

Stoke Poges News





From the Editor

Welcome to the summer edition of our parish magazine. I hope you enjoy the front cover, which is a timely reminder of what a great occasion our village fete is. It's great news that with removal of Covid-19 restrictions we can again enjoy the fete (and the flower show). Details of all upcoming events are given in this magazine.

You may notice that some of our regular features are missing this time, due to a shortage of space and insufficient content to fill additional pages.

I hope you're looking forward to our summer events and hopefully some great weather to be enjoyed. Looking at my commitments over the summer, I have rescheduled the publication date for our autumn edition to the end of September.

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Two more fly-tippers successfully prosecuted in court



High Wycombe magistrates have sentenced two further culprits caught fly-tipping in Buckinghamshire. One received a suspended prison sentence, the other was ordered to carry out unpaid work and both received hefty fines.

Both cases were dealt with at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on 13 April 2022. In the first case Richard Egan, 42, of Horton Road, Colnbrook, was sentenced for three offences of illegal dumping of waste on Bellwood Lane in Iver Heath that he had pleaded guilty to at an earlier hearing.

The Court heard that between 29 November 2020 and 3 January 2021, three piles of waste were found dumped on Bellwood Lane. In each case surveillance cameras installed by Buckinghamshire Council obtained images of the vehicle involved. Enforcement Officers from the Council established that the suspect vehicle was used by Egan and he was interviewed under caution at a local police station. At a court hearing earlier this month Egan admitted that he was responsible for all three offences.

In court Egan was sentenced to 300 hours unpaid work and was ordered to pay £3,536.76 towards the cost of the clear up operation and the Council's legal costs. He was also ordered to pay a £95 victim surcharge.

In the second case, Thomas Ward, 57, of Kittiwake Way, Hayes, was sentenced having pleaded guilty to two offences of illegally dumping waste.

It was revealed in court that Ward was caught out when an eagle-eyed member of the public saw an old Ford Transit tipper with its number plate covered up on the grass verge of

the A355 outside Beaconsfield Services on 20 June 2021.

The witness saw the driver dump its load of tyres and then make off. The witness challenged the fly-tipper and an altercation took place. The incident was reported to and investigated by Enforcement Officers from Buckinghamshire Council.

Following a trawl of local CCTV, a suspect vehicle was identified, images of the owner of the vehicle were circulated and the suspect was recognised and identified by an Environment Agency Officer and an Enforcement Officer from a London borough. A second very similar offence occurred at Tesco in Rickmansworth a few days later.

Magistrates sentenced Ward to six months imprisonment on each count to run consecutively which was suspended for 12 months. He was ordered to pay £2,000 towards the clear up, £1,000 towards costs and a £159 victim surcharge.

Peter Strachan, Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment said: 'Both these cases demonstrate how pointless fly-tipping is.

The culprits may have thought they could get away with it, but they were wrong. Buckinghamshire Council will not tolerate dumping offences. Whenever a case of fly-tipping is reported to us we will investigate and pursue offenders until all enquiries have been exhausted. Once again I would like to thank the member of the public who reported the Ward case to us which led us to find the suspect and bring him to justice.'

Peter continued: 'No one wins in this scenario, the culprits rightfully pay the price for breaking the law but as a Council we are also out of pocket as we don't always recover our full costs and the public have to put up with these anti-social offences taking place in their local community. We'll continue to prosecute culprits but let's see if we can SCRAP this type of offending for good.'

Village fete returns on 2 July



As Martin always said, our village fete is an important part of the glue that holds our community together and is a way to keep in touch with old friends and make new ones. It is a way to find out about the groups and societies within our village that entertain us and look after our interests. It provides a friendly, fun and safe environment for everyone from the youngest to the oldest.

As always, the fete will begin at 12.30 pm in the grounds of The Stoke Poges School. There will be over 20 stalls, a bar and several food outlets, and a number of funfair rides and a vehicle exhibition. The central arena will host activities throughout the day, including a dog show, fancy dress show for the little ones, plus singing, dancing and entertainment from local groups.

For the first time in three years, the village fete is back on, so keep your diaries clear for Saturday 2 July. Many of you will remember Martin Wood, who ran the fete committee for ten years and sadly died in 2020. Our fete this year will be dedicated to his memory, and in keeping with his unique dress sense, we hope as many of you as possible can wear bright shirts on the day.

Further information, including booking stalls, joining the committee, volunteering to help on the day, or finding out the timings of the arena events can be found on www.stokepogesvillagefete.co.uk.

Social Club

Stoke Poges Social Club is located in the Village Centre and has been open for 25 years. It has a fully licensed bar and is a members club offering a safe, relaxed environment to meet with fellow villagers for a friendly catch up and a drink. We welcome villagers from all walks of life, including families, children, well-behaved dogs, clubs and societies.

Membership is £10 per year for over 18s and free for under 18s. Membership is payable every January. Charging a membership fee is how we can keep our drink prices lower than anywhere else in the village and a condition of our licence.

We have an active committee that organises many events appealing to a broad audience, and suggestions are always welcomed.

So far this year, we have held a race night for Thames Valley Heartbeat, which raised £470 and A Big Quiz for Bucks Vision Stoke Poges Branch, which also raised £470. By the time

you read this, we will have hosted a fundraiser for The Red Cross Ukrainian Appeal. All events have received very generous raffle prizes. Please keep an eye on the notice board and Facebook for upcoming events.

We have a cosy corner with a sofa and coffee tables. Some of our clubs and organisations use this area for informal meetings, and more recently, a Book Club has started meeting on a Sunday evening. We also have a book swap and a selection of board games.

Apart from a well-stocked bar, beer, lager and Guinness on tap, we also have a pool table and darts board. Whether you are looking for a quiet drink, a game of pool or darts or somewhere to bring the kids or grandkids on a rainy Sunday, we're always happy to welcome you. To find out more or use the club for your clubs or committees to meet, please contact: spvcmembership@gmail.com



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Horticultural Society

The Members' Spring Social, held at The Stoke Poges School on 9 March, was enjoyed by all who attended. The speaker Stefan White (Skulduggery in the Shrubbery) told the tale of John Tradescant and his son, also called John. He was an English naturalist, collector and traveller engaged in 1630 by King Charles 1 as keeper of His Majesty's Gardens, Vines and Silkworms. He established the first museum – Museum Tradescantianum. He is buried at St Mary-at-Lambeth Church, where there is now a Garden Museum, worth a visit.

The Tradescant Collection, which was added to considerably by his son, was given to the University of Oxford by Elias Ashmole to become the Ashmolean Museum. This is where the skulduggery became apparent! Many of the plants introduced by the Tradescants – Tradescantia - are well known in the UK today, such as the inchplant, spiderwort and dayflower.



The winner of the best exhibit in the Table Show, selected by the votes of those who attended and Stefan White's choice, was Janet Cottrell, seen in this photograph with her exhibit receiving her Award Certificate.

Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

The Horticultural Society has planted a tree in each of the three parishes it encompasses. It is a Prunus Amanogawa, a cherry tree which grows vertically with fragrant semi-double pale pink flowers in late spring. The Wexham tree is in the recreation ground alongside the George Green Memorial Hall; the Fulmer tree can be seen as you drive from Gerrards Cross to Fulmer, on the left-hand side near the sign for Fulmer village. The Stoke Poges tree is on Bells Hill Green near the soldier and is full of beautiful blossom.



Annual Plant Sale

The Annual Plant sale was on Saturday 30 April. Keen gardeners had been growing plants during the weeks before the sale. There was great interest in the homemade cakes and biscuits, and people enjoyed meeting up with friends and family for a cup of tea/coffee, stocking up the garden with bedding and other plants and taking home a delicious cake. The proceeds from the Plant Sale go towards the cost of putting on the Annual Show.

Lecture Evening Wednesday 11 May at 8 pm at The Stoke Poges School

Dr Helen Reed will talk about management at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. She will tell us about conservation, including such things as the introduction of animals, the grazing cattle and pigs, and about taking care of the veteran trees. As a Conservation Officer with the City of London, she is very knowledgeable and will be happy to take questions at the end of her presentation. Everyone is welcome; members are free, non-members will be invited to join the society or contribute £2 for the evening.

Annual Show Saturday 23 July 12.30 – 5.30 pm in the grounds of The Stoke Poges School

This will be the 128th Annual Show, a traditional community event which has taken place since 1884. All the exhibits are housed in a huge marquee; flowers, fruit and vegetables, arts and crafts, bakery and wine, photographs, a large children's section and a whole lot more. The show schedule with details of all the classes is available online, at the lecture evening or from committee members.

The Reading Spring Gardens Band will be back with us, as well as the classic cars and various stalls. There will be a petting zoo and children's entertainments, a barbecue, beer and Pimms tent, ploughman's lunches, afternoon teas, a raffle, tombola; in short something for everyone, no matter what age you are.

Entry for members is free, both to the show and to exhibit. Members will be asked to show their membership card as they come in. This will speed up entry as only non-members will have to pay. Non-members are welcome to join at the show to gain free entry.

Membership costs are £8 for single membership; £12 for joint membership (two persons from the same household, children under 16 free), £15 for family membership (2 adults and young people aged 16-18, or 25 if in full-time education).

Putting on an event like the show needs many volunteers. We would be delighted to hear from you if you would like to volunteer to set up, provide help during the show, or clear up afterwards. Please get in touch with Andy McDonald, Show Superintendent (email andymac65@gmail.com or telephone 07484 745779) or with me Ruth Rooley, Chairman, (email ruth@rooley.com or telephone 07715 376986)

Autumn events – dates for your diary

Wednesday 21 September Lecture evening
8 pm at The Stoke Poges School

Say it with poison – Russell Bowes

Our bursary recipient is attending her belated Graduation Ceremony on 21 September. We are hoping that she will be able to make a presentation to us in March.

Wednesday 12 October 8 pm Autumn
Members' Social Evening with table show and
finger buffet - Matt George Head Gardener at
Private Estate in Medmenham.

Saturday 12 November at St Andrew's Hall at
2.30 pm AGM

Parish Chairman's letter

The municipal year starts in May so the weeks before are a busy time. The Parish Council hosted its Parish Reception, where representatives from parish organisations are invited and the Parish Council presents awards for significant contributions to parish life. There are two boards listing previous years' winners in the side entrance to the Village Centre. This year, I was happy to present the Jubilee Cup to the Good Neighbour Scheme, for their sterling work throughout the pandemic and the Caldecourt Cup to Pippa Anderson and Tracey Clark, who lead a lunchtime gardening club at The Stoke Poges School.

Secondly, we held the Annual Parish Meeting on 28 April and you can read my report on p. 22.

The Parish Council agreed at its May meeting to support and partner the new Friday Club,

together with the Good Neighbour Scheme, Threeways Surgery and Stoke Poges Church. Over the summer, those organisations will invite senior parishioners along to a lunchtime event, at which lunch will be served and people from those organisations will be seeking to find out what more we can do to help our older residents. If you are invited, please go along. I am a trustee of the Stoke Poges Hastings Community Fund, one of our parish's two 'relief-in-need' charities. Given that energy and food prices are rising, I'd like to remind you that the village charities are there to provide financial assistance. They are particularly able to help with one-off expenses, so if you need some financial support, get in touch. Their contact details are on p. 25. I hope you enjoy the summer, especially the fete and the flower show!

Ralph Bagge



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News from The Stoke Poges School

It finally feels like we are getting back to some kind of normality in school, and we were delighted to invite our Key Stage 1 parents to attend two very special Mother's Day assemblies in March. Our Foundation Stage parents also took part in a 'Let's Explore Mother's Day' session and enjoyed spending time with the children in their classroom and outdoor learning environment.



Before the Easter break and for the first time in over two years, the whole school came together for an Easter Bonnet Parade. We were very pleased to see so many children participating in the parade and being so enthusiastically supported by their peers.

Our Year 6 students had the opportunity to experience a fantastic variety of activities during the last week of term. Some children



travelled to Norfolk Lakes Adventure Centre for a residential break and five days of outdoor pursuits and water sports. The children who did not go to Norfolk also enjoyed a variety of experiences, including a Harry Potter-themed day and a trip to Black Park. They had an afternoon tea cookery experience, a trip to the Snow Centre at Hemel Hempstead and a day trip to Windsor, including a Windsor Castle self-guided tour and a boat trip on the River Thames. We are sure all the children created memories that will last a lifetime, and we are so pleased they were able to enjoy this highlight of their last year with us.





increasing engagement and motivation and personalising the learning experience.

Construction of the facility will begin shortly, and we will keep you up to date with progress as the project develops. We would like to thank parents and our PTA very much for their generous support; we cannot wait to see the children enjoying inspiring STEAM lessons in our new facility.

Finally, we would like to send our congratulations to Tracey Clark and Pippa Anderson, who were awarded the Caldecourt Cup by the Parish Council, for helping children to grow. Tracey and Pippa work weekly with our children, teaching gardening skills and creating a beautiful outside area for us all to enjoy. We are extremely grateful for the work they do to inspire our students.

We have much to look forward to in the Summer Term, and we are finally 'steaming' ahead with our STEAM (Science, Tech, Engineering, Art, Music) Cabin.

STEAM education produces a whole host of benefits, such as developing soft skills (creativity, problem-solving, collaboration),

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Men's Group

If you enjoy a delicious curry, please join us at our next event on Tuesday, 19 July, when we will be making a return visit to the Memories of India restaurant in Farnham Common. Even if you are a little wary of eating curry, you can be assured that the menu will have been carefully chosen so that there is something for everyone. We will commence at 7.30 pm with drinks from the bar and start our two-course buffet meal at 8 pm.



Men's group visit to Ascot Brewery

Our speaker will be David Robinson LVO, who spent 20 years as a personal protection officer for senior members of the Royal Family. After leaving school at 15, David worked in the West End for five years and then joined the Metropolitan Police, where he served as a police officer for 31 years. The last 20 years of his service was spent with SO14, the Royal Protection Command in Royalty Protection. In the final eight years, he was the personal protection officer to HM The Queen (from 1992 to 2000). He was the personal protection officer to HRH The Princess Royal (from 1982 to 1984) and before that for the Princess of Wales (from 1981 to 1982). David travelled the world extensively in this capacity and received the Order National De La Legion D'Honneur in 1992 and Lieutenant of the Victorian Order in 2000. When he left this role in 2000, he moved to the private security sector, becoming a regional security manager. In 2012 he delivered a high profile venue security infrastructure and personnel programme for both the Olympic and Paralympics Games. We

are delighted that David will be our speaker, sharing his insights into the challenges of protecting members of the Royal Family. After his talk, there will be a question and answer session, and the evening should finish at approximately 10.15 pm.

Everyone is welcome to all our events. If you use Facebook, please check us out at Stoke Poges Men's Group. For further information about the men's group or our future events, please contact Tony Shortman or Nigel Lowe. We are not an exclusive group but very inclusive, and guys from a wide area (not just from Stoke Poges) come along. Everyone is always given a very warm welcome.

Tony Shortman, 01844 350014 or tonymavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk

Nigel Lowe, 07973 349721 or nigelatsuchlowe@gmail.com

Stoke Poges Singers

From George Frederic Handel to Sir Karl Jenkins

Handel was born in Germany over 330 years ago but became a British subject and national icon. He was a prolific composer of operas, oratorios, anthems and concertos and is regarded as one of the greatest of the age. His music is even today associated with and played at great State and Royal events. One of his most popular works is undoubtedly *Messiah*, an oratorio of over fifty arias, recitatives, and choruses which in full takes almost two and a half hours to perform. In deference to both musicians and audience, we presented *Not the Full Messiah* at our latest spring concert, with the choir performing twelve of the best-known choruses. Conductor Andy Langley made an inspired selection of orchestral pieces from Handel's large catalogue to supplement the choral singing. Extracts from various concerti grossi, the *Water Music Suite* and *The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba* were expertly played by the Stoke Poges Chamber Orchestra and segued (in the corresponding key!) seamlessly into the choruses.

The proceeds from ticket and raffle sales were donated to Thames Hospice. Prue Neale (our soprano soloist on the night) described the essential work of this local charity and her hopes to soon complete the Pilgrims' Way in northern Spain as another fundraiser.

For our summer concert, we move forward to current times and feature the Welsh composer Sir Karl Jenkins and his most popular work *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. This was first performed in 2000 and was dedicated to victims of the Kosovo crisis during the war in Yugoslavia. The work has grown in popularity since then; it has climbed into the Classic FM Hall of Fame top ten and has remained the nation's favourite piece of contemporary music. It is particularly relevant and poignant given that, once again, war is raging in Europe. The concert on the theme



of peace and remembrance will also include John Rutter's recent *A Ukrainian Prayer*.

Concert tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/stoke-poges-singers.

Saturday 9 July 2022, venue St John's, Farnham Common.

Stoke Poges Singers and Stoke Poges Chamber Orchestra

Jenkins *The Armed Man*

Jenkins *Palladio*

Jenkins *Elegia*

Britten *Fanfare for St Edmundsbury*

Rutter *A Ukrainian Prayer*

Glass *Facades*

Elgar *Requiem aeternam (Nimrod)*

Table for article on p.16

Location	Speed Limit	Average Daily Volume	Average Speed	85 th Percentile Speed
Park Road Opposite house next to footpath to Church	40	4200	36	41
Duffield Lane By Junction with Neville Close	30	300	27	33
Gerrards Cross Road Opposite Clevehurst Close	30	3600	32	37
Wexham Street Between Tubwell Road and Hartley Close	30	2000	31	35
Hollybush Hill Opposite Broom Hill	30	2000	31	35
Stoke Green By Red Lion Entrance	40	8000	30	34
West End Lane Opposite West End Court Flats	30	1650	32	32
Grays Park Road Opposite Hampden Close	40	2700	34	39
Bells Hill Opposite Willow Park	30	3800	32	37

Monitoring traffic speed and volume on our roads

Have you noticed the illuminated speed limit signs in the village and wondered who looks after them?

The Parish Council owns the two signs that are moved around the village on a regular basis, and the signs are looked after by Cllr Geoff Cox. The signs are known as Mobile Vehicle-Actuated Sign (MVAS) units. We have nine locations around the village where the MVAS units can be placed, and they can be set to monitor either traffic direction.

The MVAS units can be set to display either '30 mph Slow Down' or '40 mph Slow Down' using an internal switch so the same MVAS unit can be used in both 30 mph and 40 mph speed limit locations. The units are moved to a new location every six weeks.

The MVAS units record the date, time and speed of every vehicle passing the unit (regardless of whether the speed limit has been exceeded). This data can then be analysed to provide graphs and tables showing vehicle

volumes and speeds. The table on p.15 shows a summary of the latest data for the nine available locations. In most cases the data for the two possible directions is similar. The column titled 85th percentile speed indicates the speed at which 85% of traffic was travelling at or below. It is typically associated with the setting of speed limits, and (more controversially) often used as an argument against lowering them, or enforcing limits. A complete log of the data is also passed to the police to keep them informed and to highlight any speeding issues at a particular location. The same data is also passed to the Community Speedwatch team so they can monitor any hotspots with their video capture equipment which could result in warning letters or even fines being issued to drivers.



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Community speedwatch



You may have seen the local Stoke Poges Speedwatch volunteers out and about around the village, set up with the camera of late, as we are now fully functioning in line with the Thames Valley Police guidance. To assist these patrols, you may have seen that on the roadway entry points to the village, new yellow Speedwatch signs have been erected, advising all motorists that they are entering a

SpeedWatch patrolled area.

These patrols and signs will hopefully educate drivers that it is not acceptable to speed through the village, but we do have a long way to go as there have been offenders logged doing 90 within the 30 mph zones over the past months.

If you are concerned about speeding in the village and would like to get involved, we could always do with more volunteers to help out. You can do as much or as little as you can afford time-wise; training will be given on how to use the equipment, and you will always be deployed with another volunteer. You would have to complete some online training and pass a test to go out on patrol, but all readily achievable and we can even help with the online training, if you don't get on with computers etc. We could do with a few more volunteers from the north and west of the village.

If you do believe that a road could do with an occasional speed check, do get in touch with your suggestions; we have to carry out a full risk assessment to ensure the proposed area is safe for the operators, but we can add new sites as and when necessary.

If you would like to get involved or just want to know more, please get in touch via the Clerk to the Council (theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk) or stop and have a chat with the volunteers who can explain what we do.

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images. The judge then selects a set subject and we add an image that matches the subject. Points are allocated for first up, best match and best image. We beat Gerrards Cross for first up, and we had more best images than they did. See the image *Refraction* by Ken Grant, which scored really well. Next year we will be hosting, which will be great for club members to see the images from other clubs and enjoy a fun evening. Shush...the judge might even get heckled! The 5 Clubs competition is with Maidenhead, Windsor, Woodley, Marlow and us. This was close; we came third, with Woodley scoring 176 points. Maidenhead were first with 182, and Windsor a close second with 181 points. The Three Nations competition was against South Africa and Australia, and this year we came third with a score of 393 against the winner, South Africa, who got 464 points. Oh well, there is always next year.

Our internal set subject competitions are another way to practise your photography skills. Each set subject is open to interpretation, and we've had some great images; see the one from our new member Paul Mothersill which scored top marks, *Pastel Post-it Notes* in the

It's been an exciting season this year, which is drawing to a close with our AGM and finals. As a photography club, we want to be challenged, and there is no better way than to enter external competitions. In March, we had three external competitions, which I mentioned in the Spring Edition; the 5 Clubs competition, Three Nations and one against Gerrards Cross.

So how did we do?

Well, the competition against our neighbouring photography club Gerrards Cross I am pleased to say we WON! This is something we've not done for a long time. It was a great night and a close match, but we won by three points.

For the competition, each club submits 60



Abstract competition. It can be the simplest thing you've got at home which can be made into an extraordinary shot.

Then you have *Pipe Dreams* by Linda Miles, which also scored top marks for our Chrome competition. Who would have thought pipes could be so pretty? Photography really does allow you to explore your creative side.

Finally, the last competition I am going to mention is *Growing Wild*. What comes to mind? For me, it's flowers, and Mark Collins scored top marks see *Buttercups* alongside Dob Dobson for *Mistletoe*. We had images of wildflowers, mushrooms, ivy, trees and more. You can see the competition galleries at stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk.

As the season is drawing to a close, members will start to think about next season's set subjects which are Trees, Inspired by Music, Buildings, Animals, Still Life, Water, Night and One Colour.

If you're interested in challenging yourself and exploring your inner creativity, why not join our club? Come along to a meeting or get in touch. Just visit our website at stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk or get in touch at membership@stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk.

We'll also be attending the Stoke Poges Flower Show this year if you want to chat with us. After all, we are the friendly photography club.

Bushra Sheikh; Publicity Management

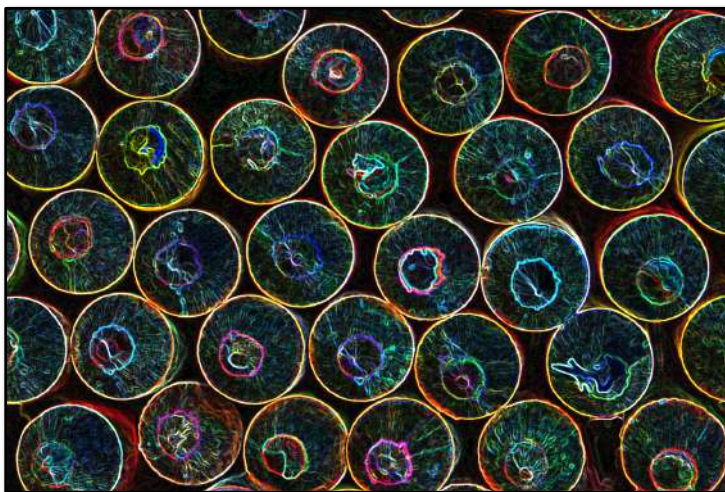
Images:

Refraction – by Ken Grant (top left)

Pipe Dreams – by Linda Miles (above)

Pastel Post It Notes – by Paul Mothersill(left)

Buttercups – by Mark Collins (right)



Rotary

This year, in common with Rotary Clubs worldwide, we have been carrying out major fundraising for charity – and latterly for Ukraine.

We held a charity film night (West Side Story) at Pinewood Cinema in April, and the £1,254 raised was split between the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the Ukraine appeal. In addition, more than £30,000 - in the form of both cash and medical equipment – was raised by Rotarians and their contacts - specifically for the Ukraine. We are able to forward the money via Ukrainian Rotary Clubs, ensuring that the funds get directly where they are needed.

Over and above this, the club has supported local food banks for more than a year. It has helped with the building of the Chilterns food bank and donating food and other items for both that food bank and other local food banks.

Innovative fundraising also takes place in the club, and one member, a keen golfer, collects any stray golf balls he comes across. These are

sold, yielding more funds for charity donations.

All this is in addition to the regular meetings held by the club at Beaconsfield Golf Club, where once a month, we welcome a guest speaker and enjoy a buffet supper. Another monthly meeting offers good fellowship with a club dinner.

The club welcomes both men and women; you are always welcome to visit and sample the camaraderie enjoyed by one and all.

The club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Beaconsfield Golf Club, and copies of the future programme are available on request.

We would be delighted to welcome you.

Naomi C Arnold, Club Secretary, Rotary Club of Jordans and District
naomi.arnold33@gmail.com 663305

Women's Institute

The first of our summer outings takes place on 1 June when we shall be travelling by coach to Romsey in Hampshire, situated on the banks of the River Test and famous for its trout and salmon fishing. Romsey is an ancient town with medieval streets clustered around a Norman Abbey. We shall also be visiting nearby Mottisfont Abbey, with its walled garden containing the national collection of older varieties of roses.

We are looking forward to our meeting on 8 June when Nigel Bunce, a magician extraordinaire, will entertain us with some amazing card tricks. He prefers small groups of people to demonstrate his skills but still manages to fool everyone with his dexterity.

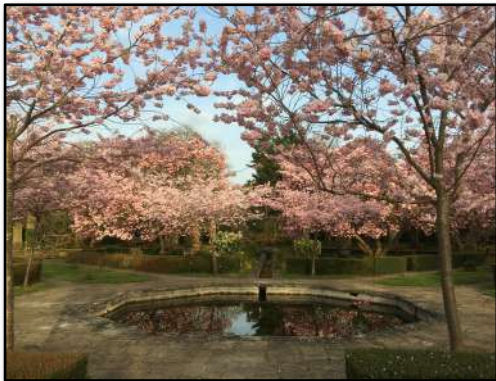
For our 13 July meeting, we have invited a speaker from the Remap Charity. They design and custom-make special equipment for

disabled people of all ages to enable them to live more independent lives. They have a network of skilled volunteers to respond to the thousands of requests they receive each year.

Another outing is planned for this summer on 10 August, when we shall be taking a four-hour trip down the River Thames from Walton-on-Thames, including a lunch. This year we are praying for good weather for both of our outings because for several years now, they have been noteworthy for attracting incessant rain. Savill Gardens, the Olympic Park and Stratford upon Avon come to mind. After all the restrictions for the past two years, we are really, really hoping for sunny days!

Memorial Gardens

Whilst the Memorial Gardens in Church Lane attract visitors from around the world, it is a fact – surprisingly – that many local residents do not even know that they have such a hidden gem in their midst.



The Memorial Gardens were donated to the community by the late Sir Noel Mobbs in the 1930s to provide a resting place for the ashes of loved ones and an area of greenery, foliage, flowers and trees to benefit residents and visitors. The gardens were formally opened in 1935. One of the oak trees is more than 600 years old.

Individual or family plots can be purchased for future use, and the gardens include the ashes of many renowned individuals, including Judy Garland.

The gardens are owned and maintained for the community by Buckinghamshire Council; there are many friends of the Memorial Gardens who support the workforce and the team of gardeners.

Admission is totally free, apart from one day in the year when they are opened in aid of the National Garden Scheme and its charity fundraising when an entrance charge is made, and tea, coffee and cakes can be enjoyed as well. This year, the day will be Sunday 26 June. For the rest of the year, members of the public are welcome to visit and enjoy the beauty of the gardens. Many groups and associations arrange a special visit when there are

conducted tours with optional refreshments.

In addition, the Memorial Gardens hold a number of special events during the year, such as the Insect Bonanza held in July, a Bat Walk, a Fungus Foray in October and Wassailing in December. The next special event will be the Wisteria and Azalea Walk on Thursday, 19 May, offering a guided walk through the beautiful gardens when the wisteria and azaleas will be at their best.

Before lockdown, we had also embarked on holding an annual Chelsea Fringe day, and we plan to resume this event in 2023.

Supporting all this are the Friends of the Memorial Gardens. In addition to many friends and relatives of those whose ashes are interred in the gardens, many local people value the amenities and wish to help ensure that its peace and tranquillity continue to be available. Their membership fees augment the money available for extra plants, ongoing repairs etc.

We welcome new members to our Friends and also seek newcomers to join our committee, who help with the various events in the year, including the National Garden Scheme Day.

We would be glad to chat to anyone who feels able to assist us in ensuring that the gardens continue to be a place of calm and reflection, so do please give me a call if you feel able to help.

Sue Easton, Chairman of the Friends of the Memorial Gardens

sue.easton@googlemail.com



Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council held its annual parish meeting on 28 April. The Chairman, Ralph Bagge, delivered this report

It's great to have the freedom to hold our Annual Parish Meeting again following the government's relaxation of Covid restrictions. We have lived through the most challenging two years in my memory and it feels now that a weight has been lifted as we work out what normal is once again.

I'd like to express my gratitude to my fellow parish councillors, elected in May last year, for their adaptability and good humour, in meeting on Zoom and in socially distanced conditions in the club room with the windows and doors open as we continued to meet during the lockdowns and complied with government restrictions. I'd like to thank Julie, the clerk to the parish, who diligently familiarised herself with what the council had to do to comply with the evolving legislation and advised the council to ensure that it complied throughout. There has been much media coverage of breaches of lockdown rules elsewhere and I'm pleased to say that there are no skeletons in the Stoke Poges closet.

The parish council's regular work has continued: maintaining two recreation grounds, Bells Hill and the allotments and adjoining Nettleship Wood on Duffield Lane. Over the past 18 months the council has embarked on a project to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish. Using government grant funding, we have engaged consultants to guide us through the process of analysing demographic data, identifying sustainable travel routes, heritage assets (we have a lot in Stoke Poges) and potential sites for new development. We're getting close to the point where the draft plan will be made available for consultation and parishioners will be invited to comment. The key advantage of a neighbourhood plan is that it gives us, as residents, a say in where development takes place and gives us the ability to influence the design and layout of new developments. It

provides a way of increasing our protection of green belt land. I would like to thank Cllr Carter for leading on this project and also the volunteers who have engaged with such enthusiasm in the detailed work for the plan (Harvey Whittam on heritage and Bob Crocker on rights of way).

Whilst Covid-19 has had a huge disruptive effect, the challenges the parish council face remain the same and our approach to them continues. A few years ago, the council focused on 'making Stoke Poges a great place to live' and the council uses its powers granted in law to work on this being the best parish in Buckinghamshire to live in. Our focus initially was taking action to make things better for older people and children. We have made huge investments in play apparatus for our recreation grounds, the pavilion, which is home to our scouts, guides, cubs and brownies and the parish council set up the Stoke Poges Good Neighbour Scheme, which assists people who don't have their own transport (or who are unable to drive) to attend medical appointments.

The 'playbuilder' equipment, installed around ten years ago, is constructed mainly from wood, which has rotted and is being progressively replaced. Last year, a zip wire was renewed and fencing in the recreation ground was renewed.

The parish council has an appetite for entering the Buckinghamshire best kept village competition (which was suspended due to the pandemic). The council has taken actions to improve the appearance of the public realm, taking over management of the open space at Bells Hill which led to us installing hanging baskets and planters to the shops and railings and having planters fitted to the village welcome signs. Related to this, the council has invested progressively in Christmas lights on Bells Hill which brighten up the long dark nights in December. The parish council organises four community litter picks each year. I'm grateful to the residents who

regularly support the litter picks by doing an hour or so's litter picking along the main routes through the parish. If you haven't taken part yet, equipment is provided and you will be most welcome.

Whilst we tend to talk a lot about the play apparatus and the pavilion, the largest item of expenditure in recreation is on grass cutting, keeping our public open spaces in good condition.

The Parish Council is very pleased to have partnered with Thames Valley Heartbeat, a local charity, to pay for the installation of five defibrillators in key locations around the parish. We acknowledge the good work done in fundraising by the Fox and Pheasant and the Rose and Crown to provide these life-saving appliances for the benefit of parishioners.

Other ongoing activities continued – the Parish Council publishes four editions of Stoke Poges News (SPN) each year – the next one is in production currently for publication at the end of May. Talking to people who live in neighbouring parishes, they are always complimentary about SPN and the range of activities taking place here in Stoke Poges. I'd like to thank our regular contributors and advertisers for their ongoing support.

The relaxation of restrictions enabled us to hold 'Carols on the Green' in December after the pandemic disruption. It's a challenging event to deliver successfully, taking into account the weather conditions prevailing in late November.

Other areas in which the parish council has asserted itself are in relation to cars speeding through the village and chaotic driving on Rogers Lane related to school start and end times. The parish council invested in mobile vehicle activated signs which are rotated between eight locations in the parish. When we bought the MVASs we had a team of volunteers who took turns in moving them and replacing the batteries but that's evolved to a one-person team, Cllr Geoff Cox, who looks after the MVAS and circulates the collected data, which is shared with local police and our community speed-watch team.

Community speed-watch currently has six volunteers trained to go out with our Sentinel radar camera and they have been concentrating on Wexham Street and Bells Hill since they have been allowed to resume operating.

For chaotic traffic on Rogers Lane, Cllr Carter and I met with the school and the police to explore how we can educate parents and carers to be more considerate and safe when dropping off or collecting children at the school. There is more than adequate parking space in the roads near the school, but for some reason, most want to park as close to the school as they can. We have had a few weeks of having volunteers in high-viz monitoring driving and giving advice where drivers have been making unsafe manoeuvres. Some volunteers received verbal abuse, so the parish council took police advice and acquired two body worn video cameras. The police have committed to taking action against anyone who is abusive to our volunteer traffic marshals. The police advice is that a few weeks of intensive marshalling will influence a change in driving standards. We'll see how it goes.

The year end accounts are being prepared for audit at the moment, however, in spite of inflation, the council has lived within its means and decided to freeze its precept, collected with council tax for 2022/23.

So in summary, the parish council has done what you expect of it and is progressively making improvements to the quality of life in Stoke Poges, drawing on volunteers to help wherever possible. We look forward to celebrating Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with a street party picnic event in Bells Hill rec. on Sunday 5 June.

School traffic

Wherever we live, if we have a school in our locality, we know this causes problems with traffic, congestion and bad behaviour.

For some time, the Parish Council has been looking for ways to help ease these issues.

We have set up a working party which comprises The Parish Council, Thames Valley Police, residents and The Stoke Poges School. Taking advice and looking at collaborative working, we have set up School Traffic watch. Hot spot times are 8.20 – 9.00 am and 2.30 – 3.15 pm. At these times, you may have noticed volunteers wearing high-visibility jackets, keeping an eye on traffic, ensuring the children's safety at the front and rear of the school. Under police guidance and legislation, we are also wearing body-worn cameras to film the flow of traffic. Any relevant footage will be emailed and reviewed by Thames

Valley Police and, if appropriate, a letter will be sent to the offender. It is not unlawful to use a body-worn camera to film as it's the same as CCTV for crime prevention purposes.

The purpose of doing this is to have a positive impact on traffic issues, aiming for community resolution and keeping the children safe.

The framework that we are working under is:

Highways Act 1980 - wilful obstruction of the highway Narrative: Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 makes it an offence to wilfully obstruct the highway. 137(1) If a person, without lawful authority or excuse, in any way wilfully obstructs the free passage along a highway he is guilty of an offence.

Public Order Act 1986 - harassment, alarm or distress. Narrative: Section 5 of the Public



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Order Act 1986 creates an offence of being threatening or abusive in a way which is likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress.

5(1) A person is guilty of an offence if he -

- (a) uses threatening or abusive words or behaviour, or disorderly behaviour, or
- (b) displays any writing, sign or other visible representation which is threatening or abusive, within the hearing or sight of a person likely to be caused harassment, alarm or distress thereby. Threatening includes verbal and physical threats, and also violent conduct; abusive means using degrading or reviling language.

Thames Valley Police will use any relevant footage to communicate with the public on social media. This information will be shared

with the school so they can report on it in their weekly bulletins. The Parish Council is also working with Transport for Bucks to consider what other calming measures can be considered. A map has been produced showing parents where they can park within a 1-4 minute walk of school. We would ask that villagers support us by avoiding Rogers Lane at hot-spot times. Being realistic, we know that we will never eradicate some of the issues we face, however, we are working towards education and improvement. Ideally, we would like a list of volunteers so that we can take turns occasionally rather than daily. If you would like to help us or find out more, please contact:
theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Need a helping hand?

Money is available from local funds for villagers who require financial help due to hardship, illness or disability.

Grants can be given to families and individuals for such purposes as:-

- **Providing equipment and facilities for disabled, handicapped or infirm people, including respite care**
- **Providing essential household appliances, furniture and equipment**
- **Limited assistance with gas and electricity bills may be available in some cases**
- **Paying for essential house repairs**
- **Providing essential supplies for school (including school uniform), further education, and apprenticeships**
- **Providing financial relief in cases of sudden distress such as illness, including travelling expenses to and from hospital**



For help visit our website:
www.stokepogescharities.uk
or telephone:

Stoke Poges United Charity
(Charity Registration Number 205289)

Mike Dier 01753-642886
Trevor Egleton 01753-646090
Christine Taylor 01753-644386

Stoke Poges Hastings Community Fund
(Charity Registration Number 206915)

Anne Milne 01753-529646
Susan Lynch 01753-646582

Hedgerley Historical Society

Wednesday 8 June 2022 8 pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall

London's Great Railway Stations – Oliver Green

London has more mainline railway stations than any other city in the world, all of them dating from the nineteenth century. The city's earliest termini, London Bridge and Euston, opened in the late 1830s just as Queen Victoria came to the throne. The last main line to London was built to Marylebone in 1899, two years before Victoria died. In the 21st century, London Bridge has just been completely rebuilt, St Pancras has reopened as an international terminus and Euston is being reconstructed for HS2. Is this the new age of the train?

Oliver Green has a history degree from Cambridge University and began his museum



career at the new Museum of London in the 1970s, becoming the first curator of the London Transport Museum in 1980. He has also managed museum and cultural services in Colchester, Poole and Aylesbury, returning to LTM as Head Curator in 2001. He is currently an independent historian, writer and lecturer specialising in transport and design history. He will be talking about his latest book, *London's Great Railway Stations*, produced with award-winning photographer Benjamin Graham, which will be available on the night.

Wednesday 15 June 2022 8 pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall

Britain's Ancient Forest - Legacy and Lore – Julian Hight

Julian Hight has travelled widely, camera in hand, to document and tell the stories of historic ancient trees. Throughout this beautifully illustrated talk, Julian explores the story of Britain's ancient forest told through its remaining ancient trees and surviving customs – living links to our rich history – accompanied by specially written forest music and archive photography.



Signed copies of Julian's lavishly illustrated book, *Britain's Ancient Forest – Legacy and Lore* will be available on the evening and includes an online link to download specially written accompanying music.

Chair of Wessex Ancient Tree Forum, Julian Hight presents regular talks. He appeared as a judge on Channel 4's Tree of the Year TV programme and is a verifier for the Woodland Trust Ancient Tree Inventory. He launched the Reviving Selwood Forest project in Somerset and campaigns for ancient trees and woodland.

www.britainsancientforest.co.uk

Saturday 30 July 2022 7 pm – Mikron Theatre company

For more details please contact John Lovelock – Secretary Hedgerley Historical Society

jdlovelock@btinternet.com

www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org



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Stoke Poges Society

What a cracking start we've had to the year with members and non-members coming along to the Rose and Crown pub and sharing their photos and stories of living in the village. Before Easter, we had an excellent talk by Rosie Moutrie about Pinewood film studios. It's amazing some of the iconic scenes in James Bond films filmed in Stoke Poges, e.g. Sean Connery playing golf in Goldfinger and Roger Moore in St Giles' churchyard for the opening scene in For Your Eyes Only.



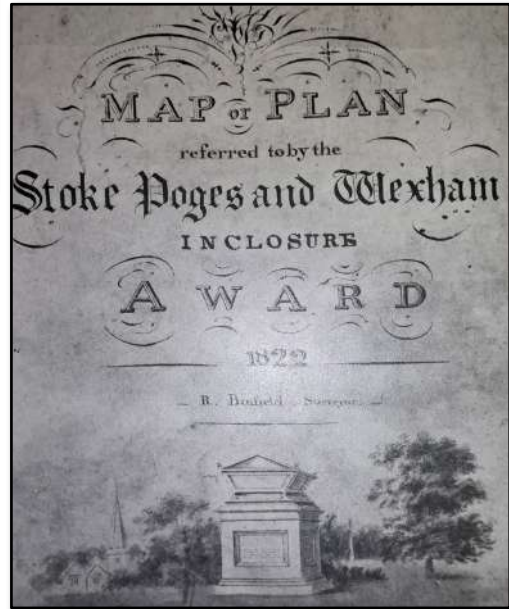
Many workmen from Stoke Poges having a day trip in 1926 to Southend-on-Sea organised by William Hartley & Sons of Wexham.



Rosie Moutrie receiving a book about Stoke Poges from Harvey Whittam

Development 200 years ago

In 1822 the Stoke Poges and Wexham Inclosure Awards Map was produced by a surveyor, Mr Binfield. The map has great detail. It shows the whole of Stoke Poges and who owned various small parcels of land and the major landowners. The Inclosure Awards led to more local people owning strips of land. There was more efficient farming on the estates. The result in ownership of land has shaped how Stoke Poges has developed. The map is in safe storage in the County Archives in Aylesbury. However surprising it may be, the digitised map and write up of the 1822 Awards are on the Berkshire Records Office website: www.berkshireenclosure.org.uk.



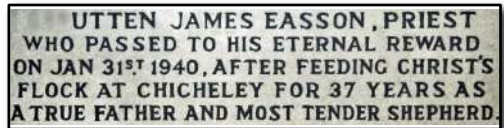
Checking back through time with maps can tell us a lot about Stoke Poges. An example is the ancient beech woodland in the North West of Stoke Poges Parish. It has seen little change over the centuries, except in name. Centuries before the Awards Map, a community lived around the Templewood Lane area. The main family in the community

was called de Pitbridge. The woods passed into the ownership of Eton College. By 1822 the woodland was shown as Little Pitbirds (north of Templewood Lane and east of Gypsy Lane) and Great Pitbirds (south of Templewood Lane), the inhabitants having disappeared. Later on, Little Pitbirds was renamed College Wood and by the twentieth century, it formed part of Stoke Wood. Some of this information was gleaned in the 1970s by the librarian at Stoke Court, Joan Philpot.

Legacies of British Slavery relating to some less well-known residents

The Slavery Abolition Act of 1833 formally freed Africans who were then the legal property of Britain's slave-owners. What is less well known is that the same act contained a provision for the financial compensation of the owners of those slaves, by the British taxpayer, for the loss of their 'property'. The compensation of Britain's 46,000 slave-owners was the largest bailout in British history until the bailout of the banks in 2009. University College London (UCL) has analysed the records held in the National Archives and published comprehensive records online: www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs. Out of nearly 6,000 addresses on the UCL database, they have identified 3,424 in Britain as a slave-owner or direct beneficiary; none is shown as in Stoke Poges. Research is still ongoing, which will add further information to the map. What we do know is vast amounts of money as a

consequence of slavery were inherited by some direct descendants of slave-owners. In 1832, one year before the Act of Parliament, James Utten Easson had 152 enslaved people on his Baron Hill estate in Jamaica. It was his son, who was a General Practitioner in London, lived in Framewood, Stoke Poges and died in 1872. The doctor's son spent the slave compensation monies. He was dedicated to helping the poor and the well-being of all people in the village; he became a curate in Stoke Poges, and then a vicar in North Bucks. Also popping up in a search was Sir Rose Price 1st Bart. He had in total over 500 enslaved people on two estates in Jamaica. His family



UTTEN JAMES EASSON, PRIEST
WHO PASSED TO HIS ETERNAL REWARD
ON JAN 31ST 1940, AFTER FEEDING CHRIST'S
FLOCK AT CHICHELEY FOR 37 YEARS AS
A TRUE FATHER AND MOST TENDER SHEPHERD.

seat was Trengwainton, Cornwall. The gardens there are run by the National Trust who state, 'His executors later received over £10,000 compensation awarded to owners of formerly enslaved people. Despite this large sum, Price's finances were not sound: he had encumbered both his Jamaican and Cornish estates with substantial debts, and Trengwainton was sold by its mortgage holders in 1835.' In the 1950s, Sir Rose Price 6th Bart. lived at Netherwood in Grays Park Road. Over two centuries, the wealth from slavery can be found around England, yet not so evident in Stoke Poges

Revd Easson memorial plaque

Our events for this year are going ahead as published in our leaflets, on our Facebook site and the Society's website: www.e-voice.org.uk/stoke-poges-society. The contact details for the membership secretary and events coordinator can be found there. We look forward to seeing non-members at most of our events in addition to members.

Harvey Whittam

Chairman 642873

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www.stokepogeschurch.org/garden



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www.stokepogeschurch.org/babysteps

www.stokepogeschurch.org

01753 642331 office@stokepogeschurch.org

Bell-ringers

We have been pleased to welcome Layla Ballard back to St Giles' this year, following her intensive training in bell-handling at Chalfont St Peter. Layla is now ringing regularly with us for practices and services, can confidently ring in rounds and is rapidly picking up the art of call changes. She has joined the local young ringers group and has been attending Branch practices.

We are also delighted to welcome back Diana Mackie, who rang at St Giles' as a child, having been taught by her father Peter, who was Tower Captain for many years. She has recently returned to the area and has joined us for service ringing and practices. Diana has picked up her old skills so quickly- it seems ringing bells is akin to riding a bicycle; once that skill has been learned, it is not easily forgotten.

Lastly, we are looking forward to seeing Anne Milne in the tower very soon. She, like Layla, has been learning bell-handling skills with an experienced teacher at Chalfont St Peter and hopes to be able to ring here in the near future. We hosted a Branch Practice in February – you may have heard the bells ringing unexpectedly for a couple of hours on a Saturday afternoon. Branch practices are held monthly by The East Berks and South Bucks Branch (EBSB) of the Oxford Diocesan Guild (ODG) of church bell ringers, and it was our turn to host a practice. 20 plus ringers attended, which was a squash, but fortunately, it was a beautiful day, and we were able to accommodate everyone inside and outside the ringing chamber. Branch practices are a great way of meeting ringers from other towers and learning new tips from experienced ringers.

Bell-ringing is a pastime for any age group – we are always happy to welcome new ringers to St Giles'. If you would like to visit the tower during a practice, please let one of us know (contact details at the end). We practise from 8 - 9 pm every Wednesday and ring for Evensongs at St Giles' (see church calendar for dates) as well as for special services. Listen out for us over the Queen's Jubilee

weekend- we hope to ring on either Friday 3 or Saturday 4 June in honour of the occasion. From the archives- Bells and Pubs (information kindly provided by Nigel Smith)

Historically, there has always been an association between the bells, their ringers and the local pubs. For many years, the village had a pub named after its bells- first the Four Bells, then renamed the Five Bells and finally changed to the Six Bells, as more bells were added to the tower. Sadly, the Six Bells pub was demolished, but Bells Hill remains as a reminder of the village's relationship with the bells of St Giles'.

The following story came from the notes of a Mr. Winter, a former schoolmaster, regarding the addition of a new treble bell (the bell with the highest pitch, which is still rung in our tower) 'The treble bell was bought in 1830 by subscription. It was brought down by Mears of Whitechapel to The Plough Inn for parishioners to see it. There, three sacks of wheat, lent by Mr. James Edgson, of Berry Farm (a churchwarden) were thrown down triangular fashion in the bar and the bell crown downwards was securely fixed between them. The bell was filled to the rim with beer and all comers invited to help themselves. The festivities lasted until the next morning and the occasion was long remembered at Stoke.'

In times gone past, it was standard for the parish to pay local publicans for beer consumed by the ringers. One example from the churchwarden's accounts dated 23 April 1710 reads 'paid for one ringing day to Widow Vancourt, 5s 0d'. Widow Vancourt is thought to have been the publican of the then-named Four Bells pub.

No doubt, you will be pleased to hear that regular beer drinking is no longer a requisite part of bell-ringing, though we do sometimes enjoy a quick drink and catch-up after practices. For more information, or to arrange a visit, please contact Judy Sever (07956 598006) or Anthea Wright (07974 773238)

Good Neighbour Scheme

In March, we were honoured to receive two awards for the work our volunteers do for the village. The first was from the Parish Council, who awarded us the Jubilee Cup in recognition of the service and time that we have given. The second was a Proud of Bucks Award from the Beeches Community Board (on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council), who gave us Highly Commended in the Best Community Group Contribution. I am delighted to see our volunteers getting



Harpreet Kaur Virk has been running some gentle exercise classes at St Andrew's, and she has kindly continued to donate her profits to our funds. This money will be used to fund the tea parties

We hope to have good weather over the summer (without it being too hot!) and hope that everyone enjoys the events over the Platinum Jubilee weekend with family and friends.

Sue Lynch

recognition and appreciation.

We still get a lot of requests for lifts to medical appointments. As always, we welcome more applications to become clients or volunteers. Application forms are on the Parish Council website or can be requested by phone 07591 350159 or email SPGNS@outlook.com.

We hope to hold some afternoon tea parties for our clients over the summer. We are also supporting and involved with the new Friday Club that Ann Sibley is organising. You can read more about this elsewhere in this magazine. The first Club day will be 10 June and our clients and others in the village will receive invitations. Numbers will have to be limited at first, but we hope we can expand if there is demand for the club.

An advertisement for Arnold Funeral Service. It features a dark blue background with white text and a central logo. The logo consists of the letters 'A', 'F', and 'S' intertwined within a laurel wreath. Text includes: 'High Wycombe 891 London Road Tel: 01494 472572', 'Slough 273 Farnham Road Tel: 01753 535556', 'Marlow 21-23 Little Marlow Road Tel: 01628 898866', 'Gerrards Cross 38 Oak End Way Tel: 01753 891892', and 'Beaconsfield 32 Gregories Road Tel: 01494 685000'. Below the logo, it reads 'ARNOLD FUNERAL SERVICE' and 'INDEPENDENT FAMILY FUNERAL DIRECTORS'. At the bottom, it says '6 Generations of Service in the Community', 'Traditional, Alternative & Green Funerals - Pre-Payment Plans - Stonemasonry - Floristry', and '24 Hour Service'.

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Vicar's letter #12

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With hope in our hearts, joining as one, making history.

Let fanfares sound through this Jubilee

Rise up and serve, thanking God for Her Majesty."

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Mal Pope/Make Way Music

www.theplatinumjubilee.com

As we come to the Platinum Jubilee celebration weekend, with our Big Picnic, live music, times of fun and rejoicing, it is fitting that this quarter's Vicar's letter reflects on what it means to hold a year of Jubilee and to give thanks and praise for our Queen - Elizabeth II - whom we applaud most highly for her 70 years of faith and service.

Jubilee, for many, is an opportunity to make space and time to highlight a special anniversary - be it for a birthday, wedding, or in our case, the Queen's remarkable life of serving whole-heartedly her people and God with such fortitude and grace.

As a lover of words, who enjoys seeking out their origins, it was interesting to find that Jubilee's etymology is rooted in the late Latin

- jubilaeus based on the Hebrew word yobel ... meaning 'rams-horn trumpet'. Making a direct link back to the Old Testament where we find the first reference to Jubilee. Where God instructed and intended for people to take a sort of communal reset - economically, culturally and environmentally. Taking time to rest, return and reduce where there is disparity and debt. Deliberately making space to look at those things which concerned us. Build social relationships, give security to those in need and address, together, the well-being of the community, which for a Christian would mean living in ways that reflect good relationships with God, with each other, and with creation.

Restorative measures, I suppose, is what God had in mind. Sadly, the people of God, throughout the Old Testament, never took God up on His offer of Jubilee. But, this doesn't mean that it is to be forgotten or dismissed, for, as one writer on this subject says, 'it gives us an important window into God's heart of grace and vision for restoration'.

Any Jubilee gives us the opportunity to interrupt our usual activities, and I hope that as we make merry and remember all the wonderful things Queen Elizabeth II has done and inspired, we can use this extraordinary time to look to the origins of a Jubilee year. Using it as a moment to layer onto our special

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occasions opportunities to reset, respond and renew our relationships with one another - seek out the lonely and isolated in our village and make space for them to join in too. A true Jubilee exposes that which needs our attention, that needs our grace and love. It is a challenge, for sure, but a wonderful possibility for us to continue what we started in the pandemic - loving our neighbour as ourselves. To that end, Stoke Poges Church, alongside the Good Neighbour Scheme, our Parish Council, Threeways Surgery and PCSO Roy Fisher will be launching The Friday Club - a place to meet new people or come for a bit of company if you have ever felt lonely, isolated or vulnerable. To find out more, just call the Church Office or respond to the invite when it comes through your door.

For us, at Stoke Poges Church, all that we do, on a Sunday and during the week, reflects our faith and an opportunity to respond to God's intention that we seek to be a people of Jubilee not just in this Platinum year, but every day. That's why we have so many groups and

activities for you to join in with, whether it be to Knit and Natter, sing and play at Baby Steps, catch up with friends at the Friday Coffee Group, build faith in a Life Group or grow a pumpkin or tomato in the St Andrew's Eco - Garden. They all offer the opportunity to be, belong and build friendships.

I sincerely hope and pray that our latest venture, with our village partners, enables The Friday Club to become a joyous place of meeting for many.

God bless

Revd. Natasha

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Recreation report

Saera Carter, who chairs the Recreation and Environment Committee of the Parish Council, gives an update.

Recreational Areas

As we look forward to a long-awaited summer and lighter nights, we expect more villagers to use our outdoor spaces, with a selection of things to offer. In Bells Hill rec. we have a much-used walking track, suitable for all age groups, as well as an outdoor gym. Both Bells Hill and Plough Lane recs. have a selection of children's play equipment. Both areas provide a safe environment for residents to enjoy fresh air and the outdoors. It's good to see villagers enjoying what the village has to offer. Please be mindful if you have a dog or need to dispose of litter, that there are plenty of bins installed; please use them. If the bins are full, please take your litter home. Leaving your litter and dog mess is not only anti-social but dangerous if it's stepped in or accidentally touched. The Parish Council has agreed to install two more litter bins in Bells Hill rec; we are waiting for Buckinghamshire Council to undertake this installation.

The Parish Council reviews the playground equipment weekly, and a thorough inspection is undertaken annually in line with RoSPA. Our latest inspection has shown that a few pieces of equipment have a life of three to five years left. Purchasing new equipment is very costly, so plans are underway to prepare financially for any replacements needed in the coming years.

MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area)

The MUGA located in Bells Hill rec. is well used, especially in the summer. You will notice that the MUGA is locked at 7 pm and 8 pm during the holidays. This is at the request of neighbours who have had to contend with noisy anti-social behaviour. The Parish Council is very fortunate that volunteers have come forward to lock and unlock the gate each day. We thank them for their support. If you see any anti-social behaviour in our recreational areas, please report to 101 online or by phone or 999 if a crime is taking place.

Pavilion

People ask if this is a commercial building. Under its planning permission, it can only be used as a community space. It is used by our uniformed groups, football team and the Good Neighbour Scheme (SPGNS@outlook.com)

We have a caretaker to look after the building inside and out. If you see something that you think needs attention, please let our parish clerk know. In the event of an emergency, please call 07821 704625 or, if appropriate, the emergency services.

Village Green

This space is maintained by the Parish Council under a lease agreement with the old South Bucks District Council. We use local contractors to look after the grass, shrubs, hanging baskets and fence planters. Any extra planting and keeping the area general tidy is done by volunteers called the Friends of Bells Hill Green. Due to covid restrictions, we had to stop meeting. We would like to resurrect this group as it's a great opportunity to do something worthwhile while making new friends. You don't need to have any knowledge of gardening. We usually finish off with a drink in Costa. If you would like to help, please contact me (cllrcarter@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Litter Picks

Thank you to those who have supported Parish Council-led litter picks. We have had lots of new faces with children and grandchildren joining us, including some younger residents working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We have two more litter picks arranged for 2022:
13 July (6 - 8 pm)

10 September (10 am - 12 noon)

We meet in the Village Hall car park. Equipment is provided.

We know that villagers also pick litter in-between these dates, so we thank you for doing this. If anyone would like to borrow equipment, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Jubilee Celebrations

These will take place on Sunday 5 June 3 pm-9 pm in Bells Hill Recreation Ground. Please feel free to bring your own picnics, tables and chairs. The Parish Council will provide complimentary tea and coffee. There will be a cash bar serving drinks and an evening barbecue. We will also have a Sing-a-Long and music throughout the day. For children, we will have a visiting pet zoo and face painter. We are planning for this to be a memorable day and a wonderful way for villagers to come together to celebrate this historic occasion. On-site parking will be limited to Blue Badge holders. If you require more information, please contact the Clerk (theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Carols on the Green

This annual Christmas event will take place Saturday 27 November at the Village Centre. If you would like a stall, please email the Clerk. Rogers Lane crossing islands

For the last few years, you may have noticed that this area outside the Village Centre has been beautifully planted and cared for by our villager Nick Courtney. Nick has chosen to adopt this area and the grass verges on both the corners of Rogers Lane, making the space look really colourful. On behalf of the Parish Council, we would like to thank Nick for contributing positively to our village; we are looking forward to this summer's planting.

Grass verges and pavements

Are you blocking the pavement? Is it entirely necessary to park on the pavement? Sometimes parking on the road forces cars to slow down, which is something many would welcome. Blocking the pavement has led to accidents happening. Remember, if you block the pavement, our local PCSOs have agreed to issue penalty notices and might have the vehicle towed away. The legal framework that this falls under is as follows:

Highways Act 1980 - Wilful obstruction of the highway section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 makes it an offence to wilfully obstruct the highway 127 (1). If a person, without lawful authority or excuse, in any way wilfully obstructs the free

passage along a highway, he is guilty of an offence. The rule of thumb is if a wheelchair or double cannot pass, then you are blocking the highway. Planning

The Parish Council Planning Committee continues to work hard to defend the character, space and semi-rural nature of our village. We are invited to comment on all applications for Stoke Poges. We do not make the final decision; that is the role of the planning authority at Buckinghamshire Council. We endeavour to listen to residents who have concerns and, when appropriate, we will make a comment based on planning policy. We are, however, up against applicants who do not necessarily submit designs in keeping with the road in which they live. We will continue to do our best, and we are highlighting these issues within the Neighbourhood Plan. If you feel there are planning breaches taking place, please report these to:

planning.enforcement.csb@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to extend its thanks to villager Lee Duncombe. Lee was co-opted on to planning and after 14 years has decided it is time to enjoy his retirement. There is always preparation that goes into understanding planning applications and Lee has always been reliable and consistent in supporting the village. Thank you for supporting the village and the Planning Committee; you will be missed.

Stoke Poges Parish Council

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Vice-chairman: Saera Carter
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Vice-chairman of Planning Committee
Mary Crocker
Chairman of Recreation and Environment
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Parish Council spokespersons

Allotments – Geoff Cox
Finance and grants – Ralph Bagge
MVAS coordination – Geoff Cox
Highways and transport – Ralph Bagge
Planning – Saera Carter
Youth – Saera Carter
Older people – Saera Carter
Tree warden – Alan Fox
Flagmaster – Jim Budd
Website liaison – Rich Huckle
Webmaster – Rich Huckle

Appointed representatives

Stoke Poges News Editor – Ralph Bagge
Stoke Poges Village Centre:
Saera Carter, Nick Moore
Beeches Community Board:
Trevor Egleton
Community speedwatch: Anne Frank

Elected representatives

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Chairman of Finance and Resources Select
Committee, Vice-chairman Pension
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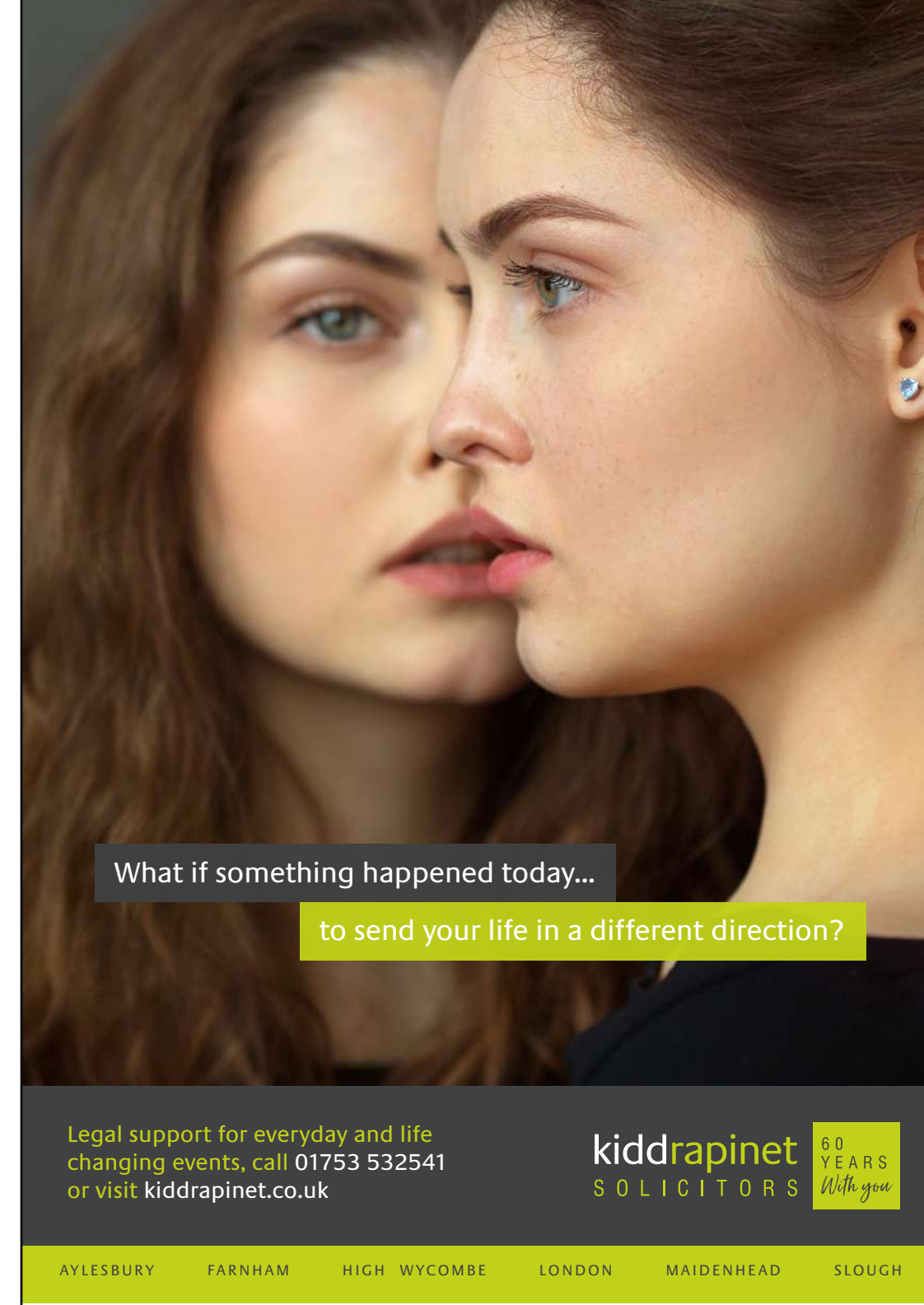
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