



SH NEWS

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EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO

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CHURCH NEWS & MUCH MORE



DECEMBER 2020/JANUARY 2021

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Stoke Hammond



a thankful village

Unfortunately, the Pandemic and its associated influence still dominates our lives, but all we can do is to try and continue as best we can. We are fortunate that for Stoke Hammond and our neighbouring Parishes, that the incidences of COVID-19 infections are relatively low, but we must stay vigilant and observe the safety guidelines. Let's hope the promising news about the vaccine trials means that we can at some time in 2021 start to return to some sense of normality.

Whilst the restrictions are still in place PC meetings continue to be held via the Zoom Video platform, and indeed it has been a busy last two months for meetings with no less than four being held, with three of these held on consecutive weeks in November. The main reason for the additional Extraordinary Meetings was to discuss important issues that could not wait until the next normal monthly meeting, but more of that anon.

You may recall in the last PC News that we were going to run a poll to establish as to whether parishioners would prefer to see a new semi-mature tree planted on the Village Green as a replacement for the diseased Chestnut tree removed earlier this year, or leave the Green as is with no tree. Well, the results are in from votes cast in the Village Shop and those polled on Facebook, and the majority voted overwhelmingly for a new tree to be planted. We are now seeking the advice from our Tree Surgeon as to the best species of tree to replant with, but you should see signs of a new planted tree in the very near future. You may also have spotted on The Green a rather more pleasing to the eye, new Remembrance themed litter bin which has replaced what was a rather tired looking green plastic version, which also had a very definite lean!

For some months now your PC has been running with only 4 Councillors when we are allowed up to seven. Normally we would have looked to Co-opt new Councillors but we were not allowed to do so under the restrictions of Covid. We were however advised in October that we could again seek to Co-opt, and we therefore advertised the vacancies, and at the Nov 3rd PC Meeting, having received 3 applications, Cllrs David Venn, Stephen McNally and Malcolm Newing were welcomed on to the PC. Cllrs Venn and Newing are both residents of Stoke Hammond Village whilst Cllr McNally is a resident of Newton Leys South (NLS), and we very much welcome representation from this part of our Parish. Indeed, this was a matter raised at the PC Meeting held on Tuesday 6th Oct when during the public participation session, a resident from NLS and Newton Leys Ward Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson expressed their concerns that the SHPC overlooks their interests and needs and that despite paying a Precept to Stoke Hammond via their council tax the PC do nothing for them. Whilst the PC felt this statement was a little unkind given that in the past, they have organised meetings in Newton Leys to which residents were invited and basically none turned out, the PC did agree to work more closely with them, something hopefully now made easier with the appointment of Cllr McNally.

Newton Leys was still a dominant part of the Oct Meeting, because of the Bletchley Landfill Site which was originally due to close in 2022, but the owners had put in an application (CM/0018/20) to extend the sites use by a further 15 years. Your PC had

previously commented on this application, but in recognition of the dramatic impact this extension of use could have on the residents of NLS and other surrounding communities, your PC resolved to make the strongest of objections. Interestingly, this application had the previous week been due to be discussed by the Bucks Strategic Planning Committee but for reasons not yet known, was suddenly pulled at the very last minute.

For details of all planning applications put before your PC over the last 2 months, please see the separate 'Planning Applications' section, within this edition of the SH News.

As to the first normally scheduled PC Meeting in November held on the 3rd and aside from the very important matter of Co-opting our 3 new Cllrs, the main talking point raised by many residents from Mount Pleasant (MP) looking in on the meeting via Zoom, was the sudden fencing off of the open amenity land that fronts their properties. The PC confirmed they had no prior knowledge of this, and whilst most sympathetic with their concerns over the potential loss of this piece of land and what was planned for it, this would have to be made an agenda item for a future meeting, and it was agreed with the MP residents that an Extraordinary PC meeting would be scheduled for 2 weeks time. However, before this meeting, another Extraordinary PC Meeting was called for on Wednesday 11th November for the PC to debate the planning application 20/03539/APP for the installation of a gas tanker off-loading facility on the Bletchley Road, Newton Longville for injection of renewable gas into the national gas distribution network. Although outside the Parish of Stoke Hammond, it was felt that if granted there was the potential, for this facility and the associated HGV delivery vehicles to have a detrimental impact on both Stoke Hammond and other surrounding villages. The PC voted unanimously to post an objection to this planning proposal, citing such comments as no prior consultation by the developers, a very bad idea to put such a facility in the middle of a residential area and that it was proposed that gas laden HGV's would be arriving on a 24/7 basis and thus be driving on a continual basis through residential areas, a grave safety issue. The PC's objection is now one of over 1000 lodged against this planning application.

So, to the third PC Meeting of November held on Tuesday 18th to mainly debate as to whether the PC would support the Mount Pleasant residents in their application under the 'Commons Act 2006 Section 15' to have this piece of land officially registered as a Town or Village Green. After a rather lengthy discussion, the PC was split on their decision, with some Councillors wishing to provide their unconditional support to the residents in their application, whilst others felt that although not obliged to do so that the residents should in the first instance reach out to the land owner to establish their long term intentions for this piece of land and to let the owner know that they were going to apply to have it registered as a Town/Village Green. In the end the PC agreed on a compromise, that they would support the residents in their application, once the residents had first tried to make contact with the land owners and that if after 14 days there had either been no reply or a rational response.

During this meeting and in order to move things forward on the PC land adjacent to the Community Centre, Bragenham Side the PC approved the appointment of Broadbase PM & QS Services Ltd to undertake an initial Feasibility Cost Study for the provision of possible new leisure facilities. Once we have this cost study the PC can compare these to the available S106 funds.

For greater details of items raised and discussed at PC Meetings, please visit the PC Website www.stokehammondpc.com where the minutes can be viewed/downloaded.

With this being the last PC News of 2020 and the next scheduled PC Meeting via Zoom is not until the New Year 7.30pm Tuesday 5th January 2021, and whilst we recognise this has been a difficult year for everyone, your Parish Council would still very much like to take this opportunity to wish all that live within the Parish of Stoke Hammond the Happiest of Christmas's and all the Very Best for 2021.



With regard to the January 2021 meeting, if you would like to log in, please email the PC Clerk who will send you a log in link, or details will also be available on our website and will nearer the time be published on the Stoke Hammond Village Facebook page.



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

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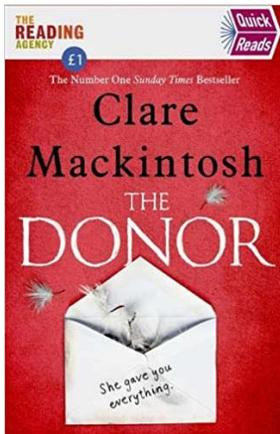
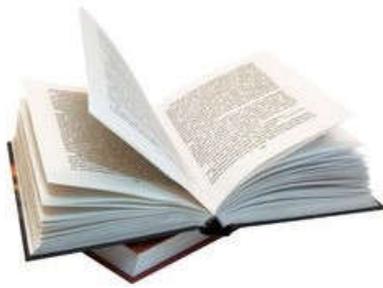
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



With the current difficulties and not wanting too much time to elapse between books it was decided that we would all get a 'quick read' to keep us going and so we decided on "The Donor" by Clare Mackintosh. The book was only about 100 pages long but turned out to be an interesting and worthwhile read.

The story concerns Lizzie whose daughter Meg is given a life-saving heart transplant and our appreciation of the book was almost unanimous. One of our members felt that it had put her off the whole idea of organ donation and she really did not enjoy it for that reason but for everyone else it seemed to have had the opposite effect plus it was definitely thought provoking and a page turner.

Everything was going really well when a letter was received from the Donor's Mother (Karen) saying that she would like to meet Meg. Even though there had been warnings about not meeting the other family Lizzie was so hugely grateful to the nameless Donor she felt that agreeing to meet the mother was the very least she could do... and that was when the intrigue began.

Everyone, including the person who did not really enjoy it, felt that the book was well written and the characters outlined very well. Thanks to the descriptive writing we could imagine the trauma the family had gone through whilst waiting for a Donor to be found and the massive relief and joy when the operation was successful and Meg was able to get on with her life. However, the entry of Karen in to their lives was disturbing and threatened to destroy the existing close family bond driving a wedge between Lizzie and her husband and Meg and her parents.

We are all hoping for and expecting a sequel and will be looking out for it !

Our next book is " All the Light we Cannot See " by Anthony Doerr a tome by comparison but hopefully a good one. As we are unable to meet in November we have plenty of time to read it and hope that we can discuss it in December !

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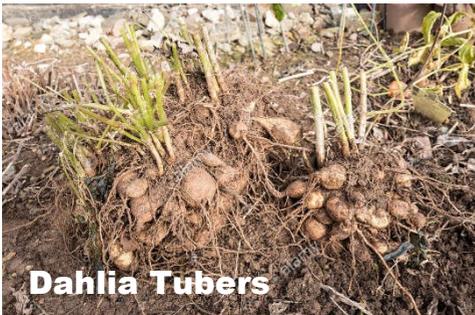
Hi there fellow Stoke Hammonders' (if that's what we call ourselves).

I hope you all remain well and happy....trying to remain positive when things don't go the way we want. Change is tricky when life is goodly let alone when there is FUD about (fear, uncertainty, doubt). Anyway I refuse to be anything but positive (can't stand the moaners around and "it's not fair " folks) - Christmas is around the corner (hope to have my Pa up with us - he is 94 and a little wibbly wobbly lol) and 2021 will be better than 2020 I hope.



I will talk about the new group of gardeners "the germinators" later but now we need to focus on preparing for next year and putting our gardens to bed for a few months.

So, the boring, but necessary, jobs to be done are weeding our beds, cleaning and sharpening our tools, gathering of leaves for the compost, putting away canes and supports, wrapping up and hiding away tender plants and clay pots.



Dahlia Tubers

It is also a great time for pruning if you haven't yet done that and carefully digging up your dahlia tubers. Some people leave their dahlias in the ground which is ok provided you are not in a heavy clay or water logged soil - in which case cut the stems down to about 6 inches and compost the rest. Then mulch with a few inches of

compost or straw - anything to give a little protection from a really cold winter. I dig mine up, brush as much soil off them, discard any soft/diseased tubers, let them dry for a few days under shelter and then wrap them up in newspaper and keep in a frost free shed or garage. I also take down my hanging baskets - pull up all dead foliage, cover with a little compost and keep in the greenhouse. That is what I did last year and come the spring all the violas, pansies etc had self-seeded - hurrah. It is also that time of year to protect clay pots and also plant your bulbs (tulips etc.) if you haven't already. Don't be afraid to push your bulbs



Little Ashes Pre-School

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We have enjoyed some wonderful activities at Little Ashes recently, including learning about bugs and minibeasts in our morning sessions, and continuing the theme in our afternoon Forest School, getting muddy, getting crafty and having fun!

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down to three or four times their own size - so the bigger the bulb the deeper they go.

It is not too late to take cuttings for next year (roses, geraniums etc) but give them some protection - put the cuttings in a very gritty soil/compost, put a clear plastic bag over them and put on a coolish window sill that doesn't get direct sunlight. You can also grow roses from the seeds in rose hips - which I am



giving a go now from several of my favourite roses (never done this before so I will update you next year on that). If you haven't collected seeds from your garden it will probably be too late now but I have collected sunflower seeds, pepper seeds, melon seeds, tomato seeds, sweet Williams, poppy seeds, cosmos, dahlia seeds etc. for the next year and the germinators group.



If you missed it in the last SHNews or on the village Facebook page I have thrown open the idea of getting a group of like minded people together on a monthly basis who want to have a bit of a laugh on growing veg and flowers from seed. I thought I would offer my greenhouse, seeds and experience

from January (Covid allowing) where you can germinate your favourite veg / flowers (if you don't have the space at home) and take it home with you once they are ready for potting on or planting out. We can swap seeds, photos, stories, homemade wine (now we are talking), recipes and knowledge throughout the year. So far, I have 9 people who are up for it. If there are any more contact me on 07747018814 or page.chris1@googlemail.com. By the beginning of December I will set up a WhatsApp group and plan the first session next year once Covid allows. Don't be shy - young or old and anywhere in between !

Have a fab Christmas and join the Germinators now.....for free 🍷

PAGEY

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Money

Now I don't mind people having money. I don't object to people having inherited their wealth as this suggests that their forebears worked hard, saved and passed on the wealth to a future generation. I particularly admire the self made man who starts with nothing and works hard all his life to create his "empire". Even the generations of upper class transferred wealth has a place. I do however object to certain people ripping off the general population having put nothing into the system.

Imagine before "money" was invented there were only 3 workers: Tom Dick and Harry. Tom dug the potato's Dick brewed the beer and Harry was an undertaker. (We all know the only certainties in life are eating, drinking and dying) Tom grew enough potato's to feed two and Dick brewed enough beer to supply two. Tom swapped $\frac{1}{2}$ his potato's for $\frac{1}{2}$ of Dick's beer. Harry was a problem as it was difficult to assess his value. So money was invented. Tom and Dick produced a little bit more and converted the excess produce into money. Harry was paid for his service with the new money and bought the excess goods produced by the other two. A simple concept - everyone does their bit and the system works.

Fast forward to the present day and what do we find? The system has got out of hand. Some institutions exist only to make money, not to be reimbursed for their input to society. In this category we have to consider property developers and also pub companies (have you seen the latest program by the publican Tom Kerridge?).

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And lots of people are getting more “money” than the value of their input. Football players as I have mentioned previously and this last month the salaries of T V presenters has come to the fore. There are many more (did I mention Estate agents or Insurance brokers?) – too many to list. It all seems to be a little out of kilter to me. It might be suggested that the most important job in the country is that of Prime Minister who should therefore receive the highest salary in the land but I can’t see him/her becoming a millionaire on the basis of salary.

Grumpy Old Man

MAVIS’S QUIZ

Answers to last month’s quiz and if you remember you had to work out from the clues, the titles names of the classic television series.

- (1) FIREBALL XL5 (2) THE HIGH CHAPARRAL
- (3) EMERGENCY WARD 10
- (4) Z CARS (5) BUDGIE
- (6) MIAMI VICE (7) THE SAINT
- (8) THE AVENGERS (9) THE PRISONER
- (10) THE A TEAM



Something different now, can you work out the titles of these very well known books from the following clues. To assist you, the book initials are included in brackets.



- (1) The story of a large amphibious creature (MB)
- (2) Transparent Humanoid (IM)
- (3) A tragedy concerning Scandinavian Royalty (H)
- (4) A washed up character who meets with a day of the week (RC)
- (5) The song “It’s not unusual” should give you a clue (TJ)
- (6) Vertically challenged ladies (LW)
- (7) This medical practitioner was not always what he seemed
(TSCODJAMH)
- (8) A tale of animal friends and neighbours in the English countryside
(TWTW)
- (9) A very large dose of shuteye (TBS)
- (10) A story of racial prejudice in the deep south of America (TKAMB)

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.

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We have been closed for several months over the Covid crisis, but now we can see the light at the end of the tunnel!

Following recent Government guidelines it seems Mum and toddler groups are allowed to run (see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/new-national-restrictions-from-5-november-section-3>, bullet point 7)

We're holding a **Christmas party on Friday 11th December** at **10 – 11.30am** to which friends old and new are welcome, but it will only run if there's enough interest! If you'd like to attend and/or offer your help in cleaning before or after, please let us know (numbers above, or previous attendees, via the Whatsapp group).

We're hoping that we'll be able to start up again in the **New Year**, subject to lockdown release. If you can't make the party but would like to join us when we start sessions again, please contact us to let us know.

Finally, to keep your baby busy, give them lots of cuddles and read lots of stories so that they get used to the idea of a quiet time with you. For older toddlers, this might be the first year they have any memories of Christmas, so make it a good one. Preschool children often aren't bothered about fancy expensive presents or nice new clothes. The one thing they want is completely free: your love and attention! Make sure that's the one gift you do give.



Merry Christmas and a happy New Year!



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THE Lindens

Seasons Greeting to you all from us here at The Lindens. What an unexpected year it has been, full of challenges going into the New Year ahead.

In our oak panelled Dining Room, the table settings have recently been updated by Lillian and Myrna. There are beautiful flower arrangements at each table with handmade floral napkin rings to match. A lovely setting for our residents to enjoy lunch and a chatter together.



With Christmas approaching, as usual special table settings have been planned for the event. We enjoy Christmas here and always plan to make it a fabulous celebration with delicious festive meals and treats for our residents, including a handmade iced and decorated Christmas Cake. Our menu for the day itself has been planned and decorations will be going up around our "Home from Home" shortly.

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

Wishing you all a Peaceful and Merry Christmas, with happy and healthy times ahead.

Michael Hannelly

Director

The Lindens

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or
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Mixed vegetable traybake,
Braised red cabbage
Roast potatoes,
Creamy mashed potatoes,
Pigs in Blankets.

Dessert

Traditional Christmas Pudding with
brandy sauce & cream,
Tiramisu,
Gluten free pudding,
Coffee & Chocolate custard pot

PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES OCT/NOV 2020



In this section you will find details of planning applications received, comments made by your Parish Council, and any updates on previous planning applications.

20/03280/APP Stoke House Farm, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BN

Proposed single storey side/rear extension.

There were no comments on this application and the PC voted in favour of NO OBJECTION

20/02446/APP 22 Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

Minor amendment to the design for a First floor side extension, garage conversion and single storey rear extension.

This application had previously been SUPPORTED by the PC and as only a minor design amendment the PC felt there was no need for any further comment.

20/02185/APP Methodist Church, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DE

Conversion with extensions into a Day Nursery

This was back before the PC because revised plans had now been submitted showing proposed off-street parking bays. The PC were very concerned about the revised plans which would involve vehicles reversing into or from the Newton Road and were surprised that the Highways authorities were happy with the design. Further consultation with both the planners and highways would be sought.

CM/0018/20 Bletchley Landfill Site, Guernsey Road, Newton Leys, Bletchley MK3 5FR

Continuation of the development at this landfill site at variance to conditions 2 & 4 attached to planning permission 95/1362/AWD to extend the operational life of the site. *The PC voted to OBJECT in the strongest manner to this application – please see more details in PC News section of this SH News.*

20/03274/APP 2 Coleman Road, Newton Leys South, Bletchley MK3 5QD

Proposed ground floor rear orangery

There were no comments on this application and the PC voted in favour of NO OBJECTION

20/03155/APP Common Farm, Newton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 0EB

Change of use of Land and Buildings to Use Classes E(g)(iii), B2, B8 and use as a scaffolder's yard.

This site has been subject to several different planning applications over the last few years, but the PC felt this was a suitable use of the site and voted in favour of NO OBJECTION.

20/03485/COUAR Barn at Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DB

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

The PC felt most strongly OPPOSED to this application, and in short summary, felt this residential development would be contrary to policy, being outside the village envelope, would have a huge environmental impact on the landscape and access is already challenging with it being a single-track road also used by tractors and other farm machinery.

NEWTON LEYS WEST CONSULATATION

Although not a planning application, this is a proposal for a further expansion Newton Leys comprising some 1100 new homes towards Drayton Parslow and Newton Longville, part of which falls within the Stoke Hammond Parish, and was the subject of a Zoom meeting put together by Newton Longville PC and the proposers of the development Willis Dawson. Several Stoke Hammond Councillors and residents logged in to this meeting, and things did not go too well for Willis Dawson as it was found that they hadn't really undertaken any substantial traffic surveys, and their offer to build a new A421 link road as part of the development was very much reliant on other authorities stumping up the majority of the cost, as the section they would cover forms only a small part of what would actually be required to provide a full link road. The PC Clerk will be inviting Willis Dawson to hold a similar meeting for the residents of Stoke Hammond.

Please take a look at the following website for more information on this proposal.

<https://www.newtonleyswest.co.uk/>

20/03539/APP Bletchley Road, Newton Longville

Installation of a gas tanker off-loading facility for the injection of renewable gas into the national gas distribution network.

The PC voted to OBJECT in the strongest manner to this application – please see more details in PC News section of this SH News.

20/03793/APP Barn 2, Hunters Lodge, Leighton Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9DD

Single storey rear extension

This application had previously been SUPPORTED by the PC and as only a minor design amendment the PC felt there was no need for any further comment.

20/03874/APP 20 The Green, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BX

Conversion of existing garage with new roof over.

There were no comments on this application and the PC voted in favour of NO OBJECTION

To find out further information and updates on these or any other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website and enter the application reference or use the map search facility.

<https://www.aylesburyvaldc.gov.uk/search-planning-licensing-applications>



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

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St Luke's Church News

Review:

Things have been quiet in the church over the last few months. We were able to hold our **Harvest festival** (without singing) and have received a certificate of thanks from the Bletchley food cupboard for our donations. The **Gift Day** stand on the



village green for St Luke's day was a great success. Probably owing to the more central location – we received more donations than usual: a total of £1416.80 to which gift aid will be added! Many thanks to all who gave so generously. We managed to hold our **Remembrance service** outside the church, which was attended by a stalwart few. Many thanks also to Harry Davies for raising £145

through his **Bike ride** to be split between BHCT & St Luke's. We are again able to meet our parish share this year.

Ongoing Activities:

Food Bank: If you'd like to make a donation, please ensure items fit in the sealed boxes in the porch (for hygiene reasons). If you can't get them in, please leave them at Abbotsford at the bottom of Church Rd. Most wanted items include: tinned meat and fish, (tuna, mince, corned beef), prepared tinned meals (chicken casserole, ravioli, beans & sausages, and meat pies etc) tinned fruit and puddings (rice pudding, custard) cereal, biscuits, tea, coffee and sugar. Toiletries: toothpaste, shower gel and sanitary and sensitive bladder towels. Supplies are



topped up weekly, and we are getting more than we can use at the moment, so some food and other items have been passed on to the Bletchley food cupboard. If you've considered using the food bank, even for a one off or on temporary basis until after Christmas, please do!

Prayers: The prayer group has been temporarily suspended, but we are still taking prayer requests either via prayer request card (in the church porch delivered to The Birches, Church Rd or Abbotsford, Newton Rd) or by phone (numbers below). As Christians, we know the power of prayer!



Swap Shop:

The Swap shop doesn't seem to have had a lot of use, but we are continuing to leave toys there. If we feel the weather is damaging them in the porch, we may remove them temporarily. But for the moment, there's still a range of children's books, puzzles and games for all ages. Feel free to donate or borrow and swap (no soft toys please). For your own safety please wipe borrowed items with antibacterial spray once you get home.





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Services:

Since early November, we've been forbidden from holding church services. Our Rector has been producing a weekly reflection since the start of the crisis, which is published on the **village Facebook** page or can be emailed to you directly upon request (contact any number below).

Both the weekly reflection and a weekly children's bible story (read by the Rector or church member) are now also being videoed and uploaded onto **You Tube**. Links can be found on the benefice website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk.

In place of live services, we've been holding benefice (our "family" of churches which includes Brickhills: Great, Bow and Little), **services on Zoom**. For those who are unaware, Zoom is a free to download app



that can be loaded onto your smart phone, laptop or PC, enabling you to access meetings (or online church services!) using a link provided by the meeting organiser. Links are available a few days before the service and you can register to receive the email link by contacting Phillipa Cook at

pjcook6@gmail.com.



Alternatively, "Church at home" is an online service, a link to which can be found by searching Oxford Diocese Church at Home. This can be accessed by phone if you can't get online by calling **01865 920930**. Standard call rates apply.

As we go to press, we're hoping the Government will allow church services to restart from 2nd Dec. We had been running church services, (with strict social distancing rules) rotating through the benefice. However, even if live services can go ahead, it may be that we are still not allowed to sing. We are trying our best to arrange alternatives for Christmas which might include CDs or singing by a few choir members. We hope to issue our usual **Christmas leaflet** with details. At present, the live services we have planned (subject to lockdown release) are:

6th December 11am Benefice service at St Mary's, Great Brickhill (we are hoping that paperwork will arrive in time to allow us to swear in the benefice churchwardens – an occasion that usually takes place in April/May!)

13th December 4pm: 9 lessons at St Luke's church, in Stoke Hammond (hopefully with a choir singing a few carols)

20th December 3pm: Crib service on the village Green. As our church has limited capacity under social distancing, we thought we would hold this on the village Green, although there will still need to be strict social distancing. It is unlikely singing will be allowed.

24th December 11.30pm: "Midnight" Holy Communion at St Luke's church, Stoke Hammond. Again, singing may be restricted.



We have not yet planned services for January. Information will be made available on the Benefice website and the village Facebook page.



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**Check our Facebook page for
ongoing offers & packages**

Zoom Pilates and Pamper sessions: Many thanks to Louisa Harris, village resident Pilates teacher, who recently held free Zoom sessions with goodies from her sideline business, Neal's Yard Remedies. Profits from sales generated will be donated to the church. At the time of going to press, the sessions haven't taken place, but I'm sure they'll have been a resounding success! If you're disappointed to have missed out, please let us know and Louisa will run another if there's enough interest.



Christmas market: We are holding this event to which you are invited, in lieu of our Christmas fayre. Stalls will be set up along Church Rd on **5th December** from **12.30pm** to **2.30pm**. Strict social distancing and hygiene protocols will be applied, but we will have an unwanted gifts stall, cake stall, Christmas tombola, hamper raffle and take-away refreshments. Come and join in the socially distanced fun!



Bible verse of the month: Galatians 6 v9: *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. (NRSV)*

What does it mean? This Bible reference is about perseverance, which is particularly appropriate for us all at the moment! A vaccine has been announced; rough timescales have even been given; we can see the end in sight so it will be hard to avoid letting our guard down and socialising unnecessarily over Christmas. So let us keep on "doing the right thing" so that in the end we will all be safer.

St Luke's wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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



St Luke's usually offers Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals which are now only available under strict limitations. Please contact the Rector if you'd like to discuss any of these. The Rector's contact details are 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**

MAP
(Not to scale)





High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

December 2020

Starting School in September 2021

If your child is due to start school in September 2021 and you are interested in our lovely school, then please look at our website for more information about the facilities we have here at High Ash C E School - www.highashschool.co.uk

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we unfortunately are unable to host visits to the school at the moment, however, we are happy for prospective parents to contact the school to arrange a telephone or Zoom appointment with the Headteacher to answer any questions you may have.

Applications for Primary School places are completed online and for Buckinghamshire residents the closing date is midnight on 15 January 2021. To apply, please go to the link below:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/apply-for-a-school-place/

The Festive Season

This year we are having to plan our festive celebrations slightly differently due to the Covid restrictions that are currently in place. Despite these different times, we have lots of wonderful things planned before the end of the year that we are very excited about.

For example, all the children will be involved in a Nativity production where we will be filming individual class performances as they retell festive poems and stories. The video will then be made available for parents to view as we are unable to host any events on site at school.

We will hold a Christingle Service at school in class bubbles and will be holding Christmas Parties for the children, also in class bubbles!

We have aimed to keep as much Christmas fun as we possibly can for the children while adhering to the Covid guidelines.

Sarah J Boyce

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



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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

This is as the title suggests is the final extract from Pam Murphy's book fascinating insight into her life from childhood through to her latter years. I hope you have enjoyed reading about her life?

“AND FINALLY”

First a comment from Pam's daughter Hazel Turner: These last items are some of the very last my mother wrote. She never wrote about her final illness that would have been too private from her point of view. She never wanted people to know how ill she was, and she fought her cancer to the bitter end. So here are just a few of her tales from her retirement era prior to her illness

We were in the middle of Sunday lunch when my nephew/godson Simon Durham, rang from Canada to say that he had just got engaged. He was over the moon, and I made, I hope the right noises, though to me it was the non-event of the week.

I had met his charming “intended”, Linda, when they stayed, occupying my spare room the previous year. Some time before THAT, they had bought an apartment in Montreal.

It had been a good lunch, and I promised to go to the wedding. When the invitation arrived, the date set was the most inconvenient Saturday in the year for me. The day after the end of the Chelsea Flower Show, where I was due to do a stint of “Costa-mongering”, manning the Cowpact stand, and with other long term dates the next week, meant that I would have to jet set and also renege on at least one day at Chelsea.

I put Charles, his elder brother, in charge of making travel arrangements, and we even discussed favourite airlines. The quick answer from travel agents was scheduled flight, cost one grand - EACH! We investigated other alternatives, from “Take your own water wings”, and via Peking and other outlandish places, and came up with a reasonably priced deal via Amsterdam. Three hours extra flying time each way, save some £600, though I had to renege on the Thursday at Chelsea. Simon, the bridegroom was put in charge of the accommodation. A comfortable, convenient hotel, ideally out of town, with private bath.

The temperature in London was rapidly rising to the 80 degree mark when we left, dressed in minimum clothing. For the information in the Times, the temperature in Montreal was in the 90's.

The travel arrangements were fine, but it got colder and colder. By the time we landed I had all my garments out of my hand luggage on, bar my nighty! We had learned we were booked in at The Ritz; bridegroom was supposed to meet us. After an hour of hanging about, we used the bus to get to town, and a taxi to reach the Ritz. We both looked like refugees, and I reckoned they would throw us out. When I saw their charges I wished they had, I never intended to buy a piece of real estate in Montreal!

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Simon rang us to say he had been too hung over after his stag night to meet us, but would we come to the apartment the following day for lunch. I demurred, I felt they must have far too much on. However bride and groom put on a magnificent spread for eight, and refused assistance for the washing up. I sat happily, their pussy cat on my lap. There was a family party that evening, and the bride went home with her parents, Groom to look after the cat.

It was a truly wonderful wedding, old style Anglican, and a superb reception with full dinner. Aged aunt (me!) had been seated with a groom's University professors and their wives, who were charming. When the dancing started, I made my way back to The Ritz, escorted by my nephew, who re-joined the party. It eventually finished about 2 a.m. when the bride and groom clocked into The Ritz.

The following morning I rang Charles at 9 a.m. to say I was going down to breakfast. He joined me to say we needed a table for four – the bride and groom were going to join us. I thought they would have other things to do. We had a lovely breakfast. At 10.00 Linda got up and said: "Come on darling, we must get home and feed the cat...."!

"IT'S two miles from the town, but you will need a tracker dog and a ball of string." My chum was giving me directions to the bed and breakfast she'd booked me in at, now she could no longer put me up. She'd sold her shop and moved into a single bedroomed flat, but one of her customers had told her of the "guest lodge" that she was running.

I set out on a baking hot afternoon, and, and admittedly a diversion, fire and ambulances didn't help, but it was nearly an hour, 10 miles, and several hundred pounds damage to my car from turning in country lanes designed for a small horse and cart that I found it. I knew I had, since almost unbelievably, the name was on the gate.

I drove down the drive, and parked in the shade of a somewhat seedy looking house, with two wings. A character who looked like Charlie Brown from Peanuts came out of a French window in the middle, and called: "Can't park there, over there," "I want to park in the shade," I replied, but did as I was bid and parked next to an aged three wheeler by the opposite wing of the house.

Immediately an apparition appeared at the window, hissing, booing and shooing me away. I looked in amazement, and seconds later it threw up an upstairs window and started shouting vituperation at me. Charlie Brown indicated a spot near the French window. With a feeling of some alarm, I again obliged, and he came up to the door "What do you want?" I told him that I had a room booked for the night; my name was Mrs. Murphy. "Don't know anything about it, and SHE'S away, but come on in", he said, seizing my overnight case; my temptation was to cut and run, but I did want to go to the loo, and I was so hot, sticky and sweaty.

I followed him through the French window, which appeared to be the front door as



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 **TEBBUTT PAINTINGS**



well, into a sitting room, crammed to bursting point with antiques and bric a brac, and FLOWERS, everywhere. How nice I thought. We went on upstairs, and I was shown into a small, pleasant room with two single beds, and flowers everywhere. A closer look showed that they were artificial, made of silk, and very dusty. I enquired about the “en suite”? “it’s down the corridor, turn right, and first on the right,” said Charlie Brown.

He led me into a room twice the size of the bedroom, with a rose coloured fitted carpet, a basin in one corner, loo in another, and bath in another, in between was an enormous dralon covered three piece suite, with a large table in the middle, and EVERYTHING covered with artificial silk flowers! I looked towards the bath. Standing beside it was a life sized doll, flaxen hair, mini skirted and her very ample legs clad in fishnet stockings. I jumped out of my skin and let out a piercing scream!

“You can have this room if you’d rather,” said Charlie Brown, leading me into a large room with a four-poster bed. It was exactly as the last occupants had got out of it, though there was the largest feather duster I have ever seen laid across a chair. I wondered if it was there for some sort of weird sex orgy. I did not investigate the “en suite”, I could see the wet, dirty towels coming out of it. Now desperate for the loo, I said the small room would do fine, and I WOULD like to use the bathroom and have a wash.

Charlie Brown brought me a beautifully set tray of tea, and a chair, in the garden, by the filthy swimming pool, and asked for directions to the sea, which I knew was near.

“Through the orchard, but do shut the gates”, he said. He did not add that the orchard held a Vietnamese pot bellied cow and boar and their piglet, and the orchard made Wembley Ice Rink seem dead.

The second time I landed on my bottom, I returned for a much needed bath, and drink, and set off to take my friend, Barbara Lubbock, out to celebrate her 70th birthday.

I got out easily, and we had a wonderful meal. I returned to meet my hostess, who asked me in for a coffee, which I declined. I said that I would like breakfast at 8 a.m. We settled for 8.45. That I slept very badly was more due to the indiscretions of dinner, than my surroundings, but by 8.15 a.m. I had my bag packed and in the car, and I went back in for breakfast hoping to be asked what I would like.

No such luck! Charlie Brown showed me into the dining room, with a beautifully laid table, and yes, artificial silk flowers everywhere, even around the honey and marmalade jars, and three other guests. I am not sociable at breakfast, which actually I do not eat. But the combination of chat, and a very, very greasy plate of sausage, bacon, egg, fried bread and tomatoes, very early finished me off! I gulped down a second cup of tea, excused myself and paid my dues, and made my way to the car.

Charlie Brown followed me, his hand waving in the breeze.

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“Sorry about yesterday afternoon,” he said, “You see the house is divided into three. The others don’t like us taking guests; and anyway I was expecting Miss Marple”. I looked at him. Obviously I had got the authors muddled up. I thought I had arrived at a setting of Roald Dahl’s “Tales of the Unexpected”, but maybe this was where Agatha Christie spent her lost days?

The next night I spent at a four star hotel. It was worth every penny!

I am sure that no one ever asked Ingrid Bergman if she knew she looked like Pam Murphy, but I have been asked if I knew that I looked like her hundreds of times over the past seventy years.

The first time it happened was in Calcutta, in 1946, when a woman dashed out of a shop and started jabbering to me in some foreign language – Swedish it turned out. She thought that I was Ingrid Bergman. My husband was highly amused, and whenever I went into that shop, I was greeted most warmly.

We took a number of holidays in Scandinavia, and it really got most embarrassing though we did get the most super service in hotels and restaurants, but being stopped in the streets of London was boring.

Travelling in Kenya with Claire, my daughter, going up to Treetops with the most tedious party of Americans, one turned and said: “Gee, has anyone ever told you are just like Ingrid Bergman?”

Bored with lot, I replied: “Vell, I always travel incognito!”

I spent to much of the evening scribbling autographs, and I DID sign my own name! In 1982 I was in Sweden, abortively trying to do a business deal involving Cowpact, with the original MCP, who wasn’t going to deal with a woman, so decided that he did not speak any English at all. My contacts, who were rather upset over the whole business took us out to dinner. MCP sat silent throughout, until the very end, when he turned to me and said in perfect English: “Has anyone ever told you look just like Ingrid Bergman”!!



PAM MURPHY 19.08.1922 – 30.05.1995

Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



Dear Resident,

Today I'm focussing on one really important piece of news – the launch of our Bucks Business Grants.

This is how eligible local businesses can apply for financial support if they're suffering hardship as a result of this second lockdown. I wanted to share this news widely - to tell business owners how to apply and to let everyone know how we are supporting our much-loved local firms during this incredibly challenging time for them. I know how much all our residents rely on and value their local businesses, whether they're an employee or a customer.

Through 'Bucks Business Grants', eligible businesses can apply for funds from one of two grants. If they've had to close during this new lockdown they may be eligible for a grant via the 'Local Restrictions Support Grant'. This is linked to rateable value and will offer financial support for the duration of the current lockdown period, including if it's extended.

Firms that have suffered hardship as a result of these latest restrictions, eg suppliers to businesses that are currently shut, may be eligible for the 'Additional Restrictions Grant', a one-time grant payment, if they aren't able to claim the Local Restrictions Support Grant. Applications for this grant – for businesses of any sector – open later this week until the run up to Christmas.

Local firms can apply for one, but not both of these grants, if they've been impacted by the new lockdown period.

I know this year has been incredibly tough for businesses across Buckinghamshire so I hope today's update provides some positive news. Please make sure you apply as soon as possible if you think you're eligible.

There are full details of the wider support available to businesses and employees on the government's website. This site also includes information about the furlough

scheme and support for the self-employed so do have a read through to see what help is available.

Stay safe and protect Bucks,

Martin Tett

Leader, Buckinghamshire Council



**Buckinghamshire
Council**

Stay safe, protect Bucks

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



Buckinghamshire Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury,

HP19 8FF

buckinghamshire.gov.uk

 HM Government



**We must
keep on protecting
each other.**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

STAY ALERT CONTROL THE VIRUS SAVE LIVES

STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Just wanted to take this opportunity for a little morale booster to all our members who will have missed our get-togethers and outings in 2020. No-one will be cheering themselves up by working on their gardens at the moment and won't be for a few months yet so we wanted to assure you that we have been collecting ideas for the Club's future programme, making notes and

saving any information that will hopefully help us make some good decisions for the future.

At the very first opportunity we will be concentrating on arranging some fun outings/meet ups to make up for the lack of everything in 2020.

'If winter comes can spring be far behind!' So, hope to see everyone soon and keep everything crossed for some good news for 2021.

Eileen/SHGC Committee

WHITE WATER

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 TRUSTPILOT



READERS LETTERS



Ron Ealing - Joy Ealing and family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and for all their kind messages about Ron who passed away on the 15th September we miss him dearly.

Iris Clay - May I on behalf of my whole family thank Stoke Hammond Sports Club for their generosity in not only allowing us to place a memorial bench on the recreation ground in memory of my dear wife Iris who sadly passed away in June, but also for paying for the bench which was totally unexpected & such a lovely gesture which is appreciated by us all.

All members of the SHSC led by Joe & Mel made our whole family very welcome on Presidents day when we unveiled the bench in Iris's memory.

The family were so touched when Joe asked if they could have a minute's silence in memory of Iris before the game, Iris would have been so proud and so pleased to see the club being so well supported & thriving.

She spent a lot of time supporting the club in so many ways and really enjoying herself whilst doing so.

We feel it only appropriate that future generations of villagers can sit on her bench & enjoy the playing field as much as she did.

May I also take this opportunity to thank all villagers for their condolences which were so gratefully received by my whole family.

Gordon Clay and Family

Poppy Appeal - The Royal British Legion representative from Head Office rang me today (23 November) to thank us all for our two villages' contribution of £543.52p. So huge thanks to all who contributed in any way to Soulbury and Stoke Hammond's efforts. However he thought you would all like to know that the Poppy Appeal raised £5 million from on line donations (They tried this for the first time) so again many thanks if you donated in this way. They are particularly grateful as Wales locked down totally and the result from there was extremely poor indeed. So, to steal Tesco's advertising phrase 'Every Little Helps!' Next year is the Poppy Appeal's 100 anniversary so they will be putting on all types of events for it, please look out for them.

Hazel Turner - PAO Soulbury and Stoke Hammond.

VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday 5 th December	St Luke's Christmas Market* – Church Rd 12.30 – 14.30
Sunday 13 th December	9 Lessons* – St Luke's Church – 16.00
Tuesday 15 th December	Carols on The Green by Buttons Pre-school – 11.00
Sunday 20 th December	Crib Service on The Green by St Luke's Church* – 15.00
Tuesday 24 th December	Midnight Holy Communion – St Luke's Church* 23.30
Tuesday 5 th January	Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Tuesday 2 nd February	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

Innovations

Tuesday's 09.30 – 15.30hrs

Contact: Yvonne 078846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368

Joyful Tots

Every Friday 10.00 – 12.30hrs

High Ash Scouts, Cubs & Beavers

AT THIS PRESENT TIME AND WITH THE EXCEPTION OF BUTTONS PRESCHOOL AND INNOVATIONS, THE CENTRE REMAINS CLOSED TO ALL HIRES. HOPEFULLY WE CAN WELCOME OTHERS BACK IN DUE COURSE.

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

Buckinghamshire Council	0300-131-6000
Aylesbury Vale Area – Buckinghamshire Council	01296-585858
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar (<i>Births & Deaths</i>)	01296-383005
Registrar (<i>Marriages</i>)	01296-382481
Fly-Tipping on Roads	01296-382416
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	0800-999-7677
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525-270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Jo Simonds</i>)	07818-016108
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>)	01525-270744
County Councillor – Gt Brickhill Ward (<i>Ben Everitt MP</i>)	07738-314100
County Councillor – Gt Brickhill Ward (<i>Scott Raven</i>)	07841-560877
MP - Buckinghamshire. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296-714240
High Ash School	01525-261620
St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>)	01525-261062
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>)	01525-270409
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>)	01234-822780
Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly</i>)	01525-240589

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITORS NOTE

Well here we are at the end of what one can only describe as a very strange year. Despite this the team who make the SH News happen, have continued to provide their services, from the contributors, advertisers, SHCA, SHPC and the small army of volunteers who deliver the SH News to your homes. Thank you All.

And to everyone out there, may I wish you



May I please have copy for the February/March 2021 issue by the **20th January**
 Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB
 01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE

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 2 Dec		Wednesday 2 Dec	
	Wednesday 9 Dec	Wednesday 9 Dec	
Wednesday 16 Dec		Wednesday 16 Dec	
	Wednesday 23 Dec	Wednesday 23 Dec	
Saturday 2 January		Saturday 2 January	
	Friday 8 January	Friday 8 January	
Thursday 14 Jan		Wednesday 14 Jan	
	Wednesday 20 Jan	Wednesday 20 Jan	
Wednesday 27 Jan		Wednesday 27 Jan	Wednesday 27 Jan
	Wednesday 3 Feb	Wednesday 3 Feb	



Proudly Present



Carols on the Green

Come and join the children of Buttons preschool in a celebration of Christmas carols and songs.

COVID-19 distancing rules will apply



Tuesday 15th Dec @11am on the Village green



Mince Pies and Hot Chocolate will be available