

Stoke Poges *News*



Issue 234 | **Autumn 2025**

Stoke Poges *Newsflash*

To: You

From: Stoke Poges Parish Council

Subject: Stoke Poges Newsflash

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Back in a flash

The deadline for putting together each issue of *Stoke Poges News* seems to come around so quickly, despite our quarterly publishing schedule!

But the world doesn't stand still. In reality, three months is a long time, and many events, announcements and updates come and go before we even begin to plan the next issue.

The Parish Council's newly-launched *Stoke Poges Newsflash* service will sit alongside this publication to bring you timely information and reminders by email, keeping you up-to-date on what's happening in the village and supporting local organisations to get their messages out.

Look to the inside front cover to find out how to subscribe.

Rich Huckle
Editor

Winter issue No 235 – all material to the editor by no later than Friday 31st October.

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.

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

Editor: spn@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk

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On the cover

Autumnal trees on Bells Hill

Parish Chair's letter

As we approach autumn and look back at recent months, we send massive congratulations to both the Stoke Poges Village Fete Committee and Stoke Poges, Wexham and Fulmer Horticultural Society for two wonderful summer events. If you are involved in any type of volunteering you will know how much goes into making events happen, especially in the background. Again, this reminds us that our village is vibrant and finds opportunities to bring our community together.

We have our third Artisan Market on Saturday 6th September, 10am - 2pm at the Village Centre on Rogers Lane. Please do come along to see what wonderful products are on offer, and have a cuppa and a slice of home-made cake. The event helps to raise funds for the Village Centre charity.

By the time you receive this issue we will have commemorated 80 years since Victory in Japan was achieved, meeting on the Village Green to pay our respects to those who fought and lost their lives during WW2.

It's been a busy quarter for the Parish Council, which we will report on in this issue. We will continue to work for Stoke Poges so we can enjoy what village life has to offer.



*Cllr Saera Carter BEM
Chair, Stoke Poges Parish Council*

Stoke Poges Parish Council

Updates from the Parish Council

Communication

Did you know that the Parish Council has a Facebook page? We use this as a way to share information, rather than as a discussion forum. You can follow us at

www.facebook.com/stokepogespcc

We also have four noticeboards in the village: inside the Village Centre (in the lobby outside the Parish Clerk's Office); at the front of the Village Centre on Rogers Lane; on Bells Hill Green and outside Tubwell Stores.

If you wish to contact the Parish Council, you can do so via the Parish Clerk. Contact details can be found on page 50.

Stoke Poges News is one of our main ways of communicating with the village, other than our noticeboards and social media. This magazine is published quarterly and we often find that there is information that needs to be shared between issues. Not all channels of communication work for everyone, and in response to your feedback we decided to supplement our existing methods with an email service which villagers can subscribe to.

Stoke Poges Newsflash

Launched in August, our new service is called *Stoke Poges Newsflash*. It is a regular email newsletter, bringing you bitesize pieces of local news and information from the Parish Council and village organisations directly to your inbox.

You'll get timely updates and reminders of things that fall outside the quarterly publishing schedule of *Stoke Poges News*,

which will continue to feature larger articles about all the great things that happen in the village.

When you subscribe, we ask for the name of your road and also your postcode in case we need to send specific information to people living in a certain part of the village. We will not pass your information on to third parties.

Once you have submitted the form you will receive an email which will ask you to click a button to confirm your subscription. If the email hasn't appeared in your inbox within a few minutes, please check your spam folder.

To subscribe, please visit

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or scan the QR code which can be found on the inside front cover.

The information we share will be dependent on local organisations supplying us with what they would like to communicate. If you wish to send information to us, please email newsflash@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk

What we do with your data

The Parish Council has a policy which outlines how we handle personal data, to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation, known as GDPR. This includes responsibilities such as a data controller, the need for privacy notices and the importance of secure data handling practices. This means we will not share or misuse your data.

You can unsubscribe from the email service at any time.



South Bucks Riding for the Disabled

May saw the 60th anniversary of South Bucks RDA, marked by a visit from Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal.

Councillors Carter and Crocker were invited to attend and greet The Princess Royal. It was a tremendous privilege to both represent our village and also see the amazing work carried out within our parish.

You can read more about the charity and its anniversary celebrations on page 16.

Stoke Poges Neighbourhood Plan

Also in May, our Neighbourhood Plan was fully adopted. We are pleased to report that the plan gave huge support in opposing a planning application for an extension that substantially differed from the original approved design. The Parish Council contended that there had also been significant changes in planning policy, with the Neighbourhood Plan having progressed and Buckinghamshire Council creating a Local Heritage List which included the building next door to the site. In this case, the

Buckinghamshire Council Planning Committee went against the officer's report in making their decision, with issues raised by the Parish Council given significant weight.

The Parish Council will continue to use the Neighbourhood Plan and other policies to defend the character of our village, where appropriate.

Sefton Business Park

As reported in the last issue of *Stoke Poges News*, Sefton Business Park has been sold. The Parish Council has been in discussions with the agent acting on behalf of the new owners to gain an understanding of their plans for the site.

Under the new government guidelines, Sefton Business Park is now considered to be grey belt land, and is therefore exempt from some of the protections offered when previously green belt. This means that development will come forward, but exactly what that will look like is still being decided.

We are currently awaiting a further meeting to discuss their master plan. Following on from that there will be a public meeting which we will ensure is widely advertised.

Chiltern Way Academy Sefton Park

Located in School Lane, this is a new school providing education and support to children and young people with special educational needs.

The maximum number of pupils the school expects to cater for is 70, but this September's intake is one class of approximately ten students.

When the Parish Council was initially notified that there might be a new school in Stoke Poges, we very quickly arranged several discussions with the CEO to better understand the impact this might have on our village and nearby residents in particular. Because of the proximity to the Pioneer Academy, we raised concerns and issues around noise, traffic and parking.

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The academy also held an open evening in May which was attended by Buckinghamshire Council's Service Director of Education and Inclusion and the Commissioner for Schools. Residents were able to express their support alongside concerns and worries. The school is working with Buckinghamshire Council and Highways to see if there can be any changes made to the entrance to the school. However, as it is a Grade II listed building this will require planning permission and careful consideration. The Parish Council and local residents will be given an opportunity to comment on any potential forthcoming planning application.

The school will trial a voluntary one way system for cars to enter via School Lane and leave via Hockley Lane. In the meantime, the school has made it clear that there will be an expectation around the behaviour of parents, carers and taxi drivers to respect the locality.

The school is keen to start with a positive working relationship and embed themselves within the village and our community. If residents have concerns please let the Parish Council know and we will do our best to work with all concerned to seek solutions.

Antisocial behaviour

We have had reports of antisocial behaviour (ASB) in the village in recent weeks. The Parish Council and unitary councillors have been in talks with Thames Valley Police and the ASB Team at Buckinghamshire Council to better understand how this might be managed.

Antisocial behaviour can be reported to the ASB Team by sending an email to anti-social-behaviour@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to keep a record of instances, so please do copy us in if you report something to the ASB Team.

theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk

If for any reason villagers feel threatened or experience bad behaviour, please report it to Thames Valley Police by calling 101, or 999 in an emergency.

Threeways Surgery

Councillors Carter and Crocker have been working with the surgery for some months to see how rapid changes in healthcare delivered by the NHS are affecting our residents. This came about mainly because we know that Stoke Poges has the highest proportion of 65-85 year olds in Buckinghamshire – higher than the national average – so digital changes are bound to present problems for some of our villagers.

There have been some very positive conversations and exchanges of ideas which will hopefully have a positive impact. The surgery is looking at ways to roll out workshops and support groups to guide patients through these changes.

More information will follow as it becomes available. In the meantime, Dr. Pope has organised a session at the Village Hall on Thursday 4th September from 5pm - 6.30pm, to give an update on current services and the surgery's limitations versus expectations. There will be an opportunity to ask questions, but if you are unable to attend you can leave advance questions in the box available at the surgery reception or email threeways.reception@nhs.net



This initiative is supported by the Parish Council and the Patient Participation Group (PPG).

Autumn Artisan Market

It is important to many that we feel connected to our community, and our popular village events are a fantastic way to do just that.

We held our second artisan market in April and we have another one planned for Saturday 6th September, from 10am - 2pm. As usual, this will be held at the Village Centre in partnership with the Parish Council, Village Hall Trustees and Stoke Poges Village Social Club, and is a good example of collaborative working.

There will be refreshments on offer including home-made cakes and the Social Club bar

will be open too! All profits from stallholders' fees will go towards the running of the Village Centre, which is a registered charity. We look forward to seeing you there!

Flagpole events

Look out for details of the arrangements for November 11th / Remembrance Day, which will be publicised on the noticeboards, Parish Council website and social media, and will also be circulated in our *Stoke Poges Newsflash* emails.

Carols On The Green

This year's event will take place on Saturday 29th November. Further information will be made available in the coming weeks.



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Did he fall or was he pushed?

The global publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell made the headlines about 30 years ago when he apparently fell overboard from his luxury yacht.

The WI's speaker on September 10th, Roger Mason, will tell us all about Maxwell, who embezzled millions of pounds from his companies, including their pension funds, to cover his mounting debts.

In contrast, for our meeting on 8th October, Jeremy Holmes will explain how Andrew Carnegie, the American industrialist and philanthropist, went from 'Rags to Riches'. He made a vast fortune from creating an enormous steel empire, becoming the richest man in the US and financing the Carnegie Hall and many other foundations and universities.

We have switched back to having our Annual General Meeting in November, so this year we will meet at noon on 12th November in the Club Room at the Village Centre. We'll reflect on the past twelve months and discuss

our plans for 2026, before adjourning to the main hall for a three-course lunch at 1pm.

We have increased our membership over the past year and we hope this continues. The WI is still very popular throughout the country and now has many evening meetings as well as afternoon ones like ours, to cater for those women who have day jobs. The National Federation of WIs is based in London, with County Federations in support, ours being based in Aylesbury.

■ *The Stoke Poges & Wexham Women's Institute meets at the Village Centre on the second Wednesday of each month at 2.15pm and new members are always welcome.*

You can find out more about the WI's activities and see pictures of previous events at www.stoke-poges-centre.org.uk/wi







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Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society

There was so much to see and enjoy at July's Summer Show!

The three villages once again did us proud with a super display of plants and flowers, fruit and vegetables, arts and crafts, photography and home produce.

Congratulations to the prize winners and well done to everyone who entered the competitions. Thank you for taking part and giving the crowds an opportunity to see your creativity and the fruits of your labour!

One of the things that contributes to the traditional British atmosphere of our show is



the brass band, which provides the soundtrack to the afternoon. We were once again entertained by Marlow Town Band and it was great to see so many of you enjoying their performances and giving such positive feedback. The band was very grateful for your engagement and even said that we might now be their favourite event!

Sincere thanks go to all our committee, supporters and volunteers who worked tirelessly to put on the show – it simply couldn't happen without your efforts.

Our next event is a talk by Franz Cheeseman on the new gardens at Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens, taking place on Wednesday 10th September. This will be followed on Wednesday 15th October with our Autumn Social including a talk on dahlias by Maureen Barton. Both of these take place at 8pm at The Stoke Poges School, and non-members are welcome for a small donation.

■ Visit www.hortsoc.org to find out more about the society and future events.



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Time to have fun and let your hair down

The Stoke Poges Players are back from their summer interval and are ready to raise the curtain on the next exciting chapter of 2025!

We had an incredible first half of the year with two interactive, sold-out murder mystery evenings where our audience swapped seats for detective hats and helped crack the case – laughter, suspense and surprise endings included! We also completed a full refresh of our prop and wardrobe cupboards, ensuring we're ready for anything the stage demands.

Beyond the spotlight, we loved being part of the community – judging the fancy dress competition at Stoke Poges Village Fete, joining in the bloom at the Horticultural Society's Summer Show, and bringing stories to life at Farnham Common Library to help launch their Summer Reading Challenge with some of our Players' favourite tales.


As we return from our well-earned interval, all eyes are on our next production – Rapunzel, a pantomime by one of our favourites, Tom Whalley. Rehearsals begin in September and the backstage buzz has already started.



The family-friendly panto will run from 5th to 7th December, with both matinee and evening performances. Be sure to follow us on Facebook for the latest updates and behind-the-scenes sneak peeks, and visit our website stokepogesplayers.org to book tickets.

It's going to be a hair-raising – or maybe hair-dropping – adventure, full of laughs, music and festive fun. You won't want to miss it!

We're also on the lookout for new hands behind the scenes – if wardrobe, props, set building or backstage crew is your thing, we'd love to have you on board! Email stoke.poges.players@gmail.com or reach out to us on Facebook to find out more.



STOKE POGES PLAYERS

Present an Amateur Production of

Rapunzel

The Pantomime

Written by Tom Whalley

5th Dec @ 7.30pm
6th Dec @ 2.30pm & 7.30pm
7th Dec @ 2.30pm

Back for another year

One never knows what is around the corner and so here I am again for another year as Chair of Stoke Poges Photographic Club.

And what a year Ken, our Programme Secretary, has planned for us!

We start back on Tuesday 2nd September with our Welcome Evening, when the winner of our 'Unforgettable' competition will be announced. We will also look back at the winners and top scoring entries for the last season, pay our subs and catch up with other members to find out what they have been doing during the summer months.

At the end of a season, members can enter what they think have been their best entries for the different categories in the finals. Intermediate winners were Malcolm Miles and Penny Mayhew, whilst Advanced winners were Andy Smith, Kevin Day and Paul Mothersill. Some of their photographs are showcased on the left of this page.

We also have a competition for the Photographer of the Year, when a member's 12 best scores for the season are counted. Winners were John Mayhew for Intermediate and Kevin Day for Advanced. Well done to all.

Come and join us

Why not come along if you are interested in photography? Refreshments will be available and committee members will be on hand to answer any questions from prospective new members who attend.



'Chasing the Leader' by Malcolm Miles



'The Decision' by Kevin Day



'The Industrial Human Condition' by Andy Smith

Upcoming talks

Apart from our internal club competitions, there are three talks before Christmas to look forward to. We meet at 8pm in Stoke Poges Village Hall on Rogers Lane.

- 16th September – ‘Our Photographic Work and Hobby’ with Alison Jenkins
- 7th October – ‘How Critique Can Help Improve Your Photography’ with Cat Humphries

- 18th November – ‘British Wildlife’ with Andy Sands

To find out more about the club and what we have planned for the whole 2025-26 season, visit www.stokepogesphotoclub.co.uk for more information.

 Linda Miles, Chair
Stoke Poges Photographic Club



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Community Speedwatch

Welcoming new members

The Community Speedwatch team was very pleased to welcome two new members as a result of the Village Centre open day.

We've managed to organise a session nearly every week since then. In fact, we went out twice in one day recently, capturing 38 speeding cars.

We have about six police-approved sites around the village. The photograph is taken from one of our regular locations, where we often see speeds of over 40 or even over 50!

If you see us at the roadside, please come over and see what we're up to. We would love to have more helpers – details of how to contact us are below.

■ *If you would like to join the Community Speedwatch team of volunteers, please get in touch via the Parish Clerk.*

*theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk
01753 644 803*

South Bucks Riding for the Disabled Association

Sixty years of life-changing service

South Bucks Riding for the Disabled Association (SBRDA) was recently honoured to welcome Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal in celebration of the centre's 60th anniversary.

The visit in May marked a major milestone for the charity, which has spent six decades enriching the lives of disabled and neurodivergent children and adults through therapeutic horse riding and equestrian activities.

As President of RDA UK, The Princess Royal has long been a supporter of the organisation's work. During her visit, she met with volunteers, riders, coaches and trustees, taking time to learn about the centre's history, its impact on the local community, and its plans for the future.

"It was a tremendous honour to have HRH The Princess Royal join us for this very special occasion," said Di Redfern, Chair of South Bucks RDA. "Her continued support and dedication to the RDA movement means so much to our riders, volunteers, and supporters. Today's celebration is something that our community will never forget."

The Princess Royal toured the facilities, observed riding sessions in action, and unveiled a commemorative bench to mark the centre's Diamond Jubilee. She also spoke with some of the centre's most longstanding riders and volunteers, who were all thrilled to meet her.



Enormous thanks go to our sponsors who support us, and special thanks to Stoke Park who contributed so generously to our 60th celebration.

About the charity

South Bucks RDA provides people with the opportunity to ride and have equine interaction to benefit their health and wellbeing. We are inclusive and welcome participants with physical, sensory and learning disabilities, autism, ADHD, long-term physical and mental health conditions.

In May 1965, the Bucks and Berks Riding for the Disabled Centre was opened at East Burnham Park near Farnham Royal, the home of Colonel and Mrs VDS Williams.

In 1967, it was decided that since no riders had come from Berkshire in the two years that the group had been running (Slough was in Buckinghamshire in those days) the name of the group would change to reflect this, and South Bucks RDA was born.

Di Redfern was then a Coach at East Burnham Park, and when the Colonel died the new owner asked the group to leave and find a new home for their four ponies.

Mr Redfern agreed to allow the group to move to his home, Mill House Farm on Framewood Road, and we have been there ever since.

At that time there were just fields, so the centre as it is today grew gradually. There wasn't an indoor school for nearly twenty years.

Since those early days, hundreds of individuals with physical and learning disabilities have benefitted from its programmes, helping to build confidence, mobility and independence through the power of horses. Some have gone on to become National and Olympic Champions in the sport of para dressage, including Sophie Christiansen, Natasha Baker and Julie Payne.

The anniversary celebration reflects on the charity's inspiring legacy and looks ahead to continued innovation and inclusivity in equestrian therapy.

■ For more information about South Bucks RDA and how to support its work, please visit www.southbucksrda.org

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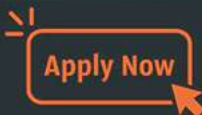
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BucksVision

Making a positive difference to the lives of blind and partially sighted people

BucksVision has a wonderful team of volunteers who organise and run social groups for people living with a sight condition.

The organisation was founded in 1911 and was formerly known as Buckinghamshire Association for the Blind. Today, there are several geographic divisions covering Buckinghamshire, and Stoke Poges is part of the South East Division. We're here to support you through all the stages and severity of sight loss. People lose their sight for a wide variety of reasons, including age related conditions, genetic conditions and eye-health problems. However, losing your sight does not necessarily mean losing your independence; nor does it mean that you need to struggle alone or feel isolated.

Our events offer an opportunity to meet with people who have experienced the same issues you may encounter with your sight loss, as well as enjoying entertainment, activities, informative talks and demonstrations plus refreshments. In Stoke Poges, our club meets

on the second Tuesday of the month at St Andrew's Church hall. Transport is arranged to and from the venue, and whilst members are not charged a subscription to attend, donations are encouraged. We occasionally arrange pop-up events such as guided walks, cookery lessons, shopping trips and lunches.

We have 50 regular attendees across our events each month, with an age range of 30 to 100. Some are partially sighted, others are registered severely sight impaired and a few have no light perception (NLP) – a rare level of total blindness.

If you live in south east Buckinghamshire and have a visual impairment, get in touch to find out more about our charity and how you can access our local services. You're also welcome to come and visit us at St Andrew's on Tuesday 14th October from 2pm - 4pm.

■ *Contact the local BucksVision team by email to southeastbv@gmail.com or call 01753 373638 to find out more about their services or volunteering opportunities.*

Memorial Gardens celebrate their 90th anniversary

Ninety years ago, Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens were officially opened and dedicated as a garden of remembrance.

They were the brainchild of Sir Noel Mobbs, who – with considerable foresight – bought the land next to St Giles' Church and Gray's Monument to protect it from housing development.

He engaged Edward White, a leading landscape architect of the time, to design the land as a garden of remembrance. His brief to the designer was that it should be different from a traditional cemetery and look like a country garden.

His vision has stood the test of time, and ninety years later the gardens are still a place of peace, reflection and remembrance. They are enjoyed and appreciated by its many visitors and especially by the families and friends of those who are buried and remembered here.

We celebrated this milestone on Sunday 25th May with the help of the Friends of Stoke

Poges Memorial Gardens who served wonderful cream teas and cakes, and Chinnor Silver Band who entertained us on the lawn. Displays by The Stoke Poges Society and Stoke Poges Scouts informed visitors about the history of the Memorial Gardens and the surrounding area.

Meanwhile, Eddie and Madge, our resident beekeepers, brought along a display hive to give us a chance to see the inner workings of a beehive. Special thanks go to the anonymous donor who sponsored the ice cream van that supplied us with copious amounts of Mr Whippy!

Cllr Dev Dhillon gave a welcome to everyone and helped us unveil the Strings sculpture – the most recently added sculpture in the Bereavement Trail.

Sandra Greenslade, Chair of the Mobbs Memorial Trust, her brother David Mobbs and his wife Emma joined us. Sandra and David are great-grandchildren of Noel Mobbs. Sandra gave a wonderful address, weaving in the history and family connections to the gardens.

Our fairy house competition attracted nine entries from builders as young as brothers Jasper and Caspian (aged 3 and 5). Their entry 'Moss-Pine Lodge' won the People's Choice Award and a family ticket to Bekonscot Model Village. Runner-up was 'Redwood Cottage' by Phil and Helen.

The main first prize of a ticket to Stoke Park Fireworks Bonanza went to Anita and Olivia for 'Stoke Poges Cottage' – complete with a garden and aerial walkway.





Top: Emma and David Mobbs, Sandra Greenslade, Franzi Cheeseman (Head Gardener), Mrs Dhillon, Cllr Dev Dhillon

Above: Friends of Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens serve the refreshments

Left: 'Moss-Pine Lodge' - winner of the People's Choice Award in the fairy house competition

Runners-up were Olivia, Amalia and Ewelina. Their beautifully constructed pebble cottages made a wonderful addition to the stumpery!

Huge thanks to everyone who entered the competition and all who came along to help us celebrate.

■ Located on Church Lane, Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens are open every day of the year for quiet, reflective walks in beautiful surroundings.

You'll find details of a walking route to the gardens from the centre of the village on page 22, overleaf.

Walking to St Giles' Church and Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens

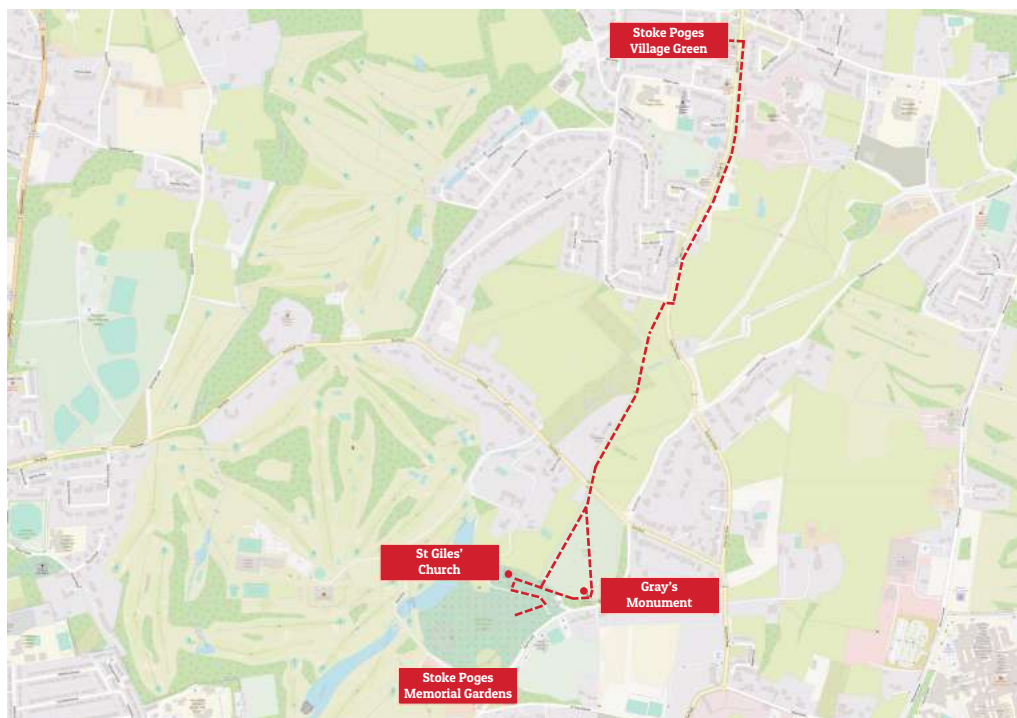
If you ever have visitors from abroad, this is by far the best walk to take them on!

They will see and experience more about English rural living and history in a few hours than several days of sightseeing in London. St Giles' Church, Gray's Monument and the Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens are world-famous, yet the walk from the centre of the village is surprisingly unknown.

The walk is about 4.5 to 5km long, depending

on how much you explore the wonderful Memorial Gardens, and is absolutely flat apart from the gentle Bells Hill as you leave the village centre.

Unfortunately, there are kissing gates which make walking with a buggy, or cycling, impossible. There is a large car park on the opposite side of the road to the Memorial Gardens so it is easy to cheat – and well worth it to see these magnificent locations – but get the real benefit by taking the family and visitors on the lovely walk described here.



Credit: Map © OpenStreetMap
<https://www.openstreetmap.org/copyright>



As usual with these walks, we start at the village green. It is once again recommended to cross the road using the pedestrian crossing and walk down the lovely avenue of trees on the opposite side of the main road. The traffic is far enough away to feel fairly remote.

Walk all the way down Bells Hill until you reach the southern end of Rogers Lane.



When you arrive at the junction of Rogers Lane and Grays Park Road, there is a kissing gate on the opposite side of the road, right on the corner. Go through the gate and follow the path across the field to a second gate. Here you enter Hastings Meadow, a historical piece of land in the village. Bear slightly right, keeping the open fronted barn on your right-hand side, and go through the kissing gate. The public footpath path passes through a corner of the old Clock House property before emerging back into Hastings Meadow.

Now, follow the path along the right of the field with the hedge on your immediate right.



You eventually come to a gate which takes you onto the pedestrian pavement of Park Road. There is a gate into the field directly opposite, but Park Road is busy and fast – please take extra, extra care at this crossing point.

Once you have crossed and gone through the gate you are in Gray's Field, a National Trust property. The path diverges here but take the right-hand option, keeping the hedge on your immediate right. You will see a monument off to the left, but avoid going that way for now – visit it on the way back.



Eventually, the path leads to a gate into the grounds of St Giles' Church. Go through and then turn right, though the lych gate, and walk toward the church.



St Giles' is an absolute treasure to explore and is of course world-famous as the place where the poet Thomas Gray wrote his 'Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard'.



As you approach the church, you will see two brick structures just in front of it. One of these is the tomb of Gray and some of his family.

Look to your left as you approach the tombs and you'll find a gate in the magnificent brick wall. This gate leads to the equally magnificent Memorial Gardens.

Go through the gate (this neatly avoids a busy, fast and dangerous road to the main entrance) and turn left on the gravel road.



Follow the road for a few tens of metres and you will arrive at the gardens' offices, where you can get maps and descriptions of the gardens and walks.

The Memorial Gardens themselves were funded by Sir Noel Mobbs, designed by Edward White, and opened in 1935. They are now a Grade I listed site and are looked after by a team of gardeners.



The gardens are full of lovely features, some obvious and some not so. You won't want to miss the heritage route along the lakeside and the main central area, but do also take time to explore the smaller paths. There are hundreds of little memorial areas, each one with its own story to tell.



The tranquil Colonnade Garden is a beautiful spot for quiet contemplation. This sunken water garden is enveloped by a raised wisteria-draped pergola. Channels of water crisscross the parterre, converging in an octagonal pond at the centre.

The spring blossom is a real delight here.



The Memorial Gardens offer great views of Stoke Park, with its famous golf course and lake.

The elegant bridge was commissioned by John Penn, grandson of William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, and designed by Humphrey Repton. It was restored in 2005.




When you have explored the gardens, leave through the gate you entered by, returning to St Giles' churchyard.

Follow the path back to the lych gate you came in at, but this time continue straight ahead and pass through the second lych gate.

You will now see in front of you a noticeboard with a map of Gray's Field and a path running along to the right. Follow this path and you will very shortly come to Gray's Monument.



Take your time exploring the monument, then leave over a stile directly opposite to the path you arrived on. The path will take you back across the field to the gate leading onto Park Road. Take care crossing Park Road and then retrace your steps back to the village. This is a lovely walk and includes three of the most wonderful sites to be visited in Stoke Poges. There are many websites that describe these sites and you are recommended to do some research in advance to find information about each one.

 *Bob Crocker*

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Then and now: St Giles' Church



Community clean-up by visiting students

The Church of St Giles is Grade I listed and is recognised for its exceptional architectural and historical interest.

It dates from Saxon times, with remains still existing in areas of the chancel wall and windows. There are parts still surviving from three later periods: the pillars, part of the chancel and part of the tower date from the Norman era; the nave reconstructed on the Norman pillars are early Gothic (1220); and the Hastings Chapel, built in red-brick, dates from the Tudor period (1558).

The church underwent Victorian restoration in the 19th century, preserving much of its earlier character. While Stoke Poges is mentioned as far back as the Domesday Book in 1086, the church does itself does not get explicitly listed.

The original spire was replaced in 1834 and finally had to be removed in 1924 when it became unsafe. Timbers from the spire were used to construct the two lych gates along the churchyard path.

The opening scene in the 1981 film *For Your Eyes Only* starring Roger Moore was filmed in the churchyard, where James Bond lays flowers on the grave of his wife, Tracy.

However, St Giles' is most famously known for Thomas Gray's elegy, first published in 1751 and inspired by the tranquil churchyard. It is his final resting place, and a large memorial to him, erected in 1799, stands nearby.

 Cllr Keith Finan

In June, sixteen students from Teikyo Hachioji Junior High School in Japan visited Teikyo School UK to study the English language and experience British culture.

On their final day, the students took part in a community clean-up activity in Stoke Poges. They started at Stoke Poges Village Centre, continued through the Recreation Ground, up to Hollybush Hill, then on to School Lane and Hockley Lane.

They collected enough rubbish to fill a 240L bin bag. They were pleased with this result and enjoyed well-earned ice cream at the end of the activity!

■ Find out more about the school at <https://teikyo-london-uk.teikyo.jp/english>

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Stoke Poges Church

Stoke Poges Church activities

'Love God. Love People.'

We know how much you love a special event, so here's what's coming up this term. All of our activities are open to everyone, regardless of their faith or church attendance, and there is no charge to attend any of these events. Find out more from our website or contact us via the church office – details below.



Vision Sunday Barbecue

On Sunday 7th September at the 10.30am Church Family Service at St Giles', join us to find out what Revd Natasha has planned for the year ahead. Then catch up on all the news from the summer over a bring and share lunch and barbecue in the churchyard.



Raise the Roof 'On Tour'

We'll be taking live music to St George's Britwell on Sunday 21st September 7-9pm. Drawing on gospel, soul, country and rock, modern worship music is a sound to get lost in and that's what this evening is all about.

Harvest Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 5th October 10.30am at St Giles'. Followed by lunch and auction of produce at St Andrew's at 12pm. Come and give thanks to God for all the good things we enjoy. Our non-perishable food, fresh clothing donations and auction support Slough Homeless Our Concern.



Remembrance Sunday Service

Sunday 9th November 10am Flagpole Service on Bells Hill and 10.50am at St Giles'.

Details of our Walk for Peace and Acts of Remembrance will be advertised nearer the time.

Thinking about coming to church on a Sunday but not sure what to expect?

You can find more information about what happens at services on our website but why not just visit and see? You don't need to wear or bring anything in particular and though we want you to feel welcome, we try not to overwhelm newcomers with questions and information.

We are at St Andrew's in the main hall every Sunday at 11am (apart from our special events listed above) with words on a big screen and modern music.

St Giles' services are traditional but still relaxed, with hymns and prayers in books, alternating between 9am on the first, third and fifth Sundays of the month and 6.30pm on the second and fourth Sundays. This means we can still be 'regular' worshippers even if we place other demands on our Sundays.

Facebook Services

You can get to know Revd Natasha, Revd Sydney and Lay Preachers Pat and Nigel through our Facebook 'Watch & Pray' services on Wednesdays. Find them at www.facebook.com/stokepogeschurch/videos

St Giles' is open daily

The door is unlocked from about 10am - 3pm for quiet contemplation and prayer or a visit to remember a loved one.

St Andrew's is also home to...

Baby Steps – Tuesday mornings – for babies, toddlers, parents and carers.

Knit & Natter – Wednesday mornings – bring your own projects or work on something together. Learners welcome!

Friday Coffee – Friday mornings in the Lighthouse Café.

Friday Club – First Friday of the month – social activities and lunch for senior citizens.

Courses – Our latest course theme is 'Live Well' Mondays 7-9pm, 11th August – 15th September. Join in any time.

St Andrew's Ecogarden – Pick a bean, pull a weed or just sit and enjoy the sunshine.

Roof works at St Andrew's

Regular visitors to St Andrew's will have noticed (or experienced!) our gradually deteriorating roof and we now have enough money and a plan to fix it, so this will be happening over a couple of weeks this autumn. All those directly affected are being advised and this long-term solution will enable continued worship and community activities for another few generations to come. The car park will be completely closed during crane manoeuvres for safety.

■ www.stokepogeschurch.org
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01753 642 331

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Simply Walk

A weekly walk around Stoke Poges

In May this year, a new outdoor activity began in our village.

Simply Walk is a Buckinghamshire Council initiative and the premise is simple, hence the name! Walkers of any age and ability are invited to join the group for a weekly walk around Stoke Poges. The aim is to give participants the opportunity to walk for fitness in a relaxed environment. The walks have additional benefits for mental health and wellbeing, giving those who take part access to a social and friendly group of like-minded people, helping to tackle social isolation and loneliness. Each walk is guided by a team of enthusiastic, trained volunteers from the village, who lead and back-mark.

The Simply Walk idea is now 23 years old and there are over 70 groups across the county, with more than two thousand walkers taking part, mostly on weekly walks. The Simply Walk group in Stoke Poges meets at 11am each Wednesday morning in the car park of St Andrew's Church. Currently, the walk is around the track in the recreation

ground and most of the walkers like to go around twice, or even three times. The group then returns to St Andrew's for refreshments at the Lighthouse Café.

The current walk is a so-called Grade 1 walk, which is the gentlest of walks in terms of terrain and pace. It is planned to have different walks around the village as and when the group's confidence grows, and each one will be carefully risk-assessed by a council official.

The group now has around fifteen regular walkers and the numbers are growing. You have to register in advance (for insurance purposes) but you can do that either online or by filling in a form before starting your first walk.

It is a fun and relaxing way to meet people, get some exercise and support the Lighthouse Café. Come and join us!

■ *Before attending your first walk, please register at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/simply-walk*



Stoke Poges Singers

New season, new music director

After a busy end to the summer programme, we start the new season under the guidance of our new Music Director, Mandy Hall.

Mandy has a wealth of experience of playing music and choral singing since early childhood. She has worked through the grades in singing, holding a distinction in the top Grade 8, and was recently awarded Merit in the Associate of the Royal School of Music's Diploma. Mandy has sung with the Marlow Community Choir, Slough Philharmonic and Maidenhead Operatic Society and is versed in both classical and lighter repertoires. We are fortunate to have someone who well understands the needs of singers in learning and performing different styles of music.

New members to the choir are always made welcome at any time, but now is a particularly good time to join as we start a programme of concerts. If you are interested, please visit our website at www.stokepogessingers.org.uk and use the

contact form. Rehearsals are held at St Andrew's Church on Thursday evenings, from 7.45pm to 9.45pm.

For her first concert (on 22nd November at St Giles' Church), Mandy has chosen a classical programme 'Gloria' celebrating the advent of Christmas. This will feature the Vivaldi *Gloria in D* in full, and selected choruses from Handel's *Messiah* together with other companion pieces. In fact, in a symbolic passing of the baton, Mandy conducted the opening movement to the Vivaldi in our summer concert which was Andy Langley's last as outgoing musical director. This was an emotional farewell, as the choir sung its heart out with renditions of some of the best bits of the past nine years. From classical to modern pop, with some jazz and musical theatre too, this showcased what SPS has become under Andy's direction. We look forward to continuing the journey with Mandy.

■ Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.ticketsource.co.uk/stokepogessingers



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Stoke Poges Village Social Club

Old traditions, new vibes

Stoke Poges Village Social Club will be evolving its look and feel over the coming months.



The team is working hard on some exciting plans for the future that are sure to delight both long-time members and first-time visitors. Watch this space as we continue our makeover, which includes new air conditioning, carpet, furniture and colour scheme, as well as updates to our drinks offering and what's on the big screen.

Quench your thirst

The bar's line-up is looking strong. On draught, you've got Peroni, 1664, San Miguel, and Fosters – plus those stalwart favourites, Guinness and London Pride. Cider fans can enjoy Inches or Strongbow Dark Fruits, and the spirits shelf is practically a sweet shop for grown-ups: fruity gins, flavoured vodkas, spiced rums and whiskies that mean business. And yes, there's a whole selection of wines and prosecco for when only bubbles will do.



Big screen entertainment and more

Sport lovers – you're sorted. Sky Sports and TNT Sports are live on two TVs and the big screen. You'll never have to miss a goal, try or final furlong.

But it's not just about sport here. We have entertainment for all the family, from wine tastings that are more fun than fancy, to games for the little ones (and for adults who secretly love Jenga a bit too much).



Put your knowledge to the test

Our weekly Wednesday night quizzes are fun, social evenings where everyone's competitive streak comes out! Starting at 8pm, it's just £1 per person to enter – so we challenge you to put together a team and come along to see if you can beat our regulars to win a cash prize!

Keeping it cool

We've had some hot weather lately, and who knows if we'll see an Indian summer this autumn? Our new air conditioning units mean you can sip your drink without feeling like you're sweltering in a sauna. It's a little slice of cool comfort in Stoke Poges – perfect for long afternoons and chilled evenings.

Proud to be part of the community

The Social Club is here for the community and we pride ourselves on bringing together local residents. We are a core part of village events such as Stoke Poges Artisan Market and Carols on the Green, and various groups meet at the club socially and after events.



We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Autumn Artisan Market on Saturday 6th September. Pop in for a drink with your lunch, or enjoy some tea and home-made cake from the Village Centre charity trustees.

Come on in

The Social Club is open every day from 5pm, with earlier starts at the weekend – 2.30pm on Saturdays and midday on Sundays. We're always on the lookout for friendly new members, so whether you're a familiar face or just curious, there's a pint, a glass or a cup of something waiting for you. Come on in and ask at the bar about membership.

Try us next time you're thinking, "Where shall we go tonight?" – you might just find your new favourite hangout!

-
- The Social Club is located in the Village Centre on Rogers Lane, with its entrance to the side of the building.

The thrill of the race

On a hot Saturday in July, we travelled by minibus to the iconic Brands Hatch circuit.

What a thrill it was to see historic racing cars hurtling around the famous motor racing track as soon as we arrived!

We set up camp by the Brabham Straight, with excellent views of the track and watched many races during the day, some with historic saloon cars. In the afternoon, we visited the inner paddock where all the racing car teams are located, including the 'Jesus Saves' team. We experienced wonderful hospitality from everyone, and on our journey home we reflected on what had been a great day of motor racing.

Please join us for an extra special event at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23rd September as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Men's Group with a Curry Night at the Memories of India restaurant in Farnham Common.

When we started the group back in September 2005, it was under the banner of Christian Vision for Men (CVM) and throughout the past 20 years they have continued to provide us with support and encouragement. We are therefore delighted that our speaker for this event will be Paul Gask (known as 'Gasky'), the Northern England Regional Director for CVM. For 30 years, Gasky was a police officer in the Leicestershire Police Force working primarily in the specialist crime arena. He is a great communicator who has many amusing stories from his years in the police service.

You are also welcome to join us on Friday 14th November for a buffet-style Men's



Anniversary Dinner at the South Buckinghamshire Golf Club (on Park Road, Stoke Poges) from 7.15pm.

Our speaker is Gary Grant, a guy who runs a highly successful business where both values and ethics always come first. Gary left school at the age of 16 with just an 'O' Level in Maths. He and his partner opened shops in the toy retail sector in Beaconsfield, Slough and further afield, and over time 'The Entertainer' has grown to be the largest independent toy retailer in Britain, with over 160 stores.

If you use Facebook, please check us out at 'Stoke Poges Men's Group'. We are not an exclusive group but very inclusive and guys from a wide area (not just from Stoke Poges) come along. Everyone is always given a very warm welcome.

■ *If you would like more information then please get in contact with us.*

*Tony Shortman
01844 350 014
shortmantm@gmail.com*

*Nigel Lowe
07973 349 721
nigelatsuchlowe@gmail.com*

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Friday Club

A cruise along The Thames for Friday Club

The Friday Club continues to thrive, with more members joining each month.

Our annual trip on the River Thames was enjoyed by 52 members and volunteers in May. It rained all day but it did not spoil our fun as we were in the dry aboard 'The Georgian' boat, which took us from Windsor Leisure Centre up past Bray Studios then back to Windsor Castle. We all enjoyed a ploughman's lunch while cruising the river.

At our third anniversary celebration lunch in June we welcomed Linda's Entertainers who performed a wonderful choice of songs with excellent costumes and audience participation.

July's meeting included chicken pie, vegetables, new potatoes and strawberry trifle with ice cream – very much enjoyed in the hot temperatures! Our guest speaker was Bal from Hedgegrail Pharmacy in the village. He spoke about the changing service the pharmacy can give to our villagers plus what

might happen in the future. Bal was very informative and answered any concerns and questions. We thank him so much for giving up his lunch hour to share information that his excellent service provides for our village.

We look forward to further events and celebrations in the second part of the year, on 5th September, 3rd October and 7th November. New members from the parish of Stoke Poges are welcome to register and attend.

November's meeting will be our last of the year, since all Friday Club members are invited to the Seniors' Christmas Lunch at St Andrew's in December, which is run by the church and paid for by The Mobbs Memorial Trust.

■ *If you live in Stoke Poges and would like to register as a member of Friday Club then please contact Ann Sibley by email to info@spfc.org.uk or by calling 01753 901 374. It costs £5 to attend which includes refreshments, a home-cooked two-course meal and entertainment.*

Heritage open day to explore architecture

The promotion of our village heritage continued this summer with our stall at the Horticultural Society's Annual Show.

Earlier in the summer, Year 5 children at The Stoke Poges School heard about Victorian life in the parish as part of their 'Victorian Day'. They learnt about the early school building next door and the workhouse, now called Uplands, just across the road in Rogers Lane.

Meanwhile, Year 6 children studied the general history of Stoke Poges, especially during World War II. They learned of the enemy bombing of Slough and the odd few bombs which dropped in the village, together with stories of children evacuated from London living at Long Dene School in the Manor House.

This year we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Memorial Gardens and the centenary of Stoke Poges people handing Gray's monument and the adjacent field to the National Trust. A Heritage Open Day will take place from 1pm to 4pm on Sunday 14th September at the Memorial Gardens, St Giles' Church and Gray's Monument in Church Lane. There will be an information desk at the entrance to the gardens.

The national theme this year for the Open Days is architecture. Therefore, there are plans to show information on the landscape architecture of Stoke Park and the two great monuments in the parish: to Sir Edward Coke (jurist) and Thomas Gray (poet).

At our Annual General Meeting in August, our Chairman, Harvey Whittam, gave a talk about the 14th century robber baron, Sir John



de Moleyns. Sir John lived in Stoke Poges and was close to Edward III, when not locked up for a variety of crimes!

Other events hosted by the society in the second half of the year will include our annual lunch, a talk on the topic of historical crimes in Buckinghamshire and Berkshire, and our Christmas social evening with entertainment from local celebrity Johnny Ball. More information on all of these can be found online.

We are delighted to have received an autobiography of Eric Cecil Clarke. Born in 1917, his childhood was spent in Stoke Poges. He worked as a labourer and gardener in and around the village until September 1939, when he was enlisted in the army. It is hoped to publish some extracts of his 'simple' way of life between the world wars in a future issue of *Stoke Poges News*.

■ Further information about the society's range of events is available in leaflets distributed around the village, on Facebook and on the society website at www.e-voice.org.uk/stoke-poges-society

History of Stoke Poges: Part Eight

In this issue, we look at the history of Stoke Park in the 18th century, when the estate underwent major transformations which can be seen to this day. Little is recorded about events in the village in the early half of that century, yet plenty is recorded about the latter part in diaries, books and accounts.

Sir Robert Gayer of the Manor House, a wealthy London merchant, died in 1702. His son sold it to Edmund Halsey. It was Halsey who was the 'rags to riches' figure, who became very wealthy by owning a major London brewery. His only child, Anne, inherited his wealth and Stoke Park. She had married Sir Richard Temple, who was created Viscount Cobham. Their home was the grand house and estate of Stowe in north Buckinghamshire. Anne became known as Lady Cobham.

The changes to Stoke Park started in 1750 when, as a widow, Lady Cobham moved from Stowe back to the Manor House. She lived there with her lady friends until her death. She commissioned Lancelot 'Capability' Brown to landscape Stoke Park. He had already performed 'wonders' for her at Stowe. His legacy is the

transformation of five quadrangular pools to a river-like lake in Stoke Park.

Lady Cobham very much enjoyed Thomas Gray's poetry and became friends with him. Gray would spend time visiting his mother and aunt in Stoke Court, Rogers Lane, so was in Stoke Poges at the same time as Lady Cobham. Gray wrote the poem 'A Long Story' for her. It was inspired by the humorous, historical incidents at the Manor House, mixing fact with fiction.

In 1760, Thomas Penn bought Stoke Park following the death of Lady Cobham. He was the son of William Penn, the founder of what is now the State of Pennsylvania, USA. Fifteen years later, his son, John, inherited Stoke Park but initially spent very little time at the Manor House because he was living in America and on mainland Europe.

By 1789, the Manor House required extensive repairs and big changes were to follow. John had demolished much of the Manor House, leaving about a quarter of it that's still standing today. He was a wealthy young man. He had gained £130,000 in compensation for the loss of land in America and the English Parliament voted a £4,000 annual pension in recognition of the American losses.



The foundations were laid for the new Mansion House – the big white house. The architect used was Robert Naismith. The site to build the new house had been suggested by ‘Capability’ Brown and Field Marshal Sir George Howard of Stoke Place.

John changed his architect during the build to James Wyatt. Although John does not write about his decision to sack Naismith, a diary entry by one of his friends reveals that Naismith was overcharging and that Wyatt had become particularly fashionable amongst the elite in England.

John commissioned Humphrey Repton to landscape Stoke Park. In 1792, Repton produced his sales book of ideas for the estate, known as the Red Book. John loved the ideas, especially the grand vistas and panoramic view to Eton and Windsor. Despite today’s tower blocks near Slough railway station, one can still see Windsor castle from the Mansion House.

It was in June 1799 when John decided upon erecting a monument to commemorate Sir Edward Coke. John’s friend, the painter, Joseph Farrington, recorded that John was a little hurt at King George III saying to him on the terrace of the Mansion House, “What, a pillar to Sir Edward Coke too?”. Many statues had been installed in the gardens around the house, and the 58 feet Doric column with a life-size statue of Sir Edward on the top may not have been built if John had caved in.

By the end of the 18th century, Stoke Park had significantly changed: the landscape had been remodelled twice; much of the Manor House gone and a new house had been built.



A statue of Hercules in Stoke Park

For greater detailed information about Stoke Park see the book by Peter Pugh, called, ‘Stoke Park – the first 1000 years’. For further reading about Repton landscaping of Stoke Park, see the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust book, ‘Humphry Repton in Buckinghamshire and Beyond’, edited by Sarah Rutherford in 2018.

In the next issue, the ninth part of our village history will feature the great changes in Victorian times, from enclosing land to different owners of the grand houses.

👤 *Harvey Whittam*
Chairman, The Stoke Poges Society



Chiltern Way Academy Sefton Park

A new chapter for Chiltern Way Academy in Stoke Poges

A new provision for pupils with special educational needs opens on the Sefton Park School site this September.

CWA Sefton Park, part of Chiltern Way Academy Trust (CWAT), will welcome its first pupils to the site that many of you will also know as the 'First School' on School Lane.

CWAT is nationally recognised for its work with young people with a diagnosis of Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC) and associated special educational needs. The trust already runs several Ofsted Outstanding-rated campuses, and the expansion into Stoke Poges reflects a continued commitment to inclusive, high-quality education.

The Sefton Park campus will grow to offer 70 much-needed places for pupils aged 11 to 19 who require a specialist learning environment. The school has been carefully refurbished to ensure it provides a calm, safe and well-equipped learning setting, all while

retaining the charm and character of the original village school.

The CWA Sefton Park team is enthusiastic about integrating into the local community and looks forward to forming close ties with village residents, groups and businesses over the coming months. They are confident the school will settle quickly and positively into its new surroundings and become a valued part of the local area.

CEO of the trust, Ian McCaul, says: "We're delighted to be opening CWA Sefton Park in Stoke Poges – a beautiful, much needed school, in a stunning village."

In line with residents' suggestions, we would like to propose a voluntary one-way system down School Lane with exit via Hockley Lane during the hours of 8.15am to 9.15am and 2pm to 3.45pm weekdays, term time only.

■ Please visit www.chilternway.org.uk to find out more information about CWAT.

Heathrow Airport, VE/VJ Day, and a lady astronomer

We start our new season of monthly talks in September.

‘The History of Heathrow Airport’ with Richard Smith

Friday 12th September, 7.30pm

The history of Heathrow, from a rural village to Terminal 5 and beyond – a canter through history in the development of one of the world’s major airports.

Richard joined the then British Airports Authority at Heathrow in 1977 and retired in 2016, a total of 39 years, followed by four years as a part time consultant. During this time, he rose from the office boy to the senior management level in a variety of roles.



He was there for most of the major incidents during that time which included the IRA mortar attacks, the collapse of the Heathrow train tunnel, Virgin Atlantic Airbus A340 and British Airways Boeing 777 aircraft crashes, along with numerous ‘lesser’ incidents.

Richard will also comment on the on-off-on plans for the third runway.

‘VE/VJ 80th Anniversary’ with Tony Birkett

Friday 10th October, 7.30pm

This presentation was prepared for the 80th Anniversary of VE and VJ Day, reflecting on the events that followed these pivotal moments in history. Within living memory for some – a historical record and its present day impact.

The talk was first given back in May at Farnham Common Community Library, after the unveiling of a bench, donated by the Royal British Legion, on Farnham Common Village Green.



Can you help the Poppy Appeal?

We are now gearing up for this year's Poppy Appeal.

We hope to prepare the boxes for the appeal on Saturday 18th October at 10am in the Brian Jubb Hall in Farnham Common. If you are able, we would love to have your help – even its just making the tea!

Hot off the press, our very successful AGM will be repeated at the Victoria pub, Victoria Road, Farnham Common on Wednesday 26th November at 2pm. Tea, coffee and cake will be available, and it's a great opportunity to meet and chat to our committee, supporters and helpers.

■ *To find out more, please contact Chris or Manesh at the Royal British Legion.*

*Chris Leister-Crow, Poppy Appeal Organiser
07942 016 072*

*Manesh Patel, Chairman
07919 216 820*



'Caroline Herschel' with Richard Emerson

Friday 14th November, 7.30pm

The story of a poorly educated woman from a working-class background who shed her role as family skivvy to become internationally famous as the first professional woman astronomer, discoverer of eight comets, Royal Astronomical Society Gold Medal award winner and feminist icon.

■ *Join the society at 7.30pm on the second Friday of the month in the Hastings Room at St Andrew's Church Centre on Rogers Lane. Each event is only £2 for visitors and free for members. Tea, coffee and biscuits are served after each talk.*

For latest info, visit e-voice.org.uk/mtahs or email enquiries to sec.mtahs@yahoo.co.uk

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Remembering the good ol' days

Here are the details of Hedgerley Historical Society's autumn talks.



'A Potted Vision of Stoke Poges' with Harvey Whittam

Wednesday 17th September, 8pm

Join us for a whistle-stop tour of the heritage of Stoke Poges through the centuries from the Domesday Book to the late 20th century. The talk will deal with the most eminent people to have lived in the parish, such as, one of England's greatest jurists, Sir Edward Coke; the poet, Thomas Gray; and John Penn.

Unlike many other parishes, the prominence of more than one large country house features heavily in the talk. Several less well-known facts, unearthed from archives in recent times, are explored – from a general having to 'babysit' a Duke of York to a pope's Secretary of State being educated in the village.



'London's Lost Gardens' with Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan

Saturday 27th September, 2pm

This talk will focus on and celebrate the evanescence of London's vast and varied garden legacy. The gardens examined will range from the capital's humble allotments and defunct squares to amateur botanical gardens, princely pleasure grounds, artists' gardens and private menageries – gardens that have either vanished or that have changed beyond recognition.

'The History of Amersham Through Place Names' with Alison Bailey

Wednesday 15th October, 8pm

Why does Amersham have so many Stanleys? Westanley Avenue, Stanley Hill Avenue and Stanley Hill for example. How did Copperkins Lane get its name, or High & Over? Place names give us clues to our history, particularly local history, as the names of our streets and buildings often reflect local events and local people. Did a 9th century battle

with the Danes give Gore Hill its name or was Turpin Row named after the famous highwayman?

Join this talk to hear more stories about the origins of local place names, whether based on facts or local legends.

**‘Mavericks: Empire, Oil, Revolution and the Forgotten Battle of World War One’
with Nick Higham**

Saturday 25th October, 2.15pm

When Russia crashed out of the First World War following the Revolution in 1917, Britain was desperate to prevent its German and Turkish enemies seizing the oil-rich port of Baku on the Caspian Sea. But the country had few soldiers to spare and Baku was hundreds of miles from the nearest British army.

A ramshackle plan to block the Turks was thrown together by officials with little local knowledge, and a small group of enterprising, fearless and often reckless men were tasked with implementing it. Nick Higham’s talk, based on his forthcoming book, tells the five men’s story and that of the little-known Battle of Baku and its legacy.

**‘Searching the Tower of London Moat’
with Jason Sandy**

Saturday 8th November, 2pm

During recent excavation works at the Tower of London castle, Historic Royal Palaces conducted an archaeological survey of the



moat surrounding the site. Archaeologists and metal detectorists worked side by side to recover a wide variety of historic artefacts. In this lecture, we’ll learn about the extraordinary objects they found. You won’t believe the incredible history they uncovered which dates back to the Middle Ages!

‘The Good Ol’ Days’ with Peter Phippen

Wednesday 19th November, 8pm

Research suggests that the overwhelming majority of us believe that it was better in the past. Is this true, or do we all have selective memories?

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

jdlovelock@btinternet.com

www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org

Stoke Poges Parish Council

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Planning Committee

Chair: Saera Carter BEM

Vice-chair: Mary Crocker

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

Rod Wilson

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Manjit Bassi, Saera Carter BEM, Mary Crocker,

Keith Finan, John Harwood, Kim Pritchard,

Rod Wilson

HR Committee

Chair: John Harwood

Vice-chair: Mary Crocker

Saera Carter BEM

Parish Office

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

01753 644 803

theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk

Pavilion caretaker: 07881 388 778

Parish Council website

For details of all council meetings, services
and initiatives, village information
and events calendar.

www.stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk



Stoke Poges Newsflash

Sign up for news and information by email.

www.stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk/newsflash



Parish Council spokespersons

Allotments – Rich Huckle

Planning – Saera Carter BEM

Flagmaster – Jim Budd

Website – Rich Huckle

MVAS coordination – Vacancy,

Keith Finan *ad interim*

Appointed representatives

Stoke Poges News Editor – Rich Huckle

Stoke Poges Village Centre – Saera Carter BEM,

Kim Pritchard

Community Speedwatch – Anne Frank



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