

SH & NLS NEWS

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

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GOM & MUCH MORE

June – July 2024

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Celebrating Difference



Dear friends,

On Sunday May 26th the church celebrated Trinity Sunday. People often think of the Trinity as an obscure bit of theoretical theology, but in fact it contains a powerful message for our life together.

The Trinity is the truth that God is not something single and alone, but that within God himself there is difference (which we often call 'Father', 'Son', and 'Holy Spirit'), and that this difference is held together in the perfect unity of love.

So, God has made humanity, in his image, to reflect both God's unity, and his diversity. We are not all the same, and we not supposed to be all the same, but we are called to find in God the power of love to value our diversity, and to live positively with all the ways in which we are different.

The hope I see in the Christian belief in the Trinity, is that it can help us to live together with our neighbours, both near and far. It can help us not just to tolerate and put up with all the ways in which we are different from one another, but also to learn to celebrate our differences as a positive gift to be enjoyed.

Revd John Waller

ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO JULY 2024

JUNE

2nd June: 09.30am Café Church - DW

9th June: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - RH

Note: *To be held at St Mary Magdalene, Little Brickhill*

16th June: 09.30am Morning Worship - JH

23rd June: 09.30am Holy Communion - VP

30th June: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - SB

Note: *To be held at All Saints, Bow Brickhill*



JW – Rev John Waller

DW – David Webber

JH – Jeremy Hopkinson

VP – Canon Val Plumb

RH – Rev Roger Hale

JULY

7th July: 09.30am Morning Worship - tba

14th July: 11.00am Family Service - JW

21st July: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - JW

Note: *To be held at All Saints, Bow Brickhill*

28th July: 09.30am Holy Communion - JW

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 14th April To 2nd July. The Churchwardens are happy to handle any urgent queries.

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

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

As some of you may already be aware we have a new Chair and Vice Chair of the Parish Council, when at the recent Annual Parish Council Meeting (APCM) Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz and Cllr Craig Champion being unopposed were duly elected as the respective Chair and Vice Chair. We should recognise and thank Cllrs Malcolm Newing and Greg Noble for undertaking these roles over the past year.

It has been most pleasing to see a familiar face back in Stoke Hammond and the return of a Police Community Support Officer having seen our last PCSO leave some months ago. Welcome back Tina Hobson who was this areas PCSO for many years until being moved to another region some while ago. Tina has already been doing the rounds and popped along to community events such as the weekly coffee morning to reacquaint herself with residents. Should you need to contact Tina who is based at the Wing Police Office her mobile number is 07779 586565 and email tina.hobson@thamesvalley.police.uk

As is usual planning updates can be found in the relevant section elsewhere in this publication, but once again the land at the far end of Brook Farm Close merits a specific mention. In the last PC News, we detailed as to how an application for 42 new homes (22/00613/APP) had been 'Called In' before the North Bucks Development Control Planning Committee meeting who were sympathetic to the arguments raised by the Parish Council and local residents and as such voted to refuse the application. This refusal led to an almost instant and obviously preprepared new application (24/00850/CPE) for a Certificate of Lawfulness in relation to the originally approved but now expired application for 33 homes to the same site, by trying to suggest with supporting photographs and other material matters that some work on the site under this original application had already been undertaken within the 3-year time frame and thus the application was still valid and not expired. Well, the planners did not agree and have refused the Certificate. In their refusal and whilst they acknowledged that some minor trench/foundation digging works had indeed been undertaken within the 3-year time period, this was in fact unlawful. Under a condition of the original approval the developers were required to submit a surface water and sewerage plan before commencing any works, and they had failed to do so before undertaking these trench works, hence the reason for deeming it unlawful and the refusal. So, what now, well one suspects the developers will appeal against one or both of the refusals, or put in a new planning application. Ultimately, it's pretty certain some development will take place on this site, but by then and all being well our evolving Neighbourhood Plan should then be in place which both the developers and planning will have to take into consideration.

Still on the subject of new developments, the Parish Council were recently invited by the Hills Group to view prior to its opening the new play park that sits by Murphy Lane and Roman Field the new estate off Fenny Road. It is certainly very impressive (as you can see from the front cover photographs), and not just the play equipment itself but also the amount of green space that surrounds it. In part the reason for the large area of green space was a dictate of planning in recognition that Roman artifacts were found on this land, hence the road name Roman Field. Murphy Lane also has local relevance, as this was named after the late Pam Murphy who once resided at the nearby Tyrells Manor House.

The layby on the Stoke Road, has been issue for a long time now, with all saying something needs to be done. In order to indeed try and get something 'done' your PC

organised in May a site meeting with all interested parties, which included representatives from the Canal & River Trust, Bucks Highways, Anglian Water, the Epic Boating Company (we'll explain more in a moment about their presence), The Old Dairy Farm whose caravan and camping facility abuts the canal at the layby location, plus your PC Clerk and 3 of your Parish Councillors. It did seem rather coincidental that the large stack of pallets that had been in the layby for some weeks had literally the night before been set alight so come our meeting all that remained was a pile of ashes. As to the meeting itself, it was generally agreed that a full closure of the layby by Highways and the Canal & River Trust enforcing the rule that moorings should be on the opposite to the layby side towpath, would ultimately be the only real solution. However, the Highways representative felt the cost of doing same would be prohibitively too expensive and unlikely to be approved, but the question would be raised with at head office. There is though another possible solution, and this is where the Epic Boating Company who are Stoke Hammond based comes into the equation, as they have submitted a plan to purchase the layby and its associated canal side land from Highways and operate a managed marina on the site complete with associated facilities and as such there would be a full control of boats that can moor and vehicles that are permitted to enter and stay on the site. So, at the moment it seems we are in the hands of Highways, as regards official closure or selling of the layby site. The Parish Council have deemed it only fair to await an official response from Highways, but if not forthcoming or positive it will escalate the matter as the current situation with this layby can and should not continue.

You can find the latest results from our 3 MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs) in the latter pages of this edition, but some of your Parish Councillors form part of the Speedwatch team, and could recently been seen on what turned out to be an unseasonal cold day, on the grass verge by Mount Pleasant, sat in their folding chairs, adorned in high vis vests with notepads, pens and speed radar gun ready to target those entering Stoke Hammond from the Leighton Buzzard direction. In all some 162 vehicles passed from 2 – 4pm of which 16 were recorded as speeding above the 30mph limit and those were reported to Thames Valley Police. In point of fact the number of vehicles exceeding 30mph was far greater but because of the rules dictating Speedwatch and how it operates, you are only allowed to record and report those travelling at 36mph and above.

There have been two PC Meetings including the APCM 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 2nd April at the Newton Leys Pavilion attended by all 7 Councillors, Clerk and 18 members of the public (MoP).

- *There was quite a lengthy discussion regarding two planning applications namely the already mentioned Certificate of Lawfulness for Brook Farm and the Willowbridge Marina, the latter to which ultimately albeit not unanimous the PC had no objection – see planning updates for more details.*

- *Clr Champion put forward the proposal that the PC would adopt the responsibilities of the Newton Leys Management Company on the 31st July 2024 on the basis that the following conditions are met:*

- *Man Co asks all members to pay all outstanding arrears plus £1000 to adopt, however, this will be reduced to all outstanding arrears plus £100 if it is paid in full by 31st May 2024.*

- *Man Co will agree to transfer all cash held by Man Co on 31st July 2024 after payment of all existing known debts, excluding the sum of £10,000 which will be retained by Man Co to fund the closure of the company.*
- *Man Co will transfer the benefit of the restrictions over any dwellings where the full amount owed has not been repaid in full by 31st July 2024.*
- *Man Co will arrange for the transfer of the public open space and park to the PC. The PC will be responsible for its own conveyancing fees.*
- *Man Co will arrange a park safety inspection with ROSPA prior to handover and attend to any areas of outstanding maintenance.*
- *Man Co will supply a document to all members that have fully paid by 31st July 2024 allowing the restriction on their property to be removed.*
- *At least 70% of the current outstanding service charge arrears are paid and at least 70% of the £100 payments are made prior to the adoption.*
- *At a previous PC meeting it had been agreed that a more formal process for the naming of new roads in the Parish was required. Cllr Newing presented what was a revised process to that previously suggested which was accepted and agreed by the PC, and would involve the following steps:*
 - Step 1 - As soon as the road layout is known the Parish Council to consider possible names including those of residents who have passed away.*
 - Step 2 - As soon as the request for names comes in from Bucks Council, letter A is sent to the family.*
 - Step 3 - If a positive response is received, the street name suggestion is sent to Bucks Council.*
 - Step 4 - On receipt of confirmation from Bucks Council, letter B is sent to the family.*
 - Step 5 - On completion of the site an official naming ceremony is held with the family members in attendance.*

As for the APC Meeting held on the evening of Tue 7th May, this was preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting, whereby local organisations as well as the PC gave reports on their last years activities. These organisations included the likes of the Gardening Club, the Scouts, St Luke's Church, the Community Centre and Ladies that Lunch. The APCM which started at just after the normal 7.30pm time was joined by 12 MoP.

- *Under Highways, Footpaths & Footways and Lighting matters Cllr Venn confirmed the bridge behind the church has at last been repaired and the pathway by Tyrells Manor has been widened and the brambles cleared. Highways have promised to repair the pathway along Fenny Road near Scotts Close. The new sign along Stoke Road advertising Southlands Auto Centre has been reported via Fix my Street to establish whether the owners have permission for it to be on display. It was proposed by Cllr Champion and agreed by the PC to make contact with Bucks Highways to find out if they would be willing to sell the land on the right as you enter the village from the Bletchley end (Old School Lane) with a view to change this into a parking area and install EV chargers for residents of the village to use.*
- *During the agenda item on any Parish Improvements and Enhancements the Clerk confirmed the 3 x dog waste bins have been installed in Newton Leys South and a large broken tree limb has been removed on Bragenham Side. Cllr Champion has been approached by 2 residents asking for one of the bins to be moved and he proposed that the PC agree to the costs for doing this. Cllr Venn seconded, but all other Cllrs were against, so the motion was denied. The Clerk was also asked to chase Highways regarding the proposed locations of the grit bins in Newton Leys South. Cllr Champion also advised that*

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he had recently walked the village with a resident looking at the drains, with the view to the PC possibly paying to have them cleared due to the time it is taking Bucks Council to do anything about them. However, Bucks Council have advised that the PC are not allowed to touch the drains, and we will need to be patient and wait for them to clear them.

• In the closing Public Participation session, a MoP mentioned that there is confusion amongst residents regarding the Neighbourhood Plan and S106 money and that there is not enough transparency around how the money will be used and for the benefit to the community. Cllr Newing explained the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and the benefits it will bring to the community, and Cllr Champion advised that he will be working with local community groups to make sure the S106 money is spent wisely.

The next PC Meeting is scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 4th June starting at 7.30pm in the Community Centre, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB. It will be the same venue for the July meeting to be held on the evening of Tuesday 2nd July with the usual start time of 7.30pm.

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

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

www.stokehammondpc.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz (Chair) – mubasshirajaz@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Craig Champion - craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Fran Sharkey - fransharkey@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Greg Noble - gregnoble@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr David Venn - davidvenn@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Malcom Newing - malcomnewing@stokehammondpc.com

Cllr Steven Julier – stevjenulier@stokehammondpc.com



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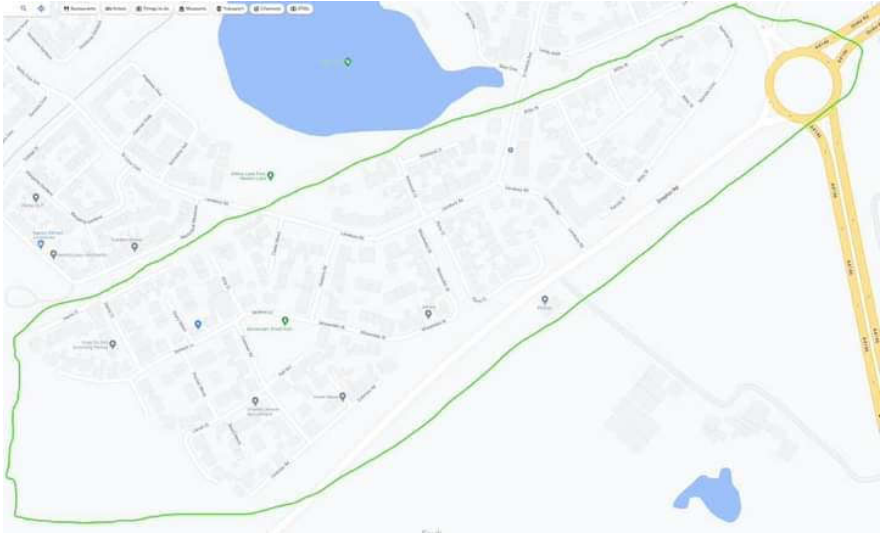
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WELCOME TO THE NEWTON LEYS SOUTH SECTION



Fruit trees

The trees seem to be flourishing since they were planted. They aren't supposed to fruit in the first year, but no one has told them that so we may get some this autumn.

Newton Leys Management Company update

Good progress is being made collecting the final payments from property owners on the Bovis side of the estate. The directors of the management company are on track to hit the thresholds required to hand over the management of the public open space and Dickens Lane Park at the end of July.

Firstport remain difficult to deal with. If anyone has any queries, please contact nleypayments@gmail.com quoting your address and a director of the management company will reply.

Dickens Lane Park

We are just finalising details to remove the shrubs and thorn bushes from the grass areas of the park and refurbish and repaint the equipment, before it is handed over to Stoke Hammond Parish Council at the end of July. The table tennis table and picnic bench will be installed once the concrete bases are complete.

Lights in the Bovis part of the estate

The management company has replaced the light fittings on a few cul-de-sacs prior to handover to Stoke Hammond Parish Council at the end of July.

Vistry (formerly known as Bovis) has also fixed the two lampposts by the park.

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Recreation and sports - volunteers wanted

Anyone who is interested in helping Stoke Hammond Parish Council develop recreational and sports facilities in the parish, please email craigchampion@stokehammondpc.com

We are looking for people who want to help improve facilities for residents. We have a very ambitious project about to start and will need a few residents who want to help drive our project.

Grit bins

The Parish Council has agreed to install grit bins on the estate, but we won't be able to do this until the roads are adopted. We have had an update from Vistry that adoption is likely to take a few years, but can't start until Lansbury Road is adopted first. We are exploring whether there are any ways we can shortcut this process.

Link to Milton Keynes Redway

A massive thanks is due to Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council and Milton Keynes Council for completing the Redways linking the estate from the Pavilion to the MK Redway network. Cllr Ajaz has been using this regularly and it seems to be a popular route with families already and we been receiving great feedback. We will work with Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Council to consider installing e-scooter hire station at the Newton Leys Pavilion to allow residents to use the Redway as the main mode of transport to Bletchley train station.

Cllr Craig Champion

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LADIES THAT LUNCH



The next Lunch will be on Tuesday June 11th in the Sports Club. The one in July will be on Tuesday 9th. Serving lunch at 12.30.

Another of the ladies that used to come to the lunch sadly died on 23 March this year. Valerie Goddard, a very brave and courageous lady attended the lunch, when her health allowed, in her wheelchair, and she was one lovely gracious kind lady, who was always smiling despite the

many challenges she faced in later years. She had a great many friends in the village and elsewhere and she is missed by all who knew her.

There will be a change of menu over the summer months with homemade quiche with a vegetarian option and a green salad. Soup will still be available for those who want it. Jenni Aldrich-Ross will be making the quiche and salad, she is well known for her prize winning cookery at the Village Shows in the past. The cost remains the same at £3 and will include cakes, tea and coffee after the meal. In view of the change in menu it would be helpful to know if you are NOT able to attend on either date.

PCSO Tina Hobson and her colleague attended the May lunch and over a hot drink with us all they gave us all some useful information. It is good to see her once more taking an interest in our community although the area covered has increased.

Many thanks to all who help set up, wash up and tidy up. Thank you to David Garner who brings the keys to me *very early* on the day of the lunch each month. We couldn't have it without the keys! It is always appreciated.

Hazel Turner 01525 270404 hmt404@hotmail.co.uk

Jenni Aldrich-Ross.

STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Not much to pass on as our programme is just about to begin. We have now let everyone know that our Afternoon Tea and Plant Swap is on Saturday June 1st. at Pump House Farm - (2.30pm) so all we want provided is decent weather. We are awaiting confirmation of our first trip when everyone will get the details of when and where. Obviously our next 'report' will be more interesting !



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Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys South Neighbourhood Plan Update

We completed a significant milestone on the 11th April with the end of the Regulation 14 Consultation on our draft Neighbourhood Plan, with Parishioners, Site Owners, developers and Statutory Bodies all invited to provide feedback.

I'm pleased to say that we received 47 feedback forms with 38 received from Parishioners.

Of the Parishioners 81.6 percent supported the plan whilst providing a range of comments on the specific details. All comments received can now be viewed on the Parish Council Facebook page but with names and personal details removed for data integrity purposes.

Of the 18.4% who did not support the plan 6 did so because they objected to the inclusion of the Parish Council Land behind the Community Centre and one because of the inclusion of the land South of Newton Leys. The specific reason raised by some was the concern that the Parish Council would be removing the playground area without replacing it.

If the land behind the Community Centre was ever subject to a housing application, this would only be because the benefits arising from the application would provide for substantially better community facilities and/or truly affordable housing, that would be specifically for young/old parishioners. Any such proposal would be put separately and in detail to the local community and would only go ahead with their blessing. We would also ensure that there would be continuity in providing playground facilities in the nearby vicinity before embarking on any development. The purpose of including the Parish Council land in the plan is that it keeps the opportunity alive, whilst the S106 project develops the overall plan for improving sports and recreational facilities within the Parish, to match the growth in residents over the past 10 years.

The feedback received has been reviewed by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and a number of changes made to the draft plan. As part of this process the group concluded that the Site Allocations remain valid, recognising that whilst in total there were objections to the inclusion of the Parish Council land and the land south of Newton Leys there were far more giving both a high priority for inclusion in the March 2023 prioritisation process. The team felt that the site allocation reasoning was not well understood and we will endeavour to improve communication with respect to this policy element as we move on with the NP timetable.

Next Stages

- 1. The Parish Council will be asked to agree to the amended version of the Plan at the June Parish Council meeting.***
- 2. The document will be submitted to Bucks Council.***
- 3. Once Bucks are happy the Plan is aligned with national guidance and the AVDC/Bucks Local plan they will issue it for the Regulation 16 week consultation. They will advertise the consultation through normal Bucks Council channels. They will notify directly all those that responded to the recent consultation and all the statutory consultees again. At this stage feedback will go directly to Bucks Council planning.***
- 4. Bucks will appoint a Planning Examiner and provide him with the plan and any comments received during the Reg 16 Consultation. It will be his job to determine if the plan meets the Basic Conditions, namely the plan is aligned with National and Local Policy, and other requirements set out by Law. He will determine if modifications are required and will recommend whether it can move forward or not to a referendum.***
- 5. If the Plan passes inspection and is deemed fit for purpose, it will be submitted by Bucks to Parishioners in a local referendum. If 50% of parishioners who vote support the plan it will become part of the Local Plan Policy specifically for development applications within the Stoke Hammond Parish area.***

I cannot stress enough the importance of completing this project and getting it right. Once the plan is accepted by Bucks formally as a document, it will carry significant weight in the Planning Process, it will mean we have a greater element of control over how the Parish grows in the future. In a few weeks' time we will have a new Government and all parties will be giving a significant focus on meeting the shortfall in housing delivery. We need to be ready for whatever this focus brings.

I very much appreciate all those people who have taken part in the process to date. It is my intention to respond personally to all parishioners who commented during the recent consultation.

Malcolm Newing
Chair SH Parish Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group



Finally, we have some good weather so we can enjoy the cricket season. This is a busy time at the sports club with teams on Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday. Please pop in at the weekends and support your local team. We also welcome

anyone looking at playing cricket.

We are pleased to say Stoke Hammond Youth Vets won their football league at the first time of trying. We are over the moon for them. It is a great triumph for their first season as a team. They have supported and represented the club very well.

We would like to welcome any new member to our sports club. We offer cheaper drinks and events for our members plus we're also a very family friendly establishment. We have Sky Sports available to watch. Please pop in and ask about membership behind the bar.

Once again, we please ask you all to make sure dog poo is picked up. The Parish Council have kindly installed a new bin outside the clubhouse. There are now 3 bins around the field. So, there is absolutely no reason for the poo to be left. We are all keeping an eye on the situation and we will be reporting any dog owner who does not pick up after their dog to the local authorities. You could face up to £1000 fine. It is also a massive health risk for all of our sports player who use the field. This includes the youth of the village.

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Scouts



High Ash Group

We ended the Spring term with a lively family Easter Bingo evening to raise funds for the group. The event was its normal success with plenty of Eggs being won and piles of hot cross buns consumed.



A small contingent from High Ash joined the rest of our District in Milton Keynes to celebrate St. Georges Day with a parade through Cambell Park and a renewal of their scout and cub promises. It turned out to be a fairly chilly day but at least the rain held off!



The scouts have been busy outdoors this term with hikes, cooking on fires and working on their naturalist and sports badges. The cub pack have also been learning how to maintain their bikes, fix punctures and understand key road signs.





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In May most of the cub pack took part in a fantastic space themed camping weekend with over 200 other cubs from all over Milton Keynes. Our young people spent most of Saturday in intensive astronaut training with lots of team building activities incorporating obstacle courses, map reading, rocket launcher construction projects, handling alien slime, planet watching, fire lighting (not so easy in space but we ignored that fact!) and time in the moon caving simulator.....and of course we arranged the Northern Lights show to kick it all off on the Friday night!



Our cub pack is now back at capacity but we still have some spaces for scouts. We could offer more if we had some more adult volunteers – please make contact if you are interested in helping out in some way.

And finally, a big thank you goes out to our local community board (Winslow and Villages) who funded the purchase of new tents this year to help make all this possible – their support is much appreciated.



DAVE POLLINGTON

Group Scout Leader (Baloo)

dave.pollington@mkscouts.org

High Ash Scout Group

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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 English County from its outline and 4 possible suggestions:

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



If you're a dog lover this is maybe the quiz for you this time in that, can you identify the breed from the pictures. You do have a choice of 4 possible answers for each image.

- 1/ Whippet
Portuguese Water Dog
English Foxhound
Akita



- 2/ French Bulldog
Bloodhound
Beagle
Pit Bull



- 3/ Labradoodle
Labrador
Havanes
Labrador Retriever



- 4/ Pit Bull
Labradoodle
Schnauzer
Siberian Husky





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**5/ Chinese Crested
Havanese
Samoyed
Borzo**



**6/ Portuguese Water Dog
Finnish Spitz
Boston Terrier
Scottish Terrier**



**7/ Chow Chow
Mastiff
Pit Bull
German Shepherd**



**8/ Afghan
Dalmatian
Great Pyrenees
Greyhound**



**9/ Pit Bull
Basset Hound
Great Dane
Rottweiler**



**10/ Dalmatian
Labrador Retriever
Beagle
Greyhound**

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



BUCKS
ART
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Makers & Artists in Action

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Sundays
8th to 23rd June
10.00 – 5.30 pm**

**Field View, Castle Street,
Wingrave, HP22 4PT**

Including delicious cakes and drinks

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BUCKS. ART WEEKS 2024

at **FIELD VIEW STUDIO**

CASTLE STREET, WINGRAVE, BUCKS. HP22 4PT

8-23rd June 2024 Fridays to Sundays 10.00 am – 5.30 pm



Bucks. Art Weeks 2024 (BAW) is rapidly heading our way in Buckinghamshire – and here in Wingrave with Rowsham.

The **BAW** advertising signs - bright yellow posters and arrow signs - will be hard to miss locally and across the County, and this week we've collected our allocation of boxes and more boxes of BAW catalogues which will be available from the Wingrave Village Shop (and Field View entrance).

Field View Studio, Castle Street, will be open on **Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays** (see dates above) during the Bucks. Art Weeks period, **10.00 to 5.30 pm** (or indeed at another time by appointment). We will be exhibiting our lively and contemporary work by this year's group of 9 Artists and Makers. Look forward to seeing unique Ceramics, Textiles, Glass Art, Pencil and Pastel Portraiture, Felt Creations and Mixed Media Paintings and expect to meet the Artists too; new BAW exhibitors are with us this year. (Catalogue/Website Numbers 66-74). Of course our garden is also 'Open' and there's plenty of seating for a moment of Rest and Relaxation with a drink and cake!

Julie Pugh's lovely Studio will also be open (21st -23rd) showing '**One of One' Jewellery** at nearby **Home Farm**, so just head on down Castle Street for a warm welcome and a spot of enjoyable browsing at both venues.

Rowsham? Check out Jenny Lowe's wonderful animal sculptures – and her garden too - during selected BAW days. (Catalogue/Website Number 79). Then crossing the A418, find four 'Rowsham Creatives' exhibiting at Manor Farm (Catalogue/Website Number 78). Details of a local 'Trail' which you can follow on your BAW wanderings will be included in the next Communique.

So, save the dates, visit us locally and then head out around the County for an unrivalled feast of June Art.

Andrew and Margaret Liversidge, Field View Studio

07989 583556

(Parking within in the Village please)

Please visit the BAW website/catalogue for specific details of artists' venues and opening times. Please note BAW full opening period is 8th – 23rd June.

Catalogues and advertising material available from Wingrave shop (and at Field View entrance gates) from the beginning of June.

BAW Website: www.bucksartweeks.org.uk

BAW Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/bucksartweeksofficial/>

Art At Wingrave Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/art.at.wingrave/?hl=en>

Margaret Liversidge Art Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/margaretliversidgeart/?hl=en>

Website: <https://margaretliversidge.co.uk/>



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Aylesbury drug dealer sent to prison

Following an investigation by Thames Valley Police, an Aylesbury drug dealer has been jailed.

Usman Raja, aged 23, of Crown Leys, Aylesbury, was jailed for five years and six months at Aylesbury Crown Court on Tuesday (21/5).

Raja pleaded guilty to one count of possession with intent to supply Class A drugs, namely cocaine, and possession of criminal property.

Just before midday on Thursday 18 April this year, Raja was subject to a drug search by police officers in Parton Road.

During the search an amount of cocaine was seized from Raja's vehicle as well as an amount of cash and a mobile phone.

Raja was arrested at the scene and was charged with the offences the following day.

Investigating officer, PC Gary Ratcliffe said: "This is another case that demonstrates Thames Valley Police's commitment to taking drugs off our streets.

"Our message is clear, if you are a drug dealer you will be arrested, charged and jailed.

"At the time of his arrest, Usman Raja was on prison licence for previous drugs offences, and so the court handed down a significant sentence.

"We need to work with our residents to take drugs off our streets. Therefore, if you suspect drug dealing in your community, contact us by calling 101 or leaving any information you have via our website."



Message Sent By

James Williams

(Police, Media Officer, Thames Valley)



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 The Lindens Residential Care Home


What's On?

OPEN DAY

SATURDAY
29TH JUNE

2PM - 4PM

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

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10TH AUGUST

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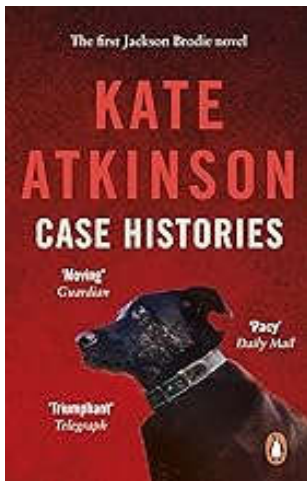


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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



Case Histories - by Kate Atkinson



This was a detective novel set in Cambridge. It introduced Jackson Brodie a former Police Inspector turned Private investigator. He is instructed to find out the truth about 3 unconnected family tragedies - one the disappearance of a young girl while camping in her garden, the next the murder of a middle-aged man's daughter and thirdly the wife who has murdered her husband with an axe. All a bit grim.

Members of the Group had mixed feelings about the book. It was said to be well written and a page turner but the majority were not too keen on it. They thought the stories should come together more, it was found to be confusing as there were too many characters and some felt they had to keep turning back to check who was who. One member of the Group neither liked it or disliked it and some failed to finish it but overall, even though a couple were enthusiastic about it and described it as an easy read, it was not too popular.

Conclusion: Can't really recommend it as opinions so diverse and more against than for !!

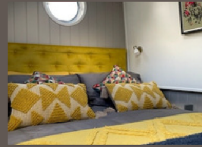
Please see over for book two review

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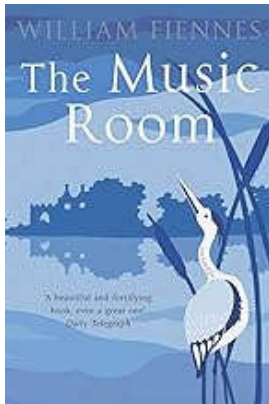


1 Shower Room



2 x Wc's





The Music Room - by William Fiennes

This was a well written memoir and almost an essay about the Author's childhood living in a rambling house cum- castle in the Cotswolds with his family. This eldest brother, Richard, suffered from epilepsy and was the main focus of his family and as a rather demanding character also had a large impact on the Author's young life. There is not really an actual plot but despite the in-depth details of all aspects of epilepsy the lovely descriptions of the house and surroundings made up for it.

All the Group found the opening chapter a bit off-putting as it was purely concerned with the history and all aspects of epilepsy and brain damage to set the scene of Richard's influence on the family's life but they persevered and began to enjoy it more as it went on. The book really highlighted the love of the parents for the family and their patience with Richard although everyone would have preferred less in-depth details of Richard's illness and some were tempted to miss out chunks. However, everyone enjoyed it to a degree and all agreed that the skilful writing and beautiful descriptions of the house and surroundings made it a good read. The 'music room' was obviously a sanctuary for the Author. It was an interesting book and several of us could relate to many aspects of it either through previous experiences or knowing the area in which it is situated. It is actually a real 'castle' - Broughton Castle (near Banbury) which still welcomes visitors and is said to be well worth a visit. Definitely voted as interesting and a book that flowed along while holding your attention.

Conclusion: The book must be recommended as everyone in the group gained something from reading it.



Broughton Castle and Gardens are open to the public on Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays from 2pm until 5pm.

For more information go to <https://www.broughtoncastle.com/>

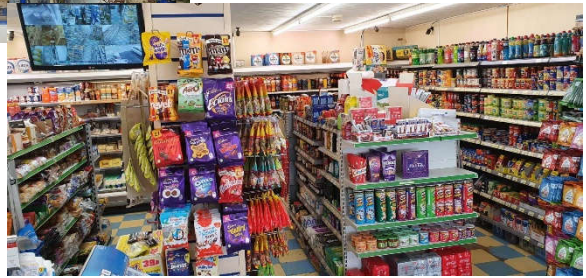
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Elections

Election time is here again
The Party's you've been noting
Pur on yer clogs get out the house
Twill soon be time for voting.

Part of an old poem I wrote at about the age of eleven. But it is the year of world wide elections. America- the country where the candidate with most money wins. Russia- where the outcome is known in advance and any serious candidate is either banged up or eliminated. Many other countries around the world and of course the United Kingdom.

We have a general election coming up although when is not yet known. Apparently, the delay is to give the present incumbents the best possible chance of staying in office. We've had local council elections (but not in our village until next year) which gives some clue as to which way the general election will go. I do not know why party politics should be relevant to choosing a local Councillor. Surely this should be based on the suitability of a candidate with the local knowledge to make decisions for their area.

Even less connected with party politics we have just had elections for the Police and Crime Commissioners. Did we receive any flyers or information detailing the candidates? No. Did anyone know any of the candidates? The only clue appears to have been on the voting slip which gave the candidates political allegiance. So no bias there then.



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BOSCH



The PCC are a group who are responsible for generally overseeing police forces. I learn that there are also Police, Fire and Crime Commissioners. Must be some overlap there?

Earlier this year we received an election flyer from our prospective Labour M P. As our various wards have been revised (not to influence the political outcome surely?) this was relevant information. However, I noted that the bright red leaflet was superimposed with a Union flag. As the candidate left an e-mail address, I felt obliged to message him pointing out that the flag was upside down and was he in distress? I did not receive a reply. A few days after this my Wife pointed out that the Labour leader's publicity leaflet was also showing an inverted Union flag. I have since seen a number of placards at demonstrations and marches with similar irregularity. Can I possibly consider voting for a party who can't get the National flag the right way up!

Grumpy Old Man



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PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES APRIL & MAY 2024



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:

24/00766/APP – Knowles-Brown Properties Ltd, Unit 2 Willowbridge Marina, Stoke Rd MK2 3JZ

Erection of 8no mixed use general industrial and storage/distribution (B2/B8) units with ancillary office space, associated access and parking.

A previous application for 9no units to which the PC had Objected and subsequently refused by Bucks Planning because they defined the land as rural. This new application for a slightly reduced number of units also addressed some of the other reasons for the planner's refusal. The owners of the site also confirmed that since its acquisition in 1999 it had always been used for industrial purposes. After a lengthy discussion involving input from the owners, nearby residents and Members of the Public the PC felt that the potential benefits such as future job opportunities outweighed the negatives and for this reason resolved they had No Objections to this new application.

24/00790/CPE – STOKE HAMMOND Fairview Farm, Fenny Road MK17 9BN

Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use for residential purposes as accommodation for travelling showpersons, use of areas within the site for parking, storage and maintenance and fixing of machinery and fairground rides comprising B2 and B8 uses and activities. The subject residences are identified as units A, B, C and D and the subject development also comprises touring caravans.

Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTION to this application.

****The certificate was granted and issued by planning on the 17/05/24***

24/00850/CPE – Brook Farm, Leighton Rd.

Certificate of Lawfulness for existing use for confirmation development has been implemented on application 16/02432/AOP (Erection of 33 residential dwellings). *Please see Parish Council News section for a full description of this application, the Cllrs resolve to Object and the reasons that Bucks Council refused this application.*

24/00919/APP – The Warren Grove Farm, Church Rd, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of workshop and stable block. *Cllrs had previously objected to a similar and subsequently withdrawn application over concerns about possible damage during construction of the adjacent listed St Luke's Church boundary wall. Cllrs felt this new application still required more detail regarding the safeguarding of the Church wall the distance to which from the proposed new building remains the same as in the previous design. They also felt that there should be a party wall agreement in place. For these reasons the Cllrs again objected to this application.*

****This application was approved by planning on the 22/05/24***

24/01200/APP 12 Larnar Close, Newton Leys MK3 5QQ

Householder application for part conversion of existing garage and erection of rear orangery extension.

Cllrs resolved they had NO Objections to this application.

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And search for: **Stoke**



GambleAware 

Supporters must be 18 years or over

24/01131/APP 9 Harris Close, Newton Leys

Householder application for single storey rear extension.

Cllrs resolved they had NO Objections to this application.

PLANNING UPDATES:

23/03302/APP – Unit 1 The Granary, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

Householder application for detached double garage.

23/03281/APP – Unit 2 The Granary, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

Householder application for detached double garage.

Cllrs had resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to both of these applications which were subsequently approved by planning on the 26/03/24

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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ANSWERS TO MAVIS'S QUIZ:

- 1 – Akita
- 2 – French Bulldog
- 3 – Labradoodle
- 4 – Siberian Huskey
- 5 – Chinese Crested
- 6 – Scottish Terrier
- 7 – Mastiff
- 8 – Afghan
- 9 – Rottweiler
- 10 – Labrador Retriever

YOUR GREAT BRICKHILL UNITARY WARD COUNCILLORS

The Great Brickhill Ward includes the villages of: Drayton Parslow, Dunton, Great Brickhill, Hoggeston, Hogshaw, Mursley, Newton Longville, North Marston, Oving, Pitchcott, Quainton, Soulbury, Stewkley, Stoke Hammond & Swanbourne.



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 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 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 Mob: Not Avail



St Luke's Church News

We've had an incredibly busy few weeks with a huge range of events from Easter services, Community breakfasts, a sponsored walk, Christian Aid week, the Plant sale, Treasure hunt and pudding club and lots

more! We are still collecting the last of our sponsored walk money, but have raised over £1500. The plant sale raised over

£600 and the Christian Aid coffee morning raised £93.94, which will be added to the

donations at the Christian Aid service and the "Big Brekkie" Community Breakfast. Thank you to everyone who supported any of these events either by financial contribution or being a helper at the events.

Forthcoming Special Services:

We'll be holding one of our most accessible services, **Café church** on **2nd June**. Just turn up between **9.30 and 10.10am** to enjoy a light breakfast. At about 10.15am, we break off from chatting for an informal service which might include anything from a Bible reading, a prayer, an invitation to share your thoughts about the subject or a brief talk.



The "service" finishes at about half ten. If you want to try church, but you're not used to it, this service is for you. You'll have plenty of time to chat to regular church members and get to know them. If you're nervous about attending, please call Diane who will answer any questions you have.

On **23rd June at 9.30am** our Area Dean, Rev Canon Val Plumb will be leading our **Holy Communion** service. It would be lovely if we could fill the church for her!

Fundraising:

Our next fundraising event is the annual church **Midsummer fete**. This year we will be holding it – yes that's right - on **22nd June!** It will be from **1-5pm**. We'll be holding it at the **Community Centre** and will be charging an entry fee to cover the cost of **Morris Dancers** and other entertainment. We're planning that emergency vehicles will be present for children to sit in.



Please let us know if you'd like to have a stall at the fete or

if you'd be able to help out on the day.

Save the date on your calendar for our **Quiz night** on **13th July**: details to follow. We will be advertising on the village Facebook page.



Other events:

The Bucks Historic Churches Trust hold their annual **sponsored Ride and Stride**



event on **14th September**. Our Churchwarden Harry usually rides his bike for us, but can't this year. We're hoping someone will take his place: you'd have to walk or ride a bike/ horse round our area visiting as many churches as possible. We can find sponsors for you. **If you could help, please contact Harry** (details below).



Church Activities:

Afternoon teas: We're looking forward to holding afternoon teas again this year in the church between **3 and 5pm** on Sundays: on **2nd June, 21st July, 18th Aug, 29th 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).



Community Breakfast: is open to everyone. The next breakfasts will be on **8th June** and **13th July** 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. Donations to the Food bank are also collected.



Food Bank: The church foodbank in the church porch is free to all and topped up regularly. There is a box specifically for families which contains family meal items and multiple tins of the same items. If you can contribute, financially or in goods, please contact Dave or Diane Webber (see below) Items most needed: ready meals eg beans with sausages/ tinned casserole, vegetable oil, dog food, fruit juice/squash, coffee, sugar, washing up liquid.



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. Some of the toys are looking a bit tatty, so we will be sorting through them before the church fete.

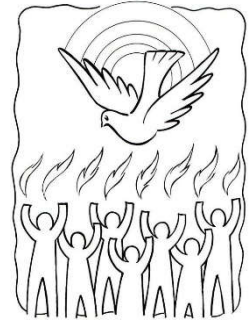


Bible verse of the month: *Acts 2 v 1-6: When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.*

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken.

What does it mean?: It was Peter who stood up and spoke to the shocked crowd that had gathered, preaching the Good News that “..everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” He called the witnesses in the crowd to repent and be baptised: about 3000 did so and became Christians on that day.

Christians believe that Pentecost, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, was the birth of the Christian church. We too can repent and be baptised and come into the Christian faith, enjoying the peace, the blessing and the joy of being filled with the Holy Spirit. You can read the story in full in the Bible or online on the BibleGateway website and if you're interested in experiencing the Holy Spirit yourself, come along to a service! (see service schedule elsewhere in the newsletter).



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.brickhillchurches.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 2nd July. Details are on the benefice website. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please call **Churchwardens: Harry on 07773065271**

MAP
(Not to scale)





High Ash C of E School
Parish Council Newsletter



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

June 2024

Summer Term - It's hard to believe we've reached June and nearly the end of the school year. This term brings together all the hard work with SATS tests for our Year 6s. The children have worked hard and we're really proud of them. There lots of fun too. Year 6 have their residential week to look forward to in June. They are going to Shropshire. We're sure some great adventures await them!

Summer term is a busy term for all our children. There are lots of sports festivals and sports day to train for. We have our annual music festival later in the summer too. Perhaps most exciting for many children is learning who their classmates and teacher will be for next year.

Places Available for September - Now is the time we begin to get to know the families joining us in September. We held a welcome evening for new parents at the end of May and the children will be coming to visit for the first time early in July. We still have places in Foundation for September 2024 if you know anyone that is interested. Email of the school if you would like to arrange a tour office@highashschool.co.uk

Grounds and Gardens - The mix of sun and the rain has meant our No-Mow May got off to a great start. We're already seeing flowers coming up through the grass which is really exciting. Our Foundation sensory herb garden was entered into a competition at a nearby garden centre by a parent family, to help us with further resources. We didn't receive the winning prize, but we were given pots full of flowers and resources to help with growing our vegetables. Our veggie patch is doing well and we're hoping there will be some salad crops to use in our school lunches over the final half of the summer term.

Circus - Our school field will host the Big Top back at school in June. Our fantastic PTA, HASA, has arranged for the circus to visit again. This was a great event for families when the circus visited a couple of years ago and we're sure it's going to be even better this year. We're very grateful to the PTA for all their hard work to support the school.



News from Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident

24 May 2024

I hope you are all keeping well. The weather continues to be a mixture of sunshine and showers but hopefully we have some better weather ahead.



I'm sure the national news this week cannot have escaped your notice with the announcement from the Prime Minister that there is to be a General Election on Thursday 4 July. Please do look out for further information in the coming days and weeks about the deadlines for registering to vote, postal voting and voter ID.

On to more local matters, and I'm conscious it's been some time since my last update to you. I do therefore want to update you on some of the important items of local news and activity from the council in the last few weeks, and some information about what we've got coming up.

Extra funding for additional drain and ditch clearing

I feel like I've spent most of these updates talking about the weather in recent months, and this is no exception! While it's a relief to finally be well into spring, we are still dealing with the impacts of one of the wettest periods in history. Even this week showed us once again that groundwater levels remain very high and that it only takes a heavy downpour to once again fill drains and gullies.

Locally we have had some more flood alerts. I know it's been an immensely difficult winter for some residents who've experienced the impacts of all this rain and flooding. We want to do everything we can to become more resilient to the impacts of prolonged wet weather, and I would advise starting by familiarising yourself with the wealth of information about flooding and flood prevention that's on the council's website.

The council is what is called a Local Lead Flood Authority. In practice, a lot of the responsibility lies with water companies and the Environment Agency but of course the council has a role in bringing these parties together, gathering local information, ensuring our own networks are fit for purpose and above all else, acting on behalf

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 play. 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.



After our re-opening day we've been building up our numbers. We'd love to see some new faces joining us too, and have lots planned for the summer term - so come down, see what it's like and meet the children who'll be in your child's school class. You won't believe how quickly it all happens!

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 Ashlynn 07930 240926 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)

of our residents to have these organisations find long-term solutions. This is why we have pledged a further £500,000 towards extra drain and ditch clearing – on top of the existing commitment to cleanse every gully in Buckinghamshire, every year. This additional funding will be spent on extra cleansing for more than 2,000 high priority ditches and drains, creating new ditching in some problem areas and repairing damaged drainage systems so the water can flow away more easily.

I want to make a special mention too of the severe impact that the heavy rainfall has had on the Chalfont St Peter area. I recently attended a packed meeting of concerned residents. This is in a location vulnerable to groundwater flooding but we have seen this winter the sewage system again compromised and residents having to experience the terrible situation of sewage flooding in homes and gardens. We have put pressure upon Thames Water, who own the sewage infrastructure, to firstly resolve this situation and to work on resilience and prevention. As an immediate priority we have pushed Thames Water to reopen the High Street and this was finally done this week. We thank residents for their patience.

Road network

I was out and about over the weekend in my car and on my bicycle. It was good to see at last substantial road repairs. These have been very difficult due to the intermittent rain disrupting road works. We continue to work tirelessly to repair the damage caused by the wet winter to the whole of the road network. Again, the rain opened up multiple defects across the whole county and we know it's an uphill battle to get back on top of it. It is genuinely hard for councils across the country to keep up with the deterioration of their road networks and we are no exception. We fixed 30,000 potholes last year and I think we will do more this year.

We know what a key priority this is for our residents, which is why, as I've previously outlined, we've added an extra £5 million to the existing £105 million, meaning a total £110 million investment in the highways network over a four year period. Like last year, our aim is to capitalise on the spring and summer months and make big strides forward on our overall roads and repairs programme. This work also sees specific repairs and improvements to key pieces of infrastructure.

Let me just add that I am not complacent, and I know that we still have a lot to do on our roads with the limited financial resources available.

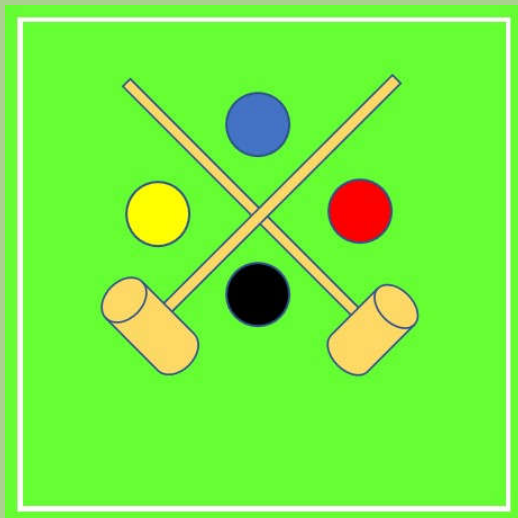
Marlow Bridge

We're surveying Marlow Bridge at the moment to finalise the programme of works for this historic structure. And I'm delighted that we are reopening Berry Hill footbridge in Taplow in the coming weeks, after major works has left it closed for a very long time. This has been a complex project requiring a substantial section of the bridge being completely replaced and we are all very pleased this large-scale project is complete and that the bridge will be fully reopen to the public very soon.

Extra funding for weed spraying

I know how important it is to our residents that the county and our villages and market towns are well presented. We've taken a really tough stance on fly-tipping

Fancy learning a new sport?
Come and play Croquet in Winslow



The game is modern, fast, fun and very sociable

Winslow Croquet Club is open to everyone, whether you have played before or want to learn something new. Our normal club afternoons are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays starting at 2pm, when club members play friendly games but the lawn is available at other times. If you are interested there are also friendly inter-club games.

If you would like to play or learn how to play, please contact us on 07922 87 66 88 or 07540 99 05 67 and we can arrange a session with you. Or just drop in on one of the club days and say hello. We will be happy to show you how to play if you are new to the sport. You can find us on the edge of the football ground near the scout hut.

It's fun!

Find us on Facebook @winslowcroquet

and littering and are ramping up even further our action on that, being early adopters of new powers available to us on enforcement against litter louts. I hope to say more about that in my next Newsletter.

Last year we made what frankly was, in retrospect, a mistake in removing the budget for weed spraying. This was on cost and safety grounds. I'm therefore really pleased that we have been able to re-instate a weed spraying round this year. The wet and mild weather has caused the weeds to grow extremely quickly this spring.

Roadside verges

In recent years we have reduced the number of cuts to roadside verges. Again, this is for both financial but also environmental reasons. We have tried to improve the biodiversity of our roadsides. However, I am also very conscious of the balance we need to strike between protecting the natural environment but also keeping verges at junctions cut so they don't jeopardise visibility. The mixture of rain and sun has caused a lot of verges to grow very rapidly and some sight lines at junctions risk being obscured. If this occurs in your area please alert the council using Fix My Street or contact your locally elected Buckinghamshire Councillor.

Reflections on the last year in Buckinghamshire



We recently held the council's Annual General Meeting, where we appointed our new Chairman, Cllr Mimi Harker OBE and new Vice Chairman, Cllr Sarfaraz Kahn Raji. The AGM is also a time where we take stock of where the council is now, what we've delivered over the last year, and what the immediate priorities are moving forward.

It has not been an easy year. I know many residents have relied on the ongoing support provided through our Helping Hand service and that many households have continued to feel the effects of rise in bills and other costs that we've seen in the last couple of years. As a council, balancing our own budgets has been exceptionally challenging given that increased demand of four critical services; social care for children and adults, temporary accommodation for the homeless, and transport for children with special needs to get to school is devouring our budget and now accounts for 71% of our overall spend.

These are not easy parameters to work within and we are having to find further savings on top of the £75 million we've already saved through becoming a unitary council in Buckinghamshire.

That said, we remain prudently run and as a result are able to invest in community facilities in a way that sadly, some other local authorities are unable to do.

The council's activity over the last twelve months reflects its four over-arching priorities as agreed in our **Corporate Plan**; Strengthening our Communities, Protecting the Vulnerable, Improving our Environment and Increasing Prosperity.

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR LEIGHTON RD 19/03/24 TO 19/05/24

For Project: Leighton Road
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 24/05/2024 16:09:00
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 19/03/2024 00:00:00 through 19/05/2024 08:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 37.5 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 105420
 Max Speed: 60 MPH on 05/05/2024 04:55:00
 Total Vehicles: 124024
 AADT: 2020

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	2118	1999
AM Peak	07:00 154	146
PM Peak	15:00 177	162

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 37.5
 50th Percentile Speed: 30.8
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 25.0 MPH to 35.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 30.93

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	8624	10393	10408	10787	10964	9699	6943
% over limit	54.6	55.1	55.3	54.5	54.6	54.7	53.8
Avg Speeder	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.3	35.4
Avg Speed	11.9	11.8	11.8	11.5	11.5	12.3	13.4



I addressed the AGM on our Annual Report, which you can view at this link if you would like to see the detail, pulling out many of the main achievements we've delivered in the last year under these four themes which all of our work sits under

Some key highlights from the last 12 months include:

- The major extra investment in our road network as detailed above.
- Nearly £1 million invested in significant upgrades to seven parks and play spaces.
- Introducing higher fines and new zero tolerance policies for fly-tipping, with the same tougher approach coming in for littering.
- Administering £2.4 million of Household Support Fund through our Helping Hand programme, supporting residents experiencing financial hardship and handing out nearly 90,000 digital food vouchers for families to use during the school holidays.
- Progressing a number of projects under our flagship 'Opportunity Bucks' programme, our local approach to 'Levelling Up', which has included a series of Community Action Days and jobs and skills fairs.
- Our Adult Social Care team managing more than 40,000 contacts and completed nearly 4,000 reviews for social care clients.
- Our family support service supporting nearly 4,500 families.
- Children in our schools continuing to achieve above average exam results.

You can read more in the full Annual Report, available on our website.

Future growth in our town centres and beyond

Importantly, we are also working hard to create a firm foundation for future growth here in Buckinghamshire. This is shown through the adoption of our Regenerating Bucks strategy last year. A key focus of this work is how we will regenerate our three largest town centres and I'm delighted that we've recently progressed exciting plans for Aylesbury that will deliver economic growth and create a more attractive town centre space.

We have progressed long-standing plans to turn the Old County Offices site into 46 brand new homes in the heart of the town, through a developer who will bring the scheme forward. We have also agreed proposals to regenerate the former Gala Bingo site on the High Street which has lain empty for a number of years. We have spent a lot of time exploring potential uses for this building including bringing it back into use. I know there is great affection for it and I myself, as a historian, had been very keen that we explored every possible option to retain the building. However, the reality is that this simply is not viable.

No business case has ever come forward and the building has sadly almost nothing left of its original cinema interior character. The costs of restoring it would be very high and more than the council can afford. Instead, the site offers a real opportunity to drive forward some very positive growth and change. We have therefore agreed exciting plans to create a new public space that will open up the High Street, creating a link to the thriving Exchange development. In essence, it will be a new

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR FENNY RD 19/03/24 TO 19/05/24

For Project: Fenny Road
 Project Notes:
 Location/Name: Incoming
 Report Generated: 24/05/2024 16:16:28
 Speed Intervals: 5 MPH
 Time Intervals: Instant
 Traffic Report From: 19/03/2024 00:00:00 through 19/05/2024 08:59:59
 85th Percentile Speed: 33.2 MPH
 85th Percentile Vehicles: 97425
 Max Speed: 65 MPH on 19/03/2024 15:00:00
 Total Vehicles: 114618
 AADT: 1867

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	1946	1846
AM Peak	11:00 138	147
PM Peak	16:00 184	169

Speed

Speed Limit: 30
 85th Percentile Speed: 33.2
 50th Percentile Speed: 26.8
 10 MPH Pace Interval: 20.0 MPH to 30.0 MPH
 Average Speed: 27.04

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	3716	4622	4652	4839	5034	4509	3085
% over limit	26.4	26.8	26.5	26.2	27.2	26.5	26.3
Avg Speeder	34.6	34.7	34.6	34.6	34.6	34.6	34.6
Avg Speed	11.5	11.2	11.1	10.8	10.8	11.0	12.5



'quarter' for Aylesbury and the intention will be to have some retail and an outdoor space that can be used for music and other events, bringing people together in the same way that the Gala Bingo and old cinema did before it. Crucially, these plans will create new employment opportunities and will support our local independent businesses to flourish and grow. I will keep you updated as these plans progress.

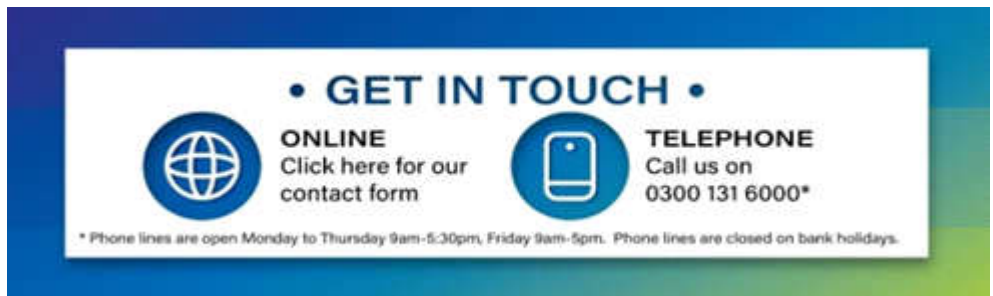
I'm sorry that this Newsletter is so long. There has been much to update you on so I hope this has been useful and informative. I will leave you with a final thought about 'the future' – on far more personal level. As a council, we are trying hard to encourage as many people as possible to consider whether they could foster a child in need. We have seen a significant drop in the number of foster carers in Buckinghamshire in recent years yet fostering remains by far the best solution for a child in need. We have therefore worked hard to put together a really attractive package of 'perks' for foster carers in the hope of encouraging more to come forward. This includes a **full council tax refund, free parking in council car parks, free access to leisure centres** and more.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in finding out more about fostering, please direct them to the **special section** of our website.

This will be my last Newsletter for a while due to restrictions during the election period. Please all keep well and safe.

Yours,

Martin Tett Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



• GET IN TOUCH •

ONLINE
Click here for our contact form

TELEPHONE
Call us on
0300 131 6000*

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

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



Buckinghamshire Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

buckinghamshire.gov.uk

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR NEWTON RD 19/03/24 TO 19/05/24

For Project: Newton Road

Project Notes:

Location/Name: Incoming

Report Generated: 24/05/2024 16:13:45

Speed Intervals: 5 MPH

Time Intervals: Instant

Traffic Report From: 19/03/2024 00:00:00 through 19/05/2024 09:59:59

85th Percentile Speed: 29.8 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles: 21492

Max Speed: 50 MPH on 20/03/2024 00:30:00

Total Vehicles: 25285

AADT: 411

Volumes - weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	435	407
AM Peak 08:00	28	28
PM Peak 16:00	46	42

Speed

Speed Limit: 30

85th Percentile Speed: 29.8

50th Percentile Speed: 25.4

10 MPH Pace Interval: 20.0 MPH to 30.0 MPH

Average Speed: 25.17

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Count over limit	400	488	566	525	544	519	340
% over limit	12.4	12.9	13.5	13.1	13.7	13.9	14.4
Avg Speeder	33.2	33.1	33.2	33.3	33.3	33.3	33.2
Avg Speed	17.0	16.8	16.1	16.5	16.8	16.1	18.4



VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 4th June	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 8 th June	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 15 th June	Afternoon Tea Event – Community Centre – 14.00 – 16.00
Saturday 22 nd June	St Luke's Fete – Community Centre – <i>see church news for times</i>
Tuesday 2 nd July	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 13 th July	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Saturday 13 th July	St Luke's Quiz Night – Community Centre – <i>see church news for times</i>

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

Louisa Harris Pilates

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

Buttons Pre-School

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

Joyful Tots

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

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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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

**To upgrade to full colour on inside front, inside rear or outside 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 & Deaths</i>)	01296-383005
Registrar (<i>Marriages</i>)	01296-382481
Fly-Tipping on Roads	01296-382416
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	0800-999-7677
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525-270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Kelly Harris</i>)	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Mubasshir Ajaz</i>)	07775 932925
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Phil Gomm</i>)	07778 117647
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Jilly Jordan</i>)	07740 308468
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Iain Macpherson</i>)	Not Available
MP - Buckinghamshire. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296-714240
PCSO Tina Hobson	07779 586565
High Ash School	01525-261620
St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>)	01525-261062
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>)	01525-270409
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>)	01234-822780
Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Mary Cottrell</i>)	01296 688741

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITOR'S NOTE

Well at long last Summer is almost upon us and we've had some warm days and less rain. My garden has actually started to dry out and not pretend to imitate a bog!

We need to welcome to Stoke Hammond our new residents on Roman Field and Murphy Lane for which most of whom this will be the first edition of this publication you will have seen and read. I hope you enjoy, and if there is one of you who might be willing to assist by delivering copies to your new neighbours every 2 months, then please do get in touch.

May I please have copy for the August/September issue by the **19th July**

Greg Noble, The Birches, Church Road, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9BP

01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE & NEWTON LEYS SOUTH

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  <small>Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins</small>	Food Waste Bin:  <small>Non-recyclable or compostable.</small>	Garden Waste Bin: 
	Wednesday 5 June	Wednesday 5 June	
Wednesday 12 June		Wednesday 12 June	Wednesday 12 June
	Wednesday 19 June	Wednesday 19 June	
Wednesday 26 June		Wednesday 26 June	Wednesday 26 June
	Wednesday 3 July	Wednesday 3 July	
Wednesday 10 July		Wednesday 10 July	Wednesday 10 July
	Wednesday 17 July	Wednesday 17 July	
Wednesday 24 July		Wednesday 24 July	Wednesday 24 July
	Wednesday 31 July	Wednesday 31 July	
Wednesday 7 Aug		Wednesday 7 Aug	Wednesday 7 Aug

Prestige

KITCHENS



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🌐 www.prestigekitchens.co.uk



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- Personalised Installation
- Colour matched cabinets
- Project Managed from start to finish
- Cabinets delivered completely rigid
- 25 year guarantee with all cabinets

10 Roman Field, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9EP



STOKE HAMMOND
SENIOR CITIZENS
AFTERNOON TEA EVENT

Saturday 15th June 2-4pm
Community Centre



ALL SENIOR
CITIZENS
WELCOME

**For catering purposes, please let us know if you will be attending.
Contact Ann Payne 01525 270151 or Greg Noble 01525 270744
Alternatively, email: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk**

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