

# SH NEWS

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

G.O.M.

SPOTLIGHT ON 'MIKE ROBINSON'

BOOK REVIEW

PAGEY'S SOW GROW PATCH

CHURCH NEWS

MAVIS'S QUIZ

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO

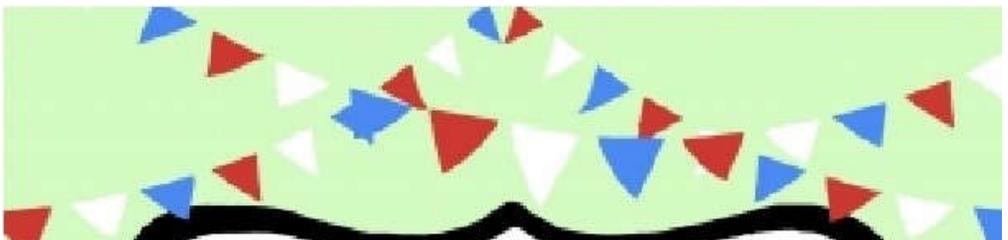
& MUCH MORE

JUNE 2018 Issue 6

[www.stokehammondpc.com](http://www.stokehammondpc.com)



"OF COURSE THE CHURCH AND THE TREES WILL HAVE TO GO OR IT WILL RUIN THE VIEW OF OUR NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT!"



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# St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

**Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062**

|                       |       |                                                                        |
|-----------------------|-------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 11.00 | Family Service – Revd John Waller                                      |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | 15.00 | Songs of Praise – Jeremy Hopkinson<br><i>Followed by Afternoon Tea</i> |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> | 09.00 | Holy Communion – Revd John Waller                                      |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup> | 09.00 | Morning Worship – Valerie Kerr                                         |

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

|                                |                             |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June  | 08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders) |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July | 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**

|                       |       |                                      |
|-----------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| June 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | 11.00 | United Family Service at St Luke's   |
| June 10 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 | Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly |
| June 17 <sup>th</sup> | 10.00 | Service at Stewkley                  |
| June 24 <sup>th</sup> | 11.00 | Service – Revd Andrew Shergold       |

## ***Coffee Mornings***

Wednesdays at 10.30 - 11.30  
*(contact 01525-270287)*

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Before updating on other matters, we must first bring you the tale of Parish Councillor Hazel Turner and her argument with a pothole on Brageham Side, which was sadly won by the pothole, resulting in Hazel suffering a nasty fall and, in the process, breaking her patella (kneecap). Cllr Turner is now recuperating and we wish her a speedy recovery.

The last PC meeting held on the evening of the 1<sup>st</sup> May was both the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) and the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM). With 8 members of the public in attendance the meetings were also joined by District Cllr Ben Everitt and County Cllr Janet Blake. For the APM the PC Chair Cllr Greg Noble delivered a report a copy of which follows, followed by reports from Cllr Ben Everitt on behalf of AVDC, Cllr Janet Blake on behalf of BCC, Cllr Donna Page on behalf of the SH Community Association, Cllr Hazel Turner on behalf of the SH Sports Club and finally Cllr Mike Robinson reported on the SH Community Transport scheme. One might find it interesting to note BCC's budget and spending for this current financial year as reported by Cllr Janet Blake – *"A revenue budget for day-to-day spending of £336m and capital spending of £122.6m has been agreed for this financial year. This includes a £26.7m investment in highways infrastructure and £36.6m on provision of school places. There is now no government revenue support grant for BCC. A 2.99% increase in standard council tax, along with a 3% Social Care precept, will also apply this year and equates to approximately £1.40 per week for a Band D property. In addition to the County Council budget, BCC receives £430m from government, £310m of which is passed on to schools and the remainder funds early years and high needs"*.

*CHAIRS REPORT TO THE APM: We started the last year light of one Parish Councillor, following the departure in April 17 of David Rutland, but it was pleasing to welcome Karl Johnson who was Co-opted onto the PC in September 17. Karl's architectural experience is an invaluable asset to the PC. I should at this point thank all of my fellow Councillors and our Clerk for all of their hard work over the last year, with a special thanks to Councillor Hazel Turner for taking the minutes at our monthly meetings – not an easy task!*

*So what items have occupied us most or raised the most interest, well I guess and in no particular order, it would I think have to be:*

*The Bragenham Side land purchase by the PC.*

*The Dolphin Public House.*

*The Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club*

*The Canal Winter Moorings on Bragenham Side*

*And of course, as well as The Dolphin other Planning/New Housing*

*So, to the land purchase on Bragenham Side, which was successfully completed in December of last year after a very long and protracted process of negotiations which included the change of use from agricultural to recreational and the erection of a substantial amount of post and rail fencing. S106 monies from the new homes in Stoke*

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*Hammond has allowed your PC to purchase this important piece of land adjacent to the Community Centre land that your PC purchased the previous year from BCC. Now to what do we do with and put on this land, which is why we sought your opinions by way of the questionnaire circulated to all homes, the results of which have now been collated and will be discussed later this evening in the Annual Parish Council Meeting.*

*When last year the planning application to demolish The Dolphin Public House and to build 9 new homes came before us all, one couldn't say it was a total surprise, as for many years the question has been hawked around the village as to what is going to happen with our only village pub? However, there was much consternation about the possible demise of The Dolphin, so your PC took matters in hand, and aside as a PC objecting to the proposed plan, we prepared an objection letter and circulated this to all homes in the village. Some of you responded directly to the AVDC planning department with your comments, but others took up the PC's offer to hand deliver your letters, and we eventually delivered direct to AVDC some 100 letters of objection. We all now know that the planning application was refused on several major points. What happen next, well the applicant has until the 31<sup>st</sup> of July to lodge an appeal.*

*The Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club has been such a success that this created its own problems, namely the number of people and their cars arriving in the village on a Saturday morning and converging on Bragenham Side. The football club tried many ideas to alleviate the parking issues and also liaised with the PC to see what possible solutions could be tried. Several were adopted but none proved a real success. It's the nature of the beast, that we all want to park as close to a venue as possible. The club has now secured the use of football pitches at a school in Bletchley and I can confirm that in the last few weeks since their move the situation on Bragenham Side is much improved.*

*It would seem that Bragenham Side is getting much mention (and hopefully not because I live on the Side myself) but the Canal winter moorings have caused major issues. The state of the road over the winter was absolutely atrocious, all as a direct result from the vehicles associated with the moored canal boats continually parking on the grass verges which eventually became quagmires of mud which was then being brought onto the road. This was the third year of the winter moorings but most were commenting they had never seen Bragenham Side looking in such a sorry state. Your PC demanded a meeting with the Canals and River Trust which we had in March of this year. They saw for themselves the state of the road and verges. We asked many questions of the Canals and River Trust and 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. They 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, hopefully with a decision to not use this site in the future.*

*So planning and new housing, probably the most talked about subject over the last few years. Yet again there have been many new applications and we again ask when is it*

*going to stop! AVDC Councillor Neil Blake even made comment at our last PC meeting that Stoke Hammond had taken far more than its fair share, not that that's any real consolation to us. So, what about the much spoken about VALP – the VALE OF AYLESBURY LOCAL PLAN. Well I can at last say that things have moved on, for on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February this year AVDC announced that they had formally submitted the document to the government for inspection. We now wait to see if the plan is passed, although the government has further increased its new housing targets. But in the meantime, we now have the matter of whether AVDC will continue in its present form for when asked to make comment about the adoption of a single unitary authority for the whole of Buckinghamshire, Sajid Javid the then Secretary of State for Housing stated he was 'minded' to approve the implementation of a single unitary authority. Your PC has been bombarded with communications and invites to attend various meetings promoting the benefits of BCC's single Unitary proposal and likewise the District Councils concept for two new all-purpose unitary councils. Both promise increased efficiencies and more power for decision making to local councils like the PC. We will have to wait and see how things pan out, but whatever the final decision by the Secretary of State it will still require parliamentary approval.*

*As regards the year ahead, well Stoke Hammond will be larger, we know the bypass is to have £4.5M spent on resurfacing works which will involve closures, and indeed we have just received notice these will take place at times yet to announced between 9<sup>th</sup> July and the 19<sup>th</sup> October, so no doubt on occasions we will see increased traffic flow through our village. We've again entered the Best Kept Village competition and are hoping to improving our standing this year. Things will start to take shape on the new land purchase and as ever your Parish Council will be endeavouring to achieve the best we can for you the residents of our Parish.*

So, to the APCM, and the first order of events was the election of the PC Chair and Vice Chair for the next year. The current Vice Chair Cllr Mike Robinson oversaw the election of the Chair to which Cllr Greg Noble was unanimously re-elected for a further year. Likewise, Cllr Mike Robinson was unanimously re-elected for the position of Vice Chair for a further year.

Various other annual matters including but not limited to the reviewing and adoption of SHPC policies, the appointment of the SHPC internal auditor, review and agree the Council's asset register all followed. But most present, were all keen to learn the result of the Village Questionnaire and the front runners for what was most wanted on the new land purchase adjacent to the Community Centre. The total number of responses received whether by hand or online was 102. Which given that the total number of people registered on the current electoral roll is c.936 (variable) represents a percentage return of 10.9% of households, and in research terms is considered to be very robust return. It thus gives the PC the mandate required to move ahead with the chosen items, and time to consider the remainder. You will see from the following chart that a new multipurpose village hall was the most popular item followed by: tennis

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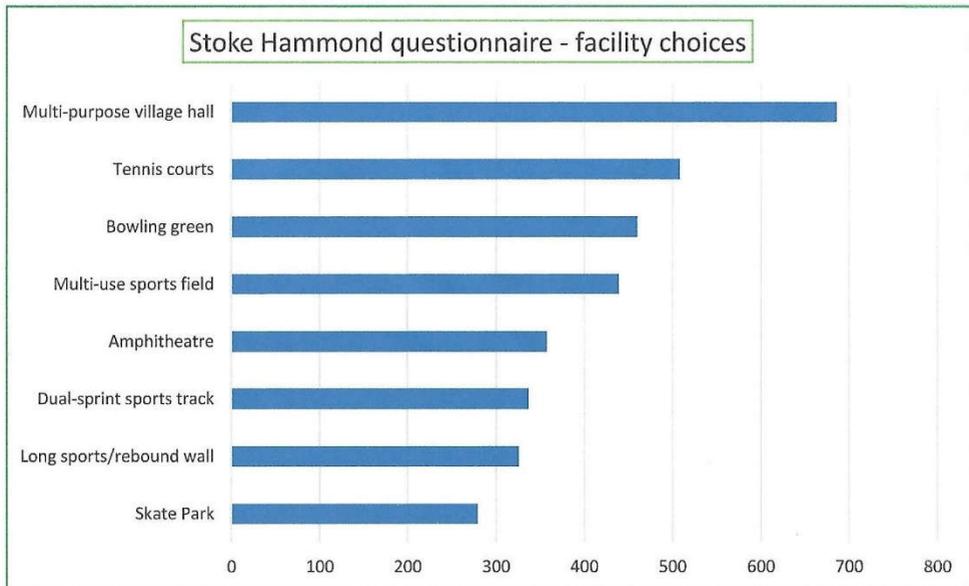
# GET DOWN FEEL GREAT



**Beginners  
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court, Bowling Green, multi use sports field, amphitheatre, sports track, rebound wall, and Skate Park.

## THE CHOICES



For the next stage, your PC will retain the services of an architect proficient in this field to put together a visual plan. In theory the PC could include all the favourite items but it will depend on how everything might fit in within the space available. The working group will work closely with the architect and once the plan has been produced this will of course be presented to the village. We would then need to seek the appropriate permissions from the AVDC Planning Department. Your PC would ask if there are villagers with suitable expertise who may be willing to volunteer their services to assist with aspects such as the project management, tendering process or any other practical aspect of the whole project, then please do make contact with the PC clerk.

It was not forgotten that a £50 Amazon voucher had been on offer for one lucky person who had returned a questionnaire, and Cllr Mavis Berrow chose the number 54 from the option of 1 -102. The winner has been notified and is very pleased with her prize.

Your next PC Meeting is 7.30pm Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> June at the Community Centre. 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](mailto:clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com)

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# THE Lindens

We hope you have been enjoying the beautiful, bright and sunny weather over the last few weeks, we certainly have been at The Lindens. Our residents, guests and visitors have been enjoying our fabulous gardens. It is a great place to take afternoon tea, read the newspapers and have a good chatter! Firstly, we enjoyed a display of golden daffodils, moving on now to red, maroon and yellow tulips, a great contrast to the smartly mown lawns.



With our new extension nearing completion, our residents and guests will be able to enjoy a relaxing stay at in our Respite / Convalescence suite or enjoy the additional ensuite bedrooms very shortly now.

We warmly welcome visitors, so if you would like to call in and join us for afternoon tea, please phone us and ask for Tina or Milli. If you are interested in working or volunteering here, simply call us to discuss the range of options available. We look forward to meeting you.

**The Lindens**  
**Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN.**  
**Tel: 01908 371705**

*Michael Hamnelly*  
Director, The Lindens.

**Email: [info@careatthelindens.co.uk](mailto:info@careatthelindens.co.uk) Web: [www.careatthelindens.co.uk](http://www.careatthelindens.co.uk)**

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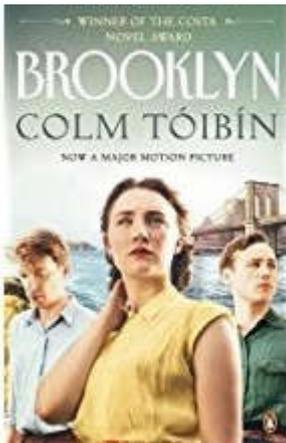
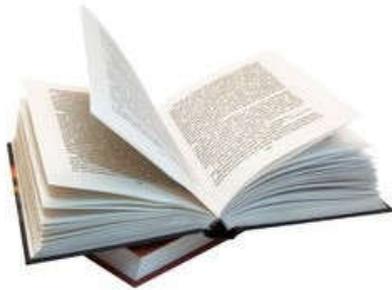
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## STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



### **'BROOKLYN'** by Colm Toibin.

It is Ireland in the early 1950s and opportunities for young Irish girls are scarce. So, when her sister arranges for her to emigrate to New York, Eilis knows she must go and leave family and friends behind to build a new more interesting life. Many of us had seen the film but it was a faithful reproduction of the book and thus enhanced the various characters in your mind's eye as they were described.

We all enjoyed the atmosphere of both Ireland and Brooklyn at that time. – we loved the descriptions of the entertaining characters – the Irish Priest who helped Eilis so much, the landlady in the lodging house

in Brooklyn (Julie Walters in the film), and the unpleasant and bitter owner of the shop in Enniscorthy. Eilis settles well in America, gets a job in a departmental store and goes to night school to learn bookkeeping – she even meets a lovely Italian/American man and all seems to be going well until tragedy strikes back in Ireland and she has to return. This gives the author the opportunity to explore the emotional currents within families as her Mother, of course, wants her to remain. She meets up with old friends and her new sophistication makes her popular and desirable back in the confines of her small town – almost a celebrity. She therefore has to make the difficult decision, should she remain in Ireland or return to the States and continue the exciting life she is making for herself there.

As with most Irish writers, the text flowed effortlessly, was relaxing to read and everyone agreed that they had enjoyed the book. Krystyna had read it twice and seen the film so she was definitely a fan. I think the verdict is therefore 'highly recommended'.

Our next read is **'The Hare with Amber Eyes'** by Edmund de Waal (winner of the 2010 Costa Biography Award).

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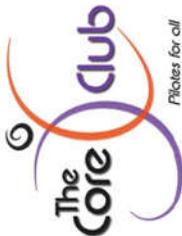


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## **“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”**

**Now for the third 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 it was all about Cowpact and how Pam created and sold her manure based organic garden fertiliser. Well this month Pam recounts her experiences with water and Tyrell Manor.**

### **WATER EVERY WHERE**

The water bill had arrived that morning. As I surveyed the offending document through a miasma of tiredness, I tried to do one of those mental arithmetic sums: if water rates increase by 700% in twenty years and milk by less than 10% what year will it be cheaper to give cows milk to drink?

I had spent the night pumping out the cellar of the house with a stirrup pump; used with far more gusto than I had ever done during the war effort to keep the incoming tide off the central heating. It was rather like that Greek chap (classical history was never my strong point), who drank from a bottomless cup.

There was not a drop of Adam's Ale to be had from the taps. When consulted about my private flood the Water Board suggested that there might be a mains burst, so had turned the water off by the gate. By this time it seemed fairly obvious that the downpour from the heavens, and consequent rise in the water table was really responsible.

In my twenty years farming I think I have been beset by most of the trials and tribulations known to the hardy breed, but water has given me the most headaches. There is always far too much of the stuff where it is not wanted, and none where it is.

When I arrived at Tyrells Manor there were seven meters, and a labyrinth of pipes that made Hampton Court Maze look like the M.1. Year after year one of the galvanised pipes laid in war time sprung an underground leak. This involved prospecting rather in the Gold Rush style; digging little holes and hoping. This always happened in the worst possible weather. I once employed a dowser, but as his gum boots stuck in the mud for the third time he said lugubriously that he thought the farm should be called Tyrells MUD Farm, not Manor Farm.

Some years previously the local council had purchased some land for housing. Unbeknown to anybody, they built the houses directly on top of one of the pipes, laid only eighteen inches deep. When water started defying the laws of gravity and entering the houses from all quarters, the Council made a half hearted attempt to hold me responsible. After a fairly brief correspondence with my solicitors, they were persuaded to lay a new pipe and meter. Several years elapsed and they decided to build more houses in various gaps. One day when Hans went

to turn on the meter which had temporarily shut off – he found that not only had the builders built across the new pipe But actually over the meter! At this stage they quite cheerfully paid up for me to start from scratch and put in a new line bypassing some of the meters.

Ball cocks are the next problem. Many of the water troughs harked back to the days when there was no cover over the working parts. As copper ball cocks have become extinct, they have been replaced by those coloured plastic ones. Now if you live and farm in the middle of a village, with a canal tow path running through the farm, you have a great number of visitors, welcome and unwelcome.

The latter, particularly the young boys, find the coloured irresistible; they make wonderful footballs, and float down the canal, particularly when water is let out of the locks. Apart from replacing twenty troughs, there is not really any answer. Weldmesh is cut or smashed; and even padlocked covers have been broken off. Apart from the loss of several pounds worth of water the ensuing mess makes a rice paddy look like the Kalahari Desert, with the cows unable to get to the trough to have a drink, thus reducing the milk cheque.

By far the biggest problem is water disposal. Not only from ditches, for there is no point in carrying out expensive ditching schemes if the water can not get to a main water course, but in the general rise of the waters due to all the various buildings always in progress.

Every house has a gutter and down pipe, taking the water off a larger expanse of area than that on which the rain would fall if it fell on earth. On the earth it soaks away gradually. On a roof, or a concrete road, it runs into a culvert or ditch or drain at a fair speed. In Stoke Hammond, with the advent of Milton Keynes two miles further downstream, and quite a considerable amount of building in the village itself, every time there is a heavy rainstorm, part of the village is frequently flooded. The authorities are beginning to improve the system by keeping water courses clear of rubbish and growth, they are certainly doing their best but it must be remembered that all this water has to flow to the Wash. If this building spree goes on at the present rate it seems to me that villages lying in valleys, however small, must eventually be totally engulfed with the church bell tolling out of the lake!

Either there must be some scheme to re-use water, at least for wc's and non-drinking purposes, or efforts made to ensure the water reaches the sea in other ways, before the country becomes one concrete apron.

However many problems farmers have with effluent disposal, what a good thing it is that farm animals have not yet learnt to use pull plugs!

“Mr Blank will visit your farm at 2.30 pm tomorrow to judge the Herd Competition.” This information always produces a sinking feeling in me; I have forgotten all about sending off the entry form and cheque a couple of months ago,

and now wildly issue some instructions regarding cutting down those nettles and clearing up that awful mess over there. Why, I can not think; he is coming to judge the cows, and there is no time to do anything about them – they will have to stand or fall by their own merit.

I imagine that some of the qualities necessary for a herd competition judge include the patience of Job, tact of an Archangel, and Nelson's blind eye. The moment a judge arrives at the farm, heaven's invariably open, and half the cows come bulling so that those that are not dancing around like ballerina's stand shivering hock deep in the mud. The heifers break out, and the bull decides to look like Ferdinand with the delicate Ego; he only needs a daisy to complete the picture.

### **PAM WITH HANS STUKENBROCK**



Some years ago I decided to enter the National Herd Competition. I was informed that the judges would arrive at 2.30 pm, so as there was a complete domestic crisis at the time, I was up early to do the chores before parking my two year old daughter with a friend. I had woken with the realisation that I was stone deaf in my only ear that functions a little, and would have to fit in a visit to

the doctor. Promptly at none o'clock I greeted the two gentlemen who appeared at the back door with the information that whatever they wanted, I was too busy, and practically swept them out with the dustpan and brush I was wielding. They were a trifle taken aback, and told me they were the Competition Judges! I produced the documentary evidence to prove they were due at 2.30 pm, but as the next farm on the list was miles away, I agreed to show them round at once.

I warned them they would have a good distance to walk, as all the outlying animals were going to be brought up in the course of the morning. We should also have the company of Miss two year old. They were quite charming, and, bless their hearts, piggy-backed her when her legs gave out. It was incredible how much mud and water her pint sized boots managed to spread over their smart suits, but they took it all in good part. Returning up the fields, with my part in the conversation mostly guess work, I gathered that one of them asked me if I had any more heifers, and I replied that there were another 12 in the yard. He gave me a look of blank astonishment, so again apologising for my deafness, I asked him to repeat the question. This in fact, had been :- "Have you any more children?"!

The Judge of the County Herd Competition some years ago won't ever forget his visit to Tyrells manor. There was no question of bring the heifers up to the



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buildings – half the farm under water and I was seriously considering rice as a crop! I did think I should ring him up and advise him to bring thigh boots but thought this might prejudice him!

In order to hasten matters, I told Hans to take his car to a field gate so that we could ride home after viewing the cows and heifers, to save ploughing through too much mud and water. I decided against taking my car, rather meanly, as for once it was reasonably clean.

The first part duly accomplished, we were walking up a 20 acre field, where Hans had met us, when we saw his car disappearing in a cloud of exhaust smoke. We could see it



**Major Murphy with Hans Stukenbrock  
and the Guernsey Herd.**

veering down the road in uncertain fashion. Hans ran across the field as though in an Olympic race; I ran, not so fast, to one of the houses that adjoin the field where I knew there was a telephone. Frantically making signs from the high fence I managed to attract the attention of the occupant, and asked her to ring the police to let them know that there had been an attempt to steal a car.

Returning towards the judge, I then saw two young men climbing into the field; they spotted us and crossed the road and ran off in the other direction. I watched Hans reclaim his beloved car and drive off, and then, my mind on other things, I tried to show reasonable intelligence regarding the cows. We had to complete the tour on foot and covered such a distance that the judge could be quite sure there were no horror cows hidden in some concealing hedge, and eventually with a certain amount of relief, I bade him farewell.

In the meantime Hans collected his son Alan and motor bike and driven to a point that he divined the miscreant would reach, sending Alan to chase them, while he cut them off. It went exactly to plan and one was chased to some deserted outhouse where he was pulled and shoved, none too gently, into the car he had tried to steal half an hour beforehand.

At that moment the police drove up, somewhat surprised to collect their captive, an escaped prisoner. They caught his mates a few minutes later, sitting in a copse with a bunch of cows staring at him. They had seen the cart and though the key was out they had managed to start it but could not get it into gear. I was thankful I had not taken my car which has the gears handily marked for all to see.

I almost forgot to mention \_ I won the Cup. A very long suffering Judge.

**NEXT MONTH – ‘A’s FOR HANS (WITHOUT WHOM IT COULDN’T HAVE HAPPENED!).**



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# **MIKE ROBINSON**

**By Barbara Munn**

Since moving to Stoke Hammond in 1995 Mike has lived not only in the same village but also in the same house for longer than ever in his life before.

- ***EARLY LIFE AND EDUCATION***

Mike was born in Sudbury, Suffolk but moved to Bury St. Edmunds almost immediately. He lived with his mother, father and younger brother David who still lives in the county, until he was eleven. His father was a journalist on provincial newspapers all his working life. At the start of World War 2 journalism was a reserved occupation which meant his father remained a civilian. Later that changed and his father, not wanting to join the army, responded to a notice he spotted asking for volunteers to join the RAF as airfield controllers. He went straight to the recruiting office in Ipswich and promptly joined up. Within days the army was knocking on his door to take him but the RAF had claimed his services and managed to keep him. He became one of the first airfield controllers – marshalling planes so that they took off and landed without accident. He served in India and Burma as a Flight Sergeant. Having two young sons Mikes mother remained at home during the war years. After passing the 11+ exam Mike spent an enjoyable year at King Edward V1 Grammar School before his father’s job took the family to Felixstowe and Mike to Felixstowe County Grammar School. He found this quite an upheaval and didn’t settle at the new school. As a result he “messed up” his GCE exams and left school at sixteen.

- ***CAREER***

Mike joined the Royal Navy as a Boy Seaman but later switched to train as a Wireless Telegraphist; in total Mike served almost ten years. He did not see active service but took part in some dramatic exercises and saw much of the world. In 1953 he joined HMS Swiftsure, a cruiser, which was acting the part of the enemy

trying to get through the Bering Straits, on a NATO exercise. They got caught. As the ships went into fleet formation Swiftsure was rammed midships by HMS Diamond resulting in a large hole in the Swiftsure. Which limped into Keflavik harbour for a temporary repair before sailing to the River Clyde. The crew were transferred to HMS Jamaica which had been previously mothballed. From there he moved to HMS Birmingham on which he sailed to the Far East and Japan. This was during the time of the Korean War and although they knew of the fighting they were never involved. Later Mike was stationed in Hong Kong serving on armed motor launches whose role it was to prevent the Chinese smuggling aircraft fuel from Hong Kong to mainland China. He described this as an exciting eighteen months. The Chinese boats were much faster as they were stripped internally except for engines and fuel. We only caught one boat because it was trapped in a bay and its crew jumped ship. Mike's next posting was to Fontainebleau south of Paris, as a wireless operator for SHAPE – Supreme HQ of Allied Powers in Europe. His final draft was to HMS Venus. The role of this ship was to take midshipmen (officers in training) for sea experience. While in the West Indies the ship was due to dock at Bridgetown, Barbados but the island's governor refused to let the men ashore so they moved on to St. Lucia which, in the late 50's was relatively undeveloped and not at all the tourist paradise it has become. Part of the first group to go ashore Mike set up camp on the beach with a few friends before buying some rum and heading towards the sounds of a party. When it all got out of hand the group climbed on to an open lorry that acted as a bus. Arriving back at the beach they found all their clothes and towels had been taken but, already a keen photographer, Mike was delighted to find that his camera was still lying there; the locals having only removed what they needed. As they rowed back to the ship they spotted groups of locals waving goodbye. Subsequent shore groups were warned about the potential loss of clothing. Following seven years active service Mike left the Navy at 25 with the rank of Petty Officer Telegraphist but had to remain on the Reserve List for five years.

In 1960 Mike took up civilian employment as a telegraph operator in the Overseas Telegraphy Department of the Post Office. When, in 1968, the Post Office was separated from the Civil Service Mike decided on a career change and took the Civil Service entry exam. Having passed he was posted to the Labour

Exchange (Job Centre) in Thetford. Later he was promoted to be manager of the Employment Exchange (Job Centre) in Mildenhall. Several moves followed; the Regional Industrial Tribunals Office in Bury St. Edmunds, then the Employment Appeals Tribunal in London. Eager to leave the city Mike moved after two years to Letchworth as the Administration Manager of the Government Skills Centre the original purpose of which was to retrain ex-servicemen after the war. From there he moved to Luton monitoring the finances of Youth Training Schemes operating in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire. His final move took him to the Sheffield HQ of the Manpower Services Commission (now the Department of Employment) where he supervised a team overseeing contract arrangements for the delivery of adult training programmes. Mike retired in 1995.

- ***FAMILY***

In 1961 Mike married for the first time and his two daughters grew up in Norfolk. Nicola now lives in Hitchin and Suzanne settled in The Netherlands almost thirty years ago. Both of them have three children. For some time prior to retirement Mike had been single. He already knew Julie as he had been best man at Julie's wedding when she married Paul. Paul was born sighted but became blind as a young man and worked as a piano tuner; Julie drove him to his jobs. Sadly he died in 1993 in his 40's. Mike and Julie had kept in touch over the years and married just prior to his retirement. Mike moving here in 1995.

- ***HOBBIES***

Mike has ridden motorbikes since his Navy days and is still an avid biker. He has two: a modern BMW touring bike on which he and Julie have travelled Europe visiting Belgium, France, Germany, Switzerland and The Netherlands and his classic, a 1962 Velocette. He is a member of the Woburn Branch of the Velocette Owners' Club which meets in Cranfield and goes on club runs and days out. In 2001 Mike toured New Zealand on a BMW and spent an enjoyable three weeks travelling through both north and south islands.

Photography is another longstanding hobby, in the past Mike did his own developing and printing but now, uses his computer to process his photos. Landscapes, architecture and birdlife figure amongst his subjects. Some images are used in another hobby – painting. A pre-retirement course and evening classes led to this interest. Mike is a member of the Toddington and the Milton



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Keynes Art Societies. The latter has paintings for sale in the café at Camphill Village Trust in Milton Keynes. He also recommended the permanent but changing exhibitions at Challenge House in Bletchley. The public is welcome to visit and to eat in the cafeteria of this commercial building.

He has been a member of the Parish Council for fifteen years and has a particular responsibility for the Welcome Pack given to all village newcomers, and for the Community Transport Scheme whose purpose is to help people with transport difficulties to attend medical appointments etc

Unfortunately an eye problem has put an end to his fishing hobby and has left him with poor sight in one eye.

- **HOLIDAYS**

Mike and Julie often go to The Netherlands to visit their family who live in Weesp, just outside Amsterdam where Mike finds “the best ice cream in the world”. All three grandchildren are bi-lingual and Mike is full of praise for the Dutch way of life and education system. A regular trip to the Manx Grand Prix on the Isle of Man is also a favourite.

- **FOOD**

Mike and Julie especially enjoy both Italian and Dutch food. For eating out locally they are very keen on The Red Lion at Great Brickhill.

- **FINALLY**

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Music Dark Side of the Moon by Pink Floyd

Luxury An everlasting supply of vanilla ice cream

Mike says the younger him would be surprised at how his life has turned out as he had no particular plan.

He feels the village has had more than enough development. However, to end on a positive note, he also sees an improvement in community spirit which began after the bypass opened just over 10 years ago. That effectively re-united a villager split by the main road, and has been boosted by events like the re-instated Village Show, the introduction of Community Breakfasts, the newly arrived Open Gardens and our participation in the Best Kept Village Competition.

## PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"



Well what a lovely May we have had so far. Long, warm, bright days which are great for sowing and growing. Not too much rain this year to bash my rhododendrons to pieces which is what tends to happen and no real frost to come nip off early fruit buds or tender plants. What could possibly go wrong.....For some reason my wisteria "appears" to have died this year. No buds, no leaves....

Just dead wood. 20 years I have trained, pruned and nurtured it along the back of my house - the only sign of life is growth from the base of the tree. Anyone any idea what is going on ? I haven't cut it back yet as I am hoping it is having a sabbatical or gone on strike or something. Please let me know if you have an idea. Thanks.

Parsnips can be difficult to germinate but I have generally been lucky and had great crops.... I love a parsnip or two. Anyway, I grow mine in barrels of sand which I have cored out with a piece of drainpipe and filled with soil and fertiliser (yes sad but I enjoy doing it and you do get big, long parsnips). This year only 3 out of 6 barrels germinated despite resowing and now the birds (pigeons I suspect) have started pulling out those that have germinated. Grrrrr. I have put mesh over them now but it is going to be a parsnip "lite" winter this year.

4 years ago I planted 10 asparagus crowns in a well drained raised plot. We are now in season and we cut about 20 spears a day. This will last for about 4 weeks or so before you stop cutting and let the spears grow into 6 feet tall ferns which returns all goodness and strength back to the crowns for next year. In the steamer from cold for 12 minutes then a dollop of butter, black pepper and salt...orgasmic !.... but look out for the after effects when you go for a pee! You do not need a big space, just patience for a couple of years whilst they build up strength and then spears for up to 20 years. I beg you to try it.

It's been busy period for sowing too. I've sown French climbing beans, Brussel sprouts, kale, swede in the last 4 weeks. All the same way in modules / root trainers with a mix of seed and multi purpose compost, which is kept moist



and in the green house. I've just sown my sweetcorn (Lark F1) ....70 seeds, one each in a 3inch pot full of the same compost. You must keep watering in this hot weather, but not drowning. The seeds are already coming through, four days later. These will be planted out in mid June.

The Toms, peppers and chillies are all in big pots in the greenhouse , in their final resting place. Keep them moist and once fruits appear feed every week with a tomato feed. In fact, I use this feed on everything in the greenhouse.

The peas I started off in drainpipes are already in the ground outside and roaring away. Water and weed, water and weed...that's an order, especially in the hot dry weather. The garlic and onions are doing great and starting to bulk up. I throw growmore fertiliser around them once a month. Not sure if that is too often or not often enough but I do it anyway and get great results, little and often apparently 😊.

Lastly, I have just potted on my squash (sweetmax), cucumbers and melons (seeds kept from a Tesco's melon doing the best - but who knows if it will deliver fruits ) into big pots of compost and kept in the greenhouse until end June. The sweet

potatoes doing fab (last years crop was amazing) and the ginger and lemon grass have sent shoots up !!!!! I talked about it in the last issue - just bought them from Tesco's and planted them up... Try it peoples!

So as I always say keep your plants moist not drowned, do the weeding and sow lettuce and radishes for quick no fuss salads. It really is that easy and the kids will see a quick return. If anyone wants some seeds to just get started let me know and I'll give you what I can.

Happy times, Chris



**Don't forget the Open Gardens event in the village on behalf of St Luke's is this month. The weekend of the 16/17 June.**



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## VEG

I'm convinced it all stems from vegetarians. I was driving along a week or so back and suffered a short sneezing attack. Nothing drastic but enough to make me close the windows having passed a number of bright yellow fields. RAPE - I'm sure we never had it when I was a lad but it is now the second largest source of vegetable oil. What's wrong with cooking with animal fat? Well it probably stems from the furry bunny syndrome. "Oh it's so lovely and furry I couldn't possibly eat that". Now I'm not saying all vegetarians have this point of view. My grandson just decided at a very young age that he didn't like the taste of meat. Unfathomable to me but his choice. Following on from the furry bunny syndrome it is noticeable that many of us keep pets/animals. Now I'm a great dog lover. Sensible animals: grateful and respectful of their territory. Most owners keep their dogs on a lead where necessary and clean up after them. Not so horses I've noticed. I've never seen a rider dismount and clear up after their charges and the mess is substantially greater than any dog. And what about cats? Not so respectful of their territory unless they consider it to be any garden within a 300 yard radius of their home.

Now I don't really mind what pets people may want to keep. (Of course, I don't understand things like snakes, stick insects or similar as you can't take them for a walk and they don't give affection back), The important thing about keeping pets is that people keep them. It has been noticeable over the last week or two that someone in the village has invested in Peacocks. I say invested as they certainly have not been keeping them. They have been in my veg plot and scratched up most of my freshly sown seeds. They have



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been into the greenhouse, disturbed tomato and cucumber plants, grubbed up lettuce & radish and dug what appear to be nesting pits. My neighbour reports being woken up at six in the morning, finding plants having been eaten and gives a vivid description of the size of peacock poo on her garden table.

Does anyone have a Christmas recipe for peacock?

**G.O.M.**

(please see later recipe page)

## MAVIS'S QUIZ

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

- (1) ANGELA (2) BRENDA
- (3) CHRISTINE (4) DAWN (5) EVELYN
- (6) FRANCIS (7) GAIL (8) HAZEL
- (9) IRENE (10) LINDA

**Let us now go back to an old favourite of putting a word that can go either in front or behind the following group of words??**

- (1) RIVER, HOLIDAY, NOTE (2) DRESS, AXE, FIELD (3) DAY, MARK, RIGHT
- (4) ICE, MAGIC, PUDDING (5) DATE, FOLD, SPOT (6) HOUND, SHOT, THIRSTY
- (7) LANGUAGE, GUARD, WORK (8) CHINA, DRY, MEAL (9) COPY, DATING, DIOXIDE
- (10) PLASTIC, PAPER, HAND

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

**Answers next month.**



# HIGH ASH SCHOOL – MAY 2018



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## Stoke Hammond Parish News Edition - May 2018

This half term we have been learning about British values and how they link to Christian values. We have looked at 'Do unto others as you have done unto you' (Matthew 7:12) and have looked at mutual respect and working to stop discrimination. We will continue with this theme linking the PROUD principles and British values to the overarching Christian value of 'love their neighbour as thyself'.

We are delighted with our new playground equipment that the children will have the pleasure of playing on after half term.

Our Y5/6 children are off on their four-night residential trip to Manor Adventure, Norfolk Lakes next week and will no doubt have a great time.

### Walk to School week – 21-25 May

We are supporting this initiative with a joint celebration of our 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the Walking Bus. The target is to register 200 walking bus users throughout that week. The team of volunteers (all DBS checked) meet at 8.30am each morning at Great Brickhill Parish Hall Car Park.

### Royal Wedding Fever

With the Royal Wedding happening this weekend, our Foundation children have constructed Buckingham Palace along with a flag and flag pole. The classes have been designing a wedding cake and have dressed up as a princess being rescued by a gallant army to help a damsel in distress in their role play corner.

### Summer Fayre

HASA Summer Fayre is due to take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June at High Ash School from 11:00am-2:00pm. It would be lovely to see some local residents and many parents supporting this event.

# HIGH ASH SCHOOL – MAY 2018 Continued

## Dates: -

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> – Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Y5/6 Residential Trip

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> May – Star assembly for parents at 2.30pm

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June – HALF TERM

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Y5/6 Assembly for parents

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June – HASA Summer Fayre – 11:00am-2:00pm

## Wraparound Staff Vacancies

At High Ash School we operate an on-site after-school Wraparound Care service from the end of school day (3.20pm) until 6pm, to assist those parents who work and need additional childcare. This service has proved hugely popular with parents, and demand is increasing every term. We are therefore looking to increase our current staffing levels, so that we can accommodate more children (Wraparound operates on a staff:child ratio of 1:8).

This is a wonderful opportunity to work with some of the pupils of High Ash School in a caring and supportive setting. The role would start from the next Academic Year (Sep 18 onwards) working Term-time only (38 wks per year). You would be paid for 3 hours per session, at a rate of £10.96 per hour (includes Annual Leave %)

If you are interested in joining our Wraparound team, please contact the school office on [office@highash.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@highash.bucks.sch.uk) and we would be delighted to send you further information. Please note that High Ash CE School is committed to safeguarding children and promoting the welfare of children; all new starts will need to undertake an enhanced DBS check.





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With 4/5 people the marquee can be erected in approx. 3 hours and due to its ground tie bar design, the marquee does not require any guy ropes for ground securing.

Hire rate per marquee £200 for a 4 day hire period plus a £100 refundable deposit. Collection from and return to the Community Centre. If to be used in conjunction with a Community Centre hire, permission to be sought from the Parish Council for erection on the Community Land.

**STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE**



Serving the community

For enquiries and bookings please contact Donna Page 01525 270239 or email [shcommunitycentre@gmail.com](mailto:shcommunitycentre@gmail.com)



## GET BACK INTO TENNIS THE EASY WAY

In just 6 weeks you can refresh your tennis skills in a fun, sociable way.

- **WHERE** Great Brickhill - MK17 9BA
- **WHEN** Weds 9:30-11:00am (from 6 June)
- **WHO** Adult beginners ALL WELCOME!
- **CONTACT** Ross (Coach) 07772 630494

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**GROUP  
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## **"FOSTERING"**

Sometime during 2007, my daughter telephoned in great excitement as she had been surfing the internet and had come across a site that was advertising fostering. I was not convinced as I had left my child rearing days some time ago, anyway she was very adamant that we should go for it (and she would help when required!!!)

Anyway, she added "I've already filled in the forms".

We did not hear anything during the rest of 2007. 2008 dawned and we felt rejected, were we not good enough? Any blots on our private or personnel data? So, I telephoned and asked whether our details were still being held. A very nice lady said yes, our details were on record and when a suitable match became available we would be contacted.

2008 dragged on, then a telephone call in July, could someone come around to the house to meet us and make sure that we knew what we were taking on. We spruced up, made certain that the garden looked it's best and we did not look to bad.

A nice lady came around was delighted with us, the house, garden and surroundings, 2008 dragged to a close, still no sign that our fostering skills were needed

After Christmas 2009, I called again. Yet another nice lady said yes, we were on the list and they were waiting for a good match.

Then on 18 March, we got the call we had been waiting for. Not only were our charges ready, but there was a family of four available. We spent the evening discussing whether we had done the right thing, would we cope? Malcolm had constructed a playhouse, which was in the garden. Would our new charges enjoy living in Stoke Hammond?

We contacted some friends in the village, so we would have help on the night if needed.

On the Saturday, off we went to collect our new additions to the family. When we got to the home we were made to feel very welcome and we were introduced to our four new charges. Then, on dear one had a very wheezy chest, so it was decided that he would stay behind until such time as he was fit to be in our care. Carefully loading up the car we made our way back to Stoke Hammond very slowly with our three visitors.

Steve and Sally came around about 8 o'clock nearly as excited as we were.

We opened the back door and carefully set the box down. With Meeny, Miney and Mo inside. Malcolm donned a pair of sturdy gloves and our baby

# Stoke Hammond local Store

Under new management, the local shop has been refurbished and re-opened on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 <b>£2.99</b> | Beers from<br><b>6 for £5.50</b> <small>(500ml cans)</small> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|

Strong beers are from **£1.09** (500ml cans)

hedgehogs were carefully placed inside their new wooden houses in the garden.

So, if you should see either of us wandering around the garden, in the dark clutching a can of dog food, we will be feeding our new arrivals. If you see a splash of white on its back, it is one of ours. However, as they can walk up to 12 miles (20 km) in one night they could be on their back to Tiggy-Winkles in Haddenham.

Update: to date we have rehomed over 70 hedgehogs.

**Some interesting facts regarding these fascinating creatures:**

A group of hedgehogs is called a 'cluster'

They sleep during the day and feed during the night (if you see one during the day. It could be sick and in need of assistance (Tiggy-Winkles are the best people to call).

They have up to 5000 spines which last one year, fall out and are then replaced.

Eats worms, insects, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

Litters are between 1-11. These stay with the mother for 4-11 weeks, then leave home to forage on their own.

If you want to help to make your garden safe for these creatures, leave gaps under fences so that they can wander at will.

Dog or cat food (meat based), crushed cat biscuits, chopped boiled eggs and a dish of clean water (never milk) will ensure their well-being.

Please be careful of what types of slug pellets you use.

Hedgehogs are now waking up in the warmer weather, if strimming, please look first as you may have a visitor in the long grass.

Please note that hedgehogs are not pets, they are wild creatures and wander at will. They will come into your garden and eat the pests that you do not want there. So, if you do see one, be thankful that they are doing you a good deed and leave them to carry on!!

**Krystyna Brown**





## Parties and events at The Three Locks Golf Club

The bistro & venue at The Three Locks Golf Club is the first choice for your events and celebrations. Perfect for special family events such as Christenings, birthdays, wedding receptions, anniversaries and wakes.

With its modern, contemporary decor, the venue offers you the perfect setting for business meetings or networking groups.

Select from our imaginative menus for a sit-down meal or a more informal buffet, the choice is yours.

There is space for dancing, so a DJ and Disco can be arranged for a livelier party!

With our personal service and attention to detail your event is sure to be one to remember.



**FREE hire for  
Wakes and  
Christenings**



*The Three Locks*  
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[www.threelocksgolfclub.co.uk](http://www.threelocksgolfclub.co.uk)



Partridge Hill, Great Brickhill, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK17 9BH

We have entered the Best Kept Village Competition

Please help to keep our village tidy

Judging takes place in June & July

The Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

[www.bucksvoice.net/bestkeptvillage](http://www.bucksvoice.net/bestkeptvillage)



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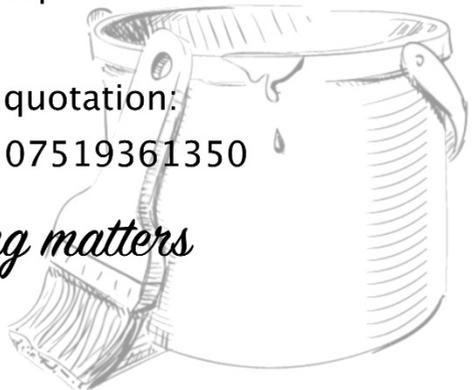
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01525 270857 or 07519361350

*For decorating matters*



# Church News

## Review:

**Plant Sale:** What a miserable day we picked for our plant sale: continuous drizzle all day with breaks for full on rain making us all freezing cold! Still it was great to see those troopers who turned up in spite of the weather. The other great news was that despite of the weather, we still sold over 100 trays of bedding plants as well as basket and other plants. Many thanks to those who helped us raise £420 towards church funds.



**Community Breakfast:** We enjoyed a busy Community breakfast this month as we were missing several experienced members of our team. Particular thanks to our assistants, Val, Sylvia, Claire, Margaret and Liz, who helped us cope. Our new noticeboard was up for the first time. This month we held a Christian Aid colouring competition which was won by Katie. Thank you to all the children who entered, it was a very difficult decision to make! The total donations to Christian Aid from the breakfast are about £180, but additional funds will come from those who generously gift aided their donations. Thank you!

**Christian Aid coffee morning and bring and buy:** On behalf of the Methodist Chapel and ourselves, thank you to all who came to the coffee morning, and brought lots of things for us to sell: plants, homemade cakes, second hand books, unopened cosmetics and ornaments etc. all helped to raise a total of £120 for Christian Aid.

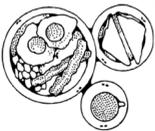


**Pentecost service & Pentecost walk:** We enjoyed a special treat of the Benefice choir joining us for the Pentecost service, singing a lovely anthem. A hardy few then joined in the walk to Great Brickhill where there was a contemplative service of prayer and then on to Little Brickhill for an all age prayer activity followed by a delicious Bring and Share lunch. The party then ended the afternoon with prayers at Bow Brickhill.



## Forthcoming events:

**Prayer walk:** There will be a prayer walk around the village on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June** starting at the church **at 10am** and stopping to pray at various locations. Please 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 all 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 as well! (Of course your prayer requests are treated in strictest confidence).



**Community breakfast:** We will be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. If you've never been before and are nervous about coming down because you won't know anyone, please feel free to give us a call (numbers below) and we'll make sure you're given an extra warm welcome or we can give you a lift down, especially if you have



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.

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

- En-suite facilities
- Personal colour TV
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- Courtesy tea and coffee
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- Personal laundry service, if required

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

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

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

For more information please contact:

**The Orchard Private Hotel, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire LU7 0HR**

**Tel: 01525 240 240 Fax: 01525 240 464**

**Email: [orchardstewkley@supanet.com](mailto:orchardstewkley@supanet.com)**

mobility problems! Please take a minute to have a look at our new noticeboard next time you visit! For those who have been before, feel free to give us any feedback or suggestions for changes. We aim to improve continuously and already have a few ideas planned!

**Songs of Praise with Afternoon teas:** We're holding a service of Songs of Praise on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June** at **3pm** followed by afternoon teas at **4pm**. For those who may be unfamiliar with Songs of Praise, it is literally just that – a chance to sing your favourite popular hymns or worship songs which you'll have had the opportunity to choose via the **Stoke Hammond Village Community Group Facebook** site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/StokeHammond/> (apply to join if not a member). The Benefice choir will be there to support the singing (they're always looking for new members!); there are no Bible readings or liturgy (church words and responses from the service book), but the minister may offer a few words about the hymns. We'd love to hear you singing (especially the children!), but if you'd rather just turn up for the afternoon teas that's fine too! (no charge, but you can give a donation if you like) If you can't make it this time, write these other "teas" dates in your diary: **29<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 23<sup>rd</sup> September.**



**Open gardens:** As mentioned last month, our Open Gardens will be held on the weekend of **16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June** this year, so that people can show a different flowering period in their gardens. There'll be 12 gardens, some as last year, others new for the first time. The gardens will be open **from 12 noon till 4pm** each day and we're still looking for helpers – as long or short as you like on either day. There will be at least 3 gardens offering refreshments and some with plants available to buy. **Tickets are only £5** and children are free. It would be lovely to see a few more villagers visiting this year – big or small, come along and get some ideas for your own garden!



**Church Fete:** The Church fete is also coming up imminently on **21<sup>st</sup> July**. It will be held at the church (subject to the weather being clement enough!)

**Church Benefice Website:** [www.brickhillschurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillschurches.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.

Just to let you know that The Church news articles are now available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters) - handy for when you want to click on a web address instead of typing it out!

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

Helping Hands

The Home Care Specialists

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Office: 01525 234120

Mobile: 07807 973871

## SHARE YOUR FAVOURITE RECIPE



### **AS REQUESTED BY THE G.O.M.** How to Roast a Peacock!!

*Ingredients: 1 Peacock*



Bereft of its beautiful feathers, the peacock, looks like the emperor without clothes.

They're smaller than you think, only a few pounds in weight, looking scrawny and lean.

Peacock is a lean meat and needs to be cooked slowly and be kept moist. To keep

the bird moist, first rub the outer skin with butter. Then stuff it lightly with home-made stuffing, made from bread, torn into small pieces, mixed with sauteed wild pig sausage, a large chopped onion, rosemary, peacock heart and liver and chicken stock. Any stuffing that won't fit inside the bird, can be cooked in a separate container. Liberally sprinkle the outer skin of the peacock with salt, pepper and Cayenne pepper. To further ensure the bird stays moist, drape cured bacon slices over the entire bird and then place the bird in an oven bag, after first sprinkling the inside of the bag with flour and layering the bottom with chopped



# FORCES SSAFA *Help*

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Do you need help – practical? financial? emotional?

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celery to make sure the bag does not stick to the bird. After sealing the bird in the bag, make four or five holes in the bag to allow it to vent. Then cook in the oven at 350F 180C for a little over two hours.



Then remove the bag and bacon and put the peacock back in the oven for about ten minutes.



For such a small bird, it's amazing at how much meat one can get and how good and moist it can be. Even the small wings that one would think would get burnt remain moist are one of the best bits of the bird.

There is a lot of dark meat and it taste superb and will make a fun and tasty addition to any Christmas meal and provide for fun conversation as you both prepare and consume it.



*Please Read this Recipe in the light heated manner that it was intended!!*



## 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**  
 Wednesday 7.30pm  
 Friday 9.30am and 10.00am  
 Contact: Lizzy 07753 138276

**Buttons Pre-School**  
 Monday - Friday  
 Contact: 01525 270501

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

## **SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES**

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

**To upgrade to full colour on rear cover, additional per month cost:**

**FULL Page – plus £15.00 HALF Page - plus £10.00 QUARTER Page - plus £5.00**

**Note: Upgrading to full colour is on a month by month basis, not a commitment for 12 editions**

|                                                     |               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Bucks County Council                                | 01296-395000  |
| Community Transport Co-ordinator                    | 07729-699488  |
| Registrar ( <i>Births, Deaths &amp; 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  |
| SH Gardening Club ( <i>Eileen Curry</i> )           | 01525 270858  |
| Clerk to the Parish Council                         | 07743-355484  |
| Parish Council Chairman ( <i>Greg Noble</i> )       | 01525-270744  |
| County Councillor ( <i>Janet Blake</i> )            | 01525-261288  |
| District Councillor ( <i>Neil Blake</i> )           | 01525-261288  |
| High Ash School                                     | 01525-261620  |
| M.P. ( <i>John Bercow</i> )                         | 020-7219-6346 |

**Police non-emergency number 101**

# WASTE COLLECTION DATES



| Waste Bin:  | Recycling Bin: <br>Paper, glass, cardboard,<br>plastics, cartons, cans & tins | Food Waste Bin: <br>Non-recyclable or compostable. | Garden Waste Bin:  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                              | Thursday 31 May                                                                                                                                                | Thursday 31 May                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                     | Monday 4 June                                                                                        |
| Thursday 7 June                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                | Thursday 7 June                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              | Thursday 14 June                                                                                                                                               | Thursday 14 June                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                     | Monday 18 June                                                                                       |
| Thursday 21 June                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                | Thursday 21 June                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              | Thursday 28 June                                                                                                                                               | Thursday 28 June                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                     | Monday 2 July                                                                                        |
| Thursday 5 July                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                | Thursday 5 July                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              | Thursday 12 July                                                                                                                                               | Thursday 12 July                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                      |
|                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                     | Monday 16 July                                                                                       |

## EDITORS NOTE

A big thank you to Ted Andrews who provided us with a new original (and quite apt in these current times) cartoon for our front cover this month. I believe Ted will be the subject of a future 'Spotlight On' feature, which I'm sure will make interesting reading. As for this month's 'Spotlight On' we have Mike Robinson or indeed Councillor Mike Robinson, Vice Chair of our Parish Council.

I think the 'Grumpy Old Man' has picked up on a subject many have been talking about this month, namely the errant Peacocks and Peahens, alighting all over our village.

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 July issue by **20<sup>th</sup> June**

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

## VILLAGE DIARY

|                                     |                                                            |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June       | Gardening Club's members Afternoon Tea & Plant Swap        |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June        | Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club Pavilion 12.30 -13.45      |
| Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> June        | Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30            |
| Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> June       | Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30        |
| Saturday 16 <sup>th</sup> June      | Table Top & Car Boot Sale – Community Centre 11.00 – 14.00 |
| Sat/Sun 16/17 <sup>th</sup> June    | <b>CANCELLED</b><br>Village Open Gardens Event             |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July        | Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club Pavilion 12.30 -13.45      |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July        | Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30            |
| Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> July       | Gardening Club Members trip to Cambridge Uni Botanic Gdns  |
| Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> July       | Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea – Community Centre 2-4pm     |
| Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> July      | Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30        |
| Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> August     | Gardening Club Members trip to Swiss Gardens, Biggleswade  |
| Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> September   | Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30            |
| Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> September  | Village Show – Community Centre 13.00 – 17.00              |
| Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> September | Gardening Club Members trip to Kew Gardens                 |
| Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> September | Quiz Night – Community Centre <i>times to be confirmed</i> |
| Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> December  | Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch – Community Centre              |



*The Stoke Hammond*

**VILLAGE SHOW**

2018

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September

1-5pm at the Community Centre

Live Bands Bar & BBQ

Large Show Tent

Many Stalls & Amusements

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Raffle

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