

Stoke Poges News





Welcome to the autumn edition of our parish magazine. With reports on activities in the village over the summer, there's a growing sense of 'business as usual'.

I hope you enjoyed the warm summer weather and that you have an energy-saving plan for the colder days ahead. It's warming to read about what our village clubs and societies have planned for between now and the year-end. I hope you enjoy the read!

Ralph Bagge

Cover photo credit: Ralph Bagge,

page 2: entrance to Stoke Park ice house, credit: Harvey Whittam

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Fly-tipper pays the price for dumping rubbish illegally



Another fly-tipper caught red-handed dumping waste in Buckinghamshire has been prosecuted in court. Mansoor Hussain, 64, of Gosling Road, Slough, pleaded guilty to an offence of illegal dumping when he appeared at High Wycombe Magistrates Court on 3 August 2022.

The court heard that on Thursday 17 March 2022, waste which included cabinet doors, paint pots, a footstool and a basketball hoop, was found to have been dumped at Middle Green Road, Middle Green. Buckinghamshire Council's enforcement team carries out regular surveillance at the location, due to the area being heavily blighted with fly-tipping. Surveillance cameras recorded the suspect's vehicle arriving at night and the driver was filmed fly-tipping waste onto the ground.

The vehicle was traced back to Mansoor Hussain. Mr Hussain attended an interview at Slough Police Station, where he admitted to dumping the waste.

Magistrates fined Hussain £1200 and ordered him to pay clean up and investigation costs of £415. A victim surcharge of £120 was also levied – making a total to pay of £1735.

Jilly Jordan, Deputy Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Environment said: 'This case should be a lesson to anyone who may be tempted to fly-tip in Buckinghamshire. Instead of disposing of his waste in the normal, legal way, this man decided to break the law and found to his detriment, that crime really doesn't pay. His actions have cost him a hefty fine and a criminal record.'

Jilly continued: 'Don't be tempted to fly-tip, we can and will catch you and you will be prosecuted.'

To report incidents of fly-tipping anywhere in Buckinghamshire visit:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/fix-my-street

Interested in adoption? Find out more at free online webinars

Anyone interested in finding out more about adoption in Buckinghamshire is invited to attend one of the Buckinghamshire Council's new-style adoption information session webinars. Designed to give people the opportunity to find out more about how the process works and to get answers to any questions they may have, the monthly events are open to all.

Anita Cranmer, Cabinet Member for Children's Services explained: 'Since the pandemic we've had to rethink the way we communicate with prospective adopters. Whilst we no longer need to place restrictions on face-to-face meetings due to Covid, we have found that these free, online sessions work equally as well as in-person meetings as people can tune in easily from home but still get access to all the information they need and be able to speak to our team and sometimes some of our previous adopters.'

Webinars are planned for the following dates:

- 20 September 2022
- 18 October 2022
- 22 November 2022

People who are interested should book their place online:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/adoption

At any one time there are dozens of children in Buckinghamshire who are looking to be adopted. This includes older children, brothers and sisters and children with additional needs. Anita Cranmer said: 'I would urge anyone who is thinking about adopting or those who simply want to find out more about how it all works, to get in touch with us. You can book onto our next webinar, or alternatively give us a call or send an email. We have lots of information and advice and our experienced team can answer all your questions.'

There is further information online including an Adoption Readiness Checker which allows you to consider your circumstances and gives advice about how to become ready for adoption. Alternatively, you can call: 01494 586349 or email: adoption@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Stoke Poges Village Table Tennis Club

Established more than 70 years ago, we are the oldest club in the Maidenhead League and are keen to welcome new members.

We meet at St Andrew's Church Centre on Tuesday evenings for general play between 8 and 10 pm from September to the end of May.

We have a team in Division 2 of the Maidenhead League.

We welcome new members at all levels and of all ages. There's the opportunity to play in a team, while quite a few of our members prefer to play casually among themselves in a friendly and welcoming environment.

For more information, please contact Eric Wright (643849) or David Anthony (530895).

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 volunteer committee organising many events that appeal to a broad audience, and suggestions are always welcomed. We recently held a darts fundraiser for Lives v Cancer and The Teenage Cancer Trust, raising £4887. All events have received very generous raffle prizes and amazing community support. Upcoming events will be

an acoustic night with barbecue and our regular Wednesday evening quiz nights. Please keep an eye on the notice board and Facebook for upcoming events.

We have a cosy corner with soft seating and coffee tables. 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. If you would like to find out more or use the club for your clubs or committees to meet, please contact: spvcmembership@gmail.com or pop in for a chat.

Opening times: Monday - Friday 7 pm to 11 pm, Saturday 2 pm to 11 pm and Sunday 12 pm to 11 pm.



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Horticultural Society

The society's 128th show was a great success, not just because there was a record number of entries and attendance but, more importantly, because it was such a happy, enjoyable, traditional community event. Everyone seemed to be smiling, and the weather was perfect.

The judges were very complimentary, saying that our show is one of the best and the standards are very high. Many thanks to them for their time and commitment, both those who have been judging our show for years and those who have recently come aboard. A big thank you to those who entered exhibits because without them, there would not be a show.

Congratulations to all the cup and trophy winners and to those who had first prize and runner-up commendations.

The children enjoyed the funfair rides and petting the animals; the adults welcomed the



return of the band and were betting on the squares in Poo Corner. People were generous in supporting the raffle, the tombolas and the stalls.

Thanks to the Rose and Crown for their support for the bar and the ploughman's lunches; to the Co-op for providing complimentary soft drinks and for the support that the show received from the Co-op Community Fund; to the church for manning the barbecue; to our trade exhibitors, all the stallholders, Barbara with her delicious ice creams, the first aiders, who fortunately had a quiet afternoon; to our local police community support officer for his presence. The society is very appreciative of The Stoke Poges School for the use of their grounds and the Parish Council for the use of the recreation field for parking.



A great deal of effort goes into planning and delivering the show. Everything is done by volunteers, not just the society's committee but also many others.

We are most grateful to them for giving their time and expertise for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

It was particularly special to have Sandra Greenslade presenting the cups and trophies. Sandra is Michael Mobb's daughter and is now Chair of the Mobbs Memorial Trust. She



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 a private estate in Medmenham.

Saturday 12 November, 2.30 pm

Annual General Meeting at St Andrew's Hall.

completed a circle of history, presenting a cup donated in her father's name and one in Noel Mobbs' name, her great grandfather. The link between the society and the Mobbs Memorial Trust goes back a long way. To mark more recent times, Norman Grundon was presented with a patron's plaque to welcome Grundon Waste Management Ltd as the society's newest patron. Both they and Stoke Park have made very generous donations towards the cost of the show. We also owe thanks to all those who donated prizes for our raffle and tombolas.

Another community effort is the St Andrew's eco-garden, which won the Best Community Garden award. Please read Natasha Brady's piece elsewhere in the newsletter, which gives much more information.

Lecture Evening on Wednesday 11 May

Dr Helen Reed gave a fascinating talk about management at Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common. She told us about conservation, including the introduction of animals, the grazing cattle and pigs, and taking care of the veteran trees. As a conservation officer with the City of London, she is very knowledgeable and was happy to take questions at the end of her presentation.

Autumn events – dates for your diary

Wednesday 21 September

Lecture evening, 8 pm at The Stoke Poges School

'Say it with Poison' – Russell Bowes

Parish Chairman's letter

I am writing this just as the August 'heatwave' appears to have ended, although before the arrival of some much-needed rain. Whilst it has been a challenging summer for gardeners, I'm pleased that we enjoyed fine weather for both the village fete and the flower show. It was great to see many friends and neighbours enjoying both events. Credit and thanks to the many villagers who helped as volunteers to make these events happen. We have a strong culture of volunteering in the parish, with parishioners taking turns to do community speedwatch and to marshal traffic around Rogers Lane at school times. Thank you for stepping up to make a difference.

The Parish Council will be starting its consultation on the Neighbourhood Plan for Stoke Poges shortly. This an important piece of work as it is our parish's response to future housing requirements and it will be included

and reflected in the new Buckinghamshire Plan which will be developed over the next few years. A number of volunteers have taken part in the preparatory work – thank you for putting in your time and efforts.

Buckinghamshire Council is undertaking an electoral review, to determine appropriate representation. The Local Government Commission for England has published its response to the Council's proposals, which are open to consultation until 10 October – you can find the link by searching on 'electoral review' on the Council's website www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

We appear to have had some success in discouraging fleets of tipper trucks from using routes through the parish, having tracked down an officer in Buckinghamshire's country parks team, who was able to influence the hauliers.

Ralph Bagge



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News from The Stoke Poges School

We have had a packed summer term, with the children enjoying Art Fortnight activities, KS1 Father's Day assemblies, our amazing KS2 Summer Concert and the fantastic Year 6 production of 'Wonderland'. The children have also had the opportunity to experience some wonderful educational visits linked to their summer term topics.



It has been lovely to see our pupils applying themselves to school life, displaying their individual talents and enjoying the events we are once again able to offer.

After an absence of three years, the school orchestra were ready to give their first concert on Tuesday 21 June. The opening number, 'Uptown Funk', went down a storm and the children's confidence grew as the evening



progressed. Three of our visiting music staff were there to give support, as well as Miss Whale, our cellist in residence. The finale was quite spectacular, the combined forces of the choir and orchestra performing 'We don't talk about Bruno!' Ms Frank was very pleased with how the concert went and is looking forward to September when the current Year 4 musicians will be able to join the orchestra.

The weather just about held for our KS2 Sports Day on Tuesday, 28 June. There was a buzz of excitement as the children took part in sprint and long-distance races, followed by The Egg and Spoon, Bean Bag Balancing, Skipping, and





Parents and friends cheered the children on as they gave each event their very best. We were delighted to see our Year 6 students leading the activities and enthusiastically supporting the FS/KS1 children.

We will be moving forward with several new initiatives in the new school year and are excited to be introducing STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) learning in our fantastic new purpose-built cabin. We look forward to sharing more on this in the autumn term.

It's always with mixed feelings that we say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils – we are very proud of them and all they have achieved during their time with us. We wish them all the best in their new schools and in their adventures to come.

the eagerly anticipated team relay races. The children's sportsmanship and determination were a delight to see, and we were very proud of each and every participant.

Our FS and KS1 Sports Day was a great success, with children enjoying a carousel of activities around the playground and field.

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Men's Group

The men's group have two more events coming up in the next few months. The first of these is on Saturday, 17 September, and we have selected a venue in Uxbridge that you may never have heard of – the Battle of Britain WW2 Bunker. During the Second World War, this was one of the RAF command centres for Fighter Command, located deep underground, from where the RAF's role in the Battle of Britain was coordinated. In the past few years, the site has been enlarged to include a major new visitor centre constructed on top of the bunker. It includes a new Air



Defence exhibition and is a 2000 square metre complex over two levels housing a Spitfire, Hurricane, a state-of-the-art museum and displays. Our visit will include a private tour of the bunker, where we will experience an operational day in September 1940 at the height of the Battle of Britain. Our private tour will last between an hour and 90 minutes and will begin at 2.30 pm.

We will depart from Stoke Poges around 11 am (transport will be provided) for our journey to Uxbridge. We will begin our visit by viewing the wide range of exhibits in the Air Defence exhibition and the many displays. We will then meet for lunch in the café (included in the price), and finally, our private tour of the underground bunker (accessed via 76 steps). The price is £20, and booking is essential as there is a limit on the number of places.

Our following event is a Men's Dinner on Friday 18 November, and for this event, we will be making a return visit to the Oak Room at the South Buckinghamshire Golf Club (in Park Road, Stoke Poges). The bar in the Oak Room will open at 7.15 pm, and our meal will begin at 8 pm (it's buffet style, catering for a wide range of tastes). Our speaker is Rev Harry Latham, who, for many years, was vicar of Stoke Poges. He came to Stoke Poges with his wife Tracy and baby Samuel from St Mike's, Aberystwyth, where he was curate. Before that, he attended Wycliffe Hall, Oxford University, for a bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Vocations. Harry and the family now live in Walton-on-the-Hill, an area near Leatherhead, Surrey, that both he and Tracy know well and where he is rector, caring for three local parishes. He will have lots of interesting stories to share with us, so please join us for our annual Men's Dinner. 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 and to book places at any of our events, please contact Tony Shortman or Nigel Lowe (contact details below). We are not an exclusive group but very inclusive, and guys from a wide area (not just Stoke Poges) are very welcome.

*Tony Shortman 01844 350014 or
shortmantm@gmail.com*

*Nigel Lowe 07973 349721 or
nigelatsuchlowe@gmail.com*

Stoke Poges Singers

Karl Jenkins: *The Armed Man*, July 2022



'God shall wipe away all tears, and there shall be no more death. Neither sorrow nor crying nor any more pain. Praise the Lord'. And with these words sung a capella, in moving contrast to the drumbeat and clarion calls of previous movements, the choir ended *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. The performance was originally scheduled for March 2020, just as the pandemic struck. The work is dedicated to the victims of Kosovo, and again there is conflict now in Ukraine. The above words concluding the final movement, 'Better is Peace', are especially poignant given these twin disasters of epidemic and war.

Not that the evening was a solemn affair – far from it! The capacity audience just fitted into the remaining space of St John's Church, not taken up by the Stoke Poges Singers and the string players of the Stoke Poges Chamber Orchestra. The entire chancel was needed for the three percussionists and their side, bass, snare and kettle drums and a cacophony of other bells and whistles! Trumpeters, flautists, and organist completed the ensemble in what was the largest number of singers and instrumentalists we have assembled to date. As conductor Andy Langley wryly parodied the famous line from the movie *Jaws*, 'we're going to need a bigger church!' Fittingly all ticket sales were in aid of the Royal British Legion.

The first half of the concert was a mix of orchestral and choir numbers with instantly recognisable pieces by Jenkins, Glass, Albinoni and Elgar. The choir also sang John Rutter's recent *A Ukrainian Prayer*, wearing emblematic pin badges in support. After half-time refreshments, the concert resumed with a complete performance of *The Armed Man*. There were many highlights – the muezzin intonation of the 'Call to Prayer'; the haunting Last Post on solo trumpet following the chaos of the closing bars of *Charge!*; Naomi Wordsworth's beautiful heartfelt solo in 'Now the Guns have Stopped'; the voices and solo cello in the 'Benedictus' to name but few. And, of course, the closing unaccompanied singing with the hope of peace to come.

Events for the rest of 2022

By the time of publication, SPS will just have re-started rehearsals for our next concert on Saturday, 19 November. This will be a mix of popular and classical songs on the theme of cities. Look out for further details of our journey around musical metropolises.

Our popular annual Quiz Night, an important fundraiser for the choir, will be held on Saturday, 15 October. Do support this if you can.

And following the success of our first family carol concert last year, this will take place again on the afternoon of Saturday 10 December.

All the above are at St Andrew's Church Centre.

New members are always welcome. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7.45 pm at St Andrew's and will re-start on 1 September. For more information and a contact form, please visit www.stokepogessingers.org.uk

Village Centre

The Village Centre hosts a wide range of organisations who meet in the main hall and its other meeting rooms - from Acrobatics to Zumba with lots in-between, there's something for everyone!

The hall and bar are available for public hire, so if you're planning a celebration, meeting or other event, or if you'd like to know more about some of the clubs and societies, please take a look at www.stoke-poges-centre.org.uk to find out what's on offer.

Presentation of the Judd Cup

As a charity, the Village Centre is overseen by a management committee of volunteer trustees. Each year, they award the Judd Cup to an organisation or individual for their contribution to Stoke Poges Village Centre.

This year's recipient is Roland Bailey, who is stepping down after 23 years as a trustee,

seven of which he served as chairman. Roland was presented the cup by the current chairman, Rich Huckle, who congratulated Roland and thanked him for his significant support over many years.



Stoke Poges Village Centre

rooms for hire by the hour – functions parties meetings
hall with stage and kitchen – licensed bar



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www.stoke-poges-centre.org.uk
07565 116075

Community speedwatch



90 miles per hour. That is the shocking speed logged on the Mobile Vehicle Activated sign (MVAS) at 8 am, one Sunday morning on the Gerrards Cross Road. Later on that day, there was a 70 mph logged, as well as several drivers travelling over 50 mph.

What can you do to educate these poor drivers? Have you considered joining the Community Speedwatch team? The Parish Council has invested in a state-of-the-art camera which is very simple to use - you just position it by the roadside and switch it on.

If you think there is a speeding issue on your road, we can get the site approved by the police,

and you can take the equipment out for an hour. You must watch a 30-minute training video first. There is no regular commitment expected; occasional help is fine.

Several of our team live at the Wexham end of the village, so that is where we often set up. The photo shows a car captured on our speed camera

doing 57 mph on Wexham Street. This driver will have had a visit from the police! The last time we set up for an hour, 31 drivers received a warning letter from the police, and in the past year, we have logged 342 vehicles.

We need more volunteers, especially from the central area. It's a satisfying way to spend an hour! If you think you can help, please get in touch via the clerk.

theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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Photographic Club



'Yes!' I replied. 'I particularly like taking scenic and nature shots'. What about you? Are you someone who loves to take photos? It could be something you enjoy doing, but you've never thought about joining a club? Doing something different keeps us learning, and photography is a great outlet.

With the technology available nowadays, you can take professional quality pictures on a phone! As a club, we focus on broadening your

We start the new season on 6 September when we invite and welcome new members to join us for the season. My invitation to you is to come and join us.

Now you may be thinking, are your photos really good enough that you can join a photography club? If so, I get it; I thought that when I first saw the Stoke Poges Photography Club (SPPC) at the Slough Summer Festival.

The gallery of photos was stunning; I just went over to have a look. I started talking to a lovely gentleman, Rojer, who asked whether I would consider joining. I laughed in my mind. 'Me!' I said. 'I don't have an SLR/ professional camera'. 'Well, you don't need one as long as you have a phone,' he said, indicating his phone. 'The real question is, do you like taking photos?'

knowledge regardless of your level. We have a mix of workshops, talks, competitions and some external trips planned for this season. We run in-person evenings at the Village Centre and some virtual sessions via Zoom.

What are the plans for this season? Well, you get the opportunity to submit entries into the competitions, which I thoroughly recommend.



Each competition has a set subject or is an open competition (any image not previously submitted). I started with submitting open

Final Competition Awards 2022

Sue Avey - Set Subject(Not just for Cars)



Jane Morrish - Set Subject (Three Buildings)

Peter Morrish - Set Subject (Bear Claw Scratcher) - top left opposite

Mark Collins - Set Subject (Buttercups)

Ken Grant - Final Open PDI (Stoke Park)

Ken Grant - Final Open Print (After the Rainstorm) - (opposite)

Judy Giles - Photographer of the Year

photographs. Looking at images I really liked that I had previously taken. Getting feedback on them was really useful. As I have been with the club for a while now, I try and submit set subjects as it encourages me to take images specifically for the competitions.

Some of the workshops we are running this season include; how to use features on your camera you might not have previously used; mobile photography, and apps; light painting and using a flash. We have lecturers talking about still life and long exposure. This is just some of what we've got coming up.

Any new members who join are automatically entered into the intermediate section unless they have recognised qualifications. At the end of the year, we have awards for Photographer of the Year. Last season it was Judy Giles for intermediate and Ken Grant for Advanced (see After The Rainstorm, left). See some of the winners with their certificates, the list of winners and two winning images from last season above.

Ken Grant - Photographer of the Year

Gail Pursall -Three of a Kind

Don Dobson - Three of a Kind

Peter Morrish - Charles Harding

If you're interested in joining or finding out more, get in touch, and you can come along to a meeting. Just visit our website at stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk or get in touch at membership@stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk.

Bushra Sheikh; Publicity Management

Rotary

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

We held a charity film night (*West Side Story*) at Pinewood cinema in April, and the £2000 raised was split between the Thames Valley Air Ambulance and the Ukraine appeal. In addition, more than £ 30,000 - in the form of 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, and it has helped with the building of the Chilterns food bank as well as 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, who is a keen golfer, collects any stray golf balls he comes across. These are sold, yielding still more funds for charity donations.

In July, we welcomed our new President, Brian Davies. Brian took over from Manjit Shihn, who had been at the helm for the past two years, overshadowed by Covid. On his retirement,



Manjit was presented with a 2nd Paul Harris Fellowship, which is Rotary's premier award for outstanding service, as well as an engraved crystal vase as a token of esteem from the club.

Regular meetings are 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.

You are always welcome to visit the club and sample the camaraderie that is enjoyed by one and all.

The club meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month at Beaconsfield Golf Club. 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

Stoke Poges Players

A tale as old as time takes Stoke Poges on an adventure this December to celebrate 60 years of the Stoke Poges Players. After our time in lockdown, we're very excited for the return of our annual pantomime, this year being *Beauty and the Beast* by Tom Whalley.

Join us 1 - 4 December for a



story of evil curses, monstrous beasts and most importantly, true love. Will Belle, Brie and Nanny Nightnurse find the truth or will Belle remain a prisoner forever?

A family-friendly show with something for everyone, tickets are available from our website:

www.stokepogesplayers.org for all five of our shows, including both matinees. See you there, mes amis, don't forget your baguettes!

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 in 1935 to the community by the late Sir Noel Mobbs 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. One of the oak trees in the gardens 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 team of gardeners throughout the year.

Admission to the gardens is 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. Tea, coffee and cakes can be enjoyed as well.

This year, the day was Sunday, 26 June. For the rest of the year, the public is welcome to visit and enjoy the beauty of the gardens, and many groups and associations arrange a special visit when there are conducted tours of the gardens, with optional refreshments.

In addition, the Memorial Gardens holds a number of special events during the year, including conducted tours, with a Wisteria and Azalea Walk being held in May, offering a guided walk; the Insect Bonanza, held in July; a Bat Walk; a Fungus Foray held in October; and Wassailing in December.

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

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

We welcome new members to our Friends and also seek newcomers to join our committee, which helps 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 email me if you feel able to help.

Sue Easton, Chairman of the Friends of the Memorial Gardens;
sue.easton@googlemail.com

Sunshine Corner

We have had a very busy year at Sunshine Corner Pre-school. The summer term seems to have flown by, and all too quickly, we said goodbye to our school leavers, always a sad occasion. However, we had great fun in the last week, with a dressing up day, a bouncy castle day, a pool party and finally sports day and the leavers' party. Everyone had a great time. The children also spent long days in the garden, enjoying the lovely weather and water play.

The theme for the term was 'outings' when the children shared their experiences of days out with their families. We included their experiences of playing and picnicking in the park, going to Windsor for a castle visit and boat trip, going to the zoo and the most popular outings, Legoland and the seaside. The theme was taken into all areas of the curriculum, including outdoor play.

On 2 July, we joined the rest of the village at the Stoke Poges Fete. We set up a stall with lots of fun things for children to do, including badge making, temporary tattoos, lucky dip, bubble wands, henna tattoos. We also sold cakes donated by our parents and homemade

vegetable pakoras. It was great to have the fete back again and see lots of our old children and families who came up to say hello.

We look forward to welcoming the children back for the next term and getting to know our new children and their families. The autumn term is always one of the busiest, with many celebrations and activities. We hope to raise funds to improve our outdoor area to enhance the children's learning and widen their interests.

We still have a few spaces left for the autumn term. We are a term-time only setting; our session times are 9.00 am - 12.00 midday, 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm. Our all-day sessions are 9.00 am - 3.00 pm. We offer fee-paying spaces, two-year funded spaces, universal 15-hour spaces and 30-hour spaces for eligible children. If you would like to put your child's name down at Sunshine or come in to visit us, you can contact us by email at info@sunshinecornerpreschool.co.uk or by phone on 644300 or on our mobile number 07973671558. Everyone is welcome at Sunshine.

Women's Institute

Our meetings take place at the Village Centre every second Wednesday of the month, starting at 2.15 pm, and new members are always welcome. Why not come as a guest before deciding if you want to join us?

For our first meeting in the autumn, we welcome Lady Gershon, whose talk is entitled 'Nurses Never Run', the name of her book based on her experiences as a student nurse where there were strict rules of conduct. It will be interesting to compare her training then with how nurses are trained today.

For the first time, we have broken with

tradition and decided to hold our annual general meeting (AGM) and lunch in October instead of November. It will still follow the usual format with the AGM in the club room at noon, followed by a three-course lunch with wine in the main hall afterwards.

Our meeting on 9 November features a talk by Wendy Davies called 'Adventures of an Audiologist'. Wendy has had a long career as an audiologist and ear care specialist, and we look forward to learning more about caring for our ears as well as the latest developments in hearing technology.

Stoke Poges Hastings Community Fund

When life throws you a curve ball - who is there to help? Often at the most testing of times, the last thing people need is financial worries or strains. Yet, if anything can go wrong, it will do so. It's called Murphy's law, I believe! Just when you have the least amount of energy, capacity or means, stuff happens ... So, who is there to help?

As the Stoke Poges Hasting Community Fund (charity number 206915), we hope that you would feel able to turn to us - if that need is a monetary one.

The charity has been there to bring relief in need to people living in the Parish of Stoke Poges for several hundred years. First as the Lord Hastings Hospital Trust and Stoke Poges Relief in Need charities and since 2011, a merged version, known locally as The Hastings Charity.

When the need arises, our charity aims to be swift to respond. One or two of the trustees consider the merits of an application - ensuring it meets the terms and conditions we are bound by, but always keeping your information confidential and treating each case individually. Then as a whole, we weigh what we can do to help together with what is needed - stepping into those testing times with care and kindness. Resourcing items, services or facilities that truly benefit you at your point of need.

If you or someone you know are in one of those seasons where life has thrown a curve ball, then please do get in touch. These people did ... and look what a difference it made:

Pensioner A was widowed and had lived in Stoke Poges for most of their life. They could live within their means but were not able to save much. When the boiler broke down and needed replacing, there just weren't the savings to cover such a huge expense. They got several quotes for the work, all too much. So, they asked The Hastings Charity if they could do something. We covered the cost of the boiler replacement.

Working person B, who had managed to dig their way slowly out of debt, found that

despite offering to pay their year-old council tax debt off in manageable instalments or directly from their wages, their offers were rejected. After all the hard work they had done, they were devastated when it had ended up with an agency, who, sadly, phoned and phoned and phoned until the person felt they had no option but to agree to terms that were not sustainable. They were stressed, overwhelmed and scared. A family member encouraged the person to apply to the Hastings Charity. Two of our team visited and spent time listening and supporting them. They didn't want a 'hand out'; they just wanted to find a way to sort things out. To help ease the strain and stresses, that were more than just financial. The Hastings Charity could do something to relieve their stress and enable them to move forward with their lives with one less thing hanging over them.

Family C needed equipment for people with disabilities that was not provided by other services. Their child had been diagnosed with a disability at about 18 months old, which meant they needed a special car seat and a pushchair for use beyond the usual two to three years to get around safely. They came to us for funds, which we were very pleased to be able to supply.

If you or someone you know has been thrown a curve ball, is struggling to find a way to fund equipment, a service or item truly needed, then please contact the Stoke Poges Hastings Community Fund. A form needs to be completed, but it is not an onerous one. One or two trustees - will confidentially look at it, give you a call, visit perhaps, and then ask the team to check it out and consider the need.

This is a charity that aims to help quickly. Whether you need furniture, a washing machine, help clearing debts, or a school uniform for the new term, we will always do our best to be a supportive help and give what we can.

Thank you to all who have used and supported this charity over the years; as trustees, we feel privileged to serve and support.

www.stokepogescharities.uk

Royal British Legion

Although it may seem things are quiet, we at your local Royal British Legion branch are working behind the scenes on preparing for the autumn and winter Poppy Appeal activities.

We wanted to share that the Stoke Poges Singers recently had a concert in St John's Church in Farnham Common to raise funds and kindly donated the proceeds to our branch of the RBL, for which we are truly grateful. The event raised £1617- it was very well attended, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. A big thank you to them for their generosity of time, effort and commitment to a worthy cause.

Also, one of our previous standard bearers, Howard Gibbs, accompanied by a friend and fellow RBL Riders Branch member, took a wreath to France and wrote a lovely message to share with you all. Howard is still very much involved in our branch. This is his story:

In early June, my good friend Mick Stimpson and I rode our motorcycles to Flanders in Belgium. We are both members of the Royal British Legion Riders Branch. This was a trip we had done on many occasions but was the first since Covid restrictions were lifted. Using Lionel Rigby's book, *Every One a Hero*, we had found six local men, Arthur Bunby, Arthur Cull, Walter Cutting, Claude Hanbury, Frank Reynolds and Charles Robinson, who were buried or commemorated in cemeteries or memorials in the Ypres Salient. We also paid a visit to John Wardhaugh, great-uncle to one of our villagers, Claire Popple. We were able to visit all these sites and pay our respects, and where possible, leave a posy of silk poppies or a poppy cross. I also had the honour to lay a wreath at the Menin Gate during the nightly Last Post Ceremony, remembering local man Arthur Bunby and Walter

Thorn from Wexham, neither of whom have a known grave, but whose names are inscribed on the Memorial to The Fallen. Apart from one morning when we sheltered from heavy rain at Toc H in Poperinge, we were blessed with fair



weather and good roads, and it was good to re-acquaint ourselves with the Ypres Salient and remember the sacrifices made there. Lest we forget.

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

Beaconsfield
32 Gregories Road
Tel: 01494 685000



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24 Hour Service

Council employs green technology to repair damaged roads



Buckinghamshire Council has embarked on work to tackle some of the most damaged rural roads in the county. In the first phase of this work, specialist machinery in being used to pulverise the old surface material and reuse it alongside new materials, a technique which reduces the council's carbon footprint, saves money and resources and allows long-lasting repairs to be made more quickly.

The programme of work started earlier this month. In three phases, it will tackle some of the 'failing roads' where the filling and refilling of potholes is not enough to maintain the road surface to an adequate standard. These are generally more rural roads, originally simple tracks, that were never designed to carry the amount of traffic they now do. As traffic levels have increased over the years, the road surfaces have deteriorated and foundations subsided to such an extent that normal plane and patch repair work is not enough. The works form part of the council's £100m, four-year, Investing in your Roads programme. The council's highways engineers identified the locations for this latest programme following technical assessments on site, in combination with identifying those roads which will not be tackled by external organisations as part of

their work, such as HS2 or East West Rail. The technical assessments were used to rank all the roads previously highlighted as needing attention, into an order. Those receiving the highest scores were given priority to be included in the first phase of works.

In the first phase of works, four roads are being targeted in the north of the county.

The repair work is carried out using a process called Regen. It

has been trialled previously in other parts of the county. Crews break up the existing road surface. These materials are then pulverised on site, spread out and compacted to create a level surface. A small amount of cement mixed with water, binds the materials together and creates a solid structure. The surface is then covered with bitumen and stone chippings, sealing it to prevent water getting in. The process is specifically designed for rural roads with a relatively low volume of traffic and would not be suitable on bigger roads with higher traffic flows.

The use of the new technique has multiple benefits:

The whole process is significantly quicker than alternatives so reducing the inconvenience for local residents and road users

It has a direct impact on improved air quality as there is no need to use hot asphalt

By reusing materials instead of taking them away from the site by vehicle, it helps reduce our carbon footprint

Using fewer materials also brings about significant savings. The cost is £22-£28 per square metre compared to £75-£100 per square metre for more conventional methods

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 a 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



caring for our community.....

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Mr Baljit Singh Bahra MR PharmS

We are open

Mon - Fri	8:45am - 6:30pm
Saturday	8:45am - 1:00pm
Sunday	Closed

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Bells Hill Green, Stoke Poges SL2 4EW

Telephone: 01753 645464

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

STOKE POGES UNITED CHARITY & STOKE POGES HASTINGS COMMUNITY FUND WE ARE HERE TO HELP

*Stoke Poges has two independent charities whose purpose is give financial assistance to local residents who need help due to hardship, illness or disability.
Grants can be given to individuals or to organisations set up to help groups of people.
Treating each application confidentially and with care and compassion.*



WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH ...



- Grants can be given for many items like equipment for disabled and infirm people and children which includes respite.
- We can help with essential household appliances, furniture, and crucial house repairs when inadequate funds are an issue.
- We may be able to assist with household bills and financial assistance to further education and apprenticeships.
- If you are finding it difficult to purchase school uniforms and essential school supplies, please get in touch.

STOKE POGES UNITED CHARITY

(charity reg no. 206289)

TRACEY 07929 273003
TREVOR 07917 457444

STOKE POGES HASTINGS COMMUNITY FUND

(charity reg no. 206915)

ANNE 01753 529646
SUSAN 01753 646582

Visit our website for more information & to download a form www.stokepogescharities.uk

Hedgerley Historical Society

Wednesday 21 September 2022 8 pm
Hedgerley Memorial Hall

'Randall's of Uxbridge' – Sir John Randall
The talk is on the history of Randall's of Uxbridge, spanning over 120 years, three



centuries and two world wars. Founded by John's great-grandfather, it eventually became an Uxbridge institution until it closed in 2015. Using contemporary photographs and anecdotes, it represents a glimpse into the life of a family business.

John Randall was the fourth generation of his family to work in the family retail business in Uxbridge. He joined after studying Serbo-Croat and Russian at London and Belgrade Universities. He also was a professional ornithologist for several birdwatching tour companies. In 1997 he became the Member of Parliament for Uxbridge. Appointed to the Privy Council in 2010 and knighted in 2013. He stood down at the General Election in 2015. In 2017 he became Prime Minister Theresa May's Special Adviser on the Environment in No.10 Downing Street. He was appointed to the House of Lords in 2018. He is the Deputy Chairman of the Human Trafficking Foundation. He is currently a Council Member of the RSPB, a trustee of various conservation charities, and the President of the Colne Valley Regional Park.

Wednesday 19 October 2022 8 pm
Hedgerley Memorial Hall



'Bekonscot Photographic Archive: Sharing our history' – Cathy Sturrock

In this talk, Cathy Sturrock will share the story of how Bekonscot converted its huge collection of photographs, brochures and multimedia into a fully accessible digital archive. Cathy will show how this archive is now used, not only for marketing purposes but in Bekonscot's educational offering for schools and the public.

Cathy Sturrock is the Education and Events Officer at Bekonscot Model Village and Railway, where she has been responsible for developing educational workshops for schools and introducing a programme of events for family audiences.

Saturday 29 October 2022 12 noon autumn lunch (members only) followed by a talk at 2 pm, Hedgerley Memorial Hall

'Walking Forward, Looking Back' – Dinah Latham

Dinah's talk is about the book she wrote entitled *Walking Forward, Looking Back* about her life as a district nurse and midwife in 1960's London. She wrote the book in her retirement while walking her bearded collie, Harriet and it is a legacy to community nursing of that period.

Harriet was very much part of Dinah's reflections and always accompanied her on all speaker bookings. Unfortunately, Harriet died at the end of last year. And Dinah now has a two-year-old bearded collie called Molly who similarly accompanies her.

Dinah Latham was born in Chalfont St Giles, moving to London to train for nursing at Charing Cross Hospital. Following qualification, Dinah worked in the community, nursing patients and families in their own homes whilst bringing up four children as a single parent.

Following retirement and writing her book, Dinah has entered a new career learning to shepherd, with her dog working regularly on a farm as well as entering sheepdog trials. Dinah is currently writing her second book entitled *Sheepless Nights*.

Wednesday 16 November 2022 8 pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall

'Tales of a House Detective' – Marian Miller

Other people's homes are a constant source of fascination. This profusely illustrated talk will feature some of the buildings - not just houses - Marian has investigated and the sources she used. So this talk is designed for those who'd just like a 'look through the keyhole' as well as those seeking inspiration for research into the history of their

own homes.

After 20 years as a commercial property solicitor, Marian retrained, gaining an Undergraduate Diploma in Local History and an M.Sc in Historic Building Conservation. Whilst working as a conservation and design officer with South Bucks District Council, she was responsible for preparing several of their conservation area appraisals. After a spell as an independent heritage consultant, she now volunteers, chiefly with the Buckinghamshire Historic Buildings Trust and the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society.

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

jdlovelock@btinternet.com

www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org



Dorothy Allhusens' recipe – Spanish Rice

Dorothy Allhusen was a key society figure and resident of Stoke Court. She published two recipe books as charity fundraisers, inviting her society friends and acquaintances to contribute their favourite recipes. Our recipe this month is taken from *A Book of Scents and Dishes* by Dorothy Allhusen, published in 1925. The recipe is printed verbatim and no doubt reflects attitudes held in the parish 100 years ago.

Submitted by Mrs Fred Allhusen, Fulmer House, Bucks (Dorothy's sister-in-law).

Fry 2 onions chopped very fine in 1/2 teacupful of oil. When these are cooked, add 4 raw tomatoes skinned and without their seed, and let them cook in the same oil. Then add salt, 2 tumblers of water, 1 teaspoonful of pimento-molido, and boil the rice well in this. Pimentos (mild chilis) can be procured tinned

or fresh in their season.

I think that, on the whole, Spanish cookery is distinctly disappointing. The taste and smell of garlic pervades everything. But the country is so beautiful and the climate so perfect that these qualities make up for many culinary deficiencies. The evening glow at sundown in Spain, so reminiscent of the East, is unforgettable. It is associated in my mind with the strange cries and little animal noises that seem to accompany the end of the working day and to usher in the night. I used to love to see the pigs roaming on the rich brown soil over the countryside, and to listen to the swineherd playing quaint, whimsical melodies on his flute, little airs that ended with an abruptness characteristic of Eastern music.

The knife-sharpener in Gibraltar warns people of his approach by playing on his flute; there are no discordant cries such as we hear in this country. He plays a quaint and arresting melody, and the townspeople appear, as if summoned by magic, with their blunt implements that need his aid.

Bucks Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting

The recent hot weather and wildfires have brought home to us how much we depend on the Bucks Fire and Rescue Service to keep us safe. The Fire Service operates with a blend of full-time and on-call firefighters to ensure that it can cope with emergency demand.

There is a recruitment programme running for on-call firefighters. Key requirements are:

- be 18 years old at start of employment

- hold a full Uk driving licence

- live within 10 minutes of an on-call fire station

must be able to swim confidently

Further information can be found at bucksfire.gov.uk/join-us

On 28 September at 6.30 pm, there is an online Teams awareness evening for anyone interested to find out more:

bucksfire.gov.uk/events



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Stoke Poges Society

This summer has seen highs and lows. We have had some wonderful talks but have been unable to tour Baylis House. Then it was really sad to learn of the death of Jane Wall. Since the start of the society in 2009, Jane has always been the membership secretary, widely known throughout Stoke Poges and a huge help in many other ways for so many to enjoy events, etc. She was always happy sitting around the society's stand at the Horticultural Show and chatting.



The Gilliat family of Duffield House

In the last edition of Stoke Poges News, there was information about the influence of slavery in Stoke Poges. Now, the story of Algernon Gilliat of Duffield House, Stoke Green, who grew up surrounded by the biggest names seeking the abolition of slavery. Born in 1837, his childhood was spent in several large homes in Clapham. Algernon's grandfather had become very wealthy, trading in cotton, tobacco and coffee from the Americas. His father was a reforming evangelist and a contemporary of those committed to the abolition of slavery in the 'Clapham Sect'. They've been described as brave men of their day, such as William Wilberforce, Zachary Macaulay and Thomas Babington. He followed his father into the family merchant bank of J.K. Gilliat & Co. Algernon was a partner in the merchant bank with his older brother, Saunders, who was the senior partner and a

Governor of the Bank of England (1883-1885). In the 1970s, the merchant bank became a subsidiary of Arbuthnot Latham Co. Algernon first came to notice in Stoke Poges when in 1879, he bought Duffield House on the roundabout in Stoke Green. The house was sold in 1926, after his death. His two eldest sons worked in the family merchant bank. His eldest son, Charles, contributed much to the community by holding various voluntary positions in Stoke Poges Church and was chairman of Stoke Poges Parish Council (1913-1915). The third son and youngest, Walter, became a Minister in the Church of England. He scored a hat-trick playing for the England football team.



Algernon is remembered in the area north of Slough railway station. He paid for the building of St Paul's Church in Stoke Road, its vicarage and Sunday School building; now the Salvation Army building. He supported the Royal Orphan School (Tesco Extra stands on the site, and the school is now known as Reed's in Cobham).

Stoke Poges lych gate listed

The heading featured in the primary news story this summer for South East Highlights of Historic England. You may well ask, what is a

ALGERNON GILLIAT,
 (BORN JAN: 6TH 1837 DIED JAN: 24TH 1925)
 WHO BUILT THIS CHURCH AND VICARAGE AND ENDOWED
 THE BENEFICE.
 THIS TABLET IS ERECTED BY GRATEFUL PARISHIONERS
 AND MEMBERS OF S^T PAUL'S CHURCH.
 A SERVANT OF THE CHURCH A SUCCOURER OF MANY

lych gate? It's the ornamental gateway which leads to a churchyard. It symbolises the threshold between the secular and sacred zones of a parish and once served a practical function of storing a coffin before burial. The name derives from the Anglo-Saxon or German word for corpse: lich, or leiche. The society supported an application for the lych gate in the middle of St Giles' churchyard to become a national heritage asset. It is now listed at Grade II by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) on the advice of Historic England. There were three significant factors which helped it become listed; the group value with Thomas Gray's tomb, his monument and the landscape where he wrote his poetry; it featured in the opening scene of the James Bond film 'For Your Eyes Only' and it was designed by the architect John Oldrid Scott as part of an extension of the churchyard in 1887. Oldrid Scott was the eldest son of the famous architect Sir George Gilbert Scott, from whom he inherited the family practice in 1878. Locally his most significant building is St Mary's Church in Slough. This is the first new listing in Stoke Poges for many decades. The Victorian Society, in their publicity about the new listing stated, 'We have to wonder how this lych gate escaped being listed for so long!'

Another recent application for listing was the ice house at Stoke Park. The application was rejected by DCMS due to the level of architectural interest and lack of historical interest. It's well hidden and surprisingly not close to the lakes or the mansion house. At



least there is some protection for the underground building because it sits in the Grade II listed Park and Garden; it's in a Conservation Area; it is in the curtilage of the Grade I listed Stoke Park mansion house and is now being considered by the owners, Buckinghamshire Council, to become a non-designated heritage asset (photo on p.2).

Harvey Whittam; Chairman; 642873



Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

a warm

welcome



Barbecue Harvest Remembrance

**Sunday 4th
September**

10.30 at St Giles'

**Sunday 2nd
October**

10.30 at St Giles'

**Sunday 13th
November**

10.50 at St Giles'

and to our regular services

Tuesdays in term time Baby Steps 10am

Wednesday Communion 11am

Sundays 9am ~ 11am ~ 6.30pm

check for details and venues on our website

www.stokepogeschurch.org

Church Office 01753 642331 office@stokepogeschurch.org

St Giles' Church, Church Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2 4NZ

St Andrew's Church, Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges, SL2 4LN



stokepogeschurch



stoke_poges_church

Villager gets on his bike to fundraise for charity



juggling school and extracurricular activities either side of the holidays. Everyone's support and encouragement however, kept him pedalling and he found some exceptional cycling partners along the way. Mu'awwiz wants to say a heartfelt thank you to all his friends and family who sponsored him and who were there to cheer him on along the way. He would not have done so well without them.

Last year, Mu'awwiz ran 30 miles in 30 days and raised over £2000 for Unicef. He is already thinking about a challenge for 2023, so watch the space!

Ramadan is an important month for Muslims around the world. Alongside fasting from dawn to dusk, there is also great emphasis on self-reflection and providing alms to those in need. This Ramadan (April-May 2022), a seven-year-old decided to raise money for WaterAid, so he can help provide clean water and sanitation to those in need. Mu'awwiz Anwar, of Duffield Lane, cycled over 3 miles every day for 30 days and raised over £4400 (plus Gift Aid), smashing his initial target of £2000. This is a phenomenal amount of money which will make a huge difference to those living in unimaginable conditions without clean water and decent toilets.

Mu'awwiz did really well with the challenge during his Easter break, but it was far trickier



BucksVision

BucksVision was thrilled to be back at the Stoke Poges, Wexham and Fulmer Horticultural Show on 23 July, and this year was the best so far. Not only did we sell many of our crafts and cards during the busy afternoon, but we also met many local people interested to know more about our charity.



BucksVision was founded in 1911. The local South East Division supports people with sight loss in this area, with Stoke Poges very much a focal point for our activities. Referrals come to our division from Prince Charles Eye Clinic in Windsor or from BucksVision head office in Aylesbury, but anyone can contact us directly to find out about our clubs and services.

Our main goal at the Horticultural Show was to attract some volunteering interest from local people. We are very eager to find additional volunteer drivers to transport our blind/partially sighted members to our events. Even someone who can spare one afternoon every 8 or 10 weeks would be such a great help for our team. We are also trying to find someone to assist us with serving afternoon teas on the last Thursday of each month at our activity club in Burnham. Our volunteering rotas are extremely flexible, so if anyone is interested, please do ring us, and we can describe more fully how the teams are organised.

Pam is the South East Divisional contact. Please do give her a call if you would like to

know more about joining as a visually impaired member or as a volunteer. Her phone number is 373638.

Some of BucksVision's creative designs attracted attention, like this T-shirt where cut lemons were used to print the tulip design in fabric paint.



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Vicar's letter #13

In the height of the summer, it is easy to get distracted by all that is growing, buzzing about in the skies and the warmth we are experiencing here in sunny Stoke Poges. It's been a busy season for our church as the pandemic - hopefully - retreats. Life events are in full swing. With babies being baptised, couples finally 'tying the knot' after so many delays and the more sombre occasions when we have said goodbye to loved ones - who have gone to glory. A plethora of lives, all intertwined and wonderful expressions of the love and care we have for one another as a community.

Yet, as I sit in my office writing this letter for the village magazine I cannot help but be reminded of the Parable of the Sower. Who threw seeds far and wide and with such lavish generosity. Some seeds took, some withered, some were far more prolific than anyone could have guessed. So what random thought has captured your vicar you might ask? Well, it's the St Andrew's eco-garden. For as I write, a beautiful wooden trophy awaits us in the Horticultural Society Show tent. With its three different woods crafted into one piece, a nod to the environment and sustainability. So I need to share the story of the garden; this project started by Stoke Poges Church but very much engineered and sustained by some keen gardening superheroes from both the church and the community. They have all worked so hard and long to bring to all of us a

place of peace, beauty and fun for all generations.

In February 2021, three separate groups asked me if they could make use of the land adjacent to St Andrew's, a patch of land I had always envisioned would have a pocket garden of some sort. So after a lot of thought and prayer, two leaders emerged, Karrie and Hannah, who were happy to pull a team of volunteers together to start the St Andrew's eco-Garden. Of course, there were lots of practical things to put in place and pay for - safeguarding, public liability insurance and training for the leaders. We all pulled together and gave it our all, supported by the congregation, locals and the Parish Council.

With a core team gathered from all parts of the community, work began in earnest. This was to be a community project that had a Christian foundation; to provide a space for local people and groups where they could grow things; where charities and groups could meet safely and isolated and lonely folk could get out and potter alongside others. It didn't take long for the uniformed groups and Duke of Edinburgh volunteers to come on board. The Stoke Poges School have also taken a keen interest, and other charities are still keen to join in. (If only their members were as keen as them - come on, you know you want to dig and grow stuff!).

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This was and continues to be an enormous project. Yet, what has delighted all those involved has been the generous and warm-hearted way in which the village has mucked in and helped out. When we needed paving slabs - you donated your spares. When we had a disastrous season growing tomatoes outdoors, one of you gave us a greenhouse (and one of our superheroes rebuilt it!) When we realised our rutted and undulating ground needed a safe patio for disabled people and little ones to walk on, a local builder and his mate gave up countless weekends to lay it. We had veg but no flowers, so a grant was found by the Horticultural Society, and now we have 25 beautiful rose bushes.

The eco-garden has begun to take shape in such a relatively short space of time. It has been just amazing to see. Yes, we have scattered seeds in the wrong places - some things have been outstanding, others not so great. But throughout it all, more and more people have been getting involved. The space has become, for some, a haven, for others an

opportunity to join in, and for others an opportunity to give. From generous sowing by church, community and councillors, something unique and glorious has begun. So my prayer for this and all the other projects, that our church does as an expression of its love of God and love of people, is that we can strive to find these places of concord where peace and growth are enjoyed by all.

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

What a summer we had this year, with warm weather and longer nights. The summer always sees an increase in the use of our recreational areas, including the outdoor gym, walking track and play equipment. Our recreational 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 that if you have a dog or need to dispose of litter, there are plenty of bins. 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 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 under way to prepare financially for any replacements needed in the coming years.

Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA)

The MUGA located in Bells Hill rec. is well used, especially in the summer. However, 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 late at night. 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.

Plough Lane recreational ground has experienced anti-social behaviour and vandalism over the last few weeks. This has had a negative impact on users feeling unsafe and having to put up with feeling threatened; the cost to put right the damage will run into thousands of pounds. The Parish Council has evidence of vandalism, which is with the police and is being dealt with. 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. We urge you to do this so we can work together to keep our recreational areas pleasant and safe places to be.

On this subject Buckinghamshire Council published this press release:

Council develops new reporting tool in the fight against anti-social behaviour

Buckinghamshire Council has developed a new and easy way for people to report incidents of anti-social behaviour and community safety concerns. The online form allows people to instantly record the details, whatever time of day or night. The information is then forwarded directly to the council's Community Safety team, who can assess how to progress it.

Steve Bowles, Cabinet Member for Communities, explained:

'We know that a lot of people are not sure of the best way to report anti-social behaviour, who they need to speak to or what information they need to provide. This form makes the whole process quick and easy, and the details provided can help us ensure it is forwarded to the right team or agency to deal with.'

Anti-social behaviour describes a range of behaviours or actions that can cause nuisance, annoyance, harm or distress to a person. It can include excessive noise, harassment or intimidation and abusive behaviour such as shouting or swearing.

The Community Safety team works closely with partners, including the police, probation service and voluntary sector organisations, to tackle issues such as anti-social behaviour, working with individuals and communities to take action where needed.

The new reporting form can be found on the council's website. Housing tenants who wish to report anti-social behaviour linked to their property should do so direct via their social landlord.

If anti-social behaviour is happening now, you should call the police on: 999 if someone is in immediate danger or there

is a situation that could become violent
101 if it is not an emergency

For further information on safety and crime in your community, visit: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety

Pavilion

People ask if this is a commercial building. In accordance with its planning permission, it can only be used as a community space. It is so far 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. Please let our parish clerk know if you see something that needs attention. In 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 generally 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 normally finish off with a drink in Costa. If you would like to help, please contact me at: cllrcarter@stokepogesparishcouncil.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. Our next litter pick is 10 September, 10 am - 12 noon. We will also be organising smaller litter picks in an effort to keep the area outside of the shops clean and tidy.

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

We know that villagers also litter pick 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

This took place on Sunday, 5 June in Bells Hill recreation ground. The event was well attended, with a children's petting zoo, face painting and singing. We made a profit from the bar of £1000, which was split between two charities; the first was SSAFA: Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association which exists to relieve need, suffering and distress amongst the Armed Forces, veterans and their families in order to support their independence and dignity. Her Majesty is the Patron. The second charity was Alexander Devine Hospice which provides a children's hospice service for nearby families that will give children and families a choice of care and support from a dedicated team. A huge thank you goes out to all of the volunteers that helped us put this event together; without your help it would not be possible to pull these events off, its at times like this that village life is very evident.

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: theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Rogers Lane Crossing Islands

You may have noticed the crossing islands outside the Village Centre were beautifully planted and cared for by our villager Nick Courtney. He adopted this area and the verges on both the corners of Rogers Lane, which has enhanced this area and made it look really colourful, adding plenty of cheer. The Parish Council would like to thank Nick for contributing positively to our village. We are looking forward to this autumn'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.

Stoke Poges Parish Council

Chairman: Ralph Bagge
cllrbagge@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Vice-chairman: Saera Carter
cllrcarter@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk
Chairman of Planning Committee
Saera Carter
Vice-chairman of Planning Committee
Mary Crocker
Chairman of Recreation and Environment
Committee
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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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Ralph Bagge,
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Chairman of Finance and Resources Select
Committee, Vice-chairman Pension
Committee, member Beeches Community
Board, and Wexham and Ivers Community
Board, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes
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Winter magazine No 223 – all material to the editor by Friday 28 October.

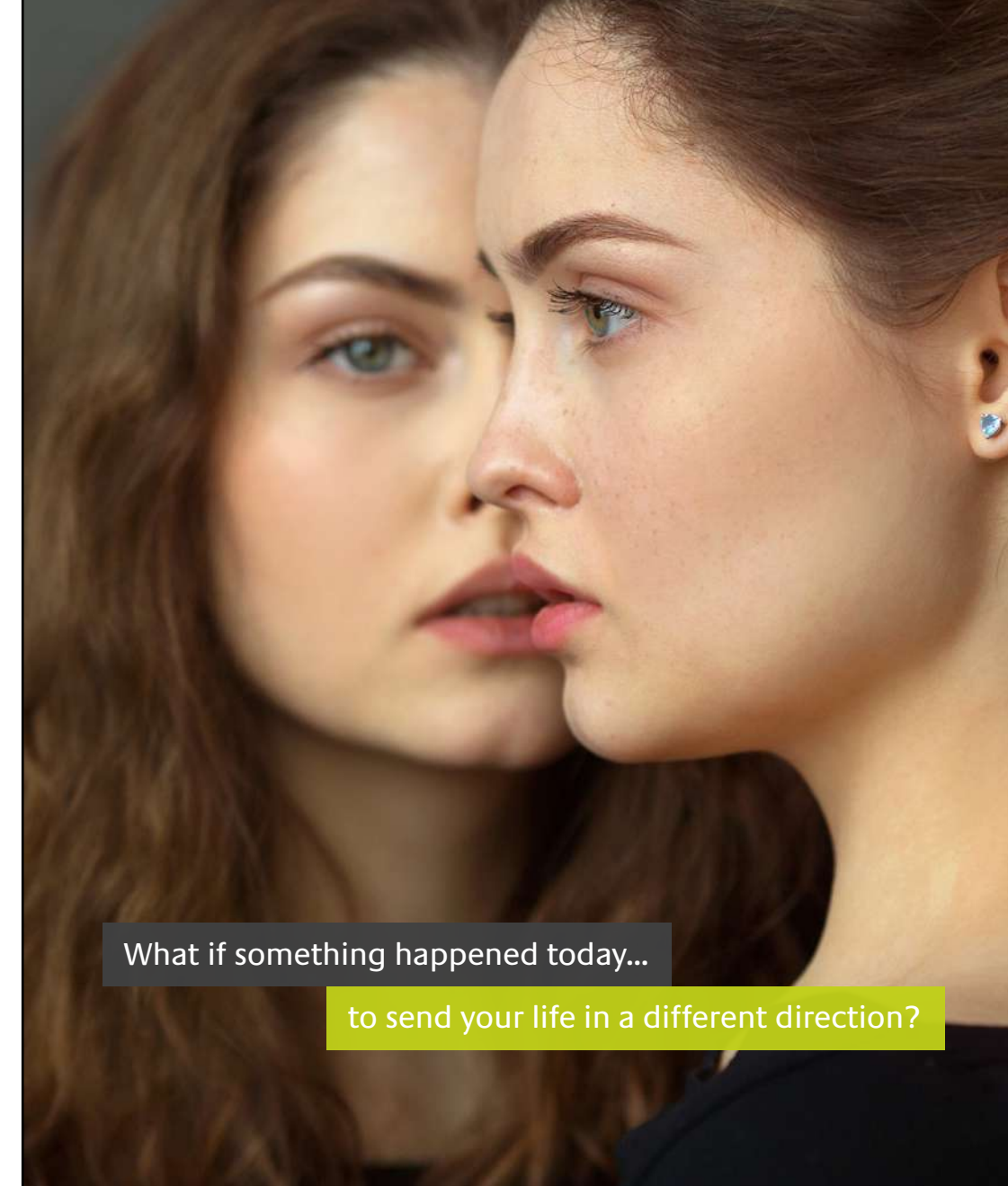
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