

SH NEWS

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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

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THE ROYAL BRITISH
LEGION



POPPY APPEAL

2020

the 99th year

The appeal will go ahead this year but in a reduced and extremely limited form as the veterans are in need following on from the virus that hit in March. If we are not in total lockdown there will be poppies and a limited supply of metal 2020 badges (just 50) available to buy. It is hoped that there will be a collecting tin in the Food and Wine Store in the village and a box in the Sports Club. I will also have supplies here at Maples, Church Road. It is hoped too that some supermarkets and banks will have supplies but they will not be widely available this year and there are NO house to house collections permitted anywhere.

The Church service is allowed to go ahead (wreaths are here already) and the service will start at 10.45 on SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER and be led by Jeremy Hopkinson. HOWEVER places are strictly limited to 20, so please inform Diane Webber 270409 if you are intending to come so seating is COVID Secure.

Please support the appeal in any way you can. Many thanks for your previous support.



Hazel Turner
Poppy Appeal Organiser
Soulbury & Stoke Hammond



PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Well whilst most naturally of course COVID-19 is still very much determining how we go about our day to day lives, particularly with the latest restrictions announced by Boris on the day that this PC News was being put together (Tuesday 22 September).

The other major talking point in recent weeks was the large Willow tree at the entrance to Bragenham Side, that fell in high winds and did for several hours completely block any vehicle or persons from entering or exiting Bragenham Side. Luckily no persons were injured or property damaged but this could so easily have gone the other way and what is most



The fallen tree viewed from Bragenham Side



The fallen tree viewed from the Leighton Road

galling is that needn't of happened at all, for some of you may recall from the last PC News, that we had been in contact with Anglian Water whose land this tree sits and advised that the tree was in serious need of attention, but they did nothing, well not until after the event! We must however thank the Bucks

Highways Emergency team who despite suffering a huge workload that day, prioritised this incident and cleared the road, just a few hours after it being first reported.

Still on the subject of trees, you may recall that earlier this year we had to have the Chestnut tree on the Village Green removed, after it was diagnosed by specialists as being badly diseased. Our intention at the time was to plant a replacement semi mature tree and we are now turning our attention to this. However, it seems after some informal conversations with parishioners, that there may be a divide regarding those that would like a replacement tree planted and those that prefer the village green as it is now.

So, before making any decisions, we'd very much like to get a bigger picture of what parishioners would like.

The Parish Council would love to know what you think

Our Clerk posted a voting poll on the village Facebook site earlier this month and a ballot box was placed in the shop for those parishioners that do not use social media.

Both systems are still available for voting if you have not already done so.

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As you can see by the front cover photograph to this edition of the SH News, the wildflower Meadow created by your PC earlier this year on what was affectionally known as the old tip site* on Bragenham Side is at last starting to come into bloom, and the area is displaying a wide variety of flowers in some magnificent colours.

** For those new to the village this area on Bragenham Side was many many years ago a quarry which then became the rubbish tip for the village of Wing. Eventually once full, it was filled over to become the grassed common land area we see today.*

With no PC meeting in August, Tuesday September 1 was the first to be held since the Extraordinary Meeting of July 21. Your PC were joined by Cllr Scott Raven, Phil Gomm and 4 members of the public. The Zoom video platform again being employed.

Among matters discussed was the replanting of some new hedgerow to replace that which had died along the boundary to the PC owned land on Bragenham Side, and once again we have to thank a kind villager who donated a sum of money towards this cost. It was also agreed to purchase a new waste bin for the Village Green of a style more in keeping with the two memorial benches that were newly installed last year. Back to Bragenham Side, where the PC will be instructing our contractor to instal a final few posts so as to cordon off the land adjacent to the PC owned garages, plus replace the further broken post to the Old Pump site on Newton Road. The PC had hoped to confirm the installation of a new Stoke Hammond Village Entrance Sign on the Newton Road, but we still await confirmation from relevant parties as to an agreed location, which hopefully will be firmed up at our October meeting.

As to planning matters there were four applications to be considered:

20/02340/APP Barn 2. Hunters Lodge, Leighton Road – seemed a fairly straightforward application for a single storey rear extension, not visible from the road and in sympathy with the building and that surrounding. The application was supported by the PC.

20/02554APP Paper Mill Farm – for the erection of a new hay barn had already been recommended for approval by the planning officer and been supported by Great Brickhill PC. Your PC saw no reason not to support this application and thus did so.

20/02421/ACL Old Dairy Farm House, Orchard Mill Lane – was seeking a certificate of lawfulness for a building converted into a single dwelling in 2005. Given the period of time that that had elapsed since the conversion, the statute of limitations had now expired, so there were no grounds on which to make comment. Your PC therefore had no objections to this application.

20/02446/APP 22 Bragenham Side – for both a single and double storey extension, seemed in keeping with other extensions carried out to properties in the immediate vicinity and was deemed to not have any detrimental impact on neighbours or the street scene. Councillors were unanimous in their support for this application.

Over the years there has been much talk about the layby on the Fenny Road with the continual fly tipping issues and as to how canal boaters seem to set up permanent moorings even creating their own sort of garden/parking areas. So, what is to be done? Well the PC Clerk and Phil Gomm met up with Highways to discuss possible options. The first which was quickly discarded was to erect industrial bins to encourage the boat

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people to use these rather than dump rubbish on the verges. The second was to gate off the entrances to the layby, which would still enable Highways to use the layby for winter salt storage, with the third to close off the layby altogether. These and other options all have pros and cons and on their own may not offer a viable or practical solution. The Highways department felt they would like the SHPC to take the lead on this particularly if the view was to close the layby altogether. It was felt Councillors need more time to think this over and will revert to the subject at the October PC meeting.

We were advised by Cllr Scott Raven that there is a National Covid-19 Honours Scheme, for individuals who you believe have gone above and beyond in their efforts to help and support people in these most difficult of times. Should you wish to nominate someone you can do so via the following website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-honours-nomination-form>

The next PC Meeting is to be held at 7.30pm Tuesday 6th October via Zoom. If you would like to log in, please email the PC Clerk who will send you a log in link. Details can also be found on our website and will be published on the Village FB page nearer the time



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

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

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

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Hello! We have had a fantastic few weeks back at Little Ashes, and we are delighted to welcome our returning children, and see so many new little faces too.

We now offer 8.30am- 3.00pm provision, with our afternoons spent outside in our brand new Forest School. We love the afternoons in our incredible outdoor space. We have access to play parks, woodland, an allotment, and coming soon will be our brand new outdoor classroom.

Our indoor sessions are flourishing too, with the parish hall recently having been renovated beautifully.

Little Ashes Pre-School is the perfect Pre-School for your child's bright future. We are situated in the beautiful village of Great Brickhill, have served the community for over 50 years, and we are a charity governed by a parent volunteer committee.



We are delighted to be able to offer socially distanced tours of the pre-school.

Get in touch for more information!

“EVERYTHING BUT THE MOO”

Only a few extracts left now. This time we look at Pam’s life after her working life comes to an end.

“RETIREMENT”

First a comment from Pam’s daughter Hazel Turner: My mother retired later than most women – she was sixty eight in fact. Her hearing was becoming worse and she was suffering appalling pain from her arthritic hips, although she would never admit it to outsiders. She was finding delivering Cowpact, which she loved doing locally, more and more difficult.

Jum Vyse had an accident with his hand in one of the machines and after it was better he asked whether or not he could go on selling Cowpact under licence. This was agreed upon, and my mother retired. Then tragedy struck, Frances, Jim and Jane’s eldest daughter contracted cancer having been hit on the rib cage with a netball.

The Cowpact story continues:

Running a business from hospital, armed with a mobile telephone is no easy task as Jim will tell you, but in 1998 he and his wife Jane, who is a lecturer in Horticulture, received the news that Frances, their eleven year old daughter had developed a rare sort of cancer. She had a growth on one rib, too large initially to operate on, and she would have to undergo chemotherapy to try and reduce it to an operable size. It was devastating for the whole family, including eight year old Caroline. Frances had to be told that she must have treatment, otherwise she would die; something the whole family had come to terms with as a possibility.

Frances started treatment immediately, and life was totally disrupted, because one or other parent had to be in hospital during the one week in three when she was having chemotherapy. When Frances was at home she required constant attention, as she was very weak, and susceptible to every infection. A slight rise in temperature and she had to go back into hospital, often in the middle of the night. Frances was a very brave little girl, who initially stood the treatment well, the growth reduced and was removed just before Christmas 1988, and she continued on chemotherapy for another few months, tests showed there was no sign of re-growth.

Frances, a keen girl guide received their award for bravery. Personally I felt the entire family should have received one particularly Caroline who was left with many different kind neighbours in Adstock during the years of her treatment.

Jim and Jane continued their “Box and Cox” life. Jim stayed with Frances during the day time, and ran Cowpact products from a small room at the back of his garage at home. Jane took over the caring for Frances at night. Sick children need full time

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parental support as well as the marvelous skills of the specialised nursing and medical staff.

In May 1989 during the Chelsea Flower Show, Frances managed to get to the Cowpact Stand on Wednesday 24th May to present a cheque for over £500 that Cowpact customers and friends had given to the John Radcliffe (Oxford) Children's Cancer Fund. It was received by a mother of one of France's friends who did not survive the treatment.

It was about this time that Stephanie Taylor, Terry and Hazel's young niece was diagnosed with a brain tumour and was rushed to Great Ormond Street Hospital. The same treatment applied, and Stephanie who had to have the tumour removed was very ill – it was a nightmare for everybody. Stephanie was extremely brave too, and when she was, to her way of thinking getting better, she asked to go riding again. A Welsh riding centre for the disabled stepped in and said they could help, and Stephanie enjoyed a week's riding in her favourite surroundings.

Sadly neither child recovered. Frances Mary Vyse born May 15 1977 died with the family at her bedside on April 19th 1991. On Saturday April 27th at St. Celia's Adstock the Church was packed to overflowing with all the family's friends and medical staff.

“And she will fly
Like some little bird
Straight into the sky
The dream was never over
The dream has just begun”

Stephanie Taylor died on October 10 1991, her funeral a week later was on Charles' birthday, at Watford Crematorium, again it was packed. Both children had been immensely popular.

A month before Stephanie's death I was fired by the Industrial Tribunal because I was “too old!”. ***(If this was what retirement was about my mother certainly did not approve!)***

I was appointed to the Industrial Tribunals in 1974 as a representative of the NFU, for reasons that would now be illegal. I was a woman. Employers representatives are appointed by the CBI. The National Farmers Union had complained that they were inadequately represented. They told they could have as many they wanted, provided “They are either women, black and fulfil fairly stringent requirements”. These were, members of the NFU in their own right, ten years management experience including the hiring and firing a staff of at least six employees. There were not a lot of candidates, and having those qualifications, I was asked to put my name forward.

I agreed. Filled in horrendous CV forms, and was duly told I was appointed as a probationer. I attended training sessions, and was eventually appointed.

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Industrial Tribunals consist of a Legal Chairman, either solicitor or barrister (full time or part time, a representative of the CBI for the employers, and a Trades Union representative, who is often a full time Trades Union official. We should be available twice a month to sit at the nearest Regional Office (often sittings are cancelled) and it averages about 15 days a year, plus cases that go on for more than a day. We do get paid – tax deducted, including expenses, and on a long day this worked out at a net of £1.50 per hour!

Industrial Tribunals receive a shocking press. The only cases worth reporting are sexy cases, or those which appear daft – like the famous case of employees who tucked themselves under duvets with their hotties. Sexy cases – we always got the press there – and I sat on one where we had two independent chairman too, listening in for a bit of fun. Otherwise 99% are dreary cases. However, the sexy cases are few and far between – thank goodness!

The others are not as daft as reported. If an employer allows something to become “custom and practice” – and turns a blind eye – a new manager CAN NOT suddenly sweep clean. If it is the custom for employees to go to bed, go to play cards, or just do their own thing, when they have finished work, but still in working hours, the employer MUST issue a warning. This MUST be relayed to all employees, those who are on holiday, sick, those who can not read, and those who only speak German, or whatever, that in future, anyone found away from their place of work during working hours will be dismissed. If you allow employees to take scrap and waste material, or for example the milk, eggs, wood or other produce that they require, and this is “Custom and Practice” – you CAN NOT dismiss them for “theft” unless you have made it quite clear that this will be the case.

Basically you must have not only contracts of employment, but also Terms and Condition, to include details of what employees are entitled to, in the way of notice and “perks”, and rules regarding dismissal. Instant dismissals can be for “Gross Misconduct” – Theft, drunkenness, Under the influence of drugs, assault, or in certain circumstances, failure to obey a reasonable, legal order. The last you have to be a bit careful on, like Peter the Apostle, there should be three refusals, and the reasons investigated.

The job of the Industrial Tribunal is to evaluate not what WE would have done, but what a reasonable employer, having regard to the circumstances and the equity of the case, would have done.

Unfortunately, many employers have little knowledge, and or scant regard for the law, and we did hear some Dickensian cases, of employees being dismissed, because the boss got out of bed the wrong side, or took a dislike to someone. We heard so many sad stories, from both sides. We had to judge whether what happened was fair or unfair.

It was a fascinating job, and terribly demanding, because you have to be so alert,



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to interpret not only what is being said, but tones of voice, facial expressions, a bit of lip reading, and what is not being said, plus reading between the lines.

When I was first appointed seventeen years ago, I thought I would always be on the side of the employer. It is not so. Out of several hundred cases I have sat on, only twice have I differed from my Trades Union colleague, and in both cases he was for the employer and I for the employee. The Chairman has the casting vote, but we do argue it out with him, and once the lay members, of which I was one, got the Chairman's reluctant agreement to an unfair dismissal in a nationally famous case. Their Lordships said that "The only conclusion that the tribunal could have come to was that it was an unfair dismissal", when three courts higher, the case reached the House of Lords.

You can sack employees, But do ask yourself, before you do so – "Has he/she been employed for LESS than two years, including holiday entitlement?"

"Do I have Terms and Conditions that cover the offence for which dismissal is justified?"

"If it is redundancy, can I prove reduction in work and or changes in requirements. Have I offered alternative work, if available? Even if at a lesser salary?"

"If someone is no use – have I given a warning – verbal, then in writing, as a final warning? Painful but essential."

Do remember, that "blowing your top" can cost you thousands if you sack someone unfairly. And finally a little known fact, if you make deductions from an employee's wages, without giving them an itemised pay statement, you could be liable for the deductions even though legal.

To sum up you must have: 1. Contracts of Employment for employees with thirteen weeks service, 2. Terms and Conditions of Employment, 3. Itemised pay slips and 4. (optional) Insurance to cover you for "Errors of Judgement".

In the hundreds of cases I have sat on I have only ever had one connected with agriculture.

It has been the most interesting and instructive job. I have learnt so much about other industries. I am sad I am now retired.

Next Time: AND FINALLY



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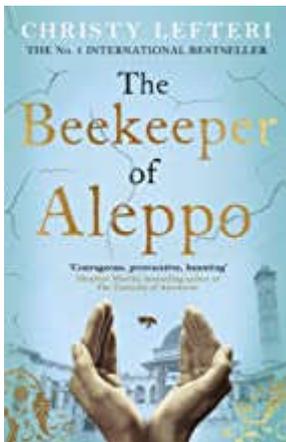
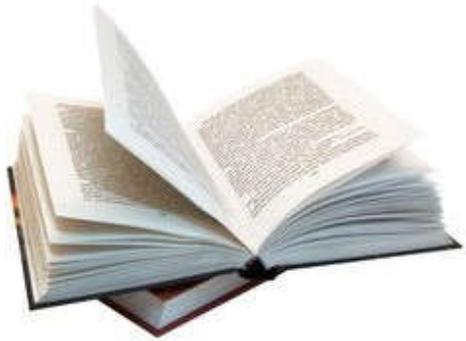
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STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



After several months of inactivity in the Book Club we decide that we would buy a book and arrange a date to meet, sit in a garden and shout at one another from at least 2 meters apart resulting in hopefully getting things up and running in some form or another. So, we bought 'The Beekeeper of Aleppo' by Christy Lefteri.

The book was about a family living a happy and fairly prosperous life in the lovely city of Aleppo in Syria. The character in the title was the head of a family and he and his partner ran a successful and large Apiary producing high quality honey, much sought after. Sadly, their life was shattered by war and a bomb killed his small son, blinded his wife and devastated his business. He was determined to get away to Europe but there were a million difficulties.....

The reactions to the book were fairly similar. Although one or two thought it difficult to get in to and similar to things they had read in the news it was also thought to be moving and topical, well written and it illustrated the difference between people fleeing for economic reasons or fearing for their lives - thus changing many of our views on refugees. It was interesting to see how friendships blossomed in dire circumstances and made one realise the strength and suffering of those having to flee from persecution not only in these times but in the past. Overall, it was thought to be a good read, well written, informative, sensitive and definitely food for thought.

'Our next book was supplied by Sally as our usual source, the library, is not yet functioning. It is 'The Donor' by Clare Mackintosh - a complete contrast in all directions.

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Joyful Tots

...but not right now, as we've closed for the virus season.

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- A friendly place where we play, learn and share together
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- Facebook: Joyful Tots**



Sadly we weren't able to start up in September as we're defined as a social rather than an educational group and the Government has introduced the new Rule of 6. As we go to press there's even talk of a new lockdown ☹️ We'll advertise on our Facebook page (see above) when we're able to fix a date to restart.

An important skill for toddlers (and young children) to learn is self control. This usually doesn't start till they're 3, but there are some things you can do to help. Check this website for some handy tips:

<https://www.parentingscience.com/teaching-self-control.html>

If you're looking for something to do with your toddler, Autumn is a great time to be outdoors and observe nature. Make a point of showing them how trees and flowers look different and it's colder & windier. Seasons are one of the few ways they can see the passage of time. Pick up a few (flat) leaves while you're out. Put them under a sheet of paper vein side up and rub with the side of a crayon to make leaf rubbings, or paint the veins and make leaf prints. Plant an acorn or a conker to grow an oak or Chestnut tree. Above all, have fun!

Don't forget about yourself: make sure you get a break from your toddler occasionally. It'll help you stay level headed and avoid depression!

Happy Autumn!

St Luke's Church News

Review:

Firstly, a huge thanks to everyone who supported our cake sale on the Green in August: we raised over £400! We've now removed the Plant Sale table from Church Rd as summer draws to a close. Thanks to those who've bought plants from us giving a total of £460!

Ongoing Activities:

Prayers: Not everyone believes in prayer, but millions of people around the world are convicted enough in their beliefs to pray. Are they all wrong? In times of trial, even unbelievers pray in desperation. We pray in faith and the prayer group continues to pray for prayer requests in confidence. Prayer request cards are in the church porch and can be left at The Birches, Church Rd or Abbotsford, Newton Rd or contact a church member below.



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



Swap Shop: We've decided to continue the Swap Shop in the church porch after the summer holidays. There's a range of children's books, puzzles and games for all ages. Feel free to donate or borrow and swap (no soft toys please). For your own safety please wipe borrowed items with antibacterial spray once you get home.



Services: Over recent lockdown months, we've been running a series of church services, with strict social distancing rules (including mandatory mask wearing) rotating through the benefice (our "family" of churches which also includes Brickhills: Great, Bow and Little). This works out about one service per parish /month. The rota's been arranged with parishes having services on days they'd usually have a Family service. At St Luke's this is the 1st Sunday of the month. The 1st Sunday in November is All Saints' Day (aka All Hallows' Day), so that week's service will be at All Saints' church in Bow Brickhill, their patronal festival. The day before is All Souls' Day (commonly known as Halloween: the evening (e'en) before All Hallows' Day). A benefice All Souls service will be held at 6pm in Little Brickhill the same Sunday to commemorate souls of the departed (particularly those who've died in the last year).

Harvest Festival: St Luke's holds an annual harvest service where the church is decorated and it's followed by the "feast" of harvest lunch. This year we'll only be holding a service on **Sun 4th Oct at 11am** much lower key than usual (with social distancing) and we won't be singing :(You're welcome to bring harvest produce, which we'll donate to Bletchley food cupboard. Please bring food donations to the church on **Sat 3rd Oct** between **9am and 12**, or deliver them to Abbotsford, Newton Rd before if more convenient. If wished, you may bring your own garden produce to lay at the altar during the service. There are limited spaces for the service so please call (contact details below) to let us know you want to attend & reserve a place (first come, first served).



St Luke's day: Celebrated on **18th October**, this year it's a Sunday! We're holding a **Holy Communion** service at **9am** to celebrate our saint's day. Usually we hold a **Gift Day** with refreshments in the church but are currently forbidden from serving food or drink. Instead, on **Sat 17th Oct** we'll have a **table on the Green** between **9am & 1pm**. We'll have a copy of the quinquennial inspection report (listing repair work that needs doing), and you can leave Gift Day donations if wished.



Remembrance Day: We'll be holding a service in church on **Sun 8th November**. It will start **promptly at 10.45** (please arrive in good time). This is usually a popular service, but we're not sure how many people will still want to come due to the crisis. Because the church has limited capacity we're asking people to call to reserve a place (first come, first served). We'd also like to confirm you're in a bubble with those you're booking for. (Contact details below).



The Rector still sends a weekly reflection which is shared on the village Facebook page. Further services, if planned, will also be advertised there. "Church at home" is an online service, a link to which can be found by searching Oxford Diocese Church at Home. This can be accessed by phone if you can't get online by calling **01865 920930**. Standard call rates apply.

Fundraising:

Churchwarden Harry Davies recently took part in the Bucks Historic Churches Trust (BHCT) sponsored **Ride and Stride**. Under lockdown it's been hard to collect sponsors, so if you'd like to sponsor him retrospectively, please contact him. If you can gift aid your donation, it increases its value at no extra cost to you. He'd need your full name and post-code! Half the money raised will go to BHCT and the rest to St Luke's. If you'd rather give directly to St Luke's (official title Stoke Hammond Parochial Church Council), our sort code is:20-57-40 and acc no: 00869198. Our treasurer John (see below) would be grateful if you let him know you've made a donation



Other news Our **Annual Church Meeting** should've been in May, but following legal changes, we're now able to have the meeting on Zoom. It will be held at **6pm on Sun 11th Oct.** Anyone in the parish can join by contacting the Rector or a warden for the Zoom link but only those on the electoral roll can vote.

We've had an expense this month with a rather unusual cause (we suspect): Our church door was found open on the afternoon of Tuesday 8th Sept. The lock was jammed and we were unable to lock it. We found a locksmith, but couldn't work out how it had happened. It was only then we recalled earthquake that had happened! It brought to mind the story of St Paul's prison release:

Bible verse of the month: Acts 16 v 26: *Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everyone's chains came loose.* (NIV)

Read the rest of the story in full at:



<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts+16&version=NIV>

What does it mean? In Paul's case, the jailer discovered the cell unlocked and was about to kill himself (he knew he'd be killed for allowing the prisoners to escape) when Paul shouted to alert him they were still there. He didn't need to run because he lived by faith in God. After discussion with Paul, the jailer was baptised and became a Christian. In our case (the door), we're still wondering what it means. If you'd like to discuss, please let us know!

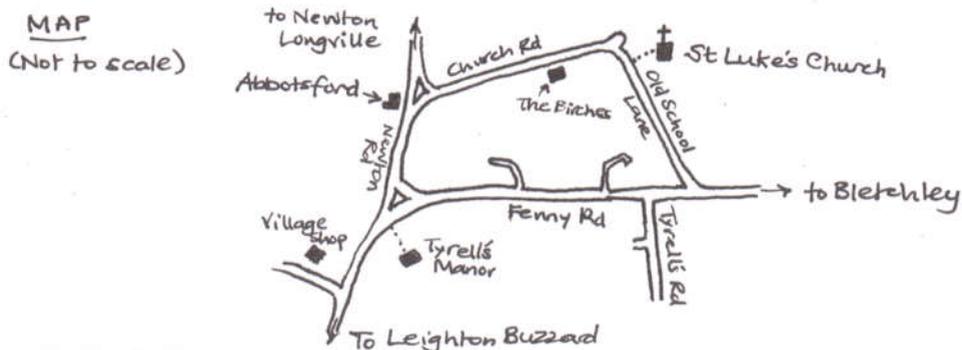
Church Benefice Website: www.brickhillschurches.org.uk.



St Luke's usually offers Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals which are now only available under strict limitations. Please contact the Rector if you'd like to discuss any of these. The Rector's contact details are on the website. His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he's able, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's day off is

Monday.

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



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PAGEY'S SOW & GROW "PATCH"

Hi there Stoke Hammond,

I'm going to focus on 3 things in this issue. Firstly, a little club I'm trying to start (called the germinators 🌱) which meets once a month to focus on growing vegetables and flowers; secondly the good, the bad and the blooming awful in my patch over the last 2 months, and lastly what we should do now to move the garden forward for the next year.



So firstly "THE GERMINATORS " is an idea to get a few people together on a monthly basis who want to have a bit of laugh on growing veg and flowers from seed. In the past I gave my excess seedlings away on the Stoke Hammond Facebook site (tomatoes, peppers, melons, cucumbers, black current bushes etc.) and they disappeared in seconds. A number of people have said how do you get the crops you do and I thought why don't I share my greenhouse, heated propagators, seeds and experience with a few others. We would meet once a month, you can germinate your favourite veg in the greenhouse and take it away with you once it is ready for planting out. We can swap seeds, stories, knowledge, recipes and photos of how all our produce is doing. We would start with a small group of 6 to 8 and not take things too seriously. All free of course. We can also see how our produce is growing and share stories on how we enjoyed eating it. Contact me by email on page.chris1@googlemail.com or by text / WhatsApp on 07747 018814. Don't be shy, let's get a few of us together (Covid willing) and see how it grows 😊.

So , the good , the bad and the blooming awful....starting with the awful , my aubergines went yellow just when they were looking great - why ? I don't know but if you do please let me know. The frost knocked all the blooms off my plum tree in May so no fruit there this year; I allowed too many sunflowers to grow (self seeded from last year) and they over crowded much of the veg patch - I thought I was being cool by letting nature run wild and it back fired. They also seemed to get a type of rust that spread to my French beans and gladioli, which then performed poorly. Then the strong winds came in September and blew done most of the sunflowers, which in turn took down other veg like fennel,

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beans, outdoor tomatoes and celeriac. And lastly, I was rubbish with succession growing this year and I deserve a right boot up the bum. Lettuce, radish, cabbage, spring onions, cucumbers etc must be sown 4 weeks apart so you have a decent supply for months. Clearly I didn't....laziness (and a spell of gout lol) meant this year was rubbish for a few of the aforementioned. However my spuds this year were perfection - my first earlies were "foremost" and my main crop were "Maxine".



Maxine Seed Potatoes

Special they were and I am ordering the same for next year in a few weeks time (I am a member of Dagnall gardening society). The sweetcorn (Lark F1) was orgasmic and the melons and bullhorn yellow peppers top notch. I have 14kg of blackcurrants in the freezer from my 3 bushes and a great show from the root veg too.

The flowers have been special this year too. The sweet Williams (I've saved the seeds if you want some), cosmos and phlox "tapestry" stole the show. For me the garden gives me a bit of purpose, especially in the early months of Covid, and I have no idea why I like spending time pottering about but long may it continue.

Lastly in this short post we need to think about the fact that Jack Frost and his nasty mates are only a couple of months away. Do the hard graft with weeding and prepping for next year. Cut back perennials, pull up annuals, harvest crops, COLLECT SEEDS and compost everything that is not diseased. You can sow winter peas, broad beans, rocket, mizuna in



A Sweet William Flower

cold frames. You will need to plant spring cabbage, garlic and onion sets in October. But dig over your bed, add mulch, add fertiliser in the area where you are planting now. Button down the hatches over the next 6 weeks....I have a horrible feeling 2020 is going to give us one more pain in the backside!

Join the GERMINATORS now. Have fun peeps *PAGEY*



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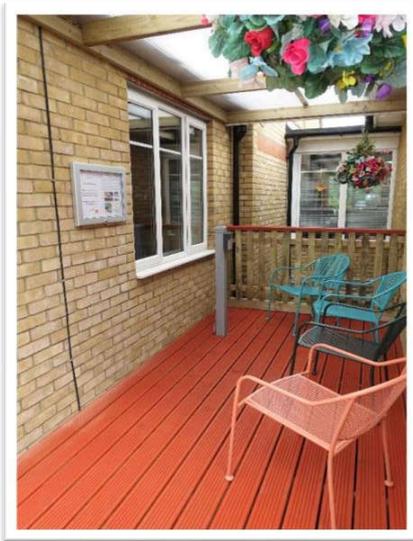
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THE Lindens

Best Wishes to you all from us at The Lindens. We hope you have been able to enjoy the summer whilst keeping safe and well during these difficult and challenging times.

It has always been our aim to provide a “home from home” for all our residents and to constantly assess our facilities and services to offer the best support possible. Our latest addition which you may have seen is our Visitor’s Centre, situated to the side of our in-house coffee shop. It is a covered decked area with seating and intercom, in the shelter of our Meadow Wing. Our residents enjoy these window visits with their loved ones along with phone, WhatsApp and Facetime calls to keep in touch until we are able to welcome visitors in once again.



Over the summer period, our residents have been able to enjoy our beautiful gardens taking strolls, chatting with each other and playing games. Cupcakes and scones have been made, baked and enjoyed. We have also been creative in our arts and crafts sessions, making pom-pom shakers, drawing and painting.

Once again, we would like to thank the local community for their ongoing support and wish you all happy and healthy times ahead.

Michael Hannelly

Director

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

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IRIS CLAY

23.02.1933 – 04.06.2020



Born Iris May White with twin sister Joy on 23rd February 1933 to Richard (Dick) & Wynifred (Wyn) White in Northampton. Iris moved to Stoke Hammond one year later when her father who worked on the railway as a Lineman was transferred to work the length of track from Chelmscote to Linslade. He was allocated a new council house at 12 Fenny Road Stoke Hammond which were built for railway workers & where Iris lived with her parents until her marriage. She attended Stoke Hammond C of E school & also attended St Lukes Sunday school & became an active member of church activities. When she left Stoke Hammond school she moved to Bletchley Road school

where she stayed until leaving for work in 1947.

She started work together with twin sister Joy at Beacon Brushes in Bletchley, shortly after Iris contracted Pleurisy & was taken to Creation Sanatoria which was situated between Northampton & Welford where she stayed for about six months.

Whilst in Creation she admired the nurses & decided that was what she wanted to do, on her return home she applied for a position of Trainee Nurse at Tindall Hospital in Aylesbury. After a while Iris missed her home & her sister Joy, this was due to the fact that it then took almost half a day to get from Aylesbury to Stoke Hammond & it meant she was unable to visit home very often so reluctantly she decided to give up nursing & return home & go back to work at Beacon Brushes.

In the spring of 1952 Iris met Gordon & it was love at first sight, they have been together ever since. In January 1953 Gordon joined the RAF to do his National Service & was posted to Ceylon for eighteen months, before leaving they decided to get engaged & so went to Coventry to spend a few days with Gordons uncle & whilst there went to Coventry Hippodrome to see Iris's favourite singer Dickie Valentine who sang what was to become their song 'April in Portugal', it was during the show that Gordon popped the ring on her finger.

Iris & Gordon together with Joy & Ron were married in a double marriage ceremony at St Lukes Church Stoke Hammond on 10th September 1955. One year later they got the keys to a new council house 14 Bragenham Side where they brought up their two sons, Kevin being born in 1957 & Barry in 1961. They stayed in the same house for 54 years until the stairs became a problem and they moved to their bungalow on Furzton in Milton Keynes.

In the mid sixties they bought their first car a green Morris 1000 & weather permitting every Sunday Iris would pack a hamper & they would set off for a day out, their favourite place being Malvern Hills or watching Iris's favourite cricketer Bazel D'Oliviera.

For a few years they holidayed at Gorleston staying at the same guest house with Iris's mum & dad, as the boys got older the family went on holidays with Bob & Avril Baron & their girls to a holiday camp New Beach near Chichester. They also had holidays with Gordons Auntie who lived just outside the New Forest, her neighbour was an ex Cunard Line



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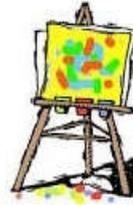
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Captain & got them tickets to go onboard the Queen Mary & Queen Elizabeth Liners when they were docked in Southampton.

For their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary they went on their first foreign holiday, this being the first time Iris had travelled by air, Iris had lots of fond memories of this trip to Malta, they returned back to Malta when Barry, Jackie & their family took them there for a treat for Gordons retirement.

Iris was a keen gardener & was a founder member of Stoke Hammond Gardening Club serving on the committee & as Vice President & becoming a life member until unfortunately poor health meant she could no longer continue with her love of gardening.

Iris also loved her dogs having four Jack Russells over a period of about 50 years.

Iris followed Gordon in his sporting interests making cups of tea at Football home games & washing the teams kit, she also helped with making the teas for the cricket team.

In 1984 with Football & Cricket behind them they decided to take up Bowls as they could do this together & so they joined Linlade Bowls Club where they bowled for 20 years, they then joined Bletchley Town Bowls Club where Iris bowled for another 10 years, she also joined Bletchley Indoor Bowls Club in the winter.

At heart Iris was a very deep family person who loved her boys & mothered them to her dying day, when Barry first brought Jackie home Iris welcomed her & made her one of the family. She took great joy & pride when the three grandchildren Gary, David & Carly arrived & even more so with her six great grandchildren.

Iris was a wonderful person who would not harm anyone or anything, she was loved by everyone who knew her from her beloved Gordon, the whole of her family, her sister, brothers & all her friends & all those wonderful Carers who so lovingly looked after Iris at home during those last four & a half difficult years.



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Update on fighting coronavirus in Buckinghamshire



Dear Resident,

It's not long since I last wrote, but given we are at such a critical point in the pandemic and the spread of the virus in the UK, I wanted to email you again to outline the latest guidance issued this week by the Prime Minister. I also want to reassure all of you, especially our most vulnerable residents, that help and support is always available for those who need it most, as has been the case throughout this pandemic.

The situation in Buckinghamshire

We are fortunate that at the moment in Buckinghamshire the number of new coronavirus cases is much lower than in other parts of the country. However, cases are still rising here. Our latest data indicates that our weekly rate of cases is 12.5 people per 100,000 here in Buckinghamshire. You can see all the most recent data on our website.

Whilst these current figures are relatively reassuring for Bucks residents, we know that things can change extremely quickly – this is how the virus works. We have seen in other parts of the country significant transmission that can be linked back to the actions of just one or two people. Because there are more cases in the UK overall, the risks are much higher to all of us than they were a few weeks ago, so while we are in a good position here in Buckinghamshire, it's now critical for us to pull together and stick to the guidance at all times. We want to keep things under control here, to keep enjoying seeing our friends and family safely in groups of no more than six, and to keep our businesses open.

The latest national guidance

As most of us will know, this week the Prime Minister set out a series of new measures for England that we must all follow, regardless of where we live. Sticking to these new rules is essential if we are to curb the rise in cases. None of us wants to go into a more stringent lockdown and by sticking together on this and all doing our bit we still have a chance to avoid it.

Here are some of the main elements of the announcement:

- From 24 September all pubs, bars and restaurants must close at 10pm. This doesn't mean last orders, it means everyone out of the premises by 10pm
- All pubs, bars and restaurants must offer table service only
- In line with the 'rule of six', bookings will only be allowed for up to six people per table and tables cannot mingle

- Where possible, people should now work from home in agreement with their employer, where they are able to do so
- People who work in shops and in cafes, bars and restaurants, should all wear face coverings unless they are exempt
- Customers in pubs, bars, cafes and restaurants should also wear a face covering except when seated at a table to eat and drink, or if they are exempt
- Face coverings should also be worn by all taxi drivers and passengers unless they are exempt
- Businesses, schools, colleges and universities will stay open
- The 'rule of six' remains in place and will be enforced where needed. People must not meet in groups of more than six people apart from some specific circumstances like weddings and funerals
- There are now bigger fines and tougher penalties for both businesses and individuals who don't comply. For example, people gathering in groups of more than six could be fined up to £200

You can read in full detail the national coronavirus guidance on the Government's website. Please bear in mind that some parts of these pages are still being updated to reflect the latest changes, so do keep checking back to make sure you're fully up to date.

Support if you're isolating

It is vital that if you or someone you live with develops symptoms of coronavirus that your household isolates immediately. You should also try to book a test for anyone who has symptoms – more on testing below. From Monday (28 September) if you don't isolate when you should be, then you will be breaking the law and could face a fine.

There will be payments of £500 available to support certain people on low incomes who cannot work from home and who will face a loss of earnings if they cannot work because they're isolating. There is more details about this scheme on the Government's website and we will also provide more information about how this will work when the details are finalised.

NHS COVID-19 app – advice to residents

The new NHS COVID-19 app has been launched. This is the 'official' NHS Test and Trace app designed to track the virus and to bolster the Test and Trace system. People with smartphones will be able to download and use the app on a voluntary basis, if their phone's operating system supports it. It will mean you can get an alert if you've been near another user who's tested positive for coronavirus. You will also be able to log symptoms, book a test if you need one and will get advice on whether you need to

isolate if you've got symptoms or have been in contact with someone who's tested positive.

Users will also be able to use the app to 'check in' at any venue they visit, such as a pub, restaurant or a church.

The app works on an anonymous basis – it tracks the virus, not the user, using Bluetooth technology. You can find out more at www.covid19.nhs.uk.

NHS COVID-19 app – advice to businesses

If you run a business or organisation with a physical location that is open to the public, you should display a poster with a QR code for users of the NHS COVID-19 app to 'check in'. This is really quick and easy to do – just use the link below.

This list of venues that should display the QR codes includes:

- All hospitality venues, like pubs, cafes and restaurants
- All council buildings
- Leisure and culture venues
- 'Close contact' businesses, like hair salons and nail bars
- Places of worship
- Community halls and venues

Vulnerable residents

At the moment, the government has not changed any advice for residents who were previously shielding, so those residents do not need to start shielding again at the moment. I understand that this is a very worrying time for everyone, and especially those more vulnerable to the virus. Please take time to read the advice for the clinically vulnerable on the government's website. We also have our information on our website on how to find help and support if you need it.

Anyone who is worried about whether they or a vulnerable friend, relative or neighbour can look after themselves can call our Adult Social Care Team on 01296 383 204.

When to book a coronavirus test

The difficulties with getting a test have been well-documented in recent weeks and I thank all the residents who have written to me about their experiences. I know many of you are doing the right thing, following the advice, and trying to book a test if you or the person you're booking for is showing symptoms. Please continue to do this if you have symptoms.

Unfortunately, although the capacity to carry out tests has risen significantly, recent demand has been higher still and there's a national shortage of processing capacity at the national laboratories. This means that bookings have been capped locally to allow the labs to get through all the tests they need to process nationally.

New processing centres are being built around the country but for now, unfortunately, the best advice we can give is to remind you that you should only book a test for someone who has symptoms and that if the system is showing no availability, it's best

to wait and to try again. Test availability can become available at different times during the day.

I appreciate that this is far from ideal and I understand the frustration and disruption this is causing. We sincerely hope that these issues will be ironed out in the coming weeks and we hope that the new app will also be a significant step forward in helping to track the virus.

Follow the basics



Our biggest defence against the virus is also the simplest. Please keep going with the three basic principles – **Hands, Face, Space**.

- Wash your hands regularly and for at least 20 seconds
- Wear a face covering where it's needed
- Keep a distance of at least 2 metres from anyone you don't live with or anyone outside your support bubble, if you are in one

I know how hard this is, feeling like we are taking a step back but if we all stick by these guidelines then we give ourselves the best chance of making these measures work, and of getting the 'R' rate down without having to take any more stringent measures – which is what we all hope for.

So please, let's all do our bit and let's all look after each other.

As ever, stay safe and protect Bucks,

Martin Tett

Leader of Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury,
HP19 8FF
buckinghamshire.gov.uk



**Buckinghamshire
Council**



Stay safe, protect Bucks

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



MAVIS'S QUIZ

Answers to last month's quiz and if you remember you had to work out from the cryptic clues, the film titles for Best Picture Oscar Winners?

- (1) CHARIOTS OF FIRE (2) RAIN MAN
- (3) AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS
- (4) TITANIC (5) OUT OF AFRICA
- (6) MUTINY ON THE BOUNTY (7) SILENCE OF THE LAMBS
- (8) BRAVEHEART (9) SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE
- (10) AN AMERICAN IN PARIS



Something different now, can you work out these classic television series from the clues below. Again, to assist, the year the series' first aired is provided.



- (1) Created by Gerry & Sylvia Anderson about puppets in space - 1962
- (3) The Cannon Family running a wild western ranch - 1967
- (3) Hospital Drama with a number – 1957
- (4) Alphabetic Vehicular Police Series – 1962
- (5) Dodgy going ons by a sixties popstar named after a bird - 1971
- (6) Two fashion conscious detectives driving around in a Ferrari - 1984
- (7) Starring a haloed future James Bond - 1962
- (8) One bowler hatted gent and a leather clad partner - 1961
- (9) Held captive and sometimes chased by large spheres -1967
- (10) 4 soldiers of fortune led by a cigar chomping ex General - 1983

Best of luck, the answers in the next edition

VILLAGE DIARY

Sunday 4 th October	Harvest Service* - St Luke's Church – 11.00
Tuesday 6 th October	Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Saturday 17 th October	St Luke's Gift Day* - Village Green – From 09.00 – 13.00
Sunday 18 th October	Holly Communion* - St Luke's Church – 09.00
Tuesday 3 rd November	Parish Council Meeting via Zoom - 19.30
Sunday 8 th November	Remembrance Service* - St Luke's Church – 10.45

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

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Innovations

Tuesday's & Wednesday's 09.30 – 15.30hrs
Contact: Yvonne 078846 338153 or Alison 07714 664716

Buttons Pre-School

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

Yoga Classes

Monday's 18.30 – 19.30hrs
Contact: Sarah Stratton-Hine 07842 863543

Joyful Tots

Every Friday 10.00 – 12.30hrs

High Ash Scouts, Cubs & Beavers

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

Contact Deborah Johnson djartworks@hotmail.com

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

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111



Questions for today's times

One of my friends presented me with the following conundrums:

- 1) Does old age make you lazy?
- 2) Have you always been lazy?
- 3) Has Corona virus made things worse?
- 4) Does work really expand to fill the time available?
- 5) Do you multi task ?

The following answers were suggested

- 1) No some people like work. Why blame old age. What is old these days?
- 2) No. I never got the chance.
- 3) Yes. I really dislike the thought of having to book appointments for the charity shop or refuse centre. Jobs therefore get left unfinished. More frustrating than lazy.
- 4) Without doubt. If you want a job done ask a busy person.
- 5) What's that? I know someone who could tell me but I'm afraid to ask her!

Does it matter? Not really. If you are still spending time on an allotment, cleaning the car, entertaining grandchildren, supporting Watford, playing a banjo, throwing things at the tele or finding things to complain about then you are merely redirecting your energies- enjoy it!

Grumpy Old Man

EDITORS NOTE

In the last edition I mentioned how a little bit of normality seemed to be returning in these strange and difficult times, but then just the week prior to publication of this edition of the SH News we learn of further new restrictions on our way of life.

But we rally on and here we are with another fully printed and distributed edition of the SH News.

If you're feeling a bit bored stuck at home and have an idea for something you would like to see included in the SH News, please do get in contact, - always open to fresh ideas.

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

www.stokehammondpc.com
www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Take care everyone.

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



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

Waste Bin: 	Recycling Bin:  Paper, glass, cardboard, plastics, cartons, cans & tins	Food Waste Bin:  Non-recyclable or compostable.	Garden Waste Bin: 
Wednesday 7 Oct		Wednesday 7 Oct	Wednesday 7 Oct
	Wednesday 14 Oct	Wednesday 14 Oct	
Wednesday 21 Oct		Wednesday 21 Oct	Wednesday 21 Oct
	Wednesday 28 Oct	Wednesday 28 Oct	
Wednesday 4 Nov		Wednesday 4 Nov	Wednesday 4 Nov
	Wednesday 11 Nov	Wednesday 11 Nov	
Wednesday 18 Nov		Wednesday 18 Nov	Wednesday 18 Nov
	Wednesday 25 Nov	Wednesday 25 Nov	
Wednesday 2 Dec		Wednesday 2 Dec	Wednesday 2 Dec

We're returning to face to face Scouting to support young people in our community.

Youth work is considered similar to the education sector, where current Government rules for the public don't apply. So please don't be confused if you see groups of 15 young people with our amazing adult volunteers out in the community having a great time, working together and supporting each other.

Our young people need the activities we deliver now more than ever before.

Additional adult volunteers are always needed to enable more young people to gain skills for life. Put your skills to use, learn new ones, and contribute to an amazing life-experience for you and your local community.

Volunteering is easier than you think. With full support and training, you can volunteer on a flexible basis.

www.bucks-scouts.org.uk

#SkillsForLife #BucksScouts



Buttons Pre-School

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

15 and 30 hours funded sessions for 2-4 year olds,
private sessions also available.

Sites across Milton Keynes and Bucks, flexible hours
including breakfast club, afterschool club and
wrap around care.

Contact us for details of your nearest pre-school.

Tel: (01525) 270501 / 07973 158368

Email: enquiries@buttonspreschools.co.uk
www.buttonspreschools.co.uk

