# Stoke Poges News



#### FUNERAL DIRECTORS & MEMORIAL STONEMASONS



### OUR FAMILY HELPING YOUR FAMILY

For over 240 years, eight generations of the Lodge Family have been privileged to help local families in their time of need. We provide all funerals, whether modern, traditional, green or alternative, with care and compassion.

#### LANGLEY

3 Clayton Parade, High Street, SL3 8HE 01753 780077



### Trustpilot

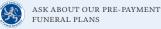
"The staff at Lodge Brothers have been sympathetic, understanding and supportive. They were with us every step of the way throughout a very difficult time and we are and will be forever grateful for their support."





the family you can turn to

www.lodgebrothers.co.uk



#### From the editor

### Making a difference

In this issue, we celebrate the events of the summer whilst looking forward to the autumn programmes offered by our village clubs and societies. There's plenty of opportunity to get involved and find something of interest.

It's great to see the successes of some of our sports teams reported here, and once again we acknowledge the fantastic work that individuals and groups of volunteers do to make a difference in Stoke Poges.

Are you part of a group or initiative with a story to tell? Please get in touch if you'd like to be featured in the pages of *Stoke Poges News*.

#### Rich Huckle

Editor

Winter issue No 227 – all material to the editor by Friday 20th October 2023.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the editor or Stoke Poges Parish Council.

All dates included are provided by contributors and should be verified with them.

Offers made by advertisers are solely their responsibility and should be checked to your satisfaction before entering into a contract.

For information about advertising in this magazine, please contact the editor.

Editor: spneditorsp@gmail.com

#### In this issue

Parish Chairman's letter	4
Parish Council news	5
Proud of Bucks Awards	8
Social Club	10
Royal British Legion	13
Horticultural Society	12
The Stoke Poges Society	14
Stoke Park	18
Buckinghamshire Council update	20
Community gardening	22
Stoke Poges Football Club	23
Photographic Club	24
Sunshine Corner Pre-school	27
Stoke Poges Singers	28
The Stoke Poges School	29
Women's Institute	31
Hedgerley Historical Society	32
Stoke Poges Players	34
Stoke Poges Church	36
Men's Group	39
Community Speedwatch	40



#### On the cover

Plough Lane Recreation Ground

### Parish Chairman's letter

I sat down to write this the day after the annual flower show. The Horticultural Society struck lucky by choosing the one dry day in a run of showery weather!

Similar to the fete, the flower show is a great opportunity to socialise with people we know. I caught up with lots of villagers I have got to know over the years and enjoyed the afternoon, although I did feel a little guilty that I saw a few people that I didn't get to say hello to because either of us was already engaged in a conversation with others. Well done to everyone who entered the competitions in the marquee, for taking part. The flower show is a great asset to Stoke Poges and contributes strongly to our sense of place.

In July, members of the Parish Council were given an update briefing on the forthcoming neighbourhood plan. The draft plan is scheduled to come to the Parish Council for formal agreement at our September meeting, following which it will be subject to a six-

week public consultation period. Whilst some of the technical elements of the plan weren't ready, it is clear that the plan will, when it is adopted, steer future developments in a direction that better meets the needs of existing residents and should discourage the kind of developments which have been controversial. Thank you to the parishioners whose volunteer contributions to the planmaking process have made good progress with a complex topic.

For parents whose children start at The Stoke Poges School in September, please make a plan to walk your children to and from school. The exercise is good for them and will help them be more attentive in lessons. If you have to use a car because you will be on your way to work, then please avoid using Rogers Lane (which is particularly congested around school times) – please park and walk from somewhere like Hazell Way or West End Lane.

Ralph Bagge Chairman, Stoke Poges Parish Council





**Stoke Poges Parish Council** 

### News from our Parish Council

#### Recreational areas

We have recently replaced some play equipment in Bells Hill Recreation Ground as it had come to the end of its life. We hope that your children are enjoying using it. Both of our recreational areas are well used.

Proposed works to the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) are still pending as there are issues gaining access to a water supply with the correct water pressure. We are looking at a solution for this. The MUGA has been locked and unlocked by a team of volunteers which has so far meant we've had no reports of antisocial behaviour. A huge thank you to our volunteers.

The rec at Bells Hill enjoys the much used walking path which is very popular. The Parish Council is considering installing a walking path at Plough Lane. If you agree that this is a good idea we would appreciate your feedback (see page 6).

#### Flooding and the pond

It has been a very wet summer! The flooding at Bells Hill Recreation Ground has been a continual problem. The land is situated at the bottom of a hill where water naturally drains and has flooded for many years. There is a series of drains and soakaways, but the large volume of water means it can take time for surface water to drain away.

The Parish Council has also received complaints about the overflow of water from the pond into the rec. The pond is co-owned by the Parish Council and four residents, and any responsibilities are therefore shared. We have all been reminded about our riparian responsibilities by Buckinghamshire Council and the Parish Council has taken legal advice from its solicitors, which has been shared with all owners.

The pond does require maintenance, so we are in talks with the owners to reach a solution, but this is complicated.

Buckinghamshire Council Highways are supporting the Parish Council and have

attended the site with a jetting machine and cutter, but due to the roots of the willow trees the drains are proving difficult to clear. We are in discussions with Buckinghamshire Council looking at other options.

The Parish Council is very mindful that, as we move in to autumn and winter and the weather becomes more inclement, solutions need to be found to keep the rec safe.

#### Carols on the Green and Christmas lights

This year's *Carols on the Green* event will be held on Saturday 25th November.

Work has begun in the planning and necessary paperwork required to hold an event. We have already received confirmation from Santa's reindeer that they are able to visit us again this year.

We can only stage these events with help and support from volunteers. If you would like to help in any way please let us know – it's a great way to get to know your neighbours.

We will be having an outdoor Christmas market, so if you would like a stall please contact the Parish Clerk.

Every 4-5 years we need to recondition and replace our village Christmas lights. This year the lights have been removed, allowing the trees to be pruned before reinstallation. We

know from feedback that the lights bring so much pleasure to residents and passers by. We hope you enjoy them again this year.

#### Keeping our village free of litter

Many of us have noticed that littering is on the increase and even though clearing it falls under the remit of Buckinghamshire Council, budgets have been cut resulting in a reduction of services. The Parish Council has responded to comments and complaints by arranging four community litter picks throughout the year – dates are shown on our four notice boards and on our website.

The next litter pick is on Saturday 9th September and we'll meet at the Village Centre on Rogers Lane from 10am. We very much encourage villagers and accompanied children to attend our organised events as it is an opportunity to meet neighbours and do something community-minded. We quite often pop for a coffee afterwards.

There are several younger residents in the village who have decided that they would like to do something positive, so they regularly litter pick. Millie (pictured opposite) started as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award, but then realised that maybe it was part of her social responsibility to care for her environment. She has now encouraged two of her friends to join in, and they use the time to

### Have your say on Plough Lane Recreation Ground

The Parish Council owns two recreation grounds and has invested in improving the amenities by installing children's play apparatus and open-air gym equipment in both.

In the last few years a jogging track was installed at Bells Hill Rec. The Parish Council now wants to know – from those of

you who live closer to Plough Lane Rec – what improvements you'd like to see. Is there a particular kind of play apparatus you would like to have installed or would you like a jogging trail?

Any improvements should not affect the football pitch, which will be safeguarded for team games.

■ Please email your suggestions to theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk



catch up for a chat as well as keeping our village tidy.

We also have Beth, another younger resident, who regularly litter picks with her dad as she is working towards her gold Duke of Edinburgh Award. This is a brilliant and heartwarming example of how some of our younger residents care about their village and are doing their bit to help make Stoke Poges a better place to live.

If you regularly litter pick and you would like to tell us about it please contact the Parish Clerk. Thank you to all of you that do your bit to help!

#### Neighbourhood plan moves to consultation

As we reported in the last issue of *Stoke Poges News*, a team of parish councillors and volunteers has been working on a neighbourhood plan for Stoke Poges.

Neighbourhood plans give communities greater power to shape development by

taking a more active role in the formation of planning policies at a local level. For example, this means we can influence where new homes are built, the type of housing and what they should look like, helping us to meet our community's current and emerging needs.

The team is in the third year of this project, and we are being supported by a planning consultancy specialist. We are weeks away from agreeing a draft version. Once agreed, we'll move into a pre-submission consultation period where we seek comments from residents and Buckinghamshire Council.

This consultation will start on 12th September and close on 24th October. A copy of the draft plan will be made available on the Parish Council website and in the parish office at the Village Centre. If you have comments please submit them to the Parish Clerk by 24th October.

#### Planning enforcement issues

The Parish Council Planning Committee continues to work hard to defend the character, space and semi rural nature of our village. The committee is made up of elected councillors and co-opted residents that live in the village.

Planning enforcement remains an issue in the village, with building works commencing without planning permission and an increase of outbuildings. The Parish Council will report such issues for investigation by Buckinghamshire Council.

♣ Saera Carter BEM Vice-chairman, Stoke Poges Parish Council

■ Please check the Parish Council noticeboards and website for updates. Contact details for the Parish Clerk are on page 42.

### Proud of Bucks Awards celebrate our local heroes

Ann Sibley and Thames Valley Heartbeat have both been recognised for their positive impact on the community at an awards ceremony held at Burnham Park Hall in June.

The Proud of Bucks Awards celebrate Buckinghamshire's communities that have demonstrated care, creativity and commitment towards their local areas. The awards recognise and applaud outstanding community contributions carried out by local volunteers.



#### Local Community Champion: Ann Sibley

Ann Sibley received the Local Community Champion award.

This award comes after Ann realised that there were "gaps" in Stoke Poges in caring for residents. She set up the Friday Club, which she works tirelessly to run with great energy and enthusiasm.

The club provides a valuable service to the senior community, providing them with a two-course lunch, entertainment in the form of keep fit, craft and art classes, games or just socialising and chatting. She also organised a riverboat cruise with lunch as a recent event for members of the club.

Ann has recruited volunteers to assist her in running this club and it is a massive success with many seniors, over fifty in number, enjoying some very happy hours at St Andrew's.

Ann is also involved in the Village Food Cupboard initiative, helping on a confidential basis to provide dignity and essential supplies to members of the community who need help in this economic climate and ongoing. This also ran throughout the Covid pandemic and lockdowns, delivering throughout the village.

The key words to describe Ann in the nomination were "wonderfully big hearted" – something everyone who knows Ann will agree with and applaud.

#### Community Group Contribution: Thames Valley Heartbeat team

Mary and Bob Crocker set up Thames Valley Heartbeat (TVH) in 2019 with six friends, Fran Brewer, Andy Smith, Cheryl Mathews, Tim Mathews, Jackie Banfill and Frank Epstein. They are our community life savers!

Mary and Bob have been at the forefront of fundraising to purchase life-saving defibrillators. They also run free awareness sessions for the community in their use along with cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

With the other trustees of TVH, they have impacted the local community by attending events to promote and raise funds to purchase and donate defibrillators. They recognised there was a need for more in Stoke Poges and there are now six spread across the parish. This is a truly life-saving thing.

There are over 60,000 out of hospital incidences of cardiac arrest per year in the UK

with fewer than 1 in 10 surviving. The use of a defibrillator is a massively important asset in the face of cardiac arrest.

The team were nominated for this award as they deserve recognition for their willingness and dedication to saving lives. They work tirelessly and voluntarily all year round to fundraise to procure the machines and are keen to demonstrate how to use them so that more and more people are in a position to act without panicking and be able to help, and possibly save the life of anyone needing a defibrillator.

The village has also been extremely lucky to have the voluntary services of a local electrician who has installed some of these defibrillators free of charge.

Stoke Poges was represented at the awards ceremony by Parish Councillors Maggie Knox-Scott and Manjit Bassi.



### Supporting local causes and team activities

#### Our village Social Club regularly helps to raise money for local organisations and charities.

The committee is very proud that this was recently recognised by the Village Centre's charity trustees at their annual general meeting, where we were presented with the Judd Cup for our significant contribution. We are a not-for-profit organisation, and all surpluses are given to the Village Centre towards the running and upkeep of the building.

Earlier this year, the club hosted *The Big Quiz*. This was a fundraising event for Bucks Vision, a local organisation which supports people with visual impairments. It was a very successful evening which raised over £500 for the charity.

Stoke Poges Tennis Club also held a quiz night to help raise money for the club.

All our fundraising events receive very generous raffle prizes and amazing community support, so please come along and support the club and its causes. If you would like to hold an event at the club please get in touch.

#### A relaxed space for social meetings

Stoke Poges Social Club is located in the Village Centre on Rogers Lane. We have a fully licensed bar and are a members' club offering a safe, relaxed environment to meet with fellow villagers for a friendly catch up and a drink. We welcome people from all walks of life, including families, children, well-behaved dogs, clubs and societies.

Stoke Poges FC held their end of season presentation evening at the Social Club in July, with food provided by us. Stoke Poges Golf Society also use the club as their informal meeting place after a game of golf.

#### Congratulations to our darts teams

We have been running successful darts teams for many years. We now have three teams playing at the Social Club, one on Mondays in the Chalfont League and two in the Windsor League on Thursdays.

Having finished the winter leagues, the Monday team enjoyed a mid-table finish along with the premiership Thursday team. The division one team (pictured below) were particularly successful. They won the league and the League Cup, won the summer league and were runners up in the Courage Cup – with singles, pairs and fours all winning medals for their performances.

We are one of the leading clubs at bringing young players into the game and encourage all standards of players to come and meet the players and those who just enjoy watching.



**Royal British Legion** 

### Poppy Appeal volunteers needed

Over the next two months we are preparing for this year's Poppy Appeal, which takes place from Thursday 26th October to Sunday 12th November.

Once again we will need volunteers collecting house to house, and managing the stands outside Farnham Common and Stoke Poges shopping areas during the three Saturdays of the appeal, at the Black Park fun run event and also at one of our key locations at the Beaconsfield motorway services. If you can offer your time, be it 30 minutes or longer, please do contact us.

We also have a plea: our wooden shed where we store our supplies is falling apart and we wondered if anyone has a shed they'd like to donate, or help us to fund towards it. We would greatly appreciate it, as a shed purchase would have to come out of the branch funds which are very limited.

■ If you can help, please contact Chris or Manesh at the Royal British Legion:

Chris Leister-Crow, Poppy Appeal organiser 07942 016072 chrisleistercrow@aol.com

Manesh Patel, Chairman 07919 216820 manesh.k.patel@gsk.com

Please do come down if you want to join in. We have two boards open to play on most days and there's always someone willing to play.

Going forward we are looking to raise money for a charity close to the teams' hearts by running monthly tournaments with cash prizes.

#### Become a member

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

The Social Club is run by a volunteer committee who organise many events that appeal to a broad audience and suggestions are aways welcomed.

For any quizzers out there we have a regular Wednesday evening quiz at 8pm. Just turn up on the night – we look forward to seeing you!

■ The Social Club is open:

Monday - Friday 7pm – 11pm Saturday 2.30pm – 11pm Sunday 12 noon – 10.30pm

To find out more or to meet there with your club/committee, pop into the Social Club and chat to the team or email spvcmembership@gmail.com



Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society

### Johnny Ball reveals all ... the winners at the summer show

Television personality Johnny Ball was our special guest at the Horticultural Society's summer show, entertaining the crowds as he presented the prizes to the winning exhibitors.

He spoke of how important it is that we continue to support such events, noting that there has been a recent decline in horticultural shows due to a lack of volunteers willing to contribute the large amount of time and effort needed to make them a success.

As usual, the mammoth show marquee was packed with competition entries including glorious vegetables and fruits, stunning plants and floral displays, amazing bakes, tasty preserves and beautiful arts and crafts. We were particularly pleased to see a large number of exhibits from children. There were some very surprised and happy faces as everyone raced into the marquee following the meticulous judging! Well done to all the entrants.

It was a truly wonderful day. We are immensely grateful to the committee and the many volunteers who worked tirelessly to make it all happen. Thanks to all who came along – we hope to see you again next year for our very special 130th summer show!

#### Forthcoming events

'Clematis Through The Seasons' Talk 13th September at 8pm, The Stoke Poges School

Autumn Social plus 'Wildlife In The Garden' Talk 11th October at 8pm, The Stoke Poges School

Annual General Meeting 18th November at 2pm, St Andrew's Centre

■ To find out more about Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society and how to become a member, visit www.hortsoc.org



#### caring for our community.....

#### **Pharmacists**

Mr Baljit Singh Bahra MRPharmS

#### We are open

Mon - Fri 8.45am - 1.00pm 2.00pm - 6.30pm

Saturday 8.45am - 1.00pm

Sunday Closed

Unit 2 Giles House, Bells Hill Green, Stoke Poges SL2 4EW

### Telephone: 01753 645464



Above: Oscar James proudly lifts his cup, presented by Johnny Ball

Right: Maureen Barton, Chair of the Horticultural Society, with the Rose and Crown team who won the trophy for the most colourful pub in the three villages



# Three historical village records saved

One of the aims of The Stoke Poges Society is to collate and preserve archive material and artefacts relating to the village.

Post World War II social history records about Stoke Poges can be overlooked by historians. The society has taken positive steps to save some of these records which could have been so easily lost.

We have gathered together and digitised the complete set of Stoke Poges parish

newsletters from the first issue in 1967 through to the Christmas edition in 1999. In an early edition was mention of Police Constable Patrick Burke (pictured below). It is noticeable how keeping the peace in the community has changed over the years. He was the Stoke Poges policeman from 1959 to 1968, living in the village with his wife and two daughters, Anne and Jane. At the time, the police house was in Rogers Lane, adjacent to St Andrew's Church Centre.

#### **Society trips**

During summer sunny days, members enjoyed looking around the Chiltern Open Air Museum and a boat trip with afternoon tea, on the Thames from Windsor. The boat was exclusively for the society, with a historical commentary which featured a number of stories about Eton and Windsor's links with Stoke Poges.

#### **Community engagement**

The society continues to spread the news of the extensive heritage of Stoke Poges.

Following on from previous years, we have supported Stoke Park by providing heritage information when members of the public visit on a Stoke Park Open Day.

In the summer term at The Stoke Poges School, year 6 children had a talk about the general history of Stoke Poges and Another valuable record is the 365 pages of the Stoke Poges and District Community Association minute book from its formation in 1945 through to the 1960s. It's recorded as being the first rural Community Association to become affiliated to the National Federation of Community Associations.

The minute book contains details of all sorts of activities, often held in the Village Hall. It was established to promote the well-being of the community in Stoke Poges and the surrounding area. In addition to input from the Parish Council and Parochial Church Council, it tells us what many working people in the village wanted to do together in their spare time in the Village Hall and in the outdoor recreational areas

The following eight organisations were constituent bodies of the Community Association: Stoke Poges Royal British Legion; Stoke Poges & Wexham Dramatics Society; Stoke Poges Branch of the Worker's Educational Association; Stoke Poges Infant Welfare Centre; Eton Rural District Council; Stoke Poges Young Farmers' Club; St. John's Ambulance Brigade, Stoke Poges Cadet Division and Fulmer Research Institute Social & Welfare Club. They have since gone forever, renamed or merged with other groups.

One titled name that features in the minute book is that of Richard H. B. Norton, 6th Lord Grantley, Baron of Markenfield. It is one of the very few records of his involvement in Stoke Poges life. The Grantley family seat is

the year 5s had a talk about the village in Victorian times, with many enjoying being dressed up in period costume.

The U3A history group in Slough previously delivered a talk to our members about the Slough Arm of the Grand Union Canal, so a talk about the history of Stoke Poges was given to them to reciprocate their kindness.

#### **Heritage Open Day**

Our community engagement continues with a Heritage Open Day at the Memorial Gardens, St Giles Church and Gray's Monument area on Sunday 17th September from 1pm to 4pm.

Members of the society will be at a welcome and information desk near the main entrance of the gardens.

Heritage Open Days are hosted up and down the country, overseen by the National Trust, with this year's theme being creativity and innovation. In terms of creativity, there were outstanding landscape architectural designs by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Humphry Repton and Harry Colt (golf course designer) at Stoke Park, and Edward White created the unique Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens.

Thomas Gray (closely associated with Stoke Poges and buried in St Giles' churchyard) was a creative poet, yet he was also one of the first travel writers to have fine illustrations included in his book on the English Lakes and a translator of rare languages.



Thomas Gray's writing in his "Commonplace Book – Volume III" shortly before his death in 1771. Credit: Pembroke College, University of Cambridge

Right: Guests at the 1968 hoedown, dressed up as 'Roy Rogers' and 'Annie Oakley'

Below: Richard Norton's grave in St Giles' churchyard



TO THE OTHER PROPERTY.

near Ripon in Yorkshire. He represented Stoke Poges Church at association meetings, lived for a short period in the Manor House, was a director of several local film companies and is buried in St Giles' churchyard. He claimed in his book *Silver Spoon* that he held the lay rectorship of St Giles' Church, which involved paying a small annual fee for the use of a miniature chapel. The lay rector was someone who received the tithes of the parish, as well as being legally obliged to pay for repairs to the chancel. I'm told the Tithes Acts pre-WWII resulted in tithes being abolished – well before he came to Stoke Poges!

There is little doubt, however, that he did good, contributing to the upkeep of St Giles' Church and volunteered in the management of church activities in the parish.

The third record which has recently been acquired is a collection of scrapbooks about the Stoke Poges Women's Club. The club organised many dances and social outings, especially into London. A hoedown supper dance in the village hall in May 1968 went down very well, with props provided by Pinewood Studios.

Most of these records have been deposited at the Buckinghamshire Archives in Aylesbury for the public to access, now and into the future.

- Larvey Whittam
  Chairman, The Stoke Poges Society
  01753 642873
- Further information about the society's range of events is available on their website, where you can also find details about becoming a member.

www.e-voice.org.uk/stoke-poges-society

If you have an enquiry about an event or have ideas for the society to host a future event, please contact:

Honorary Secretary, Maggie Knox-Scott 07478 309044 tspsevents@outlook.com

# Templewood Security Systems LTD



Established in Farnham Common since 1990. A friendly <u>LOCAL</u> business with 20 years of experience.

- Intruder alarms specialist
- For all your installation requirements and local servicing
- Insurance approved
- Red Care monitored systems
- 24 hour call outs
- Free estimates and advice



Call: 01753 648330

Web: www.templewood.co.uk

E-mail: security@templewood.co.uk



**Stoke Park** 

### 'The Boodles' tennis event returns to Stoke Park

It was fantastic to have Stoke Poges villagers join us this summer at Stoke Park for the magnificent and much-welcomed return of *The Boodles*.

Many had entered a Facebook competition to win tickets to the event and it was wonderful to have everyone with us.

In recent years, the event has attracted some of the biggest names in tennis, while offering guests the unique chance to get up close and personal with the players. It is hosted within Stoke Park's stunning 300-acre estate, perhaps the most picture-perfect setting in the English tennis scene. It also has an intimate purpose built stadium of only 2,000 and with no seat further than ten metres from the grass court, you are breathtakingly close to the action!

It has a fun, English garden party atmosphere, with world-class tennis being played in intimate and beautiful surroundings. "Being the first *The Boodles* event since 2019 due to the pandemic and the first under the new ownership of Stoke Park, we wanted to deliver the wow factor for guests returning and for new guests experiencing the event for the first time – we have been delighted and overwhelmed by the feedback from guests and it was wonderful to welcome everyone who attended back to Stoke Park," commented PJ Singh, Stoke Park's Director.

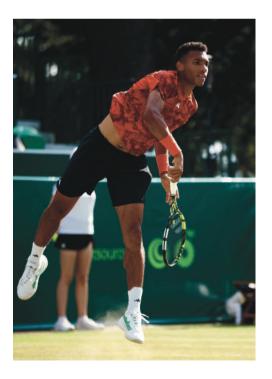
Guests were treated to five days of world class tennis and hospitality featuring seven of the world's top 20 players including tennis stars Stefanos Tsitsipas (World No. 5), Andrey Rublev (World No. 7), Felix Auger-Aliassime (World No. 11), Hubert Hurkacz (World No. 14), Borna Coric (World No. 15), Lorenzo Musetti (World No. 17) and Seb Korda (World No. 31).

Stars of both sport and television came down to enjoy the fun during the week. These included Olympic champion Dame Denise Lewis, Paralympic champions Ellie Simmonds and Lauren Steadman, Lady Penny Lancaster Stewart, Kirsty Gallacher, Chemmy Alcott,

Charlotte Hawkins, Jay Blades and a host of Strictly Come Dancing stars including Fleur East, Tyler West, Molly Rainford and dancers Vito Coppola, Nikita Kuzman, Nadiya Bychkova and Kai Widdrington. James and Ola Jordan also joined.

With an exclusive list of official sponsors and partners, such as JIO, Patek Philippe, Lightsource bp, Laurent Perrier and the established status of the title sponsor, Boodles, guests experienced the luxury and service that has become so synonymous with these brands of excellence.

Mrs Nita M. Ambani, Founder and Chairperson of Reliance Foundation, plus some specially invited guests, presented the inaugural Reliance Foundation ESA Cup to the winner of the opening match each day and each day Stoke Park made a special grant to a different local charity. Charities supported by Stoke Park during the event were Action4Youth, South Bucks Riding for



the Disabled, Slough Foodbank, Together as One and Sport in Mind. *The Boodles* also supported the OppO Foundation throughout the week.

The event was brilliantly hosted by sports presenter Di Stewart, who was a huge hit with the crowds.

■ The 20th anniversary of **The Boodles** will take place at Stoke Park from 25th – 29th June 2024. Find out more on their website.

www.theboodles.com





Clockwise from left:

Felix Auger-Aliassime; Stefanos Tsitsipas; Mrs Nita M. Ambani with Borna Coric

# An update from Buckinghamshire Council

### The Council's work to repair the winter damage to the county's roads is progressing well.

There are 15 repair crews out on the road network, and the Council's contractor is repairing over 3,000 defects each month. With the activity at the current level it means there's a fair chance of being held up by traffic control when going about our day-to-day journeys around Buckinghamshire.

I receive emails from residents about potholes and the reality is that all reported defects have been checked and categorised for repair. If the defects in your road haven't been repaired yet it's probably because the crews are working on more serious defects elsewhere. Our local area technician has assured me that the damage caused by heavy trucks delivering to the country park site in Stoke Road is scheduled for repair soon.

#### Fix My Street

The end of July marks the end of the bird nesting season which means that the moratorium on hedge-cutting is lifted.

Vegetation growth which is obstructing footways can be reported on the Council's website using 'Fix My Street' as can restricted vision at road junctions.

#### School choices

The autumn term for parents of children in year 6 is an important time for making secondary school choices. Please read the guidance notes and make your choices mindfully, and beware the law of unintended consequences (putting a nearer school low in your preferences may make it unlikely that your child will be offered a place there).

#### A helping hand

The Council is running a 'Helping Hand' scheme for residents who are challenged by rising prices and now increases in mortgage rates. Search 'helping hand Buckinghamshire' online for details.

Ralph Bagge

# DOMESTIC & COMMERCIAL ROOFING U.P.V.C FASCIA SOFFIT AND GUTTERING

96 ROGERS LANE STOKE POGES BUCKS SL2 4LL



HOME: 01753 644054 MOBILE: 07768 475467

### WATKINS Car Sales Ltd

We have moved out of the garage at Bells Hill but we are still in business and here to serve you, on the same phone number and email address.

### Quality low mileage used cars. Most makes in stock

Mercedes – BMW – Mini – Audi – Jaguar – Vauxhall – Ford – Rover Honda – Mazda – Toyota – Nissan – Citroen – Renault – Peugeot – Fiat

### Part exchange welcome

We also buy quality used cars



#### Workshop – Servicing all makes of cars and vans Engine rebuilds – Gearbox – Clutches – Brakes – Electrics

Tel: 01753 642220

Mob: 07850 683647

email: jw@watkinscarsales.com

www.watkinscarsales.co.uk







**Community** 

# Community gardeners brighten the village

An unsightly patch of wasteland next to Bells Hill shops has been transformed by a team of community gardeners.

You may have noticed some changes to the piece of land behind the shops on Bells Hill Green. After a large tree fell down in early 2022, the area became overrun with brambles and attracted litter

No one appeared to take responsibility for the land, so a small group of keen gardeners came together in October last year to tidy it up. They met every couple of weeks to cut back the brambles and shrubs, dig up the weeds and pick up the litter hiding in the undergrowth.

Although they were there for just a few hours at at time, the work soon started to pay off and they could see just how big the space was. The team was excited about what could be planted and decided it would be an interesting area for people and a place to provide a habitat and food for wildlife.

In March, a small apple tree was planted with the help of some young people. Spring plants were also added, purchased with kind donations from Living Space, SuperSpeed and an employee at Costa Coffee. The team hopes to continue to add lots of different flowers, bulbs and shrubs so that the area has colour and interest throughout the year.

■ If you'd like to get involved in this or future projects, you can contact the team by email:

traceylovesgardening@gmail.com



**Stoke Poges Football Club** 

# 30th anniversary for Stoke Poges FC

### Did you know that Stoke Poges has a football club?

Established in 1993, this is our 30th year anniversary as a football club in its current form. Stoke Poges has a 140 years of football history, and proudly boasts Edward Parry who was capped three times for England while playing for Stoke Poges in 1883.

The club moved back to Bells Hill Recreation Ground seven years ago when the Parish Council built the new pavilion, providing us with one of the best facilities in the area.

Last season was a successful one, with the club winning the East Berkshire Division One and reaching the final of the Maidenhead Norfolkian Cup, which we unfortunately lost.

#### Teamwork, perseverance, sportsmanship

We are a competitive local football team and offer adult football to all male adults from 18 years and onwards, and earlier this year we started the process of adding a youth section to the club.

The youth teams will start training again on Sunday 3rd September at 11.30am in Bells Hill Recreation Ground.

The men's team have started pre-season training on Saturday mornings and will train during the winter months on Thursday evenings. The season starts on Saturday 26th August, so if you are around please come along and show your support.

#### Big moments in the club's recent history

2012 – Winning the CCFL league and cup double

2014 – Winning the EBFL Division Four title

2021 - Winning the TVSFL Division Four title

2023 - Winning the EBFL Division One title

■ Stoke Poges FC play their home matches at Bells Hill Recreation Ground. To find out more about the adult and youth teams, please contact Daren on 07895 462649 or email daren.colomb@eastberksfl.co.uk

# A friendly community of photography enthusiasts

# Are you someone who loves to capture the beauty of the world through the lens of your camera or phone?

If so, we extend a warm invitation to you to join the Stoke Poges Photographic Club (SPPC) as we gear up for an exciting new season starting on September 5th!

You might wonder if your photos are good enough to join a photography club. Let me assure you that at SPPC we welcome photographers of all skill levels, from beginners to seasoned enthusiasts. It doesn't matter whether you possess a state-of-the-art SLR camera or simply use your phone to snap breathtaking shots – what truly matters is your passion for photography!

As the friendly photographic club in Stoke Poges, we're proud of our community of photographers where everyone can flourish in their photographic journey. Our gallery of stunning images will undoubtedly leave you inspired and motivated to explore your artistic potential further.

I remember my first encounter with SPPC at the Slough Summer Festival, where I marvelled at the captivating photos on display. Engaging in conversation with Rojer, a kind-hearted member, dispelled any doubts I had about joining the club. He emphasised that the love for capturing moments was the key, not the equipment. And he was right! With advancements in phone camera technology, you can achieve professional-quality results without an SLR. Whether you love taking scenic landscapes, nature or any



'Italian Alps' by Paul Mothersill

other subjects, we wholeheartedly welcome you to join our photography-loving community!

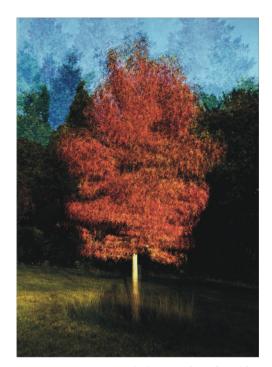
Our upcoming season promises a host of exciting activities. We have a wide range of workshops, guest speakers and photography competitions – both themed and open – lined up. This season our themes are 'Big sky', 'Days out or away', 'Iconic structures', 'Composites', 'Multi-coloured', 'Pets and fur or feather', 'Macro' and 'Tools of the trade'.

Our workshops are designed to enhance your photography skills, regardless of your current level. Learn how to mount cut, get tips and tricks on nature photography, experiment with light painting and still life. Hear about the history of British canals or photography at night from our guest speakers. The opportunities to learn and develop are limitless.

Our meetings take place generally in-person, and gatherings are at The Village Centre in Stoke Poges, where we foster a warm and sociable atmosphere. We also hold some virtual sessions via video calls, ensuring that our club remains accessible and accommodating to all.



'Street Life' by Ken Grant



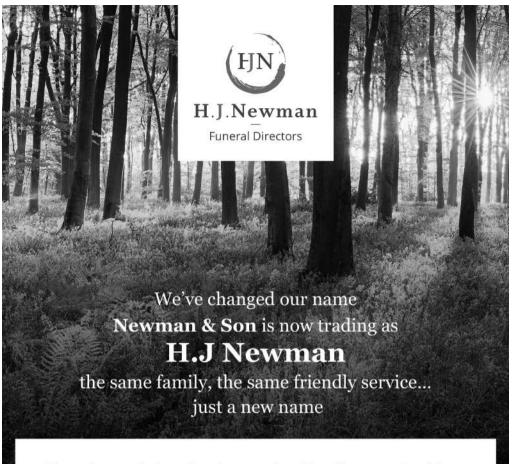
'Impressionist Acer II' by Andy Smith

By becoming a member, you'll automatically be placed in the intermediate section, unless you have recognised qualifications. At the end of the season, we celebrate outstanding photography with the prestigious Photographer of the Year award. Last season's winners were Paul Mothersill in the intermediate section and Mark Collins in the Advanced category. You too could be recognised for your talent and dedication!

#### Bushra Sheikh

■ You can find a full list of this year's winners and a gallery of their photos on the club's website. Why not explore the world of photography with like-minded individuals? Join Stoke Poges Photographic Club and embark on a captivating journey of creativity and growth.

www.stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk



We understand losing a loved one or close friend is an emotional time, and as one of the few remaining family run funeral directors in Slough, we pride ourselves on helping you through every step of the way

Funerals for all faiths and dominations

Here for **you** when you need us the **most** 



01753 524286 www.hjnewman.co.uk



**Sunshine Corner Pre-school** 

### Goodbye, school leavers!

### What a fun and busy week we had to end the year at Sunshine Corner Pre-school.

The children enjoyed a dress up day, we had a pool party with ice creams and a bouncy castle day. Unfortunately, the weather did not allow us to end with the sports day that we wanted, but we managed a mini indoor sports morning for our school leavers and ended with a fun-packed leavers party!

It was a sad goodbye at the end of the party, as always, but even more so because we were saying goodbye to families that have been with us for many years! We wish all the children the very best at their new schools and hope they all come back to visit us in their school uniforms!

We're looking forward to welcoming back the children who are returning for their final year before they go off to school too. We are currently busy planning lots of fun activities for our first autumn topic of 'Ourselves'.

We are also very excited to welcome new faces who will be joining Sunshine Corner and have lots of ideas to make their settling in process smooth as well as exciting.

For those who are new to Stoke Poges, we are a pre-school located in the village hall building. We take children from 2 years old to school age. Our morning sessions run from 9am to 12pm and afternoon sessions are from 12.30pm to 3.30pm. We also have all-day sessions from 9am to 3pm. We accept 2 year funding, 15 hours funding, 30 hours funding, tax-free childcare and childcare vouchers.



#### **Sunshine Corner Parent & Toddler Group**

On Thursday mornings, Sandra runs the parent and toddler group in Stoke Poges Village Hall. The session runs from 9.15am to 11.30am.

This is a lovely way for parents and carers to socialise as well as for the children to play and interact with others too.

Sandra works at Sunshine Corner Pre-school for the rest of the week and plans some lovely activities for the children, setting up the hall with a range of toys.

The session costs just £2.50 per family and all the family is welcome. This also includes tea, coffee and biscuits with fruit juice for the children.

■ Based at the Village Centre on Rogers Lane, Sunshine Corner Pre-school welcomes all families. If you need more information or would like to visit for a look around, please call 01753 644300 or email info@sunshinecornerpreschool.co.uk

### New season, new programme, new members?

September sees Stoke Poges Singers begin rehearsals for the new season. And what an exciting programme of music is planned for 2023/2024!

Following the success and tremendous audience reception of our last concert – *At The Musicals, Volume 1* – we will perform another memorable selection of show tunes in *Volume 2* in spring 2024. Either side of that we return to the classics with two greats of the choral repertoire.

Looking ahead to summer 2024, our focus will be extracts from the mighty oratorio

Elijah by Felix Mendelssohn. But prior to all that we start with a programme of choral and instrumental works by the Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi. Vivaldi is regarded as one of the finest Baroque composers alongside Bach and Handel, and his music is ever popular today.

In our *Glorious Vivaldi* concert at St John's Church, Farnham Common on Saturday 18th November we will sing not one but two Vivaldi *Glorias* and some of his smaller choral pieces. The Stoke Poges Chamber Orchestra will accompany us and also perform extracts from his string concerti. It promises to be a fantastic start to the new season, and a great time for new members to join us!



The Stoke Poges School

### Food festival raises over £2,000

This year's International Food Festival went down a storm – despite thunderstorms threatening to dampen spirits just ahead of opening!

We were delighted to welcome such a vast array of food and drink stalls to the event as well as the fantastic *Ocean Express* soft play bus and a huge variety of entertainment from local groups and services.

The Food Festival is a volunteer-run event with all proceeds going to the school to finance resources that government funding simply doesn't cover. If you are interested in joining the team for next year, or helping out at our annual Fireworks Display, please do get in touch as we are always very grateful for help at events that are open to the wider community.

Thanks to everyone who came and helped make the Food Festival such a success, we raised more than £2,000 which enabled us to contribute to the completion of an all-weather play area in the school grounds.

See you next year!

■ The Stoke Poges School PTA is a friendly group of parents and teachers who work together to put on events throughout the year in order to fundraise for the school.

If you'd like to help with these events, please email pta@stokepoges.school

If you would like to be part of this musical experience and join the choir. you will be welcomed by a very friendly group! There is no expectation necessarily of previous singing experience or sight-reading capabilities – just enthusiasm for the music and the pleasure of singing together. Rehearsals are fun, all music is provided, and on-line rehearsal videos are available for practice at home. We endeavour to keep membership affordable with termly or annual subscription options. We meet on Thursday evenings, 7.45pm at St Andrew's Church Centre in Stoke Poges, commencing 7th September. Our contact details are below.

And finally, a plug for our annual Quiz Night in October. This is an important fund-raiser for the choir and your support will be appreciated on what is always a fun and gently competitive evening! Tickets are £10 and bring your own refreshments.

■ For more information on joining Stoke Poges Singers, visit their website at www.stokepogessingers.org.uk or email info@stokepogessingers.org.uk

The annual **Quiz Night** will be held on Saturday 14th October, 7.30pm at St Andrew's Church Centre on Rogers Lane. Tickets cost £10.

The **Glorious Vivaldi** concert takes place on Saturday 18th November, 7.30pm at St John's Church in Farnham Common. Tickets cost £15.

Tickets for both events are available online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/stokepogessingers



### The Garden Machinery Experts offering friendly service & advice

We stock a varied range of equipment to suit your needs including chainsaws, blowers, strimmers, spare parts, oils and accessories.

#### Dealers For:-

Hayter, Toro, Countax, Echo, Stihl, Cobra, Lawnflite, Snapper, EGO Powerplus, Calor Gas, Silky Fox & Darlac hand tools. We are also suppliers of professional Lawn feed, weed & moss killer, grass seed and other lawn care products.

#### Come in and see our range of products

Sales, service & repair of quality garden machinery.
Access to a wide & varied supply of spare parts
Delivery & collection service available
Large off street parking



Unit 1 Pinewood Estates, Wexham Street, Stoke Poges SL3 6NB (Opposite Wexham Park Hospital) Tel: 01753 662309

Email: wexhammowers@gmail.com

# WI's autumn programme

We open our autumn programme on Wednesday 13th September with a talk called *Hats off to Millinery* by Sophie Fryer, a trained couture milliner with 15 years' experience. She designs and expertly crafts by hand a whole range of hats from fascinators to large show hats for special occasions.

We have our annual general meeting and lunch on 11th October, meeting in the Club Room at the Village Centre at 12 noon, followed by lunch in the main hall at 1pm. The WI is the largest women's organisation in the UK and gives women a voice to be a force for good in the community. This is our

opportunity to review the WI's past year, both nationally and locally, and discuss plans for the year ahead.

On 8th November we welcome Fiona Barker, a very successful children's author who passionately believes in writing picture books. Her talk is called *The Wonderful World of Pictures*.

Our meetings take place in the Village Centre every second Wednesday in the month at 2.15pm. If you are interested in joining us, you are welcome to come initially as a guest and find out all about us.



**Hedgerley Historical Society** 

### Autumn talks

A varied programme of talks is planned this autumn by Hedgerley Historical Society.



'HS2 Archaeology in Buckinghamshire' with Doug Stuckey

Wednesday 20th September, 8pm

Of the 33 Buckinghamshire sites investigated by HS2 archaeologists, this presentation will focus on 13 excavations that produced significant evidence and expanded our knowledge of the county, with evidence from the Mesolithic to 19th century Victorian.

Doug Stuckey is Honorary Chair of Bucks Archaeological Society.



'Fashion on the Ration – Style in the Second World War' with Julie Summers

Wednesday 18th October, 8pm

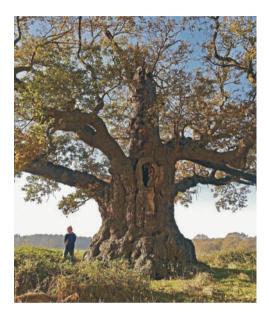
As the nation went into uniform and women took on traditional male roles, clothing and beauty began to reflect changing social attitudes. For the first time fashion was influenced not just by Paris and Hollywood but by the demands of industrial production and the pressing need to 'Make-do-and-Mend'

It seems almost impossible to imagine nowadays, but the fashion editor of *Vogue* advocated sewing brightly patterned or coloured pockets in contrasting shades to liven up a dull skirt or pinafore dress and the War Office commissioned corsets for women in the services to have pockets for carrying loose change (bus money) as women in uniform were not allowed to carry handbags.

This lively talk with contemporary illustrations gets underneath the outer clothing and lays bare the facts behind fashion in the Second World War. Warning: contains Forces bloomers. *Fashion on the Ration* was named one of *The Times* 

newspaper's books of 2015.

Julie Summers is the author of fourteen works of non-fiction, including the best-selling book *Jambusters*. She was recently listed in the Sunday Times as one of only four women in the top fifty historians in Britain.



'Windsor – A Royal Treescape' with Julian Hight

Saturday 28th October, 2pm

Established as one of the first Norman royal forests by William I, the park and wider forest hosts trees thought to date back to the conquest. Windsor is one of the prime sites in Europe for ancient oaks and their associated wildlife – living descendants of the original 'wildwood'.

Julian Hight has travelled widely, camera in hand, to document and tell the stories of historic ancient trees. Using both archive and contemporary photographs, old paintings and maps, Julian explores the story of Windsor Great Park and Forest told through its

remaining ancient trees and customs – living links to its rich history. Signed copies of Julian's lavishly illustrated books will be available on the day.

Chair of Wessex Ancient Tree Forum, Julian presents regular talks and appeared as judge on Channel 4's *Tree of the Year* television 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.



'Walking in the footsteps of an Edwardian' with Fiona Brewer and Paul Graham

Wednesday 15th November, 8pm

Stephen Springall was an Edwardian born in nearby Iver Village and a passionate advocate for rights of way. His 1907 walk book *Country Rambles Round Uxbridge* explored the local landscape such as Denham, The Chalfonts, Harmondsworth, Rickmansworth as well as Hedgerley. Many of his walks traversed the countryside and riverbanks of what is now

known as the Colne Valley Regional Park. Learn more about the man and how through the changing landscape his walk book was brought into the 21st century.

Fiona Brewer has worked for the charity Groundwork South for 10 years. During her time with the charity she has worked on a variety of projects for the Colne Valley Regional Park such as exploring responsible forage, discovering the park's industrial heritage, organising the Colne Valley Park Festival as well as working with Paul Graham to produce the walk book – Walking in the Footsteps of an Edwardian based on Springall's book Country Rambles Round Uxbridge.

Paul Graham has lived in Iver since 1980 and has been involved in helping preserve and encourage access to the countryside ever since. He joined the managing board of the Colne Valley Regional Park in 2012 and finds the time for practical outdoor work as well. Local history is another enthusiasm.

All these talks take place at Hedgerley Memorial Hall. For more details please email John Lovelock, Secretary Hedgerley Historical Society:

jdlovelock@btinternet.com

www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org

**Stoke Poges Players** 

# Will Dorothy find her way home?

A family-friendly pantomime will be staged to mark the 60th anniversary of Stoke Poges Players amateur dramatic group, which was formed in 1963.

This year we will be asking you to follow us down the yellow brick road to the Emerald City to help save Dorothy from the Wicked Witch of the West in *The Wicked Witches of Oz* by Peter Nuttall.

So join us on our adventure to help our characters find their missing things. Will Dorothy find her way home? Will Mildred ever be evil? Will Toto ever stop being hungry? And will Enid ever go off the colour green?

■ There are five performances (including two matinees) of **The Wicked Witches of Oz** between 30th November and 3rd December at Stoke Poges Village Hall. Book online now and use the code EARLYBIRD to get 15% off – but be quick as it only lasts until 31st October 2023!

www.stokepogesplayers.org







### STOKE POGES UNITED CHARITY & STOKE POGES HASTINGS COMMUNITY FUND

We can help financially ...
Individuals or Organisations
All applications are dealt with confidentially.

#### HERE'S WHAT WE CAN HELP WITH...

- Equipment for disabled and people in poor health which includes respite
- Essential household appliances and furniture
- · Critical household repairs
- Household bills
- · Further education and apprenticeship support
- · School uniform and essential school supplies

### STOKE POGES UNITED CHARITY

TRACEY 07929 273003 TREVOR 01895 831158

### 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

# Community activities at Stoke Poges Church

#### Friday Club

Friday Club has now reached its first birthday! It runs on the first Friday of the month at St Andrew's Church Centre, supported by volunteers from the church and the village who so kindly give up their time for our lonely, isolated villagers to enable them to meet old friends and make new ones.

The less mobile are offered lifts through the Good Neighbour Scheme free of charge. Our members arrive at about 10am and have tea, coffee and biscuits. During the day they have a choice of gentle exercise, crafts, painting, making jigsaws, playing board games or just sit and chat over a hot drink. A two-course home cooked lunch is served at midday and then we usually finish with a game of bingo, a quiz or sing-along and a free raffle. In June we had a Thames lunch cruise outing.

The members all go home with happy faces and we know we have achieved what we set out to do. Friday Club is subsidised by the church and other local charities so we just ask for a donation of £3 per session.

#### **Baby Steps**

Baby Steps is taking a break for the summer holidays but will be back on 12th September and each Tuesday in term time at 10am at St Andrew's. We start in the chapel (enter through the door that faces the road) with songs and stories and then move into the main hall for playtime with toys, trikes and dressing up clothes plus tea and coffee for parents, grandparents and carers.

#### **Knit and Natter**

Knit and Natter meets every Wednesday morning in the café and has grown in number and productivity over the last 12 months. We decorate several post box toppers in the village, and raise money for Alexander Devine Children's Hospice and other charities. We always welcome new members, no matter what their ability, to join in or just bring their own projects and share ideas.

#### The (Jolly) Reapers

This team looks after the large churchyard at St Giles' and maintains parts of St Andrew's grounds as needed, mowing, strimming and tidying the churchyard every two to three weeks from March to October. We have a fleet of lawnmowers, gradually adding electric as our petrol mowers retire. Tea, coffee, doughnuts (plus the occasional pub lunch) and the satisfaction of a lawn wellmown follow each session

#### St Andrew's EcoGarden

Our eco-garden continues to flourish, led by a core group of volunteers with support from local groups such as the Scouts and generous donations of materials from local businesses as well as lots of recycled goodies! Villagers are always welcome to stop by for a quiet sit in the sun, to pull a weed or water a vegetable.

#### New course: 'Life Explored'

*Life Explored* is an informal course suitable for everyone and anyone. You do not need to know anything about the Bible and you will not be asked to pray or sing. Come and join

us with your questions or just sit and listen. The course is free and is comprised of 7 separate sessions, with 7 different topics, so just come along to those that interest you. Weekly on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, commencing 6th September at St Andrew's Centre on Rogers Lane.

#### What else is on this autumn?

Bring & Share lunch with free Barbecue – Sunday 3rd September following the 10.30am Family Service at St Giles'

Traditional Harvest Festival – Sunday 1st October, 10.30am at St Giles'

Remembrance Sunday Service – Sunday 12th November,10am Flagpole Service on Bells Hill and 10.50am at St Giles'

#### Sunday services

Our regular Sunday services are at 9am, 11am and 6.30pm. Please check for details and venues on our website.

All of our activities are open to everyone, regardless of their faith or church attendance. To join in with any of them, check our website for details or contact us via the church office:

01753 642331 office@stokpogeschurch.org

www.stokepogeschurch.org

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

St Andrew's Church, Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges SL2 41.N.



#### Thought for the day: How does God see you?

Are you worried about God seeing the real you? It's time to dig a bit deeper into the Bible to discover some surprising news...

I think my overwhelming sense of how God sees me is that God loves me more than I can imagine – and as God has no favourites, that means that God must love everybody with boundless love.

That is certainly what the Bible says. A verse from John's gospel, "God so loved the world..." (John 3:16) unpacks so much of what the rest of that book says to each one of us: God loves us with boundless love and welcomes us into his family of love. I guess a problem with believing this is that the Bible frequently talks of God coming to judge those who have done wrong (e.g. Matthew 25:31–46), and that can be unnerving as we look at the standards that Jesus sets in his teaching.

We might wonder whether we in any way qualify for his love. If we feel we simply do not qualify, that can make us think that God may not really be quite so loving as the Bible claims. For those of us who have struggled or suffered, such thoughts can go quite deep – even if we like the idea that God loves us.

This is where the Bible makes me think a little deeper. When God's people were locked into slavery in Egypt, the Bible claims that God remembered that he had made a binding commitment to love them, to look after them and bless them (Exodus 2:23–25). There are many scenes in the Bible like that – where God sees his people in trouble, trouble they cannot hope to get out of themselves, and God comes to rescue

them. God looks at us in the same way, even when we are locked into messy situations. God loves us and wants to free us from the mess we are in.

Whether we like it or not, sometimes the mess we find ourselves in results from our own actions, words and thoughts. We really do have ourselves to blame. Here again we see the love of God as he takes our mess on himself to set us free – even though we don't deserve the favour (Romans 5:8). That makes me really stop and think. What kind of person freely chooses to give their life so I can live? A Christian in the first century AD, Paul, stopped to wonder (as many have done since) that Jesus the Son of God "loved me and gave himself for me." I cannot help but ask myself "Why?" And the only answer is, "Because God loves you that much "

Words: Revd Dr Andy Angel, Director of Formation for Ministry

# Join us for a curry and a talk

Stoke Poges Men's Group often invites a guest speaker to give a talk and share something of how their Christian faith has guided and influenced them during their life.

If you enjoy a curry, why not join us on Tuesday 26th September at the Memories of India restaurant in Farnham Common for a men's curry night? We'll commence around 7.30pm with drinks from the bar followed by a two-course buffet. After our tasty meal, we will sit back and enjoy listening to our speaker, Mark Blythe, a guy whose life evolves around sport – including some extreme ones!

At a young age he was a sports fanatic, representing his school at county level and at university he studied PE, coached soccer in the USA and ran his first London Marathon in 1981. During a four-year spell in Australia he founded the Sydney Tower Run-up race – all 1370 steps! During his time there, friends invited him to their church where he met God in an amazing way.

He continued his career in sport, cycling from Lands End to John o'Groats, being a Wembley referee, an Olympic torchbearer, an International Walking Footballer and an Ironman triathlete. After his talk there will be a question and answer session.

Our following event is a men's dinner on Friday 24th November which will be held in the Oak Room at the South Buckinghamshire Golf Club on Park Road, Stoke Poges, from 7.15pm.

The after-dinner speaker is Colin Matthews

CBE, who trained as an engineer and went on to lead some major UK businesses.

His executive career began with leadership roles at Lucas Girling and General Electric. In 1997 he was appointed Managing Director for the engineering division of British Airways and in 2003 was appointed Chief Executive of Severn Trent Water. In 2008 he became Chief Executive of Heathrow Airport (formerly BAA) where he spent 6 years transforming the company's operations. When he left this role in 2014 he was awarded a CBE in the Queen's birthday honours list. He was then appointed Chairman of Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency) where he was responsible for all motorways and major A-roads throughout England. He left Highways England in May 2020 and continues to hold various non-executive roles in major UK companies.

After his talk there will be an opportunity to ask questions.

Everyone is welcome to all our events. If you use Facebook, please check us out at 'Stoke Poges Mens Group'. We are not an exclusive group but very inclusive and guys from a wide area (not just from Stoke Poges) come along.

■ For further information or to learn more about the Men's Group and future events, please contact:

Tony Shortman 01844 350014 tony-mavis@shortman.eclipse.co.uk

Nigel Lowe 07973 349721 nigelatsuchlowe@gmail.com

#### **Community Speedwatch**

# Warning letters for speeding drivers

The Community Speedwatch team continues to keep an eye on the speeding cars through our village.

In the last year, the team has collected data from nearly 600 speeding drivers – all of these were reported to the police and received a warning letter. Our top speed to date is an Audi doing 63mph along West End Lane, which has a 30mph limit. The most common make of vehicle caught on our equipment is Ford.

We try to set up a session every week, but with our small team this is not always possible. If you could spare an odd hour here or there, we would love to hear from you.



■ To find out more or join the team to help make the roads in Stoke Poges safer, please contact Anne Frank via the Parish Clerk.

theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk 01753 644803





### SBP SOUTH BUCKS HYSIOTHERAPISTS



Established over 40 years

A full range of physiotherapy is available including joint mobilisations, soft tissue techniques, exercise advice, acupuncture, massage, electrotherapy and shockwave therapy.

Self-pay (no doctor referral needed) and insured patients welcome.

Call **01753 664114** to make an appointment at **Park Hall Clinic,** Wexham Street, SL3 6NB (next to the health club).

Park Hall Clinic has own on-site parking.





sbp@uwclub.net

www.southbucksphysio.co.uk

### Stoke Poges Parish Council

www.stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ralph Bagge (Chairman)

cllrbagge@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Saera Carter BEM (Vice-chairman)

cllrcarter@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Manjit Bassi

cllrbassi@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Kim Cecile-Pritchard

cllrpritchard@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Geoff Cox** 

cllrcox@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Mary Crocker** 

cllrcrocker@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Keith Finan** 

cllrfinan@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Seema Flower

cllrflower@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Maggie Knox-Scott** 

cllrknoxscott@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Nick Moore** 

cllrmoore@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Steve Webster** 

cllrwebster@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

**Planning Committee** 

Chairman: Saera Carter BEM Vice-chairman: Mary Crocker

Manjit Bassi, Keith Finan, Jason Harris (co-opted),

Maggie Knox-Scott, Phil Rawlings (co-opted)

**Recreation and Environment Committee** 

Chairman: Saera Carter BEM Vice-chairman: Mary Crocker

Ralph Bagge, Manjit Bassi, Geoff Cox, Vacancy

**Finance and General Purposes Committee** 

Chairman: Mary Crocker

Vice-chairman: Maggie Knox-Scott

Ralph Bagge, Saera Carter BEM, Keith Finan,

Nick Moore

#### **Parish Office**

Clerk to the Parish: Julie Simmonds The Village Centre, Rogers Lane SL2 4LP

01753 644803

theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Pavilion caretaker: 07881 388778

#### **Parish Council spokespersons**

Allotments — Geoff Cox

Finance and grants — Ralph Bagge

MVAS coordination — Geoff Cox

Highways and transport — Ralph Bagge

Planning — Saera Carter BEM

Youth — Saera Carter BEM

Older people — Saera Carter BEM

Tree warden — Alan Fox

Flagmaster — Jim Budd

Website - Rich Huckle

#### **Appointed representatives**

Stoke Poges News Editor — Rich Huckle Stoke Poges Village Centre — Saera Carter BEM, Nick Moore

### Buckinghamshire Councillors for Stoke Poges & Wexham ward

#### **Ralph Bagge**

rbagge@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

#### **Trevor Egleton**

tegleton@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

#### **Thomas Hogg**

thogg@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

#### **Member of Parliament**

#### **Joy Morrissey MP**

House of Commons, Westminster, London SW1A 0AA 0207 219 6453 joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk



Legal support for everyday and life changing events, call 01753 532541 or visit kiddrapinet.co.uk

kiddrapinet SOLICITORS

60 YEARS With you



www.alpha-windows.com / sales@alpha-v