

SH & NLS NEWS

Stoke Hammond & Newton Leys South

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THE BOOK CLUB

CHURCH NEWS

MAVIS'S QUIZ

HOW THE VILLAGE HAS CHANGED & MUCH MORE

February – March 2025

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Photographs by Mike Robinson

See inside for – 2024 How the Village Changed

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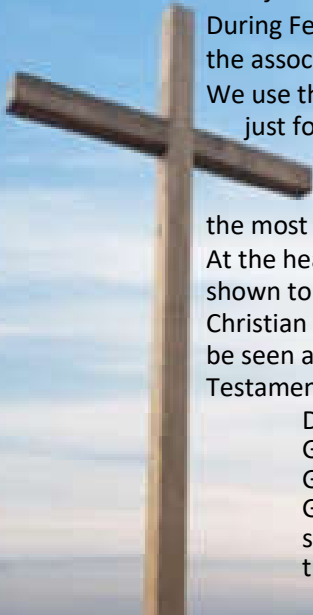
During February we come again to Valentine's Day, and all the associated customs and celebrations of romantic love.

We use that one word 'love' to speak of many different things, not just for the love of romantic partners, but also for the love that holds families together, the love that grows between friends, and for many other things as well, from the most serious, to the trivial.

At the heart of the Christian faith is the good news of God's love shown to us in the life, death and rising again of Jesus, and Christian people believe that every other expression of love is to be seen and understood in the light of this. As we read in the New Testament:

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed his love among us: he sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. (1 John 4, v. 7-10)

Revd John Waller



ST LUKE'S STOKE HAMMOND CHURCH SERVICE DATES TO MARCH 2025

FEBRUARY

2nd Feb: 09.30am Café Church - DW

9th Feb: 10.00am Benefice Holy Communion - JW

Note: *To be held at St Mary Magdalene, Little Brickhill*

16th Feb: 09.30am Morning Worship - JH

23rd Feb: 09.30am Holy Communion - JW



MARCH

2nd Mar: 09.30am Morning Worship - DW

5th Mar: 10.30am Ash Wednesday Said Service

Note: *To be held at St Mary the Virgin, Great Brickhill*

9th Mar: 09.30am Family Service - JW

16th Mar: 09.30am Benefice Holy Communion - JW

Note: *To be held at All Saints, Bow Brickhill*

23rd Mar: 09.30am Holy Communion - JW

30th Mar: 09.30am Family Service for Mothering Sunday - JW

JH – Jeremy Hopkinson

JW – Rev John Waller

DW – David Webber

*Refreshments unless
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PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Frustration, is something we on the Parish Council know only too well in our various dealings with the local authorities and organisations, so, we can understand some of you letting your feelings be known on social media about the infamous Stoke Road lay-by and its appalling state. But, the suggestions by some that this is down to lack of action by the Parish Council are totally unjust. We the Parish Council have been in continual contact with Bucks Highways the owners of the lay-by for action, but either for reasons of finance or lack of workforce they say nothing can be done. We have also harangued our local councillors for action with little or no result. It was however, through the action of the Parish Council that a site meeting was arranged last year involving both Highways and the Canal and River Trust (CRT), a direct result of which prompted the CRT to erect signage and enforcing 'No Moorings' along the length of the canal banks that border the lay-by, which has led to effectively there now being 'zero' mooring of canal boats. In addition to this, just this month (January) there was a further site meeting attended by your Parish Council at which our Ward Cllr Jilly Jordan had arranged for Bucks Highways and the Council Fly Tipping team to attend, which led to the Fly Tipping Team confirming that they would prioritise the full removal of all waste and litter on this site and indeed as this Parish Council News was being prepared, the Fly Tipping Team duly arrived and have cleared the site. Cllr Jordan has also promised to employ her best endeavours with Highways to prioritise the full closure of the lay-by, initially on a temporary basis, but with a long-term view to create a permanent closure.



Whilst we were meeting with Cllr Jordan, we took the opportunity to enlist her services in our attempts to get the appalling contractor vehicle parking situation on the Newton Road resolved. The way these vehicles were parking along the entire length of the Newton Road for the new home development was making the navigation extremely difficult and indeed hazardous. The parking of these

vehicles was in direct contravention of one of the planning conditions imposed on the originally approved application (16/03698/APP) namely that point 16 states:

Prior to commencement of the development space shall be laid out within the site for parking for cars, a minimum of cycles, loading and manoeuvring, details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This area shall be permanently maintained for this purpose.

Reason: In order to minimise danger, obstruction and inconvenience to users of the highway and of the development and to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework.

Your Parish Council had taken this matter up with the site manager on many occasions which included the subject of the extensive damage to the nearby grass verges caused by their delivery vehicles. We had also previously reported this flagrant breach of



a planning condition to Bucks planning who advised they would investigate but subsequently came back to say that the case was now closed with no apparent action having been taken. Well, finally, after some many failed promises to provide an onsite parking provision and no doubt influenced by the fact that Cllr Jordan did persuade planning to send an enforcement officer to site, an onsite parking facility did suddenly and quite miraculously become available the very next day following the officer's visit. We will however continue to monitor the situation to ensure there is no repeat of this parking issue.

You would think that planning applications for a potentially large number of new homes in the Parish would attract a lot of attention, So, when 24/03601/AOP an outline application for 290 homes on Chadwell Farm and 24/03820/AOP for 90 homes on land at Newton Leys South were to come before the Parish Council at their January meeting, we were expecting a large number of attendees to make their views known. But in fact, only 6 members of the public (MoP) were there, none of whom expressed any interest in these two potential developments. One suspects that if either of these two applications had been on the boundaries of the village itself, there would have been a lot more interest shown. As for your council's decisions on these two applications, it was determined to object to the 290 new homes, citing the reasons that the Vale of Aylesbury Plan which is currently still valid has determined that Stoke Hammond does not need to take on more homes as we have met our allocation and that this site is not part of our draft Neighbourhood Plan. Unlike the site for 90 homes, which is indeed part of our draft Neighbourhood Plan, and for this reason the Council had no objections to this application. Full details of the Council's comments on this and any planning applications can be found in this editions Planning Section Update.

Another important item on the agenda for the January meeting held on the evening of the 7th was agreeing the budget for 2024/25 and how this would influence the precept element of residents Council Tax for the new financial year. Your Council determined that based on income and anticipated expenditure that a budget of £70,587 was required which subject to acceptance by Buckinghamshire Council would for a Band D household relate to a 5.52%/£4.37 increase on the 2024/25 figure.

As for other significant items discussed at the January meeting, noting no meeting was held in December, these were as follows:

- *Under Highways, Footpaths & Footways our clerk advised that at long last the streetlight damaged by an Amazon delivery vehicle has finally been repaired.*
- *Under Parish Improvements and Enhancements, it was confirmed the fire damaged picnic bench on the Community Centre field had been replaced and the plaque in the dedication and memory of the late Mary Bonner had been affixed to the bench. A new bench had also now been installed on a site in Newton Leys South.*
- *The Parish Council had received a letter from Pulse Youth who run the Youth Café in Great Brickhill. Of the current 120 teenagers*



that attend some 20 of those are from Stoke Hammond. Pulse Youth does receive some funding from Great Brickhill Parish Council but the letter was requesting possible additional funding from Stoke Hammond. Councillors agreed to ask Pulse Youth to apply for funding under our Community Funding Scheme and our clerk would send them an application form.

• Our Ward Cllr Jilly Jordan had previously advised that she would be unable to attend every Stoke Hammond Parish Council meeting as these clashed with Great Brickhill's but has sent in a full update report, which follows this Parish Council News section.

As mentioned in the last Parish Council News our website is being updated as it moves to a new UK hosting service and is due to be operational from the 4th February..

The next meeting is to be held on the 7th February commencing at 7.30pm at the Community Centre. As for the March meeting this will be on the 4th March, again starting at 7.30pm and anticipated to be at the Community Centre.

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

Kelly Harris Tel: 07793 131810 Email: clerk@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

www.stokehammondpc.com

YOUR PARISH COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Cllr Mubasshir Ajaz (Chair) – mubasshirajaz@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Craig Champion (Vice Chair) - craigchampion@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Fran Sharkey - fransharkey@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Greg Noble - gregnoble@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr David Venn - davidvenn@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

Cllr Malcom Newing - malcomnewing@stokehammond-pc.gov.uk

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2024 - How the village changed

2024 saw a number of changes to the village infrastructure, mostly focussed on the main road and largely connected to the completion of the development of the land to the east of Fenny Road. Now Murphy Lane and Roman Field. Its completion and the arrival of new residents triggered Bucks Councils' Highways Dept. into resurfacing large stretches of Fenny Road and other associated works. A section of footpath at Scotts Close, which had been in a poor state of repair for years was replaced, the pedestrian crossing by the shop was refurbished, the bus stop in Fenny Road was upgraded and a bus shelter installed.

As that development was nearing completion another was started, off Newton Road. A bungalow next to the Plymouth Brethren church was demolished and a new site entrance constructed to give access to land formerly occupied by the Mellows. Subsequent car parking in Newton Road by workers on this site has caused significant problems for local residents.

Other changes include:-

1. New speed warning signs at all entry points to the village, Fenny Road, Leighton Road and Newton Road.
2. The village shop and Post Office had a major refurbishment, new flooring, new shelving, new lighting, a revised layout and improved security. An upgrade from which all village shoppers have benefited.
3. A resurfaced footpath to St Luke's Church.
4. The Parish Council acquiring further land for recreational development.

Whilst the Dolphin re-opened at the end of 2022, it quickly established a reputation as a 'place to eat' well beyond the village, this continued into 2024. It's success has brought some parking issues, nevertheless there is no doubt it is a welcome social benefit to our community. One other change which took place quietly was the Parish's move to the newly created Parliamentary Constituency of Buckingham and Bletchley.

2025 beckons, here's hoping it delivers.

Mike Robinson



Cllr Jilly Jordan

Jan 2025 Update



Buckinghamshire Council reports significant progress in climate change and air quality efforts

Buckinghamshire Council has released its third annual Climate Change and Air Quality Progress Report, highlighting substantial achievements in its ongoing environmental initiatives. The Climate Change & Air Quality Strategy 2023-2024 Progress Report outlines the strides made since the strategy's adoption on 19 October 2021.

One of the key highlights of the report is a remarkable 78% reduction in net emissions for 2023/24 compared to baseline emissions from 1990. This means that the Council has achieved its goal of reducing emissions by 75% by 2030, five years ahead of schedule.

Buckinghamshire Council has continued its de-carbonisation efforts, including a successful project to install solar PV and battery storage across four sites.

The Council's tree planting programme has also made significant progress, with almost 193,000 trees planted in the first three years of a ten-year mission.

Councillor Broom noted that transport remains the biggest source of emissions in Buckinghamshire, followed by domestic sources. He encouraged residents to embrace alternative means of travel and reduce energy use at home, highlighting several initiatives to help residents with their energy bills.

Looking ahead, the Council is working on a new Bucks-wide Local Travel Plan and a new Bucks Local Plan, both of which have clear commitments to sustainability and climate change mitigation. Recent consultations have also been held on draft proposals for a Local Walking & Infrastructure Plan.

For tips on reducing your own carbon emissions, see the Bucks Climate Challenge webpage.

Next phase of Moving Traffic Enforcement cameras goes live this month

After Buckinghamshire Council was granted powers to ensure motorists comply with Moving Traffic restrictions and installed enforcement cameras last year (2023), cameras in 14 further traffic trouble hotspots nominated by locals are set to go live in this month.

Moving Traffic Offences are actions taken by drivers that break the rules of the Examples include driving through a no entry sign, making banned turns, entering a yellow box junction when the exit isn't clear and driving on routes that are for buses and taxis only.

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY CENTRE



Serving the community

Senior Citizens Xmas Lunch 2024

The Xmas Lunch held on Saturday 7th December at the Community Centre was an astounding success with our biggest ever attendance of



some 60 diners ready to tuck in to the 3-course meal with plenty of wine and prosecco on hand to help wash the food down. After the meal we were entertained by the fabulous Rock Choir whose performance can only be described as outstanding.

We must give a massive shout out and thank you to all the helpers on the day, whether serving, waiting on tables or just generally assisting,

with a particular thank you to 'Geoff the Chef' for his superb work in the kitchen, Dave and Diane for providing the soup and to Clifford and Pauline for cooking the turkey, which meant they had to get up very early on the Saturday morning, to put the birds in the oven. Talking of ovens and unbeknown



to the diners, we had a near calamity when the Centre's stove totally broke down, but luckily just as everything was cooked and ready to be served – phew!

Finally, a thank you to the Parish Council and Gardening Club for their most valued financial contributions towards the cost of putting on this event each year.

The cameras will enable the Council to issue a penalty charge notice (PCN) to motorists who commit a Moving Traffic Offence, and will go live where restrictions already apply at the following locations where additional signage will be put in place to give warning of the cameras:

Padbury – Lower Way – No entry into Lower Way

Chesham – St Mary's Way (A416) – Banned right turn from Bellingdon Lane

Chesham – Moor Road – No entry into Moor Road

Iver – Bangors Road North – No goods vehicles exceeding 7.5t weight limit except for loading

Iver – Bangors Road South – No goods vehicles exceeding 7.5t weight limit except for loading

Aylesbury – A41 Exchange Street – No right turn from the A41 Exchange Street (North East bound carriageway) into Waitrose Car Park

Aylesbury – A41 Exchange Street – No right turn from the Exchange Street Car Park onto A41 Exchange Street (South West bound carriageway)

Aylesbury – Oxford Road – Bus lane Aylesbury – Oxford Road – Yellow box junction

Denham – Oxford Road – No right turn into Oxford Road

Denham – A412 North Orbital – No right turn from North Orbital Road

High Wycombe – A40 London Road – Bus lane

High Wycombe – Oxford Road – Yellow box junction

High Wycombe – Amersham Hill – Yellow box junction

All 14 of these new camera locations were nominated by residents and businesses as trouble spots or recognised as being areas of low compliance where motorists are more likely to break Moving Traffic restrictions. Installing these enforcement cameras will help reinforce the rules of the road, keep traffic moving and make all road users safer. We understand this is a significant change, so during the first six months, motorists caught breaking the rules at these locations will be sent a warning letter for their first offence. If you are caught again though, you will receive a fine.

Funds generated from penalty charge notices will be restricted for use only for specific measures including highway repairs, public transport provision and other environmental projects.

New and improved Library Flex model approved for eight Bucks libraries

Eight libraries across Buckinghamshire are set to benefit from a new style of operation following approval by councillors at the Cabinet meeting on Thursday 2 January.

Library Flex is Buckinghamshire's new model which will introduce technology to increase opening hours at these sites and enable customers to use library services without staff being present during quieter times. Staff will then be available to offer assistance and answer enquiries at busier times.

The new way of operating will see opening hours in Aylesbury, Beaconsfield,

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Buckingham, Chesham, Hazlemere, Marlow and Princes Risborough libraries increase by 23% from June. Amersham Library will pilot enhanced opening times with the library open seven days a week from 7am to 9pm on weekdays and from 7am to 7pm at weekends, an increase of 129%.

The decision to adopt Library Flex follows an extensive 10-week consultation which ran between July and September last year. The consultation sought to understand demand for library services and the need for staff assistance across the different sites.

Two of the key topics raised in the consultation included queries on safety during the times when staff would not be present and how the new model would address inclusion for those with additional needs. To address concerns about safety, new arrangements will include enhanced live monitoring of CCTV, upgraded fire and intruder alarms, occupancy management, electronic locks and safety information to be available in a range of formats including video, QR and braille.

Comments and suggestions from disabled individuals and groups have been particularly helpful in ensuring facilities are inclusive. Some groups have offered to work with the library service to trial new arrangements, test the induction process, provide accessible information materials and deliver in-person training, to ensure that people with disabilities and special educational needs are informed and supported.

“We know how important local library services are to so many people. With this in mind, we wanted to explore ways to improve accessibility and provision for the wider community. Traditional opening hours don’t suit everybody, but our new offer means more people will now be able to access our services at times that better suit them.

“Whilst some of the drive for change arises from a need to make budget saving, one of our key priorities in designing the new service has been to ensure that staff are available at the times when they are most needed and to provide a service that is safe and inclusive. We hope that local communities will welcome these exciting new changes and the many positives they bring.”

A different approach has been taken with Burnham Library and High Wycombe Library, where due to building layouts the Library Flex format is not suitable.

Within the same consultation last year, people were able to give their opinion on the proposals for these two libraries.

In High Wycombe, the layout will be modified, and the library will open on a Monday instead of a Sunday, to better meet customer needs, with no change in the overall number of opening hours.

In Burnham, hours will reduce from 38 to 27 per week to ensure effective delivery of a sustainable service. Options to engage volunteers to enable the library to remain open for longer were explored but were not successful.

The consultation ran from 10 July to 18 September 2024. A total of 1,212 responses

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were received, including 221 paper surveys. A number of focus groups were held, and engagement took place with over 200 local services and organisations as well as library staff.

The cost of implementing Library Flex will be £500k and this will deliver a year on year saving of £550,000. The saving will be delivered through reduced staffing. Work is taking place to reduce the scope for compulsory redundancies and promote redeployment opportunities for affected staff.

Work to undertake building alterations and install self-service technology will now take place with the launch of Library Flex from June onwards.

Council produces balanced budget amidst financial challenges

Buckinghamshire Council has published its updated medium-term financial plan which details how it will balance its budget for the next three years.

In a continuing acutely challenging financial context for local government, the council has worked hard to identify the further savings needed during the next financial year to balance the books until 2028. It's also produced a detailed budget proposal for 2025/26 including how much it's planning to spend on major projects and services, following consultation with residents.

The current financial year has seen demand rise further still particularly in four key services, namely adult social care, children's social care, transporting higher needs children to and from school and providing temporary accommodation for homeless people and families. Cost and demand for these services mean they're considerably overspent, particularly where 'high needs' children's services are concerned as the cost to the council is higher than the grant provided by government for these services. Given that nearly 80% of the council's budget is funded through council tax, the budget proposals recommend raising the base rate of council tax by 2.99%, alongside a 2% rise in the Adult Social Care precept, meaning a total 4.99% rise in bills next year, which represents an extra £1.77 per week for the average Band D home in 2025/26.

The council has worked extremely hard to find further savings, efficiencies and other mitigations to allow it to produce a balanced budget and is offsetting the rising costs by identifying £115.6 million in further savings and income. Alongside the savings made through becoming a unitary council, overall Buckinghamshire Council will have made savings of more than £230 million from the time it came into being in 2020 through to the end of this budget period in 2028.

The updated budget proposals for 2025/26 include a commitment to dedicate significant funding to key projects and priorities for residents. These include:

- Extra funding for our roads, taking the total investment to £120 million
- £24.8 million to support regeneration
- £10.7 million on climate change and flood management
- £24.8 million to support housing and homelessness



VOLUNTEER BUCKS

VOLUNTEER BUCKS

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- £188.8 million on schools and school improvement projects
- £30.4 million on our Household Recycling Centres, Waste vehicles and other waste projects

Buckinghamshire Council Leader Martin Tett said:

"We remain in a period of extreme turbulence with the local government sector as a whole currently on a financially unsustainable footing. We know the new government is proposing sweeping change to how local government functions but the truth remains at the moment that there simply is not enough money in the sector to pay for the services local councils must deliver however local government is organised, and particularly where there are key services that we are legally obliged to provide and upon which central government inspects us.

"We are working incredibly hard to find efficiencies and redesign local services to allow us to produce a balanced budget and still invest in our county and the services we provide to our residents. We're developing our own children's homes and recruiting more foster carers to save nearly £40 million on placements for children we are looking after. We're building our own temporary accommodation units to save more than £2 million paying for expensive accommodation for people who need it.

"Doing things differently like this is allowing us to put major funding behind our road network, schools and improving our town centres, focussing on the future of our county and making improvements for our residents.

"The reality is that we cannot keep chipping away or using dwindling reserves to pay for the essential services that our residents need. We are also seeing the new government directing funding and resource away from the South East northwards to cities and towns in the Midlands and the north of England. This negatively impacts us here in Buckinghamshire; I remain proud however of our financial prudence and am pleased our budget plans demonstrate significant investment where our residents want us to spend their tax."

- *The Medium Term Financial Plan was considered by Cabinet on 2 January.*
- *Full details of the Cabinet meeting is available on the [council's website](#).*
- *Some changes may be required as a result of the final Local Government Settlement.*
- *After that, the budget proposals will go through a series of cross-party scrutiny meetings in which residents can submit questions about the budget. To do this, residents should email their questions to budget.scrutiny@buckinghamshire.gov.uk*
- *Following the scrutiny process, the final budget proposal will be put to the Full Council during February.*

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Remember a loved one this spring with a Precious Pink Peony

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity has partnered with the magnificent Waddesdon Manor to launch a very special Forever Flowers event to celebrate and remember loved ones this spring.

A stunning, temporary display of 1,200 bespoke metal pink peonies will be installed in the Rose Garden at Waddesdon Manor, near Aylesbury in April. Each flower will represent the life, love and memories of a loved one.

The Charity is offering you the opportunity to be a part of this event by dedicating one of these limited Precious Pink Peonies, and an invitation to a private viewing of the display on Monday 28th April whilst the grounds are closed to the public. The installation will then remain on display to the public for three weeks. Once the installation is removed, those who have dedicated a flower will be able to take it home to display as a forever keepsake.

By dedicating a Precious Pink Peony, you will help us to provide compassionate local hospice care and be there for more patients and families across Buckinghamshire and its borders.

To dedicate a Precious Pink Peony visit <https://www.fnhospice.org.uk/foreverflowers> or call 01296 429975 for more information.



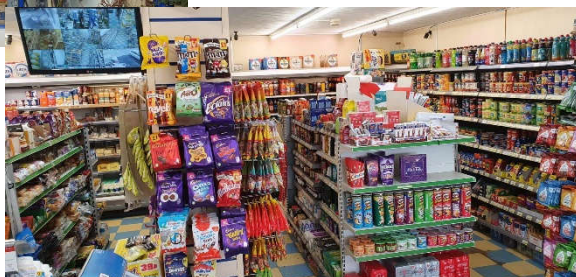
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- * Pay-point/Top up services will be available.
- * Cash machine will be available.
- * Photocopying
- * Pies & Coffee will be introduced in the morning.



About Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is committed to providing comprehensive and high-quality care for patients with life-limiting illnesses across Buckinghamshire and its borders wherever and whenever they need it. We support their loved ones and carers through the toughest of times. We help families make the most of every day together.

We partner with Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust to deliver services through Florence Nightingale Hospice, at its site in the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire and in patients' homes across the region.

These services include additional nurses for the In-Patient Unit, the only bedded unit in Buckinghamshire, to enable them to deliver dedicated, individual care to patients and loved ones. Also within the Hospice building we commission the Lymphoedema Clinic and Day Hospice service which offers physical, therapeutic and emotional support to people who have been diagnosed with a life-limiting illness, but who are currently able to live independently at home.

In the community we support a team of Clinical Nurse Specialists, Florrie's Childrens' Team, Bereavement Listeners and our FNH@Home team, who support those who wish to spend their final days at home.

For more information visit www.fnhospice.org.uk

Facebook – [@fnhofficial](https://www.facebook.com/fnhofficial) Instagram – [@fnhofficial](https://www.instagram.com/fnhofficial) Twitter - [@fnhofficial](https://twitter.com/fnhofficial)



Happy new year to you all. We have had a fabulous festive period this year. Was so nice to see you all. We are still waiting to confirm some social events so please keep an eye on our Facebook page for more details. We have Stoke Hammond youth vets' football on a Sunday morning. They are playing at home on

the 2nd & 16th Feb and on 23rd March. Please come down to show them your support. We also host 2 pool teams and a darts team all of which are doing well in their respective leagues.

We invite all to pop down and enjoy our friendly club. Membership is due end of April. Our AGM will be announced during March. If anyone would like to comment on the sports club please message our Facebook page. We also hire our bar out for functions again please message our Facebook page.

Once again, we please ask you all to make sure dog poo is picked up, there is 3 bins around the field. So, there is absolutely no reason for the poo to be left. We are all keeping an eye on the situation and we will be reporting any dog owner who does not pick up after their dog to the local authorities. You could face up to £1000 fine.



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WELCOME TO THE NEWTON LEYS SOUTH SECTION



Taylor Wimpey side adoption

Progress is being made on the adoption of the Taylor Wimpey side of the estate. Your two Newton Leys councillors Ajaz and Champion walked around the estate in January and have a long list of trees that need replacing and grass that needs tidying up.

Once it is adopted the grass areas across the whole of Newton Leys South it will be adopted by Stoke Hammond Parish Council and maintained by Fenny Stratford and Bletchley Town Councils landscaping team. They are doing an excellent job on the Bovis side already.

Bovis side adoption

There are still a few more steps to finalise the adoption on the Bovis side. The main delay has been due to Firstport not finalising and sending the sums it is holding. Councillor Champion continues to press them. The land also needs to be transferred to the management company.

Hopefully, we will be able to report further progress in the next newsletter.

Christmas tree in Newton Leys

The Christmas tree in Newton Leys didn't survive a very warm period over the summer. We would like to replace it, but probably with a smaller tree to give it a better chance of survival. If we do so, we would love to have a couple of Christmas tree volunteers to keep an eye on it and give it a couple of litres of water when it is very warm.

Planning applications

There are two substantial planning applications within our area. One is facing the end of Dickens Lane for about 90 homes, with a substantial amount of public open space and room for a pavilion and MUGA. There is also a larger application for around 300 homes to the South of Drayton Road. The Dickens Lane development had a lot of input from councillors to design a scheme that actually, helps provide some of the much needed leisure infrastructure for the whole Newton Leys estate.



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BOSCH



Planning Applications cont/d: The Drayton Road application unfortunately has had little input from councillors and has no useful leisure infrastructure, so will further strain current facilities. However, on the plus side access to Newton Leys via Lansbury Road would have to be improved which should make getting into and out of the estate less dangerous.

The other planning application of note is in the Milton Keynes part of Newton Leys where Taylor Wimpey is applying to build on the patch of grass next to the Pavilion. Stoke Hammond Parish Council wrote a strong letter of objection to the first application that includes a traveller site and about 80 houses. Taylor Wimpey's application got hundreds of objections from residents and a petition objecting to the plans was signed by over 1000 people. As a result, an additional application for 130 houses with no travellers site was submitted in December. We would urge people to comment about both applications on the MK Planning Portal. It is positive that the traveller's site has been removed from the second application but the first hasn't been withdrawn, and that site again hasn't got enough space and infrastructure to support 130 houses.

Cllrs Mubashir Ajaz & Craig Champion



Project Stocksfield Working Groups

Stoke Hammond Parish Council

S106 UPDATE

Members of the working groups have visited a couple of pavilions and pitches over the last month.

Progress is being made on the planning application with both the Ecologist and Agricultural Land classification surveys being completed in January.

We hope to be submitting our planning application in the next couple of months.

We are very grateful for having a chance to look around facilities in other areas and to speak to local councils and sports groups about their experiences. It has really helped get a sense of the possibilities open to us if we get it right.

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January 2025

After a cold start to the New Year everyone has settled back into school ready for 2025. We love to make learning fun and January has definitely started that way.

- Our younger children in Foundation are learning about storytelling and traditional tales. We will be retelling stories orally, learning story language such as 'once upon a time' and 'they all lived happily ever after' and writing our versions of the stories too. We have even planted seeds to grow a beanstalk just like Jack!
- Year 1 and 2 are off to Rio...at least from the comfort of their classroom. They will learn about the seasons, the oceans, the landscape and the cultural differences between Europe and Brazil and we'll be having our own Rio Carnival with Samba lessons.
- Year 3 and 4 are focusing on science this term with their topic 'Potions' and have made bath bombs and lava lamps to help them understand how solids behave in a liquid.
- Our older children in Year 5 & 6 are exploring different features that make up our identities, whether these are inherited characteristics or external factors, and then using their maths skills to gather information and create graphs to identify trends and patterns.

On a more serious note, we've been talking to the children about online safety, especially as many may have received new devices for Christmas. We talked about the good and bad things about being online, how children can stay safe online and what we should do if something worries or upsets us. We then reminded children of things that they mustn't do:

- Don't believe everything you see online
- Don't trust what strangers say – they could be anyone!
- Don't share personal information like your name, age or address
- Don't share pictures or videos of yourself
- Don't spend any money without checking with an adult.

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High Ash January 2025 page 2

And we also asked that children remember to spend time with friends and family off line too! We have lots of information about online safety on our website which is available for anyone to access so please to take a look if you need advice

www.highthashschool.co.uk

STOKE HAMMOND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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www.stokehammondcommunitycentre.com

Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys South Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Council Regulation 16 consultation was completed before Christmas and any comments received will be made available to the examiner.

Since Christmas we have been caught up in a log jam of emerging Neighbourhood plans being progressed by Bucks Council Planners. The good news however is that this week we were finally offered the name of an examiner for agreement by the Parish Council. He can start work immediately which hopefully means with a positive recommendation the plan will be ready to go to the Parish referendum by the middle of the year.

Malcolm Newing

Councillor Hammond Parish Council



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MAVIS'S QUIZ

In case you missed them, here are the answers to the last quiz which was very much on a Xmas theme where you had to identify the character and the film in which they starred:



- 1/ Buddy the Elf - Elf 2/ Kevin McAllister – Home Alone
3/ George Bailey – It's a Wonderful Life 4/ John McClane
- Die Hard 5/ The Grinch – The Grinch 6/ Cat Woman
- Batman Returns 7/ Jack Skeleton – A Nightmare before Xmas
8/ Arthur – Arthur Xmas 9/ Ebenezer Scrooge – A Christmas Carol
10/ The Conductor – Polar Express



This time, are you of an age that you can put a name to these characters from some classical children's TV shows.





LADIES THAT LUNCH

It was lovely to see so many people at the January lunch. Warm thanks to the Sports Club for once more agreeing to host the lunch each month and for putting on the heating to give us all a warm space.

The next lunch will be on Tuesday February 11th. For newcomers to the village soup and rolls are served, followed by cakes and tea and coffee. Cost is £3 each session to cover the rent of the building and electricity used. The event starts at 12.30 and lasts just over an hour, so even if you work, take a lunch break and visit us all in the Sports Club. You will be made welcome.

The March Ladies that Lunch will be on Tuesday March 11th, same time same venue.

Hazel & Jenny

Hazel Turner 01525 270404 hmt404@hotmail.co.uk

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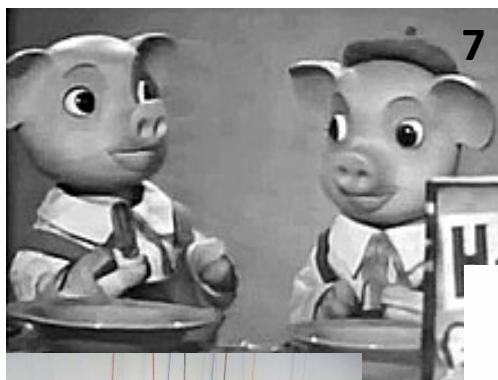
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Best of luck, but to save you having to wait till the next edition, answers can be found at the end of this month's 'Grumpy Old Man' feature.



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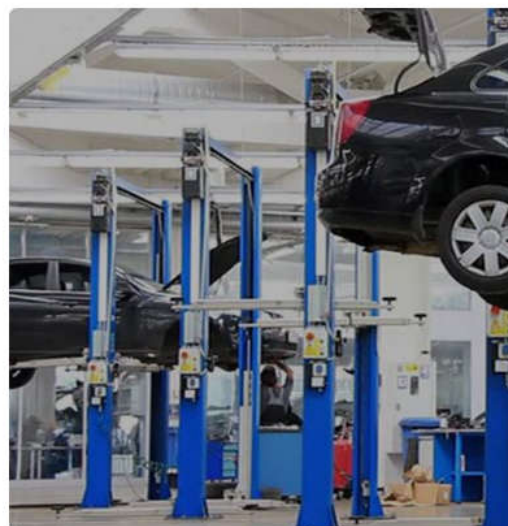


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CALLUM ANDERSON MP

Buckingham & Bletchley

Newsletter 07.01.25



Before I begin this week's catch up, I must express my heartfelt condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the two women who tragically lost their lives, as well as to the two men who sustained injuries, in Newton Leys on Christmas Day.

This devastating incident has shocked our community, but it has not damaged its strength. I visited Newton Leys Primary School over the festive period and spoke with members of St Joseph's Church, alongside wider community members who have been affected. It was clear as we chatted over cups of tea that our community remains resolute in its determination to support each other.

I am proud to be your Member of Parliament, and as you may know, this is my first full week back in Westminster in 2025. I feel rested and ready to represent you in the House of Commons, and closer to home I am working hard on our local priorities here in Buckingham and Bletchley.

Speaking of local priorities (and in case you didn't spot on my social media channels) just before Christmas, Laura Kyrke-Smith (MP for Aylesbury) and I met with Sir Chris Bryant MP (Minister of State for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism) to explain concerns raised about Buckinghamshire Council's changes to their library model. We have written a follow-up letter to the Minister on our worries regarding the accessibility and safety of our libraries. I promise that as your MP I will always stand up for our libraries and the residents who use them.

I also wrote my latest column in Bucks Herald on what our Government is doing to clean up the water sector. For too long sewage has been pumped into our beautiful waterways and companies such as Anglian Water have not had to face any consequences. This is going to change, and I was extremely pleased to vote for the Water (Special Measures) Bill, which marks a turning point for Britain's environment and ends the era of complacency and unchecked pollution.

Looking ahead to the new year, I am excited to get about and meet many more of you in the months to come. More information about my surgeries can be found below, and I can't wait to pop by fantastic local schools, businesses and community groups in every corner of the constituency. If you are a constituent and there is anything I can help you with, do not hesitate to send me an email.

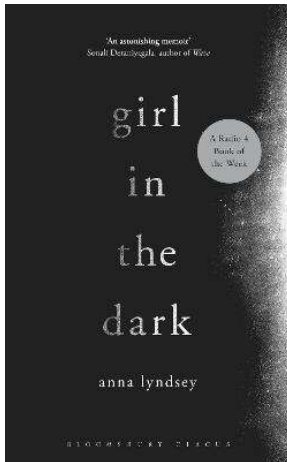
Ending this newsletter on some positive news stories, I'd like to give a big congratulations to Joe Harrison, Chief Executive of Milton Keynes University Hospital, on his CBE for services to healthcare, and Heidi Travis, Chair of the hospital, on her OBE for services to palliative, neurological and bereavement care.

I also loved reading this story on BBC News on how MK SNAP (Special Needs Advancement Project) is working with local employers - including M&M supplies in Bletchley - to help adults with learning disabilities reach their full potential. The piece put a big smile on my face.

STOKE HAMMOND BOOK CLUB



Girl in the Dark - by Anna Lyndsey



This was a beautifully written account of person's suffering and endurance under unusual circumstances. It is a true story and a portrayal of Anna's retreat into darkness and its effect on her physical and mental health. She was living normal life but started to notice worrying symptoms which eventually developed in to an intolerance firstly of fluorescent light and then sunlight itself. It was amazing how she coped and adjusted to deal with the strange condition which was scary but certainly was not all doom and gloom and even humorous in places.

The group all expressed their sympathy for Anna but otherwise opinions were varied. A couple found it depressing and although it was interesting couldn't say they actually enjoyed it although all agreed it was well written and were full of admiration for her coping skills. She filled her worst times with writing (eg. this book), and other pastimes which were full of imagination and determination to try and make the most of a certainly frustrating situation. We were all pleased she had a supportive partner and were pleased again to say they were married in the end. Many agreed that it was written without any self-pity and in a gently humorous way with lots of twists and turns.

Conclusion: Even though the thoughts of the group were not too encouraging it is felt that it is worth a read with good writing and an unusual subject well dealt with.



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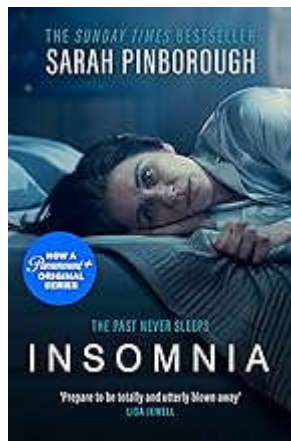
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Insomnia – by Sarah Pinborough



Described as a thrilling psychological thriller. A mind-bending novel of paranoia, revenge and expertly handled with twists and turns galore. Even though complex and certainly different it is seen through the eyes of a fragile, unstable woman and well written with praise from other writers including Richard Osman. Emma is the main character who works so hard to bury the past and to protect her family and enjoy her idyllic life but something is keeping her awake and struggling with her sanity.

Personally, I totally disliked it for innumerable reasons and found it annoying but, to my surprise, I was completely in the minority as most of the group really enjoyed it and thought it was a page turner, well written and kept them guessing and in suspense right to the end. One of our members loved it and thought it well written whilst another liked it but, like me, felt there were too many characters involved also a mention of it being contrived with cardboard characters. However, this was not a deterrent. There was much sympathy for the actual insomnia. It was described as a holiday read and really enjoyable as the ending was unexpected. So, it ranged from very enjoyable to tiresome although overall it was appreciated by most of the Club and therefore must be said to be a successful read.

Conclusion: As so many found it a good read it would obviously be worth a try.

Next first book - Far Cry from Kensington by Muriel Spark

Next first book: Girl in the Dark – by Anna Lyndsey



COFFEE MORNINGS AT THE SPORTS CLUB



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STOKE HAMMOND GARDENING CLUB



On November 29th we held our Fish & Chips and Quiz night at the Community Centre and it was great to see the room full of our members.

The meal was fine and the quiz was table by table - some thought it was a little bit difficult but most managed well and our artistic

committee member Laraine had made some novelty prizes for the winning table. It was voted a success.

The Committee must now see what we will all be up to in 2025 so our first meeting of the new year will be held soon for ideas and research and our next get-together will be our AGM in March, so watch out for the emails which will arrive in good time.

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READERS LETTERS



Dear Editor,

A Spring Thank you:

This is a letter to thank you and all the contributors and people delivering the newsletter on a bimonthly basis. A great deal of work goes into its production. Thank you also to the very many people who serve this village so in brief thank you to:

The post people and parcel delivery persons, to the milk delivery drivers, to the bin men who have no easy task.

Warm and sincere thanks to: Kutty and all the staff at the Food and Wine Store, to Mark and Jo at MD Autocare for their patience when my car goes wrong, to the Dolphin and staff for their continuing hard work, wonderful food and ambience. To Jackie and Elizabeth for continuing to run the Coffee Morning every Wednesday huge thanks are due. Well done villagers appreciate you.

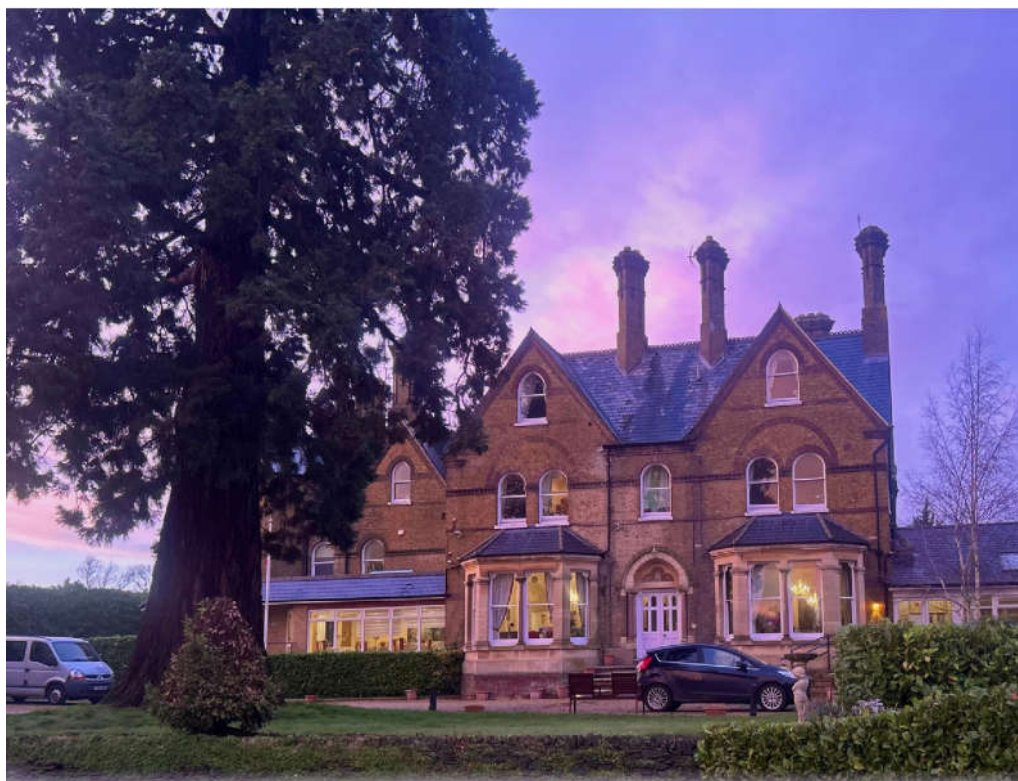
Thank you to the Parish Councilors (elections are due this year), Sports Club committee (please appreciate particularly the work of Joe and Mel D'Agostino, David Tooth and Dave Garner who work so very hard to keep the recreation ground in great condition, The Community Association Committee for keeping this village amenities going. Individual thanks to Avril and Garry Christopher for litter picking each week, David and Diane Webber for putting on the Community Breakfast, Café Church and arranging fundraising events alongside the Church's fundraising committee. Joyful Tots, Buttons and the Scouts and Cubs staff congratulations are in order you do a magnificent job!

To the book club organisers , Lynda and Sally, thank you for the tea and biscuits and for hosting us on alternate third Tuesdays.

If there are any new people willing and eager to help on any of the committees or events your help would be greatly appreciated and accepted.

FINALLY, Thank you to anyone and any I have missed out!

Hazel Turner



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The Lindens Residential Care Home

*What's Been
Happening?*

FESTIVE CELEBRATIONS

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OUT & ABOUT

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been theatrical and
wholesome ones, with trips
to see school nativitys and
a visit to Stantonbury
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By-Pass and Roads

Many years ago (January 2004) before I started GOM, I wrote a letter to the LBO (never published) regarding the possibility of Stansted becoming a further London airport:

“Public enquiries had been held, demonstrations prevailed, and the public were assured that “no such development was imminent – absolute tosh – nothing to worry about”. At around that time “they” decided to build a motorway from London to Bishop’s Stortford. Nice little road, highly unnecessary (except perhaps for the residents of Bishop’s Stortford) but good for Essex boys to race their Cortina’s up and down). And Lo! Shortly after, it came to pass that Stansted was to become the third London airport. Well, we never saw that coming!”

“Stoke Hammond have had a by-pass under consideration since 1950. This way, that way, these funds those funds, no funds etc.etc.... 2003 and yes everyone was aware that it was underway as a private/public joint venture. Hurrah went the village as top hats flew in the air! Work started, it was true after all! However what was this further public enquiry to be held?- in Brickhill and not Stoke Hammond. Was the road not under construction: were we not saved? No, the bypass is only funded past the Lakes Estate. Is this short piece of road merely an extension of the Bletchley by-pass: is Stoke Hammond not being by-passed? I feel not.

Now let me think what could they build at the end of this little folly if planning permission just happened to be granted?”

I was wrong. We did get a full by-pass a few years later. I was right- we had an access road for a massive waste disposal site and we now get a large % of London’s waste as



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On an even more local point I wrote in March last year “hopes were raised a week or so back when the ubiquitous white paint lines appeared round the potholes in Church Road and Old School Lane. Two days ago, a lorry arrived and filled in one of the holes at the bottom of Church Road. They then moved into Old School Lane and filled most of the big holes. I say filled as the edges weren’t sealed and the asphalt doesn’t look to be tightly packed. I’d give it 2 winters at most. Hopefully they’re coming back to complete the work in Church Road.”

Again, I was wrong – it only lasted one Winter!

Grumpy Old Man

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ANSWERS TO MAVIS'S QUIZ:

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- 2 – Bill and Ben
The Flowerpot Men
- 3 – Andy Pandy
- 4 – Torchy
The Battery Boy
- 5 – The Woodentops
- 6 – Pingu
- 7 – Pinky and Porky
- 8 – Dougal
(Magic Roundabout)
- 9 – Twizzle
- 10 – Captain Scarlett



High Ash Scout Group

Stoke Hammond

Scouting – it's not just for kids!

Adult & Youth (13 & ½+) volunteers wanted

Volunteering gives you the chance to try different activities, visit new places and learn and share skills, all whilst making a positive difference to the lives of young people.

There are plenty of ways you can help our Cub & Scout sections:

- work directly with young people
- support other volunteers
- provide specialist support, e.g. fundraising, training or media
- helping with events
- assist with administration and organisation

Whether you'd like to help out week-after-week or whenever-you-can, we provide training, learning opportunities and cups of tea

Why volunteer?

- make friends and meet people
- try new things and challenge yourself
- get outdoors and get stuck in
- Positively impact your community
- create vital opportunities for young people
- make memories that'll last a lifetime
- build your CV
- D of E volunteering section (age 13 & ½+)

Any enquiries to: join.highthash@MKscouts.org
(we meet on Thursdays, in term time)

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteer/volunteering-with-scouts/>

Adventurous and Busy Since November!

The High Ash Scout Group has been bustling with exciting activities and unforgettable moments since November. Here's a snapshot of our recent adventures:

Church Christmas Fayre: A huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the Church Christmas Market in December! We had a blast running games and selling homemade Christmas decorations, all while raising funds for our upcoming camp.



Christmas Tree Festival: Our Cubs had a fantastic time contributing to the Church Christmas Tree Festival. It was a great way to showcase their creativity and spread some festive cheer.

Christmas Camp at Paccar Scout Campsite: We couldn't have asked for better weather for our Christmas Camp at Paccar Scout Campsite! With a thrilling pirate theme, we made ship's biscuits over open fires, brewed our own pirate grog, and hunted the woods for clues to discover buried treasure (chocolate gold coins!). We also enjoyed a full Christmas dinner, campfire sea shanties, fun quizzes, board games and a movie night featuring *Hook*. Highlights included rigging races, crate stacking challenges, and laser tag pirate wars - an unforgettable weekend!





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- ✓ 9.15am Intermediate
- ✓ 10.30am Gentle/Osteoporosis
- ✓ 12noon Beginners
- ✓ 7.15pm Mixed Level

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STUDIO -

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY/THURSDAY

- ✓ 1:1 and 2:1 private sessions

ZOOM - WEDNESDAY DAY/EVE

SWANBOURNE - FRIDAY

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www.blindsmiltonkeynes.com

Indoor Activities: Since the new year, we've been staying busy indoors at Stoke Hammond Community Centre. The Cubs have been honing their first aid skills, while the Scouts celebrated Burns Night with haggis, Scout made shortbread, and Iron-Bru!

Join Us: Boys and girls aged 8 to 14 are welcome to join, space permitting. For more information, contact us at join.highthash@mkscouts.org. We're also looking for adult volunteers to help run games, teach new skills, or even launch a Beaver Colony for six year olds!



DAVE POLLINGTON

Lead Volunteer – High Ash Scout Group

dave.pollington@mkscouts.org

FRESH MILK

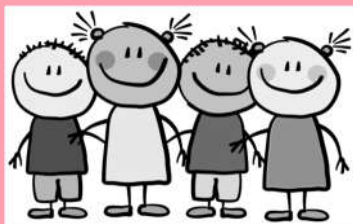
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Joyful Tots



Joyful Tots is an inclusive drop-in for parents, carers, those who are pregnant or anyone looking after a baby or preschool child. You can have a natter over refreshments and babies & toddlers learn to play.

Refreshments (inc. fruit) are included. Your first session is free, then £2 after that. We don't charge a termly fee because we know what it's like with little ones – you never know how they're feeling till the day!



We had a lovely Christmas with lots of activities including paper chains and sticking pictures of toys for our Christmas lists as well as a Christmas party at the end of term. We're looking forward to lots more fun this term. Why not come and join us!

Our session hours are **10am - 11.30am on Friday mornings during (Bucks CC) term times** in the side room at **Stoke Hammond Community Centre**



If you'd like more information please call Diane 01525 270409 or Ashlynn 07930 240926 or message us on Facebook (Joyful Tots)

St Luke's Church News



We had a very busy Christmas time, starting with our Wreath Making Workshop which was very successful. We are extremely grateful to Alex and Sophie Nash for organising this and donating the profits to St Luke's. Places went like hot cakes and those who joined were rewarded with beautiful wreaths which lasted the whole Christmas period! Following the workshop we held our Christmas Fayre where there was a

continuous stream of visitors. Thank you to all who came along and supported us. The Christmas Tree festival in the church was a wonder to behold! Again we are thankful to too many village organisations to list for contributing a decorated Christmas tree also again to Alex and Sophie Nash for completing the church decorations which were the envy of



all! Our Christingle service (below) was again well supported with visitors old and young joining in. A total of £81.85 was donated to The Children's Society. The Carol Service was very well attended and nationally, services were back to pre-Covids levels. We were treated to some delightful anthems, solos and descants by the benefice choir. Our "Carols" this year didn't make it to the village Green due to high winds.



We felt that this would be a health and safety risk so we held it in the Community centre instead, where we enjoyed mulled wine and mince pies. Apologies to those who didn't see the message on the village FB page or the sign placed on the Green.

The Crib service was popular with young and old, some going to great lengths to find the figures for the nativity scene and the Midnight service was popular with regulars and newcomers alike. Finally, we are pleased to announce that lighting has now been fitted along the church path, so in future it will be easier to find your way to and from the Midnight service (as well as on a late-night dog walk!)



Prestige

KITCHENS



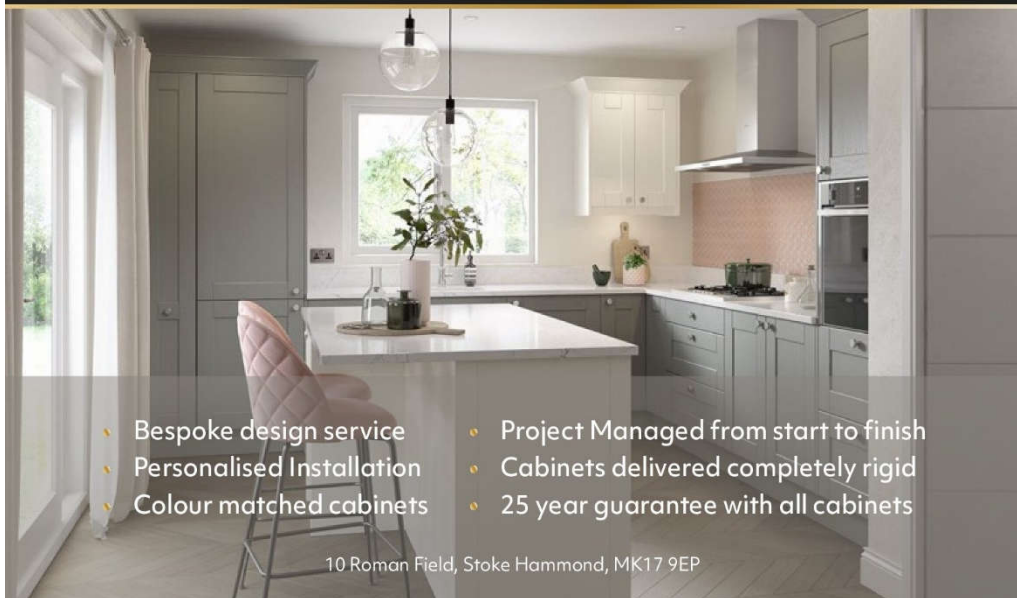
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10 Roman Field, Stoke Hammond, MK17 9EP

Forthcoming Special Services: (For further details, see the list of services elsewhere in the SH news)

Café Church: Join us on **2nd February** from **9.30 am** on for our most easily accessible “service”. After a bacon or (veggie or meat) sausage butty and chat, we’ll have about 15 minutes of a talk/worship maybe a reading and a prayer before the close. Everyone’s welcome!



Ash Wednesday: There will be service (without music) at Great Brickhill on **5th March at 10.30am** for this service of repentance.



Mothering Sunday: We’ll be celebrating on **30th March at 9.30am**. Please come along for this special Family Service to celebrate mothers. There’ll be a small gift for mothers as well!

Fundraising:

This time of year is quiet for us, but we can give you a heads up about at least one event: we will be holding our biannual **Open Gardens** this year and are hoping for some more and different gardens. **If you think you could offer to open your garden in aid of St Luke’s church, please contact Dave Webber 270409.**

If you can’t make any of our services or events, but want to give to the church please send a BACS to sort code: **20-57-40** ac no.**00869198** (Stoke Hammond Parochial Church Council) and tell us (treasurer.shpcc@yahoo.com) you’ve done so, adding your postcode & house name or no. if you’re able to gift aid your donation. Thanks.

Church Activities:

This year we are compiling the **Church electoral roll** again from scratch. If you would like to be on the electoral roll and involved with the church, please contact a churchwarden. (see below). There will be a **Prayer Walk** around the village on **1st March** starting at the church at **10am**. Please feel free to join us or flag us down with your prayer requests if you see us. We’ll finish up at The Dolphin for coffee. **Prayers:** Our prayer group meets twice a month. We pray for local organisations, the community, individuals, and national & international issues. All prayers are in strict confidence. We’re happy to accept prayer requests: via cards at the Community Breakfast or through churchwardens or call us. (see below)



The next **Community Breakfasts** are on **8th February** and **8th March** at the **Community Centre**. Orders taken from **8.30 to 10.30am**. As well as full English, we have croissants, cereal etc. and we welcome your visitors too! There’s no charge, but you may make a donation if you wish to. Food bank donations are also collected here.

The **Foodbank** in the church porch is free to all villagers who are welcome to use it **on an ad hoc basis**. If you’re in desperate regular need, there’s a list of phone numbers in the porch for those who need more or regular support. There’s a family box which contains family meal items and duplicate items.



PLANNING APPLICATION NEWS & UPDATES DEC 2024 – JAN 2025



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

NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS:

24/03583/APP Lea Garth, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Householder application for single storey rear extension/sunroom (Part retrospective)
Cllrs resolved they had NO Objections to this application which was subsequently approved by Bucks planning on the 21/01/25.

24/03601/AOP-Land South of Drayton Road Newton Leys

Outline planning application with all matters reserved apart from access for up to 290 dwellings, open space, landscaping, drainage features and associated infrastructure following demolition of existing agricultural buildings

Cllrs resolved to OBJECT to this application for the following reasons:

- *The Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) states that Stoke Hammond does not need to take on more homes as we have met our allocation.*
- *This application is outside of our draft Neighbourhood Plan.*
- *More information is required by both Bucks Highways and affordable housing before they will make comment, so information is currently missing from the application.*
- *The houses in the application all face Newton Leys, with any green space located at the bottom of the development next to the farm.*

24/03820/AOP-Land at Newton Leys South

Outline planning application with all matters reserved apart from access for up to 90 dwellings, land for a new recreation area including land for a potential community facility, construction of new vehicular and pedestrian access and associated works including infrastructure, open space and landscaping/drainage of land

As this site is included in the Stoke Hammond draft Neighbourhood Plan, Cllrs resolved they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application.

PLANNING UPDATES:

24/02734/APP Pennhurst, Church Road, Stoke Hammond MK17 9BP

Householder application for front porch, single storey rear extension and changes to external finishes and new dropped kerb.

Cllrs had previously resolved that they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application, subsequently approved by Bucks Planning on the 22/11/24

24/01131/APP 9 Harris Close, Newton Leys

Householder application for single storey rear extension

Cllrs had previously resolved that they had NO OBJECTIONS to this application, subsequently approved by Bucks Planning on the 19/12/24

For further information/updates on these or other planning applications in our locality, please visit the following website selecting 'Aylesbury Vale' as the search area and then enter the application reference or use the map search facility:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-and-comment-on-a-planning-application/>

If you can contribute to the foodbank financially or in goods, please contact Dave or Diane Webber (see below) Items most needed include tinned casserole, tinned meat/fish, veg oil, cat food, sugar and milk.



Toy Swap Shop: in the church porch so feel free to use it. If you have toys, games or **children's** books that you no longer need, please donate them to the Swap Shop.

Bible verse of the month: *Isaiah 41v10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

What does it mean?: Christians believe that even though it can be hard to remember this when you're feeling down, alone and overcome with fear, we can focus on the truth that God is with us. He promises to never leave or forsake us and you can talk to him by praying.



Funeral information: New rules mean that crematoria are not offering a religious service by default: it must be specifically requested. The Rector can conduct a funeral service at a crematorium if you wish. Also, any village resident can be buried or have their ashes buried in the churchyard if wished (for a small fee). Memorial stones must conform to the Oxford Diocese regulations. Please note that rules regarding churchyard memorials have changed. If you'd like more details, please speak to the Rector or Churchwarden Harry Davies.



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

St Luke's offers baptisms, weddings and funerals. Please contact the Rector if you'd like to discuss any of these (contact details on the website). His phone goes straight to an answerphone but he'll reply as soon as he can, or contact a Churchwarden. The Rector's times off are Monday, and Friday afternoon. If you have a prayer request or enquiry, please call **Churchwardens: Harry on 07773065271 or Diane on 270409.**

MAP
(Not to scale)



MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR LEIGHTON RD 22/11/24 TO 21/01/25

For Project:

Leighton Rd 22/11/24 to 21/01/25

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated:

Speed Intervals

Time Intervals

Traffic Report From

85th Percentile Speed

85th Percentile Vehicles

Max Speed

Total Vehicles

AADT:

Incoming

21/01/2025

5 MPH

Instant

21/11/2024

37.3 MPH

88108

60 MPH

109657

1699

16:39:57

15:00:00

through

21/01/2025

14:59:59

01/12/2024

07:00:00

Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	1783	1671
AM Peak	144	122
PM Peak	154	141

Speed

Speed Limit:

30

85th Percentile Speed:

37.3

50th Percentile Speed:

30.7

10 MPH Pace Interval:

25.0 MPH

Average Speed:

30.86

35.0 MPH

to

35.0 MPH

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Count over limit

% over limit

Avg Speeder

Avg Speed

8978

55.7

35.4

12.5

7334

55.6

35.3

13.2

8522

54.5

35.1

12.3

9069

53.4

35.1

12.4

7260

53.1

35.2

13.8

6202

54.6

35.2

14.9





News from Buckinghamshire Council

Dear Resident

24 January 2025

It feels a little late to be saying this but a 'Happy New Year' to you all. As I write this, we are experiencing Storm Eowyn sweeping across Buckinghamshire. Hopefully not too much damage will be done but I do know that Buckinghamshire Council has teams ready to go out and assist should the need arise. Fingers crossed everything is okay by the time you are reading this.

As ever, it's been a busy start to the year so I want to give you an update on some of our main bits of news.

I also want to make you aware of more detail about the major changes to local government being proposed by central government. These are the biggest changes in over a century and will impact on what decisions are made and where that impact on the lives of Buckinghamshire residents.

Looking out for each other

The days are growing longer but we are not yet out of the cold, wet weather and relatively short days. It's a tough time of year. Therefore, again may I urge you to keep an eye out for vulnerable neighbours and relatives who may be on their own and possibly struggling to pay heating or food costs.

It means that, from June, opening hours will increase by 23% at Aylesbury, Beaconsfield, Buckingham, Chesham, Hazlemere, Marlow and Princes Risborough libraries.

Amersham Library will pilot enhanced opening times with the library open seven days a week from 7am to 9pm on weekdays and from 7am to 7pm at weekends, an increase of 129%.

Libraries will still be fully staffed during busy times under the new model so that customers who want face to face assistance still have that option. The more flexible approach also means customers will be able to use the service without the need for staff to be present. So for example, at Amersham where the library is located within the new Leisure Centre, it will be possible to borrow and return books or magazines in the early morning or evening after using the centre or whilst waiting for friends or family members. We look forward to working closely with customers and groups who regularly use the libraries as we progress to bringing in these new arrangements later in the year.

This is an example of how we are doing things differently and using new technology



MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR FENNY RD 22/11/24 TO 21/01/25

For Project: Fenny Road 22/11/24 to 21/01/25

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated: 21/01/2025

Speed Interval: 5 MPH

Time Interval: Instant

Traffic Report From: 21/11/2024

85th Percentile Speed: 32.1 MPH

85th Percentile Vehicles: 89238

Max Speed: 60 MPH

Total Vehicles: 104986

AADT: 1719

Incoming: 21/01/2025

16:50:23

through

21/01/2025

15:00:00

15:59:59

on

05/12/2024

22:35:00

Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	1786	1682
AM Peak	103	101
PM Peak	179	164

Speed

Speed Limit	30				
85th Percentile Speed	32.1				
50th Percentile Speed	26				
10 MPH Pace Interval:	20.0 MPH	to	30.0 MPH		
Average Speed	26.29				
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
Count over limit	3661	3395	2727	3267	
% over limit	21.8	20.9	20.8	21.2	
Avg Speeder	34.4	34.4	34.4	34.3	
Avg Speed	10.5	10.4	11.0	10.5	



to save money and still offer an excellent and improved service to our customers who will benefit from longer opening hours and the more flexible approach.

Improving our Environment and mitigating Climate Change

We also start the year with some fantastic news regarding progress we've made on our Climate Change and Air Quality strategy, now into its fourth year of work after being adopted in October 2021. I'm really pleased to be able to report that in that time, we've reduced our carbon emissions by a remarkable 78% compared to baseline emissions from 1990 (this is the same measure that Government uses). This means that we have hit our target five years early, of achieving a 75% reduction by 2030.

This really is superb news and reflects the fact that we not only have a commitment to improve our environment but a clear strategy with plans and budget to deliver it. This great result has been achieved through many different changes that have a positive impact on our local environment. We have planted nearly 193,000 new trees in just three years, we continue to work towards increasing greener travel options and we have programmes in place to reduce energy usage and loss in individual homes, such as our Energy Doctor scheme, where we visit eligible homes to look at quick and straightforward ways to help reduce energy use and reduce bills. Additionally, we are planning to introducing more electric vehicles and we are ensuring our street lights are energy efficient.

We have also made great strides on air quality improvements.

If you want to read the full detail of the Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy update, the full progress report is available on our website.

Council budgets

We considered the council's updated Medium Term Financial Plan in the first week of January, which outlines how we will balance our books until 2028. The council's Cabinet met on 2 January to examine these updated financial proposals including how much funding the council is proposing to allocate to services and projects and proposed council tax rates for residents from 1 April this year.

I don't need to go over again how pressured our budgets are and regular readers of these updates will be well-versed in the acute challenges and the reasons behind them; this is explained in detail in the full Medium Term Financial Plan on the council's website.

Local Government reorganisation

You may recall I first wrote about this in my previous update at Christmas. This subject may seem very remote but, even though we have already established a unitary council for Buckinghamshire, these changes are almost certain to have a big impact on most of us in Buckinghamshire and the communities in which we live.

The national Government has published plans to radically change what local government looks like and where major decisions are taken. It plans to introduce what they call 'Strategic Authorities' covering several counties run by an elected Mayor empowered to take decisions on a wide range of topics. The proposal is that the Mayor will have a key role in areas such as Planning, Transport, Housing, Skills, Economic Development, Regeneration, Health, Climate Change and Environment.

MOBILE VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGN (MVAS) RESULTS FOR NEWTON RD 22/11/24 TO 21/01/25

For Project:

Newton Rd 22/11/24 to 21/01/25

Project Notes:

Location/Name:

Report Generated

Speed Intervals

Time Intervals

Traffic Report From

85th Percentile Speed

85th Percentile Vehicles

Max Speed

Total Vehicles

AADT:

Incoming

21/01/2025

5 MPH

Instant

21/11/2024

15:00:00

through

21/01/2025

18363

50 MPH

on

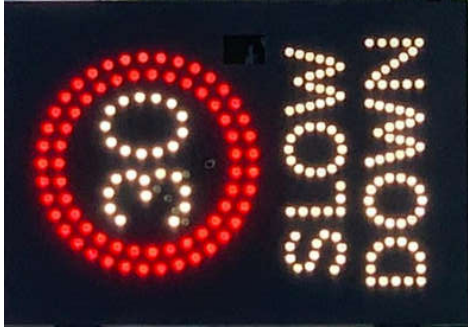
01/12/2024

22:45:00

21604

353

15:59:59



Volumes -

weekly counts

Time	5 Day	7 Day
Average Daily	379	348
AM Peak	28	23
PM Peak	39	35

Speed

Speed Limit:

85th Percentile Speed

50th Percentile Speed

10 MPH Pace Interval:

Average Speed

30.0 MPH

to

24.16

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

Count over limit

% over limit

Avg Speeder

Avg Speed

299

8.4

33.0

16.0

281

7.9

33.1

15.5

235

7.9

33.2

16.1

315

9.8

33.2

16.5

302

8.7

33.3

16.0

221

8.3

33.6

17.5

201

9.1

33.2

17.8

All of these are areas where currently your locally elected Buckinghamshire Councillors take decisions. In future this will change. So, for example, deciding how many houses must be built, and where, would become a power for the new Mayor. This means key decisions that affect us could be made by a Mayor covering a big geographic region and based in a town or city some distance away. The funding for the new Mayor is unclear but obviously there will be a cost for this new layer of government. The published proposals include the power for the Mayor to collect her or his own additional Council Tax.

As your council we are considering this new Government policy and deciding how to respond. No decisions have been made yet.

Could you foster?

A new year represents new beginnings and it could be an opportunity for your household to ponder whether fostering a child could be an option for you.

Fostering is a major priority for us with our commitment to provide the best possible outcomes for children who come into our care. We have over 500 children in Buckinghamshire who need local, caring and supportive homes to make sure that they don't have to move far away from their family, friends and all that's familiar to them. We are incredibly proud of our existing fostering community and the critical work they do in caring for our children and young people and we really need new carers to come forward.

There's never been a better time to become a foster carer with us – this year we have introduced a big range of new perks and benefits such as free parking in our car parks and council tax refunds. Please take a look at our newly designed 'Foster with Bucks' website for further information.

It is certainly going to be a very busy year ahead! As always please stay safe and look out for those that are vulnerable.

Yours,

Martin Tett Leader of Buckinghamshire Council



• GET IN TOUCH •

 **ONLINE**
Click here for our contact form

 **TELEPHONE**
Call us on
0300 131 6000*

* Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 9am-5:30pm, Friday 9am-5pm. Phone lines are closed on bank holidays.

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



Buckinghamshire Council

The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF

buckinghamshire.gov.uk

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM

Wing and Ivinghoe



**Inspector
James Davies**



**Sergeant
David Kuttner**



**Police Constable
Dionne Edwards**



**Police Constable
Jake Bye**



**PCSO
Tina Hobson**



**Special Constable
Sam Richards**

The neighbourhood policing team work with our local communities to make Aylesbury Vale safer

To contact your local Team call
101 or email them on

WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

You can also report an incident on our website:

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

In an emergency always call 999

Visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/TVPAYlesburyVale



VILLAGE DIARY

Tuesday 4 th February	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 8 th February	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 08.30 – 10.30
Tuesday 4 th March	Parish Council Meeting – Community Centre – 19.30
Saturday 8 th March	Community Breakfast – Community Centre 8.30 – 10.30

For Church dates/times please see the 'Church Services' section

ORGANISATIONS THAT USE THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

High Ash Scouts, Cubs (Beavers)

Thursday 17.30 – 21.30hrs
Contact: Dave Pollington 01525 270864

Buttons Pre-School

Monday – Friday 09.00 – 15.00hrs
Contact: 07495 369320 or 01908 533404

Louisa Harris Pilates

Monday day/evening
Contact: 07941 203589
Louisa.pilates@gmail.com
www.louisaharrisilates.co.uk

Chair Yoga

Wednesday 9.30 – 10.15hrs
Contact: Sally Peers 07766 756199
sallyyogalondon@gmail.com

Joyful Tots

Friday 10.00 – 11/30hrs
Contact: Diane 01525 270409
or Linda 07971 134497

To Hire the Hall please telephone 01525 270151 or e-mail: enquiries@shcommunityassociation.co.uk

SH NEWS – ADVERTISING RATES

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additional per edition cost:**

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

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

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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>Kelly Harris</i>)	07793-131810
Parish Council Chairman (<i>Mubasshir Ajaz</i>)	07775 932925
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Phil Gomm</i>)	07778 117647
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Jilly Jordan</i>)	07740 308468
Gt Brickhill Ward Councillor (<i>Iain Macpherson</i>)	
	iain.macpherson@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
MP – Bucks & Bletchley. (<i>Callum Anderson</i>)	
	callum.anderson.mp@parliament.uk
PCSO Tina Hobson	07779 586565
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>Mary Cottrell</i>)	01296 688741

Police non-emergency number 101

NHS Helpline non-emergency number 111

EDITORS NOTE

I was interested to read the other week in the Leighton Buzzard Observer and the report from their Soulbury contributor, that they are thinking of reintroducing delivered copies of their village magazine, as currently its only available online. But that they may struggle to find volunteers to post copies through resident's doors. We are so lucky to have volunteers here in Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys South who perform that task for us.

You may recall the front cover from the last edition of the SH & NLS News which had Santa making his way across the village Zebra Crossing. Well, I had an email from someone in County Durham asking if I could post them a copy of that edition, the reason being that they collected publications that included a post box on their front cover, and this edition did indeed show our village wall inset post box. I am however still mystified as to how did someone residing in County Durham get to know that our village magazine had such an image on its front cover??

May I please have copy for the April/May 2025 issue by the **21st March**
Greg Noble, The Birches, Church Road, Stoke Hammond. MK17 9BP



WASTE COLLECTION DATES

STOKE HAMMOND VILLAGE & NEWTON LEYS SOUTH

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 5 Feb		Wednesday 5 Feb	Wednesday 5 Feb
	Wednesday 12 Feb	Wednesday 12 Feb	
Wednesday 19 Feb		Wednesday 19 Feb	Wednesday 19 Feb
	Wednesday 26 Feb	Wednesday 26 Feb	
Wednesday 5 Mar		Wednesday 5 Mar	Wednesday 5 Mar
	Wednesday 12 Mar	Wednesday 12 Mar	
Wednesday 19 Mar		Wednesday 19 Mar	Wednesday 19 Mar
	Wednesday 26 Mar	Wednesday 26 Mar	
Wednesday 2 April		Wednesday 2 April	Wednesday 2 April

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**WRITTEN BY
DAVID RENWICK**

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Licensed Bar opens 30 mins prior to the show

Tickets £7.50 On Sale 2nd March:

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2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd March**

Questions? Contact stewkleyplayers@gmail.com