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St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

October 1 st	11.00	Family Service – Revd John Waller
October 8 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Phillipa Cook
October 15 th	09.00	<i>St Lukes Day</i> Holy Communion – Revd John Waller
October 22 nd	09.30	Café Church
October 29 th	11.00	Holy Communion at Bow Brickhill – Revd John Waller

*PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRAGENHAM SIDE*

Saturday 7 th October	8.30 - 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 11 th November	8.30 - 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 9 th December	8.30 - 10.30 (Last Orders)

Church Wardens:

Diane Webber 270409 and Harry Davies 01234-822780

METHODIST SERVICES

Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly - 01525 240589

October 1 st	11.00	United Service at St Luke's
October 8 th	11.00	Service – Revd Corina Shergold
October 15 th	11.00	Service – Revd Wallace Edwards
October 22 nd	11.00	Service – Revd Helen Kirk
October 29 th	11.00	Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays at 10.30 - 11.30
(contact 01525-270287)

Date for your Diary

Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 18th November - 14.30

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well Summer is over but not before it decided to shine on the day of the Village Show, and we really must congratulate the Show Committee and their band of volunteers for laying on such a truly fantastic event to be enjoyed by all.

Fifteen members of the public along with AVDC Cllr Neal Blake attended the PC meeting held on the 5th September, although unfortunately, we were down on our own team with Cllr Donna Page being away on holiday and Cllr Hazel Turner about to undergo eye surgery – we all wish Hazel a speedy recovery. Plus of course we still had a vacancy for a Parish Councillor, which most pleasingly has now been filled by the Co-Option of Cllr Karl Johnson. We welcome Karl onto the PC and his experience as an architect will be an invaluable asset to your Council.

During the public participation session, concerns were raised regarding the development to the rear of the old garage site, and the way they were accessing the site and bringing soil and spoil onto the road, and as to whether full permission had been sought/granted from the drainage board to drain surface rainwater into the brook. The matter was to be raised with AVDC Planning Enforcement and the Drainage Board. There was also concern about the amount of foliage adjoining the brook at the entrance to Bragenham Side plus the size and intrusion of the large trees on the opposing side of the road. Although the land upon which these issues sit is not PC responsibility, we have already instructed contractors and by the time of reading, the foliage will have been strimmed and trees cut back, and after a quiet word with McCann Homes, the nettles and weeds encroaching onto the footpath between Bragenham Side and Manor Close have also been cut back.

Whilst discussing finance, the clerk reported that the external audit of our accounts had been completed and approved by Mazars – the Notice of Completion of audit is now on our website and the PC Noticeboard.

Last month this report listed the planning applications to be considered, and the PC made comment as follows:

17/03005/APP Single storey side extension to no 4 Mount Pleasant. To which the PC had no objection.

17/03093/APP Extension and raising of roof line to existing garage at Ayresome, Old School Lane to provide additional living accommodation. This your Council objected to on the grounds that it appears to be an additional dwelling rather than a simple extension. The Council also requested of the planners that if they were to grant permission that a condition be applied that occupation could only be by a family member and could not be sold as a separate dwelling.

17/02600/APP Removal of condition 4 of Planning Permission reference WG/413/72 regarding agricultural occupancy, Kings Farm, Leighton Road, was also objected by your PC, and that the agricultural occupancy condition imposed when planning permission was originally given for the building of this property should be retained.

14/03000/DIS Related to the Fenny Road site where against planning application 14/03000/AOP outline planning permission was granted for 74 new homes. However, because of archaeological remains found on the site, certain conditions had been applied to the permission, and this new application sought to discharge conditions 8 & 9 which in particular related to how the archaeological remains had to be preserved and protected.

(continued overleaf)

Your PC had objected to the original planning application and spoke along with other members of the parish at the planning meeting, so likewise resolved to object to the discharge of these conditions.

Planning application 17/03266/APP for change of use for land adjoining the Community Centre from agricultural to recreational land, sits a little closer to home, as it is your PC that submitted this application, for land your PC is purchasing with S106 funds, for the long-term benefit of our community. The determination date is October 15, after which it is hoped we can complete the purchase.

Still on planning but the much lauded and awaited Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) which seems as if it is finally edging closer to fruition – at long last!! A final version of the VALP has just been published online in advance of the VALP scrutiny meeting which took place at the AVDC chambers on Tuesday 26 September. The Cabinet will then consider the plan on Tuesday 10 October and the Council on Wednesday 18 October. This is the final stage of consideration in the public arena and will be followed by an opportunity for the public to comment on the plan. The consultation will run from Thursday 2 November to Thursday 14 December. Any comments made at this stage will be sent to the examiner who can make amendments to the plan. If all goes smoothly, the document will be approved for publication by Council in October to be submitted to the Government Examiner in January 2018, to hopefully be approved sometime in 2018. Up until this time it will still be 'open season' for speculative housing developers. Interestingly if one takes the time to read all 318 pages of the VALP document, it identifies that Stoke Hammond as a medium village, already has 149 Completed/Committed new housing, and if you focus on page 139 it makes the comment that we do not have to accommodate any further housing within 'Stoke Hammond because of the high level of completions/commitments' – But if until the VALP is approved by government none of its contents apply! Should you wish to view the final version of the VALP then go to the following website: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/localplan

The matter of dogs encroaching onto the children's playground area at the Community Centre, was again discussed as it seems a small minority of dog owners still seem to think 'The No Dogs Permitted' signage does not apply to them. The idea of additional and more prominent signage is to be evaluated, but judging by remarks received when offenders are politely asked to remove their dogs, it may well be that the PC will have to consider a more draconian and costly measure of fencing in the playground area. Something, we would prefer not to have to do, so please, observe the no dogs rule.

We have received considerable interest for colour prints of the Ordnance Survey Map dating from 1881 that is now on display in the Community Centre. Prints can still be ordered from our clerk Sue Severn. Priced at £13.30 for an A3 size and £15.50 for an A2, the prints are full colour finished on 180g/m matt coated paper.

Just a reminder that the next PC meeting is to be held at 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd October in the small meeting room at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side. All are welcome.

Sue Severn, 19 Curlew, Watermead, Bucks. HP19 0WG T: 01296 336575 M: 07778 473392
clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

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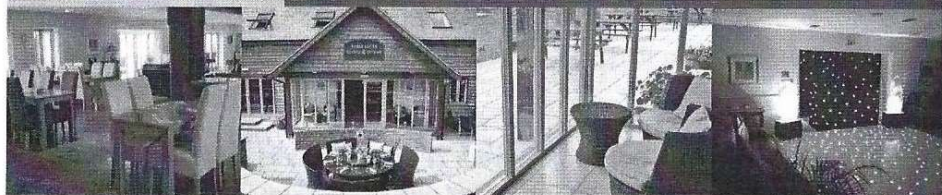
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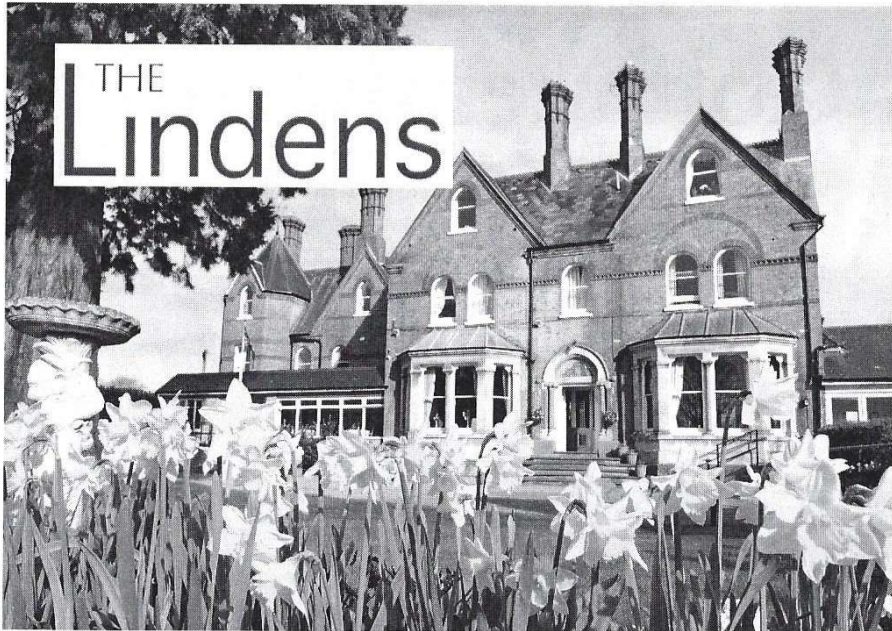
www.threelocksgolfclub.co.uk

Partridge Hill, Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes,
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The Three Locks
GOLF CLUB



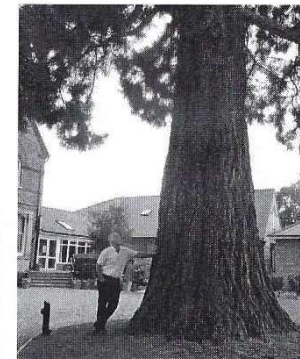
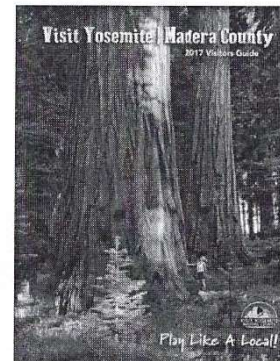


THE Lindens

What does The Lindens have in common with California? The answer is, the Giant Sequoia.

Tales of these giant majestic trees reached the ears of plant hunter William Lobb who visited San Francisco in 1852. He felt that these trees would be very popular in Victorian England so hurried to see the Giant Sequoias found in the foothills of California's Sierra Nevada range. He collected samples and then rushed back to England. The trees were catalogued and named by John Lindley of the Horticultural Society, who opted to call them "Wellingtonia" after the recently deceased Duke of Wellington, beating Dr Kellogg (who was instrumental in discovering the giant trees) to naming them "Washingtonia" in honour of America's first and well-respected president.

The average height of a Giant Sequoia is 50-85m with the width 6-8m. It is thought that some of the specimens in California date back to the age of the dinosaurs. They have thick, spongy fire-resistant bark, rich in tannin which gives the Wellingtonia a fragrant woody perfume and protects it from fungus, diseases and insects.



The Lindens is a privately owned care home, set in the tranquil Buckinghamshire countryside, offering individual care for our long-term residents and those visiting us for respite care. We provide a real 'home from home' experience for all our residents and their visitors.

- *24 Hour expert care delivered with compassion.*
- *Well-appointed double & single en-suite rooms with care call systems, televisions, DVD players and Internet facilities.*
- *Meals prepared in house using locally sourced ingredients, individual dietary needs catered for.*
- *Lecture Theatre and Cinema Room.*
- *Morning room available for our residents, guests and visitors to take afternoon tea, enjoy family gatherings and relax with beautiful garden views.*

Our Wellingtonia is a mere youngster in comparison to those at Muir Woods near San Francisco or Mariposa Grove at Yosemite. It is thought to have been planted in Victorian times in the 1850's when these types of trees had just arrived in England and were popular additions to country estates.

At The Lindens, we welcome visitors, so if you would like to call in and join us for afternoon tea or if you are interested in volunteer work here, let our Manager Chris Ryan know, we look forward to meeting you.

Michael Hammett
Director, The Lindens.

Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN.

Tel 01908 371705

Email: info@careatthelindens.co.uk

Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

The Lindens Residential Care Home, Stoke Road,
Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN

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The Pilates Workshop .co.uk

Pilates in Stoke Hammond

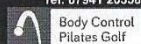
Group Matwork classes at the Community Centre
MONDAYS 9.25am, 10.30am, 11.45am, 7.10pm & 8.15pm

Small Equipment (Overball, Toning Circle, Bands),
Foam Roller, Pregnancy (Antenatal & Postnatal),
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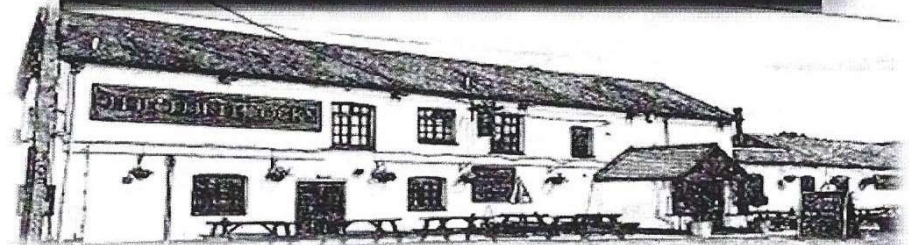
Phone : 07970 750599

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Church News

Apology: Our sincere apologies to those who had intended to come to the last Afternoon teas of the season on 24th September. Unfortunately, we had to schedule a Baptism at that time which was the only mutually convenient time and date we could find. Rest assured that the afternoon teas will be returning next year, but if you can't wait that long, we will be holding a Gift day later this month and a Christmas Fair later in the year!



Review: Thanks to all those who supported the **village show** - and in particular the church stall. We held a tombola and "Play your cards right" game in the end. Both were very popular and successful, raising £141 for church funds. The show committee was blessed with fantastic weather on the day which probably accounted for the huge turnout! The new "Fun dog show" seemed particularly popular and we hope will become a regular feature!



The **community breakfast** went well this month with a continuous flow of customers and one of our biggest breakfasts so far. We definitely missed our other helpers this month: Margaret, John and Harry on the bike ride (more on that later). But thank you to Julie and to Liz for doing all the washing up!



Our **harvest festival and lunch** was a splendid affair, with a delicious buffet prepared by Dave and helpers. Thank you to all the ladies who decorated the church and those who donated food and puddings for the lunch and helped clear up.



Our Churchwarden Harry Davies valiantly completed his **Bucks Historic Churches Trust sponsored bike ride**, visiting 32 churches! Well done Harry! He is now collecting sponsor money and all donations are gratefully received. Half of the funds will go to BHCT and the other half to St Luke's.

Forthcoming Events: Community breakfast: Last month our PCSOs, Tina and Natalie came along and took a photo of Dave (complete with Fred Flintstone apron!) to put on their Twitter account! Once again this month we will be serving our Community Breakfast on **Saturday 7th October** between 8.30am and (last orders at) 10.30am. Please note that this is the first Saturday of the month instead of the second owing to the church Gift day. The usual fare will be on

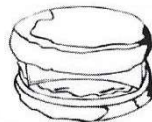


offer (see last month's SH news for details) along with a very warm welcome. Do come and join us!

St Luke's Day: October brings round our patronal festival again – our Patron Saint is St Luke, and his "saint day" is 18th October. As this falls midweek this year, we will be celebrating on Sunday 15th. As usual, we will also be celebrating St Luke's day by holding our annual **Gift Day on Saturday 14th October** between **10am and 2pm**. In the next couple of weeks, every house in the village will receive a letter inviting you to give a donation in the envelope provided. If you would like to give a donation, place it in the envelope, which can then be left at the places listed in the letter or brought to the church gift day. We will be serving **teas and coffees** from 10 to 12 and **soup and rolls** from 12 till 2.



Café church: On **Sunday 22nd October**, we will be holding a Café church service. This is a different style of service we have been offering on an ad hoc basis for the last couple of years and aims to be more accessible to those who are completely new to church. In fact the "service" lasts only about 15 to 20 minutes. A simple breakfast (bacon/ sausage/ vegetarian sausage rolls or pain au chocolate/ toast etc.) is served **from 9.30am onwards**. There are newspapers and games and of course there's the opportunity to talk to others around! There's no charge for the breakfast, but donations are taken in place of a formal collection. At about 10.15 or so, whoever is leading the service will ask for your attention and the "service" begins. It's all very informal. There may or may not be a song or a reading, but there will generally be some prayers and thought-provoking comment on life, which is linked with how God fits into our lives in the modern world. If you have little experience of worshipping in a formal church service, this is the service for you!



Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillchurches.org.uk. If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector.

If you would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Harry: Churchwarden, on 07773065271, Diane: Assistant Churchwarden (unofficial), on 270409 or John: Treasurer, on 270202.**



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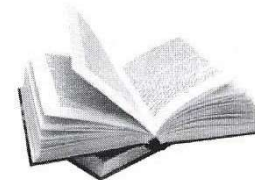
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



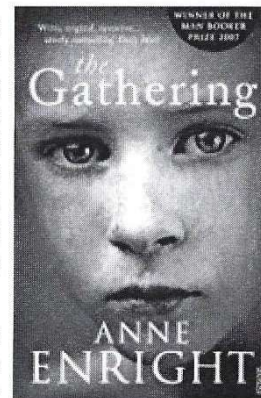
This month's book was *The Gathering* by Anne Enright - it was a Booker prize winner and therefore the group had high expectations. The 'plot' is centered around a rambling Irish family the Hegarties and the narrator is one of the daughters, Veronica who is given the task of finding the facts about their wayward brother Liam's suicide. She travels to Brighton, where the suicide occurs and hears that 'he marched into the sea with a pocket full of stones'. She has to arrange to bring him home to Ireland and 'the Gathering' of the title is the collecting together of the family for his funeral.

However, this is only the basis for Veronica to recall the past which is embellished with emotion and vivid memories involving the extended family including her husband and children, her grandparents and siblings and the sometimes damaging effect that Liam's death has, particularly on her.

The general opinion of the group was that it was not an easy read and at times was uncomfortable, bleak but certainly thought provoking and worth persevering with. On the whole the group understood why it was a Booker prize winner particularly for the author's amazing and moving descriptive talent.

Our next book is 'South Riding' by Winifred Holtby was adapted as a major BBC drama so hopefully will be good.

N.B. We have been told that there is another Book Club in the village which has been in existence for some time - we had no idea about this. So, if the original book club would like to alternate with us and do a summary of their book of the month that would be good - if you would like to do this please let the Editor know. Thanks.



STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB

The club is open Tuesday nights for Pool Practice, Friday nights at 7.30pm.

Home cricket games every Saturday, when the club will be open.

stokehammondsportsclub@gmail.com

Come along to Great Brickhill Tennis Club...

...and Try Tennis for FREE!

- No need to join the Club
- First lesson will be at 9:30 – 10:30 am on Wednesday 13th September
- The first 2 lessons are FREE!

NEW! Cardio Tennis

Want to 'keep fit' this autumn? Then why not try 'Cardio Tennis'.

- A great way to keep fit whilst being distracted by a tennis ball!
- Lessons start on Wednesday 13th September from 10:30 – 11:30 am
- First 2 lessons are FREE!

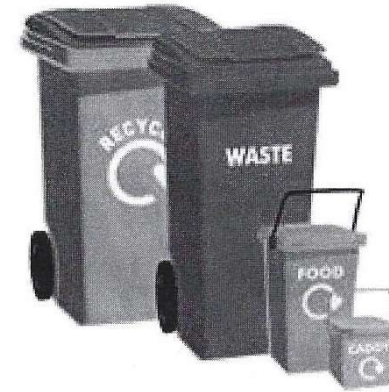
If you enjoy the lessons on these new courses then the Club is offering a further 10 lessons at the subsidised price of just £40. See our website for more details about the coaching courses.



clubspark.lta.org.uk/greatbrickhilltc



WASTE COLLECTION DATES



Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable
	Thursday 7 September	Thursday 7 September
Thursday 14 September		Thursday 14 September
	Thursday 21 September	Thursday 21 September
Thursday 28 September		Thursday 28 September
	Thursday 5 October	Thursday 5 October
Thursday 12 October		Thursday 12 October
	Thursday 19 October	Thursday 19 October
Thursday 26 October		Thursday 26 October
	Thursday 2 November	Thursday 2 November
Thursday 9 November		Thursday 9 November
	Thursday 16 November	Thursday 16 November



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**SPOTLIGHT
ON
JOHN BOWLER**

By Barbara Munn

For the second of our 'Spotlight On' we focus on John Bowler. My abiding impression of John who has lived in the village since 1983 is of a man at peace with himself and the world. Quietly spoken with a strong sense of social and personal responsibility he is sustained by his strong Christian faith.

Early days

- ***Did you grow up in the countryside?***

I was born in Blisworth, Northants but grew up in Ealing as my parents found work in London during the depression. Initially my mother, a dressmaker, was employed by Lady Lowndes to run a clothes shop and my father, a motor mechanic, became a chauffeur for the Mappin and Webb company but later was employed by Hoover Limited and became a manager.

- ***Where were you educated?***

I went to Ealing Modern Grammar School where at 13 was given the option of studying another language and bookkeeping. I chose the latter and took to it, "like a duck to water." It led to a career in accountancy and after qualifying in what is now known as CIPFA I spent most of my career on local government as I always knew I wanted to serve the community.

- ***What was life like for you during World War Two?***

As a child, I obviously wasn't aware of all the horrors but we had an Anderson Shelter in our garden where we went during air raids. When the bombing was very heavy my brother and I were sent to Bletchley to stay with our grandparents. Schooling then became somewhat haphazard with lots of children in classes held in churches, village halls or anywhere with space.

- ***You were called up for National Service – what was that like?***

There were few universities in those days so opportunities to leave home were very restricted. I spent two years in the RAF which opened my eyes to many things by making me mix with people from a wide range of backgrounds. A group of lads from the Gorbals –

a very poor part of Glasgow – seemed very rough but proved to be a fine bunch. I was astounded to learn that some had never before slept on a bed, but just curled up on the floor under a blanket. Having thought it would be a waste of time I now believe National Service was very valuable. A strong sense of camaraderie developed and the discipline taught us how to work as a team and trust each other.

- ***Why did you choose to live in Stoke Hammond?***

After my father died I decided to take a job in London and find a house from which I could commute and where my mother could live with me. As soon as I saw my current home I knew it was for me. Strangely, two years earlier I had driven past it with my brother when it was still under construction. As I looked at it a voice in my head said, "One day you will live there." In 1983, we moved in and I cared for my mother until her death in 1989.

- ***Your Christian faith is the centre of your life. When and how did that develop?***

My best friend at primary school, where father was a Churchwarden, invited me to join his church choir which I enjoyed; also, the vicar gave clear messages which left a deep impression and grew into the faith I now hold. Christianity for me is not just a set of rules to live by. If you follow Jesus I believe the underlying principles will become a part of your heart and mind.

- ***When did you join a church in the village and how active are you in church life?***

I retired in 1996. Before then I was busy working and caring for my mother who developed dementia. I was pondering whether to join the Methodist or the Anglican church when there was a knock at the door and in came St. Luke's rector. "We've met before," he said and I remembered I had been best man when he had married friends of mine. That meeting led me to return to the Anglican church and I subsequently felt as though someone had been guiding me. With my background in accountancy an opportunity arose for me to become treasurer. I wanted to take an evangelical role and when a neighbour said we needed an outreach group to get more people involved in church life I immediately agreed and we are still going today.

On a lighter note

- ***Hobbies and interests?***

Gardening – I find it very relaxing and forget everything else. I especially enjoy planting perennials such as salvias and fuschias and vegetables although I have to admit to finding it harder these days. I like crosswords and Sudoku, Scrabble and reading, currently a book about Dark Matter and the Dinosaurs.

- ***Eating out?***

I look at reviews of Aylesbury Vale pubs and have enjoyed eating at the Thatched Inn at Adstock and the Pilgrim, North Marston choosing fish or roast lamb. Puddings are

restricted as I'm trying to control my type 2 Diabetes by diet alone, although very occasionally I enjoy a cream tea.

- **Holidays?**

Scotland, North Devon and the Lake District. I especially like the quieter Bassenthwaite and Derwentwater areas.

- **Besides a bible what would you take to a desert island?**

I've been thinking about this one – anything written by the theologian Tom Wright. Balls of strong twine and Sellotape to help build a shelter. And an endless supply of cream scones!

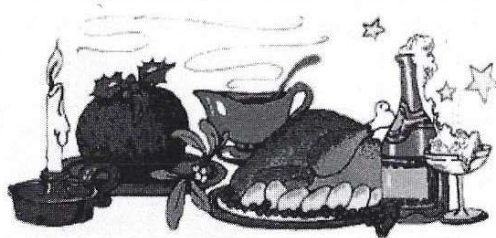
- **What would the younger you think of what you have achieved?**

I always lacked self-confidence so he would be amazed at the jobs I had and that I did them successfully

- **What advice would you give to a young person?**

Life is short, there is so much to do; don't fritter it away in meaningless pursuits or get in a rut. Keep a wide range of interests.

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH



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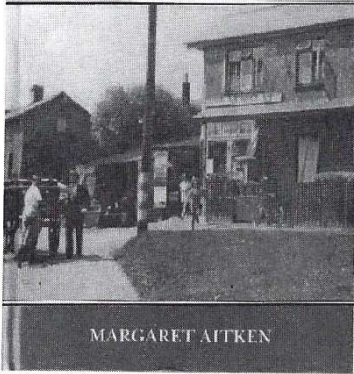


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STOKE HAMMOND YESTERYEAR A PERSONAL RECORD 1925 – 1948

STOKE HAMMOND YESTERYEAR



MARGARET AITKEN

Stan Andrews, the baker from soulbury stands outside Bonner's with his cart. Assisting him is Raymond Kirk, who was in the author's class at school.

We are most pleased to be continuing with the publication of extracts from Margaret Aitken's book 'Stoke Hammond Yesteryear' first published in 1997 that provides an amazing insight into the life of our village in years gone by. Many thanks to Margaret for granting us permission to publish these extracts. We now reach chapter 7; 'SONGS and SUNDAYS'.

SONGS AND SUNDAYS

In the schoolroom of Stoke Hammond Methodist Church hangs a framed plaque commemorating the names of 27 children who brought weekly contributions for the laying of a stone in the 'new' chapel. My brother's and sister's names are recorded, as is that of my friend Jean, and I was always annoyed that mine was not - but I was too young and no doubt Mum could not afford it.

There was no Sunday School at the Anglican church then, and, in fact, not for many years afterwards - so most of the village children attended the

Methodist Sunday School. There were two sessions: at 10.30 am (for an hour) and at 2 pm, after which we stayed on to the service which ended at 3.30 pm. We sat on forms in the schoolroom, and from an early age I played the harmonium for the hymns, The American organ in Chapel was pumped by a handle or pedalled by foot and was played by Nell Robinson. Nell's husband, Reg, sat on a chair and pumped wind into the organ; occasionally Nell would glare at him when he was not concentrating. It was an impressive-looking instrument, with two manuals and a lot of stops. I was fascinated by it and had a go whenever I got the chance.



This old cottage previously stood on the site of the present Methodist Church; Mrs King is with her small son.

Just before the afternoon service began the children filed into the chapel, girls sitting in the front pews on the right and boys on the left. Uncle Jim sat at the far end of the front pew so that he could oversee both pews. Grandpa Scott sat in the pew behind the girls to keep an eye on both of us. Sometimes the sermons were long and boring so, to relieve the tedium, we would idly swing our legs

backwards and forwards. Gathering momentum, it was only a matter of time before someone kicked the pew in front with a resounding 'crack', This brought forth a 'Shsssh' from Grandpa. There were other times during the service when we were lulled into drowsiness - then, all of a sudden, the preacher would raise his voice and thump on the pulpit, making us nearly jump out of our skins. This prompted more stiffling giggles and earned us a poke in the back from Grandpa.

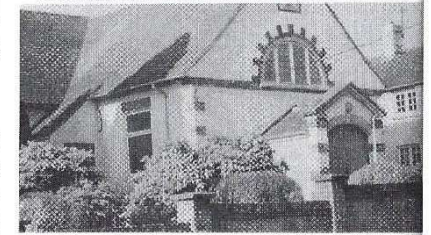
There were many events in the year to which we looked forward, and one of those was the Sunday school outing to Wicksteed Park, near Kettering. One, sometimes two 'buses' would pull up on the green and we would clamber aboard with our teachers and mothers. What

excitement there was as we drove through the Park gates. On the right were swings, slides, round-abouts, seesaws and rocking equipment. We did not have any of these luxuries where we lived and could not decide what to go on first. The little train which ran around the perimeter was a great favourite. It circled the lake and cut across a small corner of it so that this point there was water on either side. I was terrified, imaging that the train would come off the rails and we would be drowned. At the end of the day, tired but happy, we sang all the way home.

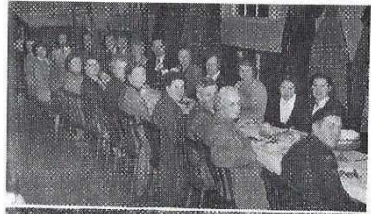
During the winter, there were social evenings to be enjoyed, with games of Postman's Knock and spinning the breadboard.; At Christmas we gave a concert, performing sketches and playlets, for which we dressed up.

But the big event of the year was the Sunday School Anniversary, which was celebrated on the second Sunday in May. About a month prior to the date we began practising for the festivities. There were new songs and recitations to learn. On the Monday of Anniversary Week a wooden platform was erected in front of the pulpit. Forms and chairs were placed in rows and that week we rehearsed our programme on the stage, encouraged by our teachers to speak out loudly so that we could be heard at the back.

On the Sunday, with the girls in new dresses purchased from Miss Whitaker and the boys in new suits with highly polished shoes and well-brushed hair, the morning service began at 10.30. The children sat in the front rows on the platform and behind us were the augmented choir, who had also been learning new music and attending final rehearsals. Our service followed at 2.30 pm. The Chapel would begin filling up at 2 pm and, while people were taking their seats, the children and the choir sang the music they had sung during the morning service. The Chapel was usually full before 2.30, with extra chairs



ABOVE: A group of Sunday School children with their teachers Arthur Barron, left, and Guy Cox, right. The Junior Missionary Association Cup is held up by John Cox and Brian Scott. BELOW: The Methodist Church in Newton Road, Stoke Hammond, built in 1927.



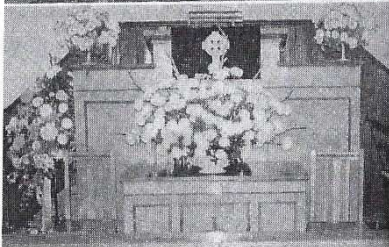
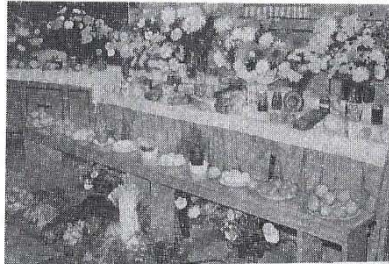
ABOVE: A Methodist Church social occasion - note the uniformed young man, who was stationed at the RAF Wireless Station.
BELOW: A group of Methodist friends enjoy an afternoon in the author's garden: left to right: Mrs Barrow, Mrs Chambers, Mr Gadsden, Mrs F. Scott, Mrs H. Cheshire, Mr A. Barron, Mrs M. Keen, Mrs Gadsden and Andy Ailken - taken in 1984.

being placed down the aisle. We sang rather absent-mindedly while watching the people come in. Some had solos and most had recitations to say, so it was all a bit nerve-racking. The teachers sat in the front pew to prompt and give confidence to those who needed it, but on the whole we enjoyed the tension. After tea we came back for the evening service at 6 pm. Again the Chapel and schoolroom would be packed out as we and the choir sang a different set of songs. It was wonderful when the congregation joined in the first and last well-known hymns and together we nearly lifted the roof.

Celebrations continued on the Monday when, full tea was prepared. After school we rushed up room like a herd of hungry elephants. The long

trestrle table was covered by a snowy white cloth and on it were plates of cucumber, tomato and fish and meat paste sandwiches. There were assorted cakes and colourful jellies, all of which quickly disappeared. After tea we ran up Church Road to play in great-uncle John's field until the evening service at 7 pm. Uncle John, who also had a pony and trap, gave us rides around the village. The time flew by until 6 pm, when we had to go home, wash and change and be back at Chapel to perform our Sunday afternoon programme.

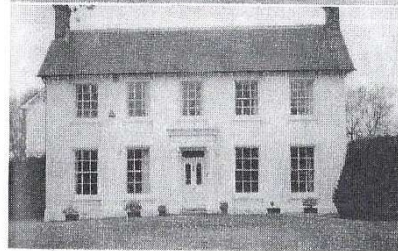
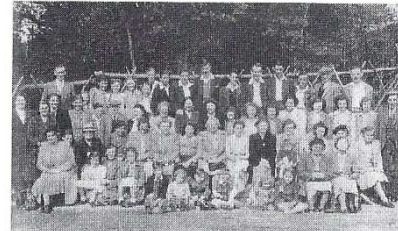
When we reached our teens some of us joined the church group who went round the village carol singing the week before Christmas, Dad sang bass, we had a couple of tenors, Nell Robinson and I sang alto, and we had several sopranos.



ABOVE: A selection of fruit, flowers and vegetables decorated the Methodist Church for Harvest Festival in 1982.
BELOW: Flower Festival arrangements celebrate the opening of the new kitchen extension in 1992.

Dressed in our warmest clothes and carrying torches we met in the Kirks' farmyard at 6 pm. Some of the men were not home from work by then, but by the time we had reached the Dolphin Inn they had joined us. Arthur Barron, my uncle by marriage, would be one of the first to arrive, his Tilley lantern shedding sufficient light for us to see by. The others arrived one by one until we had a full choir. The object of our carol singing was to collect money for the National Children's Home and Orphanages,

so two of the non-singers were delegated to knock at the doors while the rest of us sang. With no loud televisions to distract them the occupants would always hear us and often opened their doors to listen and join in. The first evening we went to all the houses in the village, while the second evening we walked miles to visit all the outlying farms.



ABOVE: A famous Methodist outing - how many people can you recognise? BELOW: Stoke Lodge - Mrs Bonner worked in service there when she first left school.

It was great fun chattering and walking arm in arm along the road in the darkness, but it was less pleasant when we had to cross a couple of muddy fields to reach a farmhouse. On the whole, people looked forward to our coming year by year and gave generously to the cause. It was always a great joy and relief when we reached Stoke House - about half a mile out of the village towards Bletchley. We were kindly invited into the House, which in the past had been owned by gentry, and after making sure that our shoes were clean, were ushered into the large sitting room.

There our eyes feasted on an enormous decorated Christmas tree, which sparkled and twinkled in the light. It was an impressive sight after the darkness outside. Our hosts joined in several carols as we sang for our supper, then hot mince-pies and coffee were served. It made a delightful and welcome interlude.

Now we had just two more farms to visit, Dairy Farm and Southlands. At Southlands we shone our torches enviously into the branches of their variegated holly trees, which always seemed to be laden with shiny red berries. We also nudged our companions and had a giggle when the beams of our torches picked out hens roosting in the tops of apple trees, well away from prowling foxes. In later years we drove around the outlying farms in cars, but it was much more fun when we walked.

**NEXT MONTH, CHAPTER EIGHT
- FUN AND GAMES**

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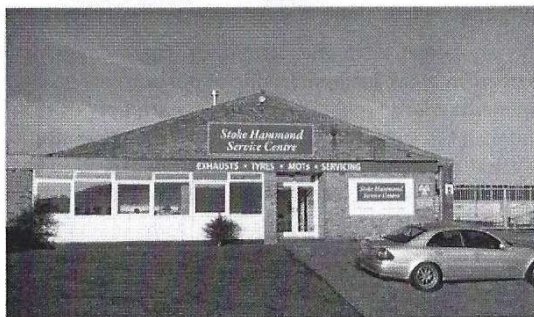
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LETTERS FROM THE WAR FRONT

Last month we published a letter that a young Stoke Hammond lad called Arthur Kirk sent home to his mother, whilst serving on the war front back in 1917. That letter and the one below were kindly loaned to us by Arthur's son Bill Kirk, and do give us a just a little insight into Arthur's life 100 years ago during those worst of times. Thankfully, Arthur and all others from our village that served in WW1 returned safely, which is why Stoke Hammond is known as a thankful village, one of only 53 such villages in England, and the only thankful village in the county of Buckinghamshire.

Tuesday 3/7/17

My Dear Mother,

I was very pleased to hear from you again today and that you are all alright again. I would have wrote before but I have not had time I am out nearly every other night. I was out Sat, Sun and Monday night but I think I am having a night in tonight - anyway I can do with one.

I am glad to hear Nellie is home for her holiday. I wish I was home with her, I might get mine later on if this job don't come to a finish soon, but I think it will, I don't see how it can keep on another winter.

We still keep giving the old Germans hell and they give us some sometimes. I was out last night and the shells were dropping all around me - I come out of it full gallop.

The weather seems to have cleared up again after the rain, it will do a lot of good. I am glad Dad has got a good crop of spuds on my piece of ground. I hope I have the pleasure in helping him dig them. We don't get many vegetables out here, spuds about once a month. We have nothing only bully and rice pudding for dinner this last three weeks or a month.

I am glad Elsie is earning a lot of money it will come in handy these hard times.

Well my dear Mother I hope these few lines will find you all quite well as it leaves me at present. So I will close now with best love.

From your loving son

Arthur

xxxxxx

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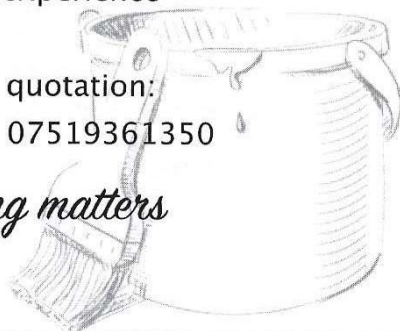
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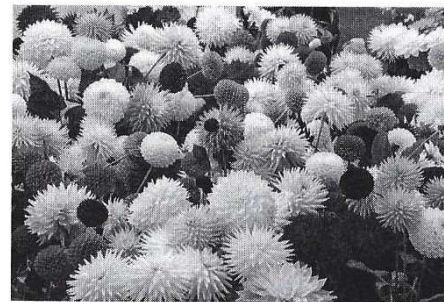
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STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Thursday 7th September saw us all heading off for Wisley and the RHS's annual flower show. We had a couple of minor concerns 1) the weather, as it has been so very unsettled and 2) the dreaded M25. Well, after a very doubtful week weather-wise out came the sun and it was a lovely day and, although there were a couple of slow stretches around Heathrow, the M25 was as good as it could be - so all good.



Wisley was packed but getting around all the stands and the marquees was comfortable and what a lot there was to see. The Dahlia Society's tent was spectacular as were the examples of flower arranging. Every conceivable plant was represented on the specialist stands plus an huge variety of garden ornaments, furniture, tools etc. etc. and things you couldn't live without like plant supports in

all shapes ! There was plenty of advice available for the mysteries of why one's crocosmia did not flower this year and away from the showground the usual delights of Wisley could be found including the lakes, mown walks through flower beds, wooded areas and the huge glasshouse plus plenty of restaurants and the inevitable well stocked shop where we all like to end up! Our members bought some great plants including a giant fern which had to have its own seat on the coach coming home! All in all it was a lovely day out . The next event will be our Xmas get-together and details will be sent to everyone next month.



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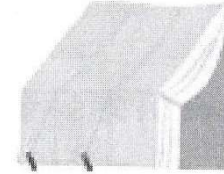
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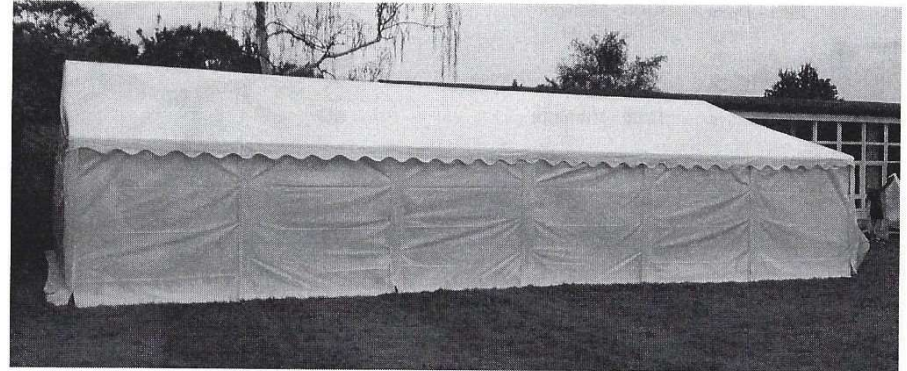
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MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz:

- (1) By (2) Roll (3) Talk (4) Lemon (5) Close
(6) Coffee (7) Colour (8) Common (9) Country (10) Yard

For this month it's more of the same I'm afraid, remember you have to think of a word that can be put before or after the 3 words:-

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| (1) Grass, Black, Maker | (2) Shopping, Pane, Broken |
| (3) Wedding, Tone, Hollow | (4) Down, Through, Over |
| (5) Charge, Up, Break | (6) Productive, Point, Measure |
| (7) Dragon, Catcher, Off | (8) Bin, Man, Cart |
| (9) Water, Struck, Bell | (10) Bridge, Up, Back |

As always, the very best of luck - This time they are all easy ones and no tricky ones like last month. I'm sorry about number 4 - it took me a long time to answer that one!!

Answers next month!



STOKE HAMMOND RHYTHM OF LIFE SINGERS

Since our first meeting in January 2016 we now have a regular band of happy singers who meet every week singing a variety of genres from musicals, pop and rock n roll songs which span the decades from the 1940's to the present day.

We always offer a warm welcome to new members who want to sing just for the sheer pleasure of it. Our group is very informal with FUN being the main emphasis. So, if you'd like to join us but "think" you can't sing don't worry, there's no pressure. But you will soon realise that anyone can improve on their singing voice and have a whole lot of fun at the same time.

We are happy to do a 'sing a long' at any venue or group with any funds being raised going to Willen Hospice.

We meet Wednesday 7:15pm - 9:00pm at the Sports Club, Bragenham Side. Call 07522 949524



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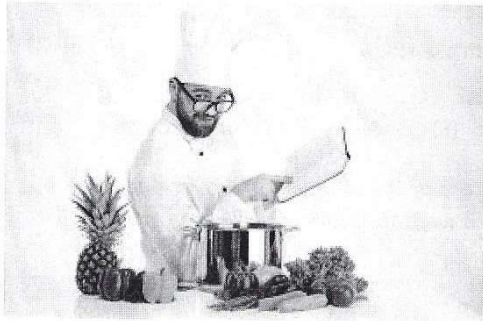
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APPARENTLY, A FAVOURITE FROM THIS SUMMERS OPEN GARDEN EVENT - SO WHY NOT GIVE IT A GO!

CARROT CAKE *from Barbara Munn*

Heat oven to 160°C or 140°C fan or 325°F. Gas mark 3
Cooking time: 1.25 – 1.5 hours for big cake, about 50 minutes for smaller
Lined cake tin: 20cm square or 23cm round or 2, 2lb loaf tins

350g self-raising flour	350g light muscovado sugar
250g grated carrot	100g chopped walnuts
150g sultanas/raisins (optional)	200ml rapeseed oil
4 tablespoons milk	4 large eggs, beaten
4 teaspoons cinnamon	1 teaspoon allspice (optional)

METHOD

- Mix all dry ingredients together in a large bowl
- Mix all liquid ingredients together
- Pour all the liquid into the dry mixture and stir well
- Put into baking tin(s) and smooth the top(s) When cooked leave to cool in the tin

TOPPING

50g butter	50g icing sugar
1 tub full fat cream cheese	Vanilla essence/paste (optional)

METHOD

Cream butter and icing sugar then mix in the cream cheese. Spread over the cake. Decorate with nuts if using. If you want to freeze the cakes leave off the icing

BON Appetit

STOKE HAMMOND WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

After the summer break, it was good to get back in the routine when we met on Tuesday evening 12th September. Some of our members were still on holiday so the rest of us took the opportunity to discuss forthcoming events, put forward ideas and hear about the great speakers that have been lined up for us and even start to think about Xmas! Hazel, our President, will be unable to join us for a while and so Krystyna will be standing in for her. Anne was kindly acting as Secretary and she informed us of happenings in the Federation's area including 'a Fete Worse than Death', a Horrible Halloween bonanza at Waddesden Manor on October 28th & 29th for W.I members, their families and friends with particular fun for children. There was also a version of the Antiques Road Show and group outings. Unfortunately, some of them were too far away for us to join in but we had a good programme of our own to look forward to. Krystyna told us of the outing in August to the Panacea Museum in Bedford which was extremely interesting and enjoyable - those of us who missed it insisted it was put back on the list of visits for next year. We were pleased to hear that Irene intends to continue with her DVD afternoons at her home and the first will take place on Thursday 28th September 2pm for 2.30pm when the film is 'United Kingdom'. Space is limited so hopefully there will be room for all who want to go.

In October, we have the Group Meeting when we are acting as hosts to our neighbouring W.Is. A lovely supper is planned and we will have an excellent speaker. We also look forward to welcoming Sqn. Leader Chris Fopp to our Annual Meeting in November but more of that at a later date.

With all the new houses gradually being inhabited in the village we are sure that, once settled in, there will be ladies who would like to come and join us and we will be organising distribution of information and open evenings. We would love to welcome guests and new members - the more the merrier.

After our informative chat, exchange of ideas, plans and opinions we enjoyed supper and the raffle was drawn and won by Margaret with Eve winning the 'S' competition.

Next month's meeting will be on Tuesday 10th October, 7.30pm at the Community Centre and, as mentioned, it will be a Group Meeting. The speaker is Mr. David Abbott who will talk about Evacuation of Children during WW2. The competition will be 'T'.

VILLAGE SHOW REPORT

The fourth village Show was held on Saturday 2nd September and we were delighted that the miserable summer beautiful sunny day in Sheehan kindly opened hundreds that attended music, salsa dancing, karts, a bar and BBQ, definitely not least a displaying the many villagers! These talents marquee recently committee. It is available for villagers to hire. Please contact us for information. We were very generously supported by our sponsors RoofShield Solutions, Tommys Hand Car Wash and Kutte of the Village Shop and we thank them all. We were also given some great raffle prizes ranging from boxes of wine to cake mixes and Flotation tank experiences!



finally gave us a which to enjoy it! Alison the show and the were treated to live numerous stalls, go cream teas and last but show marquee talents of our wonderful were displayed in the purchased by the

Something different for this year's show was the Dog Show which was run by Hula Animal Sanctuary. This was very popular and we hope you all enjoyed it.

The winners of the cups this year were:-

Fruit & Veg Cup	Chris Page	
Food & Drink	Alison Sheehan	
Vehicles	Alan Stuckenbrock	
Photography	Amber Page	
Adult Best In Show	Alison Sheehan	
Flowers	Donna Page	
Children's Best In Show	Katie Humphreys	
School Cup	Swanbourne	
Committee Cup	Charlie Simonds	
Art & Craft	R. Bates	

This was won by a late entry (dressed as the girl from Monsters inc. but we have lost her name! If anyone knows it please contact us with her details.

The Gardening Club Cup for the scarecrow voted for by the public went to Elaine Carter for Leonard the Loofah! We'd love to see even more entries next year!

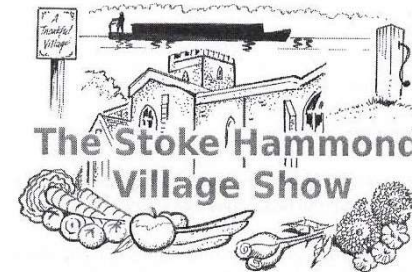


This year we introduced a new award for Villager of the Year which is in recognition of contributions made to the village community. This was chosen and presented by the Show committee to Hazel Turner. Hazel was presented with a glass award and her name was entered onto a shield which we hope to have displayed in the community centre. Most of you will already know Hazel for her tireless work throughout many aspects of village life from the WI to the Parish Council. She is a very deserving recipient. Next year we would like the villagers to provide us with nominations and ultimately vote for their choice.

As always, we could not put the show on without the help of the volunteers on the day and we give our heartfelt thanks. The organising committee currently consists of seven people who each take responsibility for a different task. Three of our members will be stepping down now and we are looking for people to take their places. The more people involved the less there is for each to do. If you feel you could help by taking on a task please contact us either by talking directly to a committee member or via our website www.stokehammondvillageshow.com

Here's to next year!

Your Village Show Committee



www.stokehammondvillageshow.com

Sorry there's no PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH" this month as things are pretty quiet in the garden at the moment, but it will be back next month.



Whether you are looking for short or long term accommodation The Orchard Hotel has so much to offer. This old family home has been sympathetically and tastefully converted and now provides accommodation and assisted living for retired gentfolk.

There are five single and two double fully serviced guest rooms, each with:

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Residents are invited to make full use of the guest lounge and sun room as well as the indoor and outdoor swimming pools and the beautifully and lovingly tended gardens.

The majority of guests at The Orchard choose to be self sufficient and prepare their own meals or eat at nearby pubs and restaurants. However, hotel staff are happy to cater for guests providing this is arranged in advance.

The Orchard is fully accessible for anyone with limited mobility. It is regretted however that pets cannot be accommodated.

For more information please contact:

The Orchard Private Hotel, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire LU7 0HR
Tel: 01525 240 240 Fax: 01525 240 464
Email: orchardstewkley@supanet.com

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- | | |
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| * Stoke Hammond | * Lakes Estate |
| * Wolverton | * Giffard Park |

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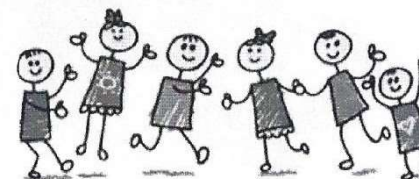
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Stoke Hammond local Store

Under new management, the local shop has been refurbished and re-opened on 1st January 2011. It is currently known as "Stoke Hammond Food and Wine".



Opening hours are: Mon-Sat: 6am till 10pm

Sun: 7am till 10pm

Our products:

News & magazines	Beers, Wines & Sprits	Pet food
Confectionary & snacks	Soft Drinks	Health & Beauty products
Bread (inc. Turney's) & cakes	Tobacco & Cigarettes	Frozen food & Ice creams
Dairy products	Groceries	Greeting cards
Medicines	Baby food & other products	Household Sundries
Sandwiches & ready meals	Fruit & Vegetable	Stationary items

Other services:

- Paper delivery available for local residents (delivery charge is 25p per day).
- Negotiation is underway to re-open the post office as "Post Office Local"
- Pay-point/Top up services will be available.
- Cash machine will be available.
- Photocopier & passport photos will also be available.
- Pies and coffee will be introduced in the morning.

Exclusive Promotions:

Wines from £2.99	Beers from 6 for £5.50 (500ml cans)
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Strong beers are from **£1.09** (500ml cans)

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Zumba Gold
For the older active adult

Mondays 10am - 10.45am

All About Me Fitness Leighton Buzzard

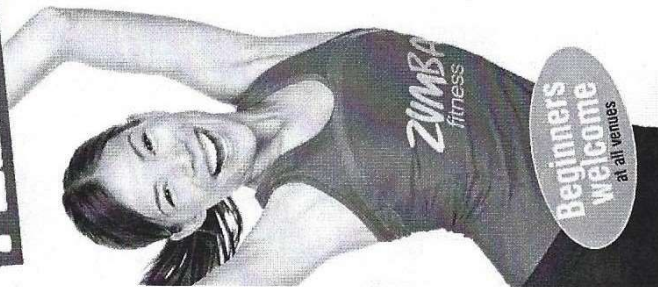
Thursdays 10am - 10.45am

Southcott Community Centre,
Grasmere Way, Linslade LU7 2PJ

Please wear comfortable clothes and bring water!
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Contact your local licensed Zumba instructor
Nikki Gladdish 07974 141874

Email: nikki@wizfit.co.uk
Nikki G Zumba www.nikkigladish.zumba.com



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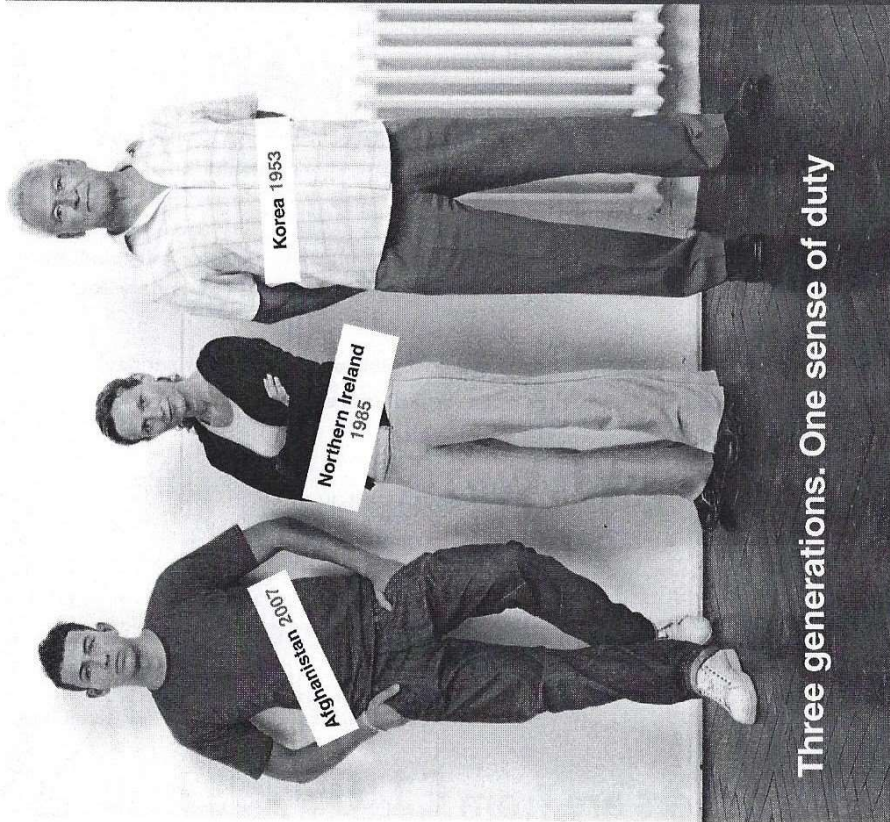
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HIGH ASH SCHOOL – OCTOBER 2017

It's been another positive start to the academic year at High Ash CE School and we have welcomed new children and staff to the school. Mrs Sara Boyce has started as the new Headteacher and we have also had 40 children start with us in Reception, so it's a busy but exciting time!

We have an open door approach at our school and visits to the school are always welcome. If you do have a child due to start school for the first time in September 2018, then we will be holding an Open Morning on Thursday 5th October from 9:30am-10:30am. We look forward to seeing as many prospective parents as possible and if this time is not convenient, then please contact the school on 01525 261620 to make an alternative appointment. Our website is also being updated over the coming weeks, yet please do take a look at it for a flavour of what we can offer your child.

Our website address is www.highashschool.co.uk.

For existing parents, Mrs Boyce will be holding regular Parent Forums to update parents on school priorities and to gain parental input into school life. The next Parent Forum will be on Wednesday 11th October at 9am and then repeated on the same day at 6pm.



High Ash C of E Primary School
Pound Hill,
Great Brickhill
Milton Keynes
MK17 9AS.

Tel: 01525 261620

Fax: 01525 261988

E.Mail: office@highash.bucks.sch.uk

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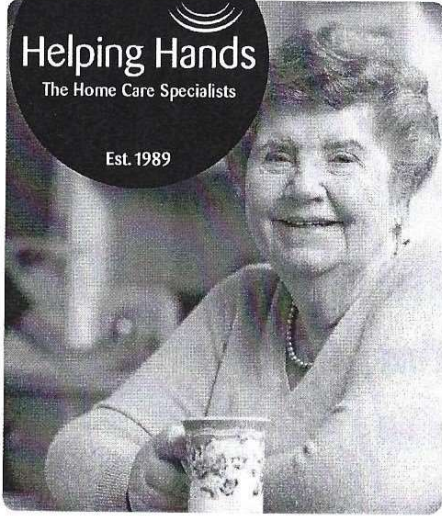
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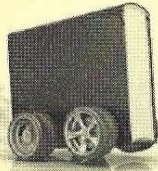
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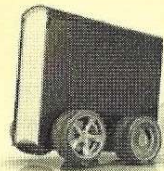
Mobile: 07807 973871



MOBILE LIBRARY

**Tuesday 3rd October
10.15 - 10.45**

Village Green Use it or Lose it!



ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Women's Institute

19.30 - 21.30pm

Contact: Joan Simmons 01525 270432

High Ash Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

Every Thursday 17.30 - 21.30pm

Contact: John Till 01525 261444

Pilates - Group Matwork

Monday's 09.25am, 10.30am,

19.10pm, 20.15pm

Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589

Metafit

Tuesday 9.30am and 10.00am

Wednesday 7.30pm

Friday 9.30am and 10.00am

Contact: Lizzy 07753 138276

Buttons Pre-School

Monday - Friday

Contact: 01525 270501

**To Hire the Hall please telephone 01525 270501
or e-mail: shcommunitycentre@gmail.com**

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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Bucks County Council	01296-395000
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar (<i>Births, Deaths & Marriages</i>)	01296-382581
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296-585858
Gypsy Hotline	01296-383774
Litter Enforcement Officer	01296-585395
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	01494-817750
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
Clerk to the Parish Council	07743-355484
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>)	01525-270744
County Councillor (<i>Janet Blake</i>)	01525-261288
District Councillor (<i>Neil Blake</i>)	01525-261288
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. (<i>John Bercow</i>)	020-7219-6346

Police non-emergency number 101

EDITORS NOTE

I'm most pleased to report that Barbara Munn is well recovered from her nasty fall, and the long awaited 'Spotlight On' John Bowler can be found in this issue, and we already have another well-known resident lined up for next month.

It came to our attention that not all Stoke Hammond residents are receiving copies of the SH News, which in the main are those who reside outside of the confines of the village but at the extremes of our parish boundaries. I endeavoured to put this right last month and indeed delivered an extra 12 copies to these outlying homes, but I have to say some don't make it easy, with no apparent letter/mail box. So in some cases I had no alternative but to leave the SH News lying on the mat – how does the postman cope? But I hope these households appreciate that they are now back on the circulation list.

Please do get in touch if you have an idea for something you'd like to see in the SH News. We want the SH News to be informative and interesting as well as being a means for local businesses to advertise their services.

May I please have copy for the November issue by **20th October**

Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB
01525-270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com

VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 3 rd October	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre - 19.30
Sunday 7 th October	Community Breakfast – Community Centre - 8.30 - 10.30
Saturday 21 st October	Charity Fashion Show – Community Centre - 19.30
Tuesday 7 th November	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre - 19.30
Saturday 11 th November	Community Breakfast – Community Centre - 8.30 - 10.30
Saturday 18 th November	Christmas Bazaar - Methodist Church - 14.30
Saturday 25 th November	Christmas Fayre - Community Centre - 13.00 - 17.00
Saturday 2 nd December	Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch – Community Centre
Tuesday 5 th December	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre - 19.30
Friday 8 th December	Gardening Club Christmas Dinner – Community Centre
Saturday 9 th December	Community Breakfast – Community Centre - 8.30 - 10.30
Tuesday 2 nd January	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre - 19.30