

SH NEWS

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

February/March 2020

www.stokehammondpc.com



EARLY MORNING SUNRISE IN STOKE HAMMOND

St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

February 2 nd	11.00	Family Service - Revd John Waller
February 9 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Jeremy Hopkinson
February 16 th	09.00	Holy Communion - Revd John Waller
February 23 rd	09.30	Café Church
February 26 th	19.30	Ash Wednesday – Holy Communion Revd John Waller (Joint Benefice Service at Stoke Hammond)
March 1 st	11.00	Family Service – Leader tbc
March 8 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Leader tbc
March 15 th	09.00	Holy Communion – Revd John Waller
March 22 nd		Mother's Day Service – Details tbc
March 29 th	11.00	Holy Communion – Revd John Waller (Joint Benefice Service at Great Brickhill)

*PLEASE ALSO NOTE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR COMMUNITY BREAKFASTS
AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE, BRAGENHAM SIDE.*

Saturday 8 th February	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 14 th March	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

PLUS, THESE OTHER SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS.

Wednesday 12 th February	Prayer Meeting at The Birches, Church Rd. 20.00
Wednesday 11 th March	Prayer Meeting at The Birches, Church Rd. 20.00
Wednesday 25 th March	Prayer Meeting at The Birches, Church Rd. 20.00

Church Wardens:

Diane Webber 01525-270409 and Harry Davies 01234-822780

METHODIST SERVICES

**REGRETFULLY THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER SERVICES HELD IN THE
METHODIST CHURCH STOKE HAMMOND.**

**Should you require further information or details of Methodist Services to
be held in Stewkley, please contact the Minister.**

Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly on 01525 240589

**WE ARE PLEASED TO ADVISE THE POPULAR WEDNESDAY COFFEE
MORNINGS CONTINUE, BUT NOW AT THE SPORTS PAVILLION,
BRAGENHAM SIDE. 10.30 – 11.30**

(For more information please contact 01525 270287)

VILLAGE NATIVITY & CAROLS ON THE GREEN



Thanks to all who joined us for the nativity and carols on the green just before Christmas. A particular mention has to go to those who helped with organising the event including Sue and Andrew Robson, Val Healey, John and Pauline Turner, Liz McMillan, Greg Noble, Diane and Dave Webber as well as team Critchlow who I managed to rope in to supply sounds, lights .. and a stable!

To all those who were willing to dress for the part your willingness to get involved is really appreciated, from Mary and Joseph, to the Shepherds, the Kings and our very own angel as well as the star of the show, (Lucy) who appeared as the baby Jesus. Then there was Malcolm Gurney Philips who lent us his sheep! Margaret Ash, who supplied electricity, and Rev John Waller who narrated, with Jerry Breslin leading carols from the piano.

A little mulled wine, or tea and coffee with a mince pie went a long way on a cold and frosty afternoon. So thanks also to all who made that happen including Donna for the loan of her gazebo.

Claire Critchlow

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Other Services:

- * Pay-point/Top up services will be available. * Cash machine will be available.
- * Photocopying * Pies & Coffee will be introduced in the morning.



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

So here we are the first report of 2020 and one probably does not need to mention that the chestnut tree to the Village Green has now been felled – you can't really



fail to notice it has gone. But as mentioned in the last edition of the SH News, it was diseased and deemed unsafe, so sadly it had to go, but it will be replaced in due course by a new semi-mature, but probably not a chestnut tree, as our tree surgeon advises us that

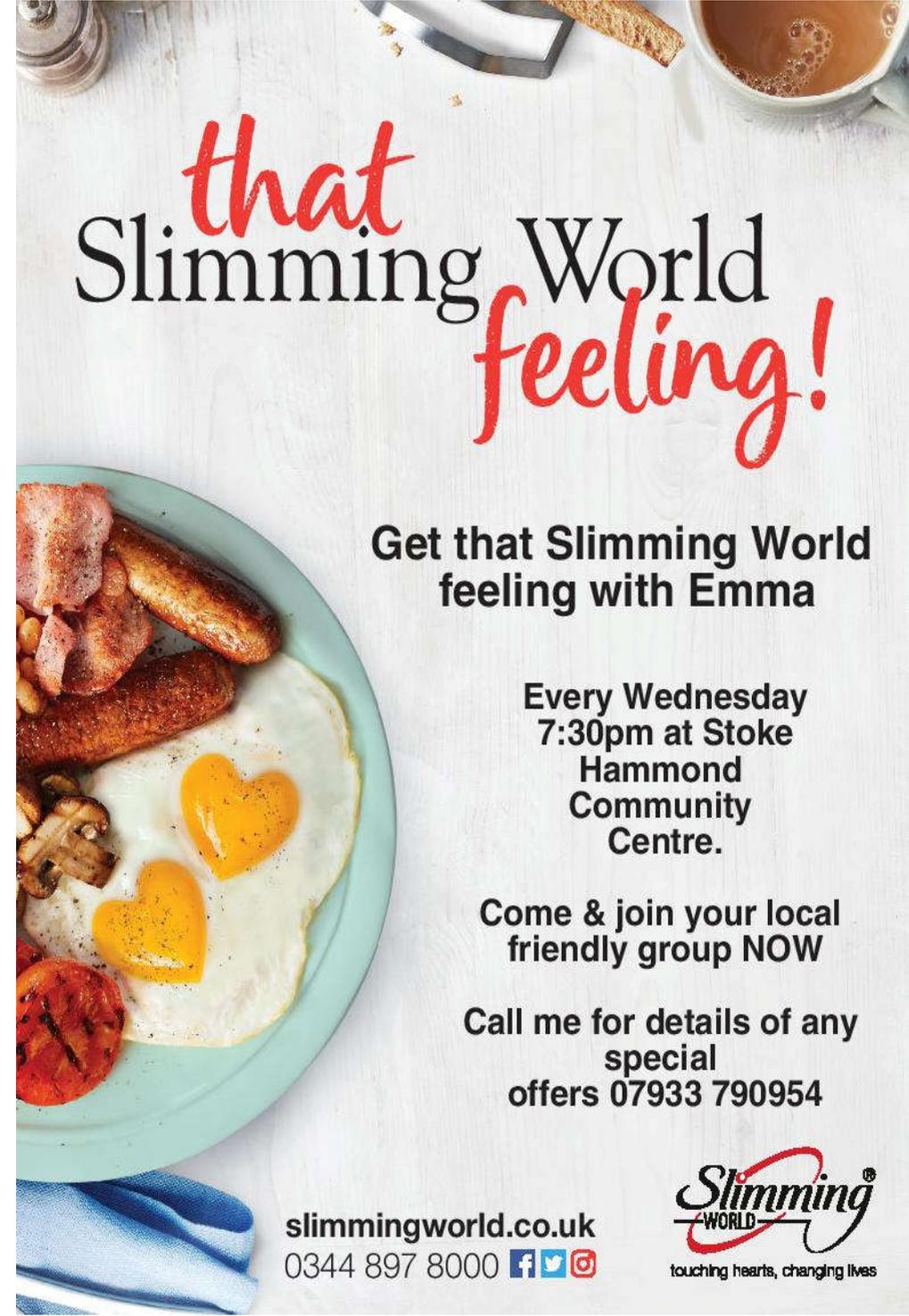
another variety is likely to be more hardy against potential disease.

There have been some changes in councillors, not only on the Parish Council but also the District Council. Parish Councillor Donna Page has for personal reasons left the PC, and much thanks should be expressed for Donna's hard work and efforts on behalf of the PC and the community over the last few years. As regards the District Council, some of you will no doubt be aware that Ben Everitt one of our two AVDC district councillors was elected the MP for Milton Keynes North in the recent General Election. Ben, served us well as a District Councillor, so the same is sure to apply in his new role.

Sadly, we also have to report that Sue Severn our PC clerk since 2014 is also departing. Sue, is also clerk for Berryfields in Aylesbury, and Berryfields is growing at such an alarming rate that Sue's workload was ever increasing and something had to give, and sadly that was Stoke Hammond. Sue, will continue in her role until such time as we can find a new clerk, and even then provide support until our new clerk has their 'feet well and truly under the desk!' Sue has worked so hard on behalf of Stoke Hammond, so a massive thank you to her, and Berryfield have much to be thankful for.

But the rest of your Parish Council could change with Parish Council elections due in May. Members have sat for an additional year as the elections were delayed whilst the Unitary Council decision was determined. The new Buckinghamshire Council will commence in April of this year.

So would you be interested in becoming a Parish Councillor? Well it's not too early to consider standing for election to the Parish Council. The Council has seven members, elected normally every four years. The role of Councillor is to represent the views of Parishoners, to make decisions for the benefit of the Parish, and to



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ensure prudent management of resources from Precept, grant funding, commercial activities and to carry out ad hoc projects, such as major repairs, events and so on.

So, what's involved:

- Attendance is required at Parish Council meetings, normally held on the evening of the first Tuesday of every month, apart from August and December. A further Budget meeting is held in December at which Councillors determine the next year's budget requirements. The Parish precept (Council's income) is then debated and formally agreed at the January PC meeting
- Getting involved in Community Activities such as Remembrance Comemorations and this years VE Day Celebration, which also provide a great opportunity to meet with parishoners and find out what might be concerning them or things they would like to see happen in the village.
- Considering things such as planning matters, traffic and highways, land management, grant funding, provision of waste bins and dog bins, as well as other projects for the benefit of the community.
- Councillors need to make time available for other occasional meetings and working groups. The work is interesting, varied and rewarding, and gives one a chance to get involved in the community and learn new skills. Training courses are available.
- If you are interested, then please contact the Parish Clerk whose details can be found at the end of this report. The clerk can provide you with a short document explaining the requirements and criteria for standing along with 'a person specification'
- The January PC meeting was a fairly quite affair with a relatively thin agenda (and no Planning Applications!), but as mentioned earlier in the role of Councillor, the PC Budget for 2020/21 had to be agreed and ratified. The PC determined that a budget of £47,250 would be required to service all anticipated expenditure requirements, which because of the increased tax base (new homes now paying council tax) results in a modest 1.45% rise in the precept element of your council tax bill. Where for a typical Band D household this equates to a 0.99p addition to the 2018/19 annual figure of £67.89.

The latest MVAS (Mobile Vehicle Activated Sign) results are in, where the sign was located on the Leighton Road monitoring vehicles as they entered our village from the Leighton Buzzard direction for the period starting 28th November through to the 9th January. During that period the MVAS counted 55,527 vehicles, with an average speed of 28.6mph and a max recorded speed of 50mph (much lower than in the past) logged at 21.40 on the 5th January. Across those 55,527 vehicles, 85% of same (47,198) achieved an average speed of 33.3mph and on any typical day around 5% of the vehicles logged broke the 30mph speed limit. One would like to see no speedsters, but the MVAS does seem to encourage people to curb their speed – but that 5% are probably beyond reach.

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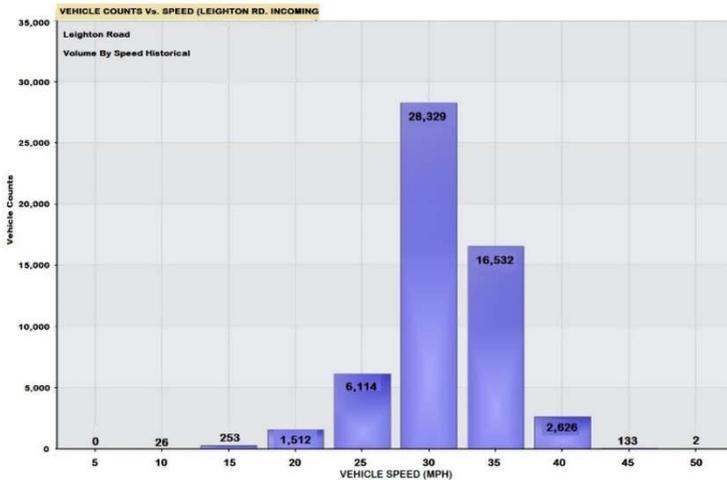
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Our February PC meeting will be held on Tuesday 4th with the March meeting to be held on Tuesday 3rd. Both meetings starting at 7.30pm at the Community Centre, Bragenham Side, to which all members of the public are warmly invited.



Stoke Hammond Parish Council Community Transport Scheme Co-Ordinator Vacancy

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

The Co-ordinator's role is straightforward and not time
Consuming, They:-

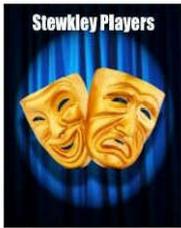
1. Act as a liaison between scheme users and the drivers.
2. Hold the dedicated scheme phone and maintain a simple record of journeys undertaken.

The scheme is lightly used. Further details may be obtained from Mike Robinson on 01525 270753.

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

Our Parish Clerk can be contacted via the following:

Sue Severn, 19 Curlew, Watermead, Bucks. HP19 0WG 01296 331816
clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com www.stokehammondpc.com



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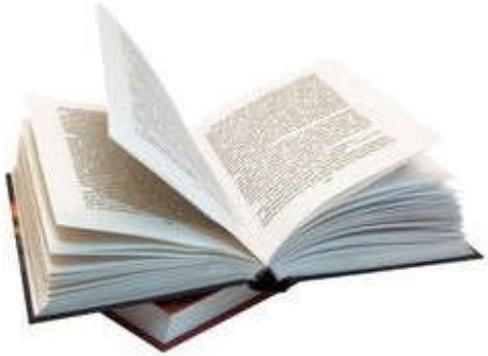
**Wednesday 18th to Saturday 21st
March 2020**

**8pm in the Village Hall, STEWKLEY
Doors Open 7:30pm Licensed Bar**

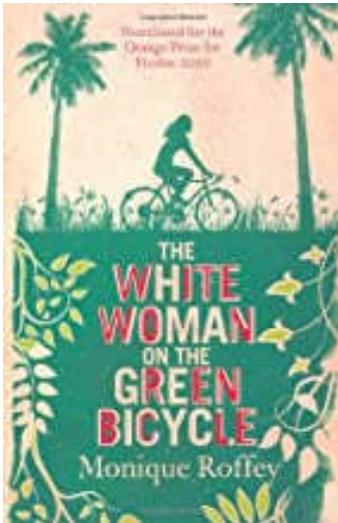
**TICKETS £6.00 ON SALE FROM 24th February
Box Office Telephone : 07845 489167**

**Sunday Box Office at Stewkley Village Hall
1st, 8th, 15th March from 10:00 to 12:00**

STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



Book One 'THE WHITE WOMAN ON THE GREEN BICYCLE' by Monique Roffey



The tale is set in Trinidad (based loosely on the author's own experience) when a married couple - George and Sabine take a two year sabbatical to the Caribbean. On arrival in Trinidad Sabine is determined to be accepted, to fit in but also she feels the need to make a splash so she frequently rides her green Raleigh bike through Port of Spain, the capital, dressed to kill but she is constantly aware of the hostility that her whiteness seems to evoke. Time goes on and she has two children who grow up happily there. Several people come along to influence her life including her housekeeper and family and Eric Williams - soon to be the first black Prime Minister of Trinidad & Tobago (although her association with him is mostly in her imagination). George flourishes in Trinidad and loves it but due to crushed hopes, a feeling of not belonging and changes in her marriage Sabine longs to return to England and every time she thinks she may be in with a chance her hopes are dashed. This constant frustration damages her mental health and she feels demoralised.....

We all agreed that it was one of the best books we had read in the group and we felt that once we had got used to the frequent use of some of the dialect (which was a fusion of English, African and French) it added to the authenticity of the story. Something of the history of the island was learnt from the book and It was described as colourful with great characters plus everyone was hoping that in the end Sabine would manage to get back to England ! An excellent read ****



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Book Two 'THE POWER' by Naomi Alderman



We all imagined that this book was about empowering women and therefore we ploughed in to it with anticipation and originally thought it could be an interesting concept. However, it was concerned with several different women who had zapping (sort of electric shock) powers in their fingertips !! It was soon realised that they all used this power for aggressive purposes, hurting, seeking revenge etc. etc. and we did not really understand what the author was trying to say. The opinions were unanimous in the Group i.e. that it was a bit weird and didn't do anything for us. Apparently, it was recommended by Margaret Atwood the prize winning author of The Handmaid's Tale among dozens of other novels but we can only assume that

her enthusiasm for it was something to do with her feminist perspective. Anyway, none of us liked or understood it and decided we would not be reading another book by this author, whoever recommended it - one star !!!!!!!

The first book for next edition of the SH News is 'To the River' by Olivia Laing



JOIN US ON THE EVENING OF SATURDAY MAY 16TH TO WATCH LIVE AS 41 COUNTRIES BATTLE TO WIN THE EUROPEAN CROWN. SWEEPSTAKE COMPETION WITH CASH PRIZES - HOT BUFFET - BRING YOUR OWN DRINKS - MORE DETAILS TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

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Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk

THE Lindens

A Happy and Peaceful New Year to you all from us here at The Lindens. We have greatly enjoyed the festive period with a wide range of musical, floral and craft activities, visits and delicious feasts on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day in particular. We would like to thank the choirs who came to see us from St Mary's Church and High Ash School with their beautiful voices and we hope you will come again soon. A group of our residents went out to visit Buttons Pre-school to make mince pies, our thanks to the children and staff for their welcome, it was an enjoyable and fun morning.



CHRISTMAS DAY	
Lunch	
Starter	
Butternut Soup with Sage and Apple Croutons Or Melon & Parma Ham Salad	
Main Course	
Creamy Lemon, Pancetta & Rosemary Roast Turkey Chestnut, Bacon & Cranberry Stuffing Or Salmon & Watercress Quiche Pink Peppercorns Pigs in Blankets Honey Roasted Beetroot Roasted Brussel Sprouts with Bacon & Chestnuts Roast Potatoes Creamy Garlic Mashed Potatoes	
Dessert	
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce Or Raspberry & White Chocolate Roulade	
THE Lindens	

On Christmas Eve, the staff prepared our dining rooms for the Christmas feast. Each table was dressed with a red and gold motif in mind. There were beautiful sparkling reindeer with golden angels and Christmas trees. In addition to these, there were floral poinsettia decorations on each napkin ring and in elegant glass globes, as well as crackers for all. On Christmas Day, our Director Michael Hannelly was here with a gift for every resident and respite guest and Christmas Wishes for all.

If you would like to call in to see us or if you are interested in working or volunteering at The Lindens, please phone us and ask for Tina or Milli.

Chris Ryan

Manager, The Lindens.

The Lindens, Stoke Road, Stoke Hammond, Buckinghamshire, MK17 9BN.

Tel 01908 371705 Email: info@careatthelindens.co.uk Web: www.careatthelindens.co.uk



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TEBBUTT PAINTINGS



St Luke's Church News

Review

Christmas fundraisers: Our Christmas fayre went well and we raised far more than expected. The Christmas hamper raffle was won by Phil Archer. The Christmas tree festival was a little quieter than usual, but enjoyable nonetheless. Thanks to all who organised and helped at events and to those who joined us and contributed to our fundraising efforts.

Christmas services: Our Christmas services were all well received. We were glad to see some younger faces at our Christingle service this year, and the carol and crib services were popular as ever, as was our Christmas midnight Holy Communion. As an extra this year, we revisited the **Christmas Nativity** on the Green (see photo) – a live action dramatisation of the Nativity (with carols and mulled wine!). It was thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended and we have had lots of positive feedback. Many thanks to Claire Critchlow and an army of helpers for organising this event.



Community Breakfast: Our January breakfast was one of our busiest ever and we also collected more donations than ever before. Many thanks to all who joined us, those who helped and those who gave donations for the food bank.

Special services

23 rd Feb	9.30am	Cafe Church
26 th Feb	19.30pm	Ash Wednesday service
22 nd Mar	tbc	Mothering Sunday service
12 th Apr	tbc	Easter Day service

Forthcoming events

Prayer meetings: There'll be meetings at 8pm on **Wed 12th Feb** and **11th and 25th Mar** at **The Birches, Church Rd.** (Unfortunately, our second prayer meeting in February clashes with our Ash Wednesday service, but rest assured we will still be praying). Prayer meetings are open to all denominations. If you'd like to join us or would like prayers for



someone, please call John (we sometimes change times and dates). **Prayer request cards** are available at the Community breakfast and from the church, or call one of the church wardens with details of your request.

Neighbourhood Watch Awareness Week

Save the date..

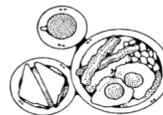
*7th June - 13th June
2020*

This year we will be encouraging Neighbourhood Watch members to 'Say Hello' and connect with their neighbours through community events such as organising a Big Lunch or joining your local Neighbourhood Watch Facebook group.

More details coming soon!



Community Breakfasts: The next 2 breakfasts will be held on **8th Feb** and **14th Mar**. Breakfast can be ordered **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. We are now offering fruit salad, and vegetarian breakfasts can include baked beans, baked tomato, mushrooms and vegetarian (Quorn) sausages. Don't forget that while donations are greatly appreciated, the breakfast is free. We've been delighted at the success of our breakfasts, but we encourage villagers who've not yet been to come along and bring your family, neighbours and friends!



Cafe church: This is our most accessible service style (suitable for adults and children) and the next one will be held on **Sunday 23rd Feb**. A simple breakfast of tea, coffee or juice, bacon or sausage butties, croissants, cereal or toast is shared **from 9.30am**. At about 10.15, the leader will ask for your attention and the "service" (lasting about **15 minutes**) starts. There may be a song or reading, and usually a prayer and thought-provoking comment, linked with how God fits into our modern lives. If you don't have experience of formal services, but want to try church, this is the one for you!



Fundraising events: As we go to press, the fundraising committee has not yet had their first meeting of the year, but watch out in future SH News reports and on the village Facebook for fundraising events and special services.

Other news

Rector on sabbatical: Every ten years, members of the clergy are permitted to go on a Sabbatical, which gives them an opportunity to attend courses, go on spiritual retreats, do voluntary work, travel overseas (eg. to the Holy Land) or simply spend time in reflection, reading or writing. Our Rector John Waller will be taking a sabbatical from 18th April to 14th July this year. Although the Rector is not available, fear not! Preparations are already underway to cover all services and, should you require a baptism or funeral during his sabbatical, please contact your churchwardens who will be able to arrange ordained clergy or lay readers to take the service.

What is Lent? Lent is a 5-6 week period before Easter during which Christians reflect on Christ's life and spend time in prayer and contemplation. Christians eat simply and deny themselves pleasures to help them focus on their spiritual thoughts. Have you thought about giving something up for Lent?



What happens before Lent? In order to clear out their larder for the simple diet of Lent, people had a massive fry up the day before the start of Lent. This is known as **Shrove Tuesday or Pancake day** (or in other parts of the world Mardi Gras, meaning "Fat Tuesday"). (**25th Feb** this year). The next day, the start of Lent, is

Buttons Pre-School

- * Abbeys, Bletchley
- * Brooklands Farm
- * Giffard Park
- * Newton Leys
- * Stoke Hammond
- * Wavendon Gate
- * Willen Pavilion
- * Wolverton

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Ash Wednesday. The name Ash Wednesday comes from the tradition of blessing ashes made from palm crosses blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday, and marking a cross in ash on the foreheads of penitents (anyone confessing their sins). Although less usual nowadays, you may still see people with an ash cross on their forehead on Ash Wednesday.



Why do Christians observe Lent? During Lent, Christians are preparing themselves for Easter by imitating Christ. Jesus spent 40 days and nights in the desert fasting and in prayer, being tempted by the devil before he began his ministry. The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter day is 46 days, but 6 days are Sundays which are not included in Lent as they are feast days. It is therefore perfectly OK to give up your denial on Sundays in Lent, although most people continue even on Sundays! Sundays are feast days because every Sunday celebrates the resurrection (Easter Sunday). This also explains why we traditionally eat a big roast dinner (feast) on a Sunday!

Bible verse of the month: *Phillipians 4v6-7:* *⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.(NIV)*

Read the full context at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Phillipians+4&version=NIV>

What does it mean? This is a note of guidance in the Bible suggesting that we avoid being anxious. God always listens to our prayers and will meet our needs in the way that is best for us. By praying in faith, we are trusting him and leaving all our worries and concerns with him which brings us a sense of being at peace.



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



St Luke's offers Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals and other services according to your needs (thanksgiving for the birth of a child, blessing of a wedding, etc.) Please contact the Rector or a Churchwarden if you'd like to discuss your situation. The church is located at the top of Church Rd, off Newton Rd. If you'd like to come to a service, church service times are listed on the website, with the Rector's contact details. 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 would like to come to church but have mobility problems please ring John (see below) regarding transport. If you would like to volunteer to help, have a prayer request or enquiry, please ring **Churchwardens: Harry, on 07773065271; Diane, on 270409 or Treasurer: John, on 270202.**



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ECO Friendly?

Raking through my archives I came across the following letter I wrote to Tesco's last year:

“ Dear Sirs,

French Inspired

Freshly ground coffee

My good lady is currently out and, having had a hard morning at the desk, I find myself in the position of having to brew my own coffee. I now sit enjoying a very fine cup and reading the packaging (now empty) of the above.

I have got to the subheading “recycling” and expected to see something along the lines of:

Recyclable or

Not recyclable

These are fairly basic instructions which would have come within my intelligence level and understanding. However I am presented with the picture of a deleted circular arrow and the words “Not yet recycled”.

Now it is only Monday morning but the phrase “not yet recycled” implies to me that it will be recycled. This will only apply if I choose not to incinerate the packet. It also indicates that the package is recyclable. Why not say “recyclable”.

OK so I have now researched the meaning of your logo and find that it means only recycled by 20% of Councils and that I should

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7th Feb: Rice play

14th Feb: Valentine's gifts

21st Feb: Half term break

28th Feb: Making instruments

6th Mar: Singing and Dancing

13th Mar: Foam play

20th Mar: Mother's Day cards

27th Mar: Foot painting (we 14th may need some help for this!)

Come along and enjoy a coffee and chat and help your child start socialising with other children. We're looking forward to meeting you!

apply to my local Council and ask if they can actually recycle this item of packaging. Well if each of your customers did this for every item bearing the symbol the Council would no doubt have to increase their staffing levels to the point where the unemployment figures would be affected.

I am also now aware of the numerous variations of recyclable/non symbols and have some sympathy with your people that be who have to decide what to put on the packets. I have more sympathy for the people in a borough in Yorkshire (?) who recently had their recycling bins removed for abuse.

Yours faithfully,”

No I did not get a free packet of coffee for my concerns. I didn't even get a reply!

Grumpy Old Man

January 2020

MAVIS'S QUIZ

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

- | | | |
|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| (1) AUSTIN | (2) BENTLEY | (3) CHRYSLER |
| (4) DAIMLER | (5) FORD | (6) HONDA |
| (7) JAGUAR | (8) KIA | (9) MORRIS |
| (10) NISSAN | | |



Now as it is still pantomime season, here are anagrams of characters that can be found in well known pantomimes – can you work out their character names??

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| (1) LADINAL | (2) ENGIE | (3) APN TREPE |
| (4) AJCK | (5) HROINBODO | (6) AINDERCLEL |
| (7) YEUTAB NDA THE STBEA | (8) SPU NI TOBOS | |
| (9) KDCI INGTTONHWIT | | |
| (10) EDAM YSWIWH YSHAW | | |

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.



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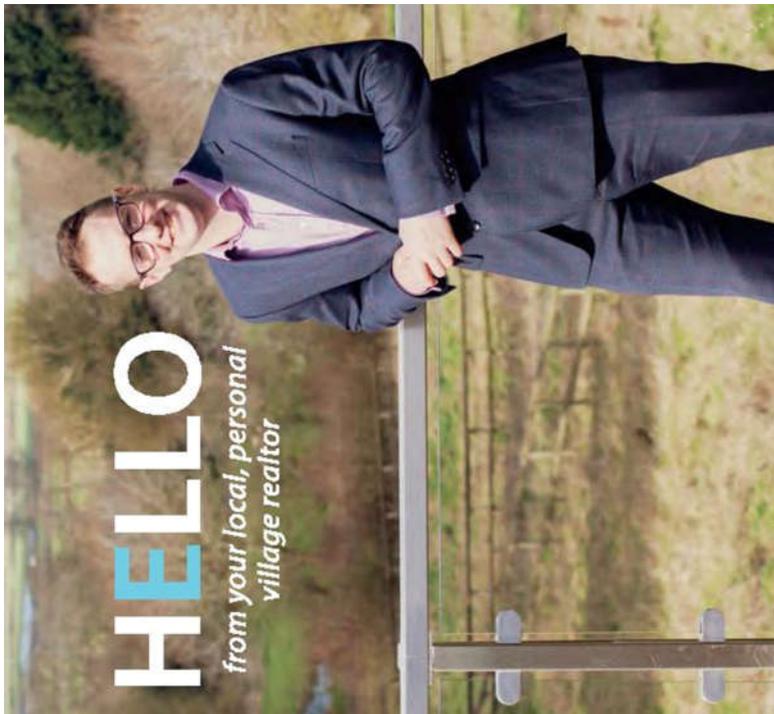
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Taking the stress out of moving

PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

I am rereading my tips from the last SH News. Not a lot has changed from 2 months ago. Rain, rain and more rain. That's good for our reservoirs and avoiding water shortages I agree, but not so cool for our soil. I bang on about soil because in my experience it makes a huge difference to the quality of the crops, especially if you grow something in the ground every year. So, the rain leaches out the nutrients and heavy clay type soil (prevalent around the village - even if new builds have some top soil put onto their beds the clay will



dominate in time) becomes waterlogged and takes a long time to warm up in spring - hence delaying sowing / planting. Also, we need some prolonged sub zero weather to kill off some of the bugs (sorry about that if you love every living thing) that crawl or fly and feast on our seedlings and veg. I know we have had a few days of cold weather (it's 21/1/20) but we could do with a few weeks of it to cheer me up. So, what should we do to the soil? Assuming you have tidied up your borders, beds, pots I suggest lots of compost on your borders and lots of well rotted manure too apart from where you are going to grow root vegetables and potatoes - they don't



like fresh manure, but will love the soil a year later. Get this down now - get someone to help if the bags are too heavy or get 2 ton delivered if you have a big garden. In March you can then lightly dig in fertilisers (chicken manure pellets are great, as well as fish, bone and blood or general fertilisers). I recommend you do it every year, but it's up to you guys.

So, what to sow now. If you have a warm windowsill or greenhouse you can start some early peas and broad beans for transplanting out when weather improves March time. Onion and shallot seeds can be sown from mid December till March indoors and planted out from mid April into a well composted site with lots of sun. You can also plant onion and shallot sets (small immature bulbs) from early April which should be ready to eat from August. I like to grow some really large onions - the best two varieties are Kelsae and Exhibition. For 2 years no one has been able to buy Kelsae seeds or plants because the crop was destroyed by freak hailstorms in Italy which has forced us all to look at other seeds, hence I suggest Exhibition variety which are great too. However, if you can't be bothered to grow from seeds



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ongoing offers & packages**

Kelsae Onion Plants



you can get small Kelsae plants delivered which I've seen advertised by DT Browns £7.96 plus delivery for 20 plants or £11.12 for 40 plants www.dtbrowns.co.uk/kelsae delivered mid April. Have great fun growing some whoppers or get several of you together if you only want 6 or so.

Anyway, come end February it is time to sow (in the warmth of a sunny windowsill or propagater) tomato seeds, chillies and peppers. Put seed compost in module trays or small pots, kept at about 20c and kept moist. Pot on as they grow and do not

plant outside before mid May! The best Tom varieties for me last year were Country taste, Cristal F 1, Montpellier and Marmande. The best Peppers were oxborn and long red Marconi but there are so many available. They both need lots of sun, some shelter, cane support and regular feed with a high potash /tomato feed. 2019 was a spectacular growing season for me. I grew most of my Toms outside and the rain at the end of the season swelled the fruits magnificently. I know it's extra cost but you will never regret owning a propagater- the best one I have is from greenhouse sensations and is called vitpod, I fact I now have 3 of them. It so extends your growing season....I love them !

Other veg to start sowing from March are carrots, parsnips, beetroot, Brussels sprouts and cabbages. I grow my carrots and parsnips in barrels to avoid the dreaded carrot root fly. For carrots I change the top 6 inches of soil (bug and disease avoidance) with new multi purpose compost, moisten soil and thinly sow seeds and cover with half an inch more compost. Within 2 weeks you should have carrot tops poking through for eating from August to December. Parsnips are also done in barrels but can be sown in the ground provided it is well dug over and free draining. Sow 3 seeds close to each other in stations which are 8 inches apart. Germination is notoriously irregular, but if you get more than 1 seed germinating at each station you will need to pull them out. Every packet of seed has growing instructions on them but the golden rules are use only tap water to germinate, clean old pots, keep moist not drowned, keep warm and ensure light once leaves show. And don't put outside without hardening off.

Lastly early February is when I sow my flower seeds for my hanging baskets. I know most people buy plug plants and that's fine. For less than £10 I had 8 hanging baskets rammed with petunias, lobelias, violas and verbenas, most of the seeds saved from last year so this year will be free - hurrah. In fact the violas self seeded everywhere and I have them in full flower now around by the back door - how does



High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter



Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

February 2020

Good Companions Concert - December 2019

Well done to all the children that took part in our Good Companions Christmas Music Concert. All 297 of our children took part in some way and the standard of music was exceptional. A huge thank you to our Music Teacher Mrs Gray for inspiring the children to want to perform and even create their own bands... a bit like the X Factor!

It was a treat to 'let our light shine' and bring joy to the local community. Here is some feedback from one of the visitors who attended the Good Companions concert:

"A very big THANK YOU to all the children and staff for the lovely concert yesterday. You had all worked so hard!"

Choir at Young Voices in Birmingham - Tuesday 28th January 2020

The school choir have spent that last few months preparing for the annual Young Voices concert at Genting Arena in Birmingham. The Young Voices experience is an amazing opportunity where the choir will perform alongside 5,000-8,000 other children as a single choir to capacity audiences of family and friends.

Parents' Evenings - February 2020

The school will be holding Parents' Evenings on Tuesday 4th February and Thursday 6th February so you may see more traffic around the school gates than usual outside school hours. We will of course remind parents to park considerately and to use the Parish Hall car park and walk up to school on these evenings.

Sports Success

We are delighted to announce that we have two teams through to the Badminton Finals in the Buckinghamshire inter-schools championships. Both our Year 3-4 team and our Year 5-6 team successfully made it through to the finals which is a fantastic achievement!

Sara Boyce

Headteacher

headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Why not hire the **Community Centre** or the **Meeting Room** for your party or business meeting. Discounted rates for residents of Stoke Hammond. To book or discuss your requirements please call 07555 711929 or 01525 270151 alternatively email your enquiry to: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk



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THAT happen? If I had tried nothing would have grown grrrrrr. In fact I have hung those baskets up in the green house with all the soil left in etc because they have so successfully self seeded I may not need to grow anymore....will that work? Let me know if you have done this before too.

So much to do in this wonderful transition time to spring. If I can help with seed swaps, advice on planting / sowing any veg, what grows in big pots in small gardens etc just ask me - All help is free.



Violas in Full Flower

Chris Page 07747018814 page.chris1@googlemail.com

VILLAGE SHOW AGM

Please come along and give your inputs to the committee of the village show at the AGM on 6th April at 7.30 at the Community Centre Main Hall. Brief updates on how the show went last year, where we intend to spend some of the surplus for the benefit of the village and what we want to do at this year's show in September.



STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



Our only event since the Fish & Chip evening in October was the Christmas Dinner on December 14th. This was held, as usual, in the Community Centre and although our numbers were a bit depleted by illness, we had a really good evening with great raffle (main prize a beautiful Christmas Cake made by our artistic committee member Laraine) and a fairly taxing quiz. Our next happening will be the

Annual General Meeting to renew memberships, review the year and start planning for 2020. The date has not yet been finalised but as soon as the Sports Club is booked etc. we will write to all members with the details. Look forward to seeing everyone there. !!!!!!!



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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

In the last extract from Pam’s Murphy’s book ‘Everything but the Moo’ we learnt how looking after a herd of cows was much akin to a girl’s form class at a boarding school. Something totally different in this latest extract, where we have an insight into how machinery had an impact (good or bad) on the day to day life of running a farm.

ORGANISATION OF MANPOWER & MACHINERY

Before I go any further an explanation of manpower and machines is necessary. The best and most economical use of both these things is a major problem on all farms, but perhaps none so much as that run by a woman who has also domestic ties, two children and a sick husband, and who therefore cannot take a full part in the daily routine.

(In 1956 my father was diagnosed as having a serious depressive illness, and advised by doctors to give up the farm, however my mother took over. Many years later Keith’s illness was correctly diagnosed as ‘Tropical Sprue’ – a fell disease – which later caused kidney failure and ultimately his early death in 1974 at the age of 60 – Hazel Turner)

My farm is primarily a dairy farm, mostly on heavy clay: in 1957 there were 185 acres (later 250 acres) in all, split into two parts, 75 acres of grass and pasture near the buildings, the rest a mile away.

The previous owners put up a set of buildings during the war, comprising a cowshed with thirty two standings and additional standings for twelve ‘dry’ cows (explanations of farming technical jargon will follow!); two ranges of loose boxes, with lab, stores and a cloakroom, tractor sheds, petrol stores, food stores and range of six boxes for race horses. There was an implement shed, Dutch barn, fold yard and best of all concrete yards and roads all round. They had founded and built up a well known herd of pedigree Guernseys.

Therefore when we took over we had a range of wonderful buildings and were determined to build up our herd of Guernseys. From 1953 the herd “The Tyrells Herd of Pedigree Guernseys”, as it became known, was the leading large herd in Buckinghamshire, but by 1955 the ever falling prices of pedigree stock and milk, and ever increasing costs meant that the farm was no longer a financial proposition and had to be re-organised.

One of the major problems was the labour required in the cow shed. The standings were in fact too long for Guernseys, and chain ties and a feeding passage meant that they frequently dirtied on the standings, and least an hour had to be spent washing the cows each morning in winter.

The dairy was at one end which entailed a long walk with buckets after milking each cow as daily recording was practised. It was not easy to increase the milking

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capacity of the shed to take in the other twelve cows. It was therefore decided to turn the implement shed into a night yard for the cows, putting implements in other spare sheds where possible. This was done in 1956, simply and successfully.

However, it also meant that two large buildings were being used for one livestock unit, although by cutting out hand stripping and the addition of another bucket unit meant milking could be carried out by two men instead of three as previously.



Pam and Hans with one of the herd.

When I took over the farm entirely in 1956 I decided to convert the range of race horse boxes, which were otherwise only useable for storage, into a milking parlour, with eight standings and four units, and this was accomplished in March 1957. The aim was to build up the milking herd of fifty to sixty cows, still with the accent on high yields, obtained from good grass, home grown feeding stuffs and a certain amount of bought concentrates. This meant fencing in

and putting mangers around the yard on the fortunately large area of concrete.

The cowshed I intended to turn into a Danish piggery, but as this plan was turned down under the Farm improvement scheme under the “prudent landlord test” and the fact there was an enormous capital cost in getting the enterprise under way, I abandoned the scheme in favour of deep litter poultry.

During the summer months the standings were cleared from the cowshed, and re-erected around the yard, my own design of rounded mangers being put on the outside. This was done under one of the very first Farm Improvement Schemes.

In the winter evenings, Hans, the farm foreman, and the tractor driver put a roof lining into the cowshed, divided it into three separate parts, with nest boxes either side of a middle passage, and perches over one side, resting on the former mangers. The first batch of three hundred and fifty pullets arrived in November and went into the first part, and by April 1958 nine hundred and fifty chickens were housed; thus completing the major portion of the re-organisation and providing a secondary source of income.

In January 1957 I heard that twenty one acres of arable land were to be taken by compulsory purchase by the RAF. The land had been under requisition for some years, but had been re-let on licence. As there was some doubt as to whether this would continue I was fortunate enough in obtaining a further twenty six acres from my tenant of the adjoining farm. Fortunately the air ministry reduced their requirements to ten acres and I have been permitted to farm this land on licence.

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The increased acreage helped in growing feeding stuff for the herd now numbering forty five milkers and forty five followers. Late I introduced a Guernsey Aberdeen Angus cross – and so began my beef herd! This also meant that I could plough up some of the old pasture land round the farm, and thirty acres were re-seeded, and we established leys for hay and winter grazing for the heifers on the arable.

In those days the staff consisted of Hans, who had joined us on November 1 1952, and who was a first class farm foreman, a second herdsman, a tractor driver/relief milker and a fifteen year old boy. The machinery in those days consisted of a Massey Ferguson 65 tractor; a Fordson diesel, two ploughs, rotovator and all the usual implements for cultivation: trailer, combine baler, and a most necessary number of small tools, that invariably went missing when one needed them most! I am sure it is often overlooked how much money and time the right tools for the job will save.

Daily routine was organised as follows. The milkers worked for seven days and then had the eighth day off. When the day off fell on a Saturday they also had Sunday off too. In normal circumstances only essential work is ever done on farms on Sundays. The herdsman came in at 5.50 a.m., Hans checked on the baby chickens and fed the laying hens for whom the light comes on in winter at 2 a.m. The second man swilled down the milking parlour and prepares for milking which started at 6 a.m. By 7.30 a.m. the cows were out, and while Hans checked the churns and bottled the staff milk, the second man cleaned the parlour and washed up. Hans then used to come straight up to the house and we would discuss the day's work and any requirements necessary. The tractor driver and young lad came in at 7.30 a.m. the young lad of the time sometimes having difficulty getting out of bed on time! The tractor driver's first job was to check over the tractor and grease the implements needed for the day's chores. Meanwhile the lad would be feeding the bulls, calves and baby chicks. Breakfast was at 8.30 a.m. and they would all return by 9.30 a.m.. By this time the tractor driver was off when possible to the field work, or in winter hedging or ditching.

The others would then clean the eggs, go down the fields and move electric fences in the summer this would mean both the day and night fences and the fence for the heifers and in winter for the kale. Hans would then take the second tractor for more field work, ploughing the fields one after another and continuing in the dark with lights. One day the two men ploughed 40 acres in less than five days, which in view of the appalling heavy conditions at the time was good going.

On their return from the fields they would start mucking out the loose boxes, strawing the covered yard, mixing food and getting silage and hay as necessary. The open part of the yard was shovelled up once a week with a back scraper on the tractor. The eggs were then collected before lunch, and these were sorted into trays direct, the clean ones straight into boxes and the dirties put on one side for

Family Support Service – how we can help you

Do you sometimes struggle to relate to your teen? Are you a young parent who sometimes feels isolated? Maybe you're having difficulties with your primary school child's behaviour. Anyone and everyone struggles with parenting from time to time and it can be tough being a kid too! Buckinghamshire's Family Support Service is here to help.

We have a network of 16 family centres across Buckinghamshire and new timetables for all of them have just been released. The new spring timetables run from Monday 6 January right through until Easter and there are different types of sessions at each centre.

Here are some of the courses and sessions on offer:

- "Incredible Years" parenting courses – for parents of children aged 4-10 years
- "Your Space" drop in sessions – for children in school years 7-13
- "Teen Triple P" sessions – a positive parenting programme for parents of teenagers
- "Strengthening Families" course for parents and children aged 10-14
- "Marlow Feel Good Group" for adults who've experienced mental health issues
- Many 'universal' 'playgroup' type drop in sessions for parents with babies and pre-school aged children
- Sessions for parents of children with disabilities or special educational needs

There are lots of other types of sessions available too – check out the Family Centre timetables at www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/familysupport. Some of the courses start later on in the term and some are bookable so take a look at all the details.

Warren Whyte is Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services. He said:

"It's great to see our new Family Centres offering such a wide range of support for local families. As people will see, we still offer lots of open sessions for parents and carers with babies and young children. But now we cater for families with children of all ages and our new timetables reflect this.

We are continuing to develop what's on offer at all of our Family Centres and are exploring the needs of all local children and families. We welcome feedback and we aim to carry on introducing new courses depending on what local people want and need."

- Buckinghamshire's new Family Support Service launched by the county council in September 2019

- It aims to help local families who might be facing challenges so they can solve their problems before they reach crisis point

- The Family Support Service helps local families who are facing issues such as money problems, poor family relationships, mental health problems and problems with drugs or alcohol

- To find out more and to find out how to contact the service go to www.bucksfamilyinfo.org/familysupport

For further information please contact: Claire Perry, on 01296 382444 or out of hours on 0782543097

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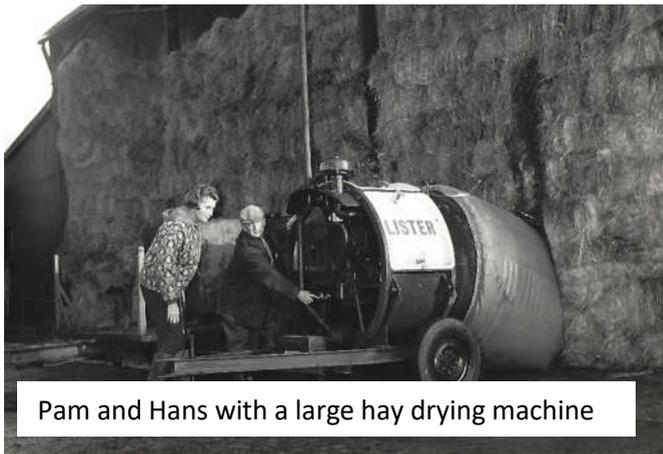
later.

The men went to lunch at 12.30 for an hour. Afterwards more field work was undertaken until was time to feed again and round up the cows for milking. The second milking usually finished by 5.30 p.m.

This all sounds very simple when written down, but nothing is ever straightforward in this life! However we had two very big problems. The first caused by the distance separating the two parts of the farm, and secondly the fact that for so much of the year it is totally impossible to get on the land, even to spread muck, and this had to be taken to the arable land and made into a heap. It was essential to cut out trips backwards and forwards as far as possible, and to this end I tried to arrange that implements were left at that part of the farm where they were next going to be

required. As far as possible either only one tractor was used to bring the men down at lunch time, or if possible I would make one of my trips at that time and fetch them in the car, taking them back afterwards.

At sowing time the corn and fertiliser were loaded the afternoon



Pam and Hans with a large hay drying machine

before (also the fertiliser was mixed – I found this considerably cheaper and more convenient than compounds) and the men got off as early as possible with the seed harrows behind the combine drill. When it was feasible the lad was sent harrowing or spreading fertiliser which accustomed him to tractor work, but only when it was possible for someone nearby to supervise him (trouble and expense incurred if one tractor had to stop to pull the other out of trouble). Fertiliser was spread on the grassland and rye and ryegrass for first grazing, either when the ground was hard with frost at the end of January, or as soon as the grass was either grazed or cut it was fertilised and harrowed.

For silage making the distance again was a bugbear, since the silage crop had to be grown at Dorcas Lane. I organised this by sending the tractor driver cutting until 11 a.m. Hans started baling on his return from breakfast (using the trip and making half size bales), and at 11 loading was started using the mobile elevator. The bales were cut on being put into the pit for ease of consolidation and lifting out. (This was done by front end loader and dropped direct into the mangers). This method made good silage, and with the equipment we had then was economical successful.



STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE



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I later bought a smaller faster tractor to replace the diesel, and two buck rats, which released either one or two men for other work.

Recently I was asked by a 'townie' – "Well what did you do?"

I found this somewhat difficult to answer, briefly. I did milk, but only in an emergency. I did drive a tractor, but again only when we were straw carting. I did drive the combine.

I consider to this day, that my job, apart from the vast amount of records, accounts, and paperwork that is necessary on any large farm, is to know my farm and animals thoroughly, to knit together as a whole, consulting constantly with my staff and taking all decisions and sticking to them; being prepared to turn my hand to anything (and not asking my staff to do anything I would not do), aiming to have as efficient, economic and well run farm as possible, and yet at the same time, seeing my family do not suffer from my most absorbing job.

Next Time: REDUNDANCY

LADIES THAT LUNCH



Happy New Year. There was no Ladies that Lunch held in January, but we will be back again on TUESDAY FEBRUARY 4th. Please will you pass the word round and to anyone else whom you think might like to come along who doesn't normally attend as they are very welcome. The cost will remain the same £2. Soup etc served promptly at 12.30. Venue: Sports Club.

Other dates during the year that we have booked already are:

Tuesday March 3rd 2020

Tuesday April 7th 2020

Tuesday May 5th 2020

Tuesday June 2nd 2020

Tuesday July 7th 2020

We hope this helps.

Other dates will be announced later in the year.

Hope to see you all in February if not before.

**Kind regards,
Hazel and Valerie.**

UK's Best Neighbours

Regional winners have been announced as part of Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch's search for the [UK's best neighbours](#).



Left to Right: Cara Watts nominated her neighbour Musarat Hashmi

East Midlands Best Neighbour

Julie Brown from Church Gresley was nominated by her neighbour, Sarah Winter, who wanted to highlight Julie's efforts in bringing her neighbours together with street parties, BBQs, and charity coffee mornings.

Sarah said of Julie: "Julie has created a real sense of community on our road that everyone is thankful for. I think every street could do with neighbours like Julie!"

In addition to putting on events for the street, Julie will often take other neighbours' children to the park or out blackberry picking, and always keeps an eye on neighbours' properties when they're not around.

Julie said of the award win: "It feels fantastic to be recognised with an award like this. Even to be nominated was a wonderful gesture, but to win is something else! It's nice to have awards such as these that remind us how important it is to look out for each other."

North West's Best Neighbour

Tracey Rennox, from Wigan, was nominated by her neighbour, Jenny Gordon, thanks to her unwavering support towards her neighbours – whether that's

taking in parcels for them; providing practical help to elderly neighbours; or making afternoon tea for her neighbours.

Jenny said of Tracey: "When I saw the opportunity to nominate someone for the 'best neighbour', I immediately thought of Tracey. Her nature and what she does for her neighbours, makes you want to do the same. She's built a real community spirit on the street."

Tracey has also helped neighbours who have been ill and has offered support to those who have lost partners to illness on the street.

Tracey said of the award win: "It's in my nature – I've always been that sort of person who would go out my way to do something nice for someone. But to get an award for it is an honour, I'm absolutely thrilled!"

South East's Best Neighbours

Corina, Charlotte, Susan, Sammy, Rachel, and Nila who all live on the same street in Monkston, Milton Keynes were nominated by their neighbour, Emily Kahill, thanks to being there for her in every way possible. The women have banded together to help Emily with childcare, cooking meals, and even helping to redecorate her house.

NATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND INITIATIVES

Emily said of her neighbours: "I've had a difficult few years and these women have been there with support every step of the way. I'm a single mum, and sometimes things can get hard. These ladies have got me through my worst and I genuinely don't think I would have survived without them."

In addition to everyday support, the neighbours surprised Emily on her son's 8th birthday last year by treating them both to a trip to Paris Disneyland.

Scotland's best neighbour revealed

Musarat Hashmi, from Cupar in Fife, was nominated by her neighbour, Cara Watts, due to her unwavering support when Cara was going through health problems.

Cara said of Musarat: "When I was ill, Musarat came round every single morning to have breakfast

and ensure I had taken medication. She helped with tidying and cleaning the kitchen and encouraged me to go for a swim or a walk. She'd also take me to GP appointments, cooked me evening meals, and was always checking on how I was."

In addition to her caring manner towards others, Musarat also shares cultural traditions with neighbours through events. She has been known to organise Eid celebrations and Bollywood parties with local women. She also cooks traditional meals for her neighbours, and of course, shares the recipes!

Musarat said of the award win: "It feels great to win this award! To be recognised not only as a good neighbour, but as a good friend is an honour. These awards remind us to look out for each other and I hope me winning this will inspire others to do the same."

Alongside the awards, Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch have, for the second year running, carried out research to investigate neighbourly behaviours among people across the UK.

The study reveals that just one in ten (11%) of East Midlands homeowners and renters say that they know all their neighbours. However, of those who do know their neighbours, almost two fifths (37%) saying that they're good friends.

In creating the Neighbour of the Year competition, Co-op Insurance and Neighbourhood Watch hope to highlight how being a good neighbour can contribute to safe and happy communities. Hundreds of entries were judged on criteria outlining what makes a good neighbour.

Top 10 Traits UK Neighbours Think Make a Good Neighbour

74% They take parcels in

They're quiet and courteous 61%

57% They keep an eye on a neighbour's property when they are not there

They're not nosey 43%

42% They're courteous about where they park

They take the bins in and out for neighbours 37%

31% They keep to themselves

They do odd jobs for neighbours 16%

15% Their neighbours tell them they're a good neighbour

They check that their neighbour has everything they need 14%



Buckinghamshire libraries turn into theatres this half term!

Four local Buckinghamshire libraries are to stage a unique and fun theatre performance this February half term, being presented by leading young people's theatre, "Half Moon".

The production, "The Goose Who Flew" is aimed at young children and uses puppetry to tell a story about migration and meeting new people.

In a first for Buckinghamshire, **High Wycombe, Iver Heath, Buckingham and Chesham** libraries will be hosting this acclaimed show.

"The Goose Who Flew" is a touching story about how Goose flies south for the winter, meeting lots of quirky characters along the way. It is especially aimed at children aged 3-7 years.

The performances, perfect for a half term family treat, are part of a new initiative across Buckinghamshire Libraries, delivered by Farnham Maltings with funding from the Rothschild Foundation.

Councillor Gareth Williams is Buckinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Public Health. He said:

"We are really excited to be using our libraries as venues for these performances and we really hope local families will come along! It promises to be a real half term highlight and a very high quality show with big names Half Moon and Lots of Odds theatre putting on the production.

We pride ourselves on how our libraries are real community assets and offer so much more than just traditional book-borrowing. Take a look online to see what else is on offer at your local library!"

Performance times and dates:

High Wycombe Library, Sunday 16 February, 2pm

Iver Heath Community Library, Monday 17 February 2pm

Buckingham Library, Tuesday 18 February 2pm

Chesham Library, Wednesday 19 February, 2:30pm.

All tickets are £4.50 and are available at these libraries or online at <http://buckinghamshirelibraries.eventbrite.com>

Please note adults accompanying children will also need to purchase a ticket. Babies under 12 months are free.

ABOUT HALF MOON

Half Moon is the UK's leading small-scale young people's venue and touring company. It is a local organisation with a national remit, committed to supporting artists and young people at every stage of their creative development. Working from our base in East London, we specialise in new writing and artform development, acting as a gateway organisation that provides pathways for progression and experimentation. Our wide-ranging programme reaches 49,000 people annually and engages those who are often excluded from arts activity. Our activity includes a season of professional plays for young audiences, national touring productions and an extensive creative learning programme, including seven youth theatres. Half Moon is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England and receives regular funding from the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

The Goose Who Flew



The Goose Who Flew is one of several productions that form part of Half Moon Presents, the producing arm of Half Moon, supporting the promotion and development of theatre for young audiences at a national and international level.

www.halfmoon.org.uk @HalfmoonTheatre
www.facebook.com/halfmoomtheatre

ABOUT LOTS OF ODDS

Lots of Odds specialise in making theatre for young people that reflects life's surprises and the unexpected turns it can make. Through direct and child-centred collaboration - including storytelling, movement and drama encounters - the company creates work that explores complex and socially relevant issues that puts children's ideas at the

heart of its work. Founder Amber-Rose May was one half of theatre company Floods of Ink, whose previous work included *Girl and the Giraffe*, *People Are People*, *Up in the Attic* and *M for Medea*, which were all produced by Half Moon Presents.

www.lotsofodds.com @LotsOfOdds www.facebook.com/lotsofodds

ABOUT FARNHAM MALTINGS

Farnham Maltings was established as an arts centre in 1969. Over the past 15 years the organisation has repositioned itself as a regional development organisation working across South East England. As a NPO, Farnham Maltings runs a programme of work designed to increase the range, quality and audience for theatre across the south east region, has established a network of 200 venues who jointly programme and support a south east regional ecology, creates work for village halls, produces a cohort of the regions' most promising talent and leads a national programme to internationalise the independent theatre sector in partnership with the British Council and UKTI.

www.farnhammaltings.com @farnhammaltings

For further information please contact: Claire Perry, on 01296 382444 or out of hours on 07825430978

oversee races and events in the region. She is widely respected and held in high esteem by everyone she has worked with.

www.buckscc.gov.uk/news

<https://twitter.com/buckscc>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/buckinghamshirecc>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Our-Buckinghamshire/118283198190717>



READERS LETTERS



Dear Editor - On behalf of Willen Hospice we are writing to thank you for your wonderful donation from the Stoke Hammond residents Christmas card message, included in your village magazine the SHNews.

Willen Hospice is an incredible place. The care we offer thanks to the generosity of the local community is difficult to convey and the words aren't quite there to describe the impact support like yours makes on the lives of so many.

So, we write today saying thank you not just from our nurses, doctors and staff, but from the thousands of people, patients and family members, who are supported and cared for each year thanks to donations like yours.

Best wishes to you all.

Kind regards

Jane Bliss PA to the Director of Business Development

E: Jane.Bliss@willen-hospice.org.uk

T: 01908 303058

A: Linford Forum, Rockingham Drive, Linford Wood, Milton Keynes, MK14 6LY
www.willen-hospice.org.uk

Dear Editor - Please pass on our thanks to all involved in the OAP Christmas Lunch on Saturday'

The food, drink and gifts were greatly appreciated

*Our friends are going back to North Norfolk fired up to what happens in Stoke Hammond. **Krystyna & Malcolm Brown***

READERS LETTERS – CONT/D.

Dear Editor** - I understand that several people have sent an individual 'thank you' but, regarding the Pensioners' Xmas lunch at the Community Centre, I just wanted to add our thanks for what was - as usual, an absolute treat. Everything was great and it was a delightful experience for which, once again, we would like to thank the Community Association Committee and everyone who contributed and worked so hard to make it such a success. **Name and address supplied.

***Dear Editor** - It is coming up to Parish Council Elections at the beginning of May, and after much thought I will be standing down as a Councillor. The reason being is that having been back in the village since 1980 and having been Clerk to the Parish Council and then a Councillor for the majority of that time (with a very short break!) it is time for new enthusiastic blood to come on board. If I stayed on the Council I would be in my mid 70s when the next election became due. I feel I have done my bit for the village over the last 40 years.*

The village has expanded rapidly but the challenges remain the same, for the Council, potholes, street lighting, planning to name just three items. Planning may well become an increasing contentious issue over the next few years with the planned East West route perhaps coming quite close to the village.

It has been great fun and extremely interesting work for the majority of the time and I thank all the people I have had the pleasure of working with including District, County and Parish Councillors, the MPs and Clerks past and present.

I will be remaining Hon Secretary to St Luke's Church, Trustee to SH Community Association and Vice President of the Sports Club for as long as the committees ask me to remain. If however there is anyone who would like one or other of the positions I will happily relinquish them. I will remain Poppy Appeal Organiser too for the coming year. So I won't be bored!

May I take this opportunity to wish the Parish Council and villagers all the very best for the future?

*Finally Thank you for producing the SH News it is an excellent magazine and from my past experience not an easy job! **Hazel M Turner***

VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 4 th February	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 4 th February	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 8 th February	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 3 rd March	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 3 rd March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 14 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Monday 6 th April	Village Show AGM – Community Centre 19.30
Tuesday 7 th April	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 7 th April	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 18 th April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Thursday 7 th May	County and Parish Council Elections – Community Centre
Friday 8 th May	VE Celebrations – Village Green – TBA
Saturday 16 th May	Eurovision Song Contest Party – Community Centre - TBA

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Pilates – Group Matwork

Monday's 09.25, 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs
Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589 louisa.pilates@gmail.com

Joyful Tots

Every Friday 10.00 – 12.30hrs
Contact Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 01525 270409

Innovations

Tuesday's & Wednesday's 09.30– 15.30hrs
Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs
Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368

Slimming World

Wednesday's 19.30 – 21.30 hrs
Contact Emma Yorke 07933 790954

High Ash Scouts, Cubs & Beavers

Every Thursday 17.30 – 21.30
Contact John Till 01525 261444

ART CLASSES – DJ Artworks

Thursday's 09.30 – 12.30hrs
Contact Deborah Johnson djartworks@hotmail.com

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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

Bucks County Council	01296-395000
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar (<i>Births, Deaths & Marriages</i>)	01296-382581
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296-585858
Gypsy Hotline	01296-383774
Litter Enforcement Officer	01296-585395
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	01494-817750
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525 270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Sue Severn</i>)	01296 331816
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>)	01525-270744
County Councillor (<i>Janet Blake</i>)	01525-261288
District Councillor (<i>Neil Blake</i>)	01525-261288
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296 714240

Police non-emergency number 101

EDITORS NOTE

It's 2020, who can believe two decades have passed since the millennium! So how about some new ideas for features and articles in your SH News for this new decade. Open to any (realistic and not controversial) suggestions. Please do get in contact.

May I please have copy for the April/May 2020 issue by the **20th March**

Greg Noble, Oak Farm, Bragenham Side, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9DB

01525 270744 E-mail: gregnoble1980@aol.com

BE A TREE ANGEL

Banker's £100k gift helps Mail plant 5,500 new school orchards
Vernon Hill, who founded Metro Bank in 2010 - the country's first new high street bank in 100 years, said he and his wife are delighted to support the Be A Tree Angel campaign to create a greener Britain - which is starting with schools.



His six-figure donation highlights the incredible success of the campaign, which is run with The Tree Council charity and has built up huge momentum since its launch in late November.

Mr Hill's donation is the latest from senior business figures, who have contributed about £500,000, and it will fund the planting of a further 1,000 orchards in 1,000 schools across Britain - one of the branches of the campaign. The cash will also provide aftercare to ensure the trees thrive as they help to fight pollution around schools, curb climate change and create a greener nation.

It comes on top of £100,000 donations from restaurant mogul Richard Caring, the entrepreneur and TV star Lord Sugar, an anonymous reader of the Daily Mail and Sir Jony Ive, former chief designer at technology giant Apple. With the funding from businesses, which also include Sainsbury's, Lloyds Bank and garden centre chain Dobbies, the Be A Tree Angel campaign will be able to plant 5,500 orchards in 5,500 schools around Britain.

Other notable landmarks in the campaign include Network Rail pledging it would provide funding to the tune of £1million over four years, starting with planting 20,000 trees in the first year as part of a pilot project which it will then expand.

As well as accepting donations from corporate and business donors, the campaign is urging Daily Mail readers to contribute either cash or Nectar points. So far funds have been pledged to plant more than 35,000 trees.

The Daily Mail has also given away thousands of holly, willow, oak, birch and living Christmas trees as part of the campaign and has donated 20,000 spruce trees to Forestry Commission Scotland.

Sara Lom, chief executive of The Tree Council, added: 'Vernon Hill's passion to create a better future for young people shines through this extraordinary gift. What better way to inspire the scientists and nature enthusiasts of the future than to engage them with tree planting at an early age.

Darren Moorcroft, chief executive of the Woodland Trust, which is a Tree Council member, said: 'We are thrilled that people have been so generous donating to the Be A Tree Angel campaign. We need trees more than ever to help fight back against climate change, to help tackle air pollution in our towns and cities, and simply to make a greener world to live in.'

LAST CHANCE TO GET INVOLVED

Though we will continue to lobby for more tree-planting across Britain, the fundraising stage of our Be A Tree Angel campaign is coming to a close. But there's still time to help...

1. You can make a donation to Be A Tree Angel by:

A. Pledging your money – every £3 donated will be enough to plant a tree.

B. Donating your Nectar points. If you donate 50 Nectar points, we'll match overall donations of up to 10million points. Alternatively, you can make a larger Nectar point donation – every 3,000 Nectar points will be enough to plant five trees.

2. Spend your Nectar points on a £5 gift voucher which can be used on a tree of your choice at more than 900 garden centres across the UK.

3. You can send a cheque payable to The Tree Council. Address to: Be A Tree Angel, The Tree Council, 4 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU.

AND FOR MORE DETAILS, GO TO www.beatreeangel.co.uk



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

EDITORS NOTE: APOLOGIES TO THOSE FEW WHOSE NORMAL COLLECTION DAY IS A TUESDAY



Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 5 Feb	Wednesday 5 Feb		
Wednesday 12 Feb		Wednesday 12 Feb	Wednesday 12 Feb
	Wednesday 19 Feb	Wednesday 19 Feb	
Wednesday 26 Feb		Wednesday 26 Feb	Wednesday 26 Feb
	Wednesday 4 Mar	Wednesday 4 Mar	
Wednesday 11 Mar		Wednesday 11 Mar	Wednesday 11 Mar
	Wednesday 18 Mar	Wednesday 18 Mar	
Wednesday 25 Mar		Wednesday 25 Mar	Wednesday 25 Mar
	Wednesday 1 April	Wednesday 1 April	

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