

MARCH 2018

Issue 3

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**INSIDE THIS EDITION:
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G.O.M.
CHURCH NEWS
MAVIS'S QUIZ
STOKE HAMMOND YESTERYEAR
BOOK REVIEW
& MUCH MORE**

www.stokehammondpc.com

St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

March 4th	11.00	United Family Service at Methodist Church
March 11 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Lesley Berry
March 18 th	09.00	Holy Communion - Revd John Waller
March 25 th	09.00	Palm Sunday – Morning Worship – Phillippa Cook
March 29 th	19.00	Maundy Thursday – Holy Communion <i>At Great Brickhill</i> – Revd John Waller
30 th March	12.00-15.00	Good Friday – Church open for Prayers

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

Saturday 10 th March	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 14 th April	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

Church Wardens:

Diane Webber 01525-270409 and Harry Davies 01234-822780

METHODIST SERVICES

Minister: Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly 01525 240589

March 4th	11.00	United Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
March 11 th	10.30	Service at Stewkley Methodist Church
March 18 th	11.00	Service – Mr Richard Maquire
March 25 th	11.00	Service – Mr John Shaw

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

No doubt as you opened this month's edition of the SH News our questionnaire flyer fell out. Please do take the time to look at this questionnaire as this gives you and everyone in your household the opportunity to have your say on what you would like to see provided on the land adjacent to the Community Centre that your Parish Council purchased late last year. You can photocopy the form or obtain further copies at the village shop. Alternatively, and probably easier for most is to use the online poll at <http://bit.ly/2Cbvizw> or click the link on the PC website www.stokehammondpc.com

Probably by now most of you would have heard that the planning application 17/03772/APP to demolish The Dolphin PH to be replaced by nine dwellings has been refused, and indeed refused on several major grounds. Full details can be found on the AVDC Planning Website, but a brief summary for the reasons of refusal are listed below:

1/ The proposed development would lead to the total loss and substantial harm to the significance of a non-designated heritage asset. The loss of the local heritage asset would represent less than substantial harm to the overall significance of the Stoke Hammond Conservation Area, which is a designated heritage asset. In addition, the significance of the conservation area would be harmed through the new development, including the replacement building, given it would not make a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness of the conservation area. It is therefore considered that this development proposal is contrary to the NPPF and to Policies GP.53 and GP.35 of the Adopted Aylesbury Vale Local Plan. Given that the proposal would not preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area, it is felt that the proposal does not meet the duty in The Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) 1990 Act at Section 72, concerning the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area.

2/ The proposal for 9 dwellings which equates to 60dpha is considered excessive and results in a cramped and inappropriate form of development having regard to the site as well as in relation adjacent properties and this part of Stoke Hammond which is within the conservation area. The following overdevelopment symptoms are likely to result:

- The layout does not provide for a sufficiently wide access road which could lead to conflicts with highway operation and safety, as vehicles may be waiting and reversing onto the highway. Car parking spaces are not demonstrated as being workable given the absence of tracking diagrams.
- The reliance on forecourt parking rather than the preferred approach of on plot parking impacts on the appearance of the site and also has knock-on implications for poorly located cycle parking and amenity space

- Cycle parking is inconveniently located behind parking spaces at the bottom of the development, thereby discouraging the uptake of cycle and more sustainable modes of travel in accordance with the NPPF
- The replacement buildings particularly the terraces which constitute backland development would adversely impact on the open character of the site and this part of Stoke Hammond. The terraces would appear squeezed onto the site in relation to the building replacing the public house and its excessive rear projection which will be visible from the surrounding area
 - The proximity of the terraces would also impact on the outlook, openness and be overbearing to the rear of properties nos. 32 and 34 The Green. The elevated floors and generous glazing on the rear elevation of the terraces would additionally pose unreasonable privacy and overlooking impacts to these neighbours contrary to AVDLP policy GP.8
 - The close proximity of the new terrace building to retained trees is likely to give rise to increased pressure for their pruning and removal, which would be detrimental to the appearance of the conservation area and also exacerbate the appearance of a cramped and over intensive development
 - The amenity space located to the rear of the site behind parking spaces is not well overlooked and therefore, gives rise to safety and security concerns for its use contrary to AVDLP policy GP.45
 - Privacy and overlooking impacts would result from the amenity space immediately adjacent to the windows of the ground floor flats contrary to AVDLP policy GP.8
 - There would be privacy impacts to flat 6 due to the proximity of the access road to the side and pedestrian access points to the front contrary to AVDLP policy GP.8

3/ Had reasons for refusal nos. 1 and 2 not applied it would have been necessary for the applicant to provide further information in relation to viability to justify the loss of the public house in accordance with AVDLP policy GP.32.

4/ Had reasons for refusal nos. 1 and 2 not applied it would have been necessary for the applicant to provide further information to demonstrate that a sequential approach had been taken to the siting of development as well as considering the Sequential and Exceptions test as part of the submitted flood risk assessment. In addition, the scheme would need to demonstrate adequate drainage proposals. In the absence of this information it has not been sufficiently demonstrated that the site is appropriate for the development sought and that it will not lead to increased flood risk for future occupiers and to the area. The proposal is thereby contrary to the provisions of the NPPF. INFORMATIVE(S)

The applicant now has 6 months in which to submit an appeal against this decision dated 31st January 2018.

At the February Parish Council meeting and along with 13 members of the public, we were for the first time in many months joined by both District Cllr Neil Blake and

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County Cllr Janet Blake, who were able to provide an update on AVDC and BCC matters. Of which, that of most probably interest to us was the proposal by BCC to set aside £4.5M for repairs to the Stoke Hammond Bypass. This will not be a full repair as estimates for that work are said to be in the region of £10M. BCC had been trying to negotiate with the original contractors but as they were part of the recently failed Carillion partnership, this avenue was no longer an option.

During the public participation session, the thorny issue of parking associated with the Stoke Hamond Youth Football Club (SHYFC) was raised. The SHYFC acknowledges that it has grown to such a size that the number of vehicles arriving in the village on a Saturday morning was creating an issue for which they have apologised and they are investigating many avenues, such as split training session times and encouraging village parents to walk with their children to the venue. The chair of the SHYFC David Rutland has agreed to attend the March PC meeting to provide an update on their plans to contain this situation.

On a similar vein, the number of vehicles associated with the canal winter moorings at the bottom of Bragenham Side were also causing concern. The number of barges is exceeding the defined 100 metre length set aside for winter moorings, and it is the cars and vans owned by the canal boaters that is causing substantial damage to the grass verges and Bragenham Side itself, with excessive amounts of mud being deposited. The vehicles are in some places parking directly in front of farm gates. Your PC is to contact the Canal and River Trust to demand a site meeting so this matter can be discussed in full.

There were several items of planning to be considered, and here follows a resume of what was discussed:

17/04841/ALB Stoke Lodge. The removal of a small section of garden wall and the erection of a new wall and gates – This falls within the conservation area, but the conservation team are seemingly happy with the proposal. The PC agreed to be neutral on this application.

17/04840/AOP Lodge Lane 3 Land to the South of The Mellows. The residential development for up to 14 dwellings with access – The adjacent site already has outline planning permission and the Affordable Housing Officer has commented that this new application is a continuation of this site and thus the site would normally require an affordable housing provision. Your PC agreed with this comment. The PC also had concerns for the close proximity of the railway line. There is also no Green Space provision and no sustainable drainage and thus the Environment Agency has recommended refusal. With concerns also about flood risk, water management and lack of pavement ingress from the Newton Road, your PC recommended refusal of this application.

17/04664/APP Old Dairy Farm House, Orchard Lane and the extension of the touring caravan site, to which neither the Canal and River Trust or BCC Highways have any objection, but the Environmental Agency is recommending objection until a full

detailed drainage assessment plan be submitted. So, whilst your PC supported the application it did request that the planning officer is asked to take into account the comments made by expert consultees.

18/00050/APP Land Adj To Hettys Barn, Stoke Road, the erection of a new single storey detached dwelling – This site has seen much development and building conversions. Whilst the PC decided to be neutral on this application and leave it to the authorities to decide, Concerns were expressed about contractors depositing and storing building materials on the grass verge causing damage to the verge and safety issues for splay vision along this stretch of road. Your PC has asked that should this application be approved that a planning condition be imposed that all building materials must be stored onsite.

As for other matters, the new grass cutting season is imminent and our Green Team is once again in place to tackle our verges, but it has been decided to employ a contractor employing heavier grade equipment to undertake what is always the more onerous 'first' cut

Dog bins are as ever always an item for discussion, particularly as these have been overflowing as of late. The AVDC contractors are simply not up to the job, continually failing to achieve the contracted weekly emptying of our dog and litter waste bins. We have therefore effectively 'sacked' these contractors appointed our own new, who actually charge less than the AVDC. In response to public requests, a further new dog bin is to be installed on the Newton Road just over the railway bridge, close to the concrete road.

LATE NEWS: Just as this report was about to be sent across to the SH News, BCC Highways contractors arrived on mass along with much heavy equipment and descended on Fenny Road, and then proceeded to remove vast swathes of damaged road surface and relay with new. This wasn't just random pothole filling but complete sections of properly laid road surface. Obviously, these repairs are much welcomed and were still ongoing at the time of going to press, so one hopes they continued along to The Green which is also in much need of repair. It would however had been a nice courtesy if BCC had given us the PC and you the residents some advance notice of these works – can't have everything.

Your next PC Meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 6th March at the Community Centre on Bragenham Side. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

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

Sue Severn, 19 Curlew, Watermead, Bucks. HP19 0WG 01296 336575 07778 473392

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Church News

Review:

The **Community Breakfast** was another success this month with more children than we've ever seen before, and yet more first timers! Thanks to all who helped out on the day.



Forthcoming Events:

Community Breakfast: We will be serving our Community Breakfast on **Saturday 10th March** between **8.30am and 10.30am**. We serve a range of breakfasts including full English breakfast, cooked breakfast items to order or a lighter breakfast of toast, cereal or a croissant. Alternatively you're welcome to join us for a coffee or 2, so come along and enjoy yourself!

Lent course: Our Stoke Hammond Lent Course has been postponed for a couple of weeks as the content has been reduced. We will be starting on **Tuesday 6th March** at **1pm** for a soup lunch and starting at **2 till 3.30pm**. The 3 sessions are independent, so it doesn't matter if you miss one. The format is based on Bishop Steven's call for Christians to be Contemplative, Compassionate and Courageous. The evening Lent group is held in different venues on Wednesday evenings. The content is the same as the daytime course, so if you miss a daytime session one week, you can catch up the following evening. Everyone is welcome, so if you are interested in either of these (free) courses, please contact one of the wardens below.



Sponsored walk: Some advance warning of our sponsored walk, which will take place this year on **Saturday April 7th**: This year we are hoping to trial a new route which will break for lunch at The Boot in Soulbury. There will again be different route lengths for different walking stamina levels. The shortest route will be approximately 5 miles and the longest 9.75 miles. The routes haven't been tested yet, so they are still provisional, but if you would like to take up the challenge and raise sponsorship in aid of St Luke's church, please contact one of the wardens below.



Bible Study Course: Have you ever wondered: What if there is a God?... What if he did have a son who was born on earth?... What if that man, Jesus, really did die on the cross and came back from the dead just to save YOU? Would you like to know more? Have you ever thought you'd like to find out about the Bible? We are at the early stages of offering a Bible Study course which has been developed by Rev Andrew Ollerton. This eight week course offers an introduction to the Bible (and for those of you who are aware of the 66 books in the Bible, you will realise that it is just that – an introduction!) involving a discussion after watching a video. If you think you might be interested, contact the Church wardens below.



Mothering Sunday this year will fall on **Sunday 11th March**. We would love to see you at our **11am family friendly service** at **St Luke's church** will be led by Lesley Berry and gifts will be presented to all Mothers attending.

“Mothering Sunday”: Last month I explained Lent. The 4th Sunday during Lent is Mother's day, or to give it its correct name, Mothering Sunday. Contrary to popular belief, this celebration didn't start as a celebration of Mums!



Mothering Sunday began as a religious festival in the 16th Century, with no connection to mothers at all. The word "mothering" referred to the "mother church", i.e. the main church or cathedral of the region. Local parishes would form a procession to venerate the mother church. It later became a tradition that, on the 4th Sunday of Lent, people would return to their mother church for a special service. This pilgrimage was known as "going a-mothering", and became a holiday, with domestic servants traditionally given the day off to visit their families as well as their mother church.



As domestic service declined, this fell out of practice, but in 1920, Constance Smith, the daughter of an Anglican vicar wrote a book entitled "The revival of Mothering Sunday" and formed a society to promote the idea. Within a few years, the festival was restored into popular culture, but focussed on celebrating motherhood, following the American tradition which had started a few years earlier. Since Constance had started the revival based on the traditional festival, the original date on 4th Sunday in Lent was retained, whereas the American Mother's day was introduced as a new celebration, which is why it and our own festival have different dates.

Funerals: We have sadly had a number of deaths in the village of late and say farewell to Jean Miskimmon, Thelma Brown and Wynne Bygrave: friends who will be sorely missed.

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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Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

THE Lindens

At The Lindens we are always looking to develop our “Home from Home”. You may have noticed that we have recently started building work once again and perhaps you are wondering what this may be. It is a new extension, to the side of the existing Garden Wing, which will comprise of eight additional en-suite bedrooms. This will include a dedicated Respite / Convalescence Suite with a private patio area. The rooms will have lovely views of our gardens when they are completed.



Initial works started in January, when the service access was made. Since then, the ground has been prepared and the drainage laid. This was followed by the delivery of the concrete for the foundations.



Next came the block work and from there the floor plan of the building really started to take shape. When this has been done, the timber framework will be fitted.



Looking forward, when this building has been completed, our attention will focus on the forthcoming Café and Activity Centre at The Lindens, planned for the enjoyment of our residents, guests and their families.

We warmly welcome visitors, so if you would like to call in and join us for afternoon tea, or if you are interested in volunteering here, please call us and ask for Tina or Milli. We look forward to meeting you.

Michael Hannelly

Director, The Lindens.

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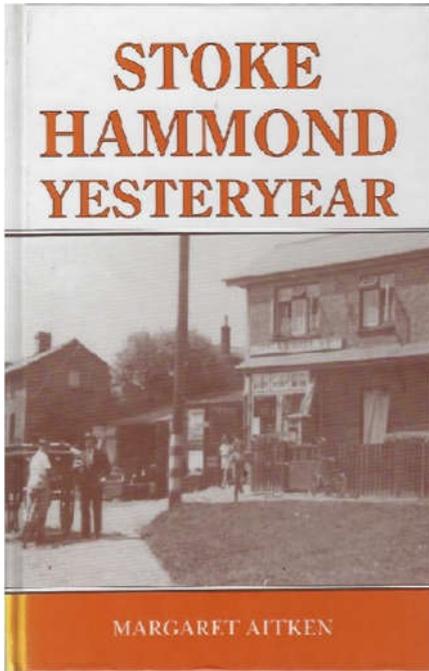
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STOKE HAMMOND YESTERYEAR

A PERSONAL RECORD 1925 – 1948



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.

Well here we are the very last chapter of Margaret Aitken's book 'Stoke Hammond Yesteryear' first published in 1997. These extracts have provided an intriguing and addictive insight into our village of years gone by. Much thanks to Margaret for allowing the SH News to bring this book to you all. So, here it is chapter 12 'HOME FROM HOME'.

HOME FROM HOME

It was only a matter of time before Andy realised I would never be happily living in Sussex. My ties with Stoke Hammond were too strong. We were always in close contact with my family and knew all that went on in the village.

One day a letter arrived from my mother telling us that four houses were being built and that one was reserved for an agricultural worker. The farmer allocated

the house was Edgar Venn, who lived at Dorcas and was looking for a general farm worker. At dinnertime I put my Mum's letter on the table for my husband to read and watched his face.

Well, I said before he had hardly finished, 'How about applying?' He did not say he would, and he did not say he would not, but after I had hammered away all through dinner he was convinced that nothing in the whole wide world would make me happier than to move back to Stoke. In the end he had little option but to agree to apply.

Mr Venn confirmed that Andy could have the job and that when the new house was finished it would be allocated to us. There was just one snag - he needed his farmworker to begin as soon as possible. To my mind this was a plus rather than a minus. The sooner we moved the better!

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ABOVE: Mr & Mrs Aitken outside their retirement cottage at Soulbury. **BELOW:** Andy Aitken in the Park in 1947.

One again my parents rallied around and said we could stay with them until the house was ready. After telling his parents of our intentions Andy gave in his notice at Old House Farm and we made arrangements to move back. On 8 June 1948, 15 months after our marriage, our furniture was unloaded into shop premises again. This was home - not home with my parents, but home in the community and village. As our belongings were arranged in my old room, the piano took up its original position in the front room.

It was easy to slip back into village life. Andy cycled to and from the farm and came home to dinner at midday. I helped in the house, shop and Post Office. The

customers, my friends, told me all the local news and made me feel involved again. In the evenings Andy and I joined in the village social life. We attended the Young People's League and took part in quizzes, debates and spelling-bees. Our group of young people also gave concerts around the local churches. I joined the Women's Institute and formed a choir which visited local old people's homes to entertain. Andy and I took over training the children for Sunday School Anniversary services - what a contrast to the lonely life in Sussex!

Although Andy had always been a farmworker, our ambition was to rent a smallholding of our own. At the time the County Council owned a number of these small farms and periodically one became vacant. Several times we applied but without success. Then the day dawned when some land on the outskirts of the village, known as the Allotment Field, came onto the market. It belonged to Harry Keen, who lived at Orchard Cottage opposite the church, and comprised seven

acres. Dad bought the land on our behalf and gave it to us as a step on the ladder towards our own farm. Part of the field was divided into strips of land and was owned and used by the villagers as gardens. Cecil Harrup had the first two. We owned the next patch, consisting of a closely packed orchard of apple trees and a sleeper-built barn. The next two strips belonged to Mr Shepherd - the railway delivery man - then there was a strip belonging to my cousin, Harold Scott.



ABOVE: Mr Tom Goodman, right, and his young son John work on the allotment. BELOW: Orchard Cottage, opposite the Anglican Church, where Mr and Mrs Harry Keen lived.

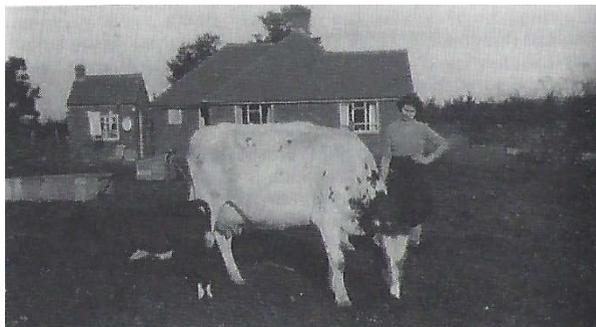
Adjoining his was Mr Goodman's piece and next to him came Uncle Jim's two pieces. On the opposite side of the field was another apple orchard and then there were several more barns. Without delay we bought some hens and an in-calf cow from a local dealer. In time she produced a black calf and Andy went to market and bought two more for the cow to suckle. While he was at work on the farm I kept an eye on the livestock, fed and watered the hens and collected the eggs.

Among those who knew that Andy and I one day hoped to rent a

Council smallholding were Mr and Mrs Gadsen, who lived in the village at Grove Farm, with their four daughters and one son. Mr Gadsen was a County Councillor and headed numerous committees. When harvest time came around that year he offered me a job on the farm, driving his tractor from field to rickyard with loads of corn. With trepidation and dressed in khaki bib and brace overalls, I went to work. The tractor - a big blue Fordson Major - looked a monster to me. The bonnet covering the huge engine made me realise just how powerful it was, especially as I had been used to driving Dad's Austin Ten. A large trailer with ladders attached to the front and back was secured behind the tractor.

I climbed into the driving seat and a local man named Harry French and the under-cowman, Henry Ogden, climbed up beside me. I started the engine, opened the

throttle, let out the clutch and we were off. It was anything but a comfortable ride as we bumped our way to the cornfield. 'Drive along the rows of stooks,' I was told. At the end of the row I had to turn around. 'Do a figure of eight,' the men instructed me. After a few ends I got the hang of it and managed to be facing in the right direction for the next row. Henry was an expert loader and made the job look easy. Up and up went the sheaves until the load towered above me. When it



Bluebell the cow, with her black calf, watched by the author. In the background is her newly built bungalow, named Fairfields.

was about 15 feet high a rope from the back to front ladders secured it. Now it was my responsibility to get it safely back to the farmyard. Harry and Henry jumped onto the tractor, one on either side of me. I opened the throttle a little, let out the clutch and moved at a slow walking

pace. The huge load creaked and rocked from side to side as the wheels went into ruts. I was terrified it would fall off! 'you'll have to go faster than that,' the men urged me, 'they're waiting to unload in the rickyard!' With my heart in my mouth, I opened up the throttle a little more and we moved along swaying from side to side. Somehow or other I arrived safely with the load still intact where Mr Gadsen was waiting to build the rick on the straw base he had prepared. The full trailer was unhitched beside the base, an empty trailer attached to the tractor I was driving and off we went again for another load.

Another seasonal job that came my way was threshing. I did not actually have anything to do with the corn, my job being on the baler dealing with the straw. I had to thread long, black, grease-coated wires between the bales to the other side of the baler where another man threaded them back to me between the next bale. I then had to secure the ends through loops in the wire by twisting it several times with my fingers. But the worst thing of all was the choking black dust that exploded in my face every time the metal plates compressed the straw. When we left off at lunchtime on that first day I was absolutely filthy. My face, hair and clothes hung with black dust. Not only that, the dust had settled in my lungs so that I could not take a deep breath.



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A less disagreeable although back-aching job was potato lifting. Mr Gadsen grew quite a large acreage of potatoes, which he ploughed out of the ground row by row. With big buckets 'our gang' picked them up and tipped them into sacks, in which they were transported back to the farm.

Any was still working for Mr Venn at Dorcas Farm and between us we were able to save a few pounds. The council houses were nearing completion but, as we now owned a piece of land, we decided to apply to the County Council for a licence to build an agricultural dwelling. This was granted without any objections so we turned down the house.

In June 1949, a year after our return to the village, plans had been drawn up and passed for our bungalow and the builder had pegged out the foundations in the Allotment Field close to the road. My parents lent us the money to build, to be paid back as and when we could afford it.

To speed things along. Andy volunteered to dig the foundations. So after work and at the weekends we worked as a team. No foundations were ever dug with such love, precision and care as ours, but there was great satisfaction in a job well done.

We watched impatiently as the builders laid each row of bricks. The walls began to grow until window frames appeared, carpenters hammered on the roof trusses and battens for the tiles, and the tilers started work.

As winter approached, in the evenings Andy and I would light the Raeburn with



ABOVE: Mr Tom Goodman takes a breather on the allotment gate. **BELOW:** Mr Gadsen's tractor and trailer with a high load, similar to the one the author drove.

offcuts of wood left by the carpenters and burn up rotten boughs from the old apple trees. The main electricity supply stopped at the railway bridge so did not reach our bungalow. We had a Tilley lamp that ran on paraffin and had to be pumped up to maintain the pressure. How happy we were sitting on a wooden sawing-horse enjoying the warmth and privacy of *our* home!

Just before Christmas 1949 the bungalow was finished and before the New Year had arrived we moved our furniture again, this time into 'Fairfields'.

Who could ask for more? I had tasted life away from Stoke Hammond village and hated the flavour! Now I vowed that, If I had my way, never again would I be separated from the village where I was born. Nearly 50 years later, the village has grown, much has changed, and new names replace the old, yet it is still the same place, and I still have a sense of belonging. Stoke Hammond is our home.



AND THERE WE ARE THE END

Editor's note: I shall sadly miss reading each new chapter of this wonderful book, but not the many hours spent copy typing each one!

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the **Community Centre** or the **Meeting Room** for your party or business meeting. Discounted rates for residents of Stoke Hammond. To book or discuss your requirements please call **01525 270501** or email: **shcommunitycentre@gmail.com**



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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

The days are getting longer and the sun occasionally has some ooomph to it....this means Spring will soon be with us and things really will start to grow - yep including the nasties (just keep weeding , nothing else works properly). Last month we decided what veg we were going to grow this year, ditched old seeds, cleaned tools and " tidied" the garden a smidge. We sowed onion and shallot seeds in the warm (15C) and bought spuds for chitting (predictive text keeps changing this to chatting lol !). I bought Lady Christl (1st earlies) , Marfona (as second earlies) and Blue Belle as main crop spuds. I change each year apart from Marfonas which are the best spud in the world however you like to cook them...Really ! I buy them loose from Buckingham Nurseries/ garden centre, opposite Bucks golf course. Fab if u want a garden centre just for gardening. The spuds will go in the ground at the end of March provided no frost around at the time.

If you don't have enough garden to dedicate a veg patch EVERYTHING can be sown in buckets or pots. Huge array available - even if you only have a couple outside your back door full of herbs and lettuce or carrots. Just do it peeps. The right compost, drainage and water is all you need. Keep sowing little and often ! If you love watercress, as I do, it grows in pots brilliantly - just don't let it go dry for too long.



Carrots and parsnips can be sown outside from the end of February. I grow all mine in big pots ! Ensure they are two feet deep with drainage holes in the bottom. I fill them half full of sand and then half full of a multi purpose compost with a little Growmore fertiliser all mixed in. Try and sow the parsnip seeds a little apart on moist soil you have watered and then cover with bubble wrap. The seeds can take several weeks to germinate so be patient. By mid-April they should be flying and you can thin them out to 10cm apart. Carrots I tend to sprinkle more haphazardly and cover with a little compost. Thin them in 6 weeks time if you want bigger carrots later in the summer. My favourite seeds are Nantes 5, sweet candle, St Valery and Autumn King. My favourite parsnip is Panorama but Pinnacle and Tender and True have worked really well too.

By the way if the seeds haven't germinated, water and re-sow ! There are always Casualties so steel yourself for that ! Lastly get your Tomatoes and Peppers sown.

Sow seeds into modules or small pots (I use 80ml pots) full of seed compost, moistened and in a warm place (20C at least).

My favourite toms are Country Taste (beefeater type) , San Marzano (plum type), Crystal (medium type) and Sungold or Red Cherry for small juicy types. But there are thousands - just grow some and have flavours you can only dream about. My favourite peppers are the big bullhorn type - yellows and orange but again many varieties, shapes and sizes available. Keep them moist, warm, in a light place and don't let them dry out or drown (yep you wouldn't like it and nor do they !) If there is any feedback for me let me have it.....any tips share with the editorand get sowing ! P.S. A recommendation for small plastic pots is the Dagnall Gardeners Society club. They are at the allotments in Dagnall where you can get everything cheaper than the shops. Annual membership is 3 pounds but you will make that up on your first visit. Just bought my 70ml pots (10 for 20p) , 85ml pots (10 for 30p) and 110ml pots (10 for 40p). Only open Sunday's 10am to Noon.

Pagey

STOKE HAMMOND OPEN GARDENS 2018



Following the tremendous success of last year's event we are planning to have an Open Gardens event in the village again this year on behalf of St Luke's. It will be on the weekend of 16/17 June, but we haven't yet confirmed whether to open for one or two days. Two is most likely.

Many of the people who opened their garden last year have offered to do so again and we already have another couple of volunteers. If you would be interested in opening your garden, finding out about what's involved or offering to help out please contact Dave Webber – 01525 270409, or david.webber@btinternet.com

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Deep Thoughts of a Retired Man

I trimmed some trees and bushes around the house today and after so doing sat down and had a cold beer. The day was really quite beautiful and the drink facilitated some deep thinking.

My wife walked by and asked me what I was doing and I said *“Nothing”*. She then said that’s what you did yesterday - to which I replied - *“I wasn’t done so I’m in the middle of finishing it right now”*.

The reason I said *“nothing”* instead of saying *“just thinking”* is because she then would have asked *“About what”*. At that point I would have had to explain that men are deep thinkers about various topics, which would lead to other questions.

Finally, I pondered an age-old question: Is giving birth more painful than getting kicked in the nuts? Women always maintain that giving birth is way more painful than a man getting kicked in the nuts, but how could they know?

Well after another beer and some more heavy deductive thinking, I have come up with an answer to that question. Getting kicked in the nuts is more painful than having a baby and even though I obviously couldn’t really know, here is the reason for my conclusion. A year or so after giving birth, a woman will often say *“It might be nice to have another child”*.

On the other hand, you never hear a guy say *“You know I think I would like another kick in the nuts”*

I rest my case. Time for another beer and then maybe a nap.

G.O.M.



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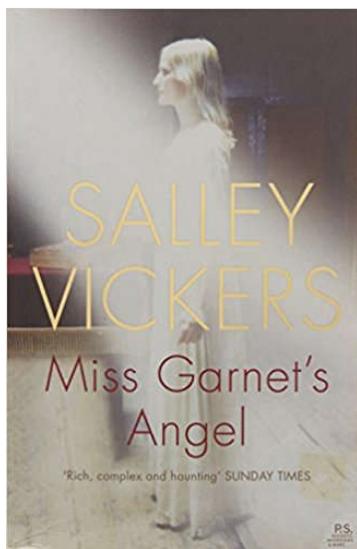
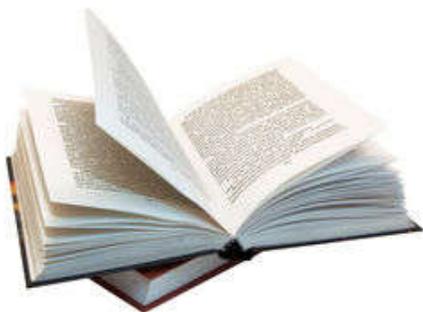
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



This month's book was '**MISS GARNET'S ANGEL**' by Salley Vickers. Miss Garnet is a retired school teacher who, prompted by the death of her long time companion, decides to expand her previously uneventful life. So, she rents out her London flat and goes off to Venice intending to stay for six months. She has a love of art and ancient literature and a desire to explore the delights of Venice so this seems an excellent plan. When she begins her sightseeing and visits a local church she comes across a series of paintings which tell the story of Tobias & the Angel. Following this we find, alongside details of her new experiences, antics and the completely diverse people she encounters, the story of Tobias who travels to Media (part of the Persian Empire) unaware that he is accompanied, not as he thought by a hired guide, but by the Archangel Raphael.

This may seem weird and a bit odd but it is cleverly done and daring of the author to attempt and once we had got used to it many of the group really enjoyed it. We loved the descriptions of Venice, some of which were familiar to us, but it was thought that although we were introduced to various story lines the book was slow to progress and whilst we appreciated that it was a novel idea we felt that the author could not really decide how to conclude - thus it ended rather abruptly. Personally, I enjoyed it more when I thought about it afterwards than I did whilst reading it. So, another success but with some reservations !

Next month's book is '**Case Histories**' by Kate Atkinson.

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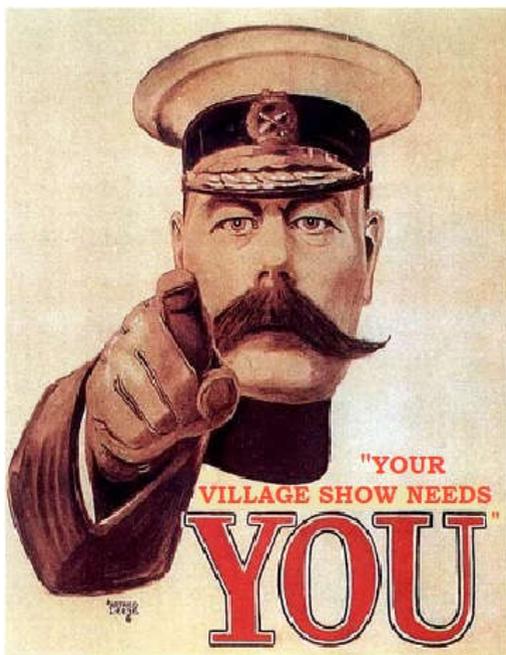
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STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE SHOW



That's right, The Stoke Hammond Village Committee needs your help. Now entering its fifth year, the show continues to get bigger and better, but this means so much extra organization which is getting beyond the capabilities and time of the original committee stalwarts. We're not expecting you to take on a multitude of tasks, but looking for volunteers to be responsible for a particular aspect of the show, be it stall coordinator, organizing the raffle, booking the music and dance acts, seeking sponsors – effectively taking ownership of your own part, all of which combined together create the whole show. Without your help the existing committee which is likely to lose one or two members due to other commitments this year, could be so reduced as to mean the loss of the show!

So, if you want the show to remain and you feel you're up to the task, please make yourself known. You may well know one or more of the current committee members which includes and in no particular order – Chris & Donna Page, Alan Humphreys, Greg Noble, Geoff Lane, Ann Payne & Jacqui Armitt. Alternatively, please contact our current Chair Donna Page on 01525 270239 or email page.donna@googlemail.com



DIARY DATE: THE VILLAGE SHOW AGM. TUE 13th MAR. 7.00PM -COMMUNITY CENTRE



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STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB

The club is no longer opening Friday night's unless for a function or meeting etc.

Cricket nets have started at Vandyke School on Thursdays 8 - 9 price £4 if anyone is interested in joining the cricketers please call Joe on 07958584655.



3rd March - Beer & Curry night admission £5 includes a curry and one drink. for that night only all beers are £2
Please call Val on 270361 to book for food.
stokehammondsportsclub@gmail.com

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember the given letters were anagrams of Birds with the vowels missing. So here are the Birds, how many did you get right?

- (1) ALBATROS (2) BITTERN
- (3) CUCKOO (4) DOVE (5) EGRET
- (6) FINCH (7) GOLDCREST (8) HARRIER
- (9) IBIS (10) JACKDAW



All makes sense now 😂

Now the same again, more anagrams of birds, but the vowels are missing – can you name the bird??

- (1) KTSLR (2) TWLN (3) GPM (4) LNGTHGN
- (5) YSPR (6) RLPV (7) LQ (8) VNR
- (9) KSLKYR (10) HTRHS

Best of luck, hope you can work them all out !!

Answers next month.



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KUTTE & VARAHINI

By Barbara Munn



Kutte, his wife Varahini and their two sons Nigethan and Shayan have lived in Stoke Hammond for over six years and have turned a run-down building into a thriving village amenity. The family has become not only well respected but also well-loved due to their professionalism and their friendly and helpful attitude.

- **EARLY LIFE**

My given name is Prahalathan Nadarajah but I am always known by my nickname, "Kutte." I was born in Jaffna in Sri Lanka where I lived with my father who was a doctor, my mother, two brothers and sister. At that time there was a lot of fighting in the country so, in 1989 after I had finished my education I left to join relations in France.

- **PARIS**

In Paris I trained as a chef cooking French food and worked there until 2002. Then I returned to Sri Lanka to marry Varahini who was also brought up in Jaffna. In accordance with Sri Lankan custom she took my first name as her surname so she is known as Varahini Prahalathan. I returned to Paris and sponsored Varahini; fortunately she was able to join me in March that year. We stayed in Paris until 2005 and our son, Nigethan was born there in 2003. My spoken French is now a little rusty but I can still understand when I hear people talking.



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- **LONDON**

In 2005 we decided to leave Paris and join my two brothers in London. We felt England would offer our children a better education and more life chances. Being able to speak, understand and write English would mean the boys could live in the many parts of the world where English is the dominant language.

Whilst in London we ran a petrol station which was great preparation for running the shop. Our second son, Shayan, was born in Hillingdon in 2010.

- **STOKE HAMMOND**

One of my brothers moved to Bletchley and has a shop there. Gordon, a Stoke Hammond resident began walking his dog each day to the Bletchley shop to collect his newspaper and told my brother that the Stoke Hammond village shop had closed. My brother suggested we should buy it. So that's what happened and we arrived in 2011. The premises had been empty for about two years and were in a bit of a mess. We had to replace the floor and re do the floors, windows - everything . And then fully stock it. Running the shop is hard work, it isn't just standing in the shop, there are also many other tasks such as the paperwork and going to the cash and carry. Fortunately Varahini and I work together and we have two part-time staff.

We really enjoy being in the village. Having our own business means we are our own bosses and the money we earn is for the benefit of our boys. Stoke Hammond is very friendly and we do what we can to help. We supply bread and eggs for the Community Breakfasts and have helped elderly and disabled residents who have difficulty shopping.

- **WIDER FAMILY**

Kutte : Our families are now spread across the world. As well as my brother in Bletchley I have another brother and sister living in Australia. My father sadly died when he was fifty four but my mother now lives here with us or with my brother in Bletchley.

Varahini : I have a sister in Norway and a brother in Germany where my parents also now live. My other sister sadly passed away in 2012.

- **SPARE TIME**

Kutte : I really enjoy cricket, both watching on TV and playing for Stoke Hammond during the summer months. Each week I play badminton in Bletchley . Otherwise I like to watch the news and Tamil films.

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".



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Varahini : I enjoy watching TV dramas. Otherwise my time is taken up with the house or organising the boys' activities such as swimming and football. Both of our boys are very helpful at home.

- **SRI LANKA**

Our Sri Lankan heritage is very important to us all and because the country still has its troubles we like to help where we can. At Christmas we host a party in the Community Centre and around 150 -200 friends and relations attend. We raise money for the World Tamil Historical Society; there is also a collection box in the shop should customers wish to donate. All the money raised goes to help people with a range of disabilities start their own businesses or otherwise improve their lives.

We belong to the Hindu religion and visit the temple in Ealing on New Year's Day and other special occasions.

- **FOOD**

Kutte : I like lamb, beef and pork curries. While working as a chef in Paris I learnt to enjoy all types of meat.

Varahini : I am more traditional and prefer Sri Lankan fish or vegetable curries.

To eat out we might go to Palm Beach in Wembley or, more locally, Himalaya or Shribaheenas in Bletchley.

- **HOLIDAYS**

Having family scattered all over the world has helped enable us to visit a range of countries such as Germany, France and Holland but we've also been to Spain and Switzerland where the scenery was so beautiful. In England we have seen lots of places; the Isle of Wight and Anglesey are lovely.

- **WHAT WOULD YOU TAKE TO YOUR DESERT ISLAND?**

The Hindu holy book

BOOK/FILM. Kutte : Any Tamil movie

Varahini : I read from the Tamil website to keep in touch with what is going on in Sri Lanka.

Shayan was in the room and wanted to take the film Justice League

MUSIC. We both like new but especially traditional Tamil music.

LUXURY. To be honest neither could think of a luxury though Kutte did agree he would love to have a cricket bat and an endless supply of balls and Varahini admitted to a liking for rasmalai.

Shayan was much more forthcoming : A game called Pie Face during which, perhaps not surprisingly, you are slapped in the face with whipped cream.

- **HOW DO YOU VIEW THE RECENT CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE?**

For us the new houses are great because they provide new customers for our shop. For the boys there are potential new friends. We would however like to see some way, such as speed humps, to slow down traffic through the village. The zebra crossing being on a bend in the road is an especially worrying point.

READERS LETTERS



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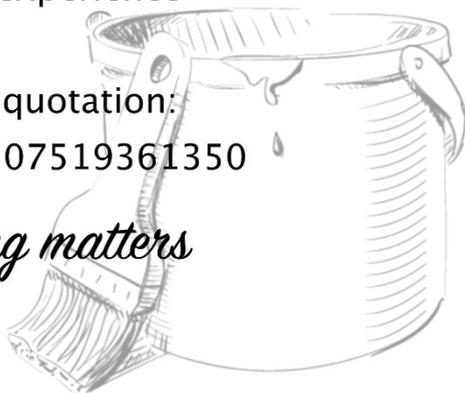
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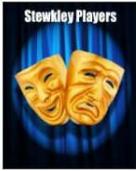
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**Sunday Box Office at the Village Hall
4th, 11th, 18th March from 10:00 to 12:00**

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STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Serving the community

DO YOU WANT TO HELP RAISE FUNDS YOUR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION WHO RUN YOUR COMMUNITY CENTRE?

WELL YOU CAN VIA THE TESCO BAGS OF HELP GRANT SCHEME

Do you shop at any of the following Tesco stores?



5398	BUCKINGHAM RD Bletchley – Express	MK3 5BU
2493	EGERTON GATE MK - Express	MK5 7HH
2605	GREENLEYS MK - Express	MK12 6AX
2615	HEELANDS MK - Express	MK13 7PN
2351	MELROSE AV Bletchley - Express	MK3 6PB
2898	BLETCHLEY EXTRA	MK1 1DD
2885	KINGSTON EXTRA	MK10 0AH
2896	WOLVERTON – Service Station	MK12 5RJ
2932	ELTHORNE Newport Pagnel - Express	MK16 0JR
2999	NORTH FURZTON MK - Express	MK4 1EN
5023	OLD FARM PARK MK - Express	MK7 8QU
2893	OLDBROOK MK – Express	MK6 2JB
5747	OLNEY MARKET PLACE - Express	MK46 4BA
5594	OXLEY PARK MK - Express	MK4 4TE
5070	TINKERS BRIDGE MK - Express	MK6 3DD
2892	WALNUT TREE MK - Express	MK7 7PB
6561	WOBURN SANDS - Express	MK17 8RQ

Note: Tesco stores in Leighton Buzzard are not in our region for this scheme.

Last year we applied to Tesco's to be considered for their Tesco Bags of Help Grant Scheme. From Thursday 1st March until Monday 30th April we along with two other regional projects will be part of this scheme, where Tesco customers can vote for their favourite project every time they shop. All three projects will receive a monetary grant, but the most popular will receive the largest sum. To vote, you will need to make a purchase within store of any value. You will receive one token per transaction and it's not necessary to purchase a carrier bag in order to receive a token. Then simply place your token in the Stoke Hammond Community Association box.

PLEASE ASK FOR A TOKEN IF NOT OFFERED

shcommunitycentre@gmail.com

www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Helping Hands

The Home Care Specialists

Est. 1989



Do you need a Helping Hand?

If you are looking for an **alternative to residential care** or extra support for those everyday tasks that are becoming difficult for you or a loved one – then we're here to help - **from 30 minutes per week to Live-in Care.**

Our **Stoke Hammond care team** has been providing award winning quality homecare since 1989 and can help with: personal care, housekeeping, help getting around or even to provide a break to an existing family member or care-giver.



To find out how we can help you,
call: **01280 428 237** or
visit: www.helpinghands.co.uk



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Office: 01525 234120

Mobile: 07807 973871



STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SCHEME

The Community Transport Scheme is in need of additional drivers. Drivers must be 18 or over and hold a full driving licence.

The work is not onerous and entails providing transport for elderly or disabled parish residents to medical appointments, the hairdressers, shopping and other similar venues.

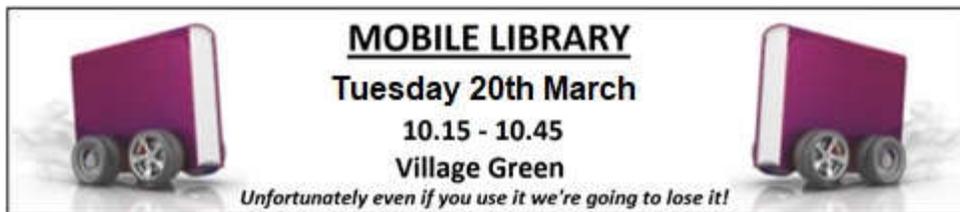
Drivers are reimbursed mileage and other expenses eg parking. They also have to undertake a DBS check. Any individual driver is unlikely to be called upon more than 2 or 3 times in a year.

To express an interest or to find out more information please contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance.

Either through the parish website

www.stokehammondpc.com

or telephone 07778 473392



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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

For 12 editions: FULL Page - **£85.00** HALF Page - **£50.00** QUARTER Page - **£30.00**

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

Last month's new colourful look was well received and we have picked up on the comment that the cover now seemed rather flimsy, so this month we've gone for a heavier grade of paper – Hope you approve.

Unfortunately, our advertisers are not too keen to pay extra for a full colour ad, so this month to keep costs down we have restricted the colour to just the front and back page, but if you are an advertiser who would like to add a bit of a lift to your ad, whether regularly or as a 'one off' then please do contact me – the rates will be reasonable.

SOME IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO USE THE NUMBER F70 BUS SERVICE – FROM MARCH 12TH ARRIVA BUSES ARE AMENDING THE ROUTE AND THE F70 WILL NO LONGER PASS THROUGH STOKE HAMMOND. A NEW F77 ROUTE WILL NOW SERVICE STOKE HAMMOND, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY THIS WILL ONLY GO AS FAR AS BLETCHLEY BUS STATION, SO IF YOU WANT TO GET TO CMK, YOU WILL NEED TO CHANGE TO ANOTHER BUS SERVICE WHEN REACHING BLETCHLEY.

As always, any ideas for articles or things you would like to see or indeed submit, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

May I please have copy for the April issue by **20th March**

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

VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 3 rd March	Beer & Curry night – Sports Pavilion
Tuesday 6 th March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Thursday 8 th March	Gardening Club AGM – Sports Club 7pm for 7.30pm start
Saturday 10 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30
Sunday 11 th March	Table Top Sale – Community Centre 11.00-14.00
Tuesday 13 th March	Village Show AGM – Community Centre 19.00
Tuesday 3 rd April	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 14 th April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 1 st May	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Sat/Sun 16/17 th June	Village Open Gardens Event
Saturday 8 th September	Village Show – Community Centre 13.00 – 17.00

WASTE COLLECTION DATES



Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
			Monday 26 February
Thursday 1 March		Thursday 1 March	
	Thursday 8 March	Thursday 8 March	
			Monday 12 March
Thursday 15 March		Thursday 15 March	
	Thursday 22 March	Thursday 22 March	
			Monday 26 March
Thursday 29 March		Thursday 29 March	
	Thursday 5 April	Thursday 5 April	
			Monday 9 April
Thursday 12 April		Thursday 12 April	