

# Stoke Poges *News*



Issue 228 | Spring 2024



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From the editor

# Spring forward

The clocks go forward by one hour at 1am on the last Sunday in March, which this year also happens to be Easter Sunday!

This give us more daylight in the evenings, and for me it's a prompt to get outside and spend more time at the allotment as the growing season begins. And it looks like it will be a busy year on the gardening front, with our Horticultural Society inviting us to join in their 140th birthday celebrations (see page 12).

Many of our village clubs, societies, charities and other voluntary organisations are actively looking for new members – you'll find their contact details at the end of each article.

## **Rich Huckle**

Editor

Summer issue No 229 – all material to the editor by no later than Wednesday 24th April.

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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Editor: spneditorsp@gmail.com

## In this issue

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Parish Council news            | 6  |
| Parish Chairman's letter       | 9  |
| Girlguiding                    | 10 |
| Stoke Poges Singers            | 11 |
| Horticultural Society          | 12 |
| Sunshine Corner Pre-school     | 15 |
| Social Club                    | 16 |
| Friends of Stoke Common        | 18 |
| Royal British Legion           | 19 |
| The Stoke Poges School         | 20 |
| Stoke Poges Church             | 22 |
| Men's Group                    | 25 |
| Stoke Poges Players            | 26 |
| The Stoke Poges Society        | 28 |
| Community Speedwatch           | 32 |
| Photographic Club              | 34 |
| Buckinghamshire Council update | 37 |
| Hedgerley Historical Society   | 38 |
| Badminton Club                 | 40 |
| Women's Institute              | 40 |



### On the cover

*Oak Dell,  
Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens*

# E-SCOOTERS

What you need to know



It's illegal to  
ride a privately  
owned electric  
scooter in  
public



# Did you know it's illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (e-scooter) in public?



That's because e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles in law. So, in theory, this means that you need an MOT, road tax and insurance to use one, however it isn't currently possible to register e-scooters in this way.

Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land, with the permission of the landowner.

You cannot use a privately owned e-scooter on the road, pavement or in a public space. If you do then you risk receiving a large fine, points on your driving licence and your e-scooter could be seized.

Some parts of the UK are running government trials of rental e-scooters. If you're over 16 and have a full or provisional driving licence, then you can use these on public roads and cycle paths.

Just check that your driving licence covers categories AM, A or B.



# An update from our Parish Council

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## Planning

The Parish Council Planning Committee continues to work hard to defend the character, space and semi-rural nature of our village. The committee meets monthly and is made up of elected councillors and co-opted residents who live in the village. It is the committee's role to understand planning policies at a local and national level and apply them when commenting on applications. We are invited to comment on all applications as a statutory consultee, which is the same as when a resident is notified by the local authority that their neighbour has submitted an application. We do not make the final decision – that is the role of the planning department at Buckinghamshire Council.

The Parish Council has looked at how we can add some extra detail in our comments, and this is where our draft Neighbourhood Plan is helping. We have a draft of nine new policies that go into more detail, especially where design is concerned. Even though the plan is not yet adopted we are able to quote it when we send our comments into the planning department.

Planning enforcement continues to be an issue in the village, with building works commencing without planning permission, building taking place that is not in line with the approved plan and the increase of outbuildings. If you are concerned about unlawful development you can report it to Buckinghamshire Council.

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-compliance-and-enforcement/>

The Parish Council can also report such issues for investigation.

## Neighbourhood Plan

We are now in our third year of developing the plan, but there are many hoops to jump through before it can be adopted.

A neighbourhood plan is a key part of the government's localism agenda for parish councils to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood. It gives local people a chance to create a planning document that guides and shapes all types of development in our local area.

Once our plan is adopted it will be a formal statutory document that is additional to, and not a replacement for, the emerging Buckinghamshire Local Plan.

We are at the stage now where Buckinghamshire Council is assessing the plan and will assign an independent assessor to ensure the document is lawful.

More information will follow, so please keep an eye on our noticeboards, website and social media.

<https://www.stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk/neighbourhood-plan>

## Littering and dog poo

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, and we arrange

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four community litter picks throughout the year. The dates for 2024 are:

- Saturday 2nd March, 10am – 12 noon;
- Saturday 11th May, 10am – 12 noon;
- Saturday 13th July, 10am – 12 noon;
- Saturday 7th September, 10am – 12 noon.

As a reminder, these dates are displayed on the our noticeboards, social media and the Parish Council website. 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.

If villagers wish to undertake their own litter picks, the Parish Council has equipment which can be borrowed – please contact the Parish Office for more information.

We do have several young residents that regularly litter pick as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Awards, and we thank them for setting a wonderful example and doing their bit for Stoke Poges. If you regularly litter pick and you'd like to tell us about it, please let the Parish Clerk know. Thank you to all of you that do your bit to help.

If you have a dog or need to dispose of litter there are plenty of bins, so please use them! Leaving your litter and dog mess is not only antisocial but dangerous if its stepped in or accidentally touched.

We also respectfully ask that residents don't use the bins to dispose of their own rubbish or dog waste from home, but use their own bins.

## **Allotments**

The Parish Council has allotments that we own and manage. Please contact the Parish Clerk, Julie Simmonds, if you are interested in finding out more.

## **Flooding**

We have had a wet winter in Stoke Poges, and from the news we see that the whole country has suffered with an exceptional amount of rain. As Stoke Poges is a little higher we are not too badly affected by floods, but we do have hot spots especially around the common and the bottom of Bells Hill.

Bells Hill Rec does suffer with some flooding and with the constant rain this has been an ongoing problem. A few years ago, the Parish Council installed two large soakaways and a French drain in the rec to help some of the flood water to drain, but we are up against Mother Nature. We regularly work with Highways to check and ensure that culverts are free-flowing and not blocked.

We are hoping to commence some work in Plough Lane Rec in the spring, so the excess soil may be used to create some bunds in the worst affected areas.

Flooding around the pond is also being addressed and works will start in the February half-term to replace and renew the drainage outlets from the pond. The damage to the car park caused by the flooding will also be repaired. During these works, part of the rec will be cordoned off and we ask that you bear with us during this time.

## Plough Lane Recreation Ground

The Parish Council is very pleased to announce that they have agreed to install an exercise/walking path to mirror the one in Bells Hill. We are currently applying for some grant funding to contribute towards the cost. Once this is finalised, we hope to start work in the spring. There will be more information to follow as we progress.

## Parking and abandoned cars

The Parish Council has received correspondence from villagers that are experiencing an increase in abandoned cars or cars that are parked on the highway untaxed, uninsured with no MOT – in essence using the highway as storage, sometimes for weeks or months.

The way to report untaxed cars parked on the road is via the DVLA and FixMyStreet. It may not be dealt with quickly but these are the the correct channels to report to.

<https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

When parking in and around the village please do not block the pavements – they are for the use of pedestrians, especially those with wheelchairs, walking frames, prams, pushchairs and young children. Parking on the road will force cars to slow down which is something many would welcome.

We see a lot of parking on grass verges. The terrible damage done makes whole roads look quite ugly and unsightly. Is this what we want for our village? Please consider how you park and the impact it has.

## Pavilion

The pavilion is used by Stoke Poges Football Club and our uniformed groups, giving them a modern and safe space to meet. We have a caretaker to look after the building. We are very conscious that this facility should be

looked after, so if you see something that you think needs attention then please let our Parish Clerk know. In the event of an emergency please call 07821 704625.

## Carols on the Green and Christmas lights


This year's village event will be held on Saturday 23rd November, 6-8pm at The Village Centre Car Park on Rogers Lane. If you would like a stall or would like to help please contact the Parish Clerk.

Last year's proceeds went to Stoke Poges Friday Club – a collaboration between the Parish Council, The Good Neighbour Scheme and St Andrew's Church. It is a much needed monthly event where many of our residents who are isolated can meet and make friends or meet their existing friends. Lunch and company are provided. Since lockdown we have learnt that this is a vital project to ensure that we are looking out for each other.

A huge thank you to everyone that helped and contributed. SuperSpeed donated the grotto presents, The Rose & Crown provided the mulled wine and there was a very generous personal donation of £300. All of the profits came to an amazing £1188.78 which went directly to the Friday Club.

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

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 *Please check the Parish Council noticeboards and website for further updates. Contact details for the Parish Clerk are on page 46.*

<https://www.stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk>





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Tel: 01628 898866

## Parish Chairman's letter

### Thank you for helping make *Carols on the Green* such a successful event.

It's always great to see so many families out braving the icy winds, having a fun time. I hope you enjoyed the new Christmas lights too. Special thanks go to the volunteers who helped set up the event, who ran it and – most importantly – cleared up afterwards.

Over the past few months, the Parish Council has been concentrating on budgeting for 2024-25. I remember that when I first got involved, back in 2010, the budget was a contentious process that went right to the wire before agreement could be reached, after long meetings going through the budget, line by line. Hardly surprising, as the Council of the day under-provisioned and spent its reserves without replenishing them.

Back in the day, I remember listening to discussions about replacing and upgrading playground equipment in the recreation grounds. Historically, the Council had invested in installing apparatus but had not set money aside for its replacement. With my business experience, I was shocked by the naivety of not doing what companies

call 'depreciation' – setting money aside every year to pay to replace the things they own. Fortunately, the recent Parish Councils have agreed with my recommendation to build reserves to cover for repairs and replacements and any other eventualities.

This year, when we looked at the Council's finances and the risks it faces, the decision was taken to ease back the amounts it is putting into reserves in order to reduce the Council's budget. So I'm pleased to tell you that your Council Tax bill will show that the Parish Council has reduced its 'precept' by 10 per cent. Unfortunately this reduction will be swallowed up by the increases from the Police, Fire and Rescue Service and Buckinghamshire Council.

Now that the Stoke Poges Neighbourhood Plan has been out for consultation, the Parish Council's planning committee can refer to it in its consultation responses to planning applications and Buckinghamshire's planning case officers can use the document when assessing applications, which should be valuable in heading off inappropriate designs and materials. It's a small step but it should make a difference.

 **Ralph Bagge**  
Chairman, Stoke Poges Parish Council

# Sienna's story at Rainbows

## Girlguiding groups meet weekly in Stoke Poges to have fun, learn skills and share adventures.

Our youngest section is Rainbows, where girls aged 4-7 can explore the world around us, have fun and experience new things. This is the beginning of the Girlguiding journey.

This term we have enjoyed the theme 'Skills for My Future' where we've prepared food, mastered some DIY skills, been science investigators and got hands on with coins and money. We completed our Construction badges learning about materials and trusses, and building our own model village. We also had fun celebrating Lunar New Year, learning about Girl Guides in Australia, and climbing.

One of our Rainbows, Sienna, age 7, is preparing to move up to Brownies at Easter and after a fabulous two years with us. She has achieved so much earning all of the Rainbows interest badges and being awarded her Bronze, Silver and Gold awards. She has had fun at Legoland and Paccar trips and has been away for her first Girlguiding sleepover. Sienna has reviewed her Rainbows journey with photos and in her own words.

"My favourite thing about Rainbows is doing fun activities with friends. Crafts are my favourite! I like doing different things each week for the different themes. My favourite badge is my Harry Potter challenge because I love Harry Potter. I also really liked doing my Drawing interest badge.

"The thing I am most looking forward to about Brownies is going on pack holiday and camping."



We always miss the girls when they move on to Brownies but it is great to see them grow in confidence and be ready for that next step in their adventure.

- There are Girlguiding groups for girls aged from 4 to 18. You can register online at [www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/joinus)



Stoke Poges Singers

## Back by popular demand

**Following last year's dive into the musical theatre songbook, the Stoke Poges Singers are kicking off the 2024 season with *At The Musicals, Volume 2*.**

No encouragement was needed for the choir to enjoy another chance to sing a selection of some of the greatest show tunes, featuring extracts from *Les Misérables*, *Sweeney Todd*, *Gypsy*, *Hello Dolly!*, *42nd Street*, *Cabaret*, *Sweet Charity*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story* and more!

Once again, the choir will be accompanied by the Stoke Poges Chamber Orchestra to add a little musical pizzazz to what will be a sparkling and fun concert. And given the number of musicians and singers and the anticipated audience, we need a larger venue and so are trying out The Hub in Chalfont St Peter. This is the new home of the Gold Hill Baptist Church with a large purpose-built auditorium and modern facilities. And there is ample free parking just a few yards away! We hope that our regular supporters will go that extra mile and enjoy the spaciousness and comfort of this venue.

Ticket sales and monies raised on the night will be donated to the Buckinghamshire based charity Dreamflight, which organises

holidays to Orlando for children with serious illnesses and disabilities, providing all medical support and supervision so that the children can go independently of parents.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who came along to our last two events of 2023 just before Christmas. The Family Carol Concert was enjoyed by young and old, singing along to traditional carols and listening to the choir deliver popular favourites (Paul McCartney and Slade to name-drop just two).

The *Glorious Vivaldi* concert was a more serious affair, and we were delighted to donate £1,200 to Bucks Vision. Thank you for your support and generosity. It means a lot to the choir that we are able to enjoy singing for pleasure and raise significant sums for local good causes.

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■ ***At the Musicals Volume 2*** is on Saturday 23rd March at 7.30pm. Tickets are available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/stokepogessingers](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stokepogessingers) - price £15 for adults, under 14s free.



Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer Horticultural Society

## Horticultural Society celebrates 140th birthday

**Whether you're a gardening newbie or a seasoned grower, we'd love you join us for our birthday celebrations this year.**

We were formed in 1884, originally as the Stoke Poges and Wexham Cottage Horticultural Society. Fulmer village was invited to join in 1885, and in 1923 the name was changed to The Stoke Poges, Wexham and Fulmer Horticultural and Poultry Society. The name poultry was removed in 1932 when the poultry sections were dropped from the Annual Show and the current title was then adopted.

For our 140th birthday, we'd like as many of you as possible to get your 'green fingers' activated. Is this the year you start to grow your own fruit and veg? Or maybe houseplants could be your thing? Could you be the next winner of the best front garden in Stoke Poges? Give it a try, and come along to any of our events if you need some advice and encouragement.

### **'The Allotment, Month by Month'**

For those seeking wisdom and guidance, don't miss our evening talk on growing your own fruit and vegetables throughout the year. Whether you're a novice or a seasoned grower, this event promises some fascinating insights, tips and advice and a chance to ask those burning questions. Join us on Wednesday 13th March, 8pm at The Stoke Poges School – it's free for members and £3 for non-members.

### **Bank holiday plant sale**

Come and grab a bargain at our plant sale on Saturday 4th May (Early May bank holiday weekend) at Stoke Poges Village Hall from 10am to 12 noon. There will be all kinds of plants for sale, from bedding plants to vegetable plants, perennials to shrubs, and many of them will have been grown by our members.

We'll also have teas, coffee, and cakes available for purchase and there will be a membership stand with gardening advice.



## Save the date for the Annual Summer Show

Make a note in your diaries – our traditional Annual Show will take place on Saturday 27th July. In the next issue of *Stoke Poges News* we'll give you some ideas on how you can take part and join in the celebrations!

## Bursary to help budding horticulturalists

We offer a bursary each year of up to £400 for applicants aged between 16-25 living within a radius of 50 miles of Stoke Poges who wish to pursue a career in horticulture and gain the skills and knowledge needed for

entering and progressing within the profession. Priority is given to students following a horticultural course lasting one or more years and grants might for example go towards fees, research, travel in connection with a course, or other costs associated with a course to support individuals to gain accredited qualifications.

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■ Please visit [www.hortsoc.org](http://www.hortsoc.org) for more information on events and membership, plus details on how to apply for the bursary.

## Some gardening jobs for March

### March brings with it the eagerly anticipated arrival of spring.

This is the perfect time for garden enthusiasts to step outside and prepare for the season that lies ahead. As nature awakens, so does the gardener's to-do list. Here are a few essential tasks and exciting possibilities that March holds for your garden.

- As temperatures rise, and plants and bulbs begin to come back to life they are often, accompanied, unfortunately, by the unwelcome presence of weeds. March is an excellent time opportunity to tackle these intruders head-on. A diligent weeding session followed by a generous layer of mulch will not only suppress further weed growth but also nourish the soil and conserve moisture.
- As the sun gains strength, March welcomes the sowing of hardy annuals like cornflowers, calendula, poppies, and sweet peas directly outdoors. For an early start on sweet peas, consider sowing indoors to safeguard against potential nibbles from mice. Cosmos and dahlia

seeds can find a cosy home on a sunny windowsill, while dahlia tubers can be initiated in small pots in a greenhouse, ensuring protection against late frosts.

- For the vegetable garden enthusiasts, March is a busy month. Indoor cultivation of tomatoes, aubergines, chillies, and peppers continues. Cold frames or greenhouses provide the ideal environment for starting peas, brassicas, chard, broad beans, and spring onions. Towards the month's end, sow carrots, peas, beetroot, radish, and salad leaves directly where they will flourish.
- Tender and quick-growing veggies like runner beans, courgettes, cucumbers, and squash must wait until April/May or they will most likely outgrow your windowsill before its time to plant them out.
- It's also reassuring to know that even if time or space is lacking, our plant sale on Saturday 4th May will offer a good selection of fruit and vegetable plants, flowering plants and perennials.

■ Maureen Barton  
Chair, Stoke Poges, Wexham & Fulmer  
Horticultural Society

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# Children explore favourite stories

## The cold start to the year hasn't stopped our children's creativity at Sunshine Corner Pre-school!

Our topic for the first half of the spring term was 'My Favourite Stories'. The children thoroughly enjoyed all the role-play that was linked to the weekly stories. We have had a kitchen to make gingerbread men, boats at sea during the 'Pirates and Princesses at Sea' week, *The Three Little Pigs*' houses, a café from *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, and the children particularly enjoyed the stage role-play for the *Little Red Riding Hood* story.

Our next topic will be 'People Who Help Us' and we have lots of fun activities planned for Easter, Comic Relief, Mother's Day and Communication week.

If your child will be 2 by 31st March and you are looking for a setting for them, you may be eligible for 15 hours of free childcare. Use the 'Childcare Choices' website to find out more. At Sunshine Corner Pre-school we have spaces for 2 and 3 year olds. We accept fee paying, 2 year funding, the new working parent 2 year funding and 30 hours funding for 3 year olds.

We also run a Baby and Toddler group during term time. It takes place in the main hall of Stoke Poges Village Centre every Thursday morning, from 9.15am – 11.30am and for just £2.50 per family (subject to change). All families are welcome to join in for a play, chat and refreshments.

■ If you need more information or would like to visit for a look around, please call 01753 644300 or email [info@sunshinecornerpreschool.co.uk](mailto:info@sunshinecornerpreschool.co.uk)







Stoke Poges Village Social Club

## Social Club golf society tees off in April

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**The Social Club runs a golf society which is open to all members, with monthly games from April to October.**

The dates and venues for 2024 are as follows:

- April 19th – Badgemore Park GC
- May 17th – Downshire GC
- June 6th – Royal Ascot GC
- July 18th – Lambourne GC
- August 23rd – Wycombe Heights GC
- September 20th – South Bucks GC
- October 11th – Bird Hills GC

We are currently looking to expand our membership and welcome new golfers of all standards to join the Social Club and play in our society.

The days consist of coffee and bacon rolls before play, 18 holes of golf followed by a one course meal. We then meet up in the Village Centre Social Club in the evening for the prize giving.

- 
- *If any golfer would like further information, please contact the society organisers Barry Dulon on 01753 774280 or Phil Taylor on 01753 663143.*



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Friends of Stoke Common

## Supporting our local nature reserve

**Stoke Common is a valuable heathland habitat, but it needs our help to keep it thriving.**

The world has less heathland than it has rainforest and, in the UK, lowland heathland supports some of the countries rarest species. Sadly, huge areas of heathland have been lost in the UK due to neglect, farming, development and road construction. Buckinghamshire alone has lost 80% of its heathland habitat, and of the remaining fragments, the majority is at Stoke Common.

In October 2007, ownership of Stoke Common was passed to the City of London. Some management work was being carried out before this, but a succession of fires and limited resources meant that, whilst a core of remnant heathland remained, the overall condition of the heathland habitat on the common was poor.

Fortunately, the City of London's team at Burnham Beeches has the experience and resources required for restoring the heathland

habitat and, in their first 10 years, huge improvements were made. Much of this was achieved using agroforestry type machinery, enabling the team to make an instant impact on some of the areas of young, dense, scrubby birch growth that had sprung up following several fires on the common. However, there were many good-sized areas of heathy vegetation that had to be retained but were under threat from creeping secondary woodland and scrub. Using heavy machinery risked damaging these remnant patches so the only way to tackle the problem was manual cutting using staff and, most importantly, volunteers. Re-establishing the Friends of Stoke Common (FOSC) volunteer group was a key part of the management strategy for the heathland.

In 1978, an initiative by the trustees of the common led to the creation of the first FOSC group. They worked with a Manpower Services Commission (MSC) team controlling the invasive scrub and bracken, clearing fire damaged trees, and creating surfaced public rights of way. This work was instrumental in retaining the open areas, which provided a

remnant nucleus from which to expand, and in preventing pine and birch from taking a hold. In 1993, when South Bucks District Council took ownership of the Common, FOSC was disbanded and the Stoke Poges Ecological Society was formed.

When the City's team at Burnham Beeches took on management of the common, a three year partnership agreement with the BTCV (now TCV) was also entered into. With their support, FOSC was reformed in 2008 and it quickly developed into a thriving group. They have trained task leaders and first aiders and run their own tasks throughout the year to help deliver the reserve's management plan. Over the years, several thousand hours have been volunteered and the fantastic results are clear for all to see. The heathland habitat is thriving and supporting great numbers of heathland invertebrates, bird species and reptiles, and access is infinitely better with better surfaced paths which are no longer encroached by uninviting walls of gorse and birch scrub.

Whilst much of the large-scale clearance has been completed, the heathland habitat needs regular management, not just to retain the open areas but to allow them to continue to develop and improve in biodiversity. FOSC always need more volunteers to get involved, so this is a great opportunity for people living in Stoke Poges to take part in looking after a really special place right on our doorstep. You don't need any experience or tools, just plenty of enthusiasm and a desire to play a part in looking after your local patch. FOSC will explain the work that's needed and will provide as much tea, coffee and biscuits as you can consume! It's a great way to get some fresh air and exercise and to meet likeminded people living locally.

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■ To find out more, please contact FOSC at [friendsofstokecommon@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofstokecommon@gmail.com) or the Burnham Beeches and Stoke Common team at [burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk](mailto:burnham.beeches@cityoflondon.gov.uk)

Royal British Legion

## Poppy Appeal update

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### **Another successful Poppy Appeal has raised over £27,000 in our area.**

Around £16,000 was generated at the motorway service station and the rest came from around our villages and businesses. We will update you again later in the year when we have our final figures.

Thank you to all the volunteers. We'd like to make a special mention to Stoke Poges School who alone raised £404.55 – a tremendous amount!

The committee will now turn its attention to getting a bench installed in Hedgerley and renewing our storage shed, which is at the very end of its life. We have been offered a very kind and generous donation to replace it. If you can help with the dismantling and erection of the new shed, it would be greatly appreciated, so please do get in touch.

Equally, if you have been considering helping a truly worthy cause, then why not join us? You are most welcome to contact us – any help, big or small, is highly appreciated.

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■ For further information, please contact Chris or Manesh at the Royal British Legion:

Chris Leister-Crow, Poppy Appeal Organiser  
07942 016072  
[chrisleistercrow@aol.com](mailto:chrisleistercrow@aol.com)

Manesh Patel, Chairman  
07919 216820  
[manesh.k.patel@gsk.com](mailto:manesh.k.patel@gsk.com)

# News from The Stoke Poges School

## It was lovely to see the festivities around school during December.

The children had the opportunity to enjoy lots of Christmas activities, including taking part in and watching the fabulous KS1 production of *Lights, Camel, Action!*, where they wowed us with their singing, dancing, and acting, as they performed for their families and children from local nurseries.

In Reception, the children enacted a special version of the poem *The Night Before Christmas*, before inviting their parents to join them at the Reception Christmas market.

The choir was pleased to provide the entertainment for two Christmas lunches at

St Andrew's Church hall. Both performances went well – the audience sang along with the carols and thoroughly enjoyed our songs.

Our annual Year 5 and 6 Carol Concert was a joyful affair. We had solos and groups, songs and readings, something for everyone. It was an educational experience too – some of the children had never been inside St Giles' Church before, and were amazed at how old and beautiful it was.

## Christmas hamper appeal

We were overwhelmed by the response to our Christmas hamper appeal and would like to send our thanks to everyone who donated something for our local senior citizens. Our





Year 6 students enjoyed delivering a record 26 hampers around the village and singing carols to the very grateful recipients.

### **Learning about an orchestra**

At the end of the term, our Key Stage 2 children were entertained by the New Mozart Orchestra. This group of professional musicians told us the story of the *Town Musicians of Bremen*, a Brothers Grimm fairy tale. Each instrument took on a character in the story. The children learnt about the families in an orchestra and loved hearing the music.

The following day, 30 lucky children from Years 3 and 4 were given the fantastic opportunity to try out lots of different instruments. It was very noisy, but they had a lot of fun!

### **Library renovation**

This term, we are very excited to announce the renovation of our school library. We plan to revitalise its space and resources, ensuring an enriched learning hub for our pupils.

Our renovated library will provide an environment that stimulates curiosity and learning and will encourage students to explore and engage with diverse learning materials. By updating our book collections and incorporating multimedia resources we can nurture a passion for reading in all our children.



# Lent and Easter at Stoke Poges Church

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## **Lent is a time not necessarily to “give something up” but to give more attention to living well in community with others.**

The theme of this year’s Lent series for the Church of England is “Watch & Pray” and we’ll be following this in Sunday services and on Facebook Live on Wednesdays at 1pm starting 21st February. You can find us on Facebook [@stokepogeschurch](#)

If you miss a live session, they will be available to watch when you are ready in the “Videos” tab on Facebook.

### **Junior church**

There will be themed junior church sessions on some Sundays during the season and family friendly activities in the take-home sheet each week.

### **Watch and Pray booklets and app**

To help you follow the theme, you can pick up a booklet from church or download the app for your phone for daily prompts. If you still have the CofE “Follow the Star” Christmas app, this will update to become the “Watch & Pray” Lent app, or you can download it from the Appstore or Playstore.

### **In-depth study paperback and videos**

As well as the booklets and app, there is a paperback and video series called “Tarry Awhile” by Selina Stone and you can follow along as an individual or in a study group. You can order the paperback from Amazon. To join a group, please contact the church office.

### **Ash Wednesday on 14th February**

Our Ashing Service will be at 7.30pm in St Andrew’s Chapel. This quiet, contemplative service is for anyone who wants to mark the beginning of Lent with prayer and spoken worship together. If you wish, you can “receive the sign of the cross” on your forehead or hand in ash, made from palm crosses.

### **Mothering Sunday on 10th March**

Join us for our traditional Mothering Sunday Family Service at 10.30am at St Giles’ to celebrate and thank all who nurture us.

### **Baarmy Sheep Easter Trail**

From 26th March – 14th April, spot the sheep hiding around the village during the school holidays and win a prize. More details can be found on our Easter webpage at [www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter](http://www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter)

### **Maundy Thursday on 28th March**

Service with Agape Meal 7.30pm at St Andrew’s.

On Maundy Thursday, Christians recollect the Last Supper, the first Communion and the events leading to the arrest of Jesus the night before he was crucified. We share a simple supper of fellowship and a time of contemplation, prayerful worship and Holy Communion.

Why not come and learn more? Please RSVP on the clipboard at a church service for catering or contact the church office by Tuesday 26th March.

### Good Friday on 29th March

Good Friday is a remembrance of the day Jesus was crucified. Taken by itself, it is a sombre reminder of just how low humanity will stoop to get rid of what (or who) it thinks is the problem. As part of the Easter events, it is the dark before the dawn. You are warmly invited to witness what this means to us as Christians.

Our service starts by the flagpole on Bells Hill at 10am, then we process behind the cross in silence to St Andrew's, where our indoor service starts at 10.30am.

### Easter Sunday on 31st March

Easter Sunday celebrates Jesus' resurrection from the dead. Allelujah!

If you would prefer a quiet early service, please join us for "Son-rise" at 8am at St Giles' with traditional liturgy from the Book of Common Prayer and Holy Communion for those who wish to take it. Then our Family Communion Service at St Giles' at 10.30am will be followed by refreshments and an Easter egg hunt – will the eggs freeze or melt this year?!

All are welcome to see what this most important day in the Christian calendar means. You don't have to take communion or join in with all the words.



St Andrew's Church is the home of Baby Steps, Friday Coffee Group, Knit and Natter, the Lighthouse Café and Friday Club. They continue through the spring term, take a break for Easter and restart week commencing 15th April.

- *Details of all the groups and regular church services can be found on the church website or on the noticeboards at each church building. You can contact the church office on the details below.*

01753 642331  
[office@stokepogeschurch.org](mailto:office@stokepogeschurch.org)

[www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter](http://www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter)

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# Stoke Poges Church

## Lent & Easter Events

**Ash Wednesday 14th February**

7.30pm at St Andrew's

**Watch & Pray on Facebook**

1.00pm Wednesdays from 21st Feb

**Mothering Sunday 10th March**

10.30am at St Giles'

**Baarmy Sheep Easter Trail**

around the village during school holidays

**Maundy Thursday 28th March**

7.30pm Agape Meal at St Andrew's

**Good Friday 29th March**

10.00am at Bells Hill Flagpole

10.30am at St Andrew's

**Easter Sunday 31st March**

Son-rise Service (BCP) 8.00am at St Giles'

Family Communion Service 10.30am at St Giles'

For more details please visit  
[www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter](http://www.stokepogeschurch.org/easter)



# Enjoy an evening of beer and skittles

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**With winter over and spring arrived, Stoke Poges Men's Group has a variety of events planned for the coming months which are open for everyone to come and enjoy.**

We start on Saturday 16th March with our ever-popular *Beer & Skittles Evening* in the main hall at St Andrews Centre in Rogers Lane, Stoke Poges. It's a great opportunity for lads, dads, grandads and other fellas to get together for an evening of fun and relaxation.

As usual, a fish and chip supper will be provided, plus a wide range of drinks (craft beers, lager, soft drinks etc.) are all included in the price. The first game starts at 7pm, so arrive any time from 6.30pm for a drink and some healthy nibbles!

Everyone is welcome, so please do come and join us (not just playing skittles, but also pool, air hockey and table football). There is a limit on the number of places, so please book early. The evening should finish at approximately 10pm.

Our following event is a *Men's Breakfast* on Saturday 11th May. There's no better way to start your weekend than with a hearty cooked breakfast, and if that appeals to you then why not join us for some good food, good company and to hear a really interesting talk?

We'll meet at the Oak Room at the South Buckinghamshire Golf Club on Park Road, Stoke Poges at 8.15am. Our speaker will be David Fortune, a guy who has a passion for sharing the Christian message with men and women in prisons throughout the UK. David trained as a pastor and while leading a

church in London he began teaching and preaching in prisons. This led him to start producing resources for prison chaplains and, as the demand grew for those resources, he took the bold step of setting up the Christian Prison Resourcing (CPR) charity in 2010.

David is a natural leader and continues to play a significant role in the running of the charity, which has a large number of volunteer helpers across the UK. They work with prison chaplains and local churches, offering help and support in addition to providing a link between the prison and members of the local church (which is especially important in the resettlement of prisoners when they are released).

David encounters many interesting and challenging situations, especially when visiting prisoners (some in high security establishments) and he will be sharing those with us. Following his talk, he will take questions and we plan to finish by 10.15am.

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.

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

Tony Shortman  
01844 350014  
shortmantm@gmail.com

Nigel Lowe  
07973 349721  
nigelatsuchlowe@gmail.com



# 60th anniversary year ends on a high

## The Stoke Poges Players' run of *The Wicked Witches of Oz* at the Village Hall in December received glowing reviews!

The crowd-pleasing pantomime by Peter Nuttall had one audience member saying they could still hear the Wicked Witch of the West's cackle when they went to sleep that evening!

### Try something new, have fun and meet new people

The show also saw two performers making their debut to the stage for their first ever pantomime performance. Thushara from Stoke Poges said, "I only did a bit of drama in school and never really envisioned I would enjoy it, until I joined the Players. Initially, I joined only because my adolescent daughter wanted to do more drama outside of school, but I soon found it was good fun and a stress relieving activity."

Katherine, who comes from Farnham Common, recalled, "I had not performed since I was in school! I joined the Stoke Poges

Players this year because I wanted to try something new, have fun and to meet new people. I have really enjoyed being part of the group and everybody has been really encouraging. I have loved every part of it – the rehearsals, talking about costumes and props, the shows themselves and the post-show socials!"

So if you are interested in theatre, whether on-stage or making things happen behind the scenes, the Stoke Poges Players would love to hear from you.

Any level of experience is welcome, with many varied roles available including sound and lighting, production manager, prompt plus set design, prop and costume creators.

Why not give it a try? You might surprise yourself!

■ *Email [stoke.poges.players@gmail.com](mailto:stoke.poges.players@gmail.com) or check out their social media pages to get further details of opportunities and details of the Stoke Poges Players' forthcoming May performance.*





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# A trip down memory lane

**Earlier this year, members of The Stoke Poges Society met at The Stag pub in Wexham Street for A Trip Down Memory Lane where we shared stories and pictures of years gone by.**

Our next event will be on Monday 8th April at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church Centre, when Joseph Lovell will talk about the 1992 fire at Windsor Castle and its restoration.

Then on Thursday 16th May there will be a tour of the John Lewis Partnership Heritage Centre in Cookham.

One of the aims of the Society is the study of all matters relating to the history of Stoke Poges. Therefore, by popular request, we continue to tell the early recorded history of the Parish of Stoke Poges. The story is based on a copy of the history published in the village's church magazine of 1894 by the vicar of Stoke Poges, Reverend Vernon Blake. This time, we explain the origins of the name of our village and explore six generations of the de Moleyns family in Stoke Poges.

We hope you find it interesting!

- *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](http://www.e-voice.org.uk/stoke-poges-society)

## History of Stoke Poges: Part Two

### The derivation of Stoke Poges

The de Stoke family, who were in charge of Stoke Poges, did not seem to have a high place amongst the Buckinghamshire proprietors. Their name is not found in any list of sheriffs or in connection with any official dignity.

Upon the death of Richard de Stoke in the middle of the 13th century, his daughter and heiress Amecia de Stoke became the lord of the manor, and a man named 'de Pogeys' was her guardian. She married his son, "Sire Robert Pogeys" (also spelt Pugeys and Pogeis), who was a knight of the county in the Parliament of Edward I. His name appears in the roll of arms of Edward II and his arms recorded there bear a resemblance to those of the Lords of Rohan, a noble Breton family in France. Henceforth, the surname of two families distinguished Stoke Poges, before 1269.

### Six generations of the de Moleyns family in Stoke Poges

After Sir Robert's death in about 1330, his heirs were Egidia (Gille), the wife of John de Moleyns, together with Joan and Alice. The three ladies were the granddaughters of Sir Robert. Joan and Alice agreed to handover their claim of interest to the manor to Sir John de Moleyns (also spelt Molines).

Little was written by the Victorians or by 20th century historians about the de Moleyns family in Stoke Poges. Their period spans from Sir John de Moleyns possessing the manor in 1331, through to Eleanor de Moleyns' marriage to Sir Robert Hungerford in 1441. Nowadays,

records in the British Library and National Archives, such as patent rolls, are more accessible to the public. Whilst these records clearly show what some of the de Moleyns family did nationally, for example in battle or against the king, one has to look deeper to what happened in Stoke Poges over that 110 year period.

Sir John gained a royal licence to fortify his home, probably in the location where the manor house stands today. The king also gave him permission to enclose some woods and other land to form a parkland known as Stoke Park, therefore becoming the owner of the deer within (rather than the monarch). He was allowed to hold fairs where much trade was carried out. An inventory for June 1341 shows 134 acres of cultivate demesne arable, 22 oxen and 150 sheep. Sir John's grandson, Richard, chopped down many trees in Stoke Poges to raise money for a ransom. Throughout the period there was building work carried out on St Giles' Church beginning with a new nave by Sir John and then tombs and brasses to the family in the chancel beside the altar.

The de Moleyns family owned several manors. Stewards, i.e. land managers, were employed – needed whilst the lord of the manor was off elsewhere such as at court or in battle. In 1407, a steward called William Wyot and his wife Elizabeth were given property in Ditton and Datchet for the render of one rose every midsummer for the term of their lives. Two years earlier, William had become a godfather to a de Moleyns and gifted a fine horse to him. That de Moleyns, also called William, died at the siege of Orléans when the English army were beginning to retreat. It was the day after Joan of Arc had been struck by an arrow.

The two main de Moleyns who stand out

Sir John de Moleyns' arms on the Easter Sepulchre in St Giles' Church



are Sir John and Sir William. Arguably one of the most evil residents ever in the village was Sir John. He is described in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* as an administrator and criminal. He was close to Edward III as his treasurer in charge of the royal wealth and enjoyed his favour. He stormed Nottingham Castle in a coup against Roger Mortimer, Earl of March. In 1339 he was a member of the Royal Council. Yet at times, he was locked up in the Tower of London and other places.

There is still doubt as to whether he had Peter de Poges murdered to facilitate total ownership of the Manor of Stoke Poges. He was acquitted at a trial where those judging him were his associates. He held much land in Buckinghamshire and was said to be brutal to residents and ran criminal gangs in and around the county. It may be





Parts of a memorial brass depicting Sir William Moleyns (left) and his wife, Lady Margery




surprising today to find written in a patent roll in January 1346, at the Tower of London, that he received a pardon from the King for ‘all manner of homicides, robberies, larcenies, firings and rapes of women’. By 1352 he was Steward to Queen Phillipa, consort of Edward III, yet by 1357 he was charged with crimes in Buckinghamshire. Two examples relevant to Stoke Poges area were stealing the vicar of Stoke Poges’ horse and theft of swans which he attempted to cover up by cutting off their legs and necks. Sir John died in 1367 whilst locked up in Cambridge Castle.

The second de Moleyns of note, Sir William, was born in 1377 at Coleman Street, London. He was an effective businessman and manager of his family by

enhancing their social status.

In Buckinghamshire, he acted for the king as a commissioner for loans and a commissioner of array (i.e. making residents fit to fight as soldiers).

His daughter, Catherine married the 1st Duke of Norfolk, whilst his son married Katherine Fauconer, the daughter of a very wealthy London mercer and Lord Mayor of London. His wife, Margery, even had papal indults (permission from the pope to deviate from Church law) in 1425 and 1426, according to a previous person called the Windsor Herald of Arms. Today it’s their brasses which have survived in St Giles’ Church.

 Harvey Whittam



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## Educating thoughtless drivers

**After many weeks of either freezing cold or extremely wet weather, we only managed to get out with the speed camera towards the end of January.**

Our session opposite Banana Moon on Bells Hill resulted in 26 letters being sent out to thoughtless drivers, with a top speed of 53mph. The Community Speedwatch initiative is primarily one of education, though repeat offenders will be visited by the police. We would like to arrange a session somewhere in the village once a week, but we need more volunteers!

After watching a short training video and being approved, you can volunteer as much or as little time as you like. We generally set up for an hour at a time – once the equipment



is switched on there is nothing else to do but chat to your partner. Some of the members commit to one hour a month, whilst others we only see a few times a year.

■ *If you would like to get involved, please get in touch via the Parish Clerk.*

*theclerk@stokepogesparishcouncil.gov.uk  
01753 644803*

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# All the gear and no idea?

**I have been asked to write this article as I've been a member of the Photographic Club for a long time...**

Amazingly, it must be about 10 years since I started as a total beginner, and over those years have held a couple of the minor roles on the committee.

My story is: I bought a camera to use on holiday; a proper DSLR camera and immediately became that guy with 'all the gear and no idea!'

However, learning was fun and I thought my pictures were brilliant. So, when I found out that my neighbour was a member of the Stoke Poges Photographic Club I asked if I could come along. (Secret: the club needs new members and everybody is welcome).

Stoke Poges is the 'Friendly Photographic Club' and we have a mix of invited talks from accomplished photographers, workshops, and internal and inter-club competitions. Like many new members, I was at first reluctant to enter the competitions as I thought everybody else would take better pictures than me with their even better cameras. In fact, people take clever, inspiring and creative pictures, often with their phones. My photo 'Surprise Arch' of the Arches National Park in Utah, USA, was taken on an iPhone 11.

I am particularly proud of the photo below, shot in Stoke Common as part of my recent Associateship of the Royal Photographic Society (ARPS) award.

Internal competitions are anonymous – nobody knows who took which pictures, apart from the winners, where the photographers are congratulated. The judge is kind to those



'Image 15' by Andy Smith



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starting out in the Intermediate category, (“Advanced photographers should know better”), and it is always constructive feedback. Competitions are a supportive way to get informed and unbiased feedback that’s essential for learning. Apparently not all my photos were brilliant, but only I know that, and I now know how I might improve them next time.

My current role on the committee is External Competitions Secretary where I use the best pictures that are entered into internal competitions the year before, to compete against other clubs this year. It is interesting to see work from some of the big serious clubs and I am very proud to say that for a small friendly club we punch above our weight, regularly beating the clubs in our immediate vicinity. An example is ‘Corfe Castle’ by Paul Mothersill. Visit our website to have a look at the gallery of other pictures.

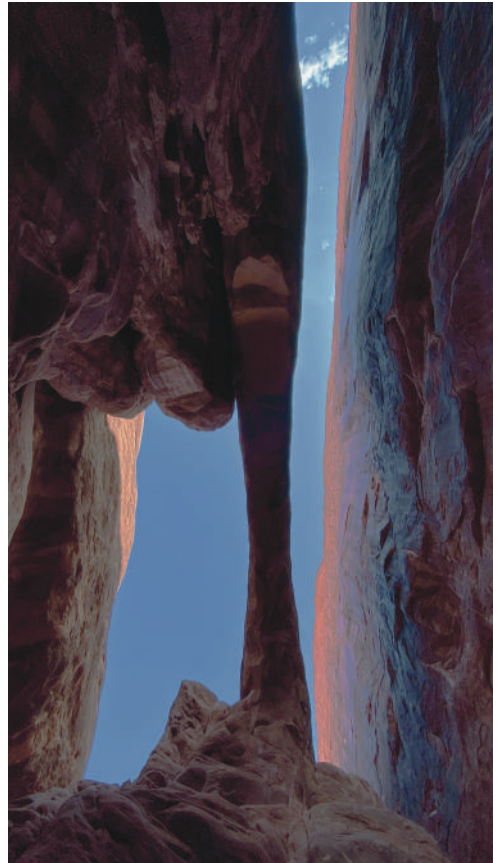
And if you’re interested, please do send us a message or just pop in for a free taster and see what we do. We meet on Tuesday evenings, 8-10pm in the Village Hall on Rogers Lane.

 *Andy Smith ARPS*  
*External Competitions Secretary*

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■ *New members are welcome – from complete beginners to experts. Visit the Stoke Poges Photographic Club website for contact details and to find out more.*

[www.stokepogesphtoclub.co.uk](http://www.stokepogesphtoclub.co.uk)



*‘Surprise Arch’ by Andy Smith*



*‘Corfe Castle’ by Paul Mothersill*





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# An update from Buckinghamshire Council

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We are now well into the winter highways maintenance programme. The crews are on standby to go out gritting if the forecast temperature merits it. In addition, they carry out emergency repairs on potholes that open up due to the freeze-thaw effect of water in cracks in the road surfaces. If you see a new defect in a road surface, please report it by using the 'FixMyStreet' website. The web address is below and there is a link to it on the Parish Council's homepage. FixMyStreet is central to how the Council prioritises and allocates work, so any issues related to roads, signs, lights, pavements and overgrown vegetation should be reported this way.


I chair the Finance and Resources Select Committee. In January, we undertook Budget Scrutiny, an enquiry at which the leader and all portfolio holders were subjected to questions from the committee on how they had modelled the demand for their portfolios' services and how they propose to deliver services. You may have read elsewhere that Martin Tett, the leader, has identified four key service areas that are at risk of overspending: adult care, children's services, home-to-school transport and temporary accommodation for homeless people. The sessions were highly informative. The committee concluded that portfolio holders and officers had considered their budgets carefully, with some innovative investments (e.g. children's homes) that will reduce expenditure. The committee intends to do follow-up in-depth investigations into schools' transport and homeless accommodation. The committee acknowledged that there are some risks, however, it's unlikely that all the adverse scenarios will impact together. The scrutiny sessions were webcast and recordings can be viewed on the Council's

website. If you're interested in where your Council Tax is spent then you may find it useful to watch the sessions.

One area of spending that is being protected is gully cleansing. The Council has a fleet of gully suckers and super suckers that are used to empty the catch pots below the roads. These hold and release run-off water into the drainage ditches and water courses. The gullies don't just hold water but litter and composting leaves, which forms a sediment that takes up water-holding capacity and slows down the flow of run-off water leading to flooding across our roads. Driving around at this time of year, I regularly see gardeners with a noisy leaf blower directing leaves off a driveway onto the road. The thought crosses my mind, "Do you realise that you're sabotaging the drains on this road?" If you or someone you know is going to be leaf blowing, please gather up the leaves and dispose of them in the Council's green waste service or bag them up and take them to a household recycling centre (Burnham, Beaconsfield and Langley are the nearest).

The government has introduced a change in the law that enables home owners to dispose of waste arising from do-it-yourself projects at no cost. You can now take DIY waste to Council recycling centres. However, you will have to download a permit from the Council's website and take a form of identification with you to prove you live in Buckinghamshire.

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 *Ralph Bagge*

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■ You can find the FixMyStreet website at <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

# Looking back in time with Hedgerley Historical Society

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## Details of Hedgerley Historical Society's upcoming talks.

### 'Mottes, Moats and Castles in Buckinghamshire' with Michael Farley FSA

Wednesday 20th March, 8pm

No single memorable battle is recorded in Buckinghamshire and the county has only one surviving defensive structure built of stone – Boarstall Tower (pictured below). There are only a few documents recording the existence of castles here, but fortunately surviving earthworks show that several others existed. Far more numerous are moated sites – where do they fit in? This talk will look at the variety of evidence available.

Prior to becoming a mature student at the University of Wales where he read Archaeology, Mike Farley had a completely different career and was fortunate to be able

to make a longstanding hobby his job. On appointment as 'Field Archaeologist' at Buckinghamshire County Museum, Mike conducted or arranged excavations and with the assistance of numerous volunteers initiated the county's database of locations and finds of historic significance (the much expanded version of which is now available online via Buckinghamshire Council's 'Heritage Portal' site).

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### 'Railways round the Chilterns: A Historical Journey' with Dr Rudi Newman

Wednesday 17th April, 8pm

The counties of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire have long played a major part in national history, a key element to this being transportation. From 1838 to 1925 some 45 networked railways were built here and each has history reflecting elements of rail development, from feared new technology to rampant competition and enthusiasm. Based on his book *Railways Round The Chilterns*, Dr Rudi Newman will present a round journey across these three counties, discovering the history of some of their railways plus a few stories of life on the lines. This journey was once entirely possible, but today exists only as a memory of travels past. Enjoy the trip!

Dr Rudi Newman has a long-standing passion for all things historical, particularly concerning his specialised field of transportation – his doctoral study having centred on Victorian railway socio-economics and the impact of the coming of the railways to the Chilterns. He is also the author of





*Travelling to Tragedy, Steaming to Sixty: Watford Miniature Railway, and Railways Round The Chilterns.* Formerly the Honorary Secretary and Editor of the British Titanic Society, he has also featured on the BBC, Channel 4, Sky News, international television and other media outlets, and has lectured at institutions including the National Archives, National Railway Museum and Trinity College, Cambridge.

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### **'The Enumerator Strikes Back' with Dave Annal**

Wednesday 15th May, 8pm

The enumerators first went to work on the UK census in 1841 and have performed a vital role in each successive decennial census ever since then. It hasn't always been an easy ride: confronted by hostile householders and at the mercy of the decisions made by the census authorities, their stories shed a fascinating light on one of the most important sets of records used by family and local historians



today. Using original documents, contemporary newspaper reports and the census returns themselves, this talk will turn the spotlight onto the men and women who created the UK's census returns.

Dave Annal is a professional researcher with over 40 years' experience. He is a former Principal Family History Specialist with the National Archives and he worked at the Family Records Centre for many years. In 2019 he was awarded a Fellowship of the Society of Genealogists and in 2022 he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society. Dave has written a number of family history books including the bestselling beginner's guide *Easy Family History*, Pen & Sword's *Birth, Marriage & Death Records* (with Audrey Collins) and, with Peter Christian, he is the co-author of *Census: the Family Historian's Guide*. Dave has been researching his own family history since the mid-1970s and he hasn't finished yet!

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

[jdlovelock@btinternet.com](mailto:jdlovelock@btinternet.com)

[www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.hedgerleyhistoricalsociety.org)





**Stoke Poges Badminton Club**

## Badminton club courts new members

**Our friendly, medium-standard badminton club has vacancies for new players as two of our members have moved out of the area.**

We play doubles badminton in The Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 8pm to 10pm. Do come and see us for a try out or give us a call if you're interested.

■ For further information, please contact Phil Taylor on 07719 061785.

**Stoke Poges & Wexham Women's Institute**

## Women's Institute goes Wilde

**Oscar Wilde is the topic of the WI's first meeting of the year.**

On Wednesday 13th March, Colin Oakes will speak about the famous Irish poet and playwright who lived in London during the late 1800s. His plays and poetry are still popular and he is well-known for his wit, flamboyance and his trial and sentence.

Our spring lunch will be at Wexham Park Golf course on Wednesday 10th April. We've arranged a three course meal including tea or coffee and we'll be taking names and choices at our next meetings.

In May, we'll welcome Giles Oakley for a talk entitled *Two Spoons – a Tea Master*. He is a professional tea taster with over 25 years of experience in the tea trade, primarily as a buyer and blender. As everyone knows, our meetings are not complete without tea and cakes!

■ 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.

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# Stoke Poges Parish Council

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[www.stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Ralph Bagge** (Chairman)  
[cllrbagge@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrbagge@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Saera Carter BEM** (Vice-chairman)  
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**Manjit Bassi**  
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**Nick Moore**  
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**Steve Webster**  
[cllrwebster@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:cllrwebster@stokepogeparishcouncil.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,  
Steve Webster

**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@stokepogeparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:theclerk@stokepogeparishcouncil.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  
Community Speedwatch — Anne Frank

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## Buckinghamshire Councillors for Stoke Poges & Wexham ward

**Ralph Bagge**  
[rbagge@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:rbagge@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

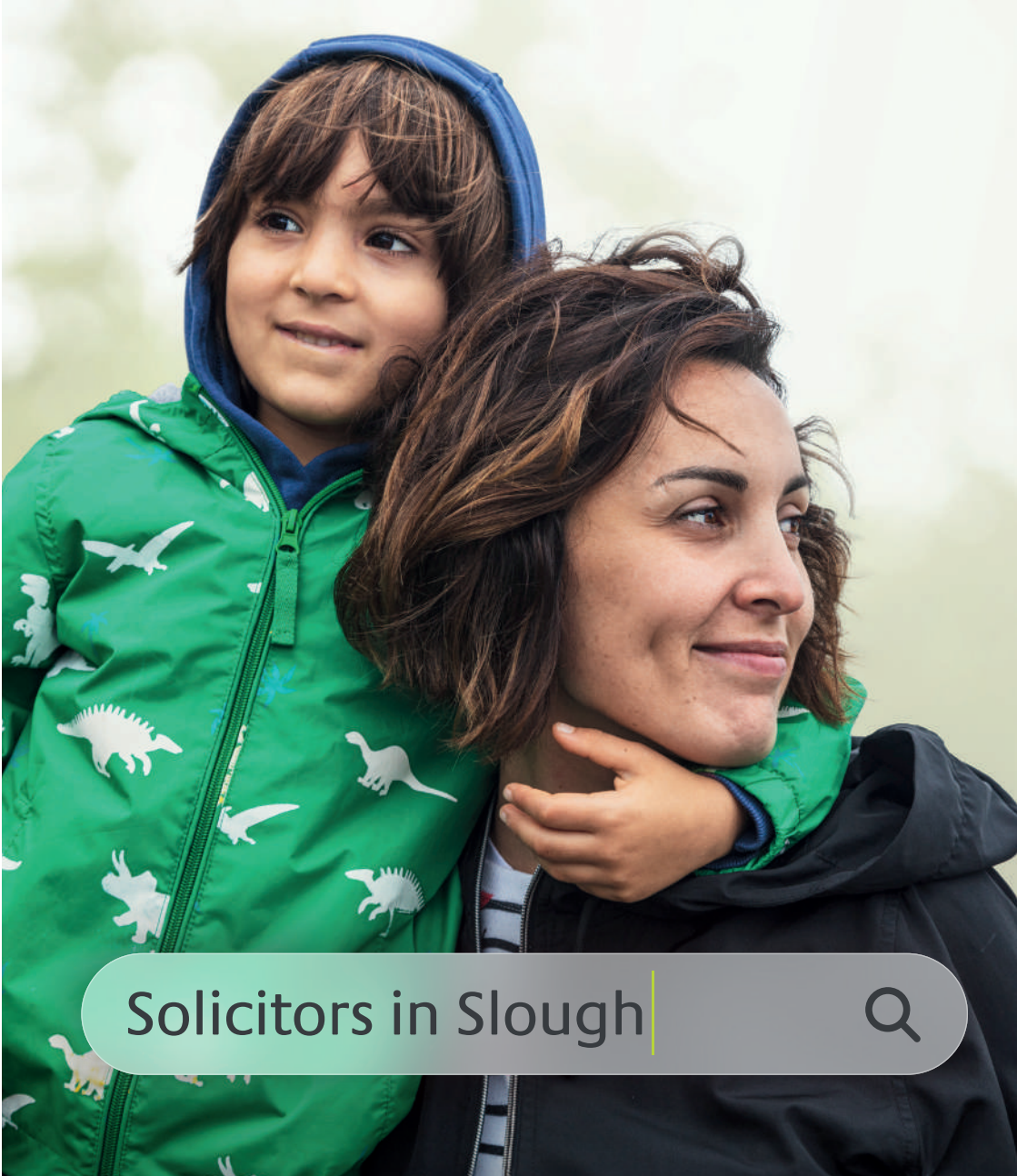
**Trevor Eggleton**  
[tegleton@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:tegleton@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

**Thomas Hogg**  
[thogg@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:thogg@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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## Member of Parliament

**Joy Morrissey MP**  
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0207 219 6453  
[joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:joy.morrissey.mp@parliament.uk)



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