

# SH & NLS NEWS

**Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South**

INSIDE THIS EDITION:  
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS  
NEWS FROM NEWTON LEYS SOUTH  
G.O.M.  
MAVIS'S QUIZ  
CHURCH NEWS  
SPORTS CLUB  
BUCKS NEWS

**FEBRUARY/MARCH 2022**

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



## CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO MARCH 2022

### FEBRUARY

**6<sup>th</sup> February: 11.00am Family Service at Community Centre, Stoke Hammond - DW**

**13<sup>th</sup> February: 10.00am Holy Communion at St Mary Magdalene, Little Brickhill - RW**

**20<sup>th</sup> February: 11.00am Morning Worship at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond - JH**

**27<sup>th</sup> February: 9.30am Holy Communion at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond - IO**

### MARCH

**2<sup>nd</sup> March: 10.30am ASH WEDNESDAY**

**Benefice Holy Communion at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond - JW**

**6<sup>th</sup> March: 9.30am Café Church at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond - DW**

**13<sup>th</sup> March: 11.00am Family Service at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond - JW**

**20<sup>th</sup> March: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion at All Saints, Bow Brickhill - JW**

**27<sup>th</sup> March: 9.30am MOTHERING SUNDAY**

**Family Service with Holy Communion at St Luke's, Stoke Hammond -JW**

**NB: Clocks Change**

**DW – Dave Webber**

**RW – Rev Robert Wright**

**JH – Jeremy Hopkinson**

**IO – Rev Ian Ogilvie**

**JW – Rev John Waller**



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## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Outwardly it may have seemed fairly quiet over the last two months, as far as Parish Council matters are concerned, and no doubt the majority of you were all very busy with Festive and New Year activities, and dealing with the impact of the Omicron variant which thankfully now seems to have peaked and be on the decline. But things do never stop and whilst there may have been no PC meeting in December, your Councillors did meet up to start putting together the budget for the next financial year April 22 – Mar 23, which aside from dictating our spend for the forthcoming year also determines the figure that you pay as a parish precept in your Council Tax bill. Last year for a Band D Council Tax payer that precept was £69.19 and we're pleased to advise that despite increasing our precept budget which for 2021-22 was £49,011 to a figure of £55,120, your individual precept payment will remain unchanged. We have been able to achieve this because of an increase in the housing base within the parish from 708 to 796 that are now Band D Council Tax Payers. Unfortunately, it is very unlikely that your overall Council Tax bill will remain unchanged, as all indications to date, suggest that Buckinghamshire Council will be increasing Council Tax for 2022-23.

Some of you who are regular Facebook users will no doubt have seen the post from 'The Brother Supper' a catering company based in Milton Keynes which suggested they were looking at potentially taking over The Dolphin Public House, and they were enquiring as to what type of food residents would like to see on offer. At first it wasn't clear from their post was as to whether they were intending to use the Dolphin purely as a place to prepare the food for their existing catering service or to actually reopen the premises as a pub and restaurant, but a subsequent response from them confirmed they were looking at taking on the pub to open as a pub/restaurant. We have approached the company and as and when we have more news, we will circulate that information.

Whilst, details and outcomes of Planning Applications are covered within the 'Planning Section' within this publication, we think the latest news regarding the open space off Mount Pleasant warrants a special mention, in that the application to build two over 55's bungalows on that land has been refused by the planners. They stated in their decision document that the 'proposed single storey dwellings would result in an incongruous form of development which is visually discordant with the surrounding built form'. The planners also recognise this is a visually sensitive location and would also result in the loss of an area of Green Space. Hopefully this refusal may lead to a positive outcome in the resident's application to the Secretary of State for this area to be granted Village Green status.

It's taken a while to achieve, but hopefully you will have noticed and like the pair of new, bright white village entrance gates which have now been erected by Bucks Highways on the Newton Road. Highways honoured their commitment to provide and install these new gates at their cost. It now means that the three entrance roads to the village have pairs of gates denoting the boundaries, and aside from being an attractive feature, also act as a reminder that you are now entering a 30-mph zone and to reduce your speed accordingly. You will see elsewhere in this edition the proposed events for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations over the June Bank Holiday Weekend. This is a once in a lifetime event

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with no British monarch ever achieving 70 years in reign, so it's so important that we as a community put on something special. The Parish Council is working with other village organisations and will be meeting on a regular basis to coordinate the plans. But we will be reaching out to you for ideas and assistance in making these four days something to remember.

As mentioned earlier, there was no PC Meeting in December, but here follows brief details from the January meeting.

- Whilst there was a good public attendance it was noted that once again, we had no representation from any of and we do have three, of our Unitary Ward Councillors, the last time a Ward Councillor attended a Stoke Hammond Parish Council meeting was September last year, but it would seem that some of our neighbouring parishes are seeing attendances from Ward Councillors on a more regular basis at their PC meetings.
- As part of the new Precept budget the Parish Council have set aside £3500 to fund parish organisation projects, with a maximum of £350 available per project. The Stoke Hammond Gardening Club being particularly 'fast out of the blocks' with an application already before the PC. Their application was approved, with an award of £350.
- Parish Councillor Damian Willingale who is currently the lead for the evolving Neighbourhood Plan, gave the meeting an update on the number of questionnaires returned, which was felt to be a rather disappointing 90 in total of which 64 were completed online. This equates to approx. 6% of the parish population that are eligible to participate. However, when speaking with our Neighbourhood Planning consultant a Mr Neil Homer, he advised that this 6% figure was typical for many of the other projects he has been involved in. A meeting with Mr Homer is to be arranged to discuss the next steps forward on this major project.
- Things are progressing albeit slowly on the project to possibly reinstate the village pond at the top of Church Road. It seems community grants maybe available to help fund this, and a visit is expected at the end of January by a specialist consultant to assess the viability of the project.
- Still talking of projects, both Taylor Wimpey and Bovis homes have been approached about the possibility of installing a Parish Notice Board and a Heart Defibrillator in Newton Leys South. It would seem the former Notice Board is not an issue, but the latter more difficult as the defibrillator requires a permanent electrical mains feed, and it's a question of where this could be sourced.

The February PC Meeting will be held at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February commencing 7.30pm with the March meeting being the same time and place on March 1st

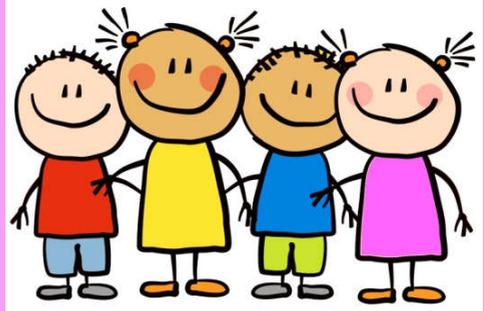


**Should you wish to contact your Parish Council, please do so via our clerk:**

Joanna Simonds, Hollymill Cottage, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond, Bucks. MK17 9DE  
Tel: 07818 016108 [clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com](mailto:clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com) [www.stokehammondpc.com](http://www.stokehammondpc.com)

# Joyful Tots

- Joyful Tots is an inclusive session for parents, carers, or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child. Friendly mums are there to chat with and share problems, advice and information
- We have been suspended for a considerable time due to the pandemic, but we would like to offer something for carers isolated by the situation
- Our regular session was 10 – 11.30am on Friday mornings during term times at Stoke Hammond Community Centre and Stoke Hammond Community Association still have this available at the centre and necessary equipment and toys
- Sadly, Jacklen has now returned to full time work but we **need volunteers to come forward and build a team** before we consider starting again. An ex preschool leader, Diane no longer has her own toddlers, but plenty of experience (and no distractions!) but needs your support to continue. A new volunteer has come forward, but **we also need a parent**
- This is the **last call** for additional help – if parents aren't prepared to help out, it will be a shame but **Joyful Tots will sadly have to close for good**
- If you think you could help restart Joyful Tots, please call Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 01525 270409 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)





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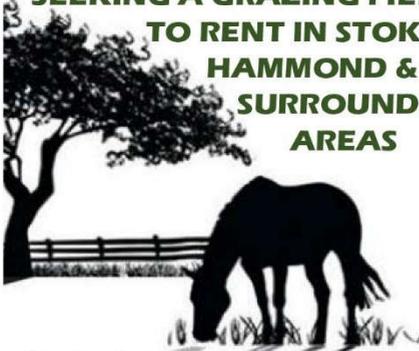


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# News from Buckinghamshire Council

7 January 2022

Dear Resident,

I'd like to start by wishing you a very Happy New Year. I know that Christmas has been hard for many people this year and plans have been disrupted for those who've had to isolate and who have been ill with Covid. I do hope that most of you will be able to enjoy something of a more 'normal' festive season than we all endured last year.



The new year is always a good opportunity to look forward. I know we all face a lot of uncertainty, but life goes on, as does planning for the future. As a Council, and like others across the country, we are busy setting our budgets for 2022/23 and I'd like to start by letting you know more about what we're proposing.

This week, the Council's Cabinet approved our budget and spending plans for 2022/23. It goes without saying that we're operating in a very challenging environment; Covid has created extra demand on our services and a huge amount of uncertainty, at a time when councils up and down the country are already facing major financial pressures. That said, I am very proud that we are a strong and financially prudent Council and we are in a much better position than many other local authorities. It means that we're able to propose continued spending on the areas that matter most to our residents. The budget has taken into account the feedback we received from residents during our budget consultation and I'm pleased that in 2022/23 we can budget to:

- Continue investing more than £100 million in a comprehensive programme of road and pavement improvements.
- Spend nearly £120 million overall on strategic highways improvements over the next four years, including flood prevention and street lighting.
- Again next year, clean out every one of the 85,000 gullies in the county to prevent flooding and to improve the local environment.
- Fight Climate Change on a number of fronts including planting half a million new trees in Bucks – one for every resident.
- Hopefully open another of our local Household Recycling Centres which are so popular with residents.

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For me, it's essential that we have a budget that proposes spending money on what matters most to residents – we are spending this money – your money – on your behalf. It does mean we've had to make some difficult choices to balance the books and allocate money to these projects however. We are choosing to dip into our General Fund (unallocated) Reserves to use £1.36 million on a one-off basis, as we would rather use these funds than cut frontline services. We have to raise Council Tax again this year to cover our overall costs and to pay for essential frontline services. We will therefore be proposing a general increase of 1.99% to cover inflation (currently around 5%). Alongside that we will implement the Government's proposal for a 2% increase solely to cover the large increase in social care costs. Social care alone is projected to cost us nearly £300 million in 2022/23. In total this means we are proposing an overall rise in Council Tax of 3.99% - which equates to a rise of £1.23 per week for the average Band D home.

I really do know how much pressure households are under with the rising costs of living and we don't take these decisions lightly. There is no wriggle room in council budgets, especially if we want to spend money in areas like roads improvements which residents have asked us to prioritise and which we know is crucial here in Bucks with the level of traffic and vastly increased numbers of HGV movements due to HS2 and East West Rail construction.

## **Give us your feedback on these spending plans**

The next stage of the budget process is called 'scrutiny' – it starts next week and allows residents to actively take part and give feedback on the budget proposals. You can view the full budget plans [here](#) and please look at the topics being discussed at each 'scrutiny select committee' session next week [on our online calendar here](#) – you can also watch the sessions live online as they happen.

If you want to submit a question for any of these sessions please email [democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:democracy@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) by **9am on the day of the relevant session** and the Chair will put them to the Cabinet Member during the session.

## **Covid update**

Infection rates of Covid in Buckinghamshire are the highest they have been at any point in the pandemic, as is the case across the whole country. The current wave is being driven by the highly infectious Omicron variant. As we know, Omicron does appear to cause less severe illness but the pressures created by the sheer number of cases cannot be understated. Our NHS services locally are under significant strain caused as much by staff absence as by patient numbers and our local ambulance service is

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currently being supported by the army to keep being able to respond to emergencies appropriately.

One particular concern here in Bucks is a rise in cases amongst older age groups (60+ years) and whether that will lead to more people becoming more seriously ill with Omicron given the risk from Covid is higher the older you are.

Overall, as ever, our individual actions and choices will all play a part in the collective fight. As individuals, we can still all do our bit to protect ourselves and others – overall aiming to reduce the impact of Omicron where possible to help get us through this very difficult winter period.

- Keep testing, immediately before and after meeting others.
- Try to meet outdoors and keep inside areas ventilated. I know we're going through a cold snap at the moment but opening windows for just 5 minutes each hour will help refresh the air.
- Get vaccinated – it's safe and it offers the best possible protection against the virus, especially once you've had your booster. There is lots of local capacity and it's really easy to book and go along – a fantastic army of volunteers is staffing our vaccine centres and there are plenty of health experts on site to answer any questions you've got. **Book via the [NHS National Booking System](#)**. This includes pregnant women – if you're pregnant or trying to conceive and have questions about the vaccine then experts at the vaccine centres can explain the facts.

You will also probably be aware that the rules around how long to isolate following a positive test have changed – if you test negative with a lateral flow device on days 6 and 7 (where day 1 is the day after symptoms start, or the day after you took a positive test if you had no symptoms) you can end your isolation period on day 7. Please familiarise yourself with all the [latest advice on the Government's website](#), which includes limiting close contact with people outside your household until day 10 if you are able to end isolation early.

Up to date local Covid data is on our website at the [Covid dashboard](#).

## **Welcome back schools**

I just want to say a few words to welcome back all students, teachers and support staff across all of our schools, doing a sterling job during this challenging time. I want to thank all school staff for the efforts they're going to managing the extra pressures and logistics being caused by Covid. Again, everyone is going the extra mile to keep lessons and learning going in the face of rising staff absences and all the extra measures and testing. Thank you to secondary school students too for wearing your face coverings for long spells in the classroom. We are closely monitoring the situation around staffing and case numbers in schools and are closely supporting all schools in the county.



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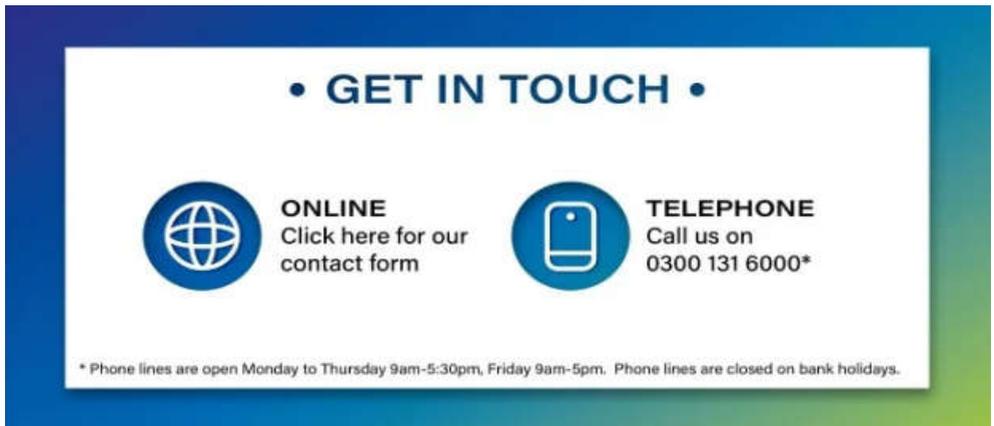
## Other news

I just want to finish by highlighting a few other bits of local news and info. Firstly, something a bit different but of real importance here in Buckinghamshire. It's a key aim here to preserve the natural beauty and environment wherever we can – never more important given the heart-breaking devastation HS2 is wreaking across our county. We want to be sure to use previously developed sites for new development wherever possible, rather than building on so-called 'greenfield' sites. To that effect, we want people to help us identify any suitable sites for future development on so-called "brownfield" land in Buckinghamshire. Find out how to do this [on our website](#).

And to end on an upbeat note: I'm thrilled to report that the annual children's Christmas present appeal has again had a fantastic response. This year, with the Council's support, it was co-ordinated and run by a newly-formed charity 'Inspire Bucks'. Thanks to the generosity of the people of Buckinghamshire and the hard work of the small team of volunteers, more than 2,000 local vulnerable children got a high quality Christmas gift this year when they otherwise may not have had anything for Christmas. That's 700 more children who received presents via the appeal this year than last year. Thank you all so much for your generosity and do find out more about the [campaign on their website](#).

I again wish you all the best for 2022 and hope you stay safe and stay well in these challenging weeks to come.

**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.

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## *It's the Same*

*the ole world over*

*It's the poor wot gets the blame*

*It's the rich wot gets the pleasure*

*Ain't it all a bloomin shame*

A much parodied ditty from the late 1800's/ music halls. At the time of writing there are a number of people who fall into the ambit of this refrain. No doubt by the time this is read things will have moved on.

Djokovic. An antivaccer who luckily caught Covid in time to be exempt (or not to be!) from the Australian immigration laws. Why wasn't he already vaccinated? We have Australian neighbours who can't even get back into their own country.

Prince Andrew. Well who does know what went on all those years ago. And who really cares? Well the Lady in question does. She appears to want her fifteen minutes of fame. She has probably run out of money and needs a payout. Oh and of course the lawyers won't be working pro bono. And of course the media love to stir a good gossip.

And finally Boris. If I forget whether or not I was at a party it was probably a very good one! But was it a party? I recall back in the day working for a large firm we had managers monthly lunch meetings. Whistle and fluted and in the board room eating nibbles. No it wasn't a party. Number 10's garden

# Greenstripe

The lawncare specialists



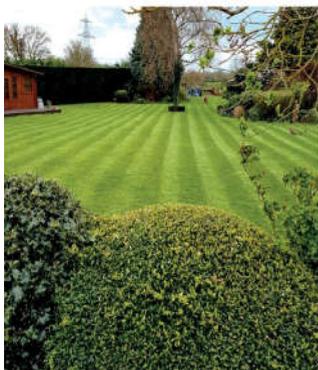
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is part of the P.M.'s premises and forms part of his 24/7 working environment. A very constricting situation. AND if he is guilty of flaunting the rules (which seemed to change every couple of weeks) why don't we treat him like any other member of the public - give him a substantial fine and let him get on with his job. Seems like a political moment to get rid of the man and let someone else in who will not be so popular or as effective.

*See him in the House of Commons  
Making Laws to put down crime  
While the victim of his passion  
Crawls around in mud and slime*

### **Grumpy Old Man**

---

### **READERS LETTERS**



*Senior's Xmas Lunch,*

*A very grateful thankyou to everyone who made the 'Senior's Citizens' lunch such a success. A good time was had by all.*

*Many thanks again.*

*Marilyn King*

A COMEDY BY MICHAEL AITKENS

Stewkley Players



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# *Waiting for God*

Weds 23rd - Sat 26th March 2022

8pm Stewkley Village Hall

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**SUNDAY BOX OFFICE AT STEWKLEY VILLAGE HALL**

**6th, 13th, 20th MARCH - 10am - 12pm**

# MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to the last quiz and if you remember you had to name the famous painting and it's artist.

- (1) MONA LISA by LEONARDO DA VINCI
- (2) WHISTLER'S MOTHER by JAMES MCNEILL
- (3) THE SON OF MAN by RENE MAGRITTE
- (4) THE HAY WAIN by JOHN CONSTABLE
- (5) AMERICAN GOTHIC by GRANT WOOD
- (6) THE LAUGHING CAVALIER by FRANS HALS
- (7) THE SCREAM by EDVARD MUNCH
- (8) THE BIRTH OF VENUS by SANDRO BOTTICELLI
- (9) THE PERSISTENCE OF MEMORY by SALVADOR DALI
- (10) THE WEEPING WOMAN by PABLO PICASSO



*Still going with the pictorial theme, can you name these organizations from their logos. To assist we've given you the first letters of the name.*



1/U \_\_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_\_



2/W \_\_\_\_\_ T \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_



3/S \_\_\_\_\_



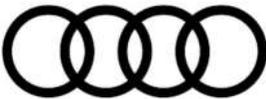
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*Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found on page 42 Village Diary*

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- \* Photocopying      \* Pies & Coffee will be introduced in the morning.



Despite COVID's best attempts to spoil our fun we ended last year on a high with a great Group Christmas Camp at one of the scout campsites near Chalfont Saint Peter in the south of the county. The weekend was packed full of activities including some traditional backwoods



cooking on open fires with the scouts getting the opportunity to learn how to use the axes safely! Our various crafts and games were all linked to our Roman theme including a session in Sagittarii on the archery range. We were lucky enough to have inside accommodation (we will leave outdoor camping to the warmer summer months) and enjoyed great food including a full Christmas dinner feast prepared by the group's leaders (my thanks to them for giving up their time to make this weekend so successful).



Thanks to the support of our Parish Council, we were fortunate enough to be able to boost our young people's experiences by including more adventurous team building activities like crate stacking, as well as teaching them to challenge their fears with night time zip wiring in the dark of the woods! Above all the weekend was a fantastic opportunity for all our cubs and scouts to be able to let off steam in the great outdoors and enjoy each other's company whilst build on their friendships.

Post-Christmas we have been meeting again on our regular Thursday evening slot in the Stoke Hammond Community Centre and have been busy earning badges through teaching everyone first aid skills. The rest of this half term will see us enjoying Chinese New Year, taking part in the national bird count, learning home help skills and cooking pancakes!

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STOKE HAMMOND SPORTS CLUB

**We would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year. Thank you to all those who attended our different events leading up to the festive period. Our next event will be a quiz night on the 26<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm please contact Val on 01525 270361 to book your team in. it will cost £10 per team of 6.**

**We welcome any new members who wish to join. We offer a friendly clubhouse and good priced drink. The clubhouse is available to hire to members and non-members. We open at weekends and during the week when pool and darts is at home, or a football game is on the tv. The club house has recently been re decorated so pop in and have a look.**

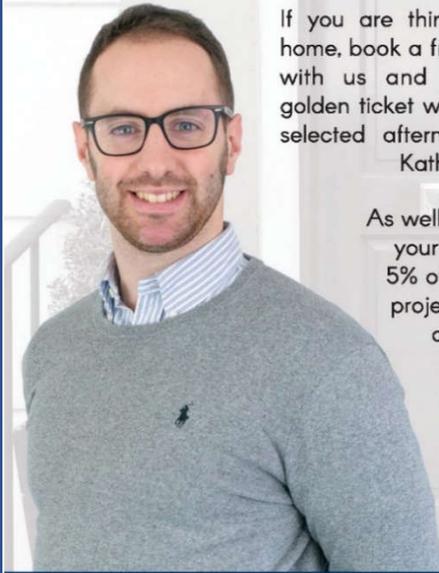
**Our football team are doing very well in the league and have only a few games left in the season. The cricket fixtures are due to be released soon. We will be having a Saturday league side, Sunday friendly side and mid-week league side.**

**Our pool teams are doing well the A team finding themselves mid table and the B team are joint top. The darts team however are struggling but have been put in the top division where the standard is very high. If anyone is interested in any of the above, please contact David Tooth.**

**I will sign off by saying a huge thank you to the volunteers who help run the sports club this is done by a small committee. Also thank you to the bar staff for keeping the bar going. Any questions or comments please contact David Tooth [david2th@yahoo.com](mailto:david2th@yahoo.com)**

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## **NEWS FROM NEWTON LEYS SOUTH (NLS)**

Well, a Happy New Year to you all and I hope you all had a great Christmas, it was a little like Las Vegas on the development during the festive period, it was great to see that so many houses went to so much effort to celebrate Christmas after the rather different two years that we have all endured. Hopefully 2022 will be better for us all.

There were another 78 houses built in 2021, on the development, this produces money available to the local PC so please take a moment to read the Parish Council News report which will explain how the precepts are set and how they were calculated this year. From the Parish Council there will be no raise but the expectation is that Buckinghamshire Council will raise the Council Tax this year. It seems all household bills are rising.

The Neighbourhood plan is being developed by the Parish Council and this includes Newton Leys and any potential development sites that could be built on locally.

It was a bit of a loss that the landfill was given the green light to extend the licence for 15 years, it would have been a great prospect to see this turned back into local parkland and places for the children to play, MK Council are going through a process to see if it is worth the investment to appeal, but it does seem likely that this will be fruitless.

One of the Parish Councillors is leaving soon, so there will be a position available on the Parish Council. It would be good to get another local Newton Leys resident onto the council if possible. Further information will be advertised in the coming weeks.

With money raised from the Stoke Hammond Village Show in August, the organisers have decided to provide funding to locate a defibrillator in Newton Leys South, we are working with the developers to find a suitable location. We would also like to install a community noticeboard somewhere in or near to the park on Missenden Street.

Finally, there will be lots of information on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations included in this month's magazine, hopefully we will see lots of Newton Leys residents at the events.

Councillor Stephen McNally



# THE Lindens

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

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Web: [www.careatthelindens.co.uk](http://www.careatthelindens.co.uk)

# THE Lindens

It was a splendid Christmas here at The Lindens. On Christmas Day our Directors were here, with a gift for each resident, pulling crackers with them and reading the jokes out. Our residents enjoyed the festivities and the Christmas feast. To celebrate the New Year our Kitchen Team prepared a delicious lunch, a great start to the year ahead.



## *New Year's Day Lunch*

Roasted Sweet Potato  
and Carrot Soup  
Or  
Poached Egg Frisée

## **Main Course**

Roast Turkey  
Or  
Spinach & Bacon  
Roulade  
Creamed mashed  
potatoes,  
Cauliflower Cheese,  
Seasonal vegetables



## **Dessert**

Strawberry Pavlova  
with fresh cream  
or ice cream

Thinking of Spring, our residents have been enjoying painting plant pots in our crafting sessions, so they are ready to plant bulbs in soon. Our cooking group have been making more teatime treats, which have included cupcakes and strawberry cheesecake.

There have been more birthdays to celebrate too with beautiful special occasion cakes baked and individually decorated by our Kitchen Team, with the birthday person in mind.

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

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year ahead,

*Michael Hannelly*

Director

**The Lindens**

Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN. Tel 01908 371705

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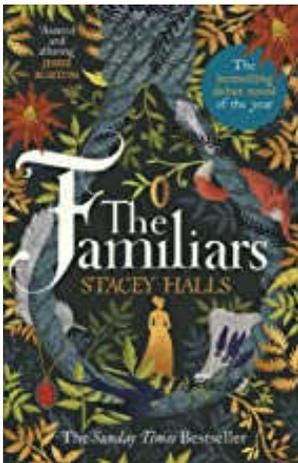
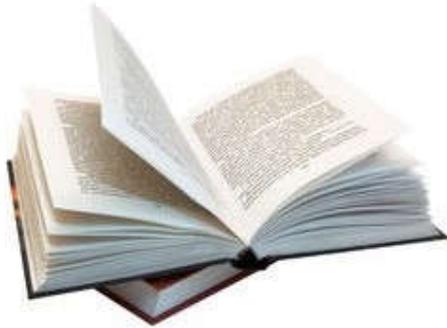
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## STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



### **The Familiars** - by Stacy Halls

This was certainly a 'different' book. Set in the seventeenth century the main character 'Fleetwood Shuttleworth' is 17 years old, married and pregnant for the 4th time. She has miscarried 3 times and felt pressure from her husband who was desperate for a child as heir to Gawthorpe Hall in Lancashire. It was a time of belief in witchcraft for both good and evil and she befriends a young woman Alice Gray who is said to be a sort of midwife and who promises to help her through her pregnancy. Fleetwood has seen a letter which she thinks says she will not survive another pregnancy and she feels that Alice will help her to live and have a healthy baby. Her husband has a friend, Roger, who is involved in searching out witches and who turns out to be both friend and foe to Fleetwood particularly in her support and reliance on Alice who is implicated in witchcraft. The story surrounds the strange times that prevail and centres around the Pendle witch trials of 1612 when ten women were put to death accused of witchcraft.

Everyone found it an interesting book historically as much research had been done by the author and it was an unusual story which held your attention and created the atmosphere of the times. We all warmed to the character of Fleetwood with her determination to do everything possible to save Alice. The story gradually gathered momentum and the many characters were complex but unfortunately most of us found that after so much detail the last 50 pages were something of an anti-climax.

*Conclusion : certainly worth a read, particularly for anyone interested in that period of history.*

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We are still operating during these uncertain times.  
Please call for details.

## Coffin Road - by Peter May

A man is washed up on a deserted beach on the island of Harris in the outer Hebrides - he is hypothermic and completely disoriented and he has no memory of who he is or indeed anything about himself. The plot goes on to include a remote road with secrets, a book which he is supposed to be writing, neighbouring islands which he visits and a dead body on one of them. It becomes very complicated introducing innumerable characters as he endeavours to work out who he is and what his life is all about. As the story progresses it is surprising to find that the main theme was very topical (save the planet !) with several stories unfolding at once holding the reader in suspense if confused.



Each of our group enjoyed the book in various ways. It was described as an easy read, a holiday read, enjoyable, wonderful descriptions of the Scottish islands and in some cases a 'quick read'. It was acknowledged that it was full of unexpected turns although some of us guessed a few outcomes. Thinking back about it, several of us had questions on parts they found hard to believe but it certainly kept everyone's attention until, as in so many cases, it did seem to fizzle out at the end. I still feel I need some answers !

*Conclusion: definitely worth reading (perhaps twice !) as although very complex, a page turner.*

---

## STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



**ATTENTION** all members and would be members - all being well we intend to hold our AGM on Thursday evening 10th March 2022 at the Sports Club, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. 7pm for 7.30pm. We will send out more details nearer the time but wanted to give advance warning.

For this who have not attended before - we will sort out the official business, renew memberships and have a Speaker. The bar will be open and there will be light refreshments. However, this is just an early announcement and we will be reminding everyone nearer the time.

# Buttons Pre-School

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# PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES DEC 21 & JAN 2022



**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:**

### **21/04120/APP Stoke Lodge, Lodge Lane, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BU**

Erection of a single storey home office and gym/games building.

*A redesign of a previously refused application, but the PC felt the new design and its proximity to Stoke Lodge, would still have a severe impact on the listed building that is Stoke Lodge and its surroundings and therefore resolved to oppose to this application.*

### **21/04238/APP Oakwood Grove Farm, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP**

Single Storey rear extension.

*Your PC had no objection to this application*

### **21/04297APP Stoke House Farm, Stoke Road**

Conversion of garage to domestic use and erection of 2 bay carport with workshop.

*Your PC had no objection to this application*

### **21/04278/APP 56 Dickens Lane, Bletchley MK3 5QE**

Single storey rear extension

*Your PC had no objection to this application*

### **21/04404/APP Land to East of Fenny Road**

Variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) attached to permission 17/04457/ADP

*The developers were seeking to change the style and mix of the 64 dwellings, but in doing so all garages were to be removed leading to tandem/triple parking bays which never work and for these 64 dwellings only a total of 12 visitor parking spaces were proposed. Your PC felt these changes were unacceptable and resolved to oppose to this application.*

### **21/04492/APP 14 Phoebes Orchard, Stoke Hammond MK17 9LW**

Single storey side/rear extension.

*Your PC had no objection to this application*

## **PLANNING UPDATES:**

### **21/00353/APP Land of Mount Pleasant, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB**

**Erection of two over 55's Bungalows**

*Originally opposed by your PC and after almost a year, the planning officers have finally made a decision and refused the application on the basis the proposed single storey dwellings would result in an incongruous form of development which is visually discordant with the surrounding built form. The planners also recognise this is a visually sensitive location and would also result in the loss of an area of Green Space.*

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.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>

# High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

*Grow Together Shine Forever*

*'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16*

February 2022 - March 2022

## ***A new year - new learning!***

Since returning back to school after the Christmas break the children have been really enthused by their new topics which has been wonderful to see. They are learning about some exciting topics; including Bright Lights, Big City - looking at the Great Fire of London, Roman gladiators as well as Tomorrow's World - where they are investigating the role of technology and pupils will be designing their own websites.

## ***Parents' Evening***

We are holding Parents' Evening on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February and Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February and we are looking forward to meeting parents face-to-face.

## ***Starting School in September 2022***

We have been thrilled to have had a lot of interest in our school and enquiries from prospective parents. The deadline for applications for Primary School places are completed online and the closing date is midnight on 15 January 2022.

## ***Walking Bus***

For those who may not be aware, we have reinstated the Walking Bus and so far it's proving a huge success! We opened it up to all pupils at High Ash and we filled all available spaces very quickly. We now have 40 children regularly using the Walking Bus. We are hoping this alleviates congestion around the school as well as helping with parking and general promoting a healthy and active start to the day for the children.

We are very grateful that we have several of our community volunteers who have offered to be involved in the Walking Bus again this year. If you feel you could offer a small amount of time in the morning during term time we would love to hear from you - please contact us at [office@highashschool.co.uk](mailto:office@highashschool.co.uk)

*Sarah J Boyce*

Sarah Boyce  
Headteacher  
[headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk)

# St Luke's Church News

## Important News:

For those who haven't heard, we are sorry to have to announce that the wife of our Rector John Waller, Pauline (who suffered from Multiple Sclerosis) passed away peacefully in her sleep just before Christmas. Her funeral was held at St Mary the Virgin church in Great Brickhill on 4<sup>th</sup> January and a lovely display of hand crafted flowers in all kinds of media was displayed at the church following a request from the family. Our **Rector John Waller** is going ahead with his **sabbatical planned for February and will therefore be unavailable during this time**. Please contact church wardens if there are any urgent issues you wish to raise.



## Review:

Lots to report on this month: We were fortunate to be able to sing at our **Carol Service** this year. The choir and service were much appreciated by those who attended. Likewise our **Carols on the Green**, although numbers were reduced compared to previous years owing to fears caused by the emergence of the Omicron variant. Thank you to those who donated mince pies and to those who attended for following social distancing guidance. The **Christingle** service also suffered from "Omicron anxiety" but was enjoyed by a few families and others none the less! We were grateful to Rev Ian Ogilvie (no, not the actor!) responding to our short notice request for a minister to lead Holy Communion at our moving **midnight Christmas eve Holy Communion** service. The **Christmas fayre** was well supported and raised far more than predicted, as did the **Christmas Tree festival** (which was described by some as the "best ever"! The **Christmas Hamper** was won by a delighted Margaret Owen of Phoebes Orchard.



## Church Activities:

**Food Bank:** Much to our surprise, the food bank was not used very much over the Christmas period. Perhaps because people have been saving for and collecting food for Christmas for weeks beforehand! If you need to make use of the food bank, please do so as we've had a lot of donations over the Christmas period.



**Lent Course:** We're pleased to announce that we'll be running a Lent course again this year: plans are in the early stages, but we hope that the material will be based on the Psalms and will be linked in with the weekly services. As in previous years, we hope to run on Tuesday lunch/early afternoons in the village (finishing in time for school pick up) and Wednesday evenings in the benefice (local villages). If you'd like to join us, please contact a church member below.



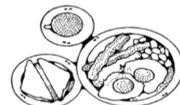
**Prayers:** Our prayer group is continuing to meet twice monthly and we're happy to pray for personal requests as well as local, national and global issues. Please speak to a church member, contact one of the wardens or complete a prayer request card at the Community breakfast.



**Cleaners:** We're still looking for volunteers to help on the church cleaning rota (once every 6 weeks). We'd also appreciate anyone who'd be interested in helping with a one off clean getting in touch. If you can help, please contact Hazel on 270404. Thank you!

**Community and Social:** (Subject to Government guidelines)

**Community Breakfasts:** We'll be holding our popular Community Breakfasts again on **Sat 12<sup>th</sup> February & Sat 12<sup>th</sup> March** with orders taken from **8.30 – 10.30am**. We'll be enjoying all the usual breakfast fayre and it would be lovely if you could join us!



Contact us (details below) if you'd like to go on our (GDPR) email list for reminders of social events or our email list for services and social events.

**Services:** (Subject to Government guidelines) See full listing elsewhere in the newsletter

**Health & Safety:** We will be continuing to follow Government guidelines and taking safety precautions as necessary, erring on the side of caution owing to the age profile of church members.



**Family Service in the Community Centre:** We'll be holding our Family service on **6<sup>th</sup> February at 11am** in the Community Centre. We're planning a family oriented

worship and it would be lovely to see lots of families there!

**Ash Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday falls on **2<sup>nd</sup> March** as Easter is quite late this year. We'll be holding a service (without music) at 10.30am at St Luke's to mark the start of Lent.



**Café church:** We're having services on **6<sup>th</sup> March** and **3<sup>rd</sup> April** in the church! Anyone who's been will tell you our all age introductory service is very informal – a simple (free) breakfast with a chat with your neighbours followed by a 15 – 20 minute "service" of a talk, sometimes with prayers, sometimes music. Come along and join us!

Our annual **Mothering Sunday** Family service will be on **27<sup>th</sup> March** at **9.30am**. We look forward to welcoming as many families as possible.

**Looking ahead to Easter:** our **Palm Sunday** service will be at **9.30am** on **10<sup>th</sup> April** with Said Holy Communion on **Maundy Thursday** at **7.30pm** and **9.30am Holy Communion** will be our **Easter day** service.

**Bible verse of the month: Gal 5 v 16-17, 21b-23:** <sup>16</sup> So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. <sup>17</sup> For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.

<sup>21b</sup> I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,<sup>23</sup> gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



**What does it mean?** This is taken from Paul's letter to the Galatian people. He's advising them that they should give up their hedonistic lives because Christians are called on to role model exemplary behaviours, live good lives and avoid selfishly chasing their own desires. When they do this, the fruits of the Spirit (listed above) are shown in their behaviours. Of course these are behaviours that all Christians aspire to, but we all fall short: only one person was perfect – Jesus, but through him we can all be saved.

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



St Luke's offers baptisms, weddings and funerals which are now freely available. The Rector is on a sabbatical during February. If you have an urgent matter, please contact a Churchwarden on the numbers below. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Churchwardens: Harry, on**

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

MAP  
(Not to scale)



# VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Quiz Night – Sports Club – 20.00
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Live Music Night – Community Centre – 19.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Platinum Jubilee Celebrations (See back page for details)

*For Further Church dates/times please see 'Church Services' on page 2.*

## 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: 01525 270501/07973 158368

To Hire the Hall please telephone 07555 711929 or e-mail: [enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk)

## **SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES**

For 6 bimonthly editions: FULL Page - **£85.00** HALF Page - **£50.00** QTR Page - **£30.00**

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

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

**Note: Upgrading to full colour is on a per edition basis, not a commitment for 6 editions**

Buckinghamshire Council	0300-131-6000
Aylesbury Vale Area – Buckinghamshire Council	01296-585858
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar ( <i>Births &amp; Deaths</i> )	01296-383005
Registrar ( <i>Marriages</i> )	01296-382481
Fly-Tipping on Roads	01296-382416
Social Care Services ( <i>Emergency Duty</i> )	0800-999-7677
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club ( <i>Eileen Curry</i> )	01525-270858
Clerk to the Parish Council ( <i>Jo Simonds</i> )	07818-016108
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 (Harry Davies)	01234-822780
Stewkley Methodist Church ( <i>Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly</i> )	01525-240589

**Police non-emergency number 101**

**NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111**

ANSWERS TO MAVIS'S QUIZ 1/United Nations 2/World Trade Organisation 3/Spotify  
4/Starbucks 5/Apple 6/Nike 7/Audi 8/Chanel 9/British Petroleum 10/World Wildlife Fund

## EDITORS NOTE

With Christmas and the New Year festivities out of the way and thankfully the Omicron variant seemingly on the wane, we can start to make plans for 2022, with the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations being one of the most important items on the agenda. So, it's good to see that the village organisations have got together and have plans underway for a variety of events over the four days from June 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup>. No doubt there will be further updates on the Stoke Hammond Facebook page and in the next April/May edition of the SH & NLS News

I now make one of my regular pleas for new contributors and or ideas for things you would like to see in this Parish magazine. I'd welcome any suggestions to help keep this publication 'fresh' and up to date.

May I please have copy for the April/May 2022 issue by the **20<sup>th</sup> March**  
 Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB  
 01525 270744 E-mail: [gregnoble1980@aol.com](mailto:gregnoble1980@aol.com)



## 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: 
	Wednesday 2 Feb	Wednesday 2 Feb	
Wednesday 9 Feb		Wednesday 9 Feb	Wednesday 9 Feb
	Wednesday 16 Feb	Wednesday 16 Feb	
Wednesday 23 Feb		Wednesday 23 Feb	Wednesday 23 Feb
	Wednesday 2 Mar	Wednesday 2 Mar	
Wednesday 9 Mar		Wednesday 9 Mar	Wednesday 9 Mar
	Wednesday 16 Mar	Wednesday 16 Mar	
Wednesday 23 Mar		Wednesday 23 Mar	Wednesday 23 Mar
	Wednesday 30 Mar	Wednesday 30 Mar	
Wednesday 6 April		Wednesday 6 April	Wednesday 6 April
	Wednesday 13 April	Wednesday 13 April	



## THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Your Parish Council along with other village organisations are starting to put plans together as to how as a community we can jointly mark and celebrate this historic event, with no other monarch having celebrated a reign of 70 years.

Here below are the initial proposals for planned events over the four days and we would welcome your ideas and thoughts on these, plus any other suggestions as to how we can make this such a special event for all to enjoy.

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June:** Late afternoon till early evening, activities for the younger set on the sports field, followed by a BBQ and the Sports Club bar being open plus music and then the Beacon lighting ceremony at 9pm.

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June:** Fun Run for all ages around the village and local countryside, followed by a games afternoon on the Sports Field for all the family and in the evening a Barn Dance plus Hog Roast at the Community Centre.

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June:** In the morning a Treasure Hunt, followed by in the afternoon a tree planting event in honour of the Queen on the Village Green as part of the Queen's Canopy campaign with refreshments available. Later in the day, bring your own picnic at the Community Centre in conjunction with a big screen live broadcast of the Music Concert from Buckingham Palace.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June:** The Big Lunch/Street Party with first thoughts that an ideal location might be Bragenham Side close to the Sports Club and Community Centre so that we can utilise the facilities these premises offer. Suggestions on other venues are welcome or indeed you may have a street party already planned? A memento is planned for children on the day and at the appropriate time a glass of bubbly will be provided for us all to raise our glasses to the Queen.

It is early days, and the above requires much more detail and work, but we thought we would share this with you, so you know plans are underway and to provide an opportunity for wider community involvement.

Once again please, we welcome your views on the plans and of course any offers of support or expertise to help the weekend be a landmark event for our community and a suitable tribute to the Queen's achievement.

Any offers of support can be made via [malcolmnewing@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:malcolmnewing@stokehammondpc.com) or [gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com](mailto:gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com) or any member of the Stoke Hammond Sports