

SH NEWS

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BOOK CLUB
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G.O.M.
MAVIS'S QUIZ
EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO
CHURCH NEWS & MUCH MORE

April/May 2020

www.stokehammondpc.com



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Just as this report was about to go off to the printers (24/3/20) the government have announced the most stringent of lockdown measures to try and curb the spread of the Coronavirus which was already starting to have an ever-increasing dramatic effect on our normal day to day lives, and the Stoke Hammond Parish Council is not immune, with three of your Councillors currently in self isolation. Parish Council meetings have to be open to the public but with the Government advising against such public gatherings and with PC meetings requiring a minimum of 3 Councillors present (Quorum) which we could probably not achieve at this present time, it is extremely unlikely that the next April PC meeting will take place. We are in the month of May supposed to hold our AGM (Annual General Meeting) and APCM (Annual Parish Council Meeting), the latter including the election of the Chair and Vice Chair for the next 12 months. We await guidance from the authorities what procedures will be put in place to allow Parish Councils to continue operating. Current legislation does not allow Parish Councils to make or ratify decisions unless they are agenda items, discussed and agreed at public meetings. To further compound the problem, as you probably learnt through the media, this year's Parish and Council elections have been put back by a year, and bearing in mind the normal 4 year period had already been extended by a fifth year because of the introduction this year of the new unitary authority, some Councillors by May 2021 will have served on the Parish Council for 6 years.

There have been two PC meetings since the last PC News report, the first held on Tuesday 4th February was not exactly well attended with yet again no representation from either of our District or County Councillors, and only three members of the public present. We learnt that a village resident who wished to remain anonymous had most kindly donated money towards the creation of a new hedgerow along the eastern boundary of PC owned land area adjacent to the Community Centre. Your PC agreed to also fund this project, and as many of you will have seen, the new hedgerow is now in place. In contrast to the February meeting, the March PC meeting was very well attended, well as far as members of the public go, with still no representation from either of our District and County Councillors. The meeting started with a minute's silence in memory of the late William Kirk. Bill as most knew him, had been a long time village resident and had

THE PARISH COUNCIL WOULD LIKE TO SAY A BIG THANKYOU TO ALL THOSE RESIDENTS WHO HAVE PLANTED BULBS AROUND THE VILLAGE TO MAKE STOKE HAMMOND LOOK A MUCH NICER PLACE. AS DEPICTED ON THE FRONT COVER OF THIS EDITION WITH THE DAFFODILS ON THE LEIGHTON RD.

also served as a Parish Councillor. In the last few years Bill attended many PC meetings, and often gave the Councillors quite a quizzing over some of the issues occurring in the village. The agenda for the meeting was not exactly brimming with items for discussion but the PC did resolve to join forces with the Soulbury PC to put pressure on both Highways and the Canal and River Trust to tackle the parking issues which are causing the verges to be destroyed on Bragenham Side as it leads down to canal, where this part of the road does actually sit midway across the boundaries to both our Parishes. The only planning application (20/00353/APP) was a little strange, in that the applicant CK Developments was seeking permission to demolish all existing agricultural buildings at Common Farm, Newton Road and for change of use to open storage. The reason strange, is that planning permission was previously granted and currently remains valid for the conversion of two of these existing agricultural buildings into residential units. However, the PC could only look at the application as presented before them, and they were most concerned about the very scant detail in the applicant's planning statement as regards the type and quantity of materials to be stored and the volumes of traffic movement this might involve. So, on this basis the PC objected to the application, asking that the applicant should provide much more detailed information in order that one could truly evaluate the impact of the proposed demolition and change of use to open storage.

On other news, we are pleased to see the transformation at the Community Centre with its new roof and completely redecorated interior, the costs of which were funded by an AVDC New Homes Bonus Grant, secured by the PC on behalf of the Community Association.

Many of you will have noticed the hedgerow removed on the Fenny Road across from Scott's Close, in preparation for the 64 new homes to be built on the land adjacent to Tyrells Manor. The PC circulated neighbouring houses with details of the site traffic plan conditions, which for example dictate that all construction associated vehicles should enter and leave Stoke Hammond via the North of the village. Weekday deliveries are not to be made before 8.00am and not after 5.00pm with restricted times of 8.30-9.30am and 3.15-4.00pm. No Saturday deliveries after 12 noon and none on Sundays and Bank Holidays. There was as part of the conditions a site map which you can find reprinted overleaf. But this map and more details about this Traffic Management Plan can also be found on the AVDC Planning Website under application ref 14/C3000/DIS.

The MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign) has been in action again, where it was as before located on the Leighton Road monitoring vehicles as they entered our village

from the Leighton Buzzard direction for the period starting 20th February January through to the 19th March. The max logged speed of 50mph and an average speed of 28.9mph were very similar to the last results, but the vehicle count was somewhat higher at 76,646 as against the previous at 55,527, albeit the previous lower figure can somewhat be explained by the fact that it covered the Christmas and New Year holiday period with less commuter and school associated vehicles being on the road.

As mentioned earlier it is going to be hard to say when the next Parish Council meeting will take place. So in the meantime, keep well, stay safe and lets hope Stoke Hammond manages to get through this crisis relatively unscathed.



Stoke Hammond Parish Council Community Transport Scheme Co-Ordinator Vacancy

SHPC Community Transport Scheme is in need of a
Co-ordinator.

The Co-ordinator's role is straightforward and not time
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1. Act as a liaison between scheme users and the drivers.
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The scheme is lightly used. Further details may be obtained from Mike Robinson on 01525 270753.

If you would like to help support the scheme in this way we would be pleased to hear from you.

Our Parish Clerk can be contacted via the following:

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Statement from Buckinghamshire County Council

ST 10982

19 March 2020

APPROVED for Immediate Release

Update on the Coronavirus outbreak from Buckinghamshire Councils – a letter from Shadow Executive Leader Martin Tett

I would like to update you on what we are doing across the councils in Buckinghamshire in response to Coronavirus, what you can do to protect yourself and others, and how you can become involved in supporting your community.

Firstly, my thoughts are with all people in Buckinghamshire who have been negatively impacted in any way by this crisis. These are difficult and very challenging times. This makes it even more important that we come together to support each other. We're already seeing so much fantastic work going on across the county.

The current situation will no doubt test and stretch our ability, but the council is committed to providing community leadership and support wherever possible.

What are we doing?

The Coronavirus outbreak is of deep concern to everyone in Buckinghamshire. We are working together, across all the councils in Buckinghamshire, with Public Health England and the Department for Health and Social Care to tackle the Coronavirus (Covid-19) outbreak to support our residents, communities, businesses and schools during this difficult time.

We are closely following government guidance to provide accurate and up to date information. We are well-prepared for these situations and have robust plans in place to focus on keeping essential services running to look after our elderly, the most vulnerable, children, and safeguard local communities.

As the impact of Coronavirus increases, we may need to make some temporary changes to some services. This is so we can protect people from infection and use our staff and resources where they are most needed. It is important that we communicate any changes to residents and ongoing engagement with communities will be a priority. Information about any service changes will be released to the press and published on our website www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

We know that some of you will still want to get in touch face to face so, for now, we are keeping our main libraries and council offices open to answer your questions and provide advice. You can see which libraries are open at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/libraries

We are keeping our country parks open with no parking charges so you can get out for some fresh air and stay healthy.

How can you help?

It's crucial at times like this that everyone pulls together. In Bucks we are proud of our local communities and the voluntary and community work they do. I am truly humbled by the number of people and organisations coming forward and volunteering to help others in their towns and villages.

We know people, particularly if they are in isolation, are going to need support with practical things like getting medicines, doing grocery shopping, or caring for beloved pets, as well as dealing with the mental effects. The voluntary and community sectors will have a key role to play in supporting people.

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If you are healthy and looking at ways you can help, take a look at our central community hub. This can be found on our new website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

We are also looking for people with skills. Visit our website and complete the 'I want to be involved' form at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

If you are a vulnerable or older person who is self-isolating, or know of someone who needs help get in touch with us; visit www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

What you can do to protect yourself and others

It's everyone's responsibility to make sure we are doing everything we can to protect ourselves, our families and others around us.

1. Try to stay calm – be prepared and plan for the self-isolation of yourself or others but avoid panic buying so that others are not faced with empty shelves. Supermarkets inform us that there are no shortages. I have written today to all the major supermarket companies in Bucks asking them to offer priority personal and online shopping to the elderly and key vulnerable groups.

2. Stay healthy – there are lots of ways to stay healthy. Get outside and go for a walk in one of our country parks or visit National Trust parks for free but do maintain a safe distance from other people.

3. Be alert to the symptoms and follow the government guidance - maintain good hygiene, reduce non-essential contact and stay at home if you have either:

- A high temperature – you feel hot to touch on your chest or back
- A new continuous cough – this means you've started coughing repeatedly

It is particularly important for people who are over 70, have an underlying health condition or are pregnant to follow this advice as much as possible.

Find out more here: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus.

Support our NHS

If you are worried about your symptoms it is important that you do not go to a GP surgery, pharmacy or hospital. This could spread the infection and put our doctors and health services at risk.

Go to <https://111.nhs.uk/> or if you cannot go online call 111. This is so we can keep phone lines free for those who need it most.

The government have also advised that testing for Coronavirus is not needed if you are staying at home. You do not need to contact 111 to tell them you are staying at home, but if you are concerned about your symptoms and need urgent medical help call 999.

Keep up to date

Advice is changing all the time. There is a lot of information being shared about Coronavirus. There is a lot of misleading or even 'fake news', particularly online.

Make sure the information you are following is from a trusted source - the government, NHS or Public Health England. For local information follow our social media via the twitter handle @Bucks Council and keep an eye on our webpage www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus

We are also writing to our vulnerable and older people who use our services to make sure they have the information they need to stay safe and well.

Supporting Bucks businesses

I am aware that Buckinghamshire is a county of many businesses from the very large to the very small. These are very difficult times for companies and the many people



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who work for them.

We are channelling support through the local Buckinghamshire business 'hub', Bucks Business First (BBF), as details are confirmed.

If you are a company who wants advice on current local or government support, such as that announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, find out more via BBF at www.bbf.uk.com/covid-19.

The new Buckinghamshire Council

The government's postponement of local elections until May 2021 will not stop the launch of the new Buckinghamshire Council. All five existing councils will be replaced by the one, new Buckinghamshire Council on 1 April. Plans for this are well advanced and we are already working together as one team to respond to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Lastly, I am also immensely proud of the dedication of all the staff in our local councils, NHS, social care, police and other key services who are continuing to work tirelessly to keep people safe and secure. I would like to pass on my thanks for everyone's work in these unprecedented times.

Martin Tett Leader of the Shadow Executive

www.buckscc.gov.uk/news

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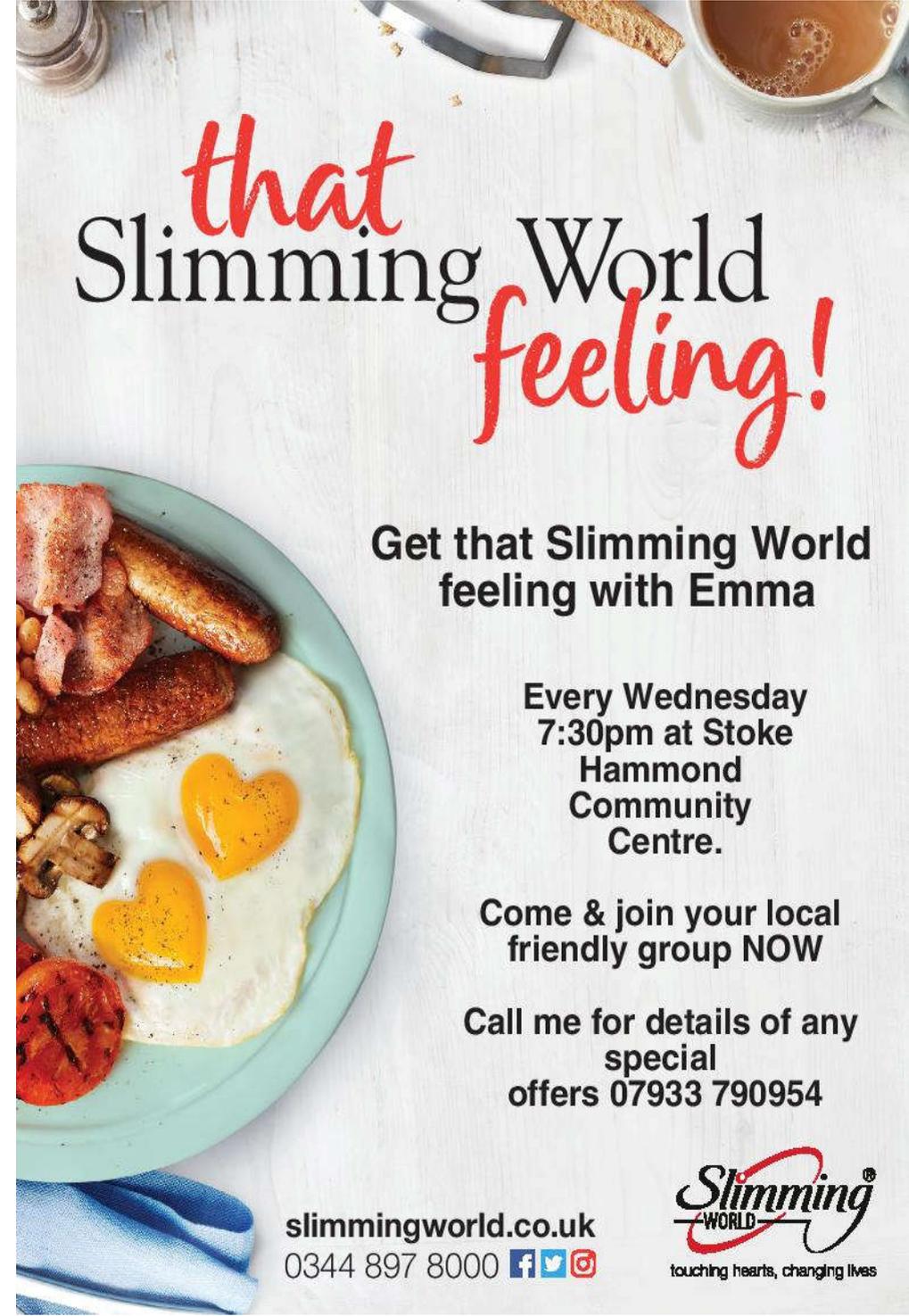
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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

In the last extract from Pam’s Murphy’s book ‘Everything but the Moo’ we had an insight into how machinery was starting to make an impact on the modernisation of traditional farm practices. In this next extract we touch on a subject all too relevant in today’s troubled times, the loss of your job – Redundancy.

REDUNDANCY

My father was pole-axed when he was made redundant. Never in his wildest dreams could he have contemplated such a thing. He had started work with the company the day it commenced; in an upstairs room, with a lathe and turner and £100 borrowed capital. There were the proverbial two men and a boy. Father was the boy, and that was seventy two years ago. My father was eighty five years old. For the previous fifty years he had been at the helm, and under his able and wise leadership, R. W. Crabtree & Son had grown to the largest of its kind in the world, with several thousand employees world-wide in the parent and subsidiary companies. The parent company in Water Lane, Leeds covered seven acres of buildings and over 1,000 employees. During the year of 1965 he had negotiated the ‘merger’, or rather take-over of the Company by a much larger international public company, Vickers. He had done some very hard bargaining, particularly as regards the employment of the existing staff, since many of them had fifty years or more service. He accepted that the takeover Company had a policy of not employing anyone over sixty five, but apparently did not appreciate that the rule also applied to the directors.

It was 28 December 1965 that he received a letter from the Chairman of the new parent company, telling him that from the 1 January 1966 he would be the President of the Company, an honorary appointment, which did not require his attendance at the office – in fact he had not even got an office (though they might find him a broom cupboard and junior typist if he wished to potter about on the premises). The bacon and eggs sizzled under the heat of his wrath, and I thought he would have apoplexy. A quick telephone call to the two other Directors who had reached their three score years and ten confirmed that they too had been made redundant.

He spent the rest of the day with a microscope, going over the small print, and eventually admitting defeat. Next day we went down with double pneumonia. Shock, everyone said. But it also had something to do with the heat of the house over the previous week, and the reading of the oil tank. My sister, a braver mortal than I, who had also spent Christmas at home with her husband and young children had insisted the heating was left on, day and night. The vast barracks of a house had nothing on Siberia; years ago I demanded the room over the boiler house for my husband and myself and the one next door for my daughters. These rooms did not actually freeze up. There was full central heating, but father, who let’s face it,

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was not short of the odd bob or two by now, did not believe in spending it on essentials like heat.

The doctor ordered him to the local nursing home. He had a constitution like an ox, or like a born and bred Yorkshireman. He looked sixty five, had a brain that left calculators and computers standing; the stick he had used for the past thirty years was no longer an affectation. He gave up driving, and playing golf, after his second cataract operation two years previously. The secretary, to be kind, had raised his handicap to 10 from 6 and he was furious. His big health problem was diabetes. Since he had his diet, and then his dinner, as the old Punch cartoon goes, it was not surprising he had problems, and his insulin injections had to be balanced each day after urine sampling by the District Nurse.

After ten days of hell for both him and the local Nuffield Hospital he returned home. He announced that never again would he cross the threshold of the hallowed establishment that he had spent most of his life in, but must find another ploy. He would travel.

He had of course, travelled widely on business, eighteen months previously he had circled the globe in thirty days, leaving London Airport with two henchmen, and returning with £2 million worth of orders and a couple of hospital cases! Flying in from New York, and landing at 7.30 a.m. one Sunday morning he rang me, and said that after a bath, shave and breakfast, he intended to come out to the farm for lunch, and please “please see the beef is underdone!” At 5 p.m. he said he would not stay for dinner, as he normally did. I said, “You must be tired”

“No dear, I’m not tired but the chauffer has had a very long day – he was at Heathrow at 7.00 a.m.” The chauffeur, I have to say was thirty eight years old!

A few months previously I had gone round the works with him, and he had blasted off at a foreman about some rubbish in a corner. As he moved on, the foreman turned to a shop-hand and said:

“I’ve told you before that rubbish is to be cleared away – he won’t have it.”

“Huh, I thought the old b..... was supposed to be blind”, was the reply.

“The Guvnor blind” (he was known as the Guvnor throughout the establishment) “he’s got eyes in the back of his a**e”. He had too!

My father decided he would go to South America which was one of the places he had never visited. Gently I pointed out that he could not go alone.

“No” he said “I thought that you might come with me.” I reminded him that I had a very sick husband, two young daughters and a large farm and that I was the family breadwinner. My sister had three much younger children. I suggested that he sat down and wrote his memoirs.

A fortnight later, relaxing over a cup of coffee and the Times Crossword, I happened to glance at the Personal Column, which was then on the back page. My screams of anguish caused the dogs to rush out of the door, the cats to jump in the air and



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land on the Aga, and Hans, the farm foreman to come rushing in to find out what was the matter.

There it was. An advertisement.

“Active elderly gentlemen, diabetic, (80), requires nurse companion to accompany him on a sea voyage to South America, must be a good sailor, and have a sense of humour. Reply to Box number.....”

I knew that I was the one who would need the sense of humour. Since my father’s retirement, I had done the three hundred and fifty miles a week return journey to give the splendid pair of maids who looked after him, a day off, and to do his secretarial work.

When I arrived at Stonefall Hall three days later, there were only fifty replies. By the following week however there were over 500. All told there were 1,500 replies to his advertisement. Every doctor, matron, sister, nurse, medical student, or the plain daft had written to him it seemed, all prepared to leave husband, family, job, house and home to accompany him. There were proposals of marriage and other dubious propositions.

There was the lady who told him that “She was a bird”; the one who told him the dates he could go. The ones who wrote their life history, and best of all, the one who said that she had made a detailed study of diabetes in *pregnancy*, so she was fully qualified to deal with his condition!

As the mountain of mail grew, father became more appalled. To begin with I wrote back, then eventually settling for writing to those who sent sae. Then to those who sent original references. The last lot went unopened on to the bonfire.

I suspect it contributed to his stroke; anyway the doctor put his foot down. The whole thing was off. A couple of months later, he had a super day out to his beloved Yorkshire coast with Topsy, whistling and in terrific form. You could keep South America or anywhere else he said.

That night he had another stroke and twenty four hours later died peacefully.

“E, Lad, ‘e was a fine Yorkshireman. Cleaned bowled, but never redundant”.

Footnote from Hazel T: After my Grandfather’s death several proposals were put forward for a memorial to him in Ripon Cathedral. There was to have been a tablet mounted in the wall of the south choir aisle but the then Dean of Ripon did not think that was adequate. It was finally agreed that a Memorial Chapel should be created in the South transept of the choir. There is a rather fine metalwork screen at the entrance of the Chapel representing the Holy Trinity. Unfortunately, the Dean of Ripon died suddenly the following weekend, and it was the Archdeacon of Richmond, J. W. Turnbull, who finalised the arrangements for the Chapel as it is today.

Next Time: “ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY”

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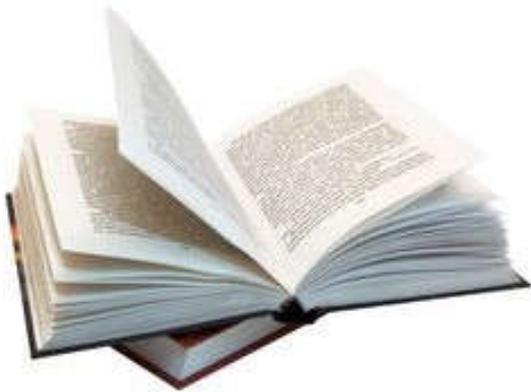
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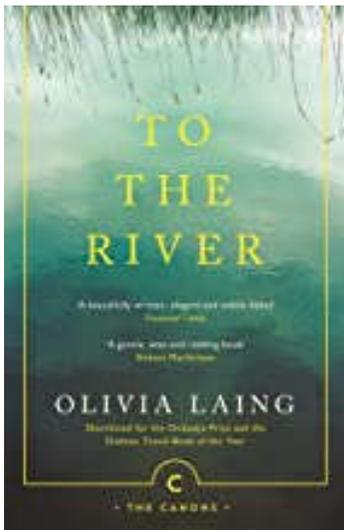
Managing at home with a toddler can be tricky at the best of times, but cooped up inside for weeks could be a nightmare. Rather than sitting them in front of a screen all day, save that for when you really need them “out of the way” (when you’re dealing with your baby or making dinner). Instead, half an hour spent planning the next day’s activities once you’ve tucked them in bed will reap rewards. Check the weather forecast: you might need to get that gardening activity done in the morning if rain is forecast for the afternoon.

Offer variety: try to give your toddler different types of activity in different developmental areas: their physical development includes gross motor skills (actions that require body movement – running, climbing, balancing, jumping) fine motor skills (hand dexterity), finger play, pinching playdough, using tools: drawing, threading, and learning how to look after themselves. Their social and emotional development will be encouraged by understanding and managing their feelings with your support and behaviour management. Playing simple games teaches them how rules work. Help build their confidence by giving them tasks they can feel successful in, encouraging their speaking, listening, understanding and attention skills. Of course, you want to build their literacy and numeracy skills, but little and often is better than forcing them to sit for longer than they’d like, as it’ll only put them off in future. See what interests them and build on that. **Above all, have fun!**

STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



Book One 'TO THE RIVER' by Olivia Laing



Again, not really a complete success as although a few members of the group quite enjoyed it and one describe it as a nice read for relaxing in the shade, most of the others thought it was rather like a natural history documentary. It comprised of the author taking herself off on an exploration of an area of interest to her. Two of the group knew the area of the country where it was set, the town of Lewis and surrounding areas in Sussex featuring mostly the river Ousel and recognised places mentioned but others felt that, as there was no actual story, it did not keep their attention. It was felt that if there had been some descriptions of where the wanderer stayed during the exploration of the area that would have added some

interest. It was in this area that the Bloomsbury, set and in particular Virginia Woolf, often escaped from London and featured the actual river where Virginia Woolf committed suicide but the group still felt that there were far too many references to Virginia Woolf throughout. Overall, not really recommended by the Group.

See following page for Book Two review:



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TEBBUTT PAINTINGS



Book Two 'THE MAYOR OF CASTERBRIDGE' by Thomas Hardy



On the whole the group enjoyed this book, the characters portrayed life as it was in 1886 Wessex, along with the hardships and struggles. Hardy's ability to bring these characters alive, along with his use of lovely English words and phrases mixed with local dialect was delightful. There are descriptive passages of surrounding countryside, buildings and work/life in Casterbridge. It identified how one small moment of indecision can change a life. Michael Henchard (the title character) died a lonely man with many regrets, perhaps if had come clean earlier in his life it may have ended differently. We loved Donald Farfrae, who was a sort of hero in the tale and eventually got his

girl. However, the introduction of several different characters often became confusing and the need to backtrack, to work out who's who, was sometimes needed. I have always been a Thomas Hardy fan so I knew I would enjoy it but many of the group had never read a Thomas Hardy novel and after this book they are happy to read others. All agreed that we would recommend it as a good read.

The first book for next edition of the SH News is 'Birdcage Walk' by Helen Dunmore



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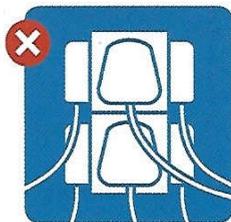
Never leave cooking unattended.



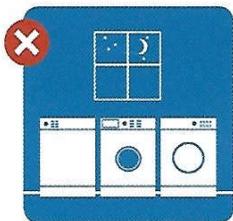
Keep your hob clear.



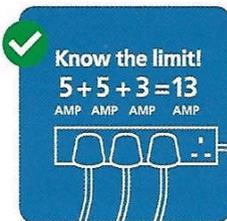
Hot oil and water don't mix!



Don't overload plug sockets.



Run appliances when you are awake.



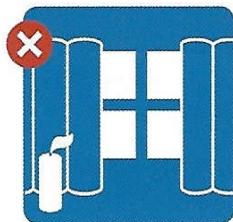
Adaptors: Make sure you know the limit.



Use a proper ashtray.



Never smoke in bed.



Be careful with candles.



Put candles out properly.



Keep heaters away from things that burn.



Sweep chimneys at least once a year.



Prepare an escape plan.



Keep internal doors closed.



Keep door and window keys handy.



Get out, stay out and call 999.



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THE Lindens

Spring Greetings to you all from us here at The Lindens.

Perhaps you have noticed the garden works in progress to the side of the Meadow Wing at The Lindens? The area has been prepared so that extra car parking spaces can be provided for our visitors. In addition, a memorial garden is also in the process of being created in memory of all the loved ones of The Lindens. The plan is to make a peaceful place to reflect, share memories and hopefully to enjoy sunny days surrounded by beautiful flowers and foliage.



Our residents and respite guests have been enjoying a wide range of activities here, musical entertainment is a firm favourite, together with cooking, arts and crafts. Snowdrops have been a particular inspiration over the last few weeks and we have been making honey cakes, shortbread fingers and delicious chocolate chip cookies.



We wish you all a Happy and Healthy Easter. If you would like to visit us or you are interested in working or volunteering here, given the circumstances surrounding the Coronavirus, please phone us before coming to The Lindens. We will be pleased to hear from you and make arrangements with you.

Chris Ryan

Manager, The Lindens.

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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

What a difference 2 months makes! apart from the fact it hasn't stopped raining, the world has a new deadly virus and most people are hoarding food, loo rolls etc. (but won't admit it ☹).

Want to avoid running out of fresh salad and Vegetables ? GROW YOUR OWN and avoid the queues.

Ok I would say that but if you have the kids at home for a few months, maybe getting them to grow their favourite flowers or veg could be a great idea 💡. So

today I'm just going to focus on a few fast growing things that you can sow or plant in April and May. Now really is the time to kick things off in the veggie garden.

Firstly, have the right gear. I mean a border in the sun or if you have no garden some 8cm pots to start with and some big pots to transplant to later. You can also get big sacks from garden centres (square ones or big oblong ones) which are brilliant for potatoes, carrots, herbs etc. Next buy seed compost and multi purpose compost and also tomato grow bags full of compost already; liquid tomato feed (Tomorite) and some canes for support.

Secondly decide your favourite veg and know what is easiest to grow. Some tips.... quick and easy are lettuce, radish, salad leaves, peas, any green beans. Sow them outside from mid-April in the border or big pots / bags. Water when dry, sow every 3 weeks. Only real pests are slugs and snails so deal with them in your own way (beer traps, pellets, late night sorties with a torch etc). All take between 4 to 8 weeks and you are munching away. They need direct sun and water! If nothing germinates sow again. Get the seeds online (DT Browns and many others or from garden centres).

Easy to grow but take longer are seed potatoes (12-20 weeks) from mid-April (get from garden centres now) onion sets (baby onions) and shallots (16 weeks), beetroot (seeds) , all herbs and cucumbers (seeds need germination inside - plants from garden centre), tomatoes, peppers and chillies (from small plants 12-20 weeks or seeds germinated inside 16-24 weeks). Carrots are easy but my advice is to grow in really large pot with sieved compost kept moist. If you plant in the ground they fork if the soil is not well dug over and the carrot root fly may well find them and spoil your crop. The same is true for parsnips but they are





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notoriously difficult to germinate. I grow mine in barrels but you have probably heard me bang on about this before. A real easy way for beginners are the tomato grow bags you get in garden centres. Toms, peppers, chillies, cucumbers, all herbs, salads, radish and beans can grow in these. Cut a bit of the plastic out and plant your veg in it. nutrients every 2 weeks, keep watered in the sun and have cane support for is you can only use them for one exhausted after that.

Difficult to grow (mostly because diseases) are the brassica family- Brussels sprouts, swede etc. Slugs infest them, hungry pigeons help borne diseases exist. Most growers them to avoid these attacks..... plus Brussels can take 30 weeks plus to grow. First timers steer clear !



Use Tomorite to top up the (they dry out), keep in the climbers.... only downside year as the soil is

of the pests and cabbages, cauliflowers, love them, white fly can themselves and soil have fine netting over

Lastly everyone should have perennial herbs in their garden / outside the back door in pots. Thyme, Rosemary, Sage, oregano, marjoram and Bergamot grow well in full sun.... just keep moist !!! Cut them back in March getting rid of woody stems leaving young healthy leaves.

Some general fertiliser now and in June works well and you have fresh herbs all summer - cutting back and drying them in autumn to use during the winter. They keep coming year after year.

It is all easy if you don't forget them. Keep moist, replace nutrients with some fertiliser, follow instructions on the packet of seeds or plug plantsand avoid the queues for fresh veg lol. As usual if you want any help, just ask Page.chris1@googlemail.com

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2020 - media hype?

Half way through March - nearly a quarter of the year gone! What a busy start it has been albeit pretty disastrous for many.

Brexit finally occurred but I fancy this is only a technicality and the practicalities will drag on (and on and on). However, it meant the media have had to find other things to justify their existence. As most gardeners are aware (dog walkers and people without umbrella's too) we have probably just had the wettest February on record. Whilst we in the South might complain (?) of not being able to get out in the garden or cut the grass or walk the dog, even I have to spare a thought for some further North who have had homes flooded 3 times in a row. AND we are still building on flood plains even here in the village. How much will everyone's house insurance be going up next year.

We now appear to be drying up a little and media attention has to focus on a new topic. Coronavirus has come to their rescue. All very well when it's a map on the television of a country on the other side of the world. Now it's creeping over our own doorstep and media hype has occasioned public panic into stockpiling food supplies and loo paper. Further restrictions on access to public places and events are likely to follow. Tennis and football matches have been cancelled and there is threat to Motor racing and the Olympics. Politicians are no wiser than you or I and refer to "experts" (how can they be experts? the thing didn't exist 4 months ago) who often give contradictory opinions. I appreciate we can all take extra precautions to reduce the spread of this disease but is it only a virulent and fast spreading flu? Now I'm not a climate change denier nor a coronavirus denier however with a view to statistics I quote:



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| | China | U K | World |
|----------------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Cases | 80879 | 1391 | 170855 |
| Deaths due to virus | 3213 | 35 | 6500 |
| Population | 1,440million | 66million | 7,771million |
| Percentage of deaths | .000022% | .000053% | .0000083% |

Thus, in percentage terms we are more vulnerable than a man in China. However, if we consider that in the UK around 6,600 people die of flu each year (and 26,000 are killed or seriously injured on our roads) I've got more chance of winning the lottery than dying of coronavirus!

Grumpy Old Man

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you were presented with anagrams to the names of ten well known pantomimes. Did you manage to work them out?

- (1) ALLADIN (2) GENIE (3) PETER PAN
 (4) JACK (5) ROBIN HOOD (6) CINDERELLA
 (7) BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (8) PUSS IN BOOTS
 (9) DICK WHITTINGTON (10) DAME WISHY WASHY



Now back to one of the old favourites, to find a word that can go before or after the following??



- (1) BALL, DROP, MAN (2) HARD, CARD, BLACK
 (3) NIGHT, YARD, CARETAKER (4) BREEZE, BUSTER, BUILDING
 (5) ISLAND, JAM, LIGHT (6) EASTER, BOILED, FRIED
 (7) HANDLE, POST, SIGNAL (8) NEWS, CARD, WRAPPING
 (9) BOW, CLOUD, FOREST (10) PONY, DELIVERY, TRAIN

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.

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St Luke's Church News

It has been difficult to know what to write for this edition of the SH News. We are in an unprecedented time of fear and change, yet we are rising to the occasion with a spirit not seen since WW2. How can we gain comfort in difficult times? Firstly, God loves you and wants you to love him back – he loves you so much that he sent his son to die for you. How many of us would be prepared to do that? Then there's your Bible, the word of God – full of consolation and messages of hope. Don't forget to count your blessings – a home, food, heating, life in a democratic country, friends and family, leisure activities...these are gifts not always available to everyone in the world. Let's put a positive spin on social distancing: What about all those jobs round the house you've been meaning to, but never had time to do before? – now's your chance! Never getting to see your kids due to long hours? Entertain them to your heart's delight! Write a letter to your Mum or Gran & show them you haven't forgotten how to write a letter. Think how much they'll appreciate it! Or sign up to help your neighbours and get that warm feeling that you've done something virtuous (a feeling frontline workers - to whom we give our deepest respect and thanks - must already be aware of!)

Review:

February and March have been quiet months for the church. Our sister church of St Mary's, Great Brickhill (one of 3 other than ourselves in our Benefice group) went ahead with their snowdrop walk de-spite the aftermath of storms



Ciara & Dennis and some brave souls turned out to support them. We then had the last of our successful Community breakfasts in February. Sadly our March breakfast had to be cancelled at the last minute due to recommendations from Oxford Diocese ordering that all catering cease.

On Ash Wednesday, those who attended the service were were marked with an ash cross. This is a Christian sign of repentance symbolising that "from ash we were made and to ash we will return" On our recent Prayer Walk round the village we followed the Prime Minister's recommendaton that we follow social distancing. Keeping well apart, we



prayed for villagers' specific personal and general concerns and for the Nation in respect of the Covid 19 virus. We were met with support from those Community members we encountered (from a distance!).

By Mothering Sunday, all services were forbidden. Instead of a service, St Luke's offered a gift of a flower (from a distance) to mothers and ladies connected with the church.



Forthcoming events

Prayer meetings: At the moment, no prayer



meetings are taking place, however we are investigating the use of social media and meeting apps to try to continue. As soon as this is set up, we'll continue online prayer meetings on our usual meeting dates: **8th and 22nd April** and **13th and 27th May**. We're happy to continue taking your prayer requests via phone or email.

Community Breakfasts: These are sadly cancelled for the present. When the situation improves, we hope to continue offering them to the village. Please check the Benefice website (see address below) for updates.

Sponsored walk: As we go to press, the sponsored walk has been postponed indefinitely until the crisis is over. We will let you know further details in the future. Many thanks to those who volunteered to walk – we hope you'll still be prepared to do so again and that your sponsors will still be prepared to sponsor you!

Plant Sale: The plant sale was scheduled for **2nd May**. The sale will now not be going ahead so we're looking at the possibility of offering customers the opportunity to order bedding plants (from a reputable local commercial grower) through us at competitive rates which we would then deliver to your door. This may or may not be possible. Further details about this will follow possibly on the Benefice website or through the village Facebook page or flyer in the village shop.



Open Gardens & Church fete: Open gardens are scheduled for **27th to 28th June** and the Church fete for **18th July**. At this stage it is uncertain whether either of these events will run. Further information will follow on the Benefice website, on the village Facebook page or flyer in the village shop.

Services:

Following Church of England advice there will be no further services at St Luke's church for the foreseeable future. This includes Easter services, and weddings & baptisms. Services are now only broadcast on TV, radio or available online.

Other news

Rector on sabbatical: Every ten years, members of the clergy are permitted to go on a Sabbatical, which gives them an opportunity to attend courses, go on spiritual

retreats, do voluntary work, travel overseas (eg. to the Holy Land) or simply spend time in reflection, reading or writing. Our Rector John Waller was planning to take a sabbatical from 18th April to 14th July this year. As at the present moment this is also now in doubt as he is obviously unable to travel anywhere.

Your donations: If you are in the habit of making a regular donation to the church (or even if you aren't!), in the absence of services, your donations may be posted through the letterbox of our treasurer at "The Birches", Church Rd or feel free to call him to arrange a BACS payment or set up a standing order. We thank you for your support at this difficult time and pray to our Father that we will still be able to meet our financial commitments in the absence of any fundraising activities.

Bible verse of the month: Rather than interpreting a verse this month, here's a list of verses to console you. If you don't own a Bible (and you can order a paperback one for £5 online but if you can't afford that, please call a church officer and we will source one for you), check out <https://www.biblegateway.com/>

Psalms 27:1, 42:5, 103:2-4,121; Proverbs 18:10; Isaiah 12: 2, 26:3-4, 41:10, 55:6-7; Matthew 7:7-8, 11:28-30; Luke 12:25-31; John 1:12, 14:27; Romans 5:1-5, Philippians 4:4-7; James 5:14-16

Please follow Government requests and stay well. For more information on Covid-19 social distancing, home care provision, what to do if you think you might have the virus and answers to other questions you may have, check the **Government's own** (under publicised) Public Health England **website** at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Also: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

And: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>

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



St Luke's usually offers Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals. At present, both baptisms and weddings are forbidden. Please contact the Rector or a Churchwarden if you'd like to discuss a funeral or any other situation.

The Rector's contact details are listed on the website. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he's able, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's day off is Monday.

If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**



High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

April 2020

Easter Services at St Mary's Church

The Foundation and KS1 children will be walking down to St. Mary's Church on Wednesday 1st April at 1.30pm and the KS2 children will be walking down on Thursday 2nd April at 1.30pm for their Easter Services. They are very much looking forward to sharing their Easter prayers with everyone.

Sporting Success

We are delighted to announce that our Year 5-6 Basketball Team not only got through to the Buckinghamshire inter-schools finals but actually **WON** the finals! This means they will be competing and representing High Ash School in the County championships which is an amazing achievement and we believe the first time the school has ever made it into the County finals - **WELL DONE TEAM HIGH ASH!**

We also had a successful result in the Buckinghamshire inter-schools Dance Festival with both our KS1 and KS2 teams successfully getting through to the finals that are being held on 21st April at the Buckingham School. We wish both teams the best of luck!

Fundraising Events

High Ash School Association (HASA) are a group of parent volunteers who work together with other parents and carers, teachers and pupils to raise funds to help support the exciting, stimulating and effective learning environment at the school. We are busy preparing for our Easter Raffle which is due to be drawn on the last day of term - Friday 3rd April.

We have raffle tickets available for purchase should anyone be interested. Please contact the School Office on 01252 261620 or email office@highash.bucks.sch.uk if you are interested in purchasing any tickets. There are 3 fantastic prizes on offer;

- 1st Prize - Luxury Easter Hamper
- 2nd Prize - £50 CASH
- 3rd Prize - Luxury Easter Chocolates

Date for the diary....

This year's Summer Fair will be held on Saturday 27th June 11am - 3pm and we would like to invite everyone to come along.

Sarah J Boyce

Sarah Boyce
Headteacher
headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk

**EDITORS COMMENT: PLEASE NOTE THIS
REPORT WAS PREPARED PRIOR TO THE LATEST
GOVERNMENT RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES
REGARDING COVID-19**

VILLAGE SHOW AGM

Saturday the 7th of September 2019 was the sixth consecutive Village show held at the community centre. I think most of the village was there last year - it was brilliant to have you all there. I hope you had a great laugh !

In April every year we hold the Show AGM to update everyone on the aim of the show; to

review the event and take feedback; to review the costs and surpluses and to inform everyone on what we have spent, and propose to spend, to support the village and future events. The committee also stands for re-election as well as informing everyone of any personnel changes to the committee. There is always a passionate plea for additional members and volunteers on the day.

At the time of writing this (18/3/20) we have decided to postpone the AGM (not that we were expecting huge numbers lol) as world wide events have overtaken us. So a shortish update for you all here in The SHNEWS to enjoy at your leisure



On the day there were live bands, 30 stalls, a bar, a BBQ, teas and cakes, a roving Balloon modeller, a competition tent, show cup winners, Villager of the year award - Kuttie from the Village store, raffle prizes, dog show, and a treasure hunt to name just a few of the activities !

Volunteers help the committee on the Friday (erecting marquees), on the day of the event making sure it happens (on the stalls , bar and BBQ) and then on The Sunday (taking down marquees and tidying up). We also have fantastic sponsors who enable us financially to throw the party day. Without the sponsors and volunteers the show would NOT go on, so thank you, so, so very much. X

The aim of show is to contribute to our village life by organising and providing a fun day out, here, in the village - run by locals for the locals, for young and old - and a warm welcome to all the newcomers who have joined us in the last year. The objective is to keep the show alive by generating sufficient funds to enable future events to take place, as well as purchasing equipment that may be used by the village for other events or hired out for local parties.

So what have we spent some of the surplus on? We bought the beacon to celebrate the Queens 90th, which was also used to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of WW1. We bought the 12m x 8m competition marquee, a smaller marquee for the bar, the BBQ, built the portable bar (which was used at the barn dance for example) and bought cable covers for external use on the day (health and safety). This year we intend to donate or contribute towards a picnic bench for the wild flower meadow that the parish council is providing, a further small marquee, tables for use at the show and other events in the village. We are



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

LOTTERY

From Tuesday 31st March 2020 the
Vale Lottery is to be rebranded
as the Buckinghamshire Lottery
www.buckinghamshirelottery.co.uk

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Serving the community

Play Vale Lottery and support our cause!

- By playing you are helping to raise valuable funds for the Stoke Hammond Community Centre
- Every little helps - Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes

To start supporting, visit:

www.valelottery.co.uk

and search for: Stoke



Supporters must be 16 years of age or older
Terms and conditions apply – see website*

also looking at potentially investing in Christmas lights, an away day "outing" for some youngsters, bulbs for planting around the village and craft and natter workshops - more news on these to follow.

The surplus at last year's show was £1300 which along with previous years surpluses, will allow us to make the purchases above and fund this year's show. Lastly my heartfelt thanks go to the committee members - Ann Payne (secretary), Greg Noble (Treasurer), Jacqui (Jax) Faber and Donna Page for their energy and time to put on the show. Why not join us to put on a special show. - I think we will need it ! Contact us on our website www.stokehammondvillageshow.com. Or myself Chris Page (Chairman) at page.chris1@googlemail.com

Thank you all and stay healthy.

Chris

READERS LETTERS



Dear Editor. By way of the SH News I would very much like to express my most sincere thanks to all my family, friends and neighbours who offered so much support both before and after the passing of my beloved Bill (William Kirk). This and the kind wishes within the so many cards and messages received have helped so much during this difficult time. I must also thank all that came along to the funeral service held at St Luke's Church to say their last goodbyes to Bill.

Bill was so passionate about this village that we live in. He was not happy about some of the recent changes and would certainly let you know his thoughts on the subject, but still his heart was very much imbedded in Stoke Hammond. Over the years Bill had been much involved in the life of Stoke Hammond in many different ways, having first farmed land here with his father. He played cricket for Stoke Hammond, had been a Parish Councillor and was instrumental in Stoke Hammond being recognised as one of 53 villages in England and Wales that could call themselves a Thankful Village. He also took part in a BBC Three Counties radio broadcast about Stoke Hammond, an extract of which was played at the funeral service.

Bill would have been so proud to know that so many of you out there thought so well of him.

Thank you

Margaret Kirk

VILLAGE DIARY

**ALL PLANNED EVENTS CURRENTLY CANCELLED OR
PUT ON HOLD DUE THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Pilates – Group Matwork

Tuesday's 09.30, 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs

Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368

**AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO ALL HIRES EXCEPT THE BUTTONS
PRE-SCHOOL**

Innovations

Tuesday's & Wednesday's 09.30– 15.30hrs

Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Every Friday

Contact John Till 01525 261444

ART CLASSES – DJ Artworks

Thursday's 09.30 – 12.30hrs

Contact Deborah Johnson djartworks@hotmail.com

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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Bucks County Council | 01296-395000 |
| Community Transport Co-ordinator | 07729-699488 |
| Registrar (<i>Births, Deaths & Marriages</i>) | 01296-382581 |
| Aylesbury Vale District Council | 01296-585858 |
| Gypsy Hotline | 01296-383774 |
| Litter Enforcement Officer | 01296-585395 |
| Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>) | 01494-817750 |
| 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>Sue Severn</i>) | 01296 331816 |
| Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>) | 01525-270744 |
| County Councillor (<i>Janet Blake</i>) | 01525-261288 |
| District Councillor (<i>Neil Blake</i>) | 01525-261288 |
| High Ash School | 01525-261620 |
| M.P. (<i>Greg Smith</i>) | 01296 714240 |
| St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>) | 01525 261062 |
| St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>) | 01525 270409 |
| St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>) | 01234 822780 |
| Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly</i>) | 01525 240589 |

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

Delivering the new **BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL**

News from the Shadow Authority

PR 10980

18 March 2020

APPROVED for Immediate Release

New Council outlines political arrangements following postponement of elections.

Buckinghamshire Council has outlined a series of political arrangements from 1st April in the light of the Government's decision to delay this year's elections to May 2021 due to the Coronavirus outbreak.

Shadow Leader, Martin Tett said that although there were still many details to sort out, the new Council will commence as planned on 1st April. The council's leadership will follow guidance from the Government with the following arrangements in place:

- All 202 current Shadow Authority councillors will become councillors of the new Buckinghamshire Council on 1st April until May 2021.
- The existing Shadow Executive members will form Buckinghamshire Council's new Cabinet until the elections in May 2021
- The Council's new constitution (its operating rules and procedures) will come into force on 1st April and new committees will be established. The Government is due to introduce emergency rules which will allow committees to hold virtual meetings for a temporary period.

Martin said; "These are clearly challenging and unprecedented times on a truly global scale. However, we will still be launching the new Buckinghamshire Council on 1st April as planned and continuing to provide services to residents with the minimum of disruption. A vast amount of planning and preparation is going on across all our services and we will be keeping people informed as decisions are made. It's clear that the next few weeks and months will be difficult for all, but we will get through it.



"While we are taking sensible steps to ensure political continuity for the new Council, I know some councillors had made personal decisions not to stand for election this year. It will of course be open to them to stand down as they planned or alternatively consider staying on for an additional year. Once we know what those councillors want to do, we can finalise our proposals."

Martin added; "I have spoken with both the Lib Dem and Labour Leaders. We are all agreed that this is not the time for party politics. We all share the commitment to best serve the residents, businesses and communities of Buckinghamshire at this time of crisis. We remain in regular dialogue with Government and expect to confirm all legislative and other changes required as soon as possible."

EDITORS NOTE

Well here we are facing very strange and the most unprecedented of times, and no doubt things have moved on further since putting together this edition of the SH News. I know many of you out there are self-isolating and for some of our advertisers their business operations have been severely curtailed. Whether or not this may be the last edition of the SH News for a while I do not know. For this edition to help protect both you and our band of volunteer distributors, we have not delivered the SH News to households but subject to any further Government restrictions, made it available for collection from the Village Shop. This and past editions are always available to view/download from the following two websites.

www.stokehammondpc.com
www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Take care everyone.

If we all work together and consider others, we will get through this.

Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB
01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

EDITORS NOTE: DUE TO THE C19 PANDEMIC, GARDEN WASTE (BROWN BIN) COLLECTIONS HAVE BEEN CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

| 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 1 April | Wednesday 1 April | |
| Wednesday 8 April | | Wednesday 8 April | CANCELLED |
| | Thursday 16 April | Thursday 16 April | |
| Wednesday 22 April | | Wednesday 22 April | CANCELLED |
| | Wednesday 29 April | Wednesday 29 April | |
| Wednesday 6 May | | Wednesday 6 May | CANCELLED |
| | Wednesday 13 May | Wednesday 13 May | |
| Wednesday 20 May | | Wednesday 20 May | CANCELLED |
| | Wednesday 28 May | Wednesday 28 May | |