

SH NEWS

INSIDE THIS EDITION:
EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
G.O.M.
MAVIS'S QUIZ
PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH
CHURCH NEWS
BOOK CLUB & MUCH MORE

FEBRUARY 2019 Issue 2

www.stokehammondpc.com



St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

February 3 rd	11.00	Family Service – Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly
February 10 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Valerie Kerr
February 17 th	09.00	Holy Communion – Revd Robert Wright & Sandra Green
February 24 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Jeremy Hopkinson

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

Saturday 9 th February	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 9 th March	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 13 th April	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

Church Wardens:

Diane Webber 01525-270409 and Harry Davies 01234-822780

METHODIST SERVICES

**REGRETFULLY THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER SERVICES HELD IN THE
METHODIST CHURCH STOKE HAMMOND.**

**Should you require further information or details of Methodist Services
to be held in Stewkley, please contact the Minister.
Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly on 01525 240589**

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ADVISE THE POPULAR WEDNESDAY COFFEE
MORNINGS WILL CONTINUE 10.30 – 11.30
(For more information please contact 01525 270287)**

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

By the time of reading this edition of the SH News the majority of you out there will be aware that The Dolphin PH has closed its doors and Ray the landlord has moved on to pastures new – well Bletchley. But worry not we haven't lost our village pub which was on the cards last year when a planning application was put in to demolish The Dolphin and replace with nine new dwellings. This thankfully was refused, helped in part by the 100 plus letters of objections you out there completed and which were hand delivered to AVDC planning by your PC. So what's happening to our pub? Well, all we seem to know are that the new owners will be undertaking some substantial refurbishment and modernisation work before The Dolphin once again opens its doors. No doubt the new owners will at some point release information and announce a Grand reopening date.

Last month you may recall we ran an advert aimed at residents in Newton Leys South (NLS) whose homes fall within the Stoke Hammond parish and as to whether there was an interest for the SH News which is funded by the PC to still be delivered within NLS. There are currently circa 170 homes within NLS that fall within our parish, but once all the new homes under construction are completed this year, that number will increase to in excess of 300. It was however decided at the January PC meeting to continue with the distribution of the SH News as we are as a Council required to be transparent and be in contact with all people residing within our parish. It has also been decided as you will see by another advert within this edition to hold an informal Parish surgery within NLS at the new Newton Leys pavilion building on the evening of Thursday 7th March. It is hoped these will become a regular event to be replicated in Stoke Hammond, with a surgery to be held later this year.

So, what of the PC Meeting held on Thursday (yes, not the normal Tuesday) 3rd of January. Well the full Council were joined by 4 members of the public and AVDC District Councillor Ben Everitt, who gave an insight into what we can expect our Council tax to be for the forthcoming year. Although not yet ratified, and because of reduced funding from central government, and the fact that more has been spent on services than received in council tax, AVDC will be seeking to increase by the maximum they are allowed at 2.99%. Whilst BCC is expected to add a further 2% on top to cover ever rising adult social care costs. It is also likely that the Police will be seeking an increase of £25 per household. As for the Parish precept, this had been set at £42,500 which represent a modest increase of 0.65%.

As for planning matters, there were only two to be discussed, the first 18/04512/APP related to some minor design changes to the development at the Gateway Land south of Newton Leys. But as the PC had not been consulted on the original application, they felt they could make no comment, but would make the

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planning officer aware of this lack of consultation. The second application 18/04448/APP for the demolition of a garage and erection of a single storey side extension to the Mallaig, Church Road was supported by the PC.

Still on planning, albeit not a matter discussed at the PC Meeting and indeed something which falls outside of our parish, but many people who walk along Bragenham Side to the Paper Mill and beyond have seen the yellow planning notice affixed to the farm gates just across from the canal and been asking what is an 'Aquazoom Vortex Hydro Turbine'? Well, without getting over technical, the planning application 18/04047/APP covers the installation of a fish friendly hydroelectric turbine using the flowing waters of the River Ouzel to generate electricity. The turbine will have a maximum generating capacity of 7.8kW, which apparently is sufficient to meet the needs of approximately 5 UK homes which equates to a carbon emission saving of 11 tonnes CO₂e. The majority of the turbine and associated equipment will be at or below ground level. This application has received the support of Great Brickhill Parish Council.

Returning to other items discussed at the PC meeting, these included the purchase of two Community Speedwatch signs for permanent erection within the village, and the raising of the rear edge, or dropping of the front edge to the village entrance planters so that when in bloom the flowers will be more visible as you enter our village. It was also confirmed that daffodil bulbs had been planted to the Old Pond and Village pump sites, so hopefully this spring we will see the results of these efforts. Continuing with this beautifying of our village the PC are to investigate how the grassed area around the garages on Bragenham Side can be made more attractive and more useable space, which may include some form of unobtrusive fencing to prevent vehicle ingress along with some benching/seating to make this a pleasant place for people to sit and relax during the summer. There was also the suggestion we could include some bat and owl boxes and the PC will be contacting the Bucks Owl Group for their advice.

For February the PC meeting returns to its normal first Tuesday of the month date so hopefully we may see you on Tuesday 5th February 7.30pm at the usual venue of the Community Centre, Bragenham Side.



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

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

clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

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Free online workshop reminds drivers of winter road safety essentials



A free online winter driving workshop has been launched to help drivers prepare for driving in winter conditions. Developed by road safety officers at Buckinghamshire County Council it covers the challenges that winter weather can cause. The Council's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transportation, Mark Shaw, explained: "this innovative

workshop is very thorough and contains loads of useful advice for drivers of all vehicles. It only takes about ten minutes and is totally free to use. "We've been lucky with the milder winter weather so far this year but there are some icy nights and frosty mornings, so we want everyone to take the time to do this workshop and arrive safely, wherever they're going." The workshop is intended to ensure road users come away with memorable new tips and facts to help them drive more safely. It can be accessed by searching 'winter driving workshop' on the Buckinghamshire County Council website, or at the following:

<http://buckinghamshire.edrivingolutions.com/ModuleList.aspx>

10 years of Transport for Buckinghamshire

2019 marks the 10th year of the innovative Transport for Buckinghamshire 'integrated delivery contract', a partnership between Buckinghamshire County Council and Ringway Jacobs to maintain and improve the county's roads.

www.buckscc.gov.uk/news

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New to Stoke Hammond...

Joyful Tots

- A place where we play, learn and share together
- For parents, Carers, or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child
- Our regular session is now **10 – 11.30am on Friday mornings during term times at Stoke Hammond Community Centre**
- £2 per family – light refreshments provided (but no charge for your first session!)
- Can't make the date but still interested? Give us a ring to let us know times and days you'd prefer
- For more information Call Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 01525 270409



Joyful Tots have now enjoyed two sessions with plenty of age appropriate toys available as well as a mark making table and playdough. Friendly Mums are there to chat and share problems, advice and information with. Our tasty snacks include a variety of fruits and water or milk to drink (tea or coffee for the adults!)

Come for a free trial visit to see what you think!



THE Lindens

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

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Tel: 01908 371705 **E-Mail:** info@careatthelindens.co.uk

Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

THE Lindens

As you may recall, work started on the latest new facility at The Lindens towards the end of November, our Tea Room. The plan was to create a new space for our residents and respite guests to enjoy spending time with their visiting family members and friends. It could also be used for special events and gatherings for residents here.

I am pleased to let you know that the Tea Room was completed just before Christmas and the new facility is now being put to good use. In keeping with our Hollywood theme, it is known as "Tiffany's" and is situated opposite our popular beauty salon "Hollywood Style". It has lovely views over the grounds and has already been a great place for visitors to relax with their loved one and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee with light refreshments.

In the Tea Room there are a selection of books to enjoy and it has been decorated with art works made by our residents at our regular Art Classes. Over the Christmas period the tables were decorated with floral arrangements created by our residents at their Flower Arranging Class.



If you would like to call in and join us for morning coffee or if you are interested in working or volunteering here, please phone us and ask for Tina or Milli. We look forward to meeting you.

Chris Ryan
Manager, The Lindens.

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

Tel 01908 371705 Email: info@careatthelindens.co.uk Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

Stoke Hammond local Store

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



Opening hours are: Mon-Sat: 6am till 10pm
Sun: 7am till 10pm

Our products:

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

Other services:

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

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Wines from £2.99	Beers from 6 for £5.50 <small>(500ml cans)</small>
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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

Following last month's 'Mad Dogs and Englishmen... and Milk' we now reach our eleventh extract from the book 'Everything but the Moo' written by Hazel Turner's late mother Pam Murphy, and we learn more about the introduction of oil seed rape as a popular crop.

A SMALL CASE OF RAPE!



Whereas all trades have their own jargon, none is more likely to be misunderstood by the lay public than that of farmers. I mean, what do you imagine a headline “What farmers think of Rape” is going to be about? However, no lurid disclosures are about to follow, merely a terrible dull discourse on the

merits of growing winter or spring oil seed rape – a crop which has become popular in recent years. I had not given the matter much thought until some years ago I received a beautiful deckle-edged invitation, printed in that wonderful copperplate script, to attend *A Practical Demonstration in Rape and Wild Oat Control*. It went on to say that the Minister of Agriculture – I cannot remember which one, but anyway the Rt. Hon. Joe Bloggs would address the meeting. I had NOT got my glasses on when I read it and thought it was “undress at the meeting”. I couldn't believe my eyes! My name graced the top left-hand corner – with “and friend.” A reply to the Ministry of Agriculture was requested, and the temptation to add that I presumed protective rubber wear would be provided was great! But discretion was the better part of valour, too many men from the Ministry lack a sense of humour. Certainly no one at that very dull meeting had one. I smothered my paroxysms of mirth at statements that would have sent Mrs. Mary Whitehouse into a state of hysteria had she heard a tape recording of it. “Farmer Giles has been terribly clever in smothering his wild oats by a planned and selective use of rape...” The police might have been interested too!

It is at an Artificial Insemination Committee meeting that the language really becomes mind boggling. One member walked into the bar of the rather plush hotel where we were forgathered, and which was full of lurching businessmen taking their pre-lunch gin and tonics, slapped down the documents he was

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carrying and said: “I wish to goodness someone would tell me how much semen I have got. One day I am told I have got 500 left and the next day only 250, and the week after that it’s 1,000.” It was not either twenty to or twenty past the hour, but the only sound that could be heard was the swift knock of glass against teeth! The poor man, a healthy virile looking type in his mid thirties, was not complaining about his possible future sexual restrictions – merely that the number of “doses” of semen being stored in liquid nitrogen from one of his bulls, never seemed to tally. Other equally virile looking gentlemen have been heard to say that their semen production is poor, or “He’ll have to be knackered, his teat placement is not good enough.” All are referring to their favourite bull, and oddly enough, it does matter a lot that a bull’s teats (he has got four) should be well placed and even. If they are not, he may possibly throw daughters whose vital milking parts are too far apart, too near, uneven, and will cause problems in the future.

A fairly standard morning telephone call to the local A.I. centre of two services first time, bears no relation to Wimbledon, nor the growing interest in table tennis; it merely means that a couple of cows require the attention of the bull.

“She should not be standing so often” does not mean someone has got corns, or varicose veins. It is probably a cow with cystic ovaries, who every few days displays signs of bulling. She needs the vet. It is a tedious complaint that means a cow won’t get in calf, but fortunately unlike human beings it can be dealt with without an operation. The vet will “squeeze her out” and that does not mean having a darn good cuddle. The formal phrase which sounds almost as bad is “express the corpus luteum” – the lump that is stopping her reproductive cycle working properly.

You have got to get those heifers in and steam them up, does not mean they want a sauna, it simply means that they are due to calve in the next six weeks and want extra food, and an introduction to the discipline of the milking parlour. Equally “She wants drying off” does not mean she’s come out of the bath or suffering from DTs – the cow has been milked for 305 days, and wants a rest from milking before she starts to be steamed up, prior to calving again.

“She has not been cleansed” does not mean a bath is in the offing – the poor cow just has not got rid of the placenta from her calf, it is still hanging out of her vagina, and the vet has to come and disconnect the whole foul mess.

“Give her drench” does not mean turning on the hose pipe. It does mean that the poor wretched person who has to perform the operation is likely to become extremely wet, because one has to use a long necked bottle – white wine bottles are good, (and gives you an excuse to drink the contents first!) mix some noxious medicine, pour into the bottle and force the bottle into the side of the cow’s mouth. With a bit of luck *some* will go down the cow’s throat, far more down your

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own as you open your mouth to blaspheme as well as down your neck, clothes and on to the floor. And when you are told, having kept well out of the way, whilst someone else is performing the operation, that “She has had it” you have to conjecture whether it infers that the brute has swallowed the medicine, or it has gone down the wrong way and she has kicked the bucket. If so, you do need the knacker!

My townie cousin came to stay for a while and I took her down to the farm to show her around. “what a lovely looking lot of calves and do they give you a nice lot of milk too?” asked my cousin, looking over the fence at a bunch of six to nine month old heifers. “About as much as your seven year old daughter could give” I replied, “they are an equivalent age!”

Your daily “pinta” (or litre!) starts a long time before it reaches the door-step, and outside the agricultural industries few people realise the work that goes into producing the cow that gives the bottle of milk. Just as a human mother prepares for the birth of her baby, and nature provides the wherewithal for her to feed it so the cow can not give milk until after her first calf is born at two – two and a half years old; and to state the obvious, a bull never gives milk at all!

After the birth of a calf, it is left with its mother as a rule for four days in order to get the colostrum necessary to give it a good start in life. After this the mother goes to join the milking heard, and the calf to join the others about the same age. If it is a bull calf, particularly of one of the dairy breeds, it may go to



A young Hazel Turner feeding a new calf

the butchers at seven days old, or if suitable for beef he may be reared for that end. The heifer will be fed on whole milk or a milk powder substitute, with a little sweet hay, and soon a mixture of crushed oats, flaked maize (like corn flakes) and mineral powder which adds vitamins. She will be earmarked, so that she can always be recognised, and at two months dehorned – that is, having her horn buds touched with a hot iron by the vet after a local anaesthetic – quite painless, but this will prevent her being in danger to her companions when she joins the herd.

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Calves usually live indoors for the first six months as they are highly susceptible to cold, and during this time they need plenty of hay, their oat mixture, clean water and a nice clean bed of straw. They are, in my herd, vaccinated against contagious abortion at about six months old, this prevents a diseases that can be passed on to humans.

In the spring, those calves born the previous summer and autumn are turned out to get their first taste of grass, often being vaccinated against “husk” which can affect their lungs in later life.

At about one year old the female organs start to develop and once every three weeks she will “come bulling” or “on heat” and this is shown by her willingness to stand while her companions jump on her back. At any time from fifteen month onwards, at one of these periods she is introduced to “Billy the Bull” or perhaps the A.I. man, and if she gets in calf, she will settle down to maternity, which as with humans, lasts nine months. She will be with others in a similar state of health, living entirely outside and eating mainly grass in summer, corn and hay in winter. Six weeks before she calves she will join the milking herd for steaming up, that is being fed on extra vitamins and being encouraged to enter the milking parlour. Her udder, or milk bag, will be nicely rounded and swelling daily. Her teats grow longer, and you can usually see the calf moving inside her.

As her time draws near the bones of her tail seem to drop in. Her vulva extends and becomes soft and loose and her udder rather distended. At the last possible minute, she is taken to the “labour ward” – a well strawed stable or loose box. Like her human counterpart, she may “go off the boil” if she is taken there too soon, so sometimes she does calves in the fields. A cow is very calm about the whole event, until late on she will lie cuddling or re-chewing the hay she has eaten. In the late stages her nose is covered with sweat and you can see her pushing.

Most calves calve without human interference, but sometimes it is necessary either to turn the calf round, or help her to push, by putting ropes around the calf’s feet. Normally the front feet appear first, then the head and the rest follows quickly. Immediately the cow stands up and licks the calf all over. Often the calf struggles to stand up at once and soon tries to find some food – not always successfully, it may look all around before it picks the right end! Iodine is applied to the calf’s navel to prevent the entry of any germs. As a rule, the placenta follows shortly after the birth, and if it is left in the box the cow may eat it.

So, history repeats itself and the mother goes to join the herd and earn her keep, and the calf goes to the box that her mother occupied almost two and a half years ago.

Next month : Bully for You!

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PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MONTH



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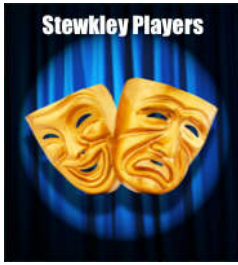
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Stewkley Players will be staging 'Stepping Out', their 121st production, in March. Stepping Out is a comedy play by Richard Harris about the attempts of amateurs who attend the same weekly tap dancing class in a North London church hall. Despite the students at first treating the classes as social occasions, and showing little co-ordination they are encouraged by Mavis, a former chorus girl, to learn some dancing skills for a recital at a charity benefit. But before the dancing begins, Mavis must mediate the minor dramas that erupt among this loveable crew on their way to the show. A fabulous fun night out with a real "feel good" factor! **Please see the advert on the adjoining page for details**

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to name the composers of the musical works.
So how did you do?

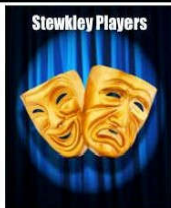


- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) MENDELSSOHN | (2) BIZET | (3) FRANZ LEHAR |
| (4) MOZART | (5) ELGAR | (6) HANDEL |
| (7) HAYDN | (8) ERIC COATES | (9) GUSTAV HOLST (10) SAINT-SAENS |

Now for something different again this month – From the following descriptions, can you name the breed of dog ??

- (1) Spotted dog that used to run alongside carriages.
- (2) Comes in three sizes, miniature, toy and standard.
- (3) Used a lot by police, especially to apprehend offenders.
- (4) Supposed to be the favourite of the Queen.
- (5) Normally used by shepherds in their work.
- (6) The Irish Guards have one as a mascot.
- (7) This breed is used by the blind a lot.
- (8) The nickname of the little dog with butterfly type ears.
- (9) This miniature breed is supposed to have the courage of a Lion, the wisdom of a Monkey, and used to be carried within the sleeves of Mandarins.
- (10) The symbol of Great Britain.

**Best of luck, and again no cheating on the internet !!
Answers next month**



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present

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A comedy

by Richard Harris

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IT'S ONLY.....

Time and time always passes For those of you with a memory more like an elephant than a goldfish I did mention the subject once before but that was about 6 years ago.

Time always passes but it's the perception of the passing. If I'm looking forward to something really enjoyable (say eating or drinking (or both!)) the interim days drag and the appointed time seems to take forever to arrive. Once I'm into the anticipated enjoyment, time seems to race away and it's over before it has begun. Now that's time travel and I could write absolutely nothing on that subject.

Timing of course is a slightly different matter. I've watched pictures of the original four minute mile being run. One Timex stop watch and a bloke with a shaky hand and possibly dodgy eyesight. Very different now. All electronic of course. Swimming, motor racing whatever, all timed to thousandths of a second.

A few items have come up recently causing me to consider time. There was another mention of global warming and how the planet will expire if we don't do something about it. There have been global warmings in the past not caused by humans. If we do cause the planet to become uninhabitable it will only be for humans. The planet will go on for quite a few million years. It will of course disappear: the Sun is a star and when it gets hotter and hotter until it explodes there will be no more earth. (In fact don't the planets disappear before the star explodes?). Some people appear to be considering saving mankind by colonising a n other planet. Well having seen how long it takes to get to Mars for instance I can't see that ever happening.

And why is time so vitally important? When I were a lad England would play a Test Match on the other side of the World and three days later we would get a report in the papers. Nowadays we just turn on the t.v. and watch it happen live. We're too concerned with things happening instantly. Sadly this can't be said to apply to BR... Oops nearly said it!

Grumpy Old Man

Scammer jailed and loses driving licence for preying on vulnerable

A ruthless criminal who even drove one of his victims to a bank to get money for the shoddy work he carried out on their property, has been jailed and had his driving licence seized. The conviction follows an investigation by Buckinghamshire and Surrey Trading Standards who were alerted to the original case by contacts in the local community and subsequently found the two other victims targeted by the same fraudster.

Edward 'Ned' O'Reilly, was convicted after pleading guilty to three counts of fraud by false representation under section 1 of the Fraud Act 2006. At his sentencing at Aylesbury Crown Court last week (9 January), the court heard how O'Reilly, trading under the business names of O'Reilly Cleaning Services and Castles Roofing and Building Services, conned three victims in Steeple Claydon between 14 and 21 June 2017.

O'Reilly, who was 17 years old at the time, claimed over £15,000 in total for the roofing work he carried out at the three addresses. However examination by an independent, expert witness valued the total for all the works at just £90. The work carried out was deemed to either not have been needed at all or be of no value due to the poor workmanship. Two of the three victims involved were identified as vulnerable adults.

O'Reilly even drove one of his victims to the bank afterwards in order to get the money for the job and then took them for a coffee.

Sentencing O'Reilly, Judge Francis Sheridan passed on a custodial sentence for the 3 counts: Count 1 - 13 months imprisonment; Count 2 - 7 months imprisonment concurrent; Count 3 - 2 months imprisonment concurrent. Total - 13 months imprisonment.

Making use of all powers available to the court in such cases, as the defendant had driven one of his victims to the bank to claim his payment, Judge Sheridan also disqualified O'Reilly from driving for 15 months. If a vehicle is used for the purpose of a crime the courts have the power to disqualify the driver to ensure it is as difficult as possible for them to re-offend.

In summing up, Judge Sheridan praised the quality of the work by Trading Standards in preparing the case for court, describing the case summary as 'an outstanding piece of work'.

Trading Standards officers are continuing to work on the case with a view to attempting to recover some of the money lost by the victims, ensuring O'Reilly doesn't benefit financially from his crimes.

Speaking after the verdict, Councillor Noel Brown, Buckinghamshire County Council Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health said: "Scammers of this kind simply won't be tolerated in Buckinghamshire. This man preyed on some of the more vulnerable members of our community in a bid to line his own pockets and even had

the gall to drive one of his victims to the bank in a guise of being helpful when in reality he was out to con them.

"Protecting all our residents from crime and particularly safeguarding the most vulnerable members of our community is a high priority in Buckinghamshire and our Trading Standards team works tirelessly to investigate dishonest traders and bring them to justice but we often need your help to know where it is happening."

He continued: "Rogue Traders often deliberately target vulnerable people, as they know they are less likely to report it. Cases like this are often only brought to light by close contacts in the community and people looking out for each other. We would encourage friends and neighbours to keep an eye out for any vulnerable people in their local community and to report anything suspicious."

Trading Standards issue the following guidance:

Rogue traders can appear as being polite and charming in order to get work, but this soon changes once they have your money. They often put pressure on people to make quick decisions and only take cash so they cannot be traced by Trading Standards and the Police.

Never assume a doorstep caller is a legitimate business, just because they have vehicles with sign writing on, or the workers are wearing smart uniforms. More and more dishonest traders are blending in with the honest hard working tradesmen, making them difficult to spot.

Before agreeing to any work, your local Trading Standards team recommend that you:

- Read reviews of traders if possible.
- Ask at least three approved traders for quotes.
- Always get a detailed written quotation/contract.
- Never pay up front and never pay cash.
- Say no to doorstep sellers.
- Ask your neighbours, family or friends for personal recommendations of builders who have worked for them and carried out a good job.

If you are in any doubt please call us via the Citizens Advice Consumer Service on: 03454 04 05 06

For further information please contact: Ann-Marie Poulton, on 01296 382444 or out of hours on 07825 430978

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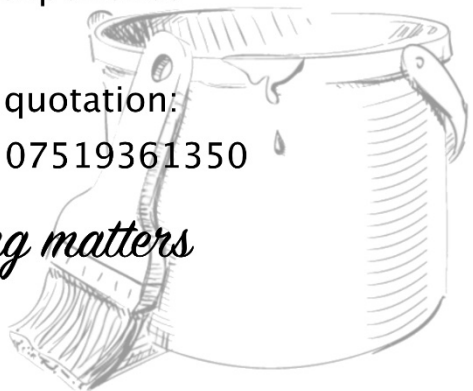
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* - you don't need to be a member to join the Cardio Tennis course but we hope you'll choose to join when you discover how much fun you can have!

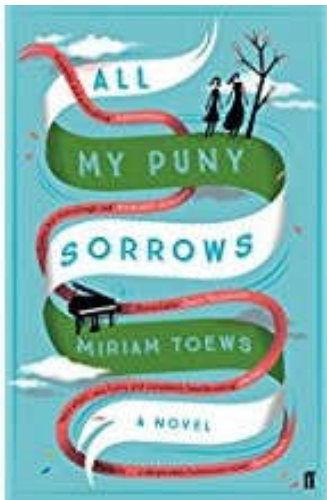
Go online for more information and to book your place!



clubspark.lta.org.uk/greatbrickhilltc



STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



'ALL MY PUNY SORROWS' by Miriam Toews

This month's read by a Canadian author was about two sisters from the Mennonite Community (Mennonites are a Christian group concentrating on peace, justice, non resistance and adult baptism) but although the sisters had been brought up in such a community it does not seem to have had as much bearing on the story line as expected.

One sister, Elfreda, is a talented concert pianist, beautiful and happily married but with an all consuming compulsion to commit suicide by various means and is forever trying to persuade her sister to take her to a Swiss Clinic to achieve her aim. Yolanda,

her sister who narrates the book, has some talent for writing but is rather plain, divorced with responsibilities for her two children but extremely long suffering, loving and dedicated to preventing her sister from killing herself by constantly interrupting her own life to rush to her sister's aid.

Perhaps a strange basis for a novel and not enjoyed by most of the group. They found it rather repetitive, frustrating and all their hopes of a solution were constantly dashed. Admittedly there was a certain amount of wit in the dialogue between the sisters but hopes of a happy ending, which tended to keep us going, never materialised! However, one of our group disagreed as she really appreciated the novel and found it enthralling, thought provoking (particularly when realising there was a history of suicide in the family), some comedy here and there and it even produced feelings of sympathy for the sisters. As it apparently has won several awards since its publication in 2014 others must have agreed!

Next month's book is '**Smoke Gets in Your Eyes**' by Caitlin Doughty

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Local references available upon request.

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Church News

Review:

Community Breakfast: We had a busy breakfast again last month (as well as new seating arrangements) on the Community centre circular tables instead of the rectangular ones (apart from the one at the front!) We also had a collection box for the Food Cupboard (sponsored by MK Lions), although word hadn't got round the village!



The Bible Course: We've had two of the 2 hour Bible course sessions on Tuesday evenings in the Methodist Chapel now and it's going really well. We've enjoyed lively friendly discussions and are learning a lot about the big picture of the Bible storyline. If you've been thinking about coming along, please give John, Diane or Harry a call or take a look on the website to check out the course. It's always possible to join in but clearly you won't get the full course now. There's a good chance we'll be running another one in the future though, so let us know if you'd like to put your name down and request a preferred weekday:



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

Forthcoming events:

Prayer meetings: You don't have to be Church of England to attend our prayer meetings, all denominations welcome! There will be meetings at **8pm** on **Wed 13th and 27th Feb** at **The Birches, Church Rd** this month. If you'd like prayers for someone, or if you'd like to join us, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times and dates or the venue at the last minute.



Community Breakfast: We're holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9th February**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. One of our great delights is to see new faces at every breakfast (as well as the regulars of course!) So if you haven't been before, it could be your turn to be our new face! As well as a breakfast (as light or as heavy as you like) you can enjoy a chat with neighbours or if you're shy, pick up a newspaper to read until you feel relaxed enough to break the ice! We have our church noticeboard, open to all organisations to advertise (though we haven't had many takers yet!) and the Food Cupboard collection which will be a regular feature from now on, as are prayer request cards (always treated confidentially).



Special services:

Family service: Our family service this month is at **11am on Sun 3rd Feb** and will be led by **Donna Broadbent-Kelly**, the Methodist minister for the Stewkley circuit. We would be delighted to see some children at the service so please come and join us!

Visiting preacher: On **Sun 17th Feb** at **9am** we'll be having a service of Holy Communion led by **Robert Wright**, however **Sandra Green** from Wingrave will be preaching at the service. We're looking forward to her sermon on service.



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Church Management:

What's the electoral roll?: It's that time of year when we review the electoral roll. This year we start from scratch and everyone who wants to stay on or join the roll has to fill in a form. The electoral roll is very important in church management, being a major element in the calculation of the parish share (the money our parish church has to contribute to Oxford Diocese for our Rector and Diocesan costs) **So the more people on our electoral roll, the more our parish has to pay.** This is a fair system as those on the electoral roll are mostly regular church attendees who contribute to church finances. Anyone living in the village can be buried in the churchyard, but the advantage of being on the electoral roll is that you'll be able to vote at the annual church meeting or stand for election to the Church Council! If you want to contribute to the parish church (regardless of whether you attend church or not) and join the electoral roll, please contact electoral roll officer John Bowler.



What's the difference between a Rector and a Vicar? Many people have asked this question over the years, so I thought I'd explain here. The names "Rector" and "Vicar" were coined years ago, when the church had a completely different hierarchy. A Rector had more benefit because there were glebe lands attached to the parish from which the Rector received income through farming (or renting to others for farming). A Vicar wouldn't have had that luxury. Nowadays all glebe lands are overseen by (in our case) Oxford



Diocese, but the old titles attached to each parish have been kept. Because there were once glebe lands attached to our parish, we have a Rector! It also explains why there are a number of farms in the area called Rectory Farm!

Bible verses of the month: *John 14 v 1-3:* *Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. ²My Father's house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you?³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.*

What does it mean? Jesus is talking to the disciples here. One interpretation is that he's preparing them for his death and comforting and reassuring them that they too will be joining him upon their own deaths - a sure comfort to all who have been bereaved. Read the full passage at:

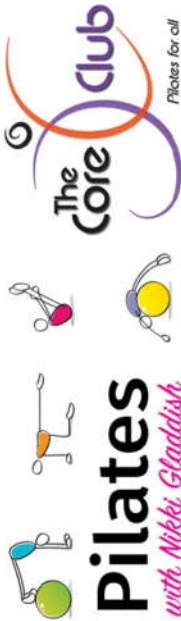
<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+14&version=NIVUK>

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

If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

Church news articles are available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)

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 **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**



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 Leighton Buzzard
 LU7 1ES

£8.00 per class
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High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Parish Newsletter

January 2019

On behalf of High Ash CE School, we would like to wish all of the Parish a Happy New Year! We had lovely Christingle Services at Church at the end of last year where the children were able to celebrate and understand the symbolism of the oranges and candles. They all performed brilliantly and had written some heartfelt Christmas prayers. Thank you to parents and family members who came to join us in Church. This year is the 50th Birthday of Christingle Services in the UK and so it was great to mark the occasion.

Curriculum news - we have had a busy start to the term and there has been much excitement among all the year groups across the School as they have been enjoying learning about their new topics for this term.

Sporting news - some of our Year 3 and 4 children represented High Ash School at a Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School on Tuesday 8th January. We competed against 12 other local schools and came a very impressive 5th place! Our Year 5 and 6 children will be competing at their Basketball Festival this week.

Music news - our school choir will be representing High Ash at the national Young Voices concert at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham on 22nd January.

Events coming up

Tuesday 15th January - Year 5/6 Basketball Festival at Sir Thomas Freemantle School

Friday 18th January - Star Assembly - all welcome!

Tuesday 22nd January - Choir at Young Voices in Birmingham

Tuesday 5th February - Parents' Evening 3.30-6.00pm

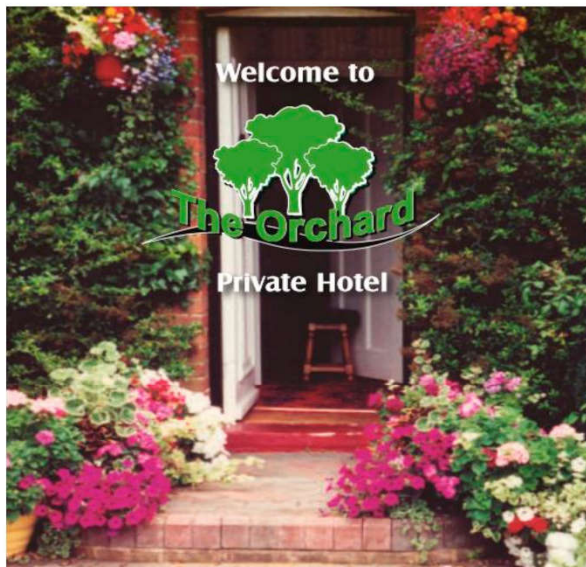
Thursday 7th February - Parents' Evening 5.00-7.30pm

Sara J Boyce

Sara Boyce
Headteacher

headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk





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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

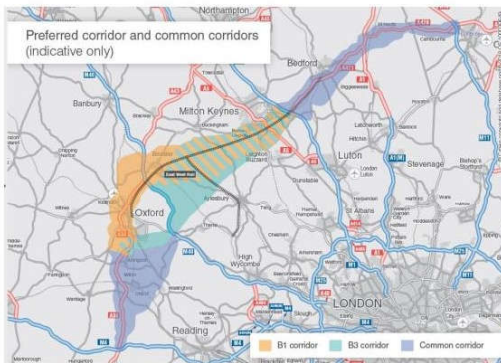
Oxford – Cambridge Expressway – Town and Parish Information

Volume 2: December 2018

In November 2018 a short overview of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway was sent to Parishes in and around the Expressway proposed corridor. This newsletter is the second communications being sent to Parish and Town Councils. In this newsletter we are seeking your views on the Expressway.

Highways England has been engaging with Parishes within the Expressway corridor in (and outside of) Bucks to understand local thoughts and issues. The information is being fed into route option development.

Buckinghamshire County Council is additionally working with Highways England as the Expressway project progresses.



To make sure we understand the views of the Parishes we are asking for your thoughts which we can include in information supplied to Highways England:

- Did you attend the Highways England Parish event in November?
- Are there are other issues you would like to raise?

Please contact us on the email address in the section below.

Your views

Highways England has a public facing website for the Oxford- Cambridge Expressway: <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/>

If you have any comments you would like Buckinghamshire County Council to submit to Highways England on your behalf please don't hesitate to let you us know at transportstrategy@buckscc.gov.uk

VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 5 th February	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 5 th February	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 9 th February	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 5 th March	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 5 th March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Thursday 7 th March	Parish Surgery – Newton Leys Pavilion 19.00 – 21.00
Thursday 7 th March	Gardening Club AGM – Sports Club 19.00/19.30 start
Friday 8 th March	Fashion Show – Sports Club 19.00
Saturday 9 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs, Beavers
Every Thursday 17.30 - 21.30hrs
Contact: John Till 01525 261444

Buttons Pre-School
Monday - Friday
Monday - Friday

Pilates - Group Matwork
Monday's 09.25, 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs
Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589

Slimming World
Wednesday's 19.30 – 21.30hrs
Contact: Emma Yorke 07933 790954

To Hire the Hall please telephone 07555 711929 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 & 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
District Councillor (<i>Ben Everitt</i>)	07817-756158
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. (<i>John Bercow</i>)	020-7219-6346

Police non-emergency number 101

EDITORS NOTE

So, The Dolphin PH has closed its doors but we don't really know much more, so whilst the extra advertising revenue would of course be useful, I would ask if the new owners could get in touch, so we could publicise to all readers what's happening, what can they expect to see, what will the new Dolphin have to offer and of course announce the reopening date.

We failed to tie anyone down for a 'Spotlight On' this month, but the feature should return next month and as always, we're looking for any positive suggestions and ideas for new content.

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

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



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

**EDITORS NOTE: APOLOGIES TO THOSE FEW WHOSE
NORMAL COLLECTION DAY IS A TUESDAY**

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  <small>Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins</small>	Food Waste Bin:  <small>Non-recyclable or compostable.</small>	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 30 Jan		Wednesday 30 Jan	Wednesday 30 Jan
	Wednesday 6 Feb	Wednesday 6 Feb	
Wednesday 13 Feb		Wednesday 13 Feb	Wednesday 13 Feb
	Wednesday 20 Feb	Wednesday 20 Feb	
Wednesday 27 Feb		Wednesday 27 Feb	Wednesday 27 Feb
	Wednesday 6 Mar	Wednesday 6 Mar	
Wednesday 13 Mar		Wednesday 13 Mar	Wednesday 13 Mar

Stoke Hammond



a thankful village

Stoke Hammond Parish Council Surgery Newton Leys South

**THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2019
7pm to 9pm at Newton Leys Pavilion**

Residents of Newton Leys South are represented by Stoke Hammond Parish Council.

Your Parish Councillors will be holding a Surgery at Newton Leys Pavilion from 7pm to 9pm. Meet a Parish Councillor and discuss any matters regarding the Parish, or let us know if we can help in connection with living in Newton Leys South.

If you would like to send us your question in advance, please email clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com or call our office on 01296 336575

Everyone welcome. We look forward to meeting you

Sue Severn

Clerk to Stoke Hammond Parish Council

www.stokehammondpc.com