

SH NEWS

INSIDE THIS EDITION:
PARISH COUNCIL NEWS
G.O.M.
MAVIS'S QUIZ
EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO
CHURCH NEWS
PANCAKE RECIPE
BOOK CLUB & MUCH MORE

MARCH 2019 Issue 3

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Mandarin ducks pictured at Paper Mill Farm during last month's snow



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St LUKE'S, STOKE HAMMOND

Rector: Revd John Waller 01525 261062

March 3 rd	11.00	Family Service – Revd John Waller
March 10 th	09.00	Morning Worship – Phillippa Cook
March 17 th	09.00	Holy Communion – Revd John Waller
March 24 th	11.00	Holly Communion <i>Benefice Service</i> Revd John Waller
March 31 st	10.00	Family Service <i>Mothering Sunday</i> Valerie Kerr

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

Saturday 9 th March	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 13 th April	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)
Saturday 11 th May	08.30 – 10.30 (Last Orders)

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
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Revd Donna Broadbent-Kelly on 01525 240589

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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Some of you may already be aware, particularly if you've read the Editor's Notes in this edition of the SH News before reading this report, that the SH News is to become a bimonthly publication from next month. The main reason for this is simply down to cost. For many years the SH News was prepared, produced and funded by the Stoke Hammond Community Association (SHCA), but with an ever-increasing circulation which also encompassed the new homes in Newton Leys South (NLS) that fall within the Parish boundaries of Stoke Hammond, the monthly print run went from 400 to 600 plus copies in just a 2 year period. The SHCA could simply not absorb these costs so the Parish Council stepped in and has funded the SH News for the last few years. With circulation set to increase by another 200 households when the latest phase of new homes in NLS are occupied your PC felt it could no longer justify spending the amounts of monies involved in producing the SH News on a monthly basis, but as a community we do still need to have a platform for informing our parishioners of local news and events, and advertising the services of local businesses, hence the decision to go bimonthly which still services this need but drastically reduces the costs and leaves much needed funds available for other community needs. Current and past issues of the SH News can be viewed on both the SH Community Association website www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com and the PC website www.stokehammondpc.com

By the time this edition of the SH News lands on your doormats we are but a few days away from Parish Council Surgery to be held in the new Newton Leys Pavilion on the evening of Thursday 7th March. We do hope we are able to welcome and meet with our Parishioners in what will be a less formal setting to that of a normal PC Meeting.

Well it has taken nigh on two months but at long last the light above the pedestrian crossing has been fixed. First reported to Highways via the 'Fix My Street' portal in early December last year, and despite it being an obvious safety issue for people using the crossing, nothing much seemed to be happening. Then when chased Highways tried to suggest it was the responsibility of the PC. They quickly realised the errors of their ways when your PC rang Highways and pointed out that the light in question was on the same column as the belisha beacon and was thus most definitely their responsibility. The light was duly repaired a few days later, but it really should not be so difficult to get something like this sorted in good time.

So, to the February PC Meeting held on Tuesday 5th February, where we were joined by AVDC District Councillor Neil Blake who explained about his recent decision in resigning from the Conservative group as he was unhappy about how

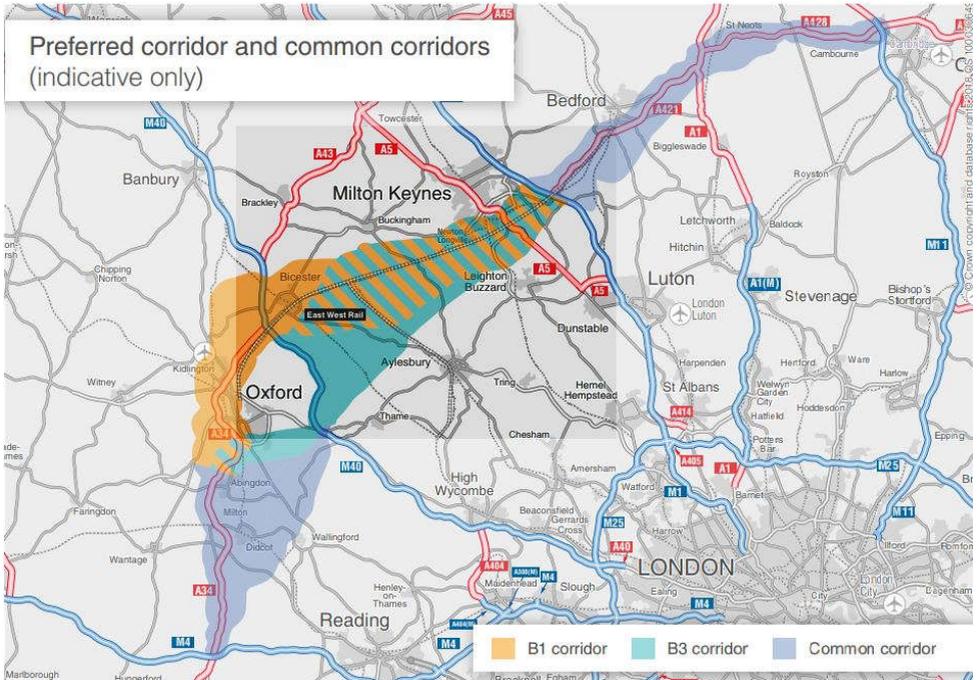
it was dealing with the unitary issue. He remains as an Independent Councillor and will continue in his support of the parishes.

During the public session of the meeting the subject of Brookfields the new housing development on the old garage site was raised and in particular the frontage onto the Leighton Road. Some felt that it was aggressive building which encroaches on the building line. Comments such as it being an eyesore and a hazard for traffic coming in and out of the main road. Both Highways and AVDC had been happy with the plans but in future they needed to be looked at more carefully to make sure they are correct. It was agreed that the matter should be referred to the enforcement officer to check for their compliance with the approved planning. And that was not all for AVDC planning as the resident from Papermill Farm told the meeting that he was extremely disappointed that their hydro application, which was supported by Great Brickhill Parish Council, had still not been determined. With it being a time critical application and with no new date yet been given for determination the resident advised he may be forced to lodge an appeal. District Cllr Neil Blake acknowledged there had been some staffing issues but there was now a full team in place in the planning department.

When the PC a few years ago decided to take over responsibility for the grass cutting throughout the village as part of a BCC devolved services agreement, The SH Green Team was formed, with grass cutting machinery and associated equipment purchased to take on this process. Over the ensuing years The Green Team has worked well at times, but at other times faltered due to shortage of staff and reliability of equipment. The PC has therefore decided to retain the services of a contractor to undertake all grass cutting throughout the village, not only that belonging to BCC but Parish owned land such as The Green and the Community Centre Land. It was confirmed at the PC meeting that tenders have now been sent out to several potential contractors and these tenders are to be back with the PC by the 22nd of February.

If you haven't heard about the Oxford to Cambridge Expressway then read on as it could impact on us and neighbouring villages. Highways for England has been investigating several possible corridors across Bucks for the proposed new road link between Oxford and Cambridge. Initially three corridor routes namely A, B and C were considered but the recommendation has narrowed this down to two routes within the B Corridor, namely B1 & B3 both of which comprise a central corridor broadly aligned with the proposed East-West rail route from Abingdon to South Milton Keynes via Winslow. Details of the exact proposed routes will be released for public consultation in Autumn of this year, but as you can see from the map on the following page, both of the B1 and B3 corridors for this locality encompass an area starting just north of Newton Longville down past Stoke

Hammond finishing north of Leighton Buzzard. So potentially any local villages and communities could be dramatically affected by what is the final determined route. More information can be found on the following website <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-to-cambridge-expressway/> and we will of course keep you updated as and when more information is released.



The next PC meeting is to be held on Tuesday 5th March 7.30pm at the usual venue of the Community Centre, Bragenham Side.



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

Sue Severn, 19 Curlew, Watermead, Bucks. HP19 0WG 01296 336575 07778 473392

clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com

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We want to make sure you're safe and while we can never stop scam calls completely, we're doing lots of things to make sure you stay protected.

For an easy way to stay safe, we've put together a list of common tricks that scammers use, so you know what to look out for.

It's probably a scam if someone calls you out the blue to:

- tell you that your service has been hacked
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If you want to report a scam or learn more about the free products we've made to help avoid them, you'll find information on bt.com/scams

Best wishes,
The BT Team



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THE Lindens

Here at The Lindens we are always very interested in history – of the old house and its setting, our residents and guests and how this may fit into the bigger historical picture. So, if you have any images of the old house and its links into the area, we would love to see them.

The home is fortunate to have several items of historical interest, including our ironwork gates, old safe door and carved column capitals.

In our grounds, we have a large ammonite fossil on display. Ammonites were sea creatures, related to the octopus and squid we see now.

Ammonites lived in spiral shells made from minerals and they grew these shells chamber by chamber as they increased in size. The creature moved around by squirting jets of water. When alive, they were very common ocean animals, becoming extinct about the same time as the dinosaurs, some 66 million years ago.



In medieval times they were thought to be fossilised snakes. Now these fossils are often used as an index, as the rock they are fossilised in can often be linked to specific geologic timescales. This helps to date not only the rock layers but the other fossils found around them.



If you would like to call in and join us for afternoon tea or if you are interested in working or volunteering here, please phone us and ask for Tina or Milli. We look forward to meeting you.

Chris Ryan

Manager, The Lindens.

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“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

Following last month's 'A small case of rape' we now reach our twelfth extract from the book 'Everything but the Moo' written by Hazel Turner's late mother Pam Murphy, we delve into the world of bulls and Artificial Insemination!

BULLY FO YOU!

Back in 1950, the cows could still have some fun in the farmyard. Almost every stock farm kept its own bull, or borrowed the use of one from a neighbour down the road. The Artificial Insemination Service was still only a gleam in the boffin's eye. Gents in waterproof suits with long plastic gloves, and a large stainless steel can, containing little drops of semen were a long way off.

Great care went into the selection of a bull. Pedigrees were studied, together with prices, milk records of his father, mother, sisters, and there was still about equal chances of picking a winner as there are now of winning the football pools or National Lottery. A good bull could make a herd, and a bad one ruin it, but since it takes nearly five years before there is any indication at all, and 7 years for proper proof, it is just a lottery.

The reason for this is that there is a nine month gestation period, two and a half years before the resultant daughter, if indeed he had a daughter or two (most bulls seem to start with a plethora of sons) calves, and then almost a year before she completes her lactation, and has shown whether she will give enough milk to ensure a place in the herd, with a good butterfat percentage. You need at least twenty daughters to come to a reliable decision, and during this time, he has been begetting further progeny. So a stumor is indeed a disaster, and a winner the answer to a farmer's prayers.

Gems Empire was our first bull, and came from Guernsey itself. A grandson of Herald of Maple Lodge (who had been hidden from the Germans in the middle of a haystack during the war), he was distantly related to several members of the herd, which was desirable.

Gems Empire travelled by sea, surviving a crossing of almost shipwreck magnitude, and settled into his new home at Tyrells Manor. He was a handful, having been used to graze on tether, with a rope around his horns and through his ring in the nose, as is custom in Guernsey. This, however, meant that his nose was "hard" and used to being pulled, as he reached for the luscious morsel of grass almost beyond his chain.

At an early age he learnt that he could have two herdsman dancing around his pull pole like a marionette by just throwing up his head at the crucial moment. A "garden" built out of his box, and surrounded by thick steel bars, with a steel lined door to his living quarters, and an escape hatch became essential. Alongside was

Stoke Hammond local Store

Under new management, the local shop has been refurbished and re-opened on 1st January 2011. It is currently known as "Stoke Hammond Food and Wine".



Opening hours are: Mon-Sat: 6am till 10pm
Sun: 7am till 10pm

Our products:

News & magazines	Beers, Wines & Sprits	Pet food
Confectionary & snacks	Soft Drinks	Health & Beauty products
Bread (inc. Turney's) & cakes	Tobacco & Cigarettes	Frozen food & Ice creams
Dairy products	Groceries	Greeting cards
Medicines	Baby food & other products	Household Sundries
Sandwiches & ready meals	Fruit & Vegetable	Stationary items

Other services:

- Paper delivery available for local residents (delivery charge is 25p per day).
- Negotiation is underway to re-open the post office as "Post Office Local"
- Pay-point/Top up services will be available.
- Cash machine will be available.
- Photocopier & passport photos will also be available.
- Pies and coffee will be introduced in the morning.

Exclusive Promotions:

Wines from £2.99	Beers from 6 for £5.50 <small>(500ml cans)</small>
-------------------------	--

Strong beers are from **£1.09** (500ml cans)

the serving pen, where the cow was left to await his attentions.



Gems Empire liked to take his time over the whole procedure. He liked to nuzzle the cow, make a few feints, go back into his pen for a bit and then at long last, he would jump. He got slower and slower as he grew older. Once a tired Hans, our German farm foreman who had been an English POW and who had not gone home, and who had fathered six offspring himself, was heard to mutter:- “Hurry up you old B... Gawd if I took as long as you, I would not get the chance more than once a twelve month!”

We had beginners luck with Gem, who certainly lived up to his name. His daughters were superb, in both milk and butterfat. The growing A. I. service expressed interest in purchasing him. This meant the most lengthy and complicated tests. Inspections, blood tests, sheath washing tests, to find out whether he had bovine equivalent of VD, and finally collection of his semen for microscopic examination.

A man from the Ministry appeared, bearing a rather nasty looking rubber contraption, about a two foot long in length and comprising of an inner and outer shell. Hot water was poured between the two, “to make it nice and warm for him!” and it was well greased. It was **supposed** to represent the cow’s vagina. I

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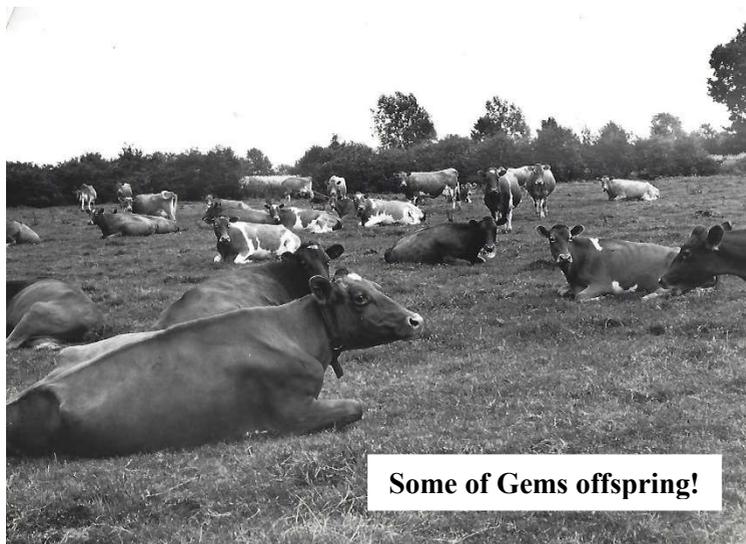
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did not think old Gems Empire would be fooled. He was not! He looked at the vet, the contraption, and the cow standing in the serving pen, who was not in that state of health known in the farmyard as “bulling”. (Unlike humans, cows are only interested every three weeks). Gem swung all his 15cwt around, and pinned the vet against the steel bars, and to make his intentions quite clear planted his foot firmly on the vet’s.

Released and complaining of being ruined for life, with at least two broken ribs and a broken foot, and he did not get danger money. The vet accepted a suggestion to come back another day when a cow was in season.

The next cow to come bulling was one of Gem’s daughters. Having kept an anxious crowd waiting for his customary 45 minutes, he jumped, and successfully served her, before the hideous contraption could be clamped on his private parts. He was all for a spot of incest! The third time was text book. He jumped, the thing was fitted on to him, and he gave oodles and oodles of semen. Wrigley, virile semen when looked at through the microscope. But in those days, semen was used fresh, not frozen as it is today, and it had to keep for at least 48 hours. In 36 hours all the lovely wriggles were still, and dead. Gems Empire could not be used for Artificial Insemination.



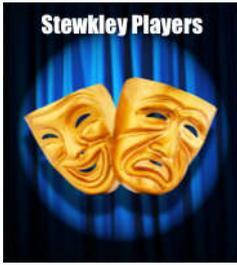
Some of Gems offspring!

He had thirteen happy years, leaving over 60 daughters in the herd, and a number of sons, some of whom did go into the A.I. circuit.

He got very arthritic towards the end, and we knew he would have to be put down. We were

all somewhat relieved when one morning we found him dead in his box. He looked so content, and obviously in the Elision fields -He had made the herd.

Next month : MEMORIES OF SCHOOL TEACHERS & FRIENDS.



Stewkley Players will be staging 'Stepping Out', their 121st production, in March. Stepping Out is a comedy play by Richard Harris about the attempts of amateurs who attend the same weekly tap dancing class in a North London church hall. Despite the students at first treating the classes as social occasions, and showing little co-ordination they are encouraged by Mavis, a former chorus girl, to learn some dancing skills for a recital at a charity benefit. But before the dancing begins, Mavis must mediate the minor dramas that erupt among this loveable crew on their way to the show. A fabulous fun night out with a real "feel good" factor! **Please see the advert on the adjoining page for details**

MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to identify the breed of dog from the given description. So how did you do?

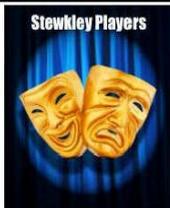


- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| (1) DALMATION | (2) POODLE | (3) ALSATION | |
| (4) CORGI | (5) COLLIE | (6) IRISH WOLFHOUND | |
| (7) LABRADOR | (8) PAPILION | (9) PEKINGESE | (10) ENGLISH BULLDOG |

Now for something different again this month – can you provide the surnames and relationship of the following people ??

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) George & Henry | (2) Margaret & Mark |
| (3) Alec & Eric | (4) Pat & Stirling |
| (5) Andrew & Julian | (6) Paul & Stella |
| (7) James & Andy | (8) Graham & Damon |
| (9) Richard & David | (10) Jonathon & Richard |
| (11) Serena & Venus | (12) David & John |
| (13) Joan & Jackie | (14) Dennis & Leslie. |
| (15) Kirk & Michael | (16) Jonny & Zoe |

***Best of luck, and again no cheating on the internet !!
Answers next month***



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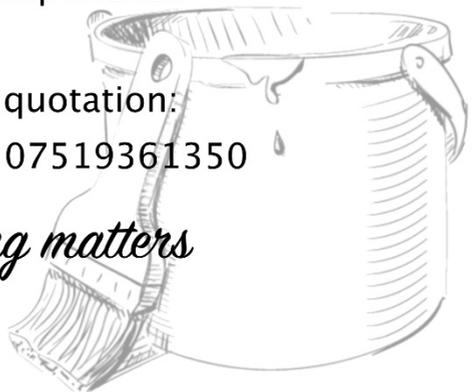
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IT'S ONLY A NUMBER

I'm not a number I am a free man. So said the Prisoner more years ago than I care to remember. Looking back I disagree. I'm not a number I'm more numbers than I can actually remember. It started on the birth certificate when I was given a National Health Service number. This later became a National Insurance number - probably to enable the authorities to collect money before ever giving some back. Now I have a passport number, a tax reference number a VAT registration number etc.etc.. Fortunately being young enough (and I don't say that very often) to have avoided conscription I do not have a Service number to remember.

Customer numbers however I have in abundance - the only important ones relating to wine clubs. Most of these require confirmation passwords in addition. I therefore have a list as long as your arm which I need as I couldn't possibly remember them all (with the possible exception of the wine clubs!). I know you're not supposed to keep these things written down but how else? For the really important accounts which could be scammed for my life savings (a fictional amount approaching three figures after pension day) I do not write these passwords and numbers down. That would be silly. I have one password/number which I use for a variety of accounts. Not very security conscious but I can remember one number and I have never had the embarrassment of forgetting it at the head of a queue in the supermarket or at a cash machine!

The question of numbers was brought up a month or so back when I was bemoaning the fact of getting old (well older). A female friend suggested that getting old was all in the mind. If you think like a 30 year old then you are 30. Age is only a number. She had a birthday on 1st of this month and I've not heard from her since. Coincidence?

In conclusion I would say that there is only one important number and that when it's up it's up and there's nothing you can do about it.

Grumpy Old Man

Newly resurfaced and repainted courts at Great Brickhill Tennis Club!

The refurbished courts are now open for all members to enjoy so why not come along and try one of the courses on our Autumn coaching programme.

There is something for everyone, whatever age or level of tennis you are.

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Even if you don't play tennis you may find our Cardio Tennis of interest

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- Pay and play option available for £6 per session

* - you don't need to be a member to join the Cardio Tennis course but we hope you'll choose to join when you discover how much fun you can have!

Go online for more information and to book your place!



clubspark.lta.org.uk/greatbrickhilltc



Stoke Hammond Sports Club
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New to Stoke Hammond...

Joyful Tots

- A place where we play, learn and share together
- For parents, Carers, or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child
- Our regular session is now 10 – 11.30am on Friday mornings during term times at Stoke Hammond Community Centre
- £2 per family – light refreshments provided (but no charge for your first session!)
- Can't make the date but still interested? Give us a ring to let us know times and days you'd prefer
- For more information Call Jacklen 07897 487657 or Diane 01525 270409



Joyful Tots have been meeting regularly through this half term, apart from the “Snow-day” when we felt it would be safer to stay in our homes rather than venture out!

We are buying new equipment and toys as we go, and have a lovely new colourful carpet! Toddlers recently enjoyed stamping bingo dabbers over a huge sheet of paper!

Come for a free trial visit to see what you think!



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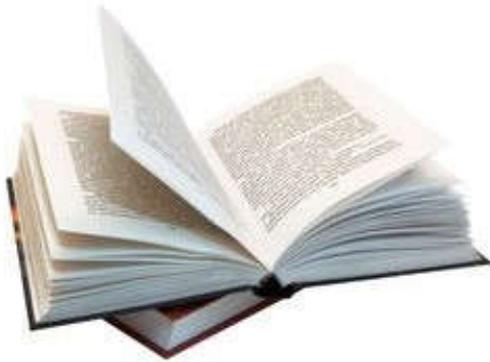
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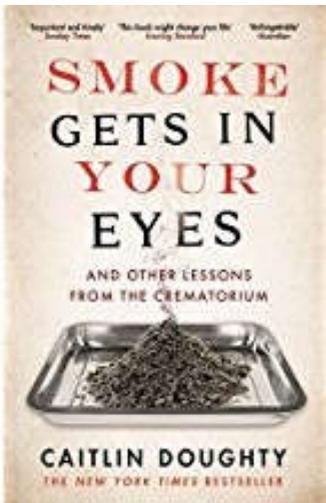
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



'SMOKE GETS IN YOUR EYES' by Caitlin Doughty



Well, this was a most unusual book dealing with the memoirs of the Author's work at a Crematorium in America. It relates her many experiences in rather graphic detail - in my opinion 'too much information'.

To my surprise the group's reaction was mostly favourable. It was described as well written, interesting and one of our members felt that she gained valuable knowledge from it, although she would not want to read anything else by this author, whilst another thought that everyone should read it to give them a realistic, calm and more relaxed view of dying. Although a challenging read it was considered to be well researched, particularly into other cultures, and written with a certain amount of humour and enthusiasm. Referring to the inevitable the quote that 'exercise, organic food and plastic surgery only works up to a point' was well received!

Myself, plus one or two others, did not feel like reading it all but although some of the group were doubtful at first, they persevered and were glad they did.

Next month's book is '**Once we were Sisters**' by Sheila Kohler



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LADIES THAT LUNCH



We had 13 ladies attending in February and it was a lovely chatty time. Any lady is welcome to attend. It costs £2 a month, and you are served soup and a roll, followed by cake or biscuits, tea and coffee. Valerie serves the soup dead on 12.30 so don't be late. We finish between 1.30 and 1.45 so plenty of time to walk the dog or fetch children or grandchildren from school or nursery! If you haven't been before we are all friendly but could you let us know if you are coming for catering purposes. We nearly ran out of soup last month! Thank you to the Sports Club committee for letting us host it each month. The dates for the next one is March 5th, and the one after that is on April 2. In May it will be on May 7th.

Hazel Turner 01525 270404. Or Valerie 270361. Answer phones available on both numbers.

READERS LETTERS



***Dear Editor-** I am rather upset about the amount of dog poo in the churchyard, particularly the amount on some of the graves. Out of respect for the families who visit regularly I have picked it up and put it in the red bin outside the churchyard. Terry has already started to mow the public footpath in and around the churchyard so it would be a courtesy to him if dog owners would pick up their pooches pool! Don't forget the fine, if caught is a massive £7000.*

Many thanks to all those who already dispose of the faeces properly, it is deeply appreciated. Hazel Turner



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E.MAIL : tebbutt.j@sky.com



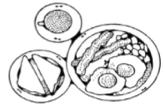
TEBBUTT PAINTINGS



Church News

Review:

Community Breakfast: The circular tables proved popular at another successful Community breakfast. Regular customers invited their weekend guests to join us in a steady flow through the morning. Several people supplied food items for the Food Cupboard – many thanks for your support and thanks also to our helpers Sue, Valerie, Margaret and Liz.



The Bible Course: Our Bible Course has now finished and those who attended really enjoyed it. In fact it was so worthwhile we're considering running another course in the future so if you're interested, please let us know and we'll put you on the waiting list! More information can be found at: <https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/the-bible-course/>



Forthcoming events:

Community Breakfast: We'll be holding our Community Breakfast again on **Saturday 9th March**, serving breakfast **from 8.30 till 10.30am**. A few people have said they don't eat cooked breakfast. We also have cereals, toast and pastries available, or just have a drink! It's not just about the food, it's about meeting your neighbours too! We've started a regular collection for the **food bank**, so please bring your donations with you. Prayer request cards will be also available and are always treated confidentially.



Prayer meetings: Our prayer meetings are open to all denominations so please join us if you wish! There'll be meetings at **8pm on Wed 13th and 27th March** at **The Birches,**



Church Rd this month. If you'd like to come to a prayer meeting, but are worried about praying, you needn't be – it's perfectly OK to come and listen and just pray silently with us if you wish! If you'd like to join us or if you'd like prayers for someone, please call John Bowler, as we sometimes change times, dates or location.

Lent group: We've held a Lent course in the village for many years now. The course usually lasts 5 weeks and looks at Bible chapters or specific themes. Last year we studied the Beatitudes (Matt 5 v 1-12). We haven't decided this year's subject, but the course will run on Tuesday afternoons. (There's often a parallel course run on Wednesday evenings for those who can't make the daytime course). We usually start with a soup lunch then a short prayer, read a passage and discuss it. If you're interested, please contact a church member. Further details will follow next month.



Special services:

Mothering Sunday service: This year our service will be held on **Sunday 31st March** at **10am** and will be led by Valerie Kerr. Families are particularly welcome and there will be a gift for all Mothers.

Dates for your diary:

Recipe for Pancakes!

As most of you will know, Tuesday 5th March is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Mardi gras or (to us) pancake day. Traditionally, Christians would finish off rich and indulgent foods in preparation for the forty day fasting period of Lent, leading up to Easter. Here's a recipe for pancakes that you can try at home:

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp vegetable (rapeseed) oil, plus a little extra for frying
- 100g plain flour
- Pinch of salt
- 2 large eggs
- 300ml milk
- lemon wedges to serve (optional)
- caster sugar to serve (optional)



Method

1. Put the flour and salt in a large bowl and make a hollow (dip) in the centre. Break the 2 large eggs into a cup one at a time and pour them into the hollow. Stir the eggs into the flour until they've absorbed as much flour as they can. (The mixture will look lumpy, but don't worry). Add the vegetable oil and carry on stirring.
2. Add the milk a little at a time – you're trying to make a smooth paste. Once the mixture starts to loosen, you can use a hand whisk or an electric whisk to beat the mixture further and add the remaining milk a little at a time (if you add it all at once, the milk will spray everywhere when you start to beat the mixture!) The mixture will eventually become smooth and have the texture of thick single cream.
3. Set aside in the fridge for 30 mins to rest if you have time, or start cooking straight away.
4. Set a medium non stick or well seasoned frying pan over a medium heat and carefully wipe it with some oiled kitchen paper.
5. When very hot, pour a ladleful of batter into the pan. Quickly tip the pan to move the mixture around for a thin and even layer of batter on the bottom of the pan. Return the pan to the heat and cook your pancakes for 1 min or so on each side until golden, keeping them warm in a low oven as you go. (Just to warn you, the first pancake never seems to come out as well as the rest!)
6. Serve with lemon wedges and caster sugar, or your favourite filling. Enjoy!

Shrove Tuesday (Pancake day): Tuesday 5th March – don't forget your lemons!

Palm Sunday: 14th April (6pm Holy Communion followed by AGM at 6.30pm)

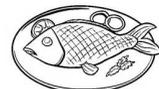
Good Friday: 19th April (Church open from 12 to 3 for quiet reflection)

Easter Day: 21st April (9am Holy Communion service led by Rev John Waller)

Plant Sale: 27th April on the village green

What traditions are associated with the Easter season?:

February 2018's Church News covered traditions associated with **Lent**, including **fasting** (you can read the report on the **Church Benefice Website** URL below). Traditionally, no meat could be eaten during Lent (except on Sundays which don't count as part of Lent because they're feast days: every Sunday celebrates Easter Sunday, when we were all redeemed by Jesus' death). Fish are cold blooded so they could be eaten, but in Tudor times, wealthy individuals (like Henry VIII) got fed up of eating fish and stretched the rules to include the "fish" porpoises and seals!



The subject of **Mothering Sunday** was covered in last March's Church News (also on the website). One of the traditions of Mothering Sunday was that domestic servants visiting their mothers, took a **simnel cake**. Simnel cake, known since medieval times, is a light fruit cake eaten during the Easter season. It has two layers of marzipan, one



in the middle and one on top. The top layer has a circle of "eggs" also made of marzipan. The eggs represent the apostles either 11 (without Judas) or 12. There are many ideas of where they got their name. One is that a mythical couple, Simon and Nelly, fell out over making a Simnel. One wanted to boil it, one to bake it and, after beating each other with household implements, they compromised by using both cooking techniques! Another idea is just that the word simnel could be derived from the Latin word *simila*, meaning fine, wheat flour.

Bible verses of the month: *Matthew 7 v 1-2: Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.*

What does it mean? These verses caution the reader to avoid judging others: we rarely know all the full circumstances. The reader is also warned that they will be judged by the same criteria they use on others and as we all know, we're not perfect and make mistakes from time to time, so be generous with your mercy and it will be returned to you - Shakespeare's "Measure for measure" was based on verse 2 !

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

If you want to come to a service, all church service times are listed on the website, along with contact details for the Rector. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he will reply as soon as he's able. The Rector's day off is Monday.

Church news articles are available to read on the benefice website (click on Stoke Hammond in the list and scroll down to Stoke Hammond Newsletters)

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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 LU7 2PJ

Wednesday's 6.00pm - 7.00pm
 Trinity Methodist Church Hall,
 North Street
 Leighton Buzzard
 LU7 1ES

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OR CALL GREG NOBLE ON 01525 270744

High Ash C of E School Parish Council Newsletter

Grow Together Shine Forever

'Let your light shine' Matthew 5:16

Parish Newsletter

February 2019

We have had a busy half term here at School and the children have been really enthused by their new topics which has been wonderful to see. They will be learning about some equally exciting topics when they return after half term; including Greek Myths, pirates and the history of the Tudors!

Sporting News - we have had some fantastic results in the recent sporting events we have attended. Some of our Year 5 and 6 children represented High Ash School at a Basketball Festival and successfully came third, after competing against 12 other local schools. This secured High Ash a place in the basketball finals which takes place on Tuesday 26th February.

The Year 3 and 4 children have also been representing the school at a Hockey Festival and more of our Year 5 and 6 children have been involved in a recent 7-a-side football league match against Newton Longville where we won 3-2!

Events coming up

Monday 25th February - Children return to school after February half term

Tuesday 26th February - Yr 5/6 Basketball Finals at The Buckingham School

Wednesday 27th February - Winter Disco 3.30 - 6.00pm

Thursday 28th March - Prosecco & Pamper Evening 7.00-9.00pm at the School (fundraising event for the school - all welcome!)

Sara J Boyce

Sara Boyce
Headteacher

headteacher@highash.bucks.sch.uk





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The Orchard is fully accessible for anyone with limited mobility. It is regretted however that pets cannot be accommodated.

For more information please contact:

The Orchard Private Hotel, Stewkley, Buckinghamshire LU7 0HR

Tel: 01525 240 240 Fax: 01525 240 464

Email: orchardstewkley@supanet.com



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Supporters must be 16 years of age or older. Sign up before 30th March 2019

Terms and conditions apply – see website*.



VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 5 th March	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 5 th March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Thursday 7 th March	Parish Surgery – Newton Leys Pavilion 19.00 – 21.00
Thursday 7 th March	Gardening Club AGM – Sports Club 19.00/19.30 start
Friday 8 th March	Fashion Show – Sports Club 19.00
Saturday 9 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 2 nd April	Ladies that Lunch – Sports Club 12.30 – 13.45
Tuesday 2 nd April	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre 19.30
Saturday 13 th April	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs, Beavers

Every Thursday 17.30 - 21.30hrs
Contact: John Till 01525 261444

Buttons Pre-School

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

Pilates - Group Matwork

Monday's 09.25, 10.30, 11.45, 19.10 & 20.15hrs
Contact: Louisa Harris 07941 203589

Slimming World

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

Joyful Tots

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

To Hire the Hall please telephone 07555 711929 or e-mail: shcommunitycentre@gmail.com

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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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	07743-355484
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
District Councillor (<i>Ben Everitt</i>)	07817-756158
High Ash School	01525-261620
M.P. (<i>John Bercow</i>)	020-7219-6346

Police non-emergency number 101

EDITORS NOTE

As you may have read within the Parish Council News report, this edition of the SH News is the last monthly version and from next month we become a bimonthly publication. So, next month's publication will in fact be the April/May edition. The PC News report covers the reasons for changing to a bimonthly publication so I won't reiterate them here, but there are some other advantages in becoming a bimonthly publication, aside from the obvious like less panic and pressure for our contributors when the normal monthly deadline looms. Relief for the feet of our volunteer delivery people who can now have every alternate month off. But it should also mean we can increase the amount and quality of our content to make the SH News a more interesting and entertaining read and bring more news to you the people who reside in the Parish of Stoke Hammond.

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

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



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

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

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  <small>Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins</small>	Food Waste Bin:  <small>Non-recyclable or compostable.</small>	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 27 Feb		Wednesday 27 Feb	Wednesday 27 Feb
	Wednesday 6 Mar	Wednesday 6 Mar	
Wednesday 13 Mar		Wednesday 13 Mar	Wednesday 13 Mar
	Wednesday 20 Mar	Wednesday 20 Mar	
Wednesday 27 Mar		Wednesday 27 Mar	Wednesday 27 Mar
	Wednesday 3 Apr	Wednesday 3 Apr	
Wednesday 10 Apr		Wednesday 10 Apr	Wednesday 10 Apr

Stoke Hammond



a thankful village

Stoke Hammond Parish Council Surgery Newton Leys South

**THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2019
7pm to 9pm at Newton Leys Pavilion**

Residents of Newton Leys South are represented by Stoke Hammond Parish Council.

Your Parish Councillors will be holding a Surgery at Newton Leys Pavilion from 7pm to 9pm. Meet a Parish Councillor and discuss any matters regarding the Parish, or let us know if we can help in connection with living in Newton Leys South.

If you would like to send us your question in advance, please email clerk.stokehammondpc@gmail.com or call our office on 01296 336575

Everyone welcome. We look forward to meeting you

Sue Severn

Clerk to Stoke Hammond Parish Council

www.stokehammondpc.com