

SH & NLS NEWS

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

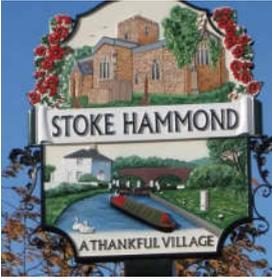
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CHURCH NEWS

APRIL/MAY 2021

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

No doubt when this edition of the SH News, or should we say **SH & NLS News** (more about that anon) landed on your doormats, the insert titled 'Bragenham Side Project' may well have fallen out. This is an important document guiding you through everything that has happened, or not, since your PC purchased with S106 funds back in 2017 the land on Bragenham Side that adjoins the Community Centre. Please do take the time to read this document and we very much hope you will join us in our open Zoom sessions scheduled for the evenings of Tuesday 13th April and Thursday 22nd April.

Now back to the front cover and the fact that it now reads **SH & NLS NEWS** which is a further continuation of the efforts to engage and recognise that Newton Leys South is very much part of our Parish. The cover also includes a picture of Newton Leys Willow Lake, and this this edition again includes a report from our Cllr Stephen McNally, a resident of NLS.

Having been delayed for two years, in 2019 because of the implementation of the new Buckinghamshire Unitary authority, and in 2020 when we were hit by Covid, County Council elections are due to take place on Thursday 6th May, which includes the election of Parish Councillors. The Parish of Stoke Hammond has positions for up to 7 Councillors and if this is something you feel you might be interested in doing, then as you can see from the adjoining page, please do contact the Parish Clerk asap as the closing date for submitting nomination papers to the Aylesbury Gateway offices is 4pm on Thursday 8th April. Should there be 7 or less nominations received for our Parish, then all applicants are automatically deemed to have been voted on as Parish Councillors.

So, what of other Parish matters, bearing in mind there have been two PC meetings (February and March) and please remember that copies of the full minutes from these and past meetings are available to view/download from the SHPC website www.stokehammondpc.com Well, as ever speeding/traffic calming is always something at the forefront of most people's minds and was something discussed at both the February and March meetings, but in slightly different ways. At the February meeting, the Clerk confirmed she had made enquiries with both Transport for Bucks (TFB) and Thames Valley Police (TVP) about the possibility of introducing a 20mph speed limit through the village but sadly, this was not something they were currently prepared to consider, and for the PC to take this on themselves, would be too costly an exercise. The PC therefore decided to investigate the installation of solar powered speed activated signs to the three entrance roads into the village. The Clerk at the March meeting advised that these would cost circa £3000 each including installation, but that the 'Bluetooth' downloadable data could prove useful in future discussions with TFB and TVP if we again asked about the introduction of a 20mph speed limit. It was agreed that funding sources would be investigated, that could possibly cover, or drastically reduce, the cost if we were to go ahead with these solar signs. There were of course planning applications to be discussed, and details of these and the Council's comments can be found in the 'Planning Applications' section, elsewhere in this edition of the SH & NLS News. Other items in brief from the two meetings were:

- With so many people now working from home and dog ownership/walking much increased, this has had a knock-on effect of extra demand on our dog waste bins and

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it was therefore agreed to increase the emptying of the 3 most used bins to twice weekly.

- Many of you will know about the complex of buildings on Dorcas Lane that were formerly part of the RAF Stoke Hammond Radio Station during WWII and as such formed an integral part of the Bletchley Park operation. It was requested that the village should formally recognise the importance of this RAF Station, and it was agreed that a memorial plaque would be added to the base of the village sign on the Green.
- The closure of the Layby on the Fenny Road is 'still on the cards' but there are concerns that this would increase the number of boats moored at Bragenham Side, with an increase in boater associated vehicles which is already causing major issues. There are ongoing discussions with both the Canal & River Trust and Bucks Highways, to try and establish the best way forward on this difficult issue.
- The Village Pump on the small green at the entrance to Church Road, is starting to look a little 'tired' since being refurbished some years ago. It is non-functioning, but the water source is still below. It was therefore agreed to investigate its possible replacement with something more fitting, although when photographs surfaced of the original pump, it was found it was not too dissimilar looking to the present unit, when many had expected it to be some form of ornate cast iron affair. Further consideration will be given to what we do in this regard.
- The new village entrance sign for the Newton Road is going to happen, but we still await the official confirmation from Bucks Highways, but because they have taken so long to actually issue this confirmation, Highways have said they will cover the cost of its actual installation.
- Several parishioners have raised concerns about the increase in fly tipping, which is something not unique to Stoke Hammond. Wherever possible, and rather than waiting until a Parish Council meeting, please if you can, take photographs and report it directly on the 'Fix My Street' website. The same very much applies to other road issues such as potholes, raised manhole covers and damaged/broken street furniture. 'Fix My Street' is the easiest and quickest way to report such matters.

The next PC meeting is scheduled for 7.30pm on Tuesday 6th April and will be the last with the present Council, for as mentioned earlier, the Council Elections are due to be held on the 6th May. It is anticipated that the Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) where the first order of business is to elect the Chair and Vice Chair of the Council will be held on the evening of Tuesday 11th May, but at the time of writing, there is still some uncertainty on the legislation for meetings held via Zoom after the 6th May. There is also the need to hold the Annual Parish Meeting, which in the past has been held on the same evening but prior to the APCM. Further information, once we know more will be announced via the PC website, the Village Green notice board and the SHPC Facebook page.



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

Joanna Simonds, Hollymill Cottage, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond, Bucks. MK17 9DE
Tel: 07818 016108 clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com www.stokehammondpc.com

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NEWS FROM NEWTON LEYS SOUTH (NLS)



It seems strange that we are still in some form of lockdown after 13 months, but as I write parents are walking past the window taking children back to school so things are hopefully starting to get back to normal. The daffodils are starting to appear and a bit of

colour coming back into view. I see removal vans arriving and people asking for boxes on Facebook all the time so welcome to the new residents. Please get involved with this great community and Parish.

The local shops, public houses and restaurants will be hopefully opening soon, and I encourage you to shop local and eat out where possible to support the local businesses, eateries, and pubs.

Landfill Site

The Landfill owner, FCC has filed an appeal against the planning decision made by Milton Keynes Council (MKC) and Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC) not to allow the site to remain open for another 15 years. The decision to appeal was expected and there is a group working behind the scenes to raise awareness of the issue and let you know what you can do to help, so keep an eye on local online forums for more information. If you notice unpleasant smells please contact the landfill directly or the council, contact details can be on the Newton Leys Community Facebook page.

Art Installation on Callow Mound

Work on the “Alphonso” art installation on Callow mound will start again soon, work was stopped due to COVID-19 legislation and it is hoped the team will be back onsite to complete the works and unveil the art works in the spring.

Become a Parish Councillor

Local elections will take place in May and it would be great to see more representation on the Parish Council from Newton Leys. We encourage people to volunteer and get involved to support your local community. If you would like more information, please contact the Clerk of the Parish Council, Joanna Simonds

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Litter Picks

The “Rev” (Reverend Ben Thorpe) will be organising litter picks very soon across Newton Leys, following COVID-19 guidelines. Please do get involved and help keep our community clean and tidy.

Newton Leys West

A planned meeting to outline planning proposals for Newton Leys West was cancelled on the 23rd March. We will keep you updated on new dates when we receive them from the developer. This proposal is for essentially for another development of a similar size to Newton Leys, which would be in the fields to the right and left of Stoke Road leading into Newton Longville.

That’s all from me from me for this time. Have a great Easter and enjoy the Bank Holidays!

Councillor Stephen McNally.

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Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



17 March 2021

Dear Resident,

It's really positive to have all Buckinghamshire children back in their classrooms and we're continuing to see COVID 19 Infection rates fall across Buckinghamshire too. Whilst the lockdown has been a big factor in declining infection rates, we are also seeing a rapid fall in the rates for the over 65 year olds, which is most likely due to the roll out of the vaccine. Nearly 210,000 vaccine doses have now been given in Buckinghamshire, a fantastic achievement in this short space of time. Nevertheless, there is about half the adult population of the county still to be vaccinated. Therefore, we need to remain vigilant as restrictions ease to prevent a 'third spike' later in the summer or early winter.

The restrictions will change from Monday 29 March. From that date 'stay at home' will be lifted and we will be able to meet others in groups of up to six, or as two households, socially distanced, **outdoors only** including in private gardens. I'm sure many of us are thinking ahead to Easter and while we all deserve a break and an enjoyable time, please make sure you keep within the guidance, which doesn't change a great deal other than to allow more people to meet safely outdoors as the school holidays start. You can read more about the full roadmap on the Government's website.

Vaccines

Vaccination appointments are now open for anyone aged 50 or above and people can book their jab themselves via the national system without having to wait to be contacted – the details are on the NHS website. Some people are being alerted that they can book their vaccine via text, so while it's important to be on the look out for scams, please be assured that this is genuine. If in doubt do check with someone you trust. **The NHS will never ask you for money or for your bank details and you do not have to pay for your vaccine.**

If you are the main carer of someone who is elderly or disabled and at high risk if they catch COVID-19 you can also get your vaccine. If you are an unpaid carer make sure you register with Carers Bucks so you don't miss your invitation to get your appointment.

There has been a lot of publicity this week about some precautionary pausing on vaccine use by some European governments. Please do not let this put you off having the vaccination when offered. Both vaccines licensed for use in the UK have been through rigorous safety checks. Millions of doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been received in the UK following months of clinical trials, and the overall safety experience with both vaccines is as expected. Serious adverse reactions are rare and are in line with other types of routinely used vaccines. **Please do take up the offer of your vaccine when it's your turn, as the risks presented by COVID-19 are far greater than that of any vaccine.** Importantly the World Health Organisation continues to advocate use of the AstraZeneca vaccine as does the European Medicines Agency (EMA), which has said that there was "no indication" the jab causes blood clots. If you need any further reassurance then please read [the latest response from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) which approves all medicines for use in the UK, including the COVID-19 vaccine. You can also read more about the [COVID-19 vaccine on the NHS website](#).

New support grants for businesses

I know many of our local businesses are facing ongoing hardship because of the COVID-19 restrictions. I'm pleased to be able to say that we've directly helped nearly 3,000 local businesses through our "Additional Restrictions" grant scheme. While other councils have sat on their funding, we've focussed on trying to get every penny out to help local businesses, meaning we've paid out more than £14 million to date for this grant, one of the best rates in the country. We are currently awaiting news from the Government of any further funding for this scheme, and we hope to announce details on our website soon.

In total Buckinghamshire Council has spent over £100m on all business support grants. Please look out for news of the new [Business Restart grants scheme](#) that should be opening from next week. The 'Local Restrictions' grant scheme is also extended until 31 March – you can read all about the help available on the [business support section of our website](#).

Regular COVID-19 testing for school communities

All households with someone regularly going into school - including staff and pupils of all ages - can access regular asymptomatic testing, and I urge you to take advantage of this. The more cases we can pick up, the easier it will be to stop any potential outbreaks in their tracks and ultimately, this will help us keep more pupils in the classroom and infection rates down.

These households can test regularly by either visiting a site in person or collecting some test kits to do at home. If it's hard to travel to a test site then you can get test kits sent

to your home. To find out more, including locations of test sites, check the [information on the Government's website](#).

Anyone who has regularly been using our Buckinghamshire rapid test sites please note the opening hours have changed - [please check our website for up to date information](#). Anyone who is leaving their home to work or volunteer can get tested regularly through our four rapid testing sites, so [please use this service](#) and help us keep everyone safe.

Stay safe and keep going

As I said earlier, until the vaccine roll-out is complete, we need to continue to take care. Also remember that the vaccine is only about 90% effective and not everyone has taken up the offer of vaccination. Therefore, the risk of transmission and illness, whilst reducing, still exists. Please continue to do your bit to stay safe. Where possible, keep the windows open and let plenty of fresh air in and let's all keep doing what we can to move the roadmap forward. Every action makes a difference and moves us in the right direction, from wearing your mask to keeping your distance, shopping alone, washing your hands and carrying your sanitiser and avoiding social contacts where you can. Please get your vaccine when your turn comes.

Continued communication

Because of the forthcoming local elections on Thursday 6 May, the next email updates you get won't come direct from me, but please be assured we will continue to give you all the information you need about the pandemic as we move forwards and hopefully continue to progress through the Government's plans to open things back up again.

Keep looking after yourselves and each other,

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



Buckinghamshire
Council



Stay safe, protect Bucks

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STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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It's AGM Time!



Tuesday 18th May

7.30pm via



You are cordially invited to login to our AGM to find out how we have been coping over the last difficult year and our plans as we come out of the Covid lockdown. Your input will be most welcomed.

Zoom Login Details, which can also be found on the Community Centre Website and will posted closer to the date on the SH Facebook Page.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86436858288?pwd=WVUUrZINtV2MyZng3czhCSTJJTnI3UT09>

Meeting ID: 864 3685 8288 Passcode: 423223

The management committee comprises of the following positions: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Parish Council Representative and Secretary. With the exception of the Parish Council Representative, the management committee is elected at the AGM. If you are interested in being considered for one of these positions or as a volunteer member, please submit your nomination to the address below. Nominations need to be with the SHCA secretary no later than the 4th May.

Ann Payne – 12 Phoebes Orchard, Stoke Hammond, Milton Keynes. MK17 9LW
email: shcommunitycentre@gmail.com

WE ARE MOST PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT BASED ON THE GOVERNMENT'S CURRENT COVID ROADMAP OUT OF LOCKDOWN AND SUBJECT TO ANY IMPOSED RESTRICTIONS, THAT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IS OPEN FOR BOOKINGS AGAIN FROM JULY 1ST



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What a busy time the children have had this half term! They've celebrated St David's Day, and St Patrick's Day, Mother's Day, World Book Day and Comic Relief!

Our Forest School sessions have been equally busy. The children have been planting bulbs and seeds, and working as a team to care for them. We have also been busy with rock painting, den building , bug hunting, climbing ,digging and exploring . They have created fairy houses , snail houses, and finished off the week with making kites to fly in the wind. We also visited the allotment to observe the area where we will begin to plant some vegetables.

We now offer 8.30am- 3.00pm provision, with our afternoons spent outside in our incredible Forest School space. We have access to play parks, woodland, an allotment, and our amazing new outdoor classroom!

TINY ASHES!

From Mid-April we are starting 2 new parent and toddler morning Forest School sessions – get in touch for more information!



The End of the Tunnel?

March 2021 and there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel. It's not a very strong light and I'm not sure how long the tunnel is. It's suggested that Hospitality will be opening up in the foreseeable future. If that means sitting in a howling gale in a cold pub garden, I don't think I am looking forward to it. I have a small wager with a friend that pubs won't be open until August. And when I say open, I mean a chap (or chappess) can go into any pub, stand at the bar and talk cobbles to someone he's never met before.

But in the meantime, I have been making lists on a daily basis. This is not so much that I might forget what I need to do but it's something to look forward to. The excitement of crossing off jobs is indescribable. The difficulty is thinking of what to put on the list in the first place. Does "that" count as a job or is it something I should do while walking around the house? No that IS a job so I can write it down and cross it off. Item 1) make a list. Cross it off - job done!

You only realise how much you go out when you can't. And when I look back and think where I would have been going it seems perhaps that I didn't need to go anyway. To be honest I'm trying to think of anything I can't get given a bit of forethought. Food shops are open. DIY stores are open. Wine merchants deliver. And Amazon seems to sell everything. So life is not too bad but bring back pubs and curry houses. It's no wonder the country's economy is going downhill.

Grumpy Old Man

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Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

THE Lindens

Here at The Lindens our residents have been keeping active with a wide range of activities from Bingo and music to quizzes and gentle exercise classes.

On the 1st of March it was St David's Day and our residents prepared for the day by making gold and orange daffodils from card, decorated with gold glitter. These were then mounted on straws and used as part of their music and movement session on St David's Day.



Our residents have also been crafting hearts in wool. First the template was made in coloured card and then wool was wound around the heart, making a lovely decoration.



Residents here are due to receive their second Pfizer BioNTech vaccine shortly and many of our staff have received their second vaccine already.

If you are looking for a career in Care or to develop your skills further, give us a call we will be pleased to hear from you.

With Best Wishes

Michael Hannelly

Director

The Lindens

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

Tel 01908 371705

Email: info@careatthelindens.co.uk Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"



As I write this the sun is shining through the kitchen window and the greenhouse is full of flower seedlings, onions, peppers, chillies and Tomatoes. I've watered all the trays, potted on my Lobelia, rudbeckia, asters, angel wings, marigolds, dahlias, onions etc etc. The vaccination programme is flying, deaths and cases are significantly down and we look forward to a gradual easing of lockdown. What could go wrong (EU

banning exports of covid vaccinations - idiots demonstrating and fighting the police aside). Spring is here and let's focus on the busiest time of year.

If you have never grown anything from seeds then now is a great time. Choose a couple of your favourite veg and a few of your favourite flowers / herbs to start with. If you have no borders to plant in don't worry. Nearly everything can be sown in pots and containers - really ! You can google anything on "how to grow" and follow the instructions. However a few must do's should be followed and these are: use fresh seeds, use only tap water when starting off seeds, use clean pots and tools (diseases and bacteria hang around), fresh seed compost or multi purpose compost, have a warm, light windowsill and set aside 5 minutes a day. Yes only 5 minutes. I often hear that people are too busy but unless you are growing hundreds of plants as I do, you don't need much time.

So, choose your favourite flower / veg / herb / salad. As a beginner you probably want to choose things that are easy to grow, so check my "tougher to grow list at the end "or buy plug plants from a nursery where some of the hard work has been done (more expensive to do, not so much fun in my opinion but easier to do).

So, let's choose to grow peas,

potatoes, courgette and tomatoes. Peas, the easiest, can be sown in a length of guttering and once germinated slid into the ground, or directly into the ground



or in pots from anytime now. Sow every 4 weeks for longer eating. Take a big pot, fill with compost, water, push peas a centimetre into soil, cover with a little more soil and keep warm and in the light. If doing this from May just keep outside in the sun. Keep watered. Push a few canes in the ground or pot and train the peas up the canes with string. Pick and eat when ready 8 weeks or so later. Keep picking to encourage more growth. Courgettes - start off the seed in a 3 inch pot filled with compost, water, shove seed a centimetre in, cover and keep warm. Do not put courgette outside until mid-May. It hates the cold. Pot into bigger pot or plant in ground - keep watering and feed with liquid tomato feed every week. Keep cutting courgettes when small to encourage many more fruits - more than you can eat normally.

Tomatoes I normally sow from beginning March but it's not too late. Sow in pot with fresh compost, put in plastic bag and put on windowsill - keep moist. Once germinated (5 days or so) take out of bag but keep warm and in light (very



important). Pot on once 10 cms tall into bigger pot. Toms can go out in sunny site from mid-May. They will need staking and training up the canes, feeding every 2 weeks and you will need to cut the growths directly out of where a leaf joins the stem. Otherwise, you will have hundreds of side shoots that the plant can't support. The trusses full of flowers and fruit grow out from

the stem but NOT directly above or from the joint of a leaf. You must support the stem, tied into a cane as the fruits get really heavy. Do not put the plant out too early in a grow bag or very large pot. Water every day.

Lastly spuds. Let's do this in a very large pot. 15 cms of compost in bottom with some general fertiliser, place 3 seed potatoes and cover with another 15 cms of compost and water. Once you see a few green shoots appearing add more compost to cover. Keep doing this until you get to the top. You can do this from April, keep soil moist, in a sunny spot outside. In 12 weeks for first earlies, you can start helping yourself to your lovely spuds. Seed potatoes can be bought from all garden centres. All simples really.

Flowers from seeds are all very similar. Read the instructions on the packet, but be careful of the following. Annuals only last the year you sow them (sow February in pots in the warm), harden off outside April / May and plant. Many annuals are not frost hardy so don't plant them out too early or you will lose

them. Enjoy the flowers through the summer and dig up at the end of flowering. Perennials last for multiple years - but some flower the year after sowing, so read the packet otherwise you could be staring at lovely leaves wondering when they are to flower and what you did wrong. A lot of flowers can be sown directly outside where they are to grow, but make sure soil is dug over and weeded and moist when sowing. All grow brilliantly in pots.

So my list of more difficult veg to grow is just to make you aware that some veg takes 9 months or more to mature (Brussel sprouts for example), some are difficult to germinate (parsnips), some cannot be planted out before June and depend on a warm summer (melons), some are just little devils (cauliflowers...the), some are attacked by invisible fly (carrots) and some get attacked by cabbage white butterflies and can eat your crop whilst your back is turned (all Brassicas). Some just need loads of space (sweetcorn) and some need a greenhouse or a really warm, protected part of the garden to crop well (chillies, peppers, aubergines).

Lastly, I've mentioned it before, but I will enclose my photo of what I've done. I



I love parsnips but they are notoriously difficult to germinate, so this is what I do. Save loo rolls, or make containers out of paper. Fill with seed compost, water and stack in a tray. Place 3 seeds in top of each roll and cover with compost. Stack in a tray and keep moist inside. When/if, seeds germinate acclimatise seedlings outside for a few days and then

bury the whole roll in your prepared bed. Pinch out other seedlings once 6 cms tall. If no seeds germinate after 4 weeks then resow. Keep moist. The wait is worth it. I'm still pulling up and eating last year's parsnips. Again, details on the web.

My list of "more" difficult veg is parsnips, Brussels, cabbage, cauliflower, melons, chillies, peppers, aubergines, sweetcorn. I grow them all but you need to take precautions (netting for example) against pests, amount of space, heat dependency and time in the ground.

Next issue I hope to have pictures of the germinators and what we have grown, swapped and planted out.

Take care *PAGEY*



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ongoing offers & packages**

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to work out from the clues, the names of famous singers or groups.

- (1) ELTON JOHN (2) MATT MONROE
(3) THE HONEYCOMBS (4) WHITNEY HOUSTON
(5) SIMON AND GARFUNKEL (6) JAMES BLUNT
(7) ROD STEWART (8) SANDIE SHAW
(9) THE THREE DEGREES (10) SAM SMITH



Something a bit different now – can you work out the names of some famous board games from the clues provided.



- (1) Long slippery reptiles and a way of scaling heights.
- (2) Who was murdered, with what and where?
- (3) Buy up all the property you can and make the others bankrupt.
- (4) Pick the right square and sink your opponent's vessels.
- (5) World domination by way of diplomacy, conflict and conquest.
- (6) Strive to build the contraption first and catch a rodent.
- (7) A surgeon you might not be but you need a medically steady hand to win at this game.
- (8) Resembles a crossword but there are no clues!
- (9) The synonym of an 'insignificant chase' should give you the name of this game.
- (10) You don't necessarily need to eliminate all your opponents to win this game, just trap the leader so he has nowhere safe to go.

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.



Would anyone in the village be interested in a Book Exchange in view of the fact that we no longer have a mobile library. This could possibly take place in the Community Centre or the Sports

Club (depending on permission from either of these two venues). It would be totally free, and would work by a person bringing a book (or two or three) they no longer want and swapping it for a book/books on offer.

I am very happy to oversee this idea, but would like to know if it appeals to anybody in our Community first.

Please contact Linda Carr by email or phone:

lindacarr4851@yahoo.co.uk or 01525 270274



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St Luke's Church News

Review:

Lent course: During Lent we have been following a course called “**Come and See**” devised by our own Bishop Steven of Oxford. Although the Lent course has now finished, this series of 5 short videos on **You Tube** will be of particular interest to anyone who might be interested in finding out more about Christian faith. You can find the videos at oxford.anglican.org/come-and-see & scrolling down. Make sure you start with the 1st one though!



Mother's day flowers: As usual this year we delivered potted primulas to ladies in the village on Mothering Sunday. There are many more ladies in the village we'd like to deliver to, but with only one family delivering, and over 40 plants to deliver (often with a much welcomed chat!), we have to draw a line somewhere! Apologies to those who feel they've missed out. Please get in touch if you'd like to be added to the list for next time. If you'd like to help deliver on another occasion, we'd love to hear from you too!



Virtual services: We've been enjoying our services online recently. It's not the same as a live service, but it's good to see all our friends and neighbours weekly! Hopefully we'll be sharing live services in future.

Ongoing Activities:

Food Bank: We are setting up a “**family box**” which will have baby/ children's food and larger packets or pairs of tins of the same item so that families can eat the same meal. We're always grateful for food donations and whilst it's generous to donate spare loose teabags or pasta you may have from large packs in your own bags, they haven't been popular with customers and tend to remain in the box until they have to be removed. However, tinned meat and chicken meals, corned beef, soup (in cold weather), baked beans, tomatoes, potatoes, sugar, tinned fruit, rice pudding, custard, toothpaste, sanitary products and sensitive bladder towels are always in demand. Please ensure they fit in the sealed boxes in the porch and are within sell by dates. We've had to throw several donations away recently, as they



High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

April 2021

Back to School...!!!

We are absolutely delighted to have all the pupils back in school once again. We have been incredibly proud of all the children so far and for the remainder of this term, we are focusing on Easter and how we can use the message of Easter to let our light shine. We will be launching our 'Easter Cards for the Community' project with the support of our local churches and we are very grateful to them in supporting us with this initiative of reaching out to those more elderly residents and spreading some Easter messages of hope and comfort.

The School Fundraising Committee HASA have been working hard behind the scenes these past few months hosting some virtual events to boost funds for the school. The Committee are looking forward to holding events where we can involve both the parents and the local community as soon as we are able to. In addition, Summer Term will see the children hopefully being able to enjoy more after school activities and participating in inter-school sports competitions once again!

We hope all residents and families are continuing to stay safe and well.

Sarah J Boyce

Headteacher
headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk

STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB

HELLO to all our members. We hope you are keeping safe and well.

You will have realised that regretfully we have been unable to hold our AGM this year due to the Pandemic. This is particularly unfortunate as, although the AGM is an official meeting, we always see it as our first get-together of the year when we can all meet up again and discuss plans for the Club in the months that follow.

So, for your information we would like to inform you that the Committee has taken the responsibility, in accordance with the Club's constitution, to combine the AGMs for 2021 and 2022 next year and the Accounts for both years will also be combined.

The Committee has agreed to remain in office with Gordon Clay as our President and as soon as it is allowed, we intend to hold a committee meeting to get things organised and to make arrangements for the Club's activities. We will have so much catching up to do but are really looking forward to it. Hopefully it seems that things are improving so let's keep our fingers crossed and trust that we can get in touch again soon with some definite plans and arrangements.

Looking forward to seeing everyone before too long.



were years out of date! Vegetarian food e.g. canned beans and tinned vegetarian meals are also available. Supplies are topped up weekly so if you'd like to use the food bank, even for a one off or on temporary basis, please do!

Prayers: Although the prayer group is temporarily suspended, we're still taking prayer requests and are considering going "virtual". We're well aware that prayer is still needed now as much as ever, if not more! If you have any matters you'd like us to pray for, please contact a church member (details below).



Services:

For many weeks now, we have suspended services in church following advice from the director of Public Health for Bucks Council. However, infection rates have recently dropped considerably, so we've decided to start live church services again. As before, one service per week will rotate around our benefice



(our "family" of parish churches which includes Brickhills: Great, Bow and Little). Services begin again on **Palm Sunday, 28th March**. The service will be held at St Mary's, Great Brickhill at 10am. Each parish will have its own service on **Easter**

Sunday, 4th April though and ours will be at **9am at St Luke's**. As the

Rector will be taking a service elsewhere, our service will be led by Licensed Lay Minister Jeremy Hopkinson who'll offer **Holy Communion** bread by extension (as the C of E has disallowed sharing the common cup during the pandemic). The next live service at St Luke's will be **10am Holy Communion on 25th April**. Numbers will be limited for both services to ensure that we can maintain social

distancing, so **if you'd like to attend either service, please contact Diane Webber (below) to reserve a place**. Sadly, we don't have confirmed dates for future live services, (which are subject to ongoing lock down release dates) but when agreed, we'll post dates on the benefice website and advertise on the village Facebook page. If you aren't online and would prefer a phone call, please let us know.

The Rector is still producing a reflection, which is published on the village Facebook page or can be emailed to you on request. Both the weekly reflection and children's bible story videos (read by the Rector or church member) are being uploaded to **You Tube**. Links are on the benefice website (see following page)



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“Church at home” is an online service, a link to which can be found by searching “Oxford Diocese Church at Home”. You can access it by phone if you can’t get online by calling **01865 920930**. Standard call rates apply.

Fundraising:

We don’t have many events planned for this year, but have just confirmed the **Plant Sale** will be on **8th May** as well as an ongoing table in Church Rd over the summer. All being well, we’ll hold other events during the summer which will be advertised on the village Facebook page and elsewhere. If you’d like to be added to the church email list, please let us know.

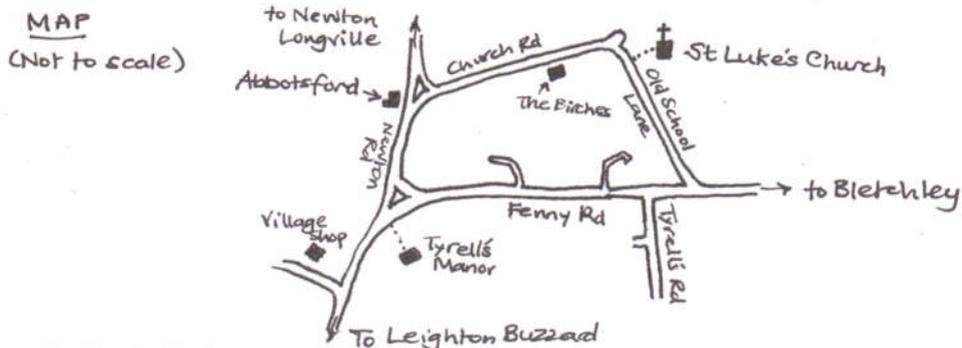
Bible verse of the month: James 1v19-20: *¹⁹ My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, ²⁰ because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.*

What does it mean? In these difficult times, when most of us are obliged to spend more time in confined spaces with our family, it is easy to lose one’s temper at the slightest often unintended offence. As Christians we are asked to both “hold our tongue” when we feel like lashing out and to “cut each other some slack” when others are unable to do so. Although this is a double burden, we can be sure that it is God’s wish and that righteousness will be a blessing to us.

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



St Luke’s usually offers baptisms, weddings and funerals which are still available under strict limitations. Please contact the Rector if you’d like to discuss any of these. The Rector’s contact details are on the website. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he’ll reply as soon as he’s able, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector’s day off is Monday. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**



PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES FEB & MAR 2021



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

21/00064/APP 8 Brookfields, Stoke Hammond MK17 9FR

First floor extension over double garage.

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION but as this is a recent new home, with caveat that any legislation and developer rules are abided by.

21/00045/APP Orchard End, Hillersdon Chase, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DH

Demolition of existing garage and the erection of a new garage building.

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION with the caveat that this garage must not at a future date be converted into a separate dwelling.

21/00143/APP Three Locks Golf Club. Partridge Hill, Great Brickhill MK17 9BH

Change of use for the siting of an additional 119 lodge style caravans, landscaping and ancillary works.

Although not a Consultee for this application, Cllrs agreed, to raise an objection comment to this application on the following grounds:

- *This application would be sited on an area of great attractive landscape and the open countryside.*
- *Being on a flood plain, the area is prone to flooding.*
- *The narrow winding access roads with no footpath are inadequate to deal with the inevitable substantial increase of traffic that would result from a development of this size, with resulting weight capacity issues for the project traffic.*
- *The issue of sanitation and foul sewage disposal is not mentioned in the application but should be an area of concern.*
- *There would undoubtedly be access issues for emergency vehicles.*
- *The biodiversity effect of lost hedgerows, fields and open views.*

In conclusion, this application, situated on a flood plain, is too large a project, that would massively encroach both physically and visually on the open countryside and wildlife

21/00288/APP Common Farm, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 0EB

Change of use of Land and Buildings.

Cllrs voted in favour of NO OBJECTION with the caveat that there should be a sign to say that HGV's should only exit to the northerly direction and NOT go through the village.

21/00353/APP Land Off Mount Pleasant, Stoke Hammond MK17 9EX

Erection of two over 55's Bungalows.

With the PC having already submitted a letter of support for the Mount Pleasant residents' application for this land to be designated with Village Green Status, the PC were minded to OBJECT on the following basis:

- *Two previous applications to build on this land were rejected on appeal by the planning inspectors, who concluded development of this space would have a detrimental impact on the character of the village. They further concluded the open space was clearly designed to be a Village Green and should be maintained as such. Sections of the local development plan GP35 and RA14 were referenced, and this is supported by the emerging VALP in policy sections D2, BE2 and BE3*
- *In Section 3 of the VALP, Stoke Hammond is classed as a medium village. The latest VALP submission has shown that Stoke Hammond has made the second largest completions and commitments in this category amongst 19 villages and has no specific future allocation in the plan. There is no identified shortfall in housing for any age group in the village, which has grown considerably in size over the last 5 years and*

consequently this green space is an increasing asset to village residents.

- Reference, to support the application, is made to sections 5.53 and 5.37 of the VALP which relate specifically to assisted living and nursing homes and therefore has no relevance to the application, The development has been categorised as “market housing”, with no special age-related category and in any event, there is nothing in the emerging policy that references “People of 55 or over”.

- The applicant has regrettably overlooked all the guidance in the NPPF Open Space and recreation section, the development plan GP86, the VALP section NE7 and the councils strongly worded commitment to Green Infrastructure in I3. None of which has been taken into consideration when assessing the green space in this application.

- This piece of land is currently subject to an application (submitted in Dec 2020) to be designated with Village Green status which the Parish Council supports.

In conclusion, this loss of valuable green space that residents have enjoyed for nearly 30 years would have a hugely detrimental effect on the village. For this, and the reasons outlined above, Cllrs believe the harm caused by this application massively outweighs its benefits and strongly recommend the application be refused

PLANNING UPDATES:

CM/0018/20 Bletchley Landfill Site, Guernsey Road, Newton Leys, Bletchley MK3 5FR

Continuation of the development at this landfill site at variance to conditions 2 & 4 attached to planning permission 95/1362/AWD to extend the operational life of the site. *There were many objections including that of the PC to this application for a 15-year extension to the operation of this site. Milton Keynes Council refused the application on many grounds, but the applicants have now put in an appeal to overturn this decision.*

For further information/updates on these or other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website entering the application reference or use the map search facility - <https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>



Statement from Buckinghamshire Council

Dated 18 March 2021

Oxford to Cambridge Expressway Cancelled

We are delighted to hear the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway has been cancelled.

The vast, motorway style road would have run across northern Buckinghamshire linking Oxford to Milton Keynes.

Martin Tett, leader of Buckinghamshire Council said “This is great news for Buckinghamshire and its residents. The Expressway would have torn a large hole across some of the most beautiful countryside in the county with little benefit to local residents. What we need is investment in local roads, used by local people to ease congestion, not another mega project that will just bring environmental destruction”

See Next page for a statement from Greg Smith MP for Buckinghamshire



Since 2019 Greg Smith MP has fought tooth and nail for the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway proposal to be ditched – and is delighted to report that the government has now formally cancelled the project.

After being selected as the Conservative candidate for Buckingham in October 2019, Greg immediately made the case to Transport Secretary Grant Shapps in person against the Expressway, leading to Mr Shapps visiting Buckinghamshire to announce a review of the scheme.

Since being elected, Greg has raised the case against the Expressway multiple times in Parliament and continued to press Transport Ministers to formally drop the project following its formal “pausing” in March 2020.

As no work has been progressed on the scheme at all in well over a year, last month Greg wrote Grant Shapps a letter urging him to finally and formally scrap the Expressway scheme altogether, to give Buckinghamshire residents the peace of mind that the destructive environmentally damaging project will never be built. And today (18th March 2021), the Department for Transport have formally announced the cancellation of the project.

Greg said “I’m delighted Transport Secretary Grant Shapps has listened to my very grave concerns about this scheme. I have lobbied ministers hard. The enormous devastation that would have been caused to Buckinghamshire countryside is totally unacceptable. East West Rail will improve links. There is no need for this road scheme.

“I want to thank all local residents, Councillors and campaigners that have made their voices heard in making the case against this road. This is a hard earned victory. Residents have already had to endure, in many cases, unnecessary damage to their local surroundings due to the retrograde way in which HS2 Limited and their contractors have acted.”

“It is great news for everyone in Buckinghamshire that this unwanted Expressway scheme has been cancelled. It is now imperative we work out locally what improvements to existing local roads we do want to see and work with government and Buckinghamshire Council to agree what we need and want.”

Commenting, Transport Secretary Grant Shapps said: “Since his election in 2019, Greg Smith has led the campaign for the cancellation of the Expressway, which would not have worked for local residents. I confirmed to Greg today that I had taken the decision to formally scrap this project, so we can instead focus on transport that will help create jobs, boost links within the region and which, crucially, enjoy public support.”

VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday 4 th April	Easter Sunday Service – St Luke’s – 09.00*
Tuesday 6 th April	Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Tuesday 13 th April	Parish Council New Land Consultation via Zoom – 19.30
Thursday 22 nd April	Parish Council New Land Consultation via Zoom – 19.30
Sunday 25 th April	Holy Communion Service – St Luke’s – 10.00*
Thursday 6 th May	Council Ward & Parish Council Elections
Tuesday 11 th May	Annual Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Tuesday 18 th May	SH Community Association AGM via Zoom – 19.30
Tuesday 1 st June	Parish Council Meeting – Venue/Zoom tbc – 19.30
Saturday 24 th July	Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea – Community Centre

* Please see the Church News Section in this edition for further details.

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Innovations

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Contact: Yvonne 078846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 152269

AT THIS PRESENT TIME AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BUTTONS PRESCHOOL, THE CENTRE REMAINS CLOSED TO ALL HIRES. IT HOPED HOWVER TO REOPEN THE CENTRE TO ALL FROM THE 1ST JULY 2021. WE LOOK FORWARD TO WELCOMING YOU ALL BACK.

Thursday's 09.30 – 12.30hrs

Contact Deborah Johnson djartworks@hotmail.com

To Hire the Hall please telephone 07555 711929 or e-mail: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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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>Jo Simonds</i>)	07818-016108
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>)	01525-270744
County Councillor – Gt Brickhill Ward (<i>Ben Everitt MP</i>)	07738-314100
County Councillor – Gt Brickhill Ward (<i>Scott Raven</i>)	07841-560877
MP - Buckinghamshire. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296-714240
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>Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly</i>)	01525-240589

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITORS NOTE

So, in the last edition I was saying here we are back in Lockdown, and now we're starting to come out of lockdown and only few days away from the reopening of non-essential shops (I can get my haircut – hoorah) and we can sit outside at pubs to enjoy a drink and some food. Let's hope the route map out of this pandemic continues and we can all get back to some sense of normality.

The 'eagle eyed' amongst you will have noticed a slight change to the front-page heading in that we've gone from the **SH News** to the **SH & NLs News**. This is very much to acknowledge that the residents of Newton Leys South are part of the Stoke Hammond Parish community, a move we started in the last edition and continue in this with the 'News from Newton Leys South' produced by NLs resident and Stoke Hammond Parish Councillor Stephen McNally.

May I please have copy for the June/July 2021 issue by the **20th May**
 Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB
 01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE

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 31 Mar	Wednesday 31 Mar	
Thursday 8 April		Thursday 8 April	Thursday 8 April
	Wednesday 14 April	Wednesday 14 Apr	
Wednesday 21 April		Wednesday 21 April	Wednesday 21 April
	Wednesday 28 April	Wednesday 28 April	
Thursday 6 May		Thursday 6 May	Thursday 6 May
	Wednesday 12 May	Wednesday 12 May	
Wednesday 19 May		Wednesday 19 May	Wednesday 19 May
	Wednesday 26 May	Wednesday 26 May	
Thursday 3 June		Thursday 3 June	Thursday 3 June



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