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**INSIDE THIS EDITION:
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
BOOK REVIEW
G.O.M.
'PAGEY'S SOW AND GROW PATCH'
MAVIS'S QUIZ
'SPOTLIGHT ON DIANE & DAVE WEBBER'
'EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO'
CHURCH NEWS
& MUCH MORE**

www.stokehammondpc.com

APRIL 2018

Issue 4

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St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

April 1st	11.00	Easter Sunday – Family Service with Holy Communion Revd Robert Wright
April 8 th	18.00	Evensong (BCP) – Revd John Waller
April 15 th	09.00	Holy Communion – Revd John Waller
April 22 nd	09.30	Café Church
April 29 th	09.00	Holy Communion <i>At Little Brickhill</i> – Revd John Waller

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

Saturday 14 th April	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 12 th May	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

April 1st	11.00	United Service Family Service at St. Luke's
April 8 th	11.00	Service _ Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
April 15 th	11.00	Local Arrangement
April 22 nd	11.00	Service – Revd Wallace Edwards
April 29 th	11.00	Service – Mr Ken Harris

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays at 10.30 - 11.30
(contact 01525-270287)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Those of you who take the trouble to read this section of the SH News will be familiar with the term VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan) as it has been referred too many times in the past. We have been waiting a long time for AVDC to get this plan together following the rejection of their first some years ago by Central Government. Whilst we have been waiting, we like many other villages in Aylesbury Vale have been at the mercy of the developers, who have very much used the lack of a Local Plan to their advantage and pushed through many speculative planning applications which in normal circumstances would have probably been refused, in the knowledge that one of the major factors governing housing growth does not currently exist in AVDC. Thus, it was quite exciting to read a recent AVDC press release stating that their VALP was submitted to government on 28 February 2018 and will now be subject to an independent examination by Planning Inspector Paul Clark BA MA MRTPI. Unfortunately, the excitement that the VALP had finally at long last been officially submitted, was somewhat short lived, for no sooner had we seen sight of the AVDC press release, this was immediately followed by a press release from Sajid Javid, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) stating that he is 'minded' to 'implement' subject to Parliamentary approval and further discussions, the locally-led proposal to replace the existing five councils across Buckinghamshire (of which AVDC is one of the five) with a single council for the area. The concept of a 'unitary' single council was mooted back in 2016, with the idea to abolish the current 'two tier' system of both a county and district councils, and to create a new, single council for Buckinghamshire. The District Councils had countered this with a proposal for two new unitary councils, one in the north of the county, and one in the south. As to what a Unitary Council will mean to us, more in a moment, but what about its implication on the VALP, and unfortunately that is a bit of an unknown. When BCC was doing the rounds to PC's presenting their Unitary proposal, the question was asked about Local Plans within the County, and BCC suggested existing Local Plans will be honoured, but the VALP has only just been submitted and the ratification process is very long and of course the government is pushing very hard to increase housing targets – so could all the time and effort that AVDC has spent putting the VALP together all be a very expensive waste of time?

So, what would be the advantages in going with a Unitary Council governing the whole county, well according to the press release: -

The move to a single unitary council will bring improved and simplified services for local residents and place more control and decision-making in the hands of town and parish councils and local communities. Our proposal has localism at its heart, with plans for:

A flexible partnership offer that reflects the differing sizes, geographies and resources of parish and town councils, while enabling further devolution, much more local decision-making and the ability to respond to different community needs.

Greater choice and control over local assets and service delivery: increased opportunities to transfer assets and services to those parish and town councils who want them - backed up by a package of funding and support to allow this to be sustainable and successful.

Putting real decision-making power in the hands of local people: a new network of community boards with powers and budget to take decisions for local areas, providing greater scope to represent residents in decision-making on the future of local services. The presumption is that decisions should be taken as locally as possible, with fewer layers of bureaucracy and an end to the tensions between two tier councils.

Town and parish councils play a critical role in supporting local communities to thrive and will be key partners to the new unitary council in all aspects of its work. We are very grateful for the views and contributions to the debate that you have provided so far and look forward to continuing our discussions to develop the detail of the future approach. We have already been working with a reference group of parish and town councils for some initial advice and input on the next phase and will come back to you all about opportunities for further engagement in due course.

In terms of next steps on the 'minded to' decision, there will now be a period of ten weeks to allow local residents and stakeholders to submit representations and feedback to MHCLG (by 25 May). Following this, MHCLG will reflect on the views received before the Secretary of State announces his final decision. There will also need to be a process to seek parliamentary approval before beginning to implement the changes.

So, what of other news, well as reported from last month's PC Meeting, your Council were going to contact the Canal and River Trust (CRT) demanding a site meeting to bring to their attention the atrocious conditions to the road and verges on Bragenham Side down towards the canal, which are being caused by vehicles associated with the canal barges using the CRT allocated winter moorings. Well the PC has met with CRT and having walked them down Bragenham Side to see for themselves the state of the road and verges, even they could not deny the amount of damage and mess that had been caused by or as a consequence of the number of vehicles parking on the verges. We were also able to show them cars parked directly in front of and blocking field entrance gates. We also walked along the tow path to show how boats were moored way beyond the allocated Winter Moorings. It was interesting as we walked along that the CRT people noted the amount of canal side clutter that was sitting either side of the towpath which is strictly prohibited under the terms of the mooring permits. We continued to ask many questions of CRT as to how they decide on winter mooring locations, what if any facilities do they provide and why do they not consult with the local Parish Councils. Apparently, CRT review their Winter Mooring locations at the end of April and they have promised to take on board our comments and report back to the PC in early May.

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The 'Beast from the East' and the slightly less potent 'Beast from the East II' affected us all in many different ways, but they certainly conspired to create havoc for the planned village litter pick event. The first was postponed for Sun 4th Mar, then no sooner as the new date was announced for Sun 18th Mar, the Met Office told us the 2nd 'Beast' was due! A new date will be announced following the Easter break.

So, to the March PC Meeting held on Tuesday 6th March, where we were joined by District Councillor Ben Everitt, 6 members of the public and later by two members of the local police force. During the public participation section, David Rutland the Chair of Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club (SHYFC) advised as to how they were addressing some of the parking issues/complaints being caused by the ever-increasing numbers of people attending the club on a Saturday morning. David explained that kick off times were being split to avoid overlapping games. He also advised that SHYFC are currently negotiating the use of another piece of land outside of Stoke Hammond, which if successful would mean a vast reduction in the numbers coming into Stoke Hammond. Hopefully there should be more news on this after the Easter holidays. With Cllr Ben Everitt being there, many questions were asked about the shortage of staff within AVDC planning which was making life very difficult for anybody to get answers to questions on planning matters. AVDC are trying to address and are looking to fill 5 vacant positions. Council tax has risen to balance the books although AVDC have through reorganisation and hard work managed to save some £3M.

When it came to planning, there were two items on the agenda, albeit many felt the first 18/00286/APP regarding a replacement wall to Mallaig, Church Road, was not really a planning issue, a point reinforced by Cllr Ben Everitt. The PC voted unanimously to support the application.

The second application 17/04457/ADP approval of reserved matters pursuant to the outline permission to the Land to the East of Fenny Road, and the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale of the residential development of 64 houses. Had been discussed at a previous PC meeting, where our objection to the plan had be recorded. It was however noted that further strong objections had been received from both the Heritage and Drainage teams, and we would ask that AVDC planning consider these new objections along with those that we originally put forward.

Bucks County Council have now ratified the £4.5M to be spent on repairs to the bypass. This will not be the total resurfacing that is really required, as this would need a sum of money in excess of £10M. We await a schedule of works from BCC which we are told will involve diversionary routes via the A505 and the A5 but no doubt drivers with local knowledge will use the route through our village. We will keep you advised.

Your next PC Meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 3rd April 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

clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

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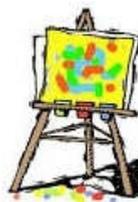
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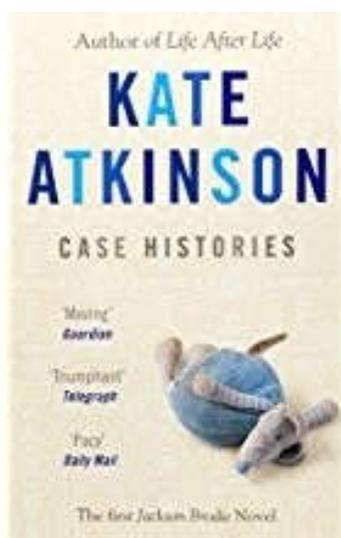
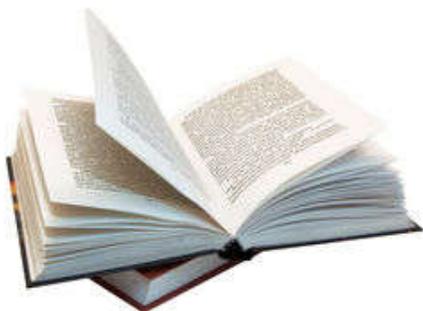
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



'CASE HISTORIES' is the first of Kate Atkinson's four books about the ex-policeman Jackson Brodie and is set in Cambridge. Three seemingly unconnected cases need solutions – 30 years after the first incident – and Jackson Brodie, ex-policeman turned private investigator, begins looking into all three resulting in the emergence of startling connections and discoveries. The case histories are woven around different strands -the harrowing disappearance of a small child from a dysfunctional family where the remaining daughters each have issues of their own, the random killing of the dearly loved daughter of a country solicitor and the death of a young father and a wife behaving strangely.

Other characters slide into the mix and Jackson Brodie, who was not doing much detecting of note, is drawn into the task of trying to string together all the loose ends in an effort to solve the many unanswered questions. This is achieved very cleverly and eventually connects all the cases and, as there is also room for humorous exchanges and asides, makes for an intriguing and enjoyable read. We were all enthusiastic about the book and realizing that, amongst many other successful, popular novels by this author, there are three more Jackson Brodie books, we will be happy to see another one turn up on our Club's reading list in the future.

Next month's read is a complete contrast – **'The Garden of Evening Mists'** by Tan Twan Eng.

Church News

Review:

The **Community Breakfast** was another huge success. We had to set up an additional table as we ran out of seats. We also ran out of lots of supplies! Apologies to those who had to wait a bit longer while we dashed to the shop! Thanks to all who helped out with the mountains of washing up, especially Liz, Helle and others!



Lent course: The Stoke Hammond Lent course was enjoyed by all who attended and particularly welcome were the home-made leek-and-potato, minestrone and carrot-and-lentil soups! Bishop Steven of Oxford, has asked us to think about how we could make our church more contemplative, compassionate and courageous. If you have any suggestions towards this aim, please do let us know. We would be grateful for your prayers on this too.



Forthcoming Events:

Community Breakfast: The second Saturday in April falls quite late this year, on **Saturday 14th April**. We will be serving our Community Breakfast again between **8.30am and 10.30am**. If you want to be sure of a seat, arrive early! We serve a range of hot and cold breakfasts. Our aim is for as many villagers as possible to come along and meet their neighbours. There is no charge for the breakfast, but we have a donations basket for what you can afford.

Sponsored walk: Our sponsored walk is taking place on **Saturday April 7th** but we've had a few hiccoughs with our plans: This year we hoped to try new routes through Soulbury, but the longer route required crossing the bypass on foot. Several people I spoke to felt uncomfortable about this as the traffic is so fast. Then on a trial walk, owing to the recent wet weather and clay soil, the shorter route was found to be very boggy for quite lengthy parts, to the extent that it was almost impassable. Due to these issues, it was agreed to revert back to the traditional route this year, via **The Globe PH for lunch**, as the canal towpath will at least be walkable! Some of our older walkers from previous years are standing down this year, so if you feel young enough and fit enough to complete a **7½ (short route) or 8 (longer route) mile circular walk** (or just walk one way and get a lift back) **in aid of St Luke's church**, please contact one of the wardens below.



Plant Sale: We will be holding our annual plant sale on **Saturday 28th April** from **10am to 3pm**, on **The Green**. There will be a wide variety of bedding plants, vegetable seedlings and perennials grown by professional growers available at competitive prices. If you'd like to place a large order, please call John Bowler.

Bible Course: Owing to a mix up and copy date deadlines (for which apologies are offered), the introductory session to the Bible course may already have taken place, however in case you've received your newsletter early, the dates are **Wed 28th March**



starting at **8pm** with desserts and coffee in Great Brickhill Parish Hall, on **Thurs 29th March** at **2.30pm** at The Rectory, 10 Pound Hill, Great Brickhill. The course will continue with two identical sessions each week following, one on Tuesdays starting **Tues 17th April** from **1.30 to 3pm** at The Rectory in Great Brickhill and one on Thursdays starting **Thurs 19th April** in Great Brickhill Parish Hall, at **7.30pm** starting with desserts and coffee. Each Bible course session – designed by Rev Andrew Ollerton – starts with a video followed by a discussion. Don't worry if you've missed the introductory sessions, you can still join in with the course. If you think you might be interested, contact Phillipa Cook on 07788 740969 or pjcook6@gmail.com or the Church wardens below. Find out more about the course on:

<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>

What is Easter?

In last November's article, I talked briefly about what Easter is. It is in fact the most important Christian festival of the year. Whilst it has been somewhat "hi-jacked" by the Easter bunny(!), hopefully, most people will know that Easter involves celebrating the resurrection of Jesus Christ. On Good Friday, Jesus was arrested, sent for trial and sentenced to death by crucifixion. In those times, crucifixion was widely regarded as the most horrifying death possible – by slow torture. Even the hardest men would be reduced to



sheer terror. Jesus knew what he had to face, and did it willingly because he knew that it was God's will, and that by doing so he would save mankind. After he was crucified, his body was placed in a tomb offered by a wealthy benefactor. A huge circular stone was rolled across the tomb entrance it would've taken several men to move. On Sunday morning when the women went to pray at the tomb, they saw that the stone had been rolled away and Jesus had gone. Imagine the shock then the joy they felt when they saw Jesus alive! His death and resurrection overcame the sins of the world and means that we can now receive God's forgiveness and inherit eternal life. Jesus Christ is (still) risen today: Hallelujah indeed!



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**



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THE Lindens

As you may recall, this year, it is our aim to see how much historical information we can gather about our "Home from Home". We would like to thank those who have kindly looked out information and photos to send to us. We were very pleased to receive these items and we plan to create a display for our visitors, residents and guests to enjoy. If you have any information, photos or memories of the old house, we would love to hear from you.

At The Lindens we enjoy celebrating Easter and in the run up to the event we have been enjoying Easter themed craft and art sessions, as well as musical entertainment. In addition, we held an Easter party for our residents' and guests. For Easter Sunday Lunch our oak panelled dining room was specially decorated as it is every year, with chocolate treats for every resident at each place setting. Our Kitchen Team cooked and prepared a roast followed by Easter Pudding with cinnamon custard, delicious!



Easter Sunday Lunch

Starter

Lentil Soup

Main Course

Roast Leg of Lamb with garlic & rosemary

Or

Vegetable Tart

With

Roast new potatoes with lemon & garlic

Maple Roasted parsnips & carrots

Creamed mashed potatoes

Rosemary and Onion gravy or Mint Sauce

Dessert

Easter Pudding with cinnamon custard

*We wish you a very Happy Easter from
us all at The Lindens.*

We welcome visitors, so if you would like to 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 Hamnelly

Director, The Lindens.

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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

This month we start serialising extracts from the book 'Everything but the Moo' written by Hazel Turner's late mother Pam Murphy, and subsequently edited by Hazel in 1996.

But where did the title 'Everything but the Moo' come from, well it originated from Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II. no less - To quote Hazel - My mother and I were at a Reception in St James's Palace. My Mother was there in her farming capacity. The Queen stopped to talk to her and my mother told her all about Cowcompact (please see the note at the foot of the page). At the end of the chat the Queen said to my mother "So you use everything but the Moo", and then roared with laughter. It was one of Pam's proudest moments which she was to later to recount on a television programme entitled " The Day I met the Queen"

Pam Murphy was very interested in history, this is her research and her story of the village's history.

STOKE HAMMOND

If Stoke Hammond merits an entry at all in a local guide book of Buckinghamshire, it is usually a brief comment on the Church, with particular reference to the early font and thence on to the local beauty spot at The Three Locks, where the Grand Union Canal meets the road, which is actually in the parish of Soulbury.

About a thousand years ago, the few inhabitants of "Stoke Hamon" built a church. Before the Domesday Book, which gives the population as 12 villagers, 4 smallholders and 6 slaves. The earliest church was built by the Saxons, part of which can still be seen at the eastern angle of the South wall. They must have been a faithful few; there are no records as to how they raised the money.

The reason there was a settlement in Stoke Hammond at all, was due to the good water supply. On the edge of the Whaddon Chase forest, where wild beasts abounded, water was available at "Chaddle", now "Chadwell", and at the Mill at Orchard Mill, and records show that they were used well before the Norman Conquest.

If the village, apart from the church, has little of architectural historical interest, some of its former inhabitants have added much local history throughout the ages.

"Cowcompact" was a manure based organic garden fertiliser created by Pam - The story of how Cowcompact came about will be covered in a future chapter extract.

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**PAM MURPHY AT
TYRELLS FARM**

After the Conquest (1066) the village was roughly the same size as it is now, was among the lands of Manno the Breton, who was Prior of Bradwell, after which it passed to his grandson, Hammon, who gave his name to the hamlet. Stoke, a fairly common prefix in the district means "of that place".

The first recorded Rector of the Parish was Richard de Tinton, in 1220, being appointed by the Prior of Bradwell, who continued to hold the Advowson until the reign of Henry III, when it passed to the See of Lincoln. During the fourteenth century the lot of the parson of the village seems to have been an unhappy one, for no fewer than 7 rectors exchanged the parish for another in the space of 40 years.

About 1350 the Church assumed its present cruciform plan, the chancel being rebuilt and enlarged, and the central tower and transept added. The second bell dates from 1370 by John Rufford. The first bell made by Bartholmew Alton in 1590, and the Sanctus has initials and an inlaid coin by John Sturdy in the C15 are not in good condition. Other repairs were effected in the C14 when the north and south walls of the transept were re-built, the central walls heightened, roof re-newel and South porch added, what an undertaking!

One of the Rectors, John Chedworth who had the Rectory conferred on him soon quitted it for a better preferment in 1433. He became Archdeacon of Wilts, Prebendary of Salisbury, and then in 1452 he was made Bishop of Lincoln,

although he was apparently very negligent about his Manor-houses, his executors paying £2,000 for dilapidation's to his successor, after his death in 1471. He was Stoke Hammond's second rector to reach the rank of Bishop, Steven de Gravesend becoming Bishop of London 1318. During the next century two incumbents rose to be Dean of Hereford and Canterbury, and another Bishop of Lichfield.

Little more is known until the early 1600, when a terrier - an inventory of Church land and property, reports that the Church was in a poor state, with no church door, seats too high, windows damaged and pargetting requiring attention and no accounts were kept. Thomas Lorkin who was inducted in 1624 immediately set out for France "soliciting the French marriage" and was drowned on his return.

It was Thomas Disney, (rector from 1646 - 1686) a member of a prominent local family who was responsible for its improvement, and many of his family have tablets and monuments in the church's chancel to their memory.

One relic that remains in the church to this day is the unusual Poor Box thought to date from 1610, at this time the persecution of Catholics was at its height and the changes that followed brought much hardship.

The induction of Rev. George Bate in 1686 saw the start of real contention and persecution in the village, although two years previously Mr. Disney recorded in the parish register that John Rogers died excommunicated, put in the ground behind the Church without Christian Burial. He had previously been fined a number of times for being absent from the church. His son, it appears, was a member of the churchhand when he died the funeral was in the church, though John Rogers' wife Ann, "out of zeal for her own party had a sermon preached at home by Mr. John Nutkin weaver."

George Bate was an unpopular and contentious character, as I have said, given to report his fellow parishioners to the Constables, and generally stirring up trouble. He took the oath of allegiance in 1687, 1689 and 1690. At this time church going was compulsory and he kept a register of attendance, men sitting on the right, women on the left. He was in constant dispute with the inhabitants concerning the rates, and as a result the Parish officers in 1690 were ordered to deposit their books with the clerk so that Mr Bate and his Counsel could inspect them. Later he complained that Mr. John Hillersden of Tyrells Manor Farm was underrated. He used the Parish registers to record notes of his doings, including that "two Yew trees were planted in the churchyard by the door, this day, 27th December 1687 by me, George Bate, rector". Today these flourishing trees add beauty to the quiet churchyard. George Bate sold an old surplice 6/-, and the money was handed to the church wardens and bought 286 foot of timber from Bradwell Abbey paying £2 13s. The receipt for which is in the register.

His most unpopular action concerned Benjamin Keech, a leader of the dissenters, who was born of poor parents in the village in 1640 and though he was baptised into the church, became a zealous preacher by the time he was 19, having come under the influence of John Russell, a Baptist Minister, and re-baptised into that faith.

Keech was seized and imprisoned for preaching at Winslow, where he ministered in a humble chapel, and soon after his release he was arrested again for writing and printing the Child's Instructor, a Baptist Catechism. He was tried at Aylesbury and sent to stand in the pillory there and at Winslow, where his "venomous and seditious book" was burnt before his face, and he was fined £20. Another time when preaching at Winslow the little meeting house was surrounded and Keech was seized and with much violence and indignity tied to the back of a horse and taken to Aylesbury. The bitterness of his trial was increased by the knowledge that George Bate had informed against him. Keech was responsible for the first congregational singing which the London Baptist Association condemned as a "carnal formality". Keech died in 1704 and the name remains in Keech's meeting house in Winslow, one of the oldest dissenting chapels in Bucks.

At about this time, the roof of the church was again rebuilt. This can be seen from the north side of the church - the former saddle back roof being removed. The date 1703 appears on one of the tie beams.

Following the death of George Bate three Rectors were inducted in four years, then followed Dr. David Trimmell 1707 - 1776. He was "a worthy and good man, and a little too inclined to too much laying up of money, yet the effective grippingness of his little wife, Barton, made any defect overlooked". But - "he was disordered in the head, which showed itself in his daughter, a very good sort of woman, unhappily married to a very worthless man, Mr. Frank, to whom the archdeacon gave the registry of his Jurisdiction and good fortune, yet he made so bad a husband that they are parted. He was also disordered in the head." according to Cole in the Record of Bucks.

In 1707 the church school was founded by John Hillersden of Tyrells Manor, who created a charity with five other gentlemen conveying an annuity of 3 closes of meadows lands, some 13b acres "£5 10. A year to be paid at Michaelmas and Lady Day in the South Porch of the Church without deduction". Each male child in Stoke Hammond was taught to read and write and cast accounts. The schoolmaster had to conform to the rites and practices of the Church of England, and none of the Fountaine family (large landowners in the village) should choose the schoolmaster or be a Trustee. Parish feuds ruled in those days! There are various tablets to the Hillersden family in the Church, and a large tombstone surrounded by an iron grill



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(which recently had a grade 2 listed building order slapped on it!) belongs to the Fountaine family. The Fountaine family also benefited the Church by making a bequest towards the upkeep of the Church.

The terrier of 1782 lists the utensils and vestments in the church as being 1 bible, 2 prayer books, 2 surplices, cushion and fringe cloth, white cloth and napkins, communion table, gilt cup, silver plate and pewter flagon, black cloth and bier. The charity school brought in £10 per year and the church land another £11.

In 1782 Dr. John Pettingall, Dr. Trimnell's successor, was inducted, and Rev. Col in the record of Bucks has much to say about him too! He was a Welshman, Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral, and a fellow of the Society of Antiquities. He was a very learned man, given to discoursing at dinner parties on scraps of Plato and such items as to how the Greeks liked to eat toasted cheese! He was much disliked by Cole, Pettingall became aware of this fact. Cole says " He challenged Mr. Hamer: kicked his servant maid, and in general comported himself to adopt the language of acrimony, peevishness and ill manner equal if not superior to the Bishop of Warburton's style." Happily, Dr. Pettingall was only Rector for six years!

It is therefore not surprising that the congregation of Dissenters grew apace. Their first meeting house was registered in 1802, and in 1828 Miss Hannah Gurney of Leighton Buzzard bought the old chapel, (just off The Green) formerly a cord wainers workshop and sold it to the Trustees for 5/-! This was replaced by the present Chapel in Newton Road, Stoke Hammond built in 1927. For many years now there has been the closest communion between the two places of worship which is as it should be.

In 1826 the glebe land was 70 acres, tithes brought in £250 annually and 18/- was due to the Parish Clerk for ancient fees. Easter dues were 4d for every householder. A funeral without sermon cost 1/- making the grave and ringing the bell 2/- Oblation for churching 6d. The salary of the clerk was to be made up to £3 per annum and collections to cease (there is no record of when these started again, but they are now essential housekeeping money). The mullions and shafts had to be repaired at this time and a new flagon paten and chest for plate provided.

On the South wall of the Church there is an interesting tablet in memory of Elizabeth Gardner, the wife of the Rev. Charles Gardner, Rector from 1786 - 1823. She died at the early age of 30 and must have been a Saint because it says: "The energies of a strong understanding were happily combined with the most amiable disposition of the female heart. Hence her devotion was rational, steady and fervent. Her attention to the relative duties of life universal, unremitting and exemplary. And while the sprightliness of her conversation delighted and edified

her friends her active virtues were unceasingly engaged in promoting the welfare and happiness of mankind. Early ripe for a more perfect state of being she was early called to the enjoyment of it and left a lapsing world to lament the inestimable loss of her virtuous example..."

The church was again restored in 1852, a later architect regretting much of the work done then, particularly on exterior restoration. The naive seats were provided then. In a report by J. Oldfield Scott FSA in February 1893 on the condition of the Church he suggests many radical alterations, including removal of the stained glass windows which were of poor quality, and the provision of a new heating apparatus. Mr. Scott's estimate for the work came to a total of £350 for the exterior and £950 for the interior, but the contract signed by Rev. Edward Payne with James Kirby Tibbetts of Buckingham was only for £660 10s. And does not list the work done. Then as now shortage of money no doubt. The brick buttresses certainly were not replaced as recommended. The West and South windows were replaced with sanded glass, and pews moved from the South transept, and the organ re-sited there. The Chancel pews were lengthened following the original design.

There is one curious mystery concerning the Church. Until 1823 it was known as St. Mary's then for many years records simply show it as Stoke Hammond Church. Then during this century, it became known as St. Luke's. It has not been possible to trace the reason for this change in dedication.

In 1920 a thunderbolt struck the church, demolishing a large tree in the churchyard, and the East window. Iron bars in the window frames of the adjoining rectory were mangled. The East window was replaced with the present scenes of village life, in 1931 by Warren Wilson. The original organ bore the inscription "Johannes Hardie 1885" but is undoubtedly older than that. This has since been replaced due to age and deterioration of the floor beneath it.

A parishioner gave an insert in the North window, which was part of a much older stained glass in memory of Rev. Fredrick Jansenn, who died in 1952, and in 1974 I had more restoration work done in memory of my husband Keith. In 1978/79 the stonework round the windows, previously in a very poor state was repaired. More recently in 1992/93 the roof has been repaired and villagers gave money in their names to be engraved on the inside of individual tiles.

The Church Registers, in Aylesbury Museum, together with those in the Church show that people living in the village were tradesmen, covering: bakers, lace makers, labourers, straw plaiters. From 1814 they include lock keepers, rat catchers, yeoman, boatman, railway gangers, brickmakers, farmers, carpenters, millwright, shoe maker and dressmaker..... **NEXT MONTH 'COWPACT'**



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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

If one beast from the East wasn't enough we have had the sequel !! How is a man/woman supposed to get their veg growing when the weather is mucking us



about....Spring is coming , on no it's not etc etc. Well as my wife often tells me, patience is a virtue and no amount of gazing out the window growling at the freezing temperatures, howling winds and flipping snow is going to bring forward my growing plans. A year ago the sun was shining and we were out sowing like no tomorrow, but you know nature has a way of catching up , and all

we need to do is delay our sowing until the climate is ready. Maybe a little more thought into what we grow will give us a better crop in the summer and autumn. So my onion, shallot, pepper and tomato seeds are doing great in a warm propagator - they need light now more than heat so they don't get leggy (long stems because they are searching upwards for light). They are all about 10cm high and I will pot them on soon.

The spuds are chitting with stems about 2 cm long.....they will be ready for planting once the soil warms up a bit. Last year I planted them end of March - this year my clay soil is shivering so I doubt it will be before 2nd or 3rd week in April before they go in the soil.

Last year all my carrots and parsnips were already sown in buckets/barrels. This year I haven't sown any....I will wait another week to see if anymore mad men from the east intend to invade before I sow directly into barrels outside. However when the weather does buck up I will be sowing lettuce, radish, cucumber, Brussels, cabbages and kale in small pots and trays in the warmth. You know the drill - moist seed compost, some warmth, plenty of



light - don't let them dry out or drown ! The most important action will be to harden the seeds off outside during the day (bringing them in at night or if any frost is about) at the end of April before planting out. Special focus for me will be Melons again this year - we had loads last year. Sow the seeds in April in pots, in a warm environment (at least 20c) and pot on in May. They can be planted out

mid-May earliest, along with butternut squashes and sweetcorn. I am still eating my squashes from last year...roasted in olive oil and cumin...yum!

Ok, lastly, housekeeping...if you are going to grow Brassicas (cabbage, cauliflower, kale, Brussels etc) add some lime or calcified seaweed to the soil now; keep weeding as some of the little devils will flower soon - get as much of the roots out as possible and lastly be patient...wait before you sow when it's nasty out there.



PS....I have about 50 thyme plants from last year (I let a big thyme plant flower and now my bed is full of young plants) ...if you want one let me know and it will be yours,

Pagey

Ps: Picture for illustration purposes only of a thriving established plant.

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

A PLEA FROM THE NATIONAL FARMERS UNION



Would dog owners please pick up after their dogs when walking in fields with cattle or sheep. These farm animals can pick up a disease called Neospora when dogs contaminate animals grazing pasture. This

disease kills unborn lambs and calves. Please also keep dogs away from animal food and water troughs as the disease is able to spread in this way too. Remember to bag it and bin it!

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GRUMBLING

I was coming back from Italy recently. 35,000 feet, 275 mph and a gin & tonic in hand. Life was pretty good- what is there to grumble about I was thinking. And I suppose it was a fair point. Everything we moan about is unbelievably petty and somewhat contrived. Before we had 24 hour news and instant communication it was usually about the weather as we didn't know about anything else until after it had happened.

Nowadays we grumble if there is nothing on TV. Nothing on TV! There are 900 odd channels most of which transmit all day long. We moan about the incessant coverage of Brexit in the media. We moan about potholes in the road. We moan about lorries in our way on the road (causing the potholes). We moan about the lack of a particular salami on the supermarket shelf - the result of a lorry lost in a pothole. Obviously, it's the Governments fault. If they had funded road maintenance we would have the full selection of salami!

I returned to the news of Russian diplomats being expelled followed by the tit for tat expulsion of British diplomats. Another action which on the face of it is highly important but on an individual level will have no effect on our daily lives.

Sadly what will also have no direct effect on our daily lives is the plight of many people caught up in the various conflicts around the world. Bombed out. No home, shelter or food and medicine. Now they have got something to moan about.

It's been well below zero overnight of late and the heating oil has "frozen" a couple of times. No central heating is an inconvenience but -oh yes- we have 3 fan heaters and a gas fire! Compared to many other people around the world we don't have anything to grumble about in this country.



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Mrs Sara Boyce

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Parish News - We have had another busy half term here at school and this month we have lots of animals in school to support the Year One/Two topic and also Foundation's learning around Old Macdonald's Farm. The children loved the 'Reptile Show' where they got to see and hold a snake, huge spider, a skunk and a bearded dragon to name but a few. Foundation had a visit from a 'Pop Up Farm' and found this first-hand experience educational and fun.

This month, our Year Three and Four children are off to visit the Verulamium Museum in St Albans as part of their learning about the Romans. Year Six are joining the Bridgebuilder Trust at an 'Easter Cracked' event on Tuesday 20th March and the whole school focus in assemblies this term has been on the Easter Story and how we can apply the lessons from this to our everyday lives. For Lent, we have embarked on 40 random acts of kindness to give up our time and effort to show compassion towards others.

Finally, the children have been involved in designing a new logo and slogan for our school and one of our parents has kindly offered to apply her design expertise to create the final design for us. We can then update school signage at the front of the school as well.

Dates where parents will be attending events: -

Tuesday 20th March - Football Game v St. Michaels at High Ash @ 3:30-4:30pm

Friday 23rd March - Foundation Assembly @ 2:30-3:15pm

Saturday 24th March - Ground Force Day @ 10:00am-2:00pm

Tuesday 27th March - Parent Forum @ 9:00am and 6:00pm

Wednesday 28th March - Easter Service at Church @ 2:00pm

Wednesday 28th March - Football Game v Edlesborough at High Ash @ 3:30-4:30pm

Mrs Sara Boyce
Headteacher



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STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB

The Club's Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday night (8th March) at the Sports Club. Thanks to the willing help of Keith Chambers and Valerie we were all ready for the 60 members who flooded in! It was good to see so many there and to our amazement we managed to squeeze everyone in and started the official part of the meeting promptly at 7.30pm.



A.G.M.

Keith Perrett (President) and Sandra Perrett (Committee Member) have now moved out of the village and so explained that they would be resigning their positions. The Committee therefore welcomed Eddie Daniels as President and Gordon Clay as Chairman. The rest of the Committee consists of Alex Franks (Treasurer), Eileen Curry (Secretary) and Laraine Dykes, Kate Ovenden, Joan Simmons, Dawn Green and Diane Simm as Committee Members with various responsibilities. They all agree to stand for another year and were duly elected.

The officers gave their reports including a summary of last year's events and trips by the Secretary plus details of the accounts by the Treasurer. The accounts had been audited by Malcolm Brown who was willing to continue so our thanks were extended to him. Renewal of memberships was taking place throughout the evening and we appear now to have 100+ members. The outgoing President thanked the Committee for their help during his time in office confirming that he and Sandra would continue as members of the Club. The new Chairman then thanked Keith and Sandra for all their years of hard work and support and presented them with a Garden Voucher in appreciation.

Following the official part of the meeting the raffle was drawn and some lovely prizes were distributed. The Speaker for the evening was then introduced – Zoe Woodward from Swan Cottage Nurseries. It was good to have someone local to talk to us (her beautiful gardens are up near the Church). Her expertise is Dahlias but she was extremely informative about all our favourites such as Sweet Peas, Cosmos etc. etc. Her talk was illustrated by slides of some whimsical and bespoke bouquets created with the flowers from her garden when bridal bouquets or flowers for any occasions can be chosen on a DIY basis. Swan Cottage Nurseries is

the name of her and her husband's business and apart from growing glorious blooms they give a variety of classes and have an active website for advice. Zoe was very willing to answer Member's individual questions and the amazing hand-outs she had produced were full of great instructions and tips.



Gordon thanked Zoe for a very enjoyable talk after which we all made our way to the buffet. Thus, the evening ended and as our A.G.M. doubles up as a social evening too, we were so pleased to see everyone and let them know that plans are now afoot for an eventful 2018.

MAVIS'S QUIZ

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

- (1) KESTREL (2) LINNET
 (3) MAGPIE (4) NIGHTINGALE (5) OSPREY
 (6) PLOVER (7) QUAIL (8) RAVEN
 (9) SKYLARK (10) THRUSH



Are you making sense of this now ??

If you are, I've changed it a bit, still anagrams where the vowels are missing, but not Birds but Boy's names – So can you work out the names (No.7 has two possible answers)?

- | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (1) D L F R | (2) R B N | (3) T C H B R T | (4) D L N |
| (5) C R | (6) K R N F | (7) G R G | (8) Y H N R |
| (9) V R | (10) N H J | | |

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

Answers next month with a new set of anagrams for Girls names.



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DAVE & DIANE WEBBER

By Barbara Munn



Dave and Diane have lived in the village for over 25 years and are very committed both to the community and to their Christian beliefs. All those of us who have attended the Community Breakfasts held in the Community Centre on the second Saturday of each month will know how hard they and the other volunteers work to raise money for St Luke's Church and to provide opportunities to meet new people and make new friends.

- **EARLY LIFE DAVE**

My childhood was spent in Worthing with my two younger sisters after my parents moved there from Carshalton when I was a few months old. We were all well cared for and I had lots of friends with whom I was able to explore the local area and have lots of childish adventures as many children did in the 1960's. I was a boy scout and later joined the Worthing Boys' Club which made the national press – The Sunday People- when we campaigned and became the first to allow girls to be admitted. From the age of 14 I had Saturday and holiday jobs in the Co-op and the local newsagents where I delivered papers until I was promoted to marker-upper and packer. This meant that I organised the papers for delivery, not so strenuous but it meant I had to get up even earlier. I am still an early bird. Having passed



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the 11+ exam for the grammar school I then became the first member of my family to go to university;- Manchester in 1976 - to study History. I remember queueing up each Sunday to phone home and speak to my parents, rather different from the life of my own student children today. My intention had always been to teach so I went from Manchester to Chester where I passed the PGCE, the Post Graduate Certificate in Education. By the end of the course having tried life as a teacher I had changed my mind and went to work for BT as a trainer which still used the skills I had gained. After working in London for 3 1/2years I transferred to Milton Keynes which is where I met Diane.

- ***EARLY LIFE DIANE***

I was born in Wakefield but moved to Scarborough when I was 18 months old. My father worked for the government and 2 months after I started school at 5 the family (my Mum, Dad, myself and my younger brother) was posted to Hong Kong for 3 years. On our return we lived in Ickenham where I went to school and my father commuted to London. When I was 18 I left home to study Biological Sciences at Aston University and my parents moved to Winslow. This meant that when I came home at the end of term I had no local friends, which was why I first joined Rotaract. Jobs were very scarce when I graduated and I was unemployed for a year before joining BT in Bletchley.

- ***THE WEBBER FAMILY***

We met at the office Christmas party although we had seen each other before as Diane sometimes delivered the internal post. I had just moved into my new house in Eaglestone, Milton Keynes. After the party I was unable to get home so Diane's mother, in her dressing gown came and picked us both up. Not the most positive of introductions! Our first date was to go birdwatching. We became active members of Bletchley Rotaract, the young peoples' section of the Rotary Club. Rotaract had educational speakers and fundraising events as well as an active social side. We also

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 <small>(500ml cans)</small>
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Strong beers are from **£1.09** (500ml cans)

took part in community activities such as taking groups of learning disabled people on trips and gardening for the elderly.

In 1987, nearly 3 years after that Christmas party we got married in the church of St Laurence in Winslow where Diane's parents still lived. We had a week in Miami followed by a Caribbean cruise for our honeymoon. We lived in Eaglestone and remained members of Rotaract until 1992 when we moved to Stoke Hammond and our first son Richard was born in June. Stephen followed in January 1995 and Harry in December 1997. Our long awaited daughter Florence arrived in February 2001. There happens to be a 3 school year gap between each of them which has proved to be a bonus in many ways. It did however make for 12 years of nappies which was not quite as welcome an outcome! All of the children are now doing well. Richard and Stephen have both graduated from university and Harry is currently studying Maths at Bristol University. Florence is in year 12 at school and is hoping to take an engineering degree when she finishes her A levels.

- ***OUR HOME***

We drew up a list of essential features and used a weighting system to help choose our new home when we decided to move. We looked at a lot of houses, but this was the one we fell for and luckily it also best matched our criteria so scored the highest points. We wanted a village location within 5-10 miles of Diane's mother and somewhere with a reasonably sized garden and an open fireplace that didn't need a lot of remedial work.

Our house was built around 1865/1870 and was originally a 2 up 2 down, though it has been considerably altered since into the L shape it is now. In its time the house has been a post office, a farmhouse and a pub. There is now no front door but we believe it was where we have a small window in our sitting room. By the 1960's/70's it was in disrepair and was bought by people who did a lot of DIY using some ingenious methods. For instance when they made new kitchen units they used old tea chests for the back panels.

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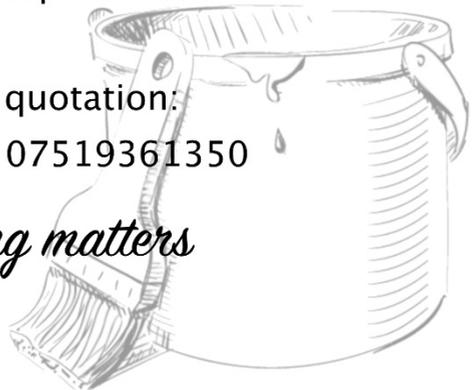
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- ***LIFE IN STOKE HAMMOND***

We quickly became involved in village life because of the children. Diane went to the Mums' and Toddlers' Group and joined the committee. A year after moving in the opportunity arose for the village to buy the Community Centre which previously had been the village school. It was jointly owned by the County Council and the Church of England which wanted to sell. The then Rector convinced the owners to enter into an agreement to sell to the Village for £85,000 and to give villagers time to raise the money. Dave chaired the fund raising committee and over 3 years with the support of the community the money was raised and the premises bought. There were many well attended fund-raising events even though the village was maybe 60% smaller than today. It served to unify the village with a variety of activities such as a village lottery.

Immediately after moving here we joined the church and are very involved, especially Diane who is a churchwarden and a longstanding member of the PCC.

- ***CAREER DEVELOPMENTS***

In 2001 Dave took redundancy from BT after 20 years and had a spell at home, looking after Florence, while Diane worked in the playgroup and took the Playgroup Leadership qualification. After a spell of consultancy and interim roles Dave moved to the WEA – the Workers' Educational Association - in 2003, becoming head of HR in 2004. He advanced to the position Director of Finance and Resources, but left, having been made redundant again, in 2015 to return to HR and training as Head of HR at the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Diane meanwhile passed her Diploma in Pre-School Practice (NVQ level 3) and became leader of the playgroup. Unfortunately, a year later, there was a fall in the number of children joining, as more mothers returned earlier to work and fewer volunteered to help. As a charity the playgroup was not as well funded as the nursery on the same premises and it was forced to close. Diane then moved to the playgroup in Great Brickhill. When an

application to become a trainee teacher failed, Diane stayed as a volunteer before working in several other local primary and first schools as a teaching assistant. Later she undertook teacher training, but found teaching too stressful and is now concentrating on family and church activities and is part of a small group organising the general administration, pattern of services, café church, and church outreach activities.

- **COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS**

The Webbers started these when Dave was between jobs, but he admits to finding it a bit more challenging now he is working in London, although he intends moving to a 4 day week soon to give him more time. Much preparation is required and a lot of the equipment has to be moved to and from the Church each time. The money raised from the breakfasts helps provide resources for the church but their main purpose is to introduce the Church to people who may not want to attend services for whatever reason as a 'place of hospitality and welcome' and to give those attending opportunities to get to know new people. There is no formal price set for the breakfasts and Dave and Diane believe asking for people to pay what they feel they can afford, or what the breakfast was worth rather than having a price list is appropriate as it means no one should feel excluded due to the cost.

- **HOBBIES and INTERESTS**

Diane is keen on gardening especially for vegetables and cooking and Dave was full of praise for her cake making skills, which he said are famed among villagers in the know.

Dave is a keen birdwatcher and follows a range of sports since giving up playing cricket. He is captain of the Stoke Hammond Quiz Team which meets at the Three Horseshoes in Drayton Parslow. He has taken part in the TV quiz programmes Eggheads and Tipping Point where he won £10,000, which was spent on lovely family holiday including all the children and respective girlfriends. Dave is the secretary for the naughtily named Stoke Hammond Investment Trading club, through which its members have

been investing in stocks and shares since 1999 with varying success. Currently funds run at around £45,000-£50,000. A highlight is the group's AGM at which a good meal is had using, hopefully, some of the trading profit.

- ***HOLIDAYS***

Dave and Diane became Francophiles before the children were born in no small part because of the food and have visited many parts of France, some numerous times. They also enjoy travelling elsewhere, having been to Iceland, America, Canada and Russia among other less far flung places and last year went to Spain.

- ***EATING OUT***

They have enjoyed meals at Oliviers at the Woburn Hotel, the Greedy Italian in Fenny Stratford and Nonna's in Woburn Sands.

- ***DESERT ISLAND CHOICES***

BOOKS - In addition to the Bible both chose Pride and Prejudice with Dave adding Lord of the Rings and Diane, To Kill a Mocking Bird

MUSIC – Diane, The Sound of Music or any good musical. Dave, David Bowie's Heroes

LUXURY – Dave immediately said a 2 year matured Cheddar. For Diane it would be a pocket sprung mattress and a feather – it must be feather – pillow.

- ***ANY DESIRABLE CHANGES IN THE VILLAGE?***

Not surprisingly given their strong community commitment both agreed it would be lovely to see a lot more people getting involved in the village community, attending the many clubs, St Luke's and the Methodist Chapel, social and community events and the Dolphin.

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STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Serving the community

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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



ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

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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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

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EDITORS NOTE

Last month we printed the final chapter from Margaret Aitken's wonderful book 'Stoke Hammond Yesteryear' – much thanks to Margaret for allowing us to reproduce the book in the SH News. But what are we going to replace it with? Well thank you Hazel Turner, who has lent us the manuscript for 'Everything but the Moo' a book written by her late mother Pam Murphy. We start with her chapter titled STOKE HAMMOND which delves into the history behind our village.

A new picture on the front cover this month. Rather apt given the recent 'Beast from the East' events. Thankyou to Megan Webb for allowing us to use the photograph.

If you advertise in the SH News and you would like to 'pep up' your ad by printing in full colour on the odd month, then please do contact me. To upgrade for one month to a full colour ad to the rear cover will cost £15. £10 for a half page or £5 for a quarter page.

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 May issue by **20th April**

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

VILLAGE DIARY

Friday 30 th March	SHYFC Easter Egg Hunt – Sports Club 11.00 – 13.00
Tuesday 3 rd April	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 14 th April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30
Saturday 28 th April	St. Luke's Plant Sale – Village Green – 10.00 – 15.00
Tuesday 1 st May	Parish Council Annual Parish & Annual General Meeting Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 12 th May	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 5 th June	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Sat/Sun 16/17 th June	Village Open Gardens Event
Saturday 7 th July	Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea – Community Centre 2-4pm
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 March
Thursday 29 March		Thursday 29 March	
	Thursday 5 April	Thursday 5 April	
			Monday 9 April
Thursday 12 April		Thursday 12 April	
	Thursday 19 April	Thursday 19 April	
			Monday 23 April
Thursday 26 April		Thursday 26 April	
	Thursday 3 May	Thursday 3 May	
			Monday 7 May
Thursday 10 May		Thursday 10 May	