

# SH & NLS NEWS

**Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South**

INSIDE THIS EDITION:  
NEWS FROM NEWTON LEYS SOUTH  
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
THE BOOK CLUB  
CHURCH NEWS  
MAVIS'S QUIZ  
GOM & MUCH MORE

**April – May 2024**

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# Brickhills and Stoke Hammond Churches

## Sabbath Rest

Dear friends,

From April 13<sup>th</sup> until the end of June I will be on sabbatical leave from all my normal duties in our churches and villages. The principle of sabbath rest, drawn from the laws of the Old Testament, is not just about having one day of rest each week, but about building patterns of rest and renewal into our lives in many different ways.

Our diocese invites clergy to apply for sabbatical leave after each period of ten years in full-time ministry. I am very grateful for the help and support of many people that has made it possible for me to do this. I see it as a privilege, and I am aware that many people would like to do something similar, but are not able to.

I am looking forward to a rest, and a change, and space to reflect on my years in full time ministry, and living and working here, and to seek God's guidance for the future.

The sabbath pattern of rest is part of God's wisdom for all of us, and there may be simple ways in which all of us can build some times or moments of rest and renewal into the pattern of our lives.

*Revd John Waller*

## ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO MAY 2024

### APRIL

7<sup>th</sup> April: 06.00pm Said Compline - JW

**Note:** *To be followed by the APCM at 06.30pm*

14<sup>th</sup> April: 11.00am Family Service - DW

21<sup>st</sup> April: 09.30am Morning Worship - JH

28<sup>th</sup> April: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - tba



**JW** – Rev John Waller

**DW** – David Webber

**JH** – Jeremy Hopkinson

**GE** – Archdeacon Guy

### MAY

5<sup>th</sup> May: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - GE

**Note:** *To be held at St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill*

12<sup>th</sup> May: 11.00am Family Service – tba

19<sup>th</sup> May: tba Pontecost Service (Whit Sunday) - tba

26<sup>th</sup> May: 09.30am Holy Communion (Trinity Sunday) - tba

APCM – Annual Parochial Church Meeting

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

Please note that our rector John Waller is on a sabbatical from 14<sup>th</sup> April To 2<sup>nd</sup> July. The Churchwardens are happy to handle any urgent queries.

**Details and any late changes to church services are posted on the Benefice Website:**

**[www.brickhillchurches.org.uk](http://www.brickhillchurches.org.uk)**

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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

It is obviously always very sad when a Parishioner leaves this world, but when that person has been someone who has been an influential and important part of the Community, it is only fitting and right that the PC find some way of providing a permanent reminder of that person. You may recall that we did sadly lose Margaret Aitken last year, who was born in what was the old village shop in 1925 and spent the majority of her life in Stoke Hammond and of course wrote the 'Stoke Hammond Yesteryear' book and was the organist at the Methodist Chapel for some 80 years. So, when the PC was approached by the developers of The Mellows site for ideas for a street name for the new entrance road, which coincidentally runs right alongside the old Methodist Chapel, we immediately thought of Margaret and proposed this as a suggestion, and we're most pleased to advise that the street will indeed be called Aitken Close. As a PC we have recognised that there should perhaps be a more formal and public consultation process for things like street naming etc and are currently formalising a proposal for same.

Sadly, we must also report on another recent loss and the passing of John Spires, who although not a Stoke Hammond resident, did for many years serve as the Clerk to the PC and subsequently moved on to carry out a similar role with our neighbouring Parish of Soulbury. On behalf of all those who knew John, we offer our sincere condolences to his family and close friends.

When it comes to planning items, we normally refer you to that section elsewhere in this publication, but the matter of Brook Farm Close and the land to the rear of the existing development up towards the railway, probably deserves more detail and attention. As mentioned in the last PC News the application 22/00613/APP for the erection of 42 homes was causing much controversy, but perhaps first it might be useful to go over some of the history relating to the development of Brook Farm Close. In fact, we have to go back to 2012 when the first planning application for 40 homes went in based on the demolition of the original Brook Farm bungalow, noting this application did not include the aforementioned land adjacent to the railway line. This application was first refused in January of 2013 but subsequently approved on appeal in July 2014. The development went ahead, subsequently followed by further new homes on Brookfields and Kessler Close, but still no proposals for the land in question. But in July 2016 a planning application (16/02432/AOP) for 33 homes was submitted to which there were many objections such as over development, lack of green space/recreational facilities and excess traffic on Brook Farm Close. However, planning permission was granted in March 2018. It was not until February 2022 that this latest application for an increase to 42 dwellings was submitted. Noting, that in theory the original planning permission for the 33 homes had now exceeded 3 years and thus expired. This application for 42 dwellings would only further expand on the previous concerns for the application for 33 homes, and despite many further objections including from your PC the Planning Officer was recommending that this latest application be approved. This was obviously not acceptable so with assistance from two of our Unitary Councillors and our own request, the application was 'Called In' such that it would be debated at the North Bucks Development Control Planning Committee meeting which was held on the 13<sup>th</sup> March. Ultimately the Committee were sympathetic to the arguments raised by the Parish Council and local residents with respect to the lack of sufficient major Open Space, Incidental Open Space and a Local Equipped Play Area (LEAP) Space and also the failure to

demonstrate that a measurable net gain in biodiversity can be achieved on site. 11 of the committee with 2 abstentions voted to refuse the application. The applicant does of course have a right of appeal if they want to follow that course, but interestingly and reverting to the now expired application for 33 homes, on the very next day after the Planning Committee Meeting an application (24/00850/CPE) was logged on the Bucks Planning Portal for a Certificate of Lawfulness. This basically related to the original now expired application for 33 homes, but suggesting with supporting photographs and other material matters those certain conditions had already been undertaken within the 3-year time frame and thus the application was still valid and not expired. Watch this space as they say for further updates.

We are pleased to say that the Neighbourhood Plan Public Consultation meetings that were held in both Newton Leys and Stoke Hammond were very well attended with much feedback received, but for more details and latest updates please head to the Neighbourhood Plan Section.

For those that use Facebook you will no doubt have seen the volunteers who helped plant the new Community Orchard in Newton Leys South on the Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March. The trees were sourced as part of a grant scheme with the planting materials being provided by the PC. The weather was extremely kind that day but the previous heavy rains did mean the spades did not need too much force to dig out the ground for planting. Please head to the Newton Leys South section for some pictures of the successful planting.

There have been two PC Meetings held since the last PC News and other than items already covered, here are some of the main points from those two meetings:

PC Meeting held on the evening of Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024 attended by all 7 Councillors, Clerk and 11 members of the public (MoP).

- *Cllr Noble advised a MoP had expressed to him about their concerns with the Newton Road/Drayton Road junction and that they believe more signage is needed as you approach the crossroads. It was also suggested that the speed limit is reduced to 40mph. Cllrs agreed to approach Bucks Highways about this.*
- *There was quite a lengthy discussion regarding a recent change to the Constitution that governs the operation of the Community Centre as managed by the Stoke Hammond Community Association (SHCA) a registered charity, and in particular the removal of the need for a PC representative on the management committee. It was agreed that further dialogue would be required between the PC and the SHCA.*
- *In an update from the Sports Club, we were advised that the club is doing well. Youth pool evenings have started and are well attended. The SHFC Vets' team are doing well. The PC was asked whether any S106 money would be given to the Sports Club as they would like to build a toilet block and improve their kitchen facilities. Cllr Champion advised that the S106 project is being worked on and the Sports Club will be contacted in due course.*
- *During the Public Participation session, a question was asked about the situation with the grass area outside of Mount Pleasant. Our clerk confirmed she had written to the owners asking them to cut the grass, but the requests have so far been ignored. Whilst another MoP raised their concerns regarding the path widening by Tyrells Manor. Cllr Newing advised that the Council were happy with the commitments that had been made by the contractors in relation to the section 278 document which had itself been shared with the MoP. The MoP requested a copy of the Section 278 document, which Cllr Venn agreed to supply.*

Now to the PC Meeting held on the evening of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March attended by 5 Councillors (apologies received from 2), Clerk and 9 members of the public (MoP).

- *Under Finance the PC agreed to appoint Brian Fludgate as Internal Auditor for the 2024 audit period. During the same session the Annual Review of both the PC's Financial and Management Risk Assessments was undertaken and approved and likewise the same process was undertaken and approved for the PC's Standing Orders.*

- *Following a person having a fall on the unofficial parking area at the bottom of Old School Lane the Clerk had been asked to speak with Bucks Highways to find out if it could be made safe. Highways had replied to say that cars should not be parking on this land which is owned by Bucks Council, but as the residents are blue badge holders, they should apply for disabled parking.*

- *Some concern was expressed about the new bus shelter on the Fenny Road in that its design did not actually offer any shelter. But it was explained that whilst the PC were invited to choose the materials of its construction the actual design with no side panels was very much dictated by Bucks Highways.*

- *During his update on the Newton Leys Management Company Cllr Champion confirmed that he has finally received the financial information he has been waiting on. He now feels he is very close to being in a position to negotiate with the PC regarding the possibility of adopting the area the management company is responsible for, and if this happens, he can then fold the company.*

- *During the Public Participation session, a MoP raised concerns regarding sewage entering the canal from the pumping station located by the lay by on Stoke Road. Anglian Water have been made aware of the situation but are yet to respond. The sewage is starting to enter the neighbouring field. The whole aspect of the poor state of the lay by and whether anything could be done about it was again raised. Cllrs confirmed the lay by is owned by Bucks Highways and has been the subject of many discussions and broken promises in the past. Cllr Newing said he would arrange an on-site meeting with all interested parties, specifically Highways, canal and River trust and Anglian Water, in an attempt to resolve the issues of concern.*

With regard to next PC Meeting dates and if you're reading this edition over the Easter Bank Holiday weekend, then you're in time to be made aware that the April meeting is being held on the evening of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April but at the Newton Leys Pavilion, Furzey Way, Newton Leys MK3 5SP. Start time is 7.30pm and as usual members of the public are most welcome to attend. As regards May, well this is a double header, as it is both the Annual Parish Meeting and the Annual Parish Council Meeting, back at the more normal Community Centre, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9DB location Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May with a slightly earlier start time of 7.00pm.

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

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: [clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com)

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

#### **YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.**

Cllr Malcom Newing (Chair) - [malcomnewing@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:malcomnewing@stokehammondpc.com)

Cllr Craig Champion - [craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com)

Cllr Fran Sharkey - [fransharkey@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:fransharkey@stokehammondpc.com)

Cllr Greg Noble - [gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com)

Cllr David Venn - [davidvenn@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:davidvenn@stokehammondpc.com)

Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz – [mubasshirajaz@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:mubasshirajaz@stokehammondpc.com)

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## Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys Neighbourhood Plan Update

*The 'Walk In' sessions for the Neighbourhood Plan all went ahead as planned during the early weeks of the Regulation 14 Consultation on the Pre-Submission version of the Neighbourhood Plan. The sessions were well attended allowing steering group members the opportunity to clarify any issues Parishioners had with the plans.*

*The consultation period has been extended until the 11<sup>th</sup> of April to allow for Easter and to give all statutory consultees reasonable time to provide their formal feedback.*

*The Reg 14 consultation is a very important stage of the overall process as it gives parishioners and consultees the opportunity to influence the final document before it is sent to Bucks Council for their consideration. Parishioners are encouraged to provide both positive and negative feedback which will all be considered by the Steering group. So far 35 written feedback forms have been received and all of these will be given due consideration and receive a formal response once the consultation period ends on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April.*

*Earlier this week I attended the North Bucks Planning committee, with Kim Balmer, they who were considering the latest application for 42 homes on the Brook Farm estate. The planning officer had recommended acceptance and we were arguing that the application be refused. I'm pleased to say that the committee, based on the evidence presented, determined to refuse the application. During the discussion a few councillors stated it was unfortunate that a Neighbourhood Plan did not already exist for Stoke Hammond as it would, almost certainly, have prevented the application from reaching that stage. This demonstrates how important the activity is and why we are asking for the support of all parishioners. This will be most important when the finally*

*agreed Neighbourhood Plan is presented for adoption via a Local referendum later in the year.*

*Malcolm Newing  
Chair to the NP Steering Group*

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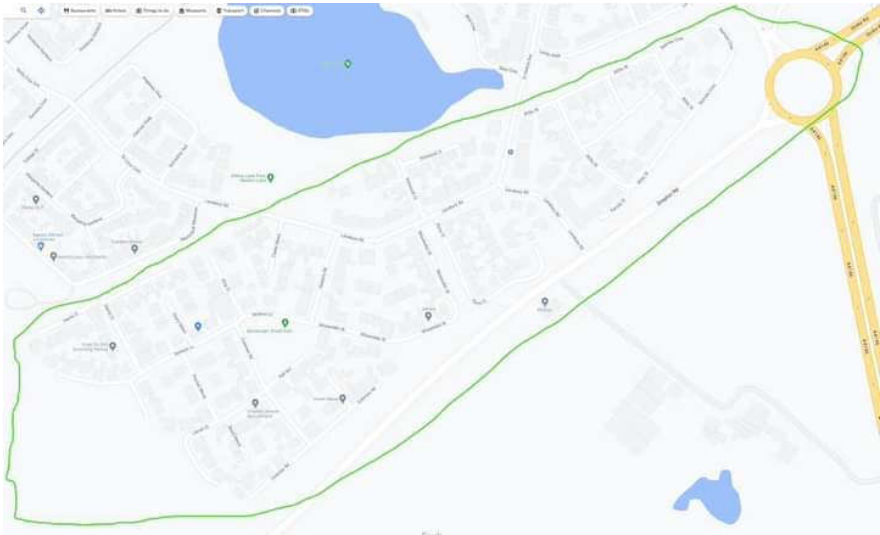
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## WELCOME TO THE NEWTON LEYS SOUTH SECTION



### Community Orchard

We would like to thank everyone who helped us plant 200 fruit trees in the public open space around the outside of the estate.



We planted them from two locations and had over 35 volunteers of all ages. The weather was perfect (which isn't something we can take for granted). Everyone had a great time and we were finished in two hours.

Hopefully, the trees can flourish and we can all get some of our five a day for free each summer.

Councillors Venn and Ajaz's help was invaluable, enabling everyone to concentrate on planting.

We planted cherry, a few types of pears, several types of plum, a couple of types of apricot and lots of varieties of apples.

The trees were funded from a grant from the Forestry Commission with some additional funding towards planting costs from Stoke Hammond Parish Council.

### Newton Leys Management Company

Kieron Duggan and I are now the directors of the company, but it has a contract with Firstport.

Firstport didn't get its unenviable reputation without justification. Even though Kieron and I are in charge it is proving very slow work to get Firstport to complete simple tasks and respond to requests.



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However, we have finally managed to get to the bottom of the private lights that 16 houses are being charged for. I have been speaking to those residents to work out how to go forward if we collapse the management company.

As I write this Kieron and I will be discussing with Stoke Hammond Parish Council how we can have it take over the management companies' responsibilities (this is called adoption).

We are hoping to take it to the Parish Council meeting on 2 April to agree the adoption. If we can meet that deadline, we can serve three months' notice of termination to Firstport and the Parish Council will be able to take over.

Kieron and I will be in touch by mid April for next steps, but they will include one final service charge bill to be paid by everyone. I am also hoping for it to include a small additional charge to allow every resident to remove the restrictions on their title deeds, so they won't ever need to pay additional fees when moving. This will make houses on the estate easier and cheaper to buy and sell.

### **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE PAYS THIS LAST BILL AND ALL ARREARS PROMPTLY.**

There are currently 14 owners who are behind on service charges, can I please ask that they get those accounts up to date by the end of April. Firstport will continue to pursue debt collection actions against owners not paying.

No one likes paying Firstport but it is currently a condition of owning your house. The restrictions on title deeds will only be removed for those properties that have paid all arrears and the final payment by the deadline.

I would like to thank Kieron for his help and support since last May in getting to where we are, and residents for taking the time to discuss various issues that have arisen to allow us to be in this position. Hopefully, by the time you read this Firstport will be on its three months notice period.

### **Investment in Newton Leys community spaces**

Stoke Hammond Parish Council has agreed to install an outdoor table tennis table and picnic bench in Dickens Lane Park (and also a defibrillator once the lamppost by Hall Green is fixed by Bovis/Vistry). There will also be a picnic bench and park bench installed around the outside of the estate, together with some dog waste bins.

It has also agreed to fund up to 12 grit bins and is waiting for approval of the locations by Bucks County Council.

These improvements together with the community orchard means over £15k has been invested in Newton Leys this year.



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**The next Parish Council meeting is on 2 April at the Newton Leys Pavilion.** We hold some Parish Council meetings at Newton Leys Pavilion. We are hoping for a good turn out of local residents for the Management Company decision.

### **S106 project**

We have been doing a lot of work in the background to be able to start using the s106 money that developers have paid for houses built in Newton Leys and Stoke Hammond.

We are hoping to start organising working groups from May to help plan what we want to use the money for.

If anyone is passionate about helping develop leisure, recreational or outdoor/nature spaces then please let us know. We'll be asking for people to get involved during April/May.

We really need people from Newton Leys and Stoke Hammond to work together to help us create something absolutely awesome for residents.

We are looking to be really ambitious, and want you all to help shape it.

Keep an eye out for updates on the Newton Leys South or Stoke Hammond Facebook pages in the next couple of weeks.

***Councillor Craig Champion***

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# STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



The first event of 2024 was the Club's AGM held on Thursday 14th March at the Sports Club and despite the rough weather we were delighted with the terrific turnout.

There were a few more official tasks to complete than usual as our Chairman of many years - Gordon Clay - had stepped down

and Keith Chambers had kindly agreed to take over as Chair. Although Gordon couldn't be there both the Committee and membership wanted to thank him for all his support and hard work and he assures us that he will still want to be actively involved with the Club. The Secretary's Report was followed by the Treasurer's Report and we took the opportunity to thank the Parish Council for granting us a donation and to Malcolm Brown for auditing the accounts for us.

Everyone then welcomed the new Chairman and Keith took over the remainder of the official business from our Treasurer Alex Franks who had done a sterling job of holding the fort. Also, one of our members - Di Sim - had left the Committee and we therefore introduced Beryl Hine who had been co-opted to join us. As with Gordon, Di intends to remain an active member of the Club and she was also thanked for all the help she had given. So, having welcomed Beryl our Committee was complete and was duly voted in for another year.

We always like to make the evening a combination of necessary official business and socialising and so, after a break for refreshments, we launched in to the Quiz. Some thought it reasonably easy and others said it was a bit hard but there were a good variety of questions and everyone happily joined in. Every table completed their answer sheet which was marked by their neighbour. Those on the winning table each received an individual Easter simnel cake beautifully made and presented by our 'Artistic' committee member Laraine.

It was wonderful to see old friends again and to welcome new members. We did as much catching up as possible with a promise that, with signs of Spring on the way, the Committee will be meeting soon to arrange events for 2024 and will be in contact with everyone before too long.

## **OPENING TIMES**

**Monday 9:30-2:30**

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# Scouts



## High Ash Group



The cubs have been busy since January creating traditional knot boards and earning their Home Safety badges. They have finished the term by completing their artist badges with some imaginative junk model mascots!

Meanwhile the scouts have taken part in a District quiz with scouts from all over Milton Keynes, practiced their pancake making skills and spent an evening playing Dungeons and Dragons. They will end the term with the hugely popular group annual Easter Bingo competition!



Our trustee board are looking for nominees for a new treasurer. This voluntary role would suite someone with around an hour to spare each week especially on a Thursday evening when the group meets. We have an app to help with the paperwork and our accounts are very basic – if this appeals then please contact our chairperson ([Anthony.McGee@mkscouts.org](mailto:Anthony.McGee@mkscouts.org)) for more information.

# LUXURY NARROWBOAT HIRE

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Website: [www.theepicboatingcompany.co.uk](http://www.theepicboatingcompany.co.uk)

### DETAILS



3 Double Beds



Living Area



Kitchen



1 Shower Room



2 x Wc's





# Scouts



## High Ash Group

We are also looking for adult volunteers to help support the group. For more information please make contact with Amanda McGee via [join.highash@mkscouts.org](mailto:join.highash@mkscouts.org).



### DAVE POLLINGTON

Group Scout Leader (Baloo)

[dave.pollington@mkscouts.org](mailto:dave.pollington@mkscouts.org)



High Ash Scout Group

MK District Scarf

## 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](mailto:shcommunitycentre@gmail.com)



**DETAILS AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE**

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



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# MAVIS'S QUIZ

In case you missed them, here are the answers to the last quiz where you had to identify the TV Soap Character, naming the Soap they were in, and the actor who played them:



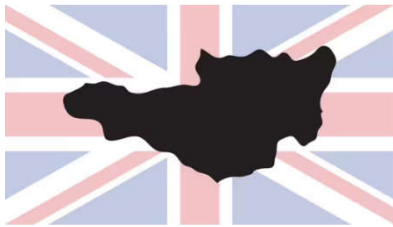
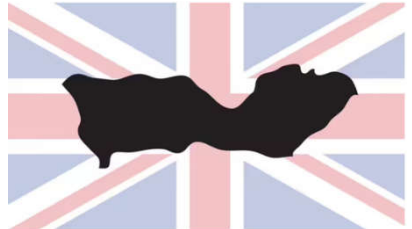
- 1/ **Eastenders**, Den Watts, Leslie Grantham
- 2/ **Coronation Street**, Ena Sharples, Violet Carson
- 3/ **Crossroads**, Meg Richardson, Noele Gordan
- 4/ **Neighbours**, Charlene Robinson, Kylie Minogue
- 5/ **Brookside**, Bobby Grant, Ricky Tomlinson
- 6/ **Emmerdale**, Rodney Blackstock, Patrick Mower
- 7/ **Dallas**, Sue Ellen, Linda Gray
- 8/ **Casualty**, Max Christie, Nigel Harman



*Something a bit different this time in that can you identify the English County from its outline and accompanying question, with 4 possible answers.?*

1/ Which southern county is this, whose county seat is Wokingham?

- Staffordshire
- Cornwall
- Berkshire
- Wiltshire



2/ What County is this, where you'd find the town of Frome and the stately home of Longleat?

- East Riding of Yorkshire
- Somerset
- Cambridgeshire
- North Yorkshire

3/ What's this southeastern county known as 'the garden of England'?

- Kent
- Northamptonshire
- Derbyshire
- Worcestershire



4/ Can you name the county depicted here, where Prince Charles has his home, Sandringham?

- Cambridgeshire
- Northumberland
- Staffordshire
- Norfolk

# STOKE HAMMOND LOCAL STORE & POST OFFICE



**Opening Hours:**

**Mon-Sat: 6.30am till 9.00pm**

**Sun: 8.00am till 9.00pm**



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Sandwiches & Ready Meals	Fruit & Vegetables	Stationary Items

## Other Services:

- \* Pay-point/Top up services will be available.      \* Cash machine will be available.
- \* Photocopying      \* Pies & Coffee will be introduced in the morning.





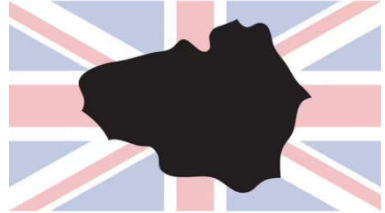


5/ Can you name this county that is where the Bronte sisters lived?

- Rutland
- North Yorkshire
- Derbyshire
- Devon

6/ There are two Premiership teams and a major BBC office in this urban county. What is its name?

- Herefordshire
- Greater Manchester
- Hampshire
- East Riding of Yorkshire



7/ The most powerful dukedom in England is based in this county. What's it caked?

- Wiltshire
- Somerset
- Northumberland
- Derbyshire

Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found on the 'Planning Section' Page



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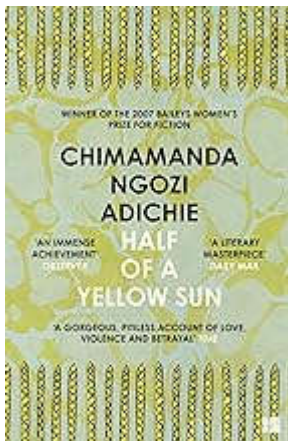
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## STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



### **Half of a Yellow Sun** - by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



The book, which won critical acclaim by winning the Women's Prize for fiction in 2013 and being made into a film shortly afterwards concerns the events of the Nigerian Civil War (also called the Biafran war) and the years preceding it. The action therefore takes place in the 1960s in Nigeria and is a complicated love story and a story of war. The effect of the war is shown through the relationships of 5 main characters including twin daughters of an influential business man and a Nigerian houseboy. There are innumerable other characters of note all with stories to tell and whose lives are torn apart and unimaginably changed by the events of the war.

It was a challenging book to read with very small print and lots of detail. If it had been in normal size print it would have been like War & Peace as it was a very large book ! One of the group listened to it on audio and found it preferable to reading it ! Although some struggled to get through it several still described it as well written and packed with information which opened up previously unknown knowledge about Africa. Two of the group had had experience in the area, one by teaching a student from Nigeria and the other through contacts at school and college and both felt the book had therefore been of particular interest to them. Everyone had their favourite character but overall Ugwu the houseboy, man and boy, was extremely popular.

*You can find the continuation of this review and that for book two over on the next page.*



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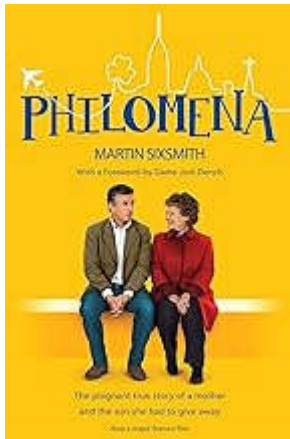


## Half of a Yellow Sun review cont/d...

There were comments about it being overly long and perhaps too graphic regarding the war and was also accused of running out of steam in the second half but it was well written and the author was described as a 'good story teller'.

Conclusion - rather heavy going but certainly worth the effort.

## Philomena - by Martin Sixsmith



The true story of a Mother and the son she had to give away. This was a compelling and deeply moving narrative of human love and loss. The cruel treatment of pregnant young women in the Ireland of 1952 (and for many years to come) who were sent to a convent and badly treated as fallen women. Philomena cared for her baby for 3 long years until the Church took him from her and sold him to Americans for adoption. Apparently the making of money this way was a frequent occurrence. She spent the next 50 years searching for him unaware that he too was desperate to find her. His name was changed and he became a top Washington lawyer and a leading

Republican in both the Regan and Bush administrations but he was a gay man, which needed to be concealed in those times, and it seems that his early years affected his happiness throughout his life making him feel that despite his success he had no right to be happy. He sadly died of Aids before he could be reunited with his birth Mother. He wanted to be buried to be in Ireland so at least his Mother could visit his grave.

We had all heard of the book and seen the film starring Judi Dench and Steve Coogan but our recollection of it was rather hazy. We were horrified at the cruelty inflicted on the Mothers and the heartless selling of the children by the Nuns where, in some cases, Christianity seemed to be put to one side. Even those who had read it before found it hard to put down and everyone was hoping for a happy ending - which never came ! It was described as sad, well written and a good fast pace but some were confused having expected to learn more about Philomena and her search than details of Michael's life in America.

Conclusion: Well written, a unique story and memorable.



# Stoke Hammond Service Centre Bletchley

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## SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL AREA

To spread some cheer this year, Fine Homes Property has teamed up with the Brickhill Bistro to bring you some delicious treats.

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Over 22,000 email and social media account hacked

Data from Action Fraud, the national fraud and cybercrime reporting service, shows that **22,530 people** reported that their online accounts had been hacked in 2023, with victims losing a total of £1.3 million.

## How are accounts hacked?

### 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 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 the promotion of various fraudulent schemes, while impersonating the original account owner.

### Leaked passwords and phishing

The other predominant method of hacking reported is leaked information used from data breaches, such as leaked passwords, or account details gained via phishing scams. 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.

 **STOP**  
**THINK FRAUD**  
NATIONAL CYBER CRIME REPORTING CENTRE **Action Fraud**  
National Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
www.actionfraud.police.uk

How to **Secure**  
your email and  
social media  
accounts

Actionfraud.police.uk

## LADIES THAT LUNCH



Ladies that attend Ladies that Lunch were extremely shocked to learn of Denise's sudden and totally unexpected death last month in Milton Keynes University Hospital, following her trip to her daughter and new baby grandchild in Australia. Denise and her young grandson, Harry, came to Ladies that Lunch before she started another job. In the past Denise used to dress up and entertain children in the Sports

Club at Halloween. She was thoroughly enjoyed by my grandchildren and others. She was a Sports Club member and attended Coffee Mornings,

She will be sadly missed by all her friends and family. Villagers will be glad to learn that Bailey and Maisey, her lovely dogs have found, after a search, their forever home. Many thanks to her friends for looking after them after Denise's passing. Rest in Peace Denise. Due to her funeral being on 12<sup>th</sup> March in Berton Crematorium the March lunch was cancelled at the last minute so her friends could arrive on time.

April's Ladies that Lunch will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April at 12.30 in the Sports Club, Bragenham Side. Newcomers are welcome to attend. Soup, rolls, cakes, tea and coffee are served. Cost £3 per person. This helps cover electricity, heating and rent.

In May the Lunch will take place on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, same time, same venue. I look forward to seeing you all.

Hazel on 01525 270404 or [hmt404@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hmt404@hotmail.co.uk)

# COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE SPORTS CLUB



**Every Wednesday morning from 10am.**

**All welcome, pop along for a mingle and a chat  
with friends and neighbours whilst enjoying a cup  
of tea or coffee and a biscuit on the side**

**The Sports Club, Bragenham Side. MK17 9DB**

## How to secure your accounts

**Use a strong and different password** for your email and social media accounts. Your email and social media passwords should be strong and different from all your other passwords. Combining three random words that each mean something to you is a great way to create a password that is easy to remember but hard to crack. **Turn on 2-Step Verification (2SV)** for your email and social media accounts. 2-Step Verification (2SV) gives you twice the protection so even if cyber criminals have your password, they can't access your email or social media account. 2SV works by asking for more information to prove your identity. For example, getting a code sent to your phone when you sign in using a new device or change settings such as your password. You won't be asked for this every time you check your email or social media.

If you live in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and have been a victim of fraud or cybercrime, report it at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040. In Scotland, victims of fraud and cybercrime should report to Police Scotland on 101.

If you receive a suspicious email, you can report it by forwarding the email to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

Find out how to protect yourself from fraud: [Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud](http://Gov.uk/stopthinkfraud)



NW Stolen Number plates and advice on keeping your cars safe.

This is a message from Val McPherson Area Neighbourhood Watch Representative for Aylesbury Vale.

I am sharing this message as we had an incident of stolen numbers plates in another area and thought it would be good to share.

On 8 March a member has stated that both sets of number plates on their car had been stolen either from their driveway overnight at the end of the village, or at the Phoenix Trail by the railway line next morning.

# Joyful Tots



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

even if you don't have a baby just yet but are pregnant! Refreshments are included. Your first session is free, then £2 afterwards.



**We have great news! We have a new parent lead, so Joyful Tots will**

**be *restarting* on 26<sup>th</sup> April.**

**We're looking forward to seeing you and will be celebrating with cake!**

**Our opening 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 Linda 07971 134497 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)



### **Lock your vehicle.**

Locking your vehicle, even when filling up or parked on your drive, greatly reduces the possibility of it being targeted by an opportunist thief. Even if you have locked your vehicle, check you haven't left any windows or the sunroof open.

If your vehicle has wing mirrors that fold in automatically when locked, make sure you lock it properly. Criminal gangs are looking for vehicles like these where the wing mirrors are still out because it is clear to them that the vehicle has been left unlocked.

### **Close windows and sunroofs to prevent "fishing"**

Leaving windows and the sunroof open invites fishing for items through the gap by hand or with, say a bent coat hanger, which could also be used to unlock a door for them to get in. Thieves can be ingenious. Do not give them the opportunity.

### **Secure anything that is on the outside of your vehicle.**

Anything left on roof-racks, tailgate racks, holidays top boxes or in tool chests are easily stolen when the vehicle is parked. The use of cable locks, padlocks and self-locking tools chest which are secured to the vehicle, makes them more secure, but still do not leave things inside if you can avoid it.

### **Take it with you or hide it.**

Your mobile phone, coins for the car park, sunglasses, packs of medication or other items that can earn quick cash are irresistible to the opportunist thief. Remember, the cost of replacing a window is often much more than that of what is stolen. And it should go without saying that wallets, handbags, purses and credit cards should never be left in an unattended vehicle.

### **Hide electrical items and leave no clues.**

Leaving Sat Nav mounts, suction cup marks on windows or cables on view gives it away that you have left a Sat Nav, smartphone or other device in your car. Even if they can not see the Sat Nav or iPad they might still break in to see if it is stored in the car, out of sight.

### **Tool theft from vans**

Vans are often targeted by thieves for the tools stored inside. If you have to leave tools in a van overnight, it is a good idea to mark them clearly with your name / company name and address using paint pens and seal with a clear lacquer spray. Alternatively, you can use a variety of other property marking systems. Items that are clearly marked are less desirable and more difficult to sell on.

Consider using a lockable cabinet within your van to store tools – a number of security rated products are available. Small cameras are also designed to record inside vehicles.

Take care everyone – *Val McPherson (NWN, MSA Thames Valley)*

# PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES FEB & MAR 2024

Stoke Hammond



a thankful village

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:

**24/00022/APP – The Warren, Grove Farm, Church Rd, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP**  
Householder application for replacement outbuilding.

*With the proposed location of this new building being very close to the St Luke's Church boundary wall, Cllrs resolved to OBJECT to this application until clarity is provided on how the church wall would be protected.*

***\*This application was withdrawn by the applicant on the 28/02/24***

**24/00125/APP – The Dolphin Inn, Leighton Rd, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BB**

Erection of timber fence and relocation of existing temporary container to create a dedicated bin storage and additional storage area (retrospective).

*Cllrs resolved they had NO Objections to this application.*

The following application although not within the parish of Stoke Hammond but due to its close proximity, will no doubt be of interest to some of you.

**24/00532/COUAR – Paper Mill Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BD**

Determination as to whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise, contamination risk, flooding and locational considerations for the conversion of an agricultural building into one dwellinghouse (Class Q(a)) and in relation to design and external appearance of the building (Class Q(b))

*Great Brickhill PC made the following comments, in that they have has been consistent in its opposition to the development of the agricultural barns at Papermill Farm on many angles; the unsuitable access the original eviction of the long-term agricultural tenant to enable an application for change of use the application not complying with completely with the spirit in which the rules - Part 3, Class Q, of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 (as amended) - governing the renovation of previous agricultural barns into residential dwellings, and the juxtaposition between the proposed luxury development and the surrounding land being of an actively worked agricultural nature.*

## PLANNING UPDATES:

**22/00613/APP – Brook Farm, Leighton Road**

Erection of 42 residential dwellings including associated parking and landscaping.

*Cllrs had previously resolved TO OBJECT to this application and it was 'Called In' before the North Bucks Planning Committee on the 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 where it was refused.*

*Please see The PC News section for more details.*

**23/03668/APP 12 Harris Close, Newton Leys, Bletchley MK3 5QH**

Householder application for single storey rear extension and detached garage conversion linked together.

*Cllrs had resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application which was subsequently approved by planning on the 26/01/24*

**23/03269/APP 12 Manor Close, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DJ**

Householder application for erection of timber framed outbuilding (Retrospective)  
*Cllrs had resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application which was subsequently approved by planning on the 24/01/24*

**23/03204/APP Land to the West of Willowbridge Marina, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond**

Change of use of vacant land to land for wood workshop and associated storage area (Use Class B2 and B8)

*Cllrs had resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application, but the application has since been withdrawn.*

For further information/updates on these or other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website selecting ‘Aylesbury Vale’ as the search area and then enter the application reference or use the map search facility:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>



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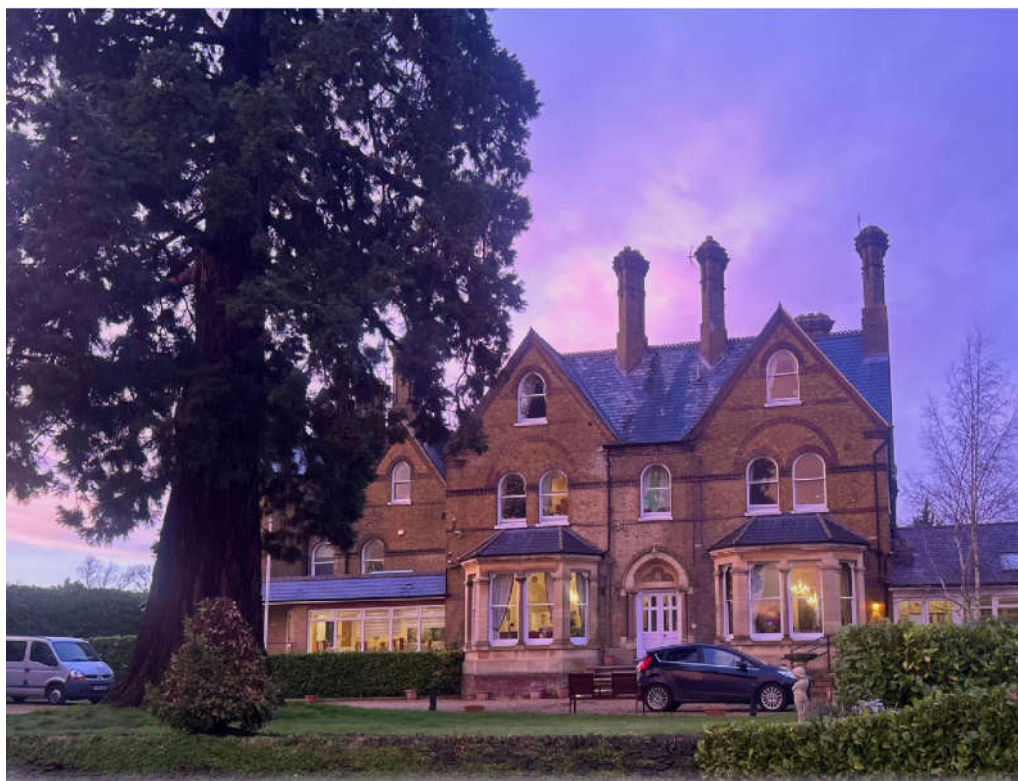
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**ANSWERS TO MAVIS'S QUIZ:**

- 1 – Berkshire
- 2 – Somerset
- 3 – Kent
- 4 – Norfolk
- 5 – North Yorkshire
- 6 – Greater Manchester
- 7 – Northumberland



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- 👥 Visitor's centre
- ☕ Tea room available for our residents

The Lindens Residential Care Home,  
Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN

📧 [info@careatthelindens.co.uk](mailto:info@careatthelindens.co.uk) ☎️ 01908 371705 🌐 [www.careatthelindens.co.uk](http://www.careatthelindens.co.uk)

📘 The Lindens Residential Care Home



# Keeping Glamorous

Our residents like to stay looking and feeling glam! Our ladies and gentlemen enjoy being pampered

by visits to our indoor hairdressing salon, Hollywood Style and having their nails painted.



Surrounding Valentine's Day, we asked our experts for some dating advice. The results were very amusing and helpful! Check them out on our Facebook page.

## Expert Dating Advice



'Make sure they have plenty of money!'

## Connecting with the Community



Since the world opened back up after the pandemic, we've been loving getting out of the home and connecting with the community. We attend local clubs, visit garden centres and cafes and are looking forward to trips to parks and lakes as the weather gets warmer.



To arrange your visit or for further information and guidance when choosing a care home, please call us on 01908 371705





# High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

April 2024

**World Book Day** - We had a lot of fun for World Book Day in March. It was lovely to see all the children and staff dressed up as book characters. The children spent time writing either a poem or a story about a page in the book 'Don't look in this book' and we had some great responses from across all year groups.

**Hook Days** - All the children have started new topics after half term and we've had some great visitors into school to talk to the children for their Hook Day - a day to 'hook' the children's interest.

**Space Dome** - Year Five and Six are studying Space this term and were very excited when the Space Explorer Dome came to the school. This inflatable dome almost filled the school hall. The children crawl inside and can look up to look at stunning visuals projected on to the inside of the dome. The children explored our own planet, moon, sun and solar system, learned how they move and what we see in the sky. When back in class children wrote mnemonics, to remember the order of the planets in our solar system and haikus, about the properties of the planets.

**Volcanoes** - Year Three and Four learnt about volcanoes and earthquakes during their Hook Day. Their expert visitor had travelled to many countries and could really bring places to life. The children learnt that earthquakes are measured on a scale and why some countries are far more likely to suffer from earthquakes and then moved on to look at the difference between dormant, active and extinct volcanoes and used their drama skills was used to act out the final moments of the citizens of Pompeii.

**Stewardship** - We have continued our theme of 'Stewardship' in assemblies this month. We have been investigating what stewardship means and have talked about looking after God's creation and how we are Stewards of all his creations. We have welcomed two local farmers to school to talk to everyone about how they work hard to encourage all types of wildlife on their farm and we're looking forward to starting our own wildlife garden at school.

**Looking forward to April:**

- Easter holidays from Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March, returning to school on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April
- Our choir are performing at the Royal Albert Hall at the end of April, as part of the Buckinghamshire Music Trust Echoes concert - concert brings together 1600 singers from 62 primary schools across Buckinghamshire - We are all really excited!



## *The Village - 16<sup>th</sup> March*

Idling my way down the street I stopped to talk to a leaflet deliverer who was looking at the Wheatley development in Newton Road. Lovely pictures on the fencing showing large fields, a wood in the background and not a house in sight. Take away the fencing and we could see a vast expanse of Tarmac and kerbing for a new road into our next building site. Well said the deliverer "they had to knock down a perfectly good house to do that."

And that road is right next to the recently tarmacked Methodist (as was) church grounds. Where is all the water going to go? Well, ask the cottages on the Green that were flooded last month.

Now I don't mind the smell of asphalt in fact I quite like it. We do however seem to have a lot of it in the village. The new development in Fenny Road got a lick and a promise opposite the entrance. Presumably lorries turning had disturbed the surface and it needed it (like the rest of the road?).

And there is a nice bit of new asphalt in the bus stop in Fenny Road - on the pavement that is. Took days of 3 way traffic lights to complete. I call it a bus stop as it is clearly *not* a shelter. It has only one side (back) which is protected by the houses behind. If the wind blows from the North, East or South there is no protection from wind or



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rain. Hopefully “Men in Sheds” will make a better (and cheaper) job of renovating the shelter opposite the Dolphin.

Still on asphalt, hopes were raised a week or so back when the ubiquitous white paint lines appeared round the potholes in Church Road and Old School Lane. Two days ago, a lorry arrived and filled in one of the holes at the bottom of Church Road. They then moved into Old School Lane and filled most of the big holes. I say filled as the edges weren't sealed and the asphalt doesn't look to be tightly packed. I'd give it 2 winters at most. Hopefully they're coming back to complete the work in Church Road.

As many of you will have noticed, the Church has had its share of Asphalt. This is a replacement of like for like and as far as I can see is a “Proper Job”!

### Grumpy Old Man



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# St Luke's Church News

Along with many, we were deeply saddened to hear of the recent sudden death of our (Buckingham) area Bishop Alan Wilson. He leaves a wife and 5 adult children. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

The Introduction to Christianity course ended with pancakes on Shrove Tuesday, and the next week started our Lent course! Easter is early this year: it follows a lunar cycle so the date varies annually according to the moon. Lent is a time of reflection and Bible study for Christians. We've been holding an enjoyable Lent study group, sharing a soup lunch beforehand!

The monthly Community breakfasts carry on as usual - the February breakfast the busiest we've ever had! On 3<sup>rd</sup> March, we enjoyed one of our Café church services. We had a "butty" breakfast (or alternative cereal, toast or pastries) & a short service around tables (funny how a lot of our activities revolve around food!)



## Forthcoming Special Services:

(For further details, see the list of services elsewhere in the SH news)



It's unlikely you'll be reading this before Easter, but if you are, the church is open on **Good Friday 2-3pm** for quiet prayer and reflection and we'll be celebrating the resurrection on **Easter Day at 9.30am** followed by refreshments and Easter eggs.

**Our rector, John will be taking a sabbatical from 14<sup>th</sup> April to 2<sup>nd</sup> July** so our Communion services will be led by visiting ministers during that period.

On **5<sup>th</sup> May** our **Archdeacon Guy Elsmore** is leading a Benefice Holy Communion service to be held at St Mary the Virgin in Great Brickhill at **10am**. All are welcome!

**Pentecost** is on **19<sup>th</sup> May** and celebrates the Holy Spirit coming to the disciples after Jesus' death. We're celebratin Holy Communion. Check the benefice website for details (see address below).



## Fundraising:



Planned fundraising events to add to your diary now!

**Sponsored Walk:** It will be on **April 27<sup>th</sup>**. We'll be walking from Stoke Hammond to The Globe pub in Leighton Buzzard setting off at about **10am**. We'll enjoy lunch there before returning to the village (again on foot for those who can manage it, or lifts back for those who can't). If you'd like to join us walking or sponsor someone, contact Dave Webber on 270409.



**Plant Sale:** Our annual sale of professionally grown plants will take place on the **Village Green** from **10am on 4th May**. We will be selling bedding and other plants at competitive prices and other growers will have stalls. Contact Dave to place an order.

### **Other events:**

18<sup>th</sup> May: Treasure Hunt and Pudding Club    22<sup>nd</sup> June: Midsummer fete

13<sup>th</sup> July: Quiz night

30<sup>th</sup> November: Christmas Fayre

**The Bucks Historic Churches Trust** hold their annual **sponsored Ride and Stride** event on **14<sup>th</sup> September**. Our Churchwarden Harry usually rides his bike for us, but can't this year. We're hoping someone could take his place: you're aiming to get sponsors & walk or ride a bike/horse round the area visiting as many churches as possible. **If you think you could help, please contact Harry** (details below).

### **Church Activities:**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** This will be held on **7<sup>th</sup> April** at **6.30pm** following a Compline service at 6pm. Anyone in the Church Parish (this isn't the Civil Parish so doesn't include Newton Leys) may attend and refreshments will be provided. Come and find out what we do!

**Afternoon teas:** We're looking forward to holding afternoon teas again this year in the church between **3 and 5pm** on Sundays: on **2<sup>nd</sup> June, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 18<sup>th</sup> Aug, 29<sup>th</sup> Sept**. Join us for a cuppa!



**Prayers:** The prayer group meets twice a month. We pray for individuals, the village, the wider community, national and international issues, and local organisations. All prayers are in strict confidence. We're happy to accept prayer requests and request cards are available at the Community Breakfast or speak to a churchwarden. (See below).



We will be doing a **prayer walk** around the village starting from the church at **10am on Sat 6<sup>th</sup> April** and ending about lunchtime at the Dolphin for a coffee. All welcome. Please feel free to approach us with any prayers you would like us to mention.

**Community Breakfast:** is open to everyone. The next breakfasts will be on **13<sup>th</sup> April** and **11<sup>th</sup> May** with orders taken from **8.30 to 10.30am**. As well as full English (or parts of) we serve toast, fruit salad, cereal, croissants etc. You can bring visitors too! There's no charge, but you can make a donation if you wish to. As usual, **profits from the May breakfast will be donated to Christian Aid**. Donations to the Foodbank are also collected here.



**Food Bank:** The church foodbank in the church porch is free to all and topped up regularly. If you can contribute, please contact Dave or Diane Webber (see below) Items most needed: ready meals eg beans with sausages/tinned casserole, tinned meat, dog food, fruit juice & squash, coffee, sugar, washing up liquid & veg oil.

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

**Bible verse of the month: Mark 16 v 1-8:** *When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus' body. <sup>2</sup>Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb <sup>3</sup>and they asked each other, "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?" <sup>4</sup>But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. <sup>5</sup>As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed. <sup>6</sup>"Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. <sup>7</sup>But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'" <sup>8</sup>Trembling and bewildered, the women went out and fled from the tomb. They said nothing to anyone, because they were afraid.*

**What does it mean?:** These verses are towards the end of Mark's gospel. It is the crux of the Christian faith: accepting that because Jesus is the son of God, he was able to rise from the dead; that our dying bodies don't mean the end of our existence, but that our souls can live an eternal life through the risen Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!

*St Luke's Church would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!*

**Funeral information:** Clergy can conduct a funeral service at a crematorium if you wish. New rules mean that crematoria are not offering a religious service by

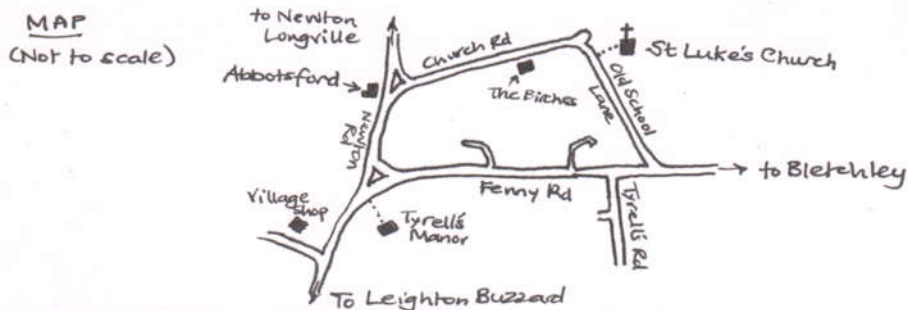


default: it must be specifically requested. Also, any village resident can have their ashes buried in the churchyard (for a small fee) if wished. Memorial stones must conform to the Oxford Diocese regulations. Please note that rules regarding

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](http://www.brickhillschurches.org.uk).

St Luke's offers baptisms, weddings and funerals. During the rector's sabbatical, these can still be arranged urgently by the churchwardens arranging covering clergy if required, or if you prefer, you can wait until the rector returns from his sabbatical on 2<sup>nd</sup> July. Details are on the benefice website. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please call **Churchwardens: Harry on 07773065271 or Diane on 270409.**



## **YOUR GREAT BRICKHILL UNITARY WARD COUNCILLORS**

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### **Phil Gomm**

It's been a privilege living and being part of the spirited multicultural Aylesbury Vale community all my life. People have always been my focus and as a DJ Presenter and owner of an events company, listening and delivering accurately has been key. Family is extremely important and it's been my pleasure to farm and breed horses with them. Recently, as a County Councillor, Chairman of Thames Valley Crimestoppers and Buckingham Neighbourhood Action Group I've gained a passion for advocating for the best for people which I endeavour to continue.

Email: [Philip.Gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Gomm@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) Mob: 07778 117647

### **Jilly Jordan**

I am currently working as a Unitary Councillor in the Ivers. I have served on several committees, including planning (local and strategic) and finance, and I am Chairman of the local Community Board. We recently moved to live in the area. I am keen to use experience gained as a member of Buckinghamshire Council to the benefit of the local community. Clearly, we face many challenges, including those presented by major infrastructure projects. I look forward to getting to know members of the local communities and working together to maintain and improve the quality of life in our villages.

Email: [Jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Jordan@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) Mob: 07740 308468



### **Iain Macpherson**

Iain has spent the last 39 years in business, initially in international sales and marketing roles for multi-national companies travelling extensively, but more recently in medium sized businesses in the food sector in the Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire area as Managing Director. He has always taken a keen interest in both national and local politics and has recently supported Greg Smith's campaign pre-election on the doorsteps. He's attended many fundraising events and local activities such as the anti-HS2 rallies. Iain is married to Angela, they have two mature children; Rosanna (31) and Angue (28)

Email: [Iain.Macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:Iain.Macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) Mob: Not Avail





# News from Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident

22 March 2024

As I write this it is raining again, so no prizes for guessing the topics that have filled my inbox over the past month. Having driven around all parts of the county and indeed beyond, it is very clear that the weather has done very significant damage in terms of both potholes and flooding. I thought it would be useful to update you on current actions and plans.



Firstly, I hope that you have noticed that this is a national, not local issue. All my colleague county Leaders are reporting similar problems. The BBC have reported on it extensively, as have the RAC and industry groups.

The winter and early spring rain this year and last has had a devastating impact on the nation's roads. Some people write to me and that this cannot be correct as we have 'winter' every year. That is of course true, but this year and last have seen abnormally heavy and continued rain. It's clear this has been one of the wettest Februarys on record with national media reporting the wettest 18-month period since records began. Then by 12 March we had already had more than the normal amount of rain for the entire month. Roadside drains and ditches cannot cope with this volume of rain and this leaves nowhere for the water to go. The surrounding land is saturated and no longer absorbs rain water.

## **Roads**

I want to be very frank with everyone that we cannot repair all the individual potholes and other defects immediately. Continual rain makes that difficult as any repairs to wet road surfaces won't last. Also, we do not have unlimited funds so, like every other council, we prioritise. We have what are called 'intervention levels' which are standards set for requiring repairs. These are professionally assessed. We also assess potholes in terms of their severity so we will prioritise what are called 'Category 1' above 'Category 2'. There are different repair timescales for each, with the shortest timescale for 'Category 1'. This may mean that an individual pothole is filled whilst lower category defects in the immediate area are left until later.



Currently we have 29 crews working around the clock to carry out road repairs and respond to other emergency call outs, like clearing fallen trees or dealing with floods and standing water. This is double the number of crews that we had out during the autumn, as we work as hard as we can to respond to what is seen as a priority for local people.

Where the situation is urgent, we will often do a 'temporary repair' to make it safe and then return later to make a permanent repair when conditions improve. Following last year's bad weather, we carried out over 30,000 pothole repairs. This year, I anticipate we will do substantially more.

In addition to our existing budget, full council agreed to release an extra £5 million from our reserves to spend on the roads. This is really helpful as we can add to our programme of 'plane and patch', where we resurface sections of road, rather than an entire road. We are currently prioritising where these plane and patch interventions will be, based on input from local councillors and technicians. Inevitably we will not be able to meet all the requests. Again, this work ideally requires warm, dry weather for best effect.

Please continue to report defects on [Buckinghamshire's Fix My Street](#) and also contact [your local Buckinghamshire councillors](#) if necessary.

## **Flooding**

With the water table exceptionally high and the ground saturated there have been a significant number of flooding incidents. Buckinghamshire Council's teams have responded to many emergency call outs since Christmas. This has involved clearing standing water and helping stranded vehicles.

In some areas, paved over gardens make this worse with rainwater running straight into the road. Whilst we do clean every road gully every year, with this volume of rain it is inevitable that soil, leaves and other debris becomes washed into gullies and in many cases blocks them again. In other cases, the gullies appear blocked but are actually still clear; however the ground is so saturated the water has nowhere to go. Several roads around the county have flooded, some for several days. In some, like Seer Green, the flooding has dislodged sections on new road resurfacing and left villagers isolated at times. In others, like Chalfont St Peter, the rainwater has breached the capacity of the sewerage system.

At times like this we will support the local water company who have the lead responsibility for foul water issues. It is vital that these are urgently addressed and resolved. Much of Buckinghamshire's sewage system was built decades or even centuries ago and is not designed for the volumes of waste they are now required to carry, particularly when combined with storm overflow. Whilst I understand the

residents who write to me demanding that 'something must be done', there are rarely easy or quick solutions to many of these problems.

I have asked for the costs to deliver additional gully cleanses where the effects of the winter weather have been the greatest, but this is very costly and we may well again have to use some reserves for this.

In the meantime, may I urge those of you who drive to please be mindful of the conditions and to adapt your driving accordingly. I have personally seen some worrying driving where cars speed through deep water late at night where there could be deep hidden potholes.

Also, I've seen drivers who suddenly see a pothole and then swerve into the middle of the road ignoring oncoming cars. Please slow down, take care of yourselves, and please show others the consideration you would like them to show you. If there is deep standing water, please don't try to drive through it unless your car is suitable.

### **Longer-term Investment**

I will write separately to update you on our main programme of planned road repairs and resurfacing. This is a continuation of our commitment to spend over £110 million over a rolling four-year period on planned maintenance across the county.


I want to finish off by reassuring you that I and all your councillors understand the scale of the issues. We are doing all we can, within existing resources, to address these issues and bring the roads back up to a safe, drivable standard. Hopefully, with spring now well on its way we can look forward to some sustained drier, warmer weather.


Yours,

**Martin Tett** Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



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\* 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](http://buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

# MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR LEIGHTON RD 08/01/24 TO 18/03/24

For Project: Leighton Road 8th Jan 2024

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated:

Speed Intervals

Time Intervals

Traffic Report From

85th Percentile Speed

85th Percentile Vehicles

Max Speed

Total Vehicles

AAAT:

Incoming  
18/03/2024 15:05:55  
5 MPH  
Instant  
14/01/2024 12:00:00 through 18/03/2024 14:59:59  
36.8 MPH  
112056  
60 MPH on 01/02/2024 08:40:00  
131831  
2055



## Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	2181	2034
AM Peak	177	143
PM Peak	177	162

## Speed

Speed Limit:

85th Percentile Speed:

50th Percentile Speed:

10 MPH Pace Interval:

Average Speed:

30  
36.8  
30.1  
25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH  
30.45

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	11385	10148	10198	9149	10015	8754	7445
% over limit	52.9	50.4	51.6	48.5	50.0	51.6	51.2
Avg Speeder	35.2	35.0	35.2	35.0	35.0	35.2	35.0
Avg Speed	11.1	11.1	11.4	11.3	11.2	12.2	13.0

# MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR FENNY RD 08/01/24 TO 18/03/24

For Project: Fenny Road 8th Jan 2024

Project Notes:

Location/Name: Incoming

Report Generated: 18/03/2024 15:11:03

Speed Intervals: 5 MPH

Time Intervals: Instant

Traffic Report From 14/01/2024 14:00:00 through 18/03/2024 14:59:59

85th Percentile Speed: 32.6 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles: 93593

Max Speed: 60 MPH on 14/01/2024 16:30:00

Total Vehicles: 110109

AADT: 1719

## Volumes -

### weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	1803	1700
AM Peak	112	116
PM Peak	167	157

### Speed

Speed Limit: 30  
 85th Percentile Speed: 32.6  
 50th Percentile Speed: 26.3  
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 20.0 MPH  
 Average Speed: 26.37

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	3897	3596	3693	3684	4174	3601	3122
% over limit	22.5	22.1	22.9	23.3	24.1	24.1	25.5
Avg Speeder	34.4	34.4	34.5	34.3	34.5	34.6	34.5
AVG Speed	10.6	10.6	10.8	11.0	10.7	11.4	12.6





# MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR NEWTON RD 08/01/24 TO 18/03/24

For Project: Newton Road 8th Jan 2024

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated:

Speed Intervals:

Time Intervals:

Traffic Report From

85th Percentile Speed

85th Percentile Vehicles

Max Speed

Total Vehicles

AADT:

Incoming  
18/03/2024  
14:55:34

5 MPH  
Instant  
14/01/2024  
15:00:00

29.6 MPH  
22640  
50 MPH  
26635

on  
17/01/2024

through  
18/03/2024

14:59:59

16:15:00

416



## Volumes -

### weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
08:00	454	411
17:00	48	40

Average Daily

AMI Peak

PM Peak

## Speed

Speed Limit:

85th Percentile Speed:

50th Percentile Speed:

10 MPH Pace Interval:

Average Speed:

30  
29.6  
25  
24.85

20.0 MPH  
to  
30.0 MPH

**Monday**

**Tuesday**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**Sunday**

576

13.2

33.3

16.0

516

11.9

33.2

15.8

486

11.5

33.3

16.0

440

11.0

33.1

16.7

422

10.5

33.4

16.4

352

11.3

33.2

17.2

301

11.6

33.3

18.4

## VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	Parish Council Meeting – Newton Leys Pavilion – 19.30
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.00
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> May	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> June	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30

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

### **ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

#### **High Ash Scouts, Cubs (Beavers)**

Every Thursday 17.30 – 21.30hrs  
Contact: Dave Pollington 01525 270864

#### **Buttons Pre-School**

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs  
Contact: 07495 369320 or 01908 533404

#### **Louisa Harris Pilates**

Contact: 07941 203589  
Monday day/evening  
[Louisa.pilates@gmail.com](mailto:Louisa.pilates@gmail.com)  
[www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk](http://www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk)

To Hire the Hall please telephone 01525 270151 or e-mail: [enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk)

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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>Kelly Harris</i> )	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman ( <i>Malcolm Newing</i> )	07702 067966
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> )	Not Available
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>Mary Cottrell</i> )	01296 688741

**Police non-emergency number 101**

**NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111**

## EDITOR'S NOTE

In the last editor's note, I was saying how cold it was with my car telling me that morning the outside temperature was minus 8.5C. Would be interesting if my car was also able to read how many inches of rain have fallen over the last two months, I think it would be off the scale!

It's probably time for me to repeat one of my regular appeals, in that if any of you out there would like to see some new features in this publication or indeed have something you would like to contribute then please do get in touch.

May I please have copy for the June/July issue by the **24<sup>th</sup> May**

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## WASTE COLLECTION DATES STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE & NEWTON LEYS SOUTH

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  <small>Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans &amp; tins</small>	Food Waste Bin:  <small>Non-recyclable or compostable.</small>	Garden Waste Bin: 
Thursday 4 April		Thursday 4 April	Thursday 4 April
	Wednesday 10 April	Wednesday 10 April	
Wednesday 17 April		Wednesday 17 April	Wednesday 17 April
	Wednesday 24 April	Wednesday 24 April	
Wednesday 1 May		Wednesday 1 May	Wednesday 1 May
	Thursday 9 May	Thursday 9 May	
Wednesday 15 May		Wednesday 15 May	Wednesday 15 May
	Wednesday 22 May	Wednesday 22 May	
Thursday 30 May		Thursday 30 May	Thursday 30 May
	Wednesday 5 June	Wednesday 5 June	

# Linslade

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Community Board  
Winslow and  
Villages

# DEMENTIA AWARENESS TRAINING



**Monday 13th May,  
Winslow Library**

**Free to attend,  
32 spaces available**

To coincide with Dementia Awareness week 2024. Dementia Awareness Training is available to residents and business in the Winslow and Villages Community Board area.

This training is free and will help to increase awareness of dementia and support you to understand the challenges from different perspectives.

If you are interested in attending a training session, please email [winvill@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:winvill@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) to book your space