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MAY 2018

Issue 5

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G.O.M.
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'PAGEY'S SOW & GROW PATCH'
BOOK REVIEW
MAVIS'S QUIZ
& MUCH MORE

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St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

May 6th	11.00	Family Service <i>At the Methodist Church</i>
May 13 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Phillipa Cook
May 20 th	09.00	Holy Communion – <i>Joint Benefice Service</i> Revd John Waller <i>Followed by Prayer Pilgrimage across the benefice</i>
May 27 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Dave Webber

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

Saturday 12 th May	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 9 th June	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

May 6th	11.00	United Family Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
May 13 th	11.00	Service – Mr Arthur Sara
May 20 th	11.00	Service – Revd Andrew Shergold
May 27 th	11.00	Service – Mr Richard Maguire

Coffee Mornings

Wednesdays at 10.30 - 11.30
(contact 01525-270287)

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well the subject that prompted the most discussion in our village last month, was the collapse of the banks to Brook on Bragenham Side by the new bridge to the Meadow Brook housing development. Because this happened over the Easter weekend, there were concerns that no one could be contacted to start working on the issue, but it was most pleasing to see workman with a digger clearing the Brook on the Bank Holiday Monday. What was not so pleasing was the question as to why the stone filled wire Gabion defences installed specifically to protect the banks to the Brook had failed. It was also extremely fortunate that the collapse had not completely blocked the Brook as given all the heavy rain and the amount of water flowing through the Brook at that time, one can only shudder to guess the consequences if the Brook had indeed been fully dammed. It's also quite worrying that the area where the earth slip occurred is adjacent to the underground gas tanks that serve the new housing. Your PC has contacted both the housing developers who installed the Gabion defences and the Drainage Authorities in order to establish exactly what went wrong here and what is to be done to correct the situation.



The picture of the landslip in the Brook that appeared in the Leighton Buzzard Observer.

Our clerk received an email from the AVDC Parish Liaison officer, advising of a situation in the AVDC planning office that was not exactly new news, in that the AVDC planning department is desperately short of staff!! You might find it interesting to read the actual content of that email, and then maybe understand why we like many other Parish Councils find it so difficult and frustrating to get hold of anyone in planning to answer questions or respond to queries.

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I would like to provide you with a brief update on what is happening within our planning department. Currently, we are experiencing a higher caseload than usual, including quite a large number of major applications. With a national shortage of senior experienced planners, recruitment in to these roles has become increasingly difficult at AVDC due to recent uncertainties about long term job security for staff. It is worth noting that this is not an issue about funding (AVDC's planning service is well supported by members and officers alike.) It has in fact become apparent that uncertainty around the Secretary of State's unitary decision has added to the difficulties in recruiting experienced planning staff.

However, recruitment into the junior planning roles has been successful and we now have a number of new planners who are bright, eager and hard working. Nevertheless, before these planners can get up to speed, they will need an extensive mixture of training and experience.

To help fill the senior planning vacancies, we are making use of agency staff. But these are also in high demand as other councils compete with us for the best available people. And even when we are successful in attracting agency staff, they are often unfamiliar with the area and require instruction on our policies and processes.

In short, we currently have a small number of experienced planners who, as well as carrying their own caseload of high-profile cases, are also checking reports for agency and less experienced planners, plus planning and delivering training for junior planners on AVDC policies and processes.

We estimate that full training of our recently hired staff will take 6-9 months. Although external trainers will be used where possible, our existing experienced planners will need to deliver the AVDC specific elements.

Regrettably, it's therefore likely that our planning department's performance will be impacted while this training is being delivered - especially in relation to major applications

Kind Regards

Hazrat Hussain - Parish Liaison Officer

For those of you who are not on Facebook or a member of the Stoke Hammond Community page, then you might not know of the new arrangements that the Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club (SHYFC) have put in place to reduce the number of people/vehicles that have been descending on Bragenham Side each Saturday morning. The SHYFC have signed an agreement with Waterhall School in Bletchley, which is less than a 5 minute drive from Stoke Hammond to use their playing fields on a Saturday morning with effect from the 14th April. This new venue which includes significant off-road parking, has space for 1x5 aside pitch, 1x7 aside and 1x9 aside pitch. The SHYFC plans to allocate around half of the current teams to the new site which will then

become their normal home venue. This should lead to a substantial reduction in traffic arriving in our village on a Saturday morning which as we all know, creates considerable parking issues for those living in and around Bragenham Side. The SHYFC should be applauded in their efforts to address the issues inadvertently created by the very success of the SHYFC.

Some eagle eyed among you spotted an advert for LAND FOR SALE in Stoke Hammond. This related to the land at the end of Brook Farm Close, which having recently been granted outline planning permission for the erection of 33 dwellings, the owners have obviously decided that now is the right time to put it on the market. For those of you who don't know the history of Brook Farm, the whole site was some few years ago bequeathed to several animal charities, who in the first instance sought planning permission for 5 dwellings to the Leighton Road frontage of which a key part was an access capable of serving the land to the rear. A second application for a further 40 dwellings was first refused but won on appeal. According to the website for the Chartered Surveyors who project managed the whole development, the site when sold to Bellway Homes managed to achieve close to 10 times the original probate value. So how much for 3.95 acres with planning permission for 33 new homes?

At the April PC Meeting it was pleasing to see 13 members of the public in attendance, along with AVDC Councillor Neil Blake. Much was made about the aforementioned landslip in the Brook. Other than that, the item of most discussion was the planning application 18/00893/APP for the erection of 4 new dwellings to the land at the rear of 23 The Green. Aside from the fact that all present felt Stoke Hammond had over the last few years absorbed more than its fair share of new housing, a point concurred by Cllr Neil Blake, the PC objected to the application on several grounds including overdevelopment, inadequate access and egress, lack of infrastructure and if this and the adjacent site were treated as one, there would need to be a provision for affordable housing.

We are yet again this year entering the Best Kept Village Competition and really want to improve on our points tally. We the PC will do our best to make sure the village is looking good, but you can all do your bit. Simple things like picking up a bit of discarded litter, taking down any fly posters or basically anything that will make our village look just that little bit better.

Your next PC Meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 1st May at the Community Centre. But please note this will be the Annual Parish Council Meeting which will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting. All 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

www.stokehammondpc.com



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THE Lindens

At The Lindens work continues apace on the new extension of our “Home from Home”. As you may recall, this is for the additional eight en-suite bedrooms which include a dedicated Respite/ Convalescence Suite with its own private patio. The initial works started in January and have now progressed considerably. In update, the block work and timber work has been completed and the roof framework has been delivered then manoeuvred into place with a crane and fitted.



Whilst this was progressing, the plumbing work continued and the framework has been insulated and lined. Now the roof slates are going on and the building will soon be watertight ready for internal works to become the focus for the next stage.



We warmly welcome visitors, so if you would like join us for afternoon tea please phone us and ask for Tina or Milli.

Also, if you are interested in staff positions or volunteering here we have a wide range of opportunities available, please call us to discuss these. We look forward to meeting you.

Michael Hannelly
Director, The Lindens.

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Email: nikki@wizfit.co.uk
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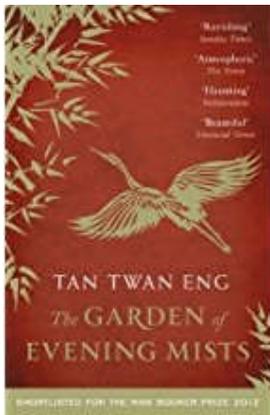
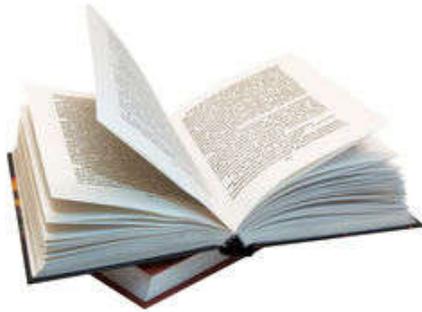
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



'THE GARDEN OF EVENING MISTS' by Tan Twan Eng was short-listed for the Asian Booker Prize 2012.

In the highlands of Malaya a woman, a retired judge, sets out to build a memorial to her sister, killed at the hands of the Japanese during the brutal occupation of their country. Yun Lin's quest leads her to The Garden of Evening Mists and to Aritomo, a man of extraordinary skill and reputation, once the gardener for the Emperor of Japan. She accepts his offer to become his apprentice as a step towards learning how to make a garden for her sister and begins a journey into her past, inextricably linked with the secrets of her troubled country's history. She is re-acquainted with

many old friends along the way, all of whom add to the story and her relationship with Aritomo takes many twists and turns.

Not a particularly easy book to read but interesting with information about the Japanese occupation of Malaya, the treatment of the prisoners of the Japanese as Yun Lin and her sister had both suffered, the British occupation and eventual independence. It was beautifully written and multi faceted - certainly not easily forgotten. The reaction by members of the club was mixed - one or two admitted that they did not finish it but equally it was enjoyed by others who thought it fascinating, a little confusing but even worth re-reading to perhaps fill in the gaps in their concentration!

Next month's book, which we are told is a relaxing read, is **'Brooklyn'** by Colm Toibin.

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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

This is the second month where we are 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.

Last month we mentioned how the title 'Everything but the Moo' came about, when Hazel and her mother met with Her Majesty The Queen Elizabeth II and Pam spoke about Cowpact her manure based organic garden fertiliser. Well this month both Hazel and her mother recount how Cowpact came about.

COWPACT

This first part of Pam's story is written by her daughter Hazel Turner, as Pam never actually wrote about how Cowpact came about but only an item on where it all went wrong, which follows this.!

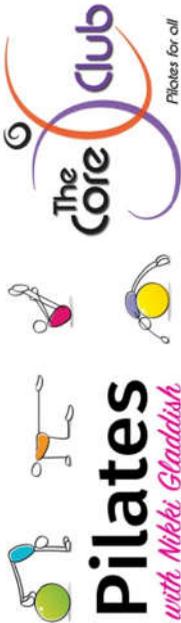
Cowpact the Compact Cowpat came about in the early 70's shortly after my father died in January 1974.

We were still living and farming at Tyrells Manor. I was a Public Relations Officer by this time with Holt Schooling PR in London, (my physiotherapy days were short and sweet but came to a bitter end when I caught Glandular Fever - commonly known as the kissing disease!) and my sister was training as a Radiographer. My mother was by this time running two herds, her beloved Guernseys and a beef herd. She also took on some Friesians. There was a great deal of manure!

The cows were let out in spring and the sheds were cleaned up, the manure left in a very large heap inside the shed. About three weeks later my mother went down into the shed with Hans and Ron Shipp, the herdsman and tractor driver, and was about to yell at them for not spreading the manure on the fields when she sniffed and went up to a heap and had a closer inspection. There in front of her eyes was a large friable heap of well-rotted manure perfect for the garden!

She had always had trouble with the water authorities and knew that she would have to come up with some solution to deal with the slurry problem. So she invented and started to produce a machine to cope with the problem. It was based on the idea of a printing press roller and mangle combined.

Before the marketing of Cowpact began in earnest local gardeners tried it out and had marvelous success with the product (which in those days was bagged into anything one could find!). The name by the way, was a brainwave thought up during a particularly bad bout of vertigo. So Cowpact the Compact Cowpat was born, and it grew like Topsy.



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Marketing began, bags were printed, press releases issued, and then the story broke! For months afterwards, we were inundated with the press wanting to interview her.

She appeared in the Sunday Times,

Telegraph, Mail, on TV, local press and as far afield as South America and Australia. She had truly become the first Lady Muck overnight!

We were all extremely proud of her and it was her baby - and didn't we know it! The whole family was drawn into the business of producing it.



We were all extremely proud of her and it was her baby - and didn't we know it! The whole family was drawn into the business of producing it.

After I was married to Terry my two children aged just 2 and 5 used to sit in the office filling small sample bags to take to shows. It is one of their earliest memories. I helped in the office taking calls from the press and filling in the day book with orders (no computers then!)

Then my mother became extremely ill and was whisked into hospital for a very major operation. {Pam's comments come next as she tells what happened: " I think she's coming round; Thank God I thought she had gone" The voice came through as a blur in the intensive care unit. I decided there and then I would sell the farm as soon as I could to get my act together again. It was 3am and sixteen hours after I had been wheeled in for a straight forward hysterectomy. The anaesthetist told me he was not feeling well, and he nearly lost his patient there and then. The pre-med, had been too effective to overcome my desire to whisk myself off the trolley in my backless nightie and he got his needle in my hand before I could say "let's forget it", or even count, as he had asked me to do. The operation was straightforward, but he apparently gave me too much dope. There seemed to be half the hospital around me, and needles and hanging jars everywhere. I had not changed my mind when I surfaced next morning. My business was an autonomy, and there was no one who could take over. Hans was super but could

not cope with the enormous amount of paperwork, and needed back up. The girls had their own careers and had never been interested in farming. Claire was getting married in the Spring and I would be left in a very large house, working like crazy.

So, my mother sold the farm, and the herds - there was not a dry eye in the house.

After some searching she found a small house set in a very small hamlet known as Hollingdon "you need a packed lunch and tracker dogs to find it" she told me - it became a familiar catch phrase! It was a small thatched house set in two acres with a useful barn and garage space - the typical roses around the door type cottage. Very pretty and peaceful.

She did not relinquish all her interest she took Cowpact with her! She employed a General Manager, Jim Vyse, and together they set about finding new supplies of slurry - not hard in those days prior to the licensing laws covering the moving of waste products.

This is now Pam's story about Cowpact:

When I went into the London Business School in 1980, I had three things:

1/ The basis of a fairly new, profitable and viable business - Cowpact, which had to go into suspended animation due to the lack of suitable machinery, as well as the raw material, slurry.

2/ A prototype machine, which after a year's testing in near perfect conditions, plus a perfunctory report from the National College of Agricultural Engineering would separate slurry and produce Cowpact.

3/ (Hopefully) A modicum of common-sense. However, it was sad that I was so over-awed at being admitted through the august portals of the LBS that I left my common-sense on the doorstep!

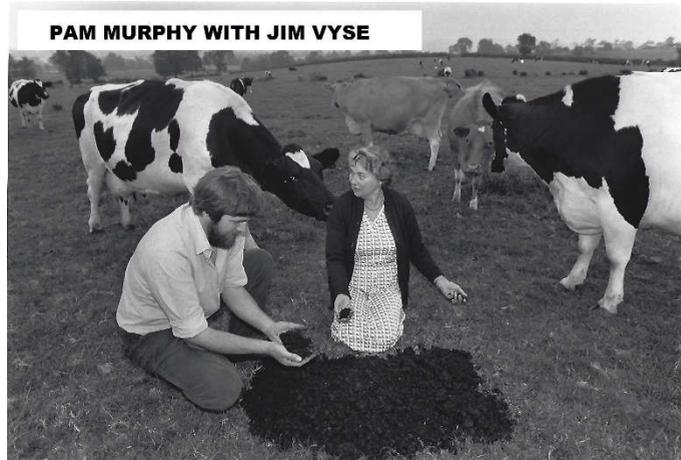
In my application for the New Enterprise Products course I had covered the broad spectrum of Cowpact, machinery, and other products. At my interview I got the message that it had to be a new enterprise, so opted for machinery, and was accepted on that basis. The project being how many production models do I have made - 10 or 100 - thank heavens it was not the latter.

The correct answer is NONE! YOU DO NOT GO INTO PRODUCTION FROM A PROTOTYPE UNTIL YOU HAVE RUN A MINIMUM OF THREE INTO THE GROUND! They must be given a life times work in the shortest possible time, under the toughest of conditions, to find out what beaks down first, and what can be improved on. THEN the whole fabrication must be costed, by a totally independent COMMERCIAL organisation. (Not a gorgeously vague "Yes, Yes, Good

Value for Money" from a Government sponsored body!)

Pressed by everyone from the Manpower Services Commission, LBS, Inland Revenue, VAT man and Uncle Tom Cobley and all, I beat the manufacturer down by £1,100 per machine on his quoted price and ordered 10 machines in September 1980 for first delivery early 1981.

After a successful launch, good PR produced superb editorial, General Manager Jim Vyse and I started to sell. We had over 500 enquiries - but these were from



the length and breadth of the UK and were most costly to service. Often when we arrived there, the farm was so unsuitable for slurry separation, being geared to Victoria farming methods that it was a waste of time. I quote one particular instance of the farm

belonging to the Church Commissioners, and the farmer to the House of Lords, where they needed someone to blow the whole place up. They had the worst pollution problem I have ever seen, and had it been Joe Blogg's farm, he would have been inside for twenty years. They all looked at me hopefully and said if they bought one of these slurry separators could the incredibly nasty mess of mud, stones, waste silage, straw and a bit of dung that was in front of me be sold for lots of lovely lolly??!...

Far too many of those who expressed interest were simply looking for easy additional income from the sale of fibre. They were often obviously in dead financial trouble, and in many cases, it meant vast capital expenditure since there was no decent concrete to scrape the slurry off. Slurry separation is for the efficient farmer, who wants to save money on handling and storage, and there are not too many of those about as Jim and I were to find out!

However, we did sell machines, and installed them for the season 1981/1982. They broke down. There were many, many design faults, the main one being with the stainless-steel drums, which everyone had gone over the moon about. But stainless steel is brittle and difficult to weld. At the seam on the drum, and at the edges it is vulnerable. An awkwardly shaped stone that will not fall through the



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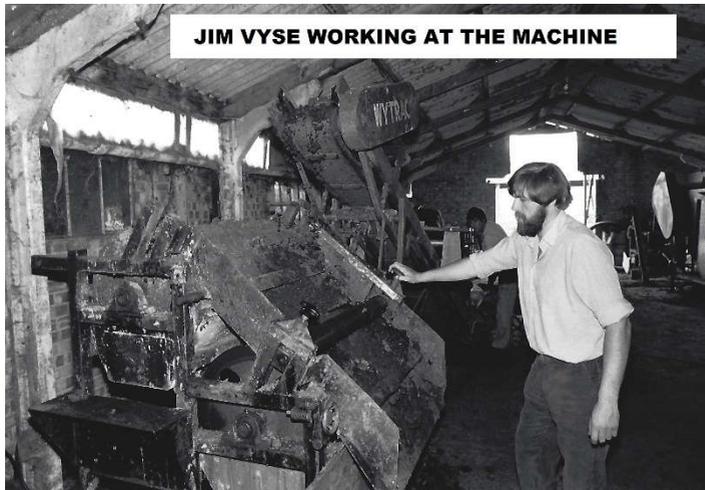


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hopper can do hundreds of pounds of damage in minutes by catching on the seam, which was then ripped like a chain stitched skirt hem. You can cobble that



together. You can not do so with a steel drum. They had to be replaced under warranty (no one mentioned that item when we did our budgets at the London Business School - in fact we allowed ten per cent - and spent including labour and travel about

85%) There were other faults, and Jim Vyse spent his time on the road going from machine to machine. One farmer demanded his money back, and refused to pay the last 25%

By late Spring 1982 we were in despair, and not heartened by a visit from an overseas customer who thought the machine was fine, but said he could make it for roughly half the price, and could do this on his licence? I had it costed out by an independent commercial organisation, and found that the manufacturer had indeed charged me two and a half thousand per machine more than cost plus profit. (this was not entirely graft and greed, just disorganisation plus....)

So, we had to decide whether to go bankrupt or change direction. Orders for Cowpact, for which no advertising had been done for four years were still coming in, and we were making odd bits in the garage. The financial situation was desperate, and my co-director, my solicitor, had resigned as he felt it should be wound up.

The criteria for Cowpact is that it has to be made from NEAT slurry (sorry, bad pun), but slurry **without** any waste food, straw bedding and particular nasties such as paper towels (used in the dairy) and penicillin tubes etc. Not to mention dead hens, calves and pussycats which all too often go into the slurry pit. Then the slurry has to be processed in a *large airy* building, and the handling is critical. It is like making pastry - you have to let air into it.

None of the farms where we had installed machines matched these criteria, and anyway, they were all too far away, but we were given a three million gallon

lagoon, which met our requirements. Where you have NEAT slurry, the machine will cope most adequately, but this is a very small proportion of farms.

We felt that the obvious thing to do was the separation on the farm, and then to bring the fibre in our premises, since few farms have the necessary spare buildings during the winter, which is when the majority of slurry separation is done. We were incredibly lucky to get some very grotty farm buildings a mile away from my house in Hollingdon, which suited the purpose. We could bring in the separated fibre for £5.00 per ton or 10p per bag, and process and dispatch from there, though we could not sell from the gate, as the farmer who owned the buildings did not want to become involved in rating problems. This meant that we would not have the (black economy) farm-gate sales which at one time made up nearly half the business, at the farm.

We would have to start up again without all the magnificent publicity that surrounded the original start-up, and we had missed the market until September 1982 - the demand is from September through to April. However, there was a lot to get organised, including stocks, and we learnt the hard way how lucky I had been that everything turned out right first time. Our three million gallon lagoon was fine - as long as fresh slurry was going into it. The farm was being split, and the cows were moved. Within a very short space of time, it would not process. Anaerobic action was taking place instead of aerobic, since there was no fresh slurry going in.....

Another major problem was the cost of delivery of small quantities. In the 1970's I had a contract with Roadline, the only carriers who delivered to individual addresses, on a per bag rate. My contract having lapsed, they now required a flat rate for up to 100 kilos - 5 bags of £5.00 plus VAT. Our only main competitors 6X, with their long established chicken manure were still on a per bag rate, and we could not become competitive until we reached five bags or more, though for larger orders we were cheaper. This was obviously going to cut down the business dramatically, as a mail order product.

We sent out press releases, had an article in the Guardian, and another one in The Star by Roddy Llewellyn (we styled ourselves @By Royal Appointment!) and advertising and orders trickled in and by the end of 1982 we knew we had a long, long way to go, but it was encouraging enough to know that we could keep going. Our old list was of course dead, though a number came back. We used every PR wile, from out of season discounts, special offers to clubs and societies, mail shots, circularising garden centres etc. They mostly did not want to know, and neither did wholesalers. We were a one product company - there are 2,000 lines in the gardening trade catalogues, so why have 2001?

So, we had to have other products. We had already worked on Cowpete and came up with Cowpost. We had also worked on Cowliq,, and found at great expense that the only way to stabilise the liquid has already been patented, and anyway it is so dilute you would need a gallon for a window box.

Then it dawned on me that I had used Cowpact on my house-plants for years, and even with the weed-killer that I kept at the end of my fingers, they all thrived,. But to be honest you do not want straight Cowpact in the drawing room. I dried some. Sacrificed my detested food processor to mill it, and gave it to various people to feed to their houseplants. "Beware of the Trifids" ... the results were spectacular. We became involved with professional packagers, market research etc. and came up with the name "Pure Goodness" (it was for the sake of the supermarkets, you must keep out anything to do with cow or dung...) We engaged commodity brokers and aimed to sell 150,000 boxes during the first year.

We also engaged self-employed agents on a commission to sell other products to Garden Centres, DIY and hardware shops. We featured in a large mail order catalogue the results of which were fantastic.

Eventually our supplies of separated fibre came from two large farms where we had slurry separators which were ours and therefore when they broke down were our responsibility. The farmer got all the benefits of separation free, and we took the solid. This was the most satisfactory solution from everyone's point of view.

So, what went wrong with the machine? It is easy to be wise after the event. What I should have done was:

1. Put my prototype separator on farm to produce Cowpact, and get back into business for Autumn 1980, Then I would have kept my customers and had my cashflow.
2. Had two more prototypes made to place on farms, paying the farmers if need arose. This would have given me proper evaluation of the machine and sites to demonstrate to dealers.
3. Having got the machine right, had it properly costed.

Having said that, there is no way that one small company can sell a machine, or anything else I can think of, the length and breadth of the country as a single product, and minimal budget, even if everything had been right.

I learnt one thing, it is absolutely essential to get the marketing correct, through the various distributive channels; though to reach those you have to have a proven product and give yourself enough lee-way for the various mark ups. And it is Marketing, Marketing, Marketing.... that is the name of the game without a doubt.

NEXT MONTH - WATER WATER EVERYWHERE

PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"



Well what a difference a week makes....the sun has been out for 4 days and it feels like spring has arrived compared to the wind , rain , snow and rubbish that was coming from the sky for months. Normally the second half of April and May tend to be the real sowing, planting time and we all need to get a wriggle on as we have lost time due to the weather.

I planted my seed potatoes on the 19th April (3 weeks later than last year)...about 35cm apart in the rows with each row 90cm apart. Rather than dig a trench about 20cm deep I have a tool which looks like a giant napkin ring on a stick. I just place the ring on the ground, stamp my foot on the top of it, twist it and pull out a big plug of soil into which I put some potato fertiliser and the spud. Cover with soil and mound up over the area with more garden compost. As it grows continue to earth up soil over the area to protect the greenery from frosts and stop the tubers coming to the surface and going green and inedible. I am growing Lady Christyl first earlies, Marfona second earlies and Blue Belle main crop spuds. Spuds keep really well if kept in the cool (not frosty) and dark. We ate last year's spuds right up until the beginning of April this year.



If you haven't already get your favourite herbs growing in seed modules or small pots. Seed compost, warmth, water and light (once they have germinated) is all you need - basil, sage, chervil, chives , parsley, coriander all treated the same way...just keep the temperature at 15c minimum and water them with tap water. Pot on into bigger pots mid-May or plant out into your border or big pots. Keep drainage a priority.

This year I am trying to grow ginger, from tubers and lemon grass from whole shoots bought in the shop (choose stems with a bulge at the base from where the roots will sprout rather than ones that have been cut from above the crown). Find a finger of ginger that has some growing points on it...point buds that look a little like a rhino horn. Plant the finger with buds facing up in a rich compost with plenty of sand or perlite to help drainage and plenty of heat. Hot, moist soil will work with plenty of light. Pot on into big pots as they sprout...best kept in a greenhouse

if you have one, if not in a sheltered sunspot. With a good summer and long autumn, we should have plenty on ginger rhizomes and lemon grass shoots to add to our curries. Give it a go..... It's something different.

May is also the time to start off our tender seeds like Melon, sweet corn, squash, courgettes, cucumbers , French and runner beans. Plant big seeds on their side in 7.5cm pots full of moist seed compost and do not be tempted to plant out before 3rd week in May earliest !!! Or a cold snap will have your hard work and there will be casualties.



General housekeeping remains the same....keep on top of weeds, look after the soil by adding new garden compost and add grow more fertiliser or chicken pellets or fish, bone and blood fertiliser. In dry periods water the crops , especially carrots , parsnips and spuds - people just don't do this , I don't know why. I still have more Thyme plants than I know what to do with so if you want any contact me at page.chris1@googlemail.com and give growing something a go, even if it is lettuces and radishes.

Happy times, Chris

STOKE HAMMOND OPEN GARDENS 2018



Just a reminder of this year's Open Gardens event in the village on behalf of St Luke's. It will run over the two days of the weekend 16/17 June.

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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Barbecue safety advice

Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service is reissuing its seasonal barbecue safety advice for the summer months.

Richard Priest, head of Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's community safety team, said: "It's natural to want to make the most of the good weather by going outdoors for a barbecue with family and friends.

"However, there are a few things it's worth remembering to make sure you don't end up having to ring 999.

Keep a bucket of water, sand or a garden hose nearby for emergencies.

- Follow the safety instructions provided with disposable barbecues. Never use a barbecue indoors or in a tent.
- Never leave a lit barbecue unattended.
- Make sure your barbecue is well away from sheds, fences, trees, shrubs or garden waste.
- In the countryside or public park areas, only use disposable barbecues where there are specially designated areas and carefully follow the safety guidance.
- Use enough charcoal to cover the base of the barbecue, but not more (normally around 5cms or 2 inches).
- Keep children, pets and garden games away from the cooking area.
- After cooking, make sure the barbecue is cool before moving it.
- Empty ashes onto bare garden soil, not into dustbins or wheelie bins. If they're hot, they can melt the plastic and cause a fire.
- Enjoy yourself, but don't drink too much alcohol if you are in charge of the barbecue.



Always keep water nearby



Never use petrol or paraffin to start or revive your barbecue; use only recognised lighters or starter fuels on cold coals.

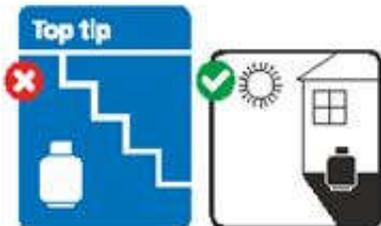
Gas barbecues

Never store gas cylinders under the stairs – if there is a fire they might explode and block your escape route.

- Store gas cylinders outside, away from direct sunlight and frost.
- Take care when turning bottled gas barbecues on and off.
- Make sure the tap is turned off before changing the gas cylinder.
- After cooking, turn the gas supply off first and then the barbecue control. This will stop any gas from leaking.
- If you suspect a leak, turn off the gas cylinder and try brushing soapy water around all joints, watching for bubbles.
- Make sure all joints are tightened, safe and secure.
- Change gas cylinders outdoors or in a well ventilated area.



Stay safe with your BBQ this summer.





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PEE-ING

It's a strange old subject. We all have to do it. (albeit one way or another as we get older). But we don't talk about it much. This may be because it's not a subject for the dinner table, it's difficult to go into detail over a mobile or conversation is drowned out by music in a pub.

When we were babies it was simple. You peed regardless and it was soaked up by your nappy. If you were lucky to get a free shot while the nappy was being changed it went up like a fountain and everywhere. Shame we were too young to see the funny side. And when I went to primary school there was an "outdoor" urinal with a 6-foot wall. Didn't we have fun seeing who could wee over the top! Haven't a clue what was on the other side.

I'm not sure what brought this subject to mind. Perhaps it's all the rain we've been having lately. Sound of pitter patter - that sort of thing. It might have been laying in bed in the middle of the night knowing I ought to get up and test the facilities. I used to do this back in the climbing days. You'd had a jar or two too many and lay in the sleeping bag. "If I get out of the bag and tent won't I be relieved when I get back in". Well obviously I knew that but it didn't stop me putting off the moment. And when you did return to the now cold bag you couldn't get back to sleep and lay there listening to your mates snoring away. Fortunately, it was around that time we discovered Tupperware. They produced a wonderful 2 litre wide topped container. This prevented the need to exit the sleeping bag and kept warm until the morning. A real boon for winter camping.

I have had friends over the years who come to mind as I write. My late mate Dave would not use a public loo if it involved sitting and would grimace and drive like a lunatic to find relief at home. On the other hand his Wife had a mental map of a 20 mile radius of Leighton Buzzard showing all public conveniences. Another current mate has a mental map of every pub in Milton Keynes and has such retention as to not seek recourse to such things as public conveniences.

And another mystery of the universe: why can I knock back three or four pints of beer before needing a loo whereas a large mug of tea and I'm crossing my legs? Must be an age thing.

Finally, a tip passed on to my children. The two finest feelings when approaching a motorway traffic jam: a full tank and an empty bladder!

G.O.M.

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember the given letters were anagrams of Boy's names with the vowels missing (No.7 having 2 possible answers). So here are the names - how many did you get right?

- (1) ALFRED (2) BRIAN
- (3) CUTHBERT (4) DANIEL (5) ERIC
- (6) FRANK (7) GEORGE or GREG* (8) HENRY
- (9) IVOR (10) JOHN

*** Editors Comment – What a good name!**

Now the same again, more anagrams but this time Girl's name, but the vowels are missing – can you work out the Girl's name, noting the letters are jumbled??

- (1) LGN (2) DRNB (3) TNSRHC (4) NWD
- (5) NVYL (6) SFCNR (7) LG (8) LHZ
- (9) NR (10) DLN

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

Answers next month.





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HIGH ASH SCHOOL – JANUARY 2018



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Tel: 01525 261620
Fax: 01525 261988



Headteacher:
Mrs Sara Boyce

E.Mail: office@highash.bucks.sch.uk
Website: www.highashcofe.ik.org

Parish News - Our Key Stage Two children led a lovely Easter Service at Church through readings, drama and singing and then the blessing was taken by Reverend Waller. It was great to see the children understand the tradition, history and meaning behind this Christian celebration and to see the Church so busy with many parents coming along to join us.

Thank you also to our children who entered the Parish Council competition to help design the new road safety banners which are now up and around the village. I do understand that parking remains a concern of our residents and we do continue to send texts, emails and newsletter reminders to parents about parking considerably. Our Walking Bus continues to grow in popularity which is a step in the right direction and we are very grateful to the parent and community volunteers who provide this service. Let's also hope as the weather improves that more families will choose to walk to school and not park nearby.

Diary Dates:-

Friday 20th April - Star Assembly for parents - 2.40-3.15pm
Friday 27th April - Y3/4 Assembly for parents - 2.30-3.15pm
Wednesday 2nd May - Parent Forum @ 9.00am and 6.00pm
Friday 4th May - Star Assembly for parents - 2.40-3.15pm
Friday 11th May - Star Assembly for parents - 2.40-3.15pm
Friday 18th May - Star Assembly for parents - 2.40-3.15pm
Monday 21st May - Friday 25th May - Y5/6 Residential Trip
Friday 25th May - Hazel Class Assembly for parents - 2.30-3.15pm
Friday 25th May - HALF TERM

Mrs Sara Boyce
Headteacher





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THE HISTORY OF 'VOTES FOR WOMEN' CAMPAIGN



The start of the Suffragist movement, the campaign for voting rights for women, started in the late 18th century when the Second Reform Act 1867 and the Third Reform Act 1884 extended the right to vote to more men than previously, which meant that many working class men were included. Many women were in similar circumstances to these new voters, being rate-payers, tax-payers and subject to the same laws as men. A sense of injustice grew until, in the mid-19th century, groups of women and men joined together to campaign for the vote. They were known as suffragists.

Suffragist groups existed all over the country under many different names, but they all had the same aim: to achieve the right to vote for women through peaceful means. In 1897 these regional groups came together to form the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies (NUWSS).

They were led by Millicent Garrett Fawcett. She published widely on women's issues and was a frequent public speaker on women's rights. She was married to an MP, Henry Fawcett, and regularly sat in the Ladies' Gallery of the House of Commons to watch the debates. Her determined leadership of the NUWSS made it a substantial influence in the campaign for women's votes.

The suffragists believed in achieving change through parliamentary means and used lobbying techniques to persuade sympathetic Members of Parliament to raise the issue of women's suffrage in debate on the floor of the House.

Between 1870 and 1884 debates on women's suffrage took place almost every year in Parliament. This succeeded in keeping the issue in the public eye, as Parliamentary proceedings were extensively covered in the national and regional press of the time. But some people thought that the NUWSS should have taken more opportunity to encourage mass support throughout the country, rather than concentrate so much on activities in Parliament.

The start of the Suffragette movement - In 1903 Emmeline Pankhurst and others, frustrated by the lack of progress, decided more direct action was needed and founded the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) with the motto 'deeds not words'. The name 'suffragettes' was originally used as a derisory term by Charles Hands, a journalist for the Daily Mail.



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Membership of the WSPU was limited to women only. Emmeline Pankhurst's daughters, Christabel, Sylvia and Adela, were also committed members. They felt that the impact of peaceful tactics seemed to have been exhausted and a different, more radical approach was needed.

Initially the WSPU's tactics were to cause disruption and some civil disobedience, such as the 'rush' on Parliament in October 1908 when it encouraged the public to join them in an attempt to invade the House of Commons. 60,000 people gathered, but the police successfully held them back. However the lack of Government action led the WSPU to undertake more violent acts, including attacks on property and law-breaking. As a result of these activities many suffragettes were imprisoned.

Emily Wilding Davison was particularly committed to 'deeds not words'. She hid in the House of Commons on a number of occasions, including on Census night in April 1911 when she spent the night in a cupboard in order to state 'House of Commons' as her address on her census return.



She was imprisoned eight times for offences including assault and stone-throwing. Her final, and most dramatic, act was to step out in front of the King's horse at the Epsom Derby in June 1913. It is unclear whether she intended to commit suicide, but she died soon afterwards of her injuries.

In 1909, Marion Wallace-Dunlop was the first suffragette to go on hunger strike.

Suffragettes went on hunger strike because they were not given the status of political prisoners when imprisoned. The authorities responded to hunger striking suffragettes with force feeding, a dangerous and humiliating ordeal, which provided the suffragettes with powerful propaganda.

The government sought to deal with the problem of hunger striking suffragettes with the 1913 Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill-Health) Act, commonly known as the Cat and Mouse Act. This Act allowed for the early release of prisoners who were so weakened they could be recalled to prison once their health was recovered, where the process would begin again.

Meanwhile, despite being somewhat overshadowed by the activities of the suffragettes, Millicent Fawcett and the NUWSS were continuing to build up the legal and constitutional support for the enfranchisement of women, but without the high profile of the suffragettes.

Women's Freedom League - There were other organisations campaigning for women's suffrage, including the Women's Freedom League, formed in 1907 by Teresa Billington-Greig and Charlotte Despard.

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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The Women's Freedom League was a militant organisation which agitated for women's voting rights like the WSPU. However, while the WSPU was run like an army, the WFL was a democratic organisation and used direct action, such as passive resistance to taxation and non-cooperation with the census, rather than attacks~ on people and property.

On 28th October 1908 three WFL members, Murial Matters, Violet Tillard and Helen Fox, unfurled a banner from the Ladies' Gallery in the House of Commons. Matters and Fox also chained themselves to the grille covering the Ladies' Gallery window. The authorities had to remove the grille with the women still attached, and the locks were led off in a committee room.

There were two other demonstrations in Parliament that day, another by women in St. Stephen's Hall and one by two men in the Members' Gallery.

Men supporting the campaign - The campaign for votes for women is predominately recognised as a cause fought by women, but men played a crucial role, both in Parliament and outside.

Most MPs opposed votes for women, but there were some supporters. Keir Hardie MP regularly spoke in the House on the subject, questioned Government ministers on the treatment of suffragette prisoners and attended WSPU events.

George Lansbury MP resigned his seat so that he could fight a by-election on the suffrage question. He lost the by-election, but continued to support the campaign. In 1913 he was imprisoned after making a speech at a WSPU rally in support of their campaign of arson attacks.

Other men played an active part in militant suffragette activity. Frederick Pethick-Lawrence, joint editor, with his wife Emmeline, of the publication 'Votes for Women', played a leading role. He was imprisoned, went on hunger-strike and was forcibly fed on many occasions. He was an MP between 1923 and 1931, and remained influential in Parliament as an elder statesman in the House of Lords later in life.

WW1 suspension of campaign - At the outbreak of the First World War, Emmeline Pankhurst suspended the activities of the Women's Social and Political Union and concentrated her efforts on helping the government recruit women into war work. Most other women's suffrage organisations also suspended their activities and many supported the war effort. Active campaigning continued behind the scenes though.

The involvement of women in the war effort did much to change perceptions of the role of women in British society.

During the war years women took on jobs normally carried out by men and proved they could do the work just as well. Between 1914 and 1918 an estimated two million



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women replaced men in the workplace. In July 1914 24% of women were in employment. By November 1918 this had increased to 37%.

It was proved that women were capable of jobs beyond those in traditionally 'female' roles, such as domestic service. However, employers still deemed that women's work was worth less than men's and their pay packets did not match men's, even for the same jobs.

However, it was not just that women proved themselves equal to men in the workplace that the arguments for the right to vote were strengthened. The continuing work of the suffragist movement and the commitment of the growing Labour Party to widening the franchise were also factors. During 1916-1917, the House of Commons Speaker, James William Lowther, chaired a conference on electoral reform which recommended limited women's suffrage. Before 1918 only about 58% of the adult male population could vote, the remainder were ineligible due to residency qualifications or other restrictions. One of the restrictions stated that only men who had been resident in the country for 12 months prior to a general election were entitled to vote, which excluded a large number of troops who had been serving overseas in the war. With a general election looming politicians decided to extend the vote to all men and – at long last – some women so The Representation of the People Act 1918 was passed.

This Act gave the vote to all men over the age of 21, or 19 for men serving in the armed forces. Women over the age of 30 were given the vote, providing they met a property qualification. This amounted to 8.5 million women, but that was only 40% of the female population.

At the same time another Act was passed; the Parliament (Qualification of Women) Act, which allowed women to stand as candidates and be elected as MPs. The first woman to be elected to the Commons was Constance Markievicz, in the general election of 1918. However, because she was a member of Sinn Fein, she did not take her seat.

The first woman to take her seat was Nancy Astor (Viscountess Astor) after a by-election in December 1919. She was elected as a Conservative for the Plymouth Sutton constituency. She held the seat until she stood down in 1945. Although she had never been involved in campaigns for women's suffrage, she was a great supporter of the women's movement once in Parliament.

Her husband, Waldorf Astor, a former MP who had been made a peer, also worked to promote the admission of women to the House of Lords during the 1920s.

Equal Franchise Act 1928 - It was not until the Equal Franchise Act of 1928 that women over 21 were able to vote and women finally achieved the same voting rights as men. This act increased the number of women eligible to vote to 15 million.

Carolynne Mckee

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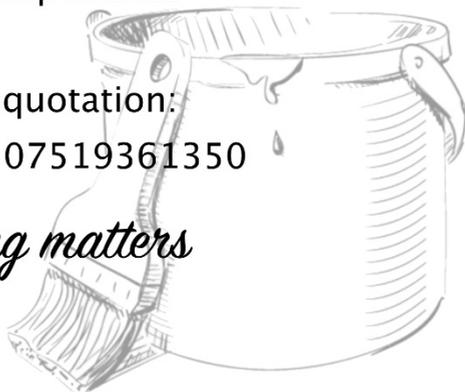
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LADIES WHO LUNCH



Following a request by previous WI members that they wanted to get together for a bite to eat and some companionship eighteen ladies gathered at the Sports Club pavilion on the first Tuesday of April at lunchtime and it wasn't raining! They took part in the first Ladies that Lunch meeting.

Several ladies who in the past year have moved into the village were welcomed. After that a choice of soup was served, on offer was mushroom, potato and leek or tomato and basil soups served with a crusty roll, butter or spread. Discussion took place over the situation that had occurred over the Easter weekend regarding the failure of the Gabions that were holding up the sides of the brook in Bragenham Side either side of the new bridge. Villagers also caught up on all the news, and Hazel told members all about Great Brickhill WI as well as Soulbury's meeting when Cantlos played. Soulbury meet on the second Tuesday at 7.30 in their village hall and would welcome former members.

After the soup, coffee, tea and biscuits were served. Valerie Blackshaw advertised the bingo night with fish and chip supper at the Sports Club. She expressed deep concern about the dog poo situation, once more on the sports field. Parents had picked up at least six heaps on the playing surface before the children could play football the previous Saturday. Those present commented that many people from outside the village walk their dogs there and people from the narrow boats do too; the majority of villagers are aware they must bag it and bin it.

The ladies present will meet again on Tuesday 1st May at 12.30 – 1.45 in the club. The small fee of £2, that is requested, covers the cost of food and a donation to the club as the meal is cooked on site and the heating is put on. If anyone would like to come please would they telephone Hazel on 01525 270404 (answerphone) or Valerie on 270361 this is only for catering purposes! We look forward to seeing you.

Hazel Turner

Church News

Review:

Community Breakfast: Community breakfast was a little quieter than usual this month, which gave us a great opportunity to enjoy having a chat with everyone. Donations were still very good so thank you to all who attended. Thank you also to our team of helpers: Val, Sylvia and Liz for making the washing up disappear like magic!



Sponsored walk: Fortunately our prayers were answered as the walk took place on a lovely day and after our bacon butties, we enjoyed a pleasant walk with a delicious lunch at The Globe and a leisurely return followed by a celebratory and much welcome cup of tea at the finish! Many thanks to all involved, including walkers, sponsors and hostesses! Sponsor money - going towards church funds - is being collected now.



Plant Sale: The annual Plant Sale was on Saturday 28th April, but as we go to press, it hasn't yet taken place! More information on how it went in next month's report.

Bible Course: The 1st session of the Bible course was well attended and easily accessible to all. Further sessions will follow and we're hoping to run another course (this time in Stoke Hammond) later in the year, so keep your eyes peeled!

Forthcoming events:

Community Breakfast: Join us again for our Community breakfast on **Saturday 12th May** at the Stoke Hammond Community Centre. Net contributions from this month's breakfast will be donated to Christian Aid. We're hoping that our new noticeboard will be in place, so if you have any events taking place in the village that you'd like to advertise, please bring a poster or leaflet no bigger than A4 and ask a church member to put it up.



Christian Aid coffee morning: During Christian Aid week we'll be holding a **Bring and Buy*** coffee morning jointly with the Stoke Hammond Methodists. It will be held at the **Methodist Chapel**, Newton Rd from **10.30 to 11.30am** on **Wednesday 16th May**. Please join us to raise money for Christian aid (see <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/christian-aid-week> for more info about their work)



Prayer group and prayer walk: Following a long hiatus, the church prayer group is restarting this month and will meet fortnightly. If you have any prayer requests contact a Church warden or John Bowler. There will be also a prayer walk around the village on **Saturday 2nd June** starting at the church



**Bring and Buy : you bring unwanted gifts, home bakes, good condition bric-a-brac (jewellery, books, kitchen/dining items etc) and buy whatever others have brought and the proceeds go to the charity.*



at **10am** and stopping to pray at various locations. Let us know if you'd like to join us. Although we try to cover as much of the village as possible, we can't do it in one morning! If you'd like special prayers in your road, let us know. Feel free to stop us on our way if you see us! (Of course your prayer requests are treated in strictest confidence).

Quinquennial inspection: What on earth does that mean?! Well, every 5 years ("quingu" = 5, "ennial" = year) the church building has to have an architect inspect it. The report that's produced outlines all the work that needs doing to keep the church in good condition. It usually means a hefty bill for urgent work (if we can afford it) and appeals for help to pay for work that's not quite so urgent. Sometimes issues arise that have to be dealt with urgently anyway outside of the report recommendations – for example the chunk of the main oak beam in the rafters that fell down last year! (Now repaired thankfully)

Unfortunately, these things happen to eight hundred year old buildings! We will be having our inspection later this year and will let you know how it goes.

Special services:

Ascension day - Thursday 10th May: There will be a short said Holy Communion service at St Luke's Church at 9.30am. All are welcome.

Pentecost - Sunday 20th May: There will be a Holy Communion Service at **9am** at St Luke's church. After the service, at about **10.15am**, those who wish to are invited to a **Benefice Pentecost walk** with the Rector to St Mary's Great Brickhill where there will be contemplative quiet prayer starting at about 11.15am then at about 11.45am, a further walk to St Mary's Little Brickhill for an all age "Messy Prayer" workshop at about 12.30pm, followed at 1pm by a bring and share picnic lunch before walking on to Bow Brickhill at 1.45pm for concluding prayers at about 2.30pm. Feel free to join us for some or all the above events! (See below for an explanation of Ascension day and Pentecost).

Looking further ahead:

Afternoon teas: Will be starting again on **Sunday 10th June** and the first one of this year will follow a service of **Songs of Praise** at **3pm**. You're welcome to join us at the church just for tea at **4pm** if you prefer, but we'd love to hear you singing your favourites beforehand! If you can't make it then, write these other "teas" dates in your diary: **29th July, 19th August and 23rd September.**



Open gardens: Following the phenomenal success of last year's Open Gardens, we've decided to hold the Open Gardens again. This time we've changed the date to the weekend of **16th & 17th June**, so that people can show a different flowering period in their gardens. There'll be between 10 and 13 gardens (details aren't finalised yet), some as last year, others new for the first time. More details will follow next month.

Church fete: The church fete will take place on **Saturday 21st July** at St Luke's church. If you've never been inside, this is the ideal time!



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

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

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

For more information please contact:

The Orchard Private Hotel, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire LU7 0HR

Tel: 01525 240 240 Fax: 01525 240 464

Email: orchardstewkley@supanet.com

The wider church:

Mission Action Plan (MAP): Our Deanery - Mursley (the next administrative level up after our Benefice) have been asked to prepare a MAP for the Diocese. To help with this, they've asked every Parish to prepare their own MAP...but what is it? Well, our "mission" is to share the Good News of our saviour with our neighbours. How we go about it is our choice. Do you have any ideas you'd like to offer? Contact a churchwarden if so!



Archbishops' call to prayer: The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have asked the whole Christian community to join together in a prayer initiative called "**Thy kingdom come**" between **10th and 20th May**. Christians are asked to pray that their friends and family come to faith. This is the 3rd year of the initiative and it has been growing every year. Read more at:



<https://www.archbishopofcanterbury.org/news/latest-news/archbishops-launch-thy-kingdom-come-2018>

What is Ascension day?

Ascension Day celebrates the day Jesus ascended to heaven after he was resurrected on Easter Day. You can read about it in the Gateway online Bible here in Luke 24 v 50 - 53:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+24&version=NIV>

and here in Acts 1 v 9 - 10:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+1&version=NIV>



What is Pentecost?



Pentecost (aka Whitsun) is the festival when Christians celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit 50 days after Easter (the name comes from the Greek pentekoste, "fiftieth"). When the Holy Spirit came down upon the apostles, it fulfilled the promise that Jesus made to them before his death and empowered them to continue his work with the Holy Spirit as their guide. This is the third most important Christian festival after Easter and Christmas.

You can read about it in John 14 v 25 - 26:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NIV>

and in Acts 2 v 1 - 13:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+2&version=NIV>

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

If you'd like to come to a service, all service times are listed on the website, along with the Rector's contact details. **Church News articles are now available on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)** - handy if you want to click on a web address instead of typing it out! (Pictures are different due to copyright laws).

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: Churchwarden on 270409 or John: Treasurer, on 270202.**

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You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old.

George Burns

Men chase golf balls when they're too old to chase anything else.

Groucho Marx

I knew I was going bald, when it was taking me longer and longer to wash my face.

Harry Hill

As you get older three things happen The first is your memory goes, and I can't remember the other two...

Norman Wisdom

Now I'm over 50 my doctors says I should go out and get more fresh air and exercise. I said "all right, I'll drive with the car window open."

Angus Walker

Live each day as if it were your last, and garden as though you will live forever.

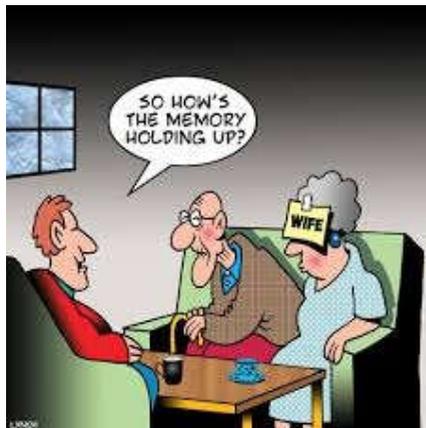
Anonymous

When they tell me I'm too old to do something, I attempt it immediately.

Pablo Picasso

They say that age is all in your mind. The trick is keeping it from creeping down into your body.

Anonymous



When a man retires his wife gets twice the husband but only half the income.

Chi Chi Rodriguez

Middle age is when you're old enough to know better but still young enough to do it.

Ogden Nash

My doctor told me to watch my drinking, so I now do it in front of the mirror.

Rodney Dangerfield

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Pilates - Group Matwork
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 19.10pm, 20.15pm
 Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589

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Thursday 10 May		Thursday 10 May	
			Saturday 12 May
	Thursday 17 May	Thursday 17 May	
			Monday 21 May
Thursday 24 May		Thursday 24 May	
	Thursday 31 May	Thursday 31 May	
			Monday 4 June
Thursday 7 June		Thursday 7 June	
	Thursday 14 June	Thursday 14 June	
			Monday 18 June

EDITORS NOTE

I hope you enjoyed reading the first extract from the late Pam Murphy's book 'Everything but the Moo' and this month we continue with a further chapter entitled 'Cowpact'

Sorry, but no 'Spotlight On' this month, but don't worry we have many interesting village characters lined up, and for sure we will learn some further fascinating insight about someone next month.

Last month we had a front cover picture depicting the effects of the recent 'Beast from the East' and this month we have a picture taken during the very hot and sunny weekend of the London Marathon. Again, thank you to Megan Webb who provided the SH News with this photograph.

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 June issue by **20th May**

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

VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 1 st May	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club Pavilion 12.30 -13.45
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
Saturday 2 nd June	Gardening Club's members Afternoon Tea & Plant Swap
Saturday 9 th June	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 5 th June	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club Pavilion 12.30 -13.45
Tuesday 5 th June	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 16 th June	Table Top & Car Boot Sale – Community Centre 11.00 – 14.00
Sat/Sun 16/17 th June	Village Open Gardens Event
Tuesday 3 rd July	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 7 th July	Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea – Community Centre 2-4pm
Saturday 8 th September	Village Show – Community Centre 13.00 – 17.00

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