had already chosen Joshua to replace him. God is telling Joshua what will happen and telling him to follow the laws that he gave to Moses. This meant that Joshua had to trust in the Lord. It must have been pretty daunting for Joshua: he knew they'd have to fight for the Promised Land – no one was going to give up a "Land of Milk and Honey" without a fight and things were going to get worse before they got better, but he knew that God would be with him and trusted that he would bring them home to the Promised Land in the end if he had faith.

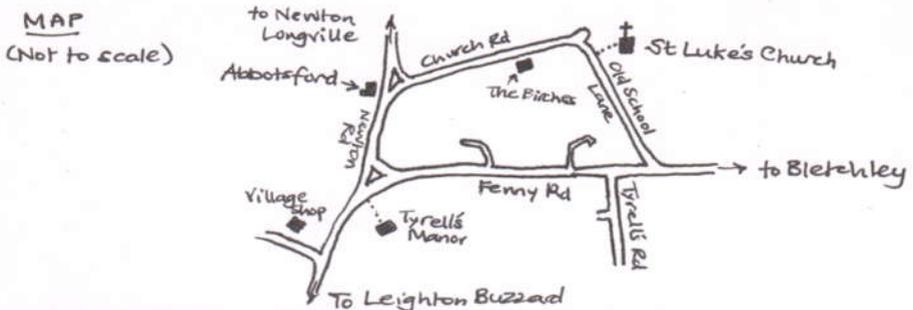
Funeral information: The Rector can conduct a funeral service at a crematorium if you wish. New rules mean that crematoria are not offering a religious



service by default: it must be specifically requested. Also, any village resident can have their ashes buried in the churchyard (for a small fee) if wished. Please note that rules regarding churchyard memorials have recently changed. If you'd like more details, please speak to the Rector or Churchwarden Harry Davies.

Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillchurches.org.uk.

St Luke's offers baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact the Rector if you'd like to discuss any of these (contact details are on the website). His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he's able, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's day off is Monday. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please call **Churchwardens: Harry on 07773065271 or Diane on 270409.**



PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES DEC 22 & JAN 2023



In this section you will find details of planning applications received, comments made by your Parish Council, and any updates on previous planning applications.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

22/03621/APP 30 The Methodist Church, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DE

Proposed new access and provision of 12 parking spaces.

Councillors resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application, with the caveat that they would like to see some detail on how cars will negotiate the car park as it is felt that the car park is tight for the number of parking spaces, and confirmation that there will be no nuisance for the neighbouring house in terms of the house foundations and noise from the car park.

22/03826/APP – Knowles-Brown Properties Ltd, Unit 2 Willowbridge Marina, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond MK2 3JZ

Erection of 9 No/ mixed use general industrial and storage/distribution (B2/B8) units with ancillary office space, associated access and parking.

Councillors resolved to OBJECT to this application on the following grounds: All previous grounds for opposing this application, submitted by Stoke Hammond Parish Council,

- *Councillors share concerns raised by Rivers Trust regarding the impact on water quality due to drainage and the look of the development from the canal.*
- *There are concerns that although the application shows turning circles for small transit type vehicles and fire engines, nothing is documented for if a large HGV were to turn up and it is felt the parking issues on Stoke Road will be exacerbated. More detail on the impact on traffic is required.*
- *There will be 9 units with only 20 parking spaces, which is far too many units and not enough parking.*
- *There has been no form of survey to determine the impact on trees nearby.*
- *There are too many unanswered questions and insufficient detail to the application.*
- *It is believed this planning application encroaches on a previous application the PC supported.*

22/03427/APP 26 Coleman Road, Newton Leys MK3 5QD

Conversion of part garage to living space.

The PC still had NO OBJECTION to this application.

22/02996/APP Orchard End, Hillersden Chase, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DH

Erection of 2no dwellings with associated parking and separate home office.

Councillors resolved to OBJECT to this application and all previous objections submitted by Stoke Hammond Parish Council still apply. To clarify a previous objection made to the style of housing, the Parish Council objects to the style of housing due to 2 and a half storey houses being out of keeping with the area.

22/04214/APP Dolphin Inn PH. Leighton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BB

Proposed open timber porch to side entrance and replacement entrance door (Retrospective).

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application; however, it was felt that the timber storage out building should have been included in this application. There were also concerns raised regarding the space between the timber storage building and the stairs, and Cllrs felt this might need to be checked for safety.

PLANNING UPDATES:

22/01767/APP 30 The Green, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BY

Conversion of garage to habitable accommodation & extension of parking space.
Your PC had had No Objection to this application which has now been approved.

22/02564/APP 7 Tyrells Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BS

Householder application for demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of two storey side/rear and single storey front/rear extensions.
Your PC had had no objection to this application which has now been approved.

22/03564/APP Fontaine House, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Householder application for the erection of a two-storey side extension and a single storey side extension.

Your PC had previously had quite a long discussion about this application and ultimately Objected because of concerns in relation to the two-storey element which was felt would significantly impact the back view of the original property which is one of the most important historic houses within Stoke Hammond. I was also felt that the proposed single storey extension would not be in keeping with the rest of the building.

Well it would seem the planners agreed with your PC as they have refused the application, giving the following reasons:- The proposals by virtue of their size, bulk and mass including lack of subordination would appear disproportionately large and would overwhelm the dwelling resulting in loss of the original form of this non designated heritage asset and over-development of the plot to the detriment of the visual amenities of the street scene and would fail to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. This harm to the significance of the Conservation Area and non-designated heritage asset will be less than substantial, but no public benefits exist that would sufficiently outweigh this harm. The proposal would therefore be contrary to Sections 66 and 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, policies BE1 and BE2 of the adopted Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (2021) and the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework (2021)

For further information/updates on these or other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website selecting 'Aylesbury Vale' as the search area and then enter the application reference or use the map search facility:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

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News from Buckinghamshire Council

9 January 2023

Dear Resident,

I'd like to start by wishing you a very Happy New Year and hope that you enjoyed a good Christmas with friends and family. We start the new year facing significant global challenges, all of which continue to directly impact our lives but I'm hopeful that we are entering a phase of more stability during the coming year.



This leads me onto the subject of finances and the council's costs in the coming financial year. This week I and the other members of the council's Cabinet considered our plans for spending and council tax rates for 2023-24, and I wanted to write to you to explain the proposals and what they mean for households in Buckinghamshire.

We know that next year, due to high inflation and a rise in demand for our services, we have to find an extra £63 million to cover our costs, before a penny of next year's budget is even allocated. This represents a significant challenge for us and even though we have already made savings of over £27 million since becoming a single council in 2020, we are working hard to find another £10 million savings across all departments next year so this can also help towards balancing our books in 2023/24. Making these extra savings will help us to close this gap alongside other measures we're putting forward in the budget, including our proposed council tax rates.

In order for us to balance the books next year and to be able commit enough money to our core services like social care for vulnerable children and adults, and continue to invest in our roads, schools and other priority areas we are proposing a rise in the base rate of council tax of **2.99% from 1 April 2023**. We also have to fund huge adult social care costs and are acutely aware that relieving pressures in the social care sector will in turn help the NHS during a period of considerable

demand. It means we are also taking up the government's proposal for a social care precept of **2%**, meaning an overall rise in bills of **4.99%**.

I do not want to put up council tax by a single penny but the reality is that we cannot achieve a balanced budget next year without doing so; last year's council tax increase was well below inflation and now, with inflation running at more than 10% (and even higher at around 20-30% for some of our costs), even with substantial savings, this is the only way we can pay for the services we provide whilst shielding residents from the bulk of the cost increases.

I want to highlight that there is a significant level of support available to residents facing particular hardship and I urge anyone worried about debt or paying the bills to look at our [dedicated Cost of Living webpages](#) for initial guidance and support. If you have specific concerns about paying your council tax, [please contact our team directly](#) to discuss further options.

I want to close this section by highlighting that while we are in a sobering position, we are still in a financially stable place and I am determined that we will continue to be a very efficient and value for money council. While it's difficult proposing a 4.99% council tax rise, I am still pleased that we can still commit considerable funding to key areas that matter to our residents. We had nearly 2,000 responses from residents to our budget survey in the autumn that have helped us form the following plans around allocating funding. We're proposing spending:

- more than £125 million fixing and maintaining roads
- nearly £143 million for improvements to schools
- £20 million on housing and tackling homelessness
- more than £14 million to tackle Climate Change and prevent flooding
- and, investing more than £20 million in our waste and recycling facilities

We have seen a rise in the number of councils issuing what are known as 'Section 114 notices' – where they are effectively 'bankrupt' and simply unable to set a balanced budget. We are **not** in that situation here in Buckinghamshire and I'm pleased that we can still set aside expenditure on the above areas, such as roads, drains and helping the most disadvantaged within the 2023/24 plans.

Other cost of living support

The council's comprehensive support is outlined at the link I've already mentioned above, in particular through our [Helping Hand service](#) which supports local households experiencing hardship. In addition, there is the 'Help for Households' webpages on the government's website and I also want to mention the £2 bus fare cap that has started this month for many local bus services in Buckinghamshire, another strand of national support available to households during these challenging times.

It's up to operators directly as to whether they take up this scheme and it's good news that many are doing so here; you can see whether your local bus service is taking part by [checking the list on the government's website](#).

Bledlow HRC reopening

I also wanted to make a quick mention that – reflecting our overall stable financial position – we are continuing to invest in essential local services for our residents. Waste and recycling is one of the universal services that we all rely on, and I'm really pleased that we're in a position to be reopening our Household Recycling Centre at Bledlow in a week's time, to serve residents in that area with the continuing future expansion of Princes Risborough also in mind.

This site will be open five days a week (closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays) and operate on a slightly different basis to when it was previously open, in that it will be free to Buckinghamshire residents but people who want to use it from outside the county will have to pay a fee. To this end, we would ask visitors to bring proof of address and also to bear in mind this is a rural location, so to take care when driving to and from the site and check webcams to avoid busy times where possible.

I want to sign off with a reminder to you all to take care of yourselves and others. The dark and cold days post-Christmas, with the extra challenges we are all facing around the cost of living can take their toll so please be mindful of your own health and wellbeing, both physical and mental, and reach out if you feel you need any extra advice or support. A good starting point is our own [Health and Wellbeing website](#) which points to various useful bits of information, advice and how to seek help if you need it.

Yours, **Martin Tett** – Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

• GET IN TOUCH •

 **ONLINE**
Click here for our contact form

 **TELEPHONE**
Call us on 0300 131 6000*

* Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 9am-5:30pm, Friday 9am-5pm. Phone lines are closed on bank holidays.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Buckinghamshire Council, please follow us on social media:



Buckinghamshire Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

buckinghamshire.gov.uk



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VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 7 th February	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 11 th February	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Friday 24 th February	Pop up Curry Night – Community Centre 17.30 – 20.30
28 th Feb – 3 rd Mar	Mount Pleasant Public Enquiry – Community Centre - tbc
Tuesday 7 th March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 11 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Friday 24 th March	Pop up Pizza Night – Community Centre 17.30 – 20.30
Sat 25 th & Sun 26 th Mar	Neighbourhood Plan Exhib – Community Centre - tbc

For Church dates/times please see the 'Church Services' section

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs (Beavers)

Every Thursday 17.30 – 21.30hrs
Contact: Dave Pollington 01525 270864

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs
Contact: 07495 369320 or 01908 533404

Louisa Harris Pilates

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368
Monday day/evening
Louisa.pilates@gmail.com
www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk

Pop Up Pizzeria

Every 4th Friday of the month 17.30 – 20.30
Contact: Emma 07787 838167

Joyful Tots

Every Friday 10.00 – 11.30hrs
Contact: Bethan 07803 805103

To Hire the Hall please telephone 01525 270151 or e-mail: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk

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Registrar (<i>Births & Deaths</i>)	01296-383005
Registrar (<i>Marriages</i>)	01296-382481
Fly-Tipping on Roads	01296-382416
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	0800-999-7677
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525-270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Kelly Harris</i>)	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Malcolm Newing</i>)	07702 067966
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Phil Gomm</i>)	07778 117647
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Jilly Jordan</i>)	07740 308468
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Iain Macpherson</i>)	Not Available
MP - Buckinghamshire. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296-714240
High Ash School	01525-261620
St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>)	01525-261062
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>)	01525-270409
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>)	01234-822780
Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Mary Cottrell</i>)	01296 688741

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITORS NOTE

A big thank you to all those that responded to the HELP advert in the last edition and came forward to volunteer their services to help fill some gaps we had for delivering the SH & NLS News to homes in Stoke Hammond. We now have a full complement of delivery volunteers.

Unfortunately, the same can't be said for the WE NEED YOU advert on behalf of the Stoke Hammond Village Show Committee, which to date has had a big fat ZERO response. Seriously, without some new committee members, the show is not likely to happen in 2023. It is not an onerous task, in fact it is a very satisfying role, when one sees so many people enjoying themselves on the day of the show. It's still not too late to come forward.

May I please have copy for the April/May 2023 issue by the **20th March**
 Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB
 01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE & NEWTON LEYS SOUTH

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  <small>Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins</small>	Food Waste Bin:  <small>Non-recyclable or compostable.</small>	Garden Waste Bin: 
	Wednesday 1 Feb	Wednesday 1 Feb	
Wednesday 8 Feb		Wednesday 8 Feb	Wednesday 8 Feb
	Wednesday 15 Feb	Wednesday 15 Feb	
Wednesday 22 Feb		Wednesday 22 Feb	Wednesday 22 Feb
	Wednesday 1 Mar	Wednesday 1 Mar	
Wednesday 8 Mar		Wednesday 8 Mar	Wednesday 8 Mar
	Wednesday 15 Mar	Wednesday 15 Mar	
Wednesday 22 Mar		Wednesday 22 Mar	Wednesday 22 Mar
	Wednesday 29 Mar	Wednesday 29 Mar	
Wednesday 5 April		Wednesday 5 April	Wednesday 5 April



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