

SH NEWS

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

June/July 2020



www.stokehammondpc.com

Neighbourhood Watch Week
7th–13th June 2020

Stoke Hammond
a thankful village



Community Action Response | edenprojectcommunities.com

Celebrating neighbours #LetsStayConnected

ourwatch.org.uk/letsstayconnected

With thanks to Tony Husband



Neighbourhood Watch Week 2020

“Celebrate your neighbours”

7th – 13th June, #LetsStayConnected

We are delighted to invite you to join us for Neighbourhood Watch Week, which celebrates our neighbours and all the great work that you and your community do to make where you live safer, connected and more resilient.

Over the past few months, as our lives have all been turned upside down, the word 'neighbourliness' has never meant so much to so many. Communities have pulled together to provide vital support and resources, an army of volunteers has emerged, people are learning new skills, and as a result have become more resilient.

Between 7th - 13th June we are encouraging neighbours to say thank you and celebrate what it means to be a neighbour, the connections we have made, and the importance of staying connected through good and bad times.

Since early March, we have been encouraging people to 'Be Kind, Connect, Support and Share' during these challenging times as part of the Community Action Response. As part of the campaign, award winning cartoonist Tony Husband has created bespoke cartoons for the four community actions to show just how important our neighbours are at this time. Tony's cartoons can be downloaded as posters to display in your window, or postcards to pop through a neighbour's door, and if you are feeling creative you can draw your very own cartoon and enter it in a competition to be judged by Tony himself.

You can download the posters and postcards on our website as well as Neighbourhood Watch Week bunting to make at home.

To kickstart the week, we are inviting you to take part in **The Big Virtual Lunch** activities, organised by Eden Project, on the 6th and 7th June. The Big Lunch have put together ideas of small things you can do to celebrate community connections with your neighbours such as making your own bunting and spread some neighbourly joy by hanging it out for all to see, put together a lunch for someone or a small food parcel and leave it on a doorstep, join in with The Big Lunch from your doorstep, raise a cuppa, wave a sausage roll or have a picnic in your own gardens at the same time, host a Big Virtual Lunch online from the comfort of your own home, and ideas to host a Big Virtual Lunch over the phone.

On the 7th June we will be launching a competition to be judged by Tony Husband. Look out for details of that on our website and in email on the 7th June. And each day between the 7th - 13th June we will be sharing stories on our social media channels and website highlighting the big and small ways in which neighbours have been connecting, sharing, supporting and spreading kindness.

We encourage you to share our social media posts throughout the week or post your own engaging stories and examples of how you are engaging in the week.

Neighbourhood Watch Week this year also marks 35 years since the very first Neighbourhood Watch Week.

Let's celebrate our neighbours and all the amazing work that you do and together let's make this year's Neighbourhood Watch Week the best yet!

Many thanks, **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NETWORK, Central Support Team**



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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

This report has to start with the very sad news of the recent passing of a dear friend and long standing Parish Councillor Mavis Berrow. Mavis loved Stoke Hammond and had a marvellous zest for life, and was determined to not let her medical conditions get the better of her. The Parish Council will not seem the same without Mavis's input and we offer our most sincere and deepest sympathies to Gordon, Mavis's husband, her family and friends.

None of us have not been affected in some way by the COVID-19 Pandemic, some more than others, but a big thank you must go out to the marvellous volunteers behind the Village Support Group that have gone above and beyond to provide much needed assistance to the vulnerable and those who are self-isolating. They have done shopping, collection of prescriptions and so much more. The PC offered support by acting as a central coordination point and will continue to do so. Should you require assistance from the Volunteer programme, then please refer to the card delivered to all households which is also reprinted at the end of this report.



The lockdown curtailed more or less all of the countries planned celebrations for the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, and Stoke Hammond was not immune, but we could not let the day go without marking it some way, so we did add bunting to the Village Green and reinstated the Silent Solder silhouettes. The latter now moved to their new permanent position to the Old Pond site at the top end of Church Road.

We have tried to maintain as much normality as we can, such as grass cutting and the emptying of litter and dog bins, which interestingly for the latter and the two dog bins on Bragenham Side, we have now had to change from weekly to twice weekly emptying due to the



substantial increase in dog walking whilst we are in lockdown. Regretfully the playground area, MUGA and outdoor Gym have had to be closed but will be reopened as soon as we are allowed to do so. The PC are also pleased to report that the Wildflower Meadow area that we started to create on what many fondly know as “the old dump site” on Bragenham Side has received its final rotavation and been



sown with a suitable mix of wildflower seeds. It should only be a matter of a few weeks and we should start to see the meadow area becoming established, something both residents and the wildlife will be able to enjoy.

As touched on in the last PC News, we were awaiting details as to how the PC could hold meetings during the lockdown. NALC (The National Association of Local Councils) has now issued guidance notes, whereby Councils can hold

remote meetings via video platforms such as Skype and Zoom, with the proviso that all Councillors must be able to hear, see and be able to be heard at such meetings, and where practical, members of the public should also be able to take part, and likewise be seen and heard by other members of the public who are taking part. With this in mind the PC trialled both Skype and Zoom, and opted for the Zoom as this seemed to offer the best platform whereby both Councillors and members of the public could take part. With this decision made, the first PC meeting since lockdown was scheduled for the evening of Tuesday 5th May.

Four Councillors plus the clerk and three members of the public all logged in to view and take part. The meeting was also joined by my MP Ben Everitt but in his other role as one of the two Unitary Authority County Councillors who represent our local ward of Great Brickhill. Ben was particularly impressed as to how well this remote meeting went, and in fact it was the first time he had used the Zoom platform for such a meeting. Whilst the meeting followed what might be considered the normal format by going through the agenda items one did have to make some allowances for the fact that we weren't actually all sitting in the same room, so one tried not to unnecessarily interject but wait until it was your turn or be asked to speak. One member of the public did suggest that even when we do return to normal public meetings that a video platform to allow remote viewing of meetings would be a positive move. The PC agreed this was something they would investigate, but there would be many aspects to consider, not least cost, practicalities and the privacy of participants. There was only one planning application up for consideration, that being 20/01187/APP for the erection of a new summerhouse at Swan Cottage on Church Road. Swan Cottage is a Grade II listed 17th Century thatched property and lies within the village Conservation Area. Buckinghamshire Heritage had raised several concerns about the size and impact this new summerhouse may have to the existing site and were requesting further information in order that they could further evaluate and make comment. The PC decided to object to the application

until such time that this information had been provided to the Heritage department and their further comments were known. The matter of the non-functioning No51 streetlight on the Fenny Road was again raised. The matter is now in the hands of E.ON as it has been established there is a fault to the fuse carrier in the base of the lantern, and the responsibility for this lies with the electricity supplier.

As mentioned earlier the Parish of Stoke Hammond now sits within the ward of Great Brickhill as part of the new Buckinghamshire Council unitary authority, and with both Neil Blake and Janet Blake having recently stepped down from their respective Council posts, we now have two County Councillors covering our ward, one as already highlighted being Councillor Ben Everitt from Newton Longville and the other being Councillor Scott Raven from North Marston.

The next PC Meeting will again be held remotely via Zoom at 7.30pm Tuesday 2nd June. Should you wish to join the meeting then please contact the PC Clerk at the details below who will then send you an invite enabling you to log into the meeting.



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

The logo for Stoke Hammond features the text "Stoke Hammond" in a green serif font, with "a thankful village" in a smaller green sans-serif font below it. To the right of the text is a stylized red poppy flower with a black center.

Our village volunteer programme

To further improve the wonderful volunteering programme already well underway in the village, we have made some changes to speed up response times.

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19, volunteers are here to help with such things as:

- Picking up shopping**
- Posting mail**
- A friendly phone call**
- Urgent supplies and medicines**

To get in touch:

Please email us at: clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

or call either 07818 016108 or 07729 691888

Your request will then be immediately forwarded to the next available volunteer

VIRTUAL the big lunch

eden project THE NATIONAL LOTTERY*

JOIN IN WITH THE BIG LUNCH 2020

The Big Lunch is the UK's thanksgiving weekend for neighbours and communities - a time where people come together to celebrate community connections and get to know one another a little better.

**NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED TO MAKE TIME FOR EACH OTHER.
SO, LET'S GET THE NATION TALKING OVER A CUPPA AND A BITE TO
EAT AND HAVE SOME FUN WITH THE BIG VIRTUAL LUNCH ON 6-7 JUNE**

For those of you who have been to a Big Lunch before, things will need to be a little bit different this year, but community spirit is shining bright, and whether you are a first timer or an old hat, there are lots of ways you can join in.

Start planning yours with these bite-sized steps 





1 DECIDE HOW YOU'RE GOING TO HOLD YOUR BIG LUNCH

There are different ways you can join in this year depending on what works where you live and is safe and inclusive for you and your community. Your Big Lunch could be online with a Facebook group from your kitchen table, over the phone with a cuppa and a friend, or a family picnic out in the garden where you can wave to your neighbours.

2 SPREAD THE WORD

Whether you want to natter to your neighbours, say cheers to volunteers, connect with your community group or phone friends and family – you need to let people know about it. Check out our Big Lunch toolkit for templates to help you get the word out. Pop a poster in your window, on a notice board or in your car window for people to see. Send invites via social media to online groups, pop personal invitations through letterboxes, tape them to your neighbour's windows or email people to let them know about your Big Lunch.

3 HAVE FOOD AT THE HEART OF YOUR BIG LUNCH

There are lots of creative ways to keep food at the heart of your Big Lunch even if you can't share it physically with others by being together. An online dinner date, sandwich on your doorstep or a cuppa and a piece of cake as you chat on the phone all count. Your Big Lunch doesn't have to involve eating a feast – the most important thing is getting people talking and celebrating the connections you have.

4 ADD A LITTLE EXTRA AND MAKE YOUR BIG LUNCH MEMORABLE

Bunting, music, singing, dancing and games are all things you can bring to your Big Lunch. Decorate your window, make the most of your webcam background or wear something a bit fancy. Check out more ideas in our Big Lunch toolkit.



THEBIGLUNCH.COM

LET'S CELEBRATE COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS, GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER BETTER AND HAVE FUN WITH THE BIG LUNCH

Share stories of how your neighbourhood is staying connected

✉ communities@edenproject.com

📱 [f](https://www.facebook.com/edencommunities) [i](https://www.instagram.com/edencommunities) [t](https://www.tiktok.com/@edencommunities) @edencommunities #TheBigLunch #TheBigThanks

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



Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



Dear Residents,

While the government has made some changes to the lockdown restrictions its message is still that **we must carry on doing everything we already have been to control the virus**. This means using our common sense, working from home if we can, keeping our distance, washing our hands and really importantly, [staying at home if we have symptoms](#).

Everything we are all doing to keep up social distancing is saving lives so thank you again for all your efforts. I know it's especially hard when we cannot do all the things we would usually like to over a long weekend or during time off school.

HRCs

I'm really pleased to let you know that all of our Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) will be open from next week – Friday 29 May. We already have the sites at Amersham, Aston Clinton, Buckingham, Beaconsfield, and Wycombe open, and the HRCs at Aylesbury, Burnham, Chesham and Langley will also be open from **Friday 29 May**, 9am-6pm. Please remember that Aylesbury, Burnham and Chesham are closed on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

All sites will operate the same social distancing measures that we have in place at those already open. It's harder to manage long queues safely at some of these sites so can I please ask that you avoid visiting at busy times. You can check the website for up to date waiting times and remember to bring some ID to show that you live in Buckinghamshire. Thank you to you all for your patience while we've worked hard to get this service fully operational again for you.

Coronavirus testing in Buckinghamshire

Anyone over the age of 5 who has symptoms of coronavirus can book a test to see if they have the illness. The main symptoms are a new continuous cough, fever and a loss of, or changes in your sense of smell or taste.

All tests must be pre-booked and you'll be asked to go to your nearest available testing site or asked to take a test at home.

Do you need extra help?

I wanted to remind you about our [online community support hub](#) which has lots of advice and information for local people, especially those who might need more support at this time. We have a [great online directory](#) – you can find local groups, support and businesses in your own area by searching with your postcode. We've also got a page on how you can get food delivered, especially helpful if you're

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vulnerable or in isolation.

Enjoying being outdoors safely

We are now allowed to go outside for unlimited exercise. Some of you might choose to use the time we are able to be outside to enjoy time in our local and country parks safely over the Bank Holiday. Please remember that children's play areas and outdoor exercise equipment are still closed. You can also meet one other person from outside your household so long as you keep 2 metres (6ft) apart.

It's a really good idea to take hand sanitiser and any other safety products you're generally using when you're out and about, even if it's just a trip to the park. Don't forget your sunscreen too, especially as many of us have spent a lot more time indoors than usual in recent weeks!

Half term at home

Our Family Information Service website has a fantastic section on things to do with children while we all stay at home as much as possible. You can still visit the zoo by taking a look at zoo webcams, or go on a virtual field trip thanks to Forestry England.

Celebrating Eid safely

Eid Al-Fitr is due to be celebrated this weekend, subject to the sighting of the new moon. Unfortunately, this year, it won't be possible to mark Eid in the usual way as congregational prayers in mosques and parks and parties with friends and wider family can't happen at the moment. Instead Muslims are being encouraged to celebrate Eid in the same way as Ramadan, from home and virtually with friends and family.

The Muslim Council of Britain has produced [some guidance on how to celebrate Eid safely](#), and, if you are marking Eid, I wish you a safe and happy celebration.

Travel safely

While the advice is still to stay at home where possible, the current guidance from the government does now allow for more time outside the home. If you do venture out in your car please take lots of extra care. Check that your car [is safe to drive if you haven't used it for a while](#) and make sure you stick to the speed limits while the roads are generally quieter. There are many more cyclists on the roads too which is very welcome as we want people to travel on foot or by bike as much as possible. I know from personal experience that some car drivers are now driving far too fast and this can endanger walkers and cyclists, particularly in our country lanes.

All road users have a duty to travel as carefully as possible to keep everyone safe and avoid accidents which would put more pressure on the emergency services and the NHS.

Please can I also urge you again to **avoid using public transport unless it's absolutely necessary**. If you're able to, please cycle, walk or drive on any journeys you take. We would also like people to avoid using Aylesbury and Wycombe Bus

Stations if possible, and to hop on and off at an alternative town centre stop outdoors. This is so we can try to reduce the numbers of people at these bus stations.

Business grants

We've now processed nearly 6,000 grants for local businesses and have paid out more than £75million in total. Small businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors can apply for this money if they're suffering financial hardship as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. For more information and to see if your business is eligible go to [this section of the Buckinghamshire Council website](#).

Worried about a vulnerable friend, relative or neighbour?

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

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

#ProudofBucks

I wanted to give a special mention to local charity Better Connected Beaconsfield which works to connect and help the local community.

When the lockdown began, they sprang into action and recruited more than 350 volunteers known as 'Buddies'. These Buddies are now helping people with their shopping, collecting prescriptions, running errands and making check-in phone calls. This great work has not gone unnoticed! They've been awarded a £2,000 grant from the Councillor's Crisis Fund to support their efforts and they are now in Ross Kemp's new series on TV this week: 'Britain's Volunteer Army' on BBC One.

Covid-19 has tested our communities and Better Connected Beaconsfield has shown that theirs is stronger than ever! We are very **#ProudofBucks!** Keep your stories coming via social media ([Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)) using the hashtag **#ProudofBucks**.

Finally, as ever, do keep up to date with our regular video updates for more local information on the coronavirus pandemic. It's been fantastic this week to hear from the University of Buckingham and how they've been helping the council with our vital 'keeping in touch' calls to local vulnerable residents. The student we had as our guest was doing her calling from somewhere far outside Buckinghamshire! Have a listen and see where.

Rest assured we will continue to keep you up to date with important information about the coronavirus pandemic and our local response. From next week, we will send out weekly updates to keep you posted and you can also keep checking our website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk.

Stay safe, stay well and stay alert!

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury,
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[buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

In this latest extract from Pam’s Murphy’s book ‘Everything but the Moo’ we touch on a subject many of us are now suffering as we wait for delivery of our online purchases, not that online was a word that had any meaning in Pam’s day. But could you imagine if you still had to allow “28 Days for delivery”

“ALLOW 28 DAYS FOR DELIVERY”

It is standard and necessary practice for mail order companies to say “allow 28 days for delivery”, though they are so often asked “why?”

An advertisement can bring in “nil” response (half of all advertising I wasted, but you do not know which half) – or it can bring such a response that the postman staggers up the path saying “Wot you doin’ – giving it away this week?”

In that case, it takes all day to open the post, log and record it, and sort out the queries to be dealt with later and process the despatch notes. After several weeks of “peak period” supplies run short, and our product, mail order muck, can not be produced overnight – and the delay started here. We did notify customers when this happened.

There are now, no national road carriers who will deliver lost cost, high volume (40lb bags) manure to private households throughout the mainland of the United Kingdom. Plenty who will deliver to “trade” customers, or overnight at £10 or more a parcel, which is fine for expensive items it can be built into the price.

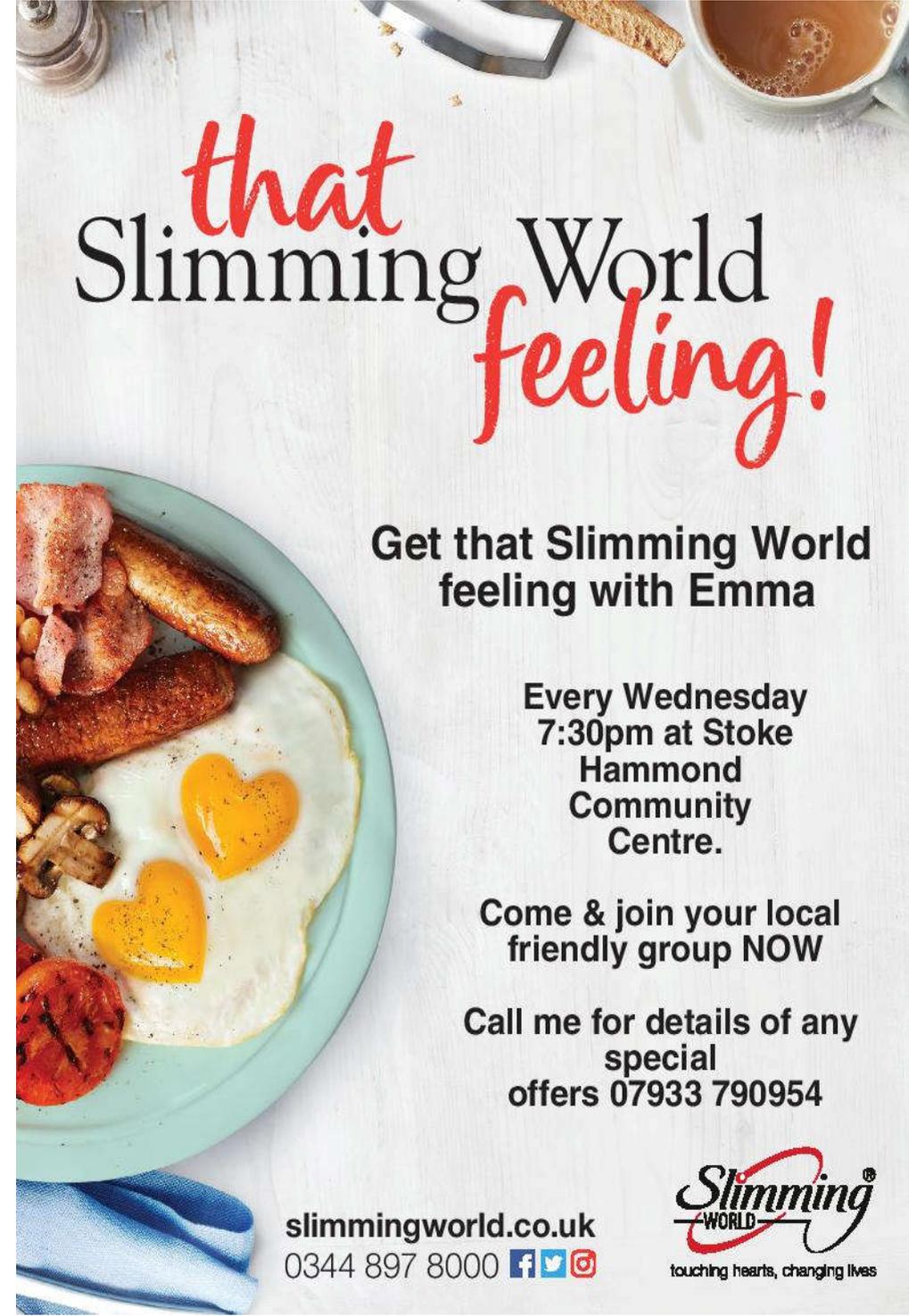
Cowpact Ltd. sold 100% natural organic manure, direct from the cow. It sent out over 50,000 parcels (or bags) a year, in lots of an average of five bags. 95% got delivered quickly and without a problem. It was the 5% that did not that caused the nightmare.

The demise of Roadline carrying to individual households, followed just nine months later by the liquidation of the company that took over their business, meant that Cowpact Ltd and other horticultural mail order firms had to set up their own system, involving a main agent, who then organised small local carriers in various regions.

These small carriers varied enormously in their efficiency, and one of the problems was that they do a “milk run”, in outlying districts, which they only covered every 3/4 weeks for economic reasons. So if something got left behind or they did not have the goods on the van or the driver was running out of time, and could not find the house, which was often a major problem, there was undue delay in delivery.

Addresses in this country often bear no relation to the whereabouts of the house, and “The Lodge”, London Road, Blanktown, with no sign on the gate, would more often than not certainly get lost.

Goods delivered to the wrong address – it was very easy, I did it myself a mile from home! Usually we did not hear about this until the following year, with a letter or



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telephone call to say “Some one left us two bags of Cowcompact last year – we used it and it’s excellent – how do we by some more?”

Another problem we frequently faced was that the Cowcompact arrived, the gardener dug it in immediately – the customer did not know – and complained bitterly – then we sent out a replacement. It was only when the gardener asked why she’d only ordered another three bags when he wanted ten that the customer rang up, promised to send a cheque, which they did, with a further order.

Sometimes deliveries weren’t made because of dogs – there was one never to be forgotten case of “non-delivery”, to a customer whose money we returned. Her order HAD been delivered while she was away. Her mother was in charge, and the dogs had incarcerated the poor delivery man in the shed for two hours, and mother had not let on....!

There was the customer who sent his order, three letters of complaint of non-receipt, on headed notepaper from the address he had left EIGHT years previously! Our letters to him were returned, obviously, “Gone Away”, and his telephone number was unobtainable. We did find him eventually through clever detective work (fortunately he had a very unusual name).



Ninety nine percent of customers were super – understood the problems and one of the most gratifying things was that even those who had suffered horrendous delays in delivery, re-ordered, and wrote to say how delighted they had been with Cowcompact.

Hopefully, delivery was made within fourteen days of receipt of order, sometimes it was sooner. That was provided the Post Office had delivered the order in the first place. Fifty miles outside London we were out in the sticks. You needed a tracker dog and packed lunch to find us. We only had one delivery a day, sometimes before 11.00am, otherwise we used to do a recce and find the postman. First class mail used to take on average a couple of days to reach us, for second class mail from five to seven days. We gave up using Freepost – as it sometimes took up to three weeks, and we had complaints before we had received the order. I wished sometimes they would bring back pigeon post!

We asked customers to follow some basic rules. Firstly to ensure that they had put their name and address, clearly on a form or piece of paper and sent the correct

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money. Many fell at the first post! Frequently there was no name or no address and if one recognised the handwriting one could match the order to a previous one. Often the customers id not sign the cheque. Delivery instructions were requested where possible, including where goods could be left in case the customer was out. We once had a customer who sent Cowpact CASH, but no name and address. We waited for the blast off, which we received, twice, but still there was NO name or address. He wrote to the advertising paper, who wrote to us, saying that the customer had not ... yes, you've guessed Given his name and address. The paper concerned put a free advertisement in trying to trace the customer concerned. We never heard from him. He is probably out there still saying what a ghastly company we were! But we did try hard!

Next Time: THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER.....

AS ALCOHOL SALES SOAR DURING LOCKDOWN



Alcohol is definitely the answer...



'I take my whiskey with me in case of snakebite...





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Preparing food with your child is useful. Depending on their age, they can drop fruit into a blender or chop soft fruit (strawberries, bananas etc) with a blunt knife for a smoothie or fruit salad. Teach your child to make a jam sandwich – this can be an opportunity to discuss shapes. Rice Krispie cakes with melted chocolate is also a good one. As always, be prepared for a mess!

Here's a good **recipe for playdough** (amount for one child) suitable for all ages, but supervise those under 3, if they eat it, it could affect electrolyte balance – it's really salty!:

Ingredients

1 cup flour	1 tbs vegetable oil	1 cup water
2 tsp cream of tartar	1/3 cup salt	food coloring

Instructions

1. Mix all the ingredients, except the food coloring, in a medium saucepan.
2. Cook over low/medium heat, stirring. Once it begins to thicken, add the food coloring.
3. Continue stirring until the mixture is much thicker and begins to gather around the spoon.
4. Once the dough is not wet, remove and put onto a plate/board to cool.
5. After cooling (30 minutes) knead playdough for a few seconds. PLAY!
6. Store in an airtight container in the fridge.

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email has always been the most commonplace method used by online fraudsters to trick innocent people out of their money, their identity... or both.

It still is. And currently, they're exploiting the current Coronavirus pandemic with persuasive messages ranging from vaccines and cures to tax refunds and fake charity appeals.

Fraudsters send emails containing links which seem authentic, but actually lead to websites designed to capture your confidential details, or infect your devices with viruses and other malware. Or they attach malicious files which, if opened, do the same.

These days, fraudulent emails are becoming ever more convincing, looking as if they come from your bank, favourite retailer, NHS, HMRC, law enforcement, courier company or other organisation you know and trust. You can't rely on poor spelling, bad grammar and far-fetched messages any longer to spot a fake. Fraudsters can even spoof their sender address to make them seem completely authentic.

Our experts have compiled some simple tips to help you protect yourself from falling for fraudulent emails.

#safeemail

Top tips for using email safely and securely

- If you receive an email you haven't requested or it seems suspicious in any way, make sure it's actually from the person or organisation who claims to have sent it. Do this by calling the actual person or organisation on a number you know to be the right one.
- Don't click on links in emails from unknown sources, or if it seems strange that the email would come from that source.
- Never open attachments from unknown sources, or if it seems strange that the email would come from that source.
- Check for poor design, grammar and spelling, and whether the email addresses you by your name. However, even if an email passes these tests, it may still be from a fraudster.
- Don't make purchases, payments or charity donations in response to spurious emails.
- Beware of emails which suggest that you need to transfer money, provide personal details or perform some other critical action urgently to 'resolve a problem'. Banks, government departments, the police and other trusted organisations would never communicate with you in this way.
- Don't reply to an email which you suspect is fraudulent, and don't forward it unless you're reporting it.
- Don't click on 'remove' or reply to unwanted email – this simply tells senders that your account is live, and may result in you getting a flood of unwanted scam or spam emails.
- Make sure spam filters are switched on and set up appropriately to avoid unwanted emails getting through, but permitting authentic ones from trusted sources. Check junk mail folders regularly in case a legitimate email is filtered there in error.
- Use strong passwords to prevent your email accounts from being hacked. Keep passwords to yourself, and don't use the same or a similar one for more than one online account.
- When sending emails to multiple people, list their addresses in the 'BCC' (blind copy) box instead of in the 'To' box. In this way, no recipient will see the names of the others, and if their addresses fall into the wrong hands there will be less chance of you or anybody else receiving phishing or spam emails. Delete everyone in the email trail before forwarding or replying.
- Think twice before you click on anything.

During this pandemic, we have seen a huge increase in the number of fraudulent emails being sent by cybercriminals. For comprehensive, practical, impartial advice on safe and secure email, visit www.getsafeonline.org/safeemail





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STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



I am writing this at the weekend when we should have been holding our annual Afternoon Tea and Plant Swap ! Obviously and sadly this cannot take place and you can bet that, this year, the weather will be perfect ! Anyone who was at the AGM in early March will know that we had organised the above and almost completed the arrangements for a trip to the Woburn Show at the end of June -

hopefully they will hold it next year but, of course, the only important thing at the moment is that everyone stays safe and well .

The lovely weather we have enjoyed has made things easier and I am sure you will all have been busy beautifying your gardens and growing your veg - although it has not been too easy to get the plants you need and the late frosts have caught a few people out (including me with the village planters !!!!) There will be a serious lack of Cosmos in the village this year but all will be sorted eventually and the Club will leap into action just as soon as it is possible to do so.

‘till then best wishes to all members – perhaps the following by Rudyard Kipling will keep us going!



THE GLORY OF THE GARDEN – by Rudyard Kipling

Our England is a garden that is full of stately views
of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues
with statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye

For where the old thick laurels grow, along the thin red wall
You find the tool-and-potting-sheds which are the heart of all
The cold-frames and the hot-houses, the dungpits and the tanks
the rollers, carts and drain-pipes, with the barrows and the planks

And there you'll see the gardeners, the men and 'prentice boys'
Told off to do as they are bid and do it without noise
For, except when seeds are planted and we shout to scare the birds
The Glory of the Garden it abideth not in words

And some can pot begonias and some can bud a rose
And some are hardly fit to trust with anything that grows
But they can roll and trim the lawns and sift the sand and loam
For the Glory of the Garden occupieth all who come

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Our England is a garden, and such gardens are not made
By singing 'Oh how beautiful' and sitting in the shade
While better men than we go out and start their working lives
At grubbing weeds from gravel-paths with broken dinner knives

There's not a pair of legs so thin, there's not a head so thick
There's not a hand so weak and white, nor yet a heart so sick
But it can find some needful job that's crying to be done
For the Glory of the Garden glorifieth every one

Then seek your job with thankfulness and work till further orders
if its only netting strawberries or killing slugs on borders
And when your back stops aching and your hands begin to harden
You will find yourself a partner in the Glory of the Garden

Oh Adam was a gardener and God who made him sees
That half a proper gardener's work is done upon his knees
So when your work is finished you can wash your hands and pray
For the Glory of the Garden that it may not pass away
And the Glory of the Garden it shall NEVER pass away!



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THE Lindens

Greetings to you all from us here at The Lindens! It has been an exceptionally busy time for us here, as you might imagine. We have been utilising all our considerable expertise and training together with our dedication and compassion to look after all our residents, healthcare professionals and each other.

We now have a smart in-house transport vehicle which is already proving to be a wonderful addition. Transporting staff and collecting medications are just a couple of ways it is helping to support our residents.

In May, our Kitchen Manager completed ten years of service with us and we celebrated her achievements, presenting Myrna with a floral tribute.

We would also like to thank the local Rotary Club for their donation of Visors, very much appreciated. Our residents have been enjoying the warm weather, making good use of our beautiful gardens and working on their craft projects which included the making and painting of bunting for our VE Day tea party.



We would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support and wish you all a happy and healthy summer,

Chris Ryan

Manager

**The Lindens, Stoke Road, Stoke
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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

I started my last lot of tips (written on the 18th March) with the line “what a difference 2 months make! “. Well how right I was....unfortunately ! Coved - 19 has had an awful impact worldwide, and whilst lockdown has been easy for us personally, it must have been so demanding and stressful for many of you. Stay safe everyone xxx.



Last time I talked about what was easy and quick to grow - hopefully someone tried growing veg for the first time, maybe with the kids as they are around a lot more at the moment. It's not too late to grow any of the easy stuff - herbs, tomatoes, salads, squash's, melons, cucumbers, runner beans, French beans (my favourite bean), flowers - in pots. Get the kids to paint the pots first so they recognise their own plant. Have a competition who can grow the biggest cucumber or longest squash or whose seed germinates first. Anyway, up to you all but veg is going to be expensive and rarer if no one picks it this year - so cut out the middle men and grow your own. This time I am going to focus on 3 things with lots of pictures (depending on whether the editor accepts them or not lol) *I have, well some of them* 😊 Firstly, 4 key things for the garden (apart from pots, compost, seeds etc.) that I can't do without. Secondly what is 'potting on' and why do we do it and thirdly what is 'hardening off? '.



Ok, the 4 things I use in the garden all spring and summer from left to right. Sun cream factor 50 is what I use on my face (and bald spot 😊) all year round. There seems to be a reluctance by some to put the factor 50 on , as if you may not take any colour , but when working in the garden it is easy to forget to apply a second coating, so it's factor 50 for me

(and I am as brown as a berry). Actually, just apply whatever factor that works for you, but for the next 3 months the sun is high in the sky! Second from the left are slug pellets. I've used this type for years and there is some discussion about whether they should be banned or not. There are lots of other methods - beer traps, nematodes, late night hand picking by torch light, copper bands,

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sheep wool, crushed sea shells and magic spells. Quite frankly with the size of garden I have the two things that work best are nematodes and slug pellets which I use together, otherwise cast whatever spell you like but your tender seedlings, salads and veg will be gone in the morning (unless you really are a witch I guess). The third from left is bug spray, primarily for aphids black, green or white on peppers, roses, broad beans and black currants. If you read some of the gardening magazines they espouse the virtues of organic soap mix and squishing with your fingers....all work unless you get a big infestation and then squirts of bug spray work best. I obviously live on another planet because sometimes using chemicals is necessary and I don't feel guilty - sorry about that but there it is. Lastly, and after sun cream the most important to me is tomorite. Veg and plants as they grow use their favourite nutrients from the soil they are in, and unless they are in a compost/clay rich ground that will do for the year, the soil needs replenishing with nutrients. The magic mix for me for all pots and hanging baskets is tomorite, that I use weekly for all once flowers are set and fruits appear. Follow the instructions and you will not go wrong, fail to feed your plants and they will crop poorly after the first fruits have been delivered up.



Ok next...what is potting on - different from pottering around which I also do - is the process of moving your seedling or plant into a bigger pot for growth. You may think that, actually Chris I am going to just stick my tomato seed in a great big pot or grow bag and miss out all this potting on business. Well ok and good luck mon amie. If you see my photo of the process of moving from

seedling to big plant / veg you would think that I am just showing off (you maybe right of course) but actually seeds benefit from a different soil make up than a maturing tomato plant for example. It is also easier to keep soil moist but not waterlogged in small pots - but you move them on when the roots are filling the pot and the nutrients are exhausted (seed compost has no goodness left after about 4 to 6 weeks). Move them up to the next size and I mix multi purpose compost with seed compost into the next size pot- after 4 weeks I move on to multipurpose compost - and final resting place has "my compost" plus fertilisers and anything else that's around thrown in too. Of course keep things moist, keep an eye on them...yellow leaves on anything means stress...too dry or no nutrients (or too many), pot them on when needed - for example if you take a

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plant out of a pot and there is a mass of roots all mangled up at the bottom you have left them in the pot too long! So, manage your seeds through a process that keeps the least amount of stress on them....and it only takes a few minutes a day.

Right then peeps we have nurtured our precious little seeds through the trials and tribulations of growing up, moving from seed tray to pots, and now we want them to deliver the goodies...lovely fruits / roots / leaves / flowers. If you have brought them up on a windowsill or a greenhouse, sooner or later they are going to have to face the big bad world. So we do it gradually....when it's warm shove



them outside during the day and bring them in at night. Avoid Frosts at all costs



for all tender or half hardy plants (I got caught 10 days ago as the late frost "did" for 100 flower seedlings that I left out) . After

a week of doing this you can plant out or leave out in big pots. You will be amazed however, how many cold snaps you can have at the end of May and beginning of June that sets back many flowers and fruits. So, I only ever start melons, squash, sweetcorn off in May and plant out in the second week of June. So I'm typing this on Wednesday 20th May, the hottest day of the year.....all windows and doors open in the greenhouse. I watered early this morning and will water again this evening. I have a glass of wine and am thinking about a little wander around my patch...thinking someone that I'm fit and healthy. Please stay safe everyone. PAGEY



Finally, a little quiz for you, can you identify and name these six different herbs in pots outside my back door? Answers in the next edition of the SH News.

PAGEY



Lockdown?

Crikey what a life changing 2 months! No pubs, no restaurants, no theatre – no anything really. Stats to date: confirmed Covid cases 244K. Population still approximately 66 million. Odds of avoiding infection still favourable. Take out heavily populated areas, folk with underlying health problems and an ethnic bias then the odds in the village improve substantially. Sadly in March I passed a landmark birthday and I am now (supposedly) more vulnerable than I was when this started.

Since March we have been subjected to quite a number of new phrases and words:

Herd immunisation: If we let enough people become infected then we should all become immune – subsequently disproved.

Timing. The virus only lives for 15 minutes if not transmitted to another body. I've not heard that mentioned recently.

Ramping up. Govt.- increasing certain actions being taken.

GOM – picking a target figure and meeting it by
exaggerating the true figures.

“I will make this very important point” (Martha, Nick, whoever). I will repeat what I have just said (twice) and ignore what you have actually asked me.

Social distancing UK Govt interpretation – 2 metres

EU interpretation – 1 metre

GOM about the area of a good fart.

Medical Experts. “We have acted on the latest medical advice” (and we may act on different advice next week). I'm not sure I've heard 2 experts giving the same advice. This of course is exacerbated by the Media who in the interest of equality bring in 2 specialists with different views.

AND to the tune of what a friend we have in Jesus:

When this bloody lock-down's over
No more distancing for me
When I get my working clothes on
Oh how happy I will be

No more queuing down at Tesco
No more staying home for us
We can tell old Boris Johnson
Go back to your Brexit bus.

Grumpy Old Man

Editor's Note: Most sadly, Mavis Berrow who created and collated this quiz for many years passed away in May. In her memory the quiz will continue and still bear her name.

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to find a word that could go before or after the three words given.

Did you manage to work them out?

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| (1) SNOW | (2) BOARD | (3) SCHOOL |
| (4) BLOCK | (5) TRAFFIC | (6) EGG |
| (7) MAN | (8) PAPER | (9) RAIN |
| (10) EXPRESS | | |



Unfortunately, many major sporting and other well known events, have for this year had to be cancelled or postponed, can you work out what events from the jumbled letters below??



- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) ETH NDRAG TLONNAIA | (2) RVUINEISO NGOS SCTETNO |
| (3) HET DLBMWONI PPSIAHISCNO | (4) DFXROO DAN MGRECDIBA TBAO ACRE |
| (5) LTRINAASAU DRNGA XRPI | (6) YTGARULBON ETLVFIAS |
| | (7) ODLNON AHNOMTAR |
| (8) RUENPOAE OLFBOLAT IPMSCHONHSPIA | |
| (9) TNTOGIN LHLL IRLAVNCA | (10) RUMESM YIPMOCL MGSEA |

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition.

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St Luke's Church News

Review:

Well, here we are again – still under lockdown and learning what the “new normal” means. The church is closed but services are taking place online (see below) and there are some televised as well. We are all getting a bit fed up of the situation but putting up with it. Worse still is the uncertainty about the future: when can we go back to work? when will there be a vaccine? when will we have a treatment or cure that works? will we get a holiday this year? The list of questions is endless, but in an uncertain world, there is at least one guarantee – God loves us and sent his only son Jesus to save us from our sins!

Normally at this point I would be talking about forthcoming events! At this stage, I can't say what will be happening or when.

Ongoing Activities:

Prayers: Prayer meetings are obviously not taking place, but the prayer group are still communicating and would be happy to pray for your prayer requests. There are prayer request cards in the church porch which can be filled in and left at “The Birches”, Church Rd or “Abbotsford”, Newton Rd, or contact any of the numbers below (Harry, Diane or John).



Food Bank: As most of you will know, the church has set up a food bank in the church porch. Free food and other items (limited personal hygiene products – roll on anti-perspirant, sanitary products, toothpaste, individual (hotel sized) showergel



and shampoo, toilet roll, loose dishwasher tablets and laundry capsules (bagged up) - and dog (and puppy) and cat (and kitten) food) are available 24/7, in boxes to keep them clean.

There's no need to contact anyone but the utmost discretion will be observed if you do. If you want to donate food, please ensure that items are useful, (by which I mean the sort of things you'd use yourself – tomatoes, tinned baked beans, sugar, tuna, dry pasta/rice, Fray Bentos tinned meat pies etc. rather than Christmas pudding (in June?) or pickled artichoke hearts (sorry to those who love pickled artichoke hearts – by the way that includes me!)) Items should be **at least 2 weeks in date** and able to fit in the sealed boxes in the porch (for hygiene reasons). Items close to their use by date will be donated to the needy or another food bank.

Services: Although no services are being held in church, our Rector John Waller sends a weekly reflection note which is shared on the village Facebook group. Oxford Diocese (our church area) organise a weekly online service called “Church at home” (not quite live streamed – they had a lot of technical problems with that) a link to which can be received via a weekly email. If you'd like to go on the email list, please contact Dave at david.webber@btinternet.com or just google Oxford Diocese Church at Home. You can also access



“Church at home” services by phone if you don’t have online access by calling **01865 920930**. Once connected, dial 0 for the full version of the service, or dial 1 for a short version - standard call rates apply. There’ll be a few seconds of silence before the service starts. A televised Sunday service is also available on BBC1.



Fundraising:

Although churches are shut, church ministers still need to be paid, buildings still need to be maintained and diocesan administration needs to continue, so church funds need to be maintained. At the moment, many regular church members are continuing to donate by standing order for which we give grateful thanks, but we still need additional income – usually obtained through fundraising, which at present we are unable to do



Plant Sale: Sadly the church plant sale didn’t take place this year, and our local nurseryman ran out of stock before we were able to put in a private order. We have however been growing our own plants, and are offering them for donations. Look out for a table outside the Birches in Church Rd (subject to the weather!) for a selection of flower and vegetable plants. This will be running on an ad hoc basis over the summer. Your donations can be placed in the envelopes provided and posted through the door at The Birches. If you are a gardener yourself with surplus plants and would like to donate them to the church, please deliver them to The Birches, Church Rd or call Diane (270409) to arrange for them to be collected.



**Plant
Sale**

Sponsored walk: The sponsored walk due to take place in April, couldn’t take place due to lockdown. We hope to hold it later in the year subject to relaxation of the rules. If you sponsored someone, you won’t be committed to your original sponsorship offer as we appreciate that financial circumstances may have changed.



Open Gardens: Sadly the Open Gardens will have to be cancelled, because even if the lockdown ends, there’ll be insufficient time to organise everything now. The **Church fete** scheduled for **18th July** looks unlikely at this time. If it goes ahead, information will follow on the Benefice website, on the village Facebook page or flyer in the village shop or delivered to the village.

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

Other news

Rector’s sabbatical: Our Rector John Waller’s planned sabbatical has now been cancelled and will probably take place next year. He has however been offered a replacement date for his trip to the Holy Land scheduled for later this year.

Bible verse of the month: Rev 3 v 20: *20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me. (RSV)*

Read the full context at:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+3&version=RSV>

What does it mean? The book of Revelations, the last book of the Bible, was written by St John after a series of dreams in which angels reveal prophecies to him. The words are spoken by Christ who is waiting patiently for us to turn to him and welcome him into our hearts. He won't force himself on us: we must make the choice to invite him to become our master and friend. The verse is illustrated in William Holman-Hunt's famous allegorical painting "The Light of the World".



Please follow Government requests and stay well: For more information on Covid-19 check the Government's own Public Health England website at:

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

Also: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing>

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

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

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

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

MAP
(Not to scale)



CLEANERS WANTED!

St Luke's needs help with cleaning the inside of the church.

If you could spare a couple of hours once every 6 weeks.

Please let me know!

Hazel Turner 01525 270404

VILLAGE DIARY

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

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Pilates – Group Matwork

Tuesday's 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs

Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs

Contact: 01525 270501/07973 158368

**AT THE TIME OF GOING TO PRESS THE COMMUNITY CENTRE
IS CURRENTLY CLOSED TO ALL HIRES EXCEPT THE BUTTONS
PRE-SCHOOL WHICH IS HOPING TO REOPEN 1ST JUNE**

Innovations

Tuesday's & Wednesday's 09.30– 15.30hrs

Contact: Yvonne 07846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Every Friday

Contact John Till 01525 261444

ART CLASSES – DJ Artworks

Thursday's 09.30 – 12.30hrs

Contact Deborah Johnson djartworks@hotmail.com

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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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

To upgrade to full colour on rear cover, additional per edition cost:

FULL Page – plus £15.00 HALF Page – plus £10.00 QUARTER Page – plus £5.00

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

Bucks County Council	01296-395000
Community Transport Co-ordinator	07729-699488
Registrar (<i>Births, Deaths & Marriages</i>)	01296-382581
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296-585858
Gypsy Hotline	01296-383774
Litter Enforcement Officer	01296-585395
Social Care Services (<i>Emergency Duty</i>)	01494-817750
MK General Hospital	01908-660033
Stoke Mandeville Hospital	01296-315000
Luton & Dunstable Hospital	01582-491122
SH Gardening Club (<i>Eileen Curry</i>)	01525 270858
Clerk to the Parish Council (<i>Sue Severn</i>)	01296 331816
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Greg Noble</i>)	01525-270744
County Councillor (<i>Janet Blake</i>)	01525-261288
District Councillor (<i>Neil Blake</i>)	01525-261288
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. (<i>Greg Smith</i>)	01296 714240
St Luke's Church (<i>Revd John Waller</i>)	01525 261062
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Diane Webber</i>)	01525 270409
St Luke's Church Warden (<i>Harry Davies</i>)	01234 822780
Stewkley Methodist Church (<i>Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly</i>)	01525 240589

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

Neighbourhood Watch Week
7th–13th June 2020

Stoke Hammond
a thankful village



Community Action Response | edenprojectcommunities.com

Celebrating neighbours #LetsStayConnected

ourwatch.org.uk/letsstayconnected

With thanks to Tony Husband

EDITORS NOTE

As this edition of the SH News was being put together, the Government introduced some relaxation of the COVID-19 lockdown, but it is still important that we continue to protect both you and our normal band of volunteer distributors. So once again this edition will not be delivered to households but limited copies will be available for collection from the Village Shop. This latest and past editions can be viewed/downloaded from the following two websites.

www.stokehammondpc.com

www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Many of the businesses that advertise in the SH News have been severely compromised by the COVID-19 Pandemic and in recognition of this and the fact the limited run of printed copies are not being delivered to homes, the advertising period for all advertisers will be extended by the number of months/editions that this lock down situation continues.

Take care everyone.

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



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

EDITORS NOTE: GARDEN WASTE (BROWN BIN) COLLECTIONS HAVE NOW BEEN REINSTATED FOLLOWING A BRIEF SUSPENSION OF THE SERVICE.

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 3 June		Wednesday 3 June	Wednesday 3 June
	Wednesday 10 June	Wednesday 10 June	
Wednesday 17 June		Wednesday 17 June	Wednesday 17 June
	Wednesday 24 June	Wednesday 24 June	
Wednesday 1 July		Wednesday 1 July	Wednesday 1 July
	Wednesday 8 July	Wednesday 8 July	
Wednesday 15 July		Wednesday 15 July	Wednesday 15 July
	Wednesday 22 July	Wednesday 22 July	
Wednesday 29 July		Wednesday 29 July	Wednesday 29 July