

SH NEWS

INSIDE THIS PACKED EDITION:
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
PAGEY'S TIPS
G.O.M.
MAVIS'S QUIZ
EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO
CHURCH NEWS & MUCH MORE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020

**THE NEWLY INSTALLED BENCH IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BILL KIRK
THAT LOOKS OUT ACROSS THE SPORTS FIELD THAT HE LOVED SO MUCH**



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Visit Stoke Hammond...

Joyful Tots

...but not right now, as we've closed for the virus season (and the Summer holidays). Usually we are:

- A friendly place where we play, learn and share together
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- £2 per family –refreshments provided - inc. hot drink for grown-ups and fruit for children (no charge for your 1st session!)
- For more info Call Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 07739 392029
Facebook: Joyful Tots



We're hoping to meet up for a Teddy Bear's picnic over the summer but haven't quite sorted the details yet. We'll advertise on our Facebook page (see above) when we've fixed a date.

In the meantime, take a look at a fantastic new website from the BBC called "Tiny happy people". It's packed with great ideas & cheap activities for encouraging children's language & learning development. Check it out at: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/tiny-happy-people>

Next up, on your own doorstep, St Luke's church are setting up a "Swap shop" for children's books, games and puzzles. After initial donations, people bring a game they've grown out of, a book they've read, or a puzzle they've finished and swap it for something that's been left there. It will be in the church porch (next to the food bank)! That way everyone gets to try something new for free!

Finally, we're starting back at Joyful Tots (subject to lockdown not being reinstated) on Friday 11th September. Looking forward to seeing you all then – especially new faces!

Enjoy the Summer Holidays!

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

As life seems to be starting to get back to a certain sense of normality, with some of the COVID-19 restrictions starting to ease, it's sad to learn but totally understandable that the very popular Village Show has had to be cancelled for this year. We understand the frustration expressed by some about the delay in officially reopening the playground area by the Community Centre, but in order to comply with our insurance conditions the PC had to undertake a full risk assessment and place new safety signage around the area. This is now all done and the playground is back open, but please do note that this is an unsupervised area so the onus is very much on the users to ensure social distancing and other such COVID-19 safety measures are observed and practiced.

The PC were pleased to be able to assist the Kirk family with the siting and installation of their bench in memory of the late Bill Kirk (as illustrated on the front cover). Located adjacent to the wildflower meadow looking out across the Sports Field, it has already been used by many now that football and cricket has returned to the village.

There have been two further PC Meetings plus an additional Extraordinary PC Meeting since the last PC News, all again held remote via the Zoom video platform. For the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 6th June we were joined by a few members of the public and our Brickhill Ward Councillor Ben Everitt MP, with Ben logging in from the House of Commons where he was attending in his other role as MP for Milton Keynes North. The meeting although running through the many normal agenda items did progress at a fairly fast pace, but slowed when we came to the three planning applications before the PC. The first of which CM/0018/20 was actually for a variation to a condition to the Bletchley landfill site approached via Newton Leys. In that the applicant was seeking to extend the use of the site for landfill purposes by a further 15 years. Both the site and most of the entrance route fall outside of the Stoke Hammond Parish but a very small part by the roundabout at the end of the bypass does sit within the Parish. But for the very reason the site is well outside the Parish the PC felt it should make no comment. The second application 20/01633/APP related to the erection of an ancillary residential annex and car port at Stoke House Farm. The applicant had acknowledged in their own planning documents that this proposed new annex could be considered to be a new dwelling within open countryside and within an area of attractive landscape which contravenes with several planning guidelines, and it was for this reason that the PC voted to object to this application. For the final planning application 20/01661/APP for single storey and first floor extensions to Little Orchard, Hillersdon Chase, the PC resolved they had no objection to this application.

For the next meeting held on Tuesday 7th July, five members of the public logged in along with Ben Everitt MP and for the first time his fellow ward Councillor Scott Raven. One of the main talking points raised by parishioners was the appalling state of the brook that runs alongside Bragenham Side and the substantial, large over powering and hanging Willow tree on the other side of the road. The PC clerk advised that she had already been in touch with the appropriate authorities regarding the brook and they had confirmed that they were due to come out to this area within the next two weeks.



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The clerk was also asked to try and establish which authority is responsible for the fencing and railings to this area which are also in need of some urgent repair/renewal. As regards the Willow tree which is covered by a TPO (Tree Preservation Order) the PC will be contacting their tree surgeon to undertake a report on the tree before approaching the Council Tree Officer.

There were 3 Planning matters to be considered, but before these were debated, mention was made of the Newton Leys West housing proposal for a further development of new homes to the North of Stoke Hammond, more of which anon, as this was one of the reasons that an Extraordinary PC Meeting had to be called. The first planning item 20/01852/COUAR related to the barn conversion at Paper Mill Farm and as to whether prior approval is required in respect of transport & highway impact, noise and contamination risk. The PC's main concern related to highways and where after passing the main housing on the Bragenham Side, the width of the road was dramatically reduced to a single lane and then crossed two narrow bridges and further subsequent parts of the road were of an unmade nature before finally leading to the barn conversion site. The PC made comments that the restrictions on the size of contractor vehicles, and time windows should be imposed and that the developer should be bound to make good any damage caused to the road surface by the same vehicles. The next planning item 20/012865/COUAF was of a similar nature for Common Farm, Newton Road, and the demolition of the existing barns for open storage and what highways impact this may cause. The PC had previously commented that they sought further information as regards the exact nature of the items to be stored on this site and concurred with the highways department who required further details of onsite parking provision and turning splays. The last planning item 20/01187/APP relating to Swan Cottage and the erection of a new Summer House which had been seen before by the PC, and the PC had previously opposed the application on the basis that Heritage had asked for an amended design, noting that Swan Cottage sits within the village Conservation Area. The design had now been modified with a reduced roof height and Heritage were now happy, and on this basis the PC now supported the planning application.

- **ARE YOU A RESIDENT OF NEWTON LEYS SOUTH?**
- **DO YOU LIVE WITHIN THE PARISH OF STOKE HAMMOND?**
- **WOULD YOU LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN STOKE HAMMOND PROJECTS?**

**IF YOU'VE ANSWERED YES TO ALL 3 QUESTIONS, THEN PLEASE
GET IN CONTACT WITH OUR PARISH CLERK**

So, to the Extraordinary PC Meeting held on Tuesday 21st July to discuss the aforementioned Newton Leys West new housing development proposal and, the Planning Application 20/02185/APP for the change of use to the Methodist Church on Newton Road, to a day nursery for 45 children and 8 members of staff along with



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If all this wasn't exciting enough, our existing Pre-School building is being renovated, meaning that in September 2020 everything will be even more sparkly and fantastic than ever!

We are delighted to be able to offer socially distanced tours of all the amazing outdoor areas we have the privilege of accessing during our PRE-SCHOOL sessions. Get in touch for more information.

erection of a two-storey rear extension. The latter having already received many objections on the Aylesbury Vale planning portal website which also explained why for this Zoom meeting, we were joined by a large number of village residents wishing to express their views about this planning application. The principle reason behind all of the objections was the lack of any off road/on-site parking provision in the planning design. So where would the staff cars be parked, what about delivery vehicles and more importantly, what about all the parent cars arriving dropping off and collecting their children at all times of the day? Newton Road is quite narrow and for its entire length on the side on which the Church sits, there is no pavement. All very unsafe with a potential accident waiting to happen. The application also made no mention of the fact that planning permission has already been granted to demolish Latrigg, the bungalow directly to the left of the Church, to create a new access road to the future Mellows housing development, which would further exacerbate the issues already mentioned. The Parish Council agreed with all these comments and concerns, and will be writing to the planning authorities to voice their strongest of objections to this planning proposal. As regards the Newton Leys West Housing Development proposal (please see the pages after this report for further details) this is not an actual planning application but a speculative consultation document, relating to the possible expansion of Newton Leys in a westerly direction towards Drayton Parslow, encompassing land that sits within both the parishes of Stoke Hammond and Newton Longville. The notion of this expansion which would include up to 1100 homes along with a new primary school and other community facilities, has come about as an alternative to Shenley Park, a new housing development allocated within the VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan) which is currently under examination by the Planning Inspectorate. Shenley Park is promoted within the VALP to cover the future housing needs of Milton Keynes within North East Aylesbury Vale, but because the Shenley Park development has received a considerable number of objections from nearby communities and Milton Keynes Council, an alternative site has been put forward. Comments regarding this Newton Leys West proposal need to be made by early August, and the PC determined that they would not support this alternative site and that we should await the Planning Inspectorates decision on the VALP which if approved would determine that the Shenley Park development is deemed appropriate.

As we do not anticipate any further easing on regulations concerning the holding of meetings, and with there being no meeting to be held in August, the next PC Meeting will again be via Zoom and will be at 7.30pm Tuesday 1st September. If you would like to log into this meeting, please email the PC Clerk who will send you a log in link.



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

Joanna Simonds, Hollymill Cottage, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond, Bucks. MK17 9DE

Tel: 07818 016108 clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com www.stokehammondpc.com

NEWTON LEYS WEST COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Overview

This consultation website has been prepared by Pegasus Design (part of Pegasus Group) on behalf of Willis Dawson Ltd to promote Newton Leys West to help meet existing and future development and infrastructure needs of Milton Keynes and its surrounds within north east Aylesbury Vale district (now Buckinghamshire Council).

Newton Leys West is being promoted as an alternative to the allocation of Shenley Park, currently under consideration within the Proposed Modifications to the Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP), and which has attracted objections from Milton Keynes Council and parishes within and adjacent to Milton Keynes. The Newton Leys West location is identified as a recommended growth option within the Draft Milton Keynes Strategy for 2050, which has recently been subject to consultation. This Draft Strategy is not a formal planning document however it will inform the next review of Plan MK and also Local Plans in neighbouring authorities. The site has the capability to deliver approximately 1,100 dwellings, a new Primary School and Local Centre set within a significant green infrastructure network. In addition, this proposal would help facilitate the delivery of a South West Milton Keynes (SWMK) Link Road (known as the Bletchley Southern Bypass), a road link that has been a long standing aspiration for the area.

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of the community at an early stage on the alternative solution that Newton Leys West offers in meeting existing and future development and infrastructure needs of Milton Keynes within North East Aylesbury Vale.

Comments to be made here by Friday 7th August 2020: [COMMENTS FORM](#)

Who we are?

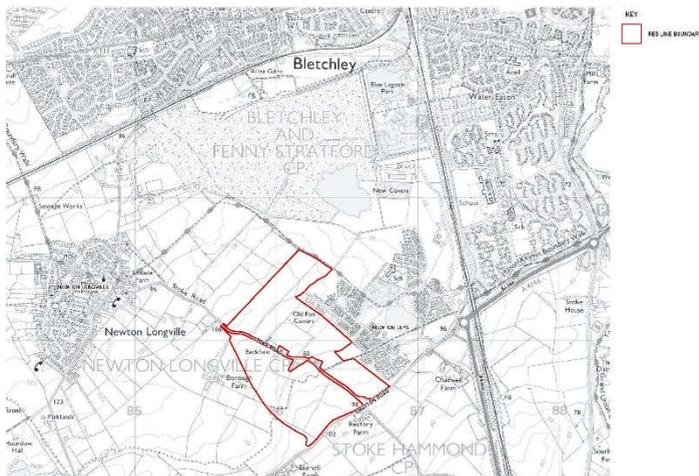
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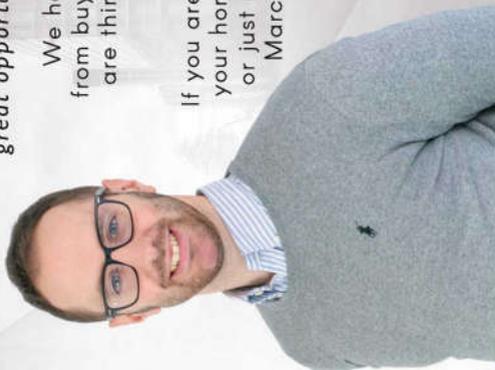
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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

We are nearing the end, so there are not too many more extracts to come from Pam’s Murphy’s fascinating book ‘Everything but the Moo’. Last time we looked into the delivery times for parcels and packages in Pam’s days, now we find out about her first venture into becoming a farmer.

“THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER”

My life as a farmer started in such a ridiculous fashion. My regular army husband decided that he had had enough of the removals business – we had moved thirty three times across three continents in just three years, and he would retire – and farm.

This moment of trauma came when I was sitting in our Standard 8 with a hotwater bottle at my feet and our Cocker Spaniel, Susy (more about her later), on my knee dreaming of tennis in the humid heat of Calcutta at 110 in the shade. Keith had been to consult with an old friend on future prospects. Returning to the car, he flung his Red Beret in the back, packed his 6’ 4” frame into our old moke as neatly as his parachute would be packed, and announced “We’re going to the farm!”

Grrrrrr... actually the noise did not come from me, but from the car. I snuggled back, and clutched Susy the spaniel closer. The draught from the window he ad opened was artic and I had always been allergic to winter. The next grr... came from me, but still the car did not start. Keith uncoiled himself, and picked up the starting handle. Long suffering, he did not aim it at me, but said: “You better get yourself out of the cocoon and shove your foot on the accelerator. This is NOT ac Calcutta taxi!”

In fact it made the same noise, but there was just room to drive it as they were driven in 1948, one foot fiddling the clutch, brake and accelerator and the other foot dangling over the open side! Ten turns later, and the car sprung to life, threatening to career through the main street of Leeds like a randy stallion. I did not care if it did, as long as it knocked this business of farming out of my obviously temporarily insane spouse!

For crying out loud, I had spent my first quarter of a century avoiding anything that had to do with cold, hard work, or discomfort. I might have been born and bred in the country, but I knew that the birds and bees, not to mention cows, sheep and pigs had tedious foibles. They required looking after in conditions of the old hymn “storm and tempest, fire and foe”. And however well protected they may be, those looking after domesticated, or so called farm creatures, had to put up with the perils, not of the sea but of the land. Just not my scene. I wondered if it was grounds for divorce!

Not for nothing had I returned two hours before everyone else to my Alma Mater. I could bag a desk nearest the radiator, in the front row, and the bed furthest from

the window, the games time bath, having carefully ensured on the other days I had music, elocution or some other unphysical occupation! Even during the war I had always managed to acquire more blankets than anyone else, the top bunk (heat rises!), not to mention a double stack of fuel if I had to keep the Deep Watch of the night at any time. So that landing first in the temperate climate of Egypt in Autumn – about 80 degrees, followed by Bombay and Calcutta in India was my idea of Shangri La. I had warmth and servants and a wonderfully ideal existence. But the Indians did not want us any more, we were home. To cold, rationing, and apparently farming.

A few weeks later, having resigned his commission, Keith started work as a trainee on a remote Yorkshire farm as a Government trainee, and hoed and singled what he reckoned was about 500 acres of beet and kale, though I fact 22400 square yards makes up 10 acres, so I suspected his enthusiasm was waning! Sitting by a splendid coal fire (£2.10/- per ton), studying a correspondence course, I was more cheerful. Even more so, when the farmer killed a pig and we came in for not only the lights but the delights. Actually the lights went to Susy, and we fed as we had not done since those far off days when I gaily handed about a couple of quid to the cook we had employed for some disgraceful sum per month, and told him to produce a dinner for 10. I had no regrets over Percy the pig, but then I had not looked after him. I had got it all to come.

It was about this time that I had my most embarrassing moment. Susy was a very beautiful black cocker spaniel, she was most obedient, and a well behaved lady, BUT she had a passion for consuming things like stockings and knitting, which she passed through in their entirety.

I was going down to London, and taking Suzy with me. I was immaculately dressed, in a black suit, white blouse, and a ghastly black hat with a bird on it, tipped over my right eye.

I was awaiting on the platform at Harrogate station. Further down I noticed the Princess Royal with her entourage, including her Lady in Waiting, Miss Gwyneth Lloyd Jones. I had known them both well when I worked at Harewood. Miss Lloyd Jones spotted me and came up to me, and said “Are you Miss Crabtree? Her Royal Highness would like to meet you again.”

I replied that I was now Mrs Murphy, and with Susy following, went up and made my curtsy. After a few minutes of polite conversation, HRH looked down at Susy, and said that my dog seemed to have a problem.

She did indeed. Susy was struggling to pass a stocking! I departed hastily, without the requisite curtsy, behind a pillar, to tread on the offending article, before the train came in.

All was duly well, and by the time the train came in we could get on it, Susy at least in comfort, though I wished I could disappear through a large hole in the ground.

English spring changed to English summer, haymaking; in those days haycocks, sweeping it up by hand, no dimity gowns whatever then! However it was a fairly leisurely process in those days, and even I did not mind in lending a hand for an hour or two about “drinking” time. Then large ham sandwiches (poor Percy) were produced, with great jam butties – from the strawberry crop and gallons of tea and home brewed ginger beer – a lethal drink.

The farm training took eighteen months on two farms after which, plus the correspondence course, we thought we knew THE LOT. We did not!

So between Keith’s substantial gratuity and my little one, plus some money left to us by Keith’s father and my mother, we had sufficient to persuade an innocent bank manager that we had enough to borrow some from him and buy a farm, Tyrells Manor in Stoke Hammond in 1950.

Next Time: RETIREMENT

Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



Dear Resident,

It has been quite a couple of weeks with a lot of announcements from central government. Probably the most significant is that from this Friday, the 24th, it will be a legal requirement to wear a face mask/covering when we go into shops or supermarkets or travel on public transport. Judging from my own experience of shopping in Aylesbury, Amersham and High Wycombe recently, this will mean a change for many shoppers. **Nevertheless, we must all do our best to keep each other safe.**

However, young children under 11 years old and some adults are exempt from the new rules, for example, if you have a physical or mental illness, disability or impairment. Also, if you are with someone who relies on lip reading to communicate.



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Reopening of leisure centres

Following the government's announcement that gyms and leisure centres in England can prepare to reopen from **Saturday 25 July**, I'm pleased to announce that we're working in partnership with our leisure centre operators to reopen our centres for the public.

Most of our leisure facilities will reopen but there will be changes to how people can access the centres and use the facilities to ensure safety and accessibility. Please be aware that the Chesham and Chalfont centres will remain closed for a few months to enable a £4m programme of investment to improve the facilities to take place.

Please bear with us during these preparations and we'll provide more information as soon as it's available.

Disposal of PPE

Many people are already using Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) masks when out and about. However, from Friday, when it becomes necessary to wear masks when shopping, we're asking everyone to take care to dispose of used masks responsibly. Already it's disappointing to see masks left on pavements and at the side of the road. Please take used masks home with you and, since masks are not recyclable, put them in your normal rubbish bins – not the recycling bins.

Shielding update

I want to update all our residents who've been shielding for the last few months. We're continuing to offer help and support to all of you as you prepare to adjust to the changes to the national shielding programme – which will pause on **Friday 31 July**.

Anyone who's been shielding can already meet other people outdoors in groups of up to six. You also no longer need to socially distance from people you live with. From **Saturday 1 August**, you'll be able to return to work and visit the shops, although you must carry on taking care to minimise contact with people you don't live with and maintain strict social distancing. If you're worried about the food parcels ending and are not sure how you will manage –

or if you have any other concerns about returning to a more normal lifestyle on 1 August – please contact us on **01296 395 000** requesting support.

You can read in detail all the latest advice from the government by [clicking this link](#). It also contains guides in various languages so you may find it helpful to pass on this information if you know someone in your community who might need it.

British Grand Prix races at Silverstone

This year's British Grand Prix event will consist of two races over consecutive weekends (**31 July – 2 August** and **7 – 9 August**) and will be held behind closed doors with strict controls in place as a result of coronavirus.

Although the races will take place behind closed doors, there will still need to be local road and footpath restrictions to ensure safety and control access to the circuit. We have been working with Silverstone to implement the local measures needed. These include:

- Parking restrictions and enforcement in the vicinity (including Dadford Road) to prevent unauthorised parking, with coning as per previous F1 Grand Prix.
- Closure of certain roads to non-residents and non-race personnel to prevent non-event traffic from accessing the venue.
- Managed access for local residents only on public footpaths and bridleways in the immediate vicinity of the circuit.
- Increased police presence in the area.
- Use of Highways England signage on approach roads to warn travellers that the venue and local area are closed.
- Enhanced physical screening and security measures around the boundary to prevent people viewing from outside the venue.
- A restricted airspace will be in place in and around the circuit for both events.
- A robust communication plan with agencies and authorities advising fans to stay away from the venue and detailing the measures put in place that remove any incentive to speculatively travel.

I'd like to remind fans to stay away over both weekends and let the races take place without compromising the safety arrangements put in place.

For further information, please visit the Local Resident Information tab at: www.silverstone.co.uk/about/local-community

Coronavirus testing centres

It's essential that if you or another person you live with develops symptoms of coronavirus that you book a test as soon as possible. Testing is most effective as soon as symptoms emerge, and it also gives the maximum amount of time to trace close contacts so that they can isolate too.

[Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus.](#)

#ProudofBucks

We've been speaking with people working in community programmes who support those in need. And last week, Hannah from Youth Concern sent us a two-minute video sharing how they've continued supporting youngsters throughout the coronavirus crisis, and who really do need a helping hand. This is support not just for now – but to help set them up for a positive future as well.

Worried about a vulnerable friend, relative or neighbour?

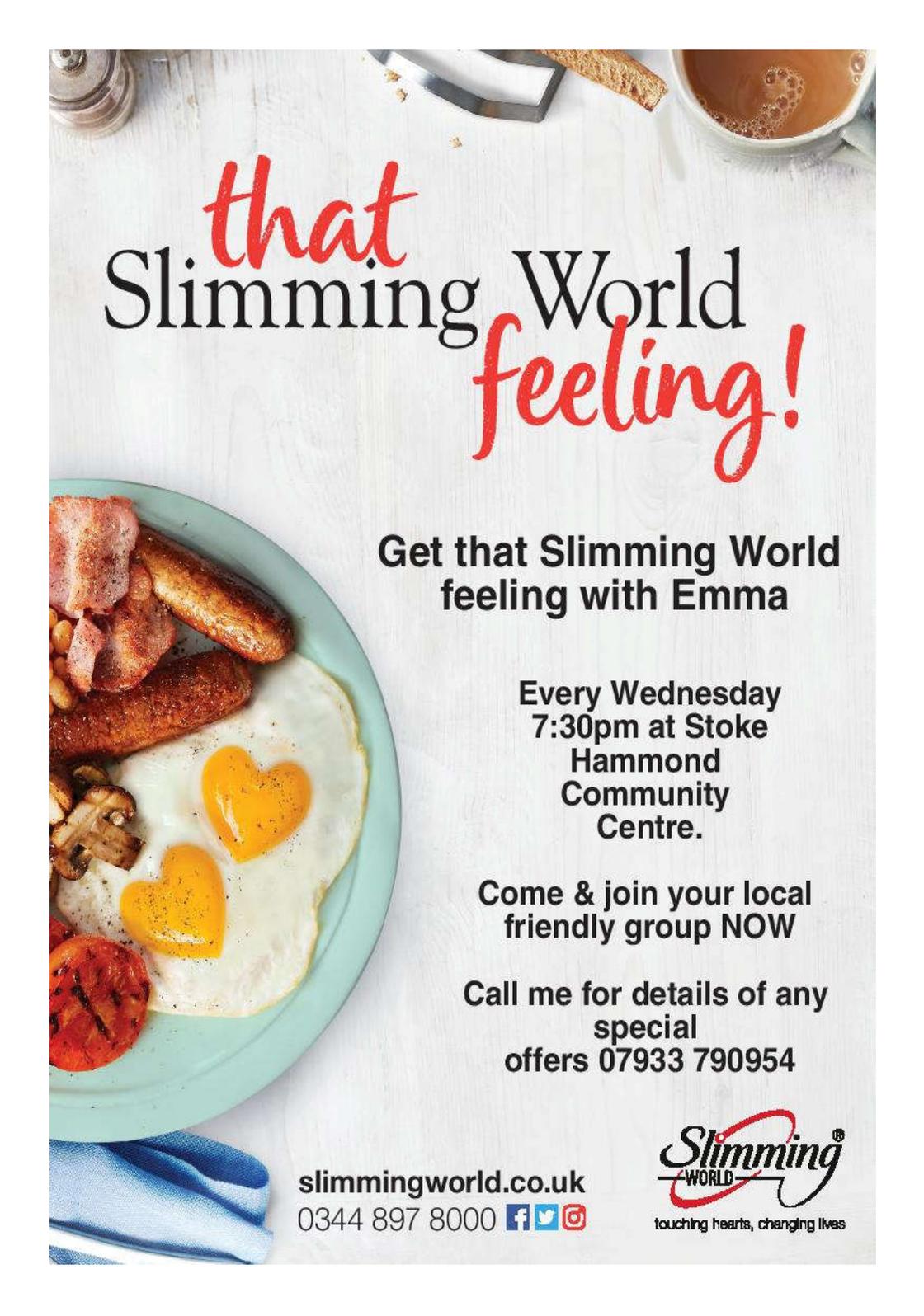
Our Adult Social Care team is checking in with all vulnerable residents we're aware of by making many regular phone calls and by supporting in other ways too. Please tell us if you know of someone who might need our help by calling the Adult Social Care team on **01296 383 204**.

Please also carry on using our [online community hub](#) for details of how to find support in your local area.

STAY IN CONTACT WITH YOUR EMPLOYER

With the recent announcement by the government that they are actively encouraging people to return to work, make sure you keep in contact with your employer to find out what arrangements are being made for your workplace.





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For most of us, life has significantly changed in recent months with the coronavirus pandemic dominating everyday living.

It's incredibly important that we understand how the crisis has impacted peoples' health and wellbeing. Whether you've been directly affected by coronavirus or not, the changes to our lives and lifestyles in recent months may still have affected your physical and mental health and how you feel.

We want to gather information about the effects the pandemic and lockdown have had on the people of Buckinghamshire to help us tailor our local recovery plans. That's why our Public Health team has launched a survey to ask residents how their daily lives have been impacted – and we'd really like as many people as possible to take part.

Please do take part (it will just take 10-15 minutes of your time) and encourage your friends and family in Buckinghamshire to do the same. It will help us to target support in our communities where it's most needed in the coming months.

It's great that more restrictions have been lifted and we can do more now, but the key messages remain the same about how to reduce the risk of infection so it's really important we continue to *"Stay safe and protect Bucks"*.

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council

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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

Hi there one and all. Hope you are goodly after these scary times. The pandemic is still raging around the world and I guess it will be for some time to come. The weather has been ok of late but was brilliant in the spring which has made the experience a little easier for us Hurrah. For growing, the early warmth and the rain in the summer has made it boom time !



If anyone tried to answer the quiz in the last issue, the herbs are Rosemary, thyme, sage, marjoram, coriander, bay and Dill. Not sure if anyone could see on the printed black and white photo but you have more detail on the online issue in colour.



This time of year is so satisfying for me because I start to see (and eat) the fruits of my labour 🍷. But, most important is watering your pots and cropsdo it , do it ! , secondly we feed them (tomorite is coolio) as they are growing and they are hungry so please do it and lastly weed - onions , garlic , lettuce etc hate competition, as do we all lol. Water, feed,

weed. There is a song there.

Ok your shallots and garlic should be ready now if you sowed/planted them early enough. The leaves of the garlic go brown and keel over (bit like me in the midday sun) as do the shallots to a lesser degree. Put a fork underneath them and ease them up out of the ground and dry them off in the sun for a couple of weeks if you want to keep them. Your onions generally will need a few more weeks and then do the same thing. Keep picking tomatoes when ripe and cucumbers all the time to help the young fruits to gallop along faster. Cut away leaves from your toms from the bottom of the plant as they get dried and curly and do the same with all cucumber, squash, melon leaves. Pinch out the tops of the pepper and aubergine plants because there are only so many fruits a plant can support (although flowers/young fruits naturally drop) and especially important you support melon plants on frames and pinch out the shoots to

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encourage side shoots. Once you have 5 or max 6 melons growing (see photo) you will not get any more to any size. If you haven't staked your peppers and tied them in, do so. Same with toms, melons, aubergines, squashes. I'm growing my squash up the fig tree.....they are going wild.

Keep dead heading everything (well apart from your partner and close

friends) to encourage new blooms and compost EVERYTHING. People spend loads of money buying composts and manure etc when if you compost its free. Yes you do have to have a garden, preferably a little corner that gets sun and rain, but chuck everything on it...grass , shredded paper (carbon), veg peelings, tea bag leaves, everything you grow goes on it. Avoid perennial weeds if in flower and any diseased plants or leaves with blight like the plague - they need to be burned (although you might be called out on the Stoke Hammond Facebook page lol) or thrown away. However, when dead heading make sure you keep the seeds of your favourite flowers or fruits. I've collected sweet William seeds this year from a fabulous showing. You only need a couple of plants to collect all the seeds you will ever need. Wait till the flowers are dead, cut them down by a third, bash the seed heads in a bowl and hundreds of seeds come out. Keep in a cool, dry place and sow them in pots in September. Plant out in the spring - bosh hundreds of plants. Seriously you can do this with most plants and fruits. I'm thinking next year of doing a monthly class in my greenhouse to demonstrate all this - from seed to harvest so we can watch it grow, prune, harvest, collect seeds etc. All free of course and you take away seedlings etc to grow for yourselfwhat do you think ? Limited to dozen or so we spend an hour once a month trading secrets, swapping seeds, demonstrating everything I write about. We could even visit one or two other volunteers to see how their produce is doing? Contact me on page.chris1@googlemail.com or WhatsApp on 07747 018814 if you are interested.





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Lastly I just want to share a few success stories that have wowed me this year....for a change they are flowers. Phlox tapestry, Clary blue denim and Malope seeds have given me the feel good factor this year.... be careful, enjoy your harvest and maybe we can get a monthly session going in 2021.

I know I said lastly, but lastly lastly here is a recipe I've used for years for a chilli and tomato to jam...it is bingo....it is not a chutney and you use more chillies if you like it hot hot hot.

1 kg toms

10 garlic cloves

10 red chillies

6 inches of ginger root, peeled and roughly sliced.

600 g of golden caster sugar

4 tablespoons thai fish sauce

200ml red wine vinegar

Blitz toms, garlic, chillies, ginger. Pour into saucepan.

Add sugar, fish sauce and vinegar and bring to boil stirring frequently. Simmer for 45 minutes, stirring occasionally, until it thickens and darkens a bit. Don't worry about the smell. Pour into sterilised jars.....keeps for years but it will never last that long. Brilliant with everything from cheese to steaks . *PAGEY*



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THE Lindens

We hope you have all been keeping safe and well during these difficult and challenging times. Here at The Lindens we continue to use all our considerable expertise and training together with our dedication and compassion to look after all our residents, healthcare professionals and each other.

In June, it was a great pleasure to recognise the 10 years of service completed by our Manager Chris Ryan and a staff photo was taken on the garden terrace in celebration. I have always appreciated his views and support over the years as we continue to plan for the future. When Chris started here, The Lindens had 17 rooms, all contained within the original building. But since then we have had numerous extensions and expansions now having 60 en suite rooms. Development is always a continuous process here. To prove this point, very shortly we are due to start our new laundry facility update, as we continue to focus on our aim to provide high standards of care within our "home from home".

Although we continue to be closed to visitors at present, we have recently been able to offer window visits to the families of our residents and have created a covered visiting area to provide shelter until we are able to welcome visitors once again.



All of us would like to thank those who kindly donated items to us which included gloves, hand sanitiser, visors and other items, all greatly appreciated especially as some items can be very difficult to source. We would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support and wish you all happy and healthy times ahead.

Michael Hannelly

Director

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BEER - and Taxes

Ten mates go out to drink once a week and the bill comes to £100. They paid the bill in the way they paid their tax and the result was:

The first 4 men (the poorest) paid nothing

The fifth paid £1

The sixth £3

The seventh £7

The eighth £12

The ninth £18

And the tenth man (the richest) paid £59.

This was fine until one day the Landlord said "since you are all such good customers I am going to reduce the cost of your beer by £20. Drinks for the ten of you will now cost £80"

The men still wanted to pay on the same basis as they paid their tax so the first four men were unaffected. They would still drink for free but how would the other six divide the windfall of £20 so each got their fair share? £20 divided by 6 is £3.33 but if they subtracted that from every body's share the fifth and sixth men would end up being paid to drink their beer.

The Landlord suggested they continue to follow the tax system and the less well off should receive a higher percentage:

The first four and now the fifth pay £0 (a 100% saving)

The sixth man pays £2 instead of £3 (a 33% saving)

The seventh £5 instead of £7 (a 28% saving)

The eighth £9 instead of £12 (a 25% saving)

The ninth £14 instead of £18 (a 22% saving)

The tenth £49 instead of £59 (a 16% saving)

Each of the last six was better off than before and the first 4 continued to drink for free. However, when they compared their savings the sixth man said "I only got £1 out of the £20 saving but the tenth man got £10." And the fifth man said "I only saved

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£1 too. It's unfair the tenth man gets ten times more benefit than me" That's true shouted the seventh man "Why should he get £10 when I only got £2? The wealthy get all the breaks" "Wait a minute yelled the first four in unison, "We didn't get anything at all. This new tax system exploits the poor" The nine men surrounded the tenth and beat him up.

The next week the tenth man didn't show up for drinks so the nine men sat down and had their beers without him. But when it came to pay they discovered something important- they didn't have enough money between them to pay even half the bill.

And that boys and girls, journalists and government ministers is how our tax system works. The people who already pay the highest taxes will naturally get the most from a tax reduction. Tax them too much, attack them for being wealthy and they just might not show up any more. In fact they might start drinking overseas where the atmosphere is somewhat friendlier.

Grumpy Old Man

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to work out from the jumbled letters, the names of sporting or other events cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19?

- (1) THE GRAND NATIONAL
- (2) EUROVISION SONG CONTEST
- (3) THE WIMBLEDON CHAMPIONSHIPS
- (4) OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE BOAT RACE
- (5) AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX
- (6) GLASTONBURY FESTIVAL
- (7) LONDON MARATHON
- (8) EUROPEAN FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP
- (9) NOTTING HILL CARNIVAL
- (10) SUMMER OLYMPIC GAMES



Something different now, can you work out the film titles for the Best Picture Oscar Winners from the cryptic clues below? To assist, the year the film won is provided.



- (1) Horse drawn vehicle ablaze-1982
- (2) Sexual precipitation-1989
- (3) 160 clock rotations to circumnavigate a globe-1957
- (4) Steel versus ice, ice wins-1998
- (5) Not inside a continent-1986
- (6) Rebellion on a chocolate confection-1936
- (7) Very quiet group of four legged youths-1992
- (8) Courageous human organ-1996
- (9) Smitten playwright-1999
- (10) A person from a country of 50 regions visiting a European capital city-1952

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.

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St Luke's Church News

Review:

We've been under lockdown for 4 months now and although things are easing, we're in this for the long haul – at least until a vaccine is readily available. The good news is we're holding our first church service (since lockdown) on 2nd August. However we'll only have one service a month in the village (though we'll be rotating weekly services around the benefice), we won't be able to sing, and a maximum of 20 people will be able to attend. Details below. In the meantime, let's be grateful for the fact that things are starting to get back to "normal" and pray for those whose circumstances are worse now (for whatever reason).

Ongoing Activities:

Prayers: The prayer group are still communicating and would be happy to pray for your requests. Please feel free to contact any member of the church (particularly if you know someone personally) or there are prayer request cards in the church porch which can be filled in and left at "The Birches", Church Rd or "Abbotsford", Newton Rd, or contact any of the numbers below (Harry, Diane or John).



Cleaning: We are still looking for more helpers to help with cleaning the church on a rota basis. It may be possible to work in a pair. All cleaning materials, equipment and basic PPE will be provided. Please contact Hazel on 270404 if you'd like to help.

Food Bank: The church food bank is running well at the moment. Thanks to your generosity we're actually receiving more items than are being taken. For example, we've had lots of rice and pasta in the food bank for 3 months so we've taken some items to the food cupboard in Bletchley for distribution. Items being used regularly by villagers include toiletries: roll-on antiperspirant, tooth-paste, shower gel and sanitary and sensitive bladder towels. Foods being used include tinned meat and fish, (tuna, mince, corned beef), prepared tinned meals (chicken casserole, beans with sausages, ravioli and meatballs) tinned fruit and puddings (rice pudding, custard) cereal, biscuits, tea, coffee and sugar. Supplies are topped up weekly, so if you've thought about using the food bank, please do. Other items available include toilet roll, dishwasher tablets and laundry capsules and dog and cat foods. If donating, items should fit in the sealed boxes in the porch (for hygiene reasons). If you can't get them in, please deliver them to Abbotsford at the bottom of Church Rd.



Services: As mentioned earlier, we are planning to recommence services again. Our first service will be **Holy Communion** on **Sunday 2nd August at 11am**. (We will only be able to share the bread). This has only been agreed in the last few

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days (as we go to press) but we will need to complete a risk assessment and the church capacity will be much reduced by social distancing. For this reason, it would be useful if you could let us know in advance if you'd like to attend the service so that we can be sure we're able to accommodate everyone. (Contact details below)



Further services, if planned, will be advertised on the village Facebook group. If you're still self isolating and would prefer not to attend, our Rector John Waller is continuing to send a weekly reflection note which is shared on the village Facebook.



Oxford Diocese (our church area) is still running a weekly (almost) live-streamed online service called "Church at home" a link to which can be found online by searching Oxford Diocese Church at Home. You can also access "Church at home" services by phone if you don't have online access by calling

01865 920930. Once connected, dial 0 for the full version of the service, or dial 1 for a short version - standard call rates apply. There'll be a few seconds of silence before the service starts.

Fundraising:

We've had more expenses from moles in the churchyard, and the checking of our fire extinguishers. Church members are thankfully still donating by standing order, but we need extra income to pay our running costs & parish share (of £10,950) which goes towards the Rector's salary.



Cake Sale: We're planning a cake sale to take place on **Saturday 15th August**



on the village green from **10am**. We will be using social distancing and hygiene protocols. If you would like to donate a cake, traybake or other tasty edible, please contact Diane (see below) or bring it down on the day wrapped and labelled. We look forward to seeing you there!

Plant Sale: The church plant sale didn't take place this year, but we've been growing our own plants, and offering them for sale. A table has been outside The Birches in Church Rd selling a selection of flower and vegetable plants and will continue over the summer whilst we still have plants to sell. So far we have raised **over £400** – many thanks to all who have contributed. If you have spare plants and would like to donate them to the church, please deliver them to The Birches, Church Rd or call Diane (270409) to arrange for them to be collected.



If you'd like to donate to St Luke's - officially titled Stoke Hammond Parochial Church Council (PCC) - at Barclays bank, our sort code is: 20-57-40 and account number: 00869198. Our treasurer John (see below) would be grateful if you let him know you've made a donation.

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VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday 2nd August Holly Communion Service* – St Luke’s Church – 11.00
Saturday 15th August St Luke’s Cake Sale – Village Green – From 10.00 hrs
Tuesday 1st September Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Tuesday 6th October Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30

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

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Pilates – Group Matwork

Timetable: 09.15, 10.15, 11.45, 14.15, 19.10 & 20.15hrs

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368

**AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS AND WITH EXCEPTION OF
BUTTONS PRESCHOOL THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IS STILL
CLOSED TO ALL HIRES, BUT IT IS HOPED THAT SOME OF OUR
REGULAR HIRES WILL BE RETURNING SOON.**

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Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

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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

EDITORS NOTE

A little bit of normality returns during these difficult and strange times with this edition of the SH News being once again delivered to all homes within our village. But sad to learn albeit totally understandable, that this year's Village Show has had to be cancelled. With some clubs and organisations still unable to meet up, you may notice we're missing a couple of our normal features, but hopefully they will return soon.

Just a reminder that this latest along with past editions of the SH News can be viewed/downloaded from the following two websites.

www.stokehammondpc.com
www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Take care everyone.

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



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

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 Aug	Wednesday 5 Aug	
Wednesday 12 Aug		Wednesday 12 Aug	Wednesday 12 Aug
	Wednesday 19 Aug	Wednesday 19 Aug	
Wednesday 26 Aug		Wednesday 26 Aug	Wednesday 26 Aug
	Thursday 3 Sept	Thursday 3 Sept	
Wednesday 9 Sept		Wednesday 9 Sept	Wednesday 9 Sept
	Wednesday 16 Sept	Wednesday 16 Sept	
Wednesday 23 Sept		Wednesday 23 Sept	Wednesday 23 Sept
	Wednesday 30 Sept	Wednesday 30 Sept	

STOKE HAMMOND

CANCELLED

VILLAGE SHOW

The Village Show Committee are most sad to announce that we have to cancel this year's show which was due to be held on Saturday the 5th of September. Safety for all is the priority and we had over 500 people attend last year which is of course forbidden at the moment. We will also post details on the Village Facebook site as well as on the Village Show website. Most stall holders are already booking for 2021

*So next year needs to be
BIGGER and BETTER than ever!!*

Stay Safe Villagers

Do you and your family want to win £100 ??

**Why not take part in our
VILLAGE DOORSTEP PHOTO COMPETITION**

Just post a picture of everyone in your house in any pose or fancy dress in the doorway of your house on the Village Show Facebook page or email [page.chris1@google mail.com](mailto:page.chris1@googlemail.com) or WhatsApp to Chris Page on mobile 07747 018814

The winners will be announced on the 5th Sept



Get Snapping Villagers

