

SH & NLS NEWS

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

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GOM & MUCH MORE

April – May 2025

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Brickhills and Stoke Hammond Churches

Hope through Confusion

Dear friends,

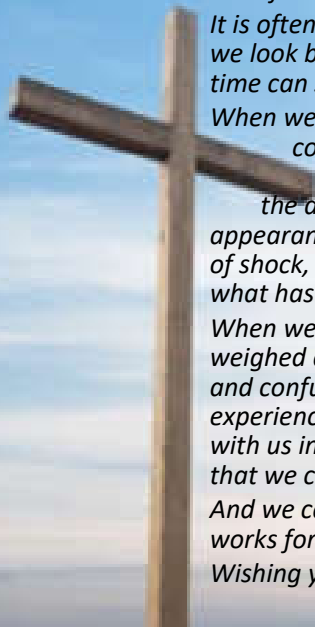
It is often easier to see the shape and pattern of events when we look back. Situations that feel muddled and confused at the time can seem easier to accept and understand with hindsight. When we hear the Easter story, we already know how it will conclude, and we can overlook the turmoil that the disciples went through. As we follow that story, through the arrest, trial and crucifixion of Jesus, to the first resurrection appearances, we can see the disciples struggle with their reactions of shock, grief, panic and fear, before they begin to understand what has really been happening, and what it means.

When we are shocked by things that happen to us, when we are weighed down with grief and sorrow, or when we feel lost in fear and confusion, we can remember the Easter story and the experience of the disciples, and be encouraged to trust that God is with us in the midst of the turmoil, and may be at work in ways that we cannot see at the time.

And we can be encouraged by the promise that: in all things God works for the good of those who love him. (Romans 8. 28)

Wishing you all an Easter filled with joy and hope.

Revd John Waller



ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO MAY 2025

APRIL

- 6th April: 09.30am Café Church - DW
13th April: 11.00am Palm Sunday – Family Service - JW
17th April: 07.30pm Maundy Thursday
Said Holy Communion - JW
18th April: 02.00pm Good Friday – Final Hour

Note: Church open for quiet reflection – No Service

- 20th April: 09.30am Easter Day – Holy Communion – SB
27th April: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - JW

MAY

- 4th May: 11.00am Benefice Holy Communion - VP
Note: To be held at St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill
(Followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch)
11 May: 11.00am Family Service Holy Communion - JW
18th May: 09.30am Morning Worship – TBA
25th May: 11.00am Family Service – DW
Note: To be held at Stoke Hammond Community Centre



SB – Rev Steve Barnes
JW – Rev John Waller
DW – David Webber
VB – Rev Val Plumb
(Area Dean)

Refreshments unless otherwise stated are served after all services at St Luke's

Details and any late changes to church services are posted on the Benefice Website:
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS



Stoke Hammond has unfortunately not escaped the scourge that is 'Fly tipping' which has blighted many of our neighbouring communities. In recent weeks there have been incidents on Bragenham Side up by the Paper Mill Barns, Newton Road and the access way from the Leighton Road through to Soulbury as it passes beneath the bypass and main line railway, and of course the infamous lay by has also not got away 'Scott Free'.

These incidents ideally with photographic evidence should always be reported via the 'Fix my Street'

website, but there is also a further new website/app that you can also use called 'Clearwaste'. Should you observe fly tipping in progress and if without putting yourself into any harm's way you can get any vehicle details, please do report this to the police via their 101 non-emergency number.

As detailed in the 'Planning Updates' section, and somewhat upsetting for the residents on Brook Farm Close when they learnt that the application (24/02068/CPE) for a Certificate of Lawfulness to confirm that work on the development of 33 homes to the land at the end of Brook Farm Close had been started before the expiration of the approved planning application (16/02432/AOP) had indeed been upheld by the Buckinghamshire planning department. This decision being reached despite many objections and justifications posted against this Certificate of Lawfulness including a long list of reasons submitted by your Parish Council, but the Planning Department decided there was adequate evidence to determine that the developers had indeed undertaken sufficient work within the 3-year window since the original planning application was as approved. So, the development of the 33 new homes subject to compliance with any further normal planning criteria can indeed continue.

As we're sure many of you will know, Local Elections are to be held on the 1st of May, which will cover all seats in the 14 County Councils and 8 Unitary Authorities in England and will also include all Parish Councils such as ours. Stoke Hammond has 7 Councillor positions, which subject to one or more of the following 4 statements applying, any person would have been eligible to submit a nomination paper.

1/ I am registered as a local government elector for the area of the named parish ie: Stoke Hammond

2/ I have, during the whole of the preceding 12 months occupied as owner or tenant land or other premises in the named parish ie: Stoke Hammond

3/ My principal or only place of work during the proceeding 12 months has been in the named parish ie: Stoke Hammond.



4/ I have during the whole of the preceding 12 months resided in the named parish or within 4.8 kilometres of it ie: Stoke Hammond

Nomination papers were to have been delivered 'by hand' to the Deputy Returning Officer at Buckinghamshire County Offices, The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury HP19 8FF by no later than 4pm on Wednesday 2nd April. So, depending on when you're reading this edition of the SH & NLS News you may if you are interested still have time to apply. Nomination papers and their associated instructions can be found via the following link:- <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/guidance-candidates-parish-council-elections-england/nominations/completing-your-nomination-papers>

As aforementioned, Stoke Hammond has 7 Parish Councillor positions, and if 7 or less valid nominations are received, those applicants will automatically be elected. If, however, there are more than 7 nominations, there will then be two polling papers on Election Day, one for our Buckinghamshire Ward Councillor, and another for the Parish Councillor positions.

On the subject of your Parish Councillors, we have to say a big thank you to Cllr Steven Julier who for personal reasons did recently stand down from the Council. Steven's knowledge and experience in the construction industry brought a most valuable input when looking into planning applications and projects such as the new recreation spaces we are trying to create for our community.

We are pleased to advise that our new website is now up and running and hopefully, you will find this an improvement on the old and easier to navigate. The site address remains unchanged at www.stokehammondpc.com

There have been 2 Parish Council meetings since the last 'Parish Council News' brief details of which follow here:

For the February meeting held on Tuesday the 4th, we were a bit devoid for various reasons in the number of Councillors available, and in fact just 3 were able to attend, the minimum number required for the Council to be considered quorate and able to proceed with the meeting. The meeting was also joined by 4 members of the public (MoP). The meeting fairly 'fast tracked' as with absence of some Councillors, updates or next stages on some projects were not able to be considered, but the main items of interest were as follows:

- *It had previously been established that as a Parish Council we were in need of a specific type of accounts package, and the clerk had received a quotation from Scribe who had been highly recommended and were offering a suitable system. It was agreed to accept the quoted costs for both the purchase of the package at a one-off cost of £459, with a further setup cost of £149 and a subsequent monthly charge of £49. With the system to go live from the 1st April this year.*
- *Although we still await a date for installation of the new village entrance gates by Bucks Highways, they had come back to the clerk to advise that the width of the verge to the Fenny Road entrance, would allow gates of a greater width at some 2 metres each to be installed, but this would involve an extra cost of £627. The question was asked of MoP's if they felt the wider gates given the extra cost would be worthwhile, and the consensus of opinion was that indeed they would. It was therefore agreed to instruct Bucks Highways that the PC accepted the additional cost for these wider gates.*

For the following March meeting held on Tuesday 4th we had a compliment of 6 Councillors plus the attendance of our Ward Councillor Jilly Jordan who gave a latest update on Bucks Council matters (see section later in this edition), plus we were joined by 7 members of the public (MoP). There was only 1 planning application to consider relating to Paper Mill Barns, details of which can be found in the 'Planning Updates' section, otherwise the most items of interest were:

- *The PC had received a Community Funding request from the Stoke Hammond Youth Football Club to help go towards the Good Friday Easter Event they are putting on. This was agreed by the PC.*
- *Cllr Noble had put forward a proposal to upgrade the SH & NLS News publication to full colour throughout. Whilst the PC thought this a good idea, it was felt the extra cost was not justifiable based on the current format. But would revisit if some ideas as to how the publication could be revamped.*
- *Under the section 'Meetings attended on behalf of the Parish Council' it was advised that some of the Councillors had taken part Teams video meeting with the land promoter for the field at Newton Leys South following their recent submission of a planning application. They are supportive of giving the PC recreation facilities and they wanted this meeting to iron out what these may look like. Their original intention was to give the PC the land for us to develop, but they now intend to do this themselves as part of their S106 obligations. The PC is hoping to increase the size of the MUGA and include additional parking facilities. It was worth noting that without the evolving Neighbourhood Plan, the PC would not have been involved with these discussions, and it's likely that less land would have been set aside for us and additional houses would have been built.*

The next two Parish Council meetings are at this time currently planned to take place at the normal venue of the Community Centre, Bragenham Side. The April meeting being on Tuesday 2nd and the May meeting because of the local elections is likely to be pushed back to the second Tuesday of the month on the 13th. It should also be noted that this May meeting is both our Annual Parish and Annual Parish Council meeting and as such will start at 7.00pm, whilst the April meeting will start at the normal time of 7.30pm. For those not aware the Annual Parish meeting provides a review of the past year's events with other local organisations also invited to deliver an insight into their last year's range of activities. As for the actual Annual Parish Council meeting, one of the first items on the agenda will be the appointment of the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council for the next year.

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

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: clerk@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

www.stokehammondpc.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz (Chair) – mubasshirajaz@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Craig Champion (Vice Chair) - craigchampion@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Fran Sharkey - fransharkey@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Greg Noble - gregnoble@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr David Venn - davidvenn@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Malcom Newing - malcomnewing@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk



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Cllr Jilly Jordan

Mar 2025 Update



Buckinghamshire Council agrees spending plans and council tax rates for the coming year.

Buckinghamshire Council has agreed its budget for the coming financial year, including confirming an investment of £120 million in the county's road network.

The final budget was voted on by full council last at a meeting last night, where spending plans of more than £600 million on local services and communities were agreed.

The budget includes the following investment over a four-year period:

- *£182.5 million on schools*
- *£130.1 million on strategic infrastructure such as the new South East Aylesbury Link Road*
- *£120 million on highways*
- *£30.4 million on waste and recycling services*
- *£24.8 million on housing and homelessness*
- *£22.7 million on regeneration projects particularly focussing on town centre improvements*
- *£10.7 million on highways drainage*
- *£10.7 million on flood management*

These spending decisions were informed by local residents during consultation last Autumn, who told the council they wanted adult social care services, roads and education to be prioritised.

The council's Medium Term Financial Plan details how it will balance the books until 2028, and outlines significant spending pressures the council is facing, particularly with increased cost and demand in social care, temporary accommodation and transporting children with additional needs to and from school. These services make up 71% of the council's overall budget, leaving 29% left to pay for everything else.

Both the Capital and Revenue budgets are funded mostly by council tax, which makes up 80% of the funding for the council's services, with the remaining 20% coming from grants, central government and other income streams.

The council has made significant savings to run a balanced budget, totalling £116.8 million in its first five years of operation as a unitary authority. A further £115.6 million in savings has been identified over the next three years, to allow the council to keep investing in local services as well as providing the critical statutory support services such as social care that residents rely on.

Cont/d:

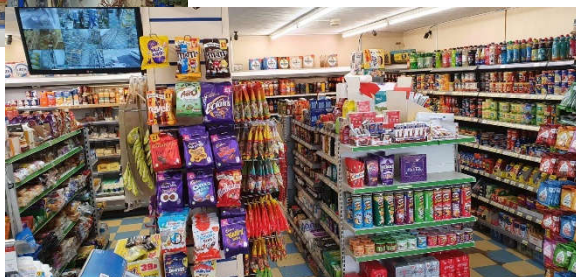
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- * Cash machine will be available.
- * Photocopying
- * Pies & Coffee will be introduced in the morning.



Cllr Jilly Jordan Update, Page 2:

The basic rate of council tax in Buckinghamshire will rise by 2.99 per cent from 1 April 2025, and the Adult Social Care precept will increase by 2 per cent, meaning a total rise of 4.99 per cent, or an extra £1.77 per week for the average Band D home during 2025/26.

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council, Martin Tett said: "The last thing I want to do is raise council tax bills but we simply have no choice. The demand and costs for social care, school transport and temporary housing accommodation keep rising steeply. These are services that we legally must provide and are inspected upon. Central government calculates how much it will give us in grants based on the assumption councils will put bills up by the maximum allowed without a referendum and this is what we have had to do in Buckinghamshire.

Because of the enormous cost of some of our most important services to vulnerable people, we can only balance our books by finding huge savings and making difficult choices. These have included 10% cuts to the budget for councillor's Allowances. It is only right that councillors contribute to making these savings.

I am however pleased that due to our prudent financial management, we are not in as precarious a position as so many other councils who are putting up council tax by much larger amounts. Thirty councils are now in receipt of Exceptional Financial Support from central Government.

In Buckinghamshire we can invest in our roads, schools and town centre improvements and we can balance the books for the next three years. While the context remains risky and challenging, I am pleased we have done our best for our residents and have been able to direct their council tax at the services and priorities that matter most."

Full details of the council's Medium Term Financial Plan are available on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

Stop - It's the law

Council urges drivers to be respectful of the vital work carried out by school crossing patrollers.

Known commonly as lollipop men and women, Buckinghamshire's 60 school crossing patrollers are on duty come rain or shine, morning and afternoon during school term time, wielding their trusty STOP signs to help children and adults reach school safely. While most drivers are respectful and stop when requested, a small minority can be abusive and put lives at risk with dangerous manoeuvres, as they refuse to stop to allow safe crossings.

*Since the start of the school year in 2021 to November 2024, there have been 39 reported incidents. Of these, four were injury incidents, 29 were near misses, and the remainder were verbal incidents. However, it is expected numbers are higher than this, as patrollers don't report every incident, despite encouragement. **Cont/d:***

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Cllr Jilly Jordan Update, Page 3:

School crossing patrollers have a legal right to stop traffic for anyone who needs help crossing the road. They have the same authority as a police officer to stop traffic. Failing to stop when a school crossing patrol displays the stop sign is an offence that can result in a £1,000 fine, three penalty points, and disqualification. Failing to stop puts vulnerable road users at risk and patrollers are instructed to report any driver who fails to stop to the police, which could lead to prosecution. Instances of dangerous behaviour include drivers using abusive language, failing to stop when the patroller is already in the road, and swerving around patrollers to get past. Drivers also make patrollers' jobs more difficult by blocking pavements and stopping or parking inconsiderately to drop off children, especially at School Keep Clear markings and bus stops.

Steven Broadbent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport at Buckinghamshire Council, said: "Our lollipop men and women play an invaluable role in our local school communities and are deeply appreciated by both pupils and parents.

Drivers are being reminded when approaching a school:

- *Slow down when you see a patrol warning sign or flashing lights and be prepared to stop.*
- *Stop when the patrol is displaying the stop sign.*
- *Be patient and do not move forward.*
- *Do not park where the patrol works, on zig-zag lines, or other areas with parking restrictions.*

To report any incidents involving School Crossing Patrollers, residents are asked to contact:

- *Aylesbury Vale and Wycombe (West) - Corinne Randall on 01296 383 432*
- *Chiltern & South Bucks and Wycombe (East) - Nigel Rosier on 01296 382608*

Council spearheads partnership working to address increase in vehicle related crime.

Following a noted increase in vehicle related crime in Buckinghamshire, the council's Community Safety Team has been working with partners, including Thames Valley Police (TVP), to raise public awareness of how to protect vehicles from being targeted.

The Community Safety Team successfully bid for funding from the Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner to run a vehicle crime project across Buckinghamshire. The funding has been used to support a range of activities including:

- *Clear car campaigns – Community safety officers and the local TVP neighbourhood team have visited car parks and noted down registration details of vehicles displaying items on show, which could lead to a potential break in. Items such as wallets, handbags and cash were spotted by officers.*

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BOSCH



Cllr Jilly Jordan Update, Page 4:

Owners leaving valuables on show will receive a crime prevention letter with advice and information on how to keep their vehicle safe.

- Pop up events – Providing residents with vehicle crime prevention advice and items such as keyless car signal blocking pouches.*
- Vehicle crime signage – Will be displayed in beauty spots and pub/hotel car park locations with a high vehicle crime rate to increase awareness around vehicle crime.*
- Number plate screws – In partnership with Kwik Fit, eight garages across Buckinghamshire have been provided with anti-tamper proof number plate screws to install on vehicles. This is a free service offered to local communities to help reduce number plate thefts. Along with securing their number plates, those who use this service will receive an air freshener, ice scraper, vehicle stickers and leaflets all displaying vehicle crime related messages. Garages will record how many have been installed so the effectiveness of the project can be monitored.*

For more information on community safety in Buckinghamshire visit:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/safety-and-crime-in-your-community

Cllr Jilly Jordan Email: Jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk Mob: 07740 308468

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MAVIS'S QUIZ

In case you missed them, here are the answers to the last quiz and were you of an age that you could name the pictured characters from classic children's TV Shows.

- 1/ Sooty & Sweep 2/ Bill & Ben the Flowerpot Men
3/ Andy Pandy 4/ Torchy the Battery Boy
5/ The Woodentops 6/ Pingu 7/ Pinky & Perky
8/ Dougal (The Magic Roundabout) 9/ Twizzle 10/ Captain Scarlett



This time, do you like your cheeses and can you name the cheese from the pictures and given clues?

- 1/ Famous Dutch Cheese with a Red Wax outer**



- 2/ Great with Pasta dishes**

- 3/ Classic Soft French Cheese**



- 4/ Eastern Mediterranean Cheese Very Popular on the Summer BBQ**



VOLUNTEER BUCKS

Find the role for you

Free online volunteering platform for Buckinghamshire

Volunteer Bucks, the online volunteer platform for Buckinghamshire, helps potential volunteers to find and apply for volunteering opportunities according to interests, location, and availability.

Launched by local charity Community Impact Bucks in September 2024, the platform now has over 300 volunteer vacancies ready to be filled from 129 organisations from across the county – from foodbanks and community libraries, to conservation charities and youth organisations.

Over 650 people have already signed up to the platform in its first six months, with 90 volunteers already having started in their role and many more in the pipeline. Extra features include an online quiz to help those unsure what type role would suit them, and an interactive map. If you are 13-17 years old or need support, there is a team on hand to help.

To register as a volunteer or as an organisation looking for volunteers, go to the Volunteer Bucks website. www.volunteerbucks.org.uk

Social media

🎉 Volunteer Bucks is 6 months old 🎉

Since launching in Sept 2024:

📢 Nearly 900 volunteers & organisations have registered

🔍 300+ volunteer opportunities uploaded

💛 90+ positions filled

Have a look at the apps and apply via the platform>> www.volunteerbucks.org.uk





5/ Quintessential English Cheese from the Somerset Region



6/ Pungent Blue Cheese Originating from Italy



7/ Swiss Hard Cheese



8/ Italian Soft Cheese made from Whey and often used in Sweet & Savoury Dishes



9/ French Blue Cheese Aged in the Combalou Caves of the Region after which this Cheese is named.

10/ Greek Soft Cheese often made with a mix of both Sheep and Goat's Milk.

Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found at the end of this month's Neighborhood Plan Update.





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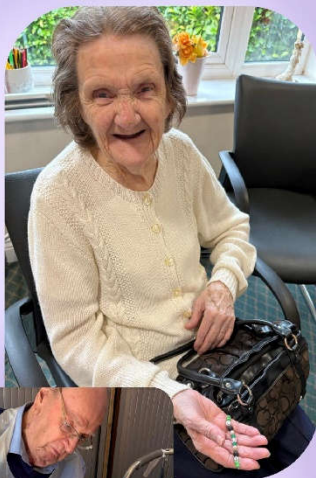
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SAVE THE DATE!

SAT 9TH AUGUST

This summer, we're excited to bring back our beloved Annual Summer Fete! We invite you all to come along for some fun in the sun! The day will be full of fair games, good food, and entertainment! Keep your eyes peeled for more details.





Over 35,000 account hackings reported in 2024.

This year Action Fraud and Meta are encouraging the public to protect their social media and email accounts as data shows there were more than 35,000 reports made last year.

Data shows there was a rise of social media and email account hacking reported in 2024, with a total of 35,434 reports made to Action Fraud, compared to 22,530 reports made in 2023.

Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, has launched a campaign, supported by Meta, to encourage people to take an extra step of online protection by enabling 2-Step Verification for each online account they have. The warning comes as reporting shows nearly £1 million was lost to hackers last year.

The most common motives for social media hacking were either investment fraud, ticket fraud or theft of the targeted account, reporting insights revealed.

Adam Mercer, Deputy Director of Action Fraud, said:

"As social media and email account hacking remains the most reported cybercrime this year, this Action Fraud campaign marks a critical issue for everyone who has online accounts. That's why we're raising awareness of the ways people can protect themselves online.

"Follow *Stop! Think Fraud* advice and protect yourself online: enable 2-Step Verification on each online account you have – this will help prove your identity and stop fraudsters trying to steal or access your valuable information. Secure your social media and email accounts by ensuring each password is strong and uses three random words. Remember to never share your passwords with anyone else."

David Agranovich, Security Policy Director, Meta, said:

"Scammers are relentless and continuously evolving their tactics to try and evade detection, which is why we're constantly working on new ways to keep people safe while keeping bad actors out. Two-Factor Authentication (2FA) is one crucial example of how people can add an extra layer of security to their Meta accounts, to help reduce the risk of scammers accessing your accounts. We've also started rolling out facial recognition technology to help people get back into compromised or hacked accounts and are always working on new ways to stay ahead of scammers."

In the reports made to Action Fraud, there were various different methods of hacking highlighted, these include:

On-platform chain hacking

This is when a fraudster gains control of an account and begins to impersonate the legitimate owner. The goal is to convince people to reveal authentication codes, including one-time passcodes, that are sent to them via text. Many victims of this type of hacking believe it's a friend messaging them, however the shared code was associated with their own account and the impersonator can now use it to access their account. Usually when an account is taken over, fraudsters monetise control of the account via promotion of various fraudulent schemes, like fake tickets or crypto investment schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

Leaked passwords and phishing

The other common method of hacking is when account details are gained via phishing scams, or the use of leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords. This becomes prevalent as people often use the same password for multiple accounts, so a leaked password from one website can leave many of their online accounts vulnerable to hacking.

What can you do to avoid being a victim?

2-step verification (2SV) will keep criminals out of your account – even if they know your password. Turning on 2SV gives your most important accounts an extra level of protection, especially your email and social media accounts. It can be turned on in a matter of minutes – time well spent to keep the fraudsters out. Find out how to enable it [here](#). **Email and social media passwords should be strong and different to all of your other passwords.** A good way to make sure your passwords are 'long enough and strong enough' is to combine three random words to create a unique password which is easy to remember. Find out more [here](#).

Report suspicious emails by forwarding it to: report@phishing.gov.uk

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: <https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>

If you've lost money or provided your financial information to someone, notify your bank immediately and report it to Action Fraud at actionfraud.police.uk or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, call Police Scotland on 101.



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STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB - NEWS

At last, we have had some great weather and its looking more like summer. Once again as the summer months come, we ask that dog mess is picked up. We can't stress how important this is to the health and safety to all of our members who play sport on the field. Thank you to all dog owners who are respectful and do pick it up.

On the 5th April we will be holding our AGM where there will be some changes made to the management committee. Our current chairman Joe D'agostino and bar steward Mel D'agostino have decided to call time on their long-standing involvement in the running of the sports club. Both have worked tirelessly over the past 25 plus years. As a committee we would like to thank them for all of their dedication to the Sports Club. An announcement to the new committee will come out after the AGM.

We have had a lot of sport going on within the sports club. The darts team have finished their season mid table. The new season will be starting up soon. We are fortunate to host 2 pool teams, both of whom are in the Leighton buzzard pool league. Our **B** team play in division 2 and are having a steady season after winning promotion to the division last season. Our **A** team play in division 1. The team is currently 5th in the league after a strong start to the season. The **A** team have also made it to the team cup final which is a great achievement for the team and club. Part of the **A** team is Josh Thorne and Zach Cunnington who are both u14 and playing in an adult pool league, both playing well this season and helping the team in both the league and cup.

Our football team is also having a great season. Currently sitting 2nd in the league. They are also in the cup semi-final. Their final home game of the season will be on the 20th April 10:30am ko. It would be great if we could go down to support them as they look to win the league.

The cricket season is soon upon us. The team will be once again looking to do well in the league on Saturdays and Wednesdays. We also have a friendly Sunday team. Fixture dates TBC.

Membership for the sports club are due 1st May, please pop in and ask behind the bar for details.



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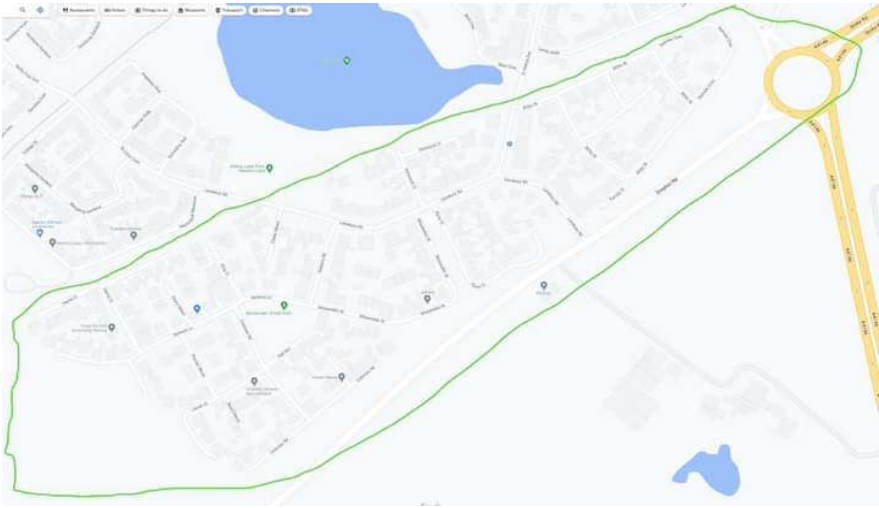
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WELCOME TO THE NEWTON LEYS SOUTH SECTION



Firstport update - Bovis side adoption

We are still pursuing Firstport to send the final client funds they hold on behalf of the Bovis side of Newton Leys. Once those are received, we should be able to proceed with the next steps towards the adoption of the public open spaces and park.

Taylor Wimpey side of Newton Leys adoption

We are hoping that the adoption of the public open space on the Taylor Wimpey side happens over the summer. The legal work is ongoing, and we have let Taylor Wimpey know the items they need to address before adoption. The main one is 80-90% of the trees they planted have died. Taylor Wimpey will need to plant replacements and there are some other items they need to sort out and tidy up.

Fruit trees

It has been a year since the residents of Newton Leys (with help from a few councillors) planted 200 fruit trees around the Newton Leys estate. As part of the monitoring of those trees your Newton Leys councillors surveyed them during March. The Taylor Wimpey side trees fared the best, with only 2 fatalities so far. We could only plant about 40-50 on that side, but that is a remarkable achievement. On the Bovis side there were 28 trees that didn't make it over the winter. However, that means we still have 170 fruit trees that should hopefully fruit this year. We planted a mixture of cherries, pears, plums, many varieties of apples and even apricots. We are hoping that the apricots could be one benefit from climate change!

If we get a really hot period, we may ask for help from residents to keep them watered.



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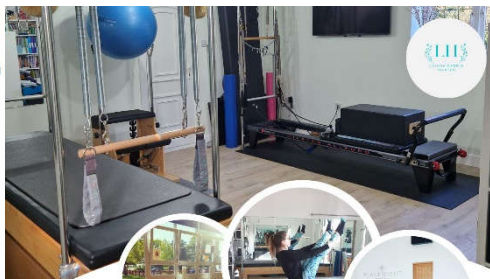
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- ✓ 7.15pm Intermediate/Mixed

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SWANBOURNE - FRI 9.40am/11am

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Park benches and table tennis table

Whilst Spring seems to have been a bit shy so far this year, it has been great to see people using the picnic bench and table tennis table in Dickens Lane park, even when it has been chilly. We also have a picnic bench at the very top of Coleman Road, and hopefully they get well used over the summer.

Parish Council elections - 1 May 2025

The Parish Council election will be on 1 May. If anyone would like to be a Parish Councillor, we would encourage you to complete the nomination form by 2 April. Stoke Hammond Parish Council is really trying to make a difference to the residents in this area, and we would really appreciate residents who want to get things done to apply. Since the last election we have started some really key projects that will make a massive difference to people in the parish; saving £25-28k a year for residents in the Bovis part of the estate and a similar amount in the Taylor Wimpey estate by adopting the public open space, working to ensure any developments around Newton Leys (and Stoke Hammond) have access to good quality facilities and open spaces, and revolutionising the recreation and nature facilities across the Parish. If anyone is thinking of becoming a Parish Councillor then please feel free to contact our clerk Kelly Harris to learn more about the role by emailing clerk@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Proposed development opposite Dickens Lane

Councillors met with the promoter of this site in March. The development of this site was included in our Neighbourhood plan, and discussions with the promoter have allowed the councillors to help guide the public open space and leisure facilities the residents in Newton Leys would like to have in this area. Currently those plans include a substantial amount of the site dedicated to public open space, and we are aiming for a reasonable sized MUGA (with parking) and an informal playing field that is large enough for children to play sports on to the North of the site. A formal planning application has been submitted for that site.

S106 park in Stoke Hammond

We have received the results of some of our surveys over the 13 acres in Stoke Hammond we are proposing to purchase. We are hoping to submit a planning application by May. Once the purchase is finalised, we will start the more detailed part of the project to work out what to put on that site to benefit the whole community. Whilst on my holidays I have been having a close look at what other countries put in their parks, which have included climbing walls, skate parks, and even dog assault courses. This summer should start to see ideas for the site to be fleshed out.

Cllrs Mubasshir Ajaz & Craig Champion



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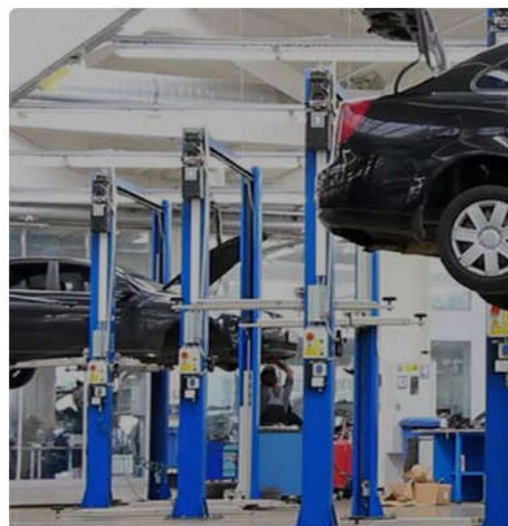


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LADIES THAT LUNCH

We had some absentees at the last one in March, though we still had a good number of people. The next one will be held on Tuesday 8 April at 12.30 in the Sports Club. Soup, rolls, cakes, tea and coffee will again be served.

Following the Bank Holiday weekend, Ladies that Lunch will be held on Tuesday 13th May same time, same venue. The cost remains at £3. This covers the rent and electricity used as well as the heating and hot water that David kindly puts on for us.

Jenny has offered to make homemade quiche and Salad during the summer months so a real treat will be in store for those that attend. She makes meat and in addition a vegetarian quiche as a rule. Heinz Tomato soup will still be available for those that prefer it. It would be very helpful if you could inform me or Jenny if you are unable to attend.

Please note my new email address is hmt270404@gmail.com My Hotmail account no longer works.

Hazel and Jen.

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Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys South Neighbourhood Plan Update

We have little to report at the moment. We are still waiting on the Council to provide details of their Reg 60 consultation. It's very frustrating as we can't progress without it. I expect to receive it before the end of next week.

We will then appoint an examiner with the Council. I'm still hopeful that the Referendum will take place this year, most likely now in the Autumn once the school holidays are over.

On a point of interest Newton Longville have recently successfully completed their referendum.

Malcolm Newing

Councillor Hammond Parish Council

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- 4 – Halloumi
- 5 – Cheddar
- 6 – Gorgonzola
- 7 – Gruyere
- 8 – Ricotta
- 9 – Roquefort
- 10 – Feta



Remember a loved one this spring with a Precious Pink Peony

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with the magnificent Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special Forever Flowers event to celebrate and remember loved ones this spring.

A stunning, temporary display of 1,200 bespoke metal pink peonies will be installed in the Rose Garden at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury in April. Each flower will represent the life, love and memories of a loved one.

The Charity is offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by dedicating one of these limited Precious Pink Peonies, and an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 28th April whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The installation will then remain on display to the public for three weeks. Once the installation is removed, those who have dedicated a flower will be able to take it home to display as a forever keepsake.

By dedicating a Precious Pink Peony, you will help us to provide compassionate local hospice care and be there for more patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Precious Pink Peony visit <https://www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers> or call 01296 429975 for more information.





CALLUM ANDERSON MP - Buckingham & Bletchley

Newsletter 17/03/2025

Local Visits



Last week I:

- *Attended the local derby between Milton Keynes Irish FC (speaking of St Patrick's Day) and Winslow United FC - obviously I stayed neutral!*
- *Chatted to local residents on the Badgers Estate in Buckingham with our brilliant candidate team for the Buckinghamshire Council elections.*
- *Stopped by the The Frank Moran Centre to listen into the West Bletchley Community Forum.*
- *Visited one of my favourite places in Bletchley – our beautiful Blue Lagoon Local Nature Reserve. I'm committed to ensuring the Blue Lagoon remains a welcoming, accessible place for all ages to enjoy (pictured).*

In Westminster

Among other things, last week I:

- *Spoke in Parliament during the debate on the Crime and Policing Bill, which I proudly voted in favour of.*
- *Voted to pass the Employment Rights Bill. These measures will introduce stronger rights from day one, including sick pay and protection against unfair dismissal.*
- *Joined colleagues to mark the International Day to Combat Islamophobia (pictured).*

Constituency Surgeries

My next surgeries will be taking place at the following:

- *Thursday 10 April. 9.30-11am - Winslow*
- *Monday 14 April, 9.30-11am – Buckingham*
- *Thursday 17 April 9.30-11am - Bletchley*
- *Friday 9 May 9.30-11am – Winslow*
- *Saturday 17 May 9.30-11am – Buckingham*
- *Friday 23 May 9.30-11am Bletchley*
- *Friday 30 May 9.30-11am - Winslow*



**Please head to my website:
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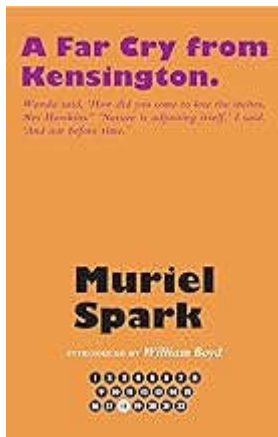
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



A Far Cry from Kensington - by Muriel Sparks



This book is all about Mrs. Hawkins who for part of it lives in a rooming house in Kensington. She believes in the truth without compromise and tells an aspiring and rather arrogant writer/poet in her circle that - he urinates frightful prose ! She has no idea of the repercussions but sticks to her opinion which results in the loss of several jobs in publishing and much more. It goes on to relate the twists and turns of her life which is both humorous, difficult and quirky bringing in a wealth of characters all with their individual stories.

The Group had widely differing opinions ranging from 'better than some we have read' to 'didn't really enjoy it', 'tedious ' to our token man with a few others who 'really enjoyed it'.

Some had read it before so it was second time round which resulted in one 'better this time' and another 'still didn't really like it'. It was described as an easy read. The several characters who were prominent were of some interest but it was felt that there were too many separate stories incorporated but relieved by some humour. Main character Mrs. Hawkins was liked and thought of as older than she was but the author went off on so many tangents the essence of the story got a bit lost. Not quite a page turner and the ending was thought to be too sudden.

Conclusion: Different theme but not really recommended.



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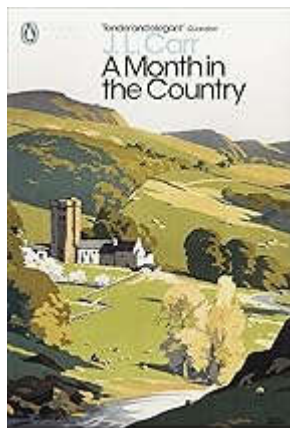
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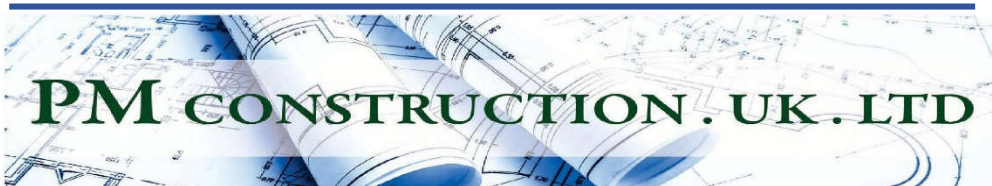
A Month in the Country - by J.L. Carr



The story is mostly about Tom Birkin - scarred by his WW1 experiences who is employed to uncover an ancient mural in a country village church. It is set in the 1920s and he takes on the job to help him to get over his war traumas plus the heartache of his wife leaving him. The whole location and life in a village are new to him and he invites us to share a long-ago summer in the English countryside.

Described as a Novella which won the Guardian prize for literature and also made in to a film.

Well, what a contrast with last books comments. All the Group really enjoyed it with adjectives such as 'wistful', 'beautiful', 'nostalgic' and even 'superb' although just one was not completely sure from the start but was soon won over. Several of us didn't realise he was writing it as an older man. Everyone agreed that the people who befriended him were all interesting characters with perfect descriptions of them and how his stress was reduced. Some were left wanting more but overall, a lovely read, well written, gentle, and even comforting. Great enthusiasm all round !!



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STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Our Annual General Meeting took place on the night of the night of Thursday 20th March with an amazing turnout of our members both old and new. It was lovely to see them all and catch up and although we were a bit crowded everyone took it in their stride and a good time was had by all. Members were welcomed by our Chairman Keith who then commenced the formal part of the meeting by introducing the

Secretary and Treasurer to give their reports

The Secretary's report of our activities reminded everyone of our events and trips in 2024 and assured the membership that plans were afoot for this year. The Treasurer, who had circulated the Club's Accounts, then went through them with explanations. The Chair then introduced the rest of the Committee who were happy to serve for another year and who were promptly re-elected. Memberships were renewed, the bar was open, the raffle was colourful and the light bites were all ready for later.

After the official business was over the Chairman introduced our Speaker for the evening - Maria Greenhill. Maria is a garden designer and she gave an interesting talk called 'How Designers plan a Border' to help us all produce stunning efforts with helpful rules of good design and useful advice all illustrated by some lovely slides. Everyone enjoyed her talk and listened intently. It was light hearted but full of excellent tips. There will be some gorgeous flower borders coming up this year !

The snacks were then enjoyed, the raffle called and off we all went after a most successful meeting.

COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE SPORTS CLUB



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STOP

the world I want to get off. Well perhaps not as we are fortunate enough to live in the good old UK. It's the rest of the world that seems to be in a bit of a mess. In the UK we have a democratic system. You may or may not agree with whichever party is in power but the end result is invariably much the same- a stable and peaceful country with a choice of just about everything in the supermarket from toilet rolls to smoked salmon.

I don't think this is the case for residents of Russia. Undoubtedly led by a Dictator – someone who has absolute power and has total control over a country with no checks or balances to prevent abuse of power. The present incumbent appears to be hell bent on the acquisition of territory for the purpose of increasing his domain.

The US on the other hand is led by a democratically elected leader albeit he only polled a fraction less than 50% of the vote in the last election (which system I don't profess to understand) and was only in a position to stand for election as a result of the amount of money he spent to get there. However, since being elected he has suggested that the US should be taking over Gaza, parts of Ukraine, Greenland, Canada -have I missed one? I'm tempted to think that the end vision for the US would not be so much different to that of Russia.

In conclusion, if I were to throw a dozen darts at a dartboard there is a chance that one of them might hit a treble twenty. On the same basis if one of President Trumps "election promises" comes to fruition let's hope it's to end the war in Ukraine.

Grumpy Old Man

High Ash Scout Group: Busy Nights and Bright Endeavours

The High Ash Scout Group has been making the most of the darker evenings with an exciting array of activities. A standout event this term was the



inspiring "Shackleton Talk" at the Stoke Hammond Community Centre, attended by over 100 scouts from across Milton Keynes. Delivered by one of our cub's uncles (the official expedition lecture custodian), the talk featured readings from original post-expedition scripts and

reproductions of slides from the 1914-16 expedition. Scouts and cubs were captivated by tales of improvisation, determination, and camaraderie, brought to life by artifacts from this legendary journey.

Throughout the term, the Scouts have been actively expanding their skills. They earned their Mechanics Badge by mastering tasks such as changing car wheels and conducting various engine checks. They also celebrated Pancake Day by lighting fires and cooking delicious pancakes. Their general knowledge was put to the test in the district scout quiz, where they placed mid-table. Additionally, they embarked on a series of fire and CO₂ experiments for the Science Badge, making raisins jump and snakes grow from sand.



Meanwhile, the cubs achieved their First Aid Badge, honing vital skills like bandaging, recovery positions, and resuscitation techniques. Creativity was on full display during themed craft sessions celebrating Valentine's Day, the Year of the Snake, and World Frog Day. A few cubs also



made a splash at the Rotary Swimathon, swimming an impressive 106 lengths to raise funds—an outstanding achievement!

Looking ahead, the group is getting ready for our Annual Easter Bingo evening, followed by preparing for exciting summer camping activities. As one of the charities currently being supported by the local Co-op, we were very grateful to receive a donation of £500, which will help us refresh our older camping gear. We are currently on the lookout for an old-style metal kettle which will have to endure many hours over open fires, as our current faithful kettle has been retired after many years of service. If you see a suitable kettle up for sale, please let us know!



Thank you to everyone who continues to support the High Ash Scout Group – if you want to join the adventure either as a young person 8-14 years, or as an adult volunteer, please make contact via join.highthash@mkscouts.org.

DAVE POLLINGTON

Lead Volunteer – High Ash Scout Group

dave.pollington@mkscouts.org

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the **Community Centre** or the **Meeting Room** for your party or business meeting. Discounted rates for residents of Stoke Hammond. To book or discuss your requirements please call **07555 711929** or email: **shcommunitycentre@gmail.com**



LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFO

www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com



Joyful Tots



Joyful Tots is an inclusive drop-in for parents, carers, those who are pregnant or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child. You can have a natter over refreshments and babies & toddlers learn to play.

Refreshments (inc. fruit) are included. Your first session is free, then £2 after that. We don't charge a termly fee because we know what it's like with little ones – you never know how they're feeling till the day.

We've had lots of friends join us this term, but there's still room for more! This term we've made Valentine's Day ladybug cards, decorated Red - Nose Day biscuits as well as our regular singing and story-time and lots more! Why not come and join us!



Our session hours are 10am - 11.30am on Friday mornings during (Bucks CC) term times in the side room at Stoke Hammond Community Centre



If you'd like more information please Call Diane 01525 270409 or Ashlynn 07930 240926 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)

St Luke's Church News

While it's been a quiet couple of months, we've nevertheless had our usual successful Community breakfasts in February and March, and a Prayer Walk, during which we met with several villagers and finished in the pub for a coffee. Our treasurer Sue, has spent time improving how donors can contribute to the church if they wish to. In addition to our card machines, we now have a QR

code which links to a website from where you can make a contribution through online or mobile banking. Cards with the QR code will be available at the Community Breakfast and in church. We've also started this year's Lent course studying "Women of Holy Week" and enjoying lunch refreshments while we do so. Each session can stand alone, so it's not too late to join us even just for a one off. Please contact Diane (below) for more details.

Forthcoming Special Services: (For further details, see the list of services elsewhere in the SH news)

Mothering Sunday: If you receive this in time!..We'll be celebrating on **30th March at 9.30am**. Please come along for this special Family Service to celebrate mothers. There'll be a small gift for mothers too



Café Church: The next one will be on **6th April from 9.30am** and we look forward to seeing you there. It's our most accessible service: after a light breakfast of bacon or sausage butty, cereal or croissants, during which you can join in the chat, a brief, Informal "service" (15 mins) with a discussion or something to think about follows with a prayer, and often a Bible reading or song. Everyone's welcome!

Palm Sunday: Our service is on **13th April** & we're meeting at **10.30am** on **The Green** and walking up Church Rd in time for the service to start at **11am**. Let's pray for good weather!



Easter Sunday: The **Easter Day Holy Communion** service will be at **9.30am** on **20th April**. This year the service will be led by **Rev Steve Barnes**. There will be some chocolate treats to share!



Family Service at Stoke Hammond Community Centre: There's a service at the Community Centre at **11am** on **25th May**. We hope you can join us!

Fundraising:

Unfortunately, we weren't able to find any more villagers to open their gardens so we've decided to rest Open Gardens this year. However, we are running our **Plant**



PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES FEBRUARY – MARCH 2025



In this section you will find details of planning applications received, comments made by your Parish Council, and any updates on previous planning applications.

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

25/00404/COUAR Paper Mill Barns, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

Prior notification application (Part 3, Class Q) for change of use and conversion of an existing agricultural barn into 1no. dwelling and demolition of adjacent barn and change of use of land to garden and parking space

This application was outwardly identical to one that the Council had previously had no objection too, and for this reason Cllrs again resolved that they had NO Objections.

PLANNING UPDATES:

24/02068/CPE Brook Farm, Leighton Rd, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DD

Planning permission reference 16/02432/AOP (Erection of up to 33 residential dwellings) granted on 05/03/2018 has been lawfully implemented.

This sought to prove work had started within 3 years from the date of approval for the erection of 33 dwellings. Your Council had submitted an Objection listing many reasons as to why works had NOT been lawfully started within 3 years. Bucks Planning thought otherwise and, on the 5th February 2025, issued a Certificate of Lawfulness determining works had indeed started within 3 years and thus the development can continue.

For further information and updates on these or other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website and then enter the application reference or use the map search facility: <https://publicaccess.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/online-applications//search.do?action=simple&searchType=Application>

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	Stocked with Excellent UK Brands		Got Questions? We Have 15+ Years of Knowledge to Call Upon

Visit us at
www.kittysrawrstore.co.uk



Sale on the Green on **26th April** starting from **9am**. If you'd like to place an order in advance, please call Dave on 07711026193. Other planned events include **Tea at Tyrells Manor** on **8th June**, the **Church Fete** on **21st June**, **Pig Roast and Barn Dance** on **19th July**, a **Beetle Drive** on **20th September** and the **Christmas Fayre** on **November 29th**. Please put the dates in your diary now to avoid double booking yourself! Contact Dave for details.

If you can't make any of our services or events, but want to give to the church please send a BACS to sort code: **20-57-40** ac no.**00869198** (Stoke Hammond Parochial Church Council) and tell us (treasurer.shpcc@yahoo.com) you've done so, adding your postcode & house name or number if you're able to gift aid your donation.

Church Activities:

LENT **Course:** As mentioned above, the Lent course is underway, but you are still welcome to join us for a soup lunch and discussion of a different "Woman of Holy Week" each week. Contact Diane for details.

This year as required, we're re-compiling the **Church electoral roll** from scratch. If you would like to be on the electoral roll and involved with the church, please contact a churchwarden. (see below).



Prayers: Our prayer group meets twice a month. We pray for the local community, individuals, and national & international issues. All prayers are in strict confidence. We're happy to accept prayer requests via cards at the Community Breakfast or church-wardens. Call us. (see below)

The next **Community Breakfasts** are on **12th April** and **10th May** at the **Community Centre**. As usual, profits from the May breakfast will be donated to **Christian Aid**. If you can't make it to the breakfast, you can still donate online at:

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-009429>



10.30am. As well as full English, we serve croissants, cereal etc. and we welcome your visitors too! There's no charge, but you can make a donation if you want. Food bank donations are also collected here.



The **Foodbank** in the church porch is free to all villagers who are welcome to use it **on an ad hoc basis**. If you're in desperate or regular need, there's a list of phone numbers in the porch for more support. There's also a family box containing family and duplicate items.



If you can contribute to the foodbank financially or in goods, please contact Dave or Diane Webber (see below) Items most needed include tinned casseroles/pies, tinned meat/fish, vegetable oil, cat food, sugar and milk.



Toy Swap Shop: in the church porch so feel free to use it. If you have toys, games or **children's** books that you no longer need, please donate them to the Swap Shop.

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Bible verse of the month: *Ephesians 4 v 29-32:* ²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

What does it mean?: These verses are from some instructions from St Paul on how to live a Christian Life. "Unwholesome talk" is not just profanity, it's any kind of insult or negative comments intended maliciously. If you need to give negative feedback, you should think about it beforehand and choose your words carefully. Allowing negative emotions to cloud your comments doesn't result in a positive outcome for either you or the listener! We've all been guilty of this, Christians or not, but if we speak from a position of love and kindness, our efforts are far more likely to give fruitful results.



Funeral information: New rules mean that crematoria are not offering a religious service by default: it must be specifically requested. The Rector can conduct a funeral service at a crematorium if you wish. Also, any village resident can be buried or have their ashes buried in the churchyard if wished (for a small fee). Memorial stones must conform to the Oxford Diocese regulations. Please note that rules regarding churchyard memorials have changed. If you'd like more details, please speak to the Rector or Churchwarden Harry Davies.

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

St Luke's offers baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact the Rector if you'd like to discuss any of these (contact details on the website). His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he can, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's times off are Monday, and Friday afternoon. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please call **Churchwardens: Harry on 07773065271 or Diane on 270409.**



MAP
(Not to scale)



YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Wing and Ivinghoe



**Inspector
James Davies**



**Sergeant
David Kuttner**



**Police Constable
Dionne Edwards**



**Police Constable
Jake Bye**



**PCSO
Tina Hobson**



**Special Constable
Sam Richards**

The neighbourhood policing team work with our local communities to make Aylesbury Vale safer

To contact your local Team call
101 or email them on

WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

You can also report an incident on our website:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

In an emergency always call 999

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TVPAYlesburyVale





News from Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident

17 March 2025

I hope this update finds you well. As ever, I want to make sure that you're up to date with the very latest information from the council, including progress updates on some important developments locally and nationally.

As I write this, after a lovely weekend before last, the weather has been bitterly cold. This will inevitably mean more damage to our roads. We have 21 teams out repairing defects but we do need to know about them, so please tell us about any defects you see via the council's website.

Ukraine Regional Partnership

To start with some good news, I am really pleased to announce that Buckinghamshire Council has signed a new regional partnership agreement with the



Kyiv region of Ukraine. This is an expression of solidarity and friendship, as well as offering the opportunity, with no financial commitment, to explore the opportunities for collaboration in the future, particularly around sharing information around areas of joint interest such as education, skills, business, culture and much more. This is similar to a twinning arrangement.

This is particularly appropriate given that Buckinghamshire has hosted over 2,000 temporary refugees from Ukraine. We were honoured to sign this agreement via a remote link this morning (Monday 17 March) and we look forward to welcoming a delegation from the Kyiv State Region later in the spring.

After all the difficulties the Ukrainian people have been through in recent weeks, I hope this will send a clear message that they are not forgotten.

Further changes to Planning rules

We have had more information from the Government this week around their wide-ranging changes to planning regulations, including proposing taking away powers from planning committees where developments of up to 100 homes are concerned, according to press reports. This will have a big impact on local people who may be concerned about a development nearby and want their genuine concerns listened to and decided by local councillors that they elect for this purpose. This will no longer be possible.

Also, very significantly for those in the south of the county, we are also being informed that there is a plan to re-define greenbelt land that separates villages as being available for development. This could mean that developers will be able to build on Green Belt land that currently separates villages, leading to them effectively merging and losing their separate identities.

The implications for a place like Buckinghamshire are enormous. I've already expressed my concerns around the approach to the comprehensive overhaul of the planning system, and while no-one disputes the need for more new homes, these should be the right developments in the right places and decided locally through Local Plans with the necessary infrastructure. I cannot overstate how these proposals would completely change Buckinghamshire on a permanent basis and I want to assure you all that we are responding back to Government to robustly outline our concerns about these proposals and lobbying for changes to be made in the proposed legislation.

Holding utilities firms to account over roadworks

Today, (Monday 17 March) the council's Cabinet submit an application to the Government to implement a Lane Rental Scheme (LRS) in Buckinghamshire. This is a major step towards addressing and ultimately reducing disruption caused by the growing number of roadworks. If approved, this would mean that the council will be one of the first local authorities in the country to obtain the relevant powers to deliver such a scheme.

Lane Rental powers enable an authority to charge those working on key roads, at the busiest times, up to £2,500 a day to occupy the most traffic sensitive parts of the highway network. The aim is to incentivise those working on the highway network to either move their works to less busy times, or complete them in a quicker timescale, to avoid accumulating charges. The result should help reduce congestion and create more reliable journeys for road users. The scheme would complement the existing permit scheme operated by Buckinghamshire Highways, and would only apply to selected roads, not the whole of the county.

Work on growth and our local economy

We have progressed a number of different strands of work under this theme in recent weeks. While a lot of our work quite rightly focusses on providing our day to day services for residents (bin collections, fixing roads, keeping town centres clean and safe) we are constantly working on plans and projects around the future of our county too.

This is about how we keep building a thriving local economy, have attractive town centres and how our residents can access good jobs and training opportunities. It's also about making sure our digital infrastructure is right and that all parts of the county can access good broadband and digital connections, something I've been particularly invested in championing and driving forward as too many of our rural communities are still being left behind on this front.

Last week we agreed a new Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity strategy aimed at addressing this very point and to make sure the right decisions are being made to ensure all Buckinghamshire communities have good access to digital connections.

Boosting local skills

Another important aspect of a thriving economy is to make sure the local employment market is flourishing. That we have the right people and right skills to fill local vacancies and that people are able to access opportunities to give them the

best possible footing into sustainable employment. We already run regular jobs and skills fairs and we have now approved a new approach to Adults Skills Funding. This is part of the devolution agreement that was established with the previous government and that we are progressing, to allow us greater power at a local level over our adult learning budget (currently held and managed by central government) to make sure we can offer courses where they will most benefit local people and the local area.

Improving our Town Centres

Boosting our local economy also involves regeneration and new development. I'm really pleased at the huge strides we are making in this area, with key improvement and transformation schemes already underway in both High Wycombe and Aylesbury Town Centres. It was good to be in High Wycombe last week to see the major improvements being made to the White Hart Street shopping area to give the whole location a facelift, encouraging shopper to stay longer and enjoy the area and maybe have a coffee or a meal. We are introducing upgraded paving and new planting and seating areas.

We will also be introducing camera enforcement of the parking regulations to stop the virtual abandonment of parked cars along the street that used to take place.

In the image: L-R Local councillor Lesley Clarke alongside Steven Broadbent, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Transport, Rachael Matthews, Deputy Cabinet Member for Town Centre Regeneration and Martin Tett, Leader of Buckinghamshire Council.

In Aylesbury Town Centre work is well underway creating a whole new district through our new 'Pavilion Quarter' shopping and cultural development, that will link the High Street and the thriving Exchange development and create new routes around the town.

This is a flagship scheme for Buckinghamshire which is significantly progressing on site. The demolition of the old building that occupied the space is nearly complete, clearing the way for the new development.



The second phase of the Pavilion Quarter will be for a temporary use while the council develops and engages with the community over the permanent use of the site, which will be developed as a place for independent business to flourish, with potential for live entertainment and cultural events, bringing new routes to better connect the town centre and rejuvenate the high street. This illustration shows the kind of layout that is being considered

VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 1 st April	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 5 th April	Sports Club AGM – Sports Club – 20.00
Saturday 12 th April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Thursday 1 st May	Bucks Local Elections - Community Centre 07.00 – 22.00
Tuesday 13 th May*	Annual Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.00
Saturday 10 th May	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30

* This date to be confirmed at the April Parish Council Meeting

For Church dates/times please see the 'Church Services' section

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs (Beavers)

Thursday 17.30 – 21.30hrs
Contact: Dave Pollington 01525 270864
dave.pollington@mkscouts.org
www.scouts.org.uk

Curious Cubs

Tuesday 12.30 – 14.10hrs
hello@curious-cubs.com
www.curious-cubs.com

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs
Contact: 01908 533404
enquiries@buttonspreschools.co.uk
www.buttonspreschools.co.uk

Louisa Harris Pilates

Monday day/evening
Contact: 07941 203589
Louisa.pilates@gmail.com
www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk

Chair Yoga

Wednesday 9.30 – 10.15hrs
Contact: Sally Peers 07766 756199
sallyyogalondon@gmail.com

Joyful Tots

Friday 10.00 – 11.30hrs
Contact: Diane 01525 270409
or Linda 07971 134497

To Hire the Hall please telephone 01525 270151 or e-mail: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

For 6 bimonthly editions: FULL Page - **£95.00** HALF Page - **£55.00** QTR Page - **£35.00**
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Buckinghamshire Council	0300-131-6000
Aylesbury Vale Area – Buckinghamshire Council	01296-585858
Registrar (<i>Births & Deaths</i>)	01296-383005
Registrar (<i>Marriages</i>)	01296-382481
Fly-Tipping on Roads	01296-382416
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	0800-999-7677
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 (<i>Kelly Harris</i>)	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Mubasshir Ajaz</i>)	07775 932925
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Phil Gomm</i>)	07778 117647
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Jilly Jordan</i>)	07740 308468
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Iain Macpherson</i>)	
	iain.macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
MP – Bucks & Bletchley (<i>Callum Anderson</i>)	callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk
PCSO Tina Hobson	07779 586565
High Ash School	01525-261620
St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>)	01525-261062
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>)	01525-270409
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>)	01234-822780
Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Mary Cottrell</i>)	01296 688741

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

Visit the new café at Black Park!

It's wonderful news that the new 'Four Seasons' café at Black Park Country Park is opening in the coming weeks. Using income generated from the park's usage, the new café has indoor seating, an outside terrace, an external sales point for takeaway snacks and drinks, and improved toilet facilities.

The Four Seasons café will serve a variety of hot and cold drinks, meals and snacks, with catering provided by the park's current catering company, San Remo. This will be in addition to the existing Lakeside Café – expanding the catering offer within the park. Another great reason to come for a visit!

We're also inviting businesses to express an interest in running 'pop-up' facilities out of our parks, such as coffee trucks, health food vans or 'bootcamps' and personal training sessions. We hope it will provide a trading opportunity for local businesses whilst also adding to the vibrancy and overall experience of visiting one of our many fabulous parks and open spaces.

Local elections 1 May

I'd like to finish by reminding residents we are holding local elections on Thursday 1 May 2025. I did want to emphasise this as elections in some areas have been cancelled by the government but this is **not the case** here in Buckinghamshire and our elections are going ahead.


This will be a vote to elect 97 Members of Buckinghamshire Council and councillors to Town and Parish councils where these are being contested.

Please make sure you are registered to vote and that you know which kind of ID will be needed at your polling station on 1 May. We have all the details you need on our website.


Because of the strict rules in place in the weeks before an election, this will be my final update to you before the local elections take place. Please do keep checking our social media channels and the [news section of our website](#) to keep fully up to date with everything Buckinghamshire Council is doing during this period.

Yours, **Martin Tett** Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

• GET IN TOUCH •



ONLINE
Click here for our
contact form



TELEPHONE
Call us on
0300 131 6000*

* Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 9am-5:30pm, Friday 9am-5pm. Phone lines are closed on bank holidays.

To keep up to date with the latest news from Buckinghamshire Council, please follow us on social media:



Buckinghamshire Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

buckinghamshire.gov.uk

EDITORS NOTE

Well, whichever way you look at it, we're now officially into Spring. With the Metrological Spring starting on the 1st March and the Spring Astronomical Equinox commencing on the 20th of March. Albeit, given some of the high temperatures we experienced at the beginning of March you might have thought it was already Summer!

But as it is officially Spring, I thought a shot of the daffodils on the Village Green with some of the homes beyond would make a nice front cover image.

We welcome three new companies advertising their services in this edition of the SH & NLS News, so one must assume that they feel this journal offers them good value for money and the circulation that will help promote their business.

May I please have copy for the June/July 2025 issue by the **23rd May**
 Greg Noble, The Birches, Church Road, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9BP
 01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE & NEWTON LEYS SOUTH

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 2 April		Wednesday 2 April	Wednesday 2 April
	Wednesday 9 April	Wednesday 9 April	
Wednesday 16 April		Wednesday 16 April	Wednesday 16 April
	Thursday 24 April	Thursday 24 April	
Wednesday 30 April		Wednesday 30 April	Wednesday 30 April
	Thursday 8 May	Thursday 8 May	
Wednesday 14 May		Wednesday 14 May	Wednesday 14 May
	Wednesday 21 May	Wednesday 21 May	
Thursday 29 May		Thursday 29 May	Thursday 29 May



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& Kidspace

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