

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report

This newsletter must make comment on the suggestion that our school is going to be redeveloped. You may have heard of a proposal for a new school and up to 250 new houses on the existing school site and the land known as 'Black Horse' field.

There has not been a formal approach to the Parish Council on this matter and I must point out that any development is a matter for South Northamptonshire Council, as the planning authority. If this proposal does become an application and it is put before your Parish Council, I have recommended that there be a proper open public meeting at which time the views of the entire village can be heard and with all of the stakeholders present. We will then be able to make our views known to the SNC Planning Committee. Until then we must remain impartial and listen to all of the arguments. We will advise you if and when such a meeting is called.

You may also be aware that the land between Old Stratford and Passenham has suddenly been put up for sale. This is disappointing as we were in discussions with CEMEX to buy/lease some land for our village allotment site.

Given the many planning issues that are likely to be raised over the next few years I think that it is now a good time to consider starting to produce a new village plan to reflect our opinions and aspirations. However, I am becoming increasingly concerned with the content of the draft New Planning Policy Framework which seems to be contradicting the spirit of the Localism Bill. This is a

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matter for us all to watch and make our views known to others. To contribute to the process I would like to ask you all to come along to our monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall to participate in our meetings.

There are also two outstanding planning issues to note:

Land east of The Meadows (where a previous appeal against the District Council refusal for 33 dwellings) was lost and now has an outstanding appeal against the refusal to permit 15 dwellings on the same area of land.

The other is outline permission for ACE plant to relocate from its current site in Cosgrove Road to land between the A508 / A5 and Old Cosgrove Road. Part of that outline permission was for the applicant to apply for the redevelopment of the existing site before proceeding. An outline application for 35 dwellings has been received. The Parish Council made an objection on a number of issues regarding the environmental clean up, preserving the canal heritage, the justification for 35 dwellings given the constraints of the site and to secure some planning gain for the benefit of Old Stratford

Richard Whittaker
Chairman

Old Stratford Parish Council

**Will be holding its annual Remembrance Sunday
Wreath Laying ceremony on
13th November at 11am**

Everyone is welcome

The Wartime Christmas
Saturday 3rd December 2011

Start December off with an early dose of Christmas spirit with a free Christmas gift from the parish church as they present 'A War-time Christmas'.



'Edna' formally of the Imperial War Museum will lead an interactive wartime Christmas presentation, explaining that although winter frost may threaten the "Dig for Victory" garden, Britons were determined to celebrate Christmas.

Suitable for all age groups with 1940's 'make do & mend' Christmas craft activity for younger children.

Evening starts 7:30pm. Old Stratford Primary School, Willow Grove, Milton Keynes, MK19 6AZ. Admission free.

Te: 01908 563635 www.hldchurch.org

Summer season in Old Stratford

I was reflecting the wildlife events during this Bank Holiday weekend when I was caught in the second sudden shower and thought I might use the break wisely and pen a short follow up to the post in June.

The first item has to be the wonderful success of the Little Owls. You may recall I had spotted a pair roosting in a tree across the meadow. Well I was delighted to find later that month two beautiful fluffy chicks branching and stretching their wings most evenings. Over the next few weeks I continued to watch them grow stronger, take flight and finally join their parents in hunting. My last sighting was a week ago when one bird sat upon the roof a few doors up calling, then flew into the tree on the corner of Dickens Drive. If you hear a strange owl like call just as it gets dusk have a look out for them. It really has been my highlight of 2011, as was spotting three Red kites soar across the garden and continue circling towards the river and Stony Stratford.

As for the butterflies, sadly my prediction came to fruition with many of the abundant species sadly missing. Did any of you join in the 'Butterfly survey' at the beginning of August? I submitted a few results, all were single butterflies of each type. Whereas every year since I have been at Old Stratford there has been quite an abundance. This though should not be seen as a long term concern just yet, as I have experienced similar patterns before and they have a remarkable ability of bouncing back in later years. It will now all depend upon the harshness of the winter and the conditions in the spring.

How did your song birds do this season? Certainly in my garden the numbers recovered from the poor start and there were a number of successful broods from the Blue, Great and Long tailed tits. Both Robin pairs also had two successful families. But the most abundant numbers this year have been the House Sparrows and the Starlings. Both of these species are reported to be down in

population over the last 10 years but again I think they are surely on the road to recovery.

My only gripe in the garden this summer has been the wasps. No, I don't have a problem with this creature normally and we co-exist quite cordially. But this year due to the lack of caterpillars, which are one of their main sources of food, they have taken to killing off most of the spiders and eating my fruit! I lost the battle of the Gooseberries and they are now helping themselves to my Cox apples! All aided by the flies due to the lack of spiders, just one element of the cycle of life has a knock on effect with everything else.

I wonder what 2012 has in store for the creatures 'on my doorstep'?

The man from the Meadow.

**A reminder that all highway issues, defective street lamps and other parish matters of concern can be reported direct to the Parish Clerk Derek Everett
On 01908 569053 or via the website on
www.oldstraford.org.uk**

**Alternatively reports can be made via the County Councils Street Doctor on 0845 601 1113
or online at
www.northamptonshire.gov.uk**

Fireworks

Seniors Citizens Christmas Dinner

Message from Northants Police

I am PCSO James Herbert and I will be working in Old Stratford alongside PC Wallace, I have been a PCSO for nearly 7 years starting this role with Thames Valley in Aylesbury. I transferred over to Northamptonshire 5 years ago and have worked in Northampton Town Centre and at present I cover the Town Centre in Towcester. I enjoy the job I do and I look forward to working alongside the Community of Old Stratford and bring in some new ideas that I can share.

As the darker nights are coming can we be vigilant of children playing out in the street when driving around Old Stratford and we will probably see an increase of children playing closer to their homes as a number of parents will find this a safer place to be.

Halloween and Bonfire night is approaching and we normally get an increase of Anti-Social Behaviour during those evenings. The Safer Community Team will be running an operation around this patrolling and attending incidents, or complaints. We will also be visiting local shops and advising them on the selling of eggs, flour and fire works to young people. Can I also mention to parents to be vigilant of their children taking out eggs and flour as most of the calls we get are houses and buildings being bombarded with these items. I will also be visiting a number of the Schools around the area talking in assemblies about keeping safe around Halloween and Bonfire night. To report any incidents of Anti Social Behaviour please call us on the Non Emergency Number 03000 111 222 or 999 in an emergency.

The Non Emergency Number changed on Monday 17th October 2011 to the new National 101 Police Non Emergency Number. But you can still use 03000 111 222 which will go through to the correct line.

PCSO James Herbert 7102

SCT Towcester Safer Community Team
Telephone: 03000 111 222 Ext: 3209

Old Stratford Pre-school

For anyone new to Old Stratford, the Pre-School is a community pre-school run by a parental committee. The pre-school meets each day at Old Stratford Community Hall on Deanshanger Road. It accepts children aged 2 years until school entry.

The pre-school offers sessions 5 days a week and these can be full or half days.

Sessions are:

Breakfast club 8.00 till 8.30am,

Morning session 8.30 till 11.30am,

Lunch Club 11.30 till 12.00pm,

Afternoon session 12.00 – 3.00pm,

Full day 8.30 till 3.00pm.

Each child must enrol for a minimum of two sessions per week although further sessions, lunch clubs or breakfast clubs can be arranged as availability allows.

Please visit our website for further details at:

www.oldstratfordpreschoolplaygroup.co.uk

or phone Dawn 01908 260 664

So please support our pre-school – we are a charity and all funds raised all go towards improving the preschool.

Old Stratford Pre-school

Diary Dates

Mobile Library Timetable (Use It or Lose It)

2nd Wednesday of each month between 12:00—12:20 at
Deanshanger Road, Old Stratford near The Memorial Hall

09 November 2011

14 December

11 January 2012

08 February

14 March

11 April

09 May

13 June

11 July

District Councillors Surgery (Between 11:00—12:00)

At the Memorial Hall on the following dates:

26 November 2011

17 December

28 January 2012

25 February

24 March

28 April

26 May

23 June

28 July

No dates in August

22 September

27 October

24 November

22 December

No appointment necessary but a
courtesy call on subject would
be appreciated if research is
required

Cllr Mary Clarke

07747 75524

E: mclarke@cognisco.com

Carol Service

18th December at 11am in the Memorial Hall

What's On at the Community Hall

Monday

Pre-School		
Pilates	7.15	— 9.15
Karate	7—9	
Boxercise	6—7	

Tuesday

Pre-School		
Parents & Toddlers		9.30—11.30am
Zumba	6.30—7.15	
Evening Bowls	8—10	

Wednesday

Pre-School		
Slimmers World		10—11.30am
Karate	6—10	
Slimmers World		7.30—9

Thursday

Pre-School		
Afternoon Bowls	2—4	
Zumba	6.30—7.15	
Weight Watchers	7.30—8.15	
Energise Fitness	9.15—11.15	
Badminton	7.30—10	

Friday

Pre-School		
Tumble Tots (Gymbabies + Gymbobs)		

What's on at the Memorial Hall

Pilate	Tuesdays	2—3	& 6—7
	Wednesdays		9.15—10.15
	Thursdays		9.15—11.15
	Fridays		9.15—10.15

NEW Craft Club All welcome in the Memorial Hall

Mondays 2—4.30

Contact: Kay Mooney 567464

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:

Richard Whittaker Rectory Cottage, Passenham 567895

Vice Chairman:

Tony Pateman 32 Mounthill Avenue 567907

Council:

Ian Baxter 6 Wharf Close 260694

Bruce Clayton 54 Chapmans Drive 562778

Donald MacDonald 61 Deanshanger Road 562035

David Meadowcroft 75 Deanshanger Road 07793516875

Karen Morris 89 Deanshanger Road 07532161875

George Rogers 6 Manorfields Road 262919

Pauline Stevenson 73 Oxfield Park Drive 263905

Susan Tomlinson 30 Dickens Drive 565840

Colin Ward 21 London Road 565138

Clerk:

Derek Everett 10 Deanshanger Road 569053
(de@mk196aw.fsnet.co.uk)

District Councillor:

Mary Clarke 12 Station Road, Bisworth, NN7 3DS
(Text 07747 757524) 01604 859031
(mary.clarke@southnorthants.gov.uk)

County Councillor:

Allen Walker 17 Porters Close, Deanshanger 260302
(awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

Old Stratford Council website : www.oldstratford.org.uk