

**OLD STRATFORD
PARISH COUNCIL
AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Saturday 3rd November at the Community Hall.

Details on Page 6

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 8th December in the Community Hall

Invitations are being prepared, but if you are new to Old Stratford or have never been before and would like an invitation please see:

Details on Page 6

Old Stratford Parish Council

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

Everyone is welcome

OCTOBER 2012

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this, our autumn edition of the Newsletter.

The summer newsletter was deferred due to planning issues, not least because of the ACE Plant relocation and rumours about a new school.

At the last council meeting, the head teacher kindly updated us on the latest position of the school. It appears that The Education Authority no longer supports the need for a new school and seems to have made money available for essential repairs to the school building which will start shortly.

The Cosgrove Road ACE Plant site re-development in outline, prior to its relocation to a site off of the A508 had raised planning and development issues and although supported in principle by the parish council certain comments had not been addressed. These issues will now be discussed before formal submission to the District Council Planning Committee.

Milton Keynes Parks Trust are still considering our request for allotment land on the fields that they have recently acquired between Old Stratford and Passenham and are making positive noises.

The village questionnaire is complete and it should be with you, for completion, by the end of November. When you receive them please do complete them and let us have them back as it is really important that the village plan reflects all of your views.

We also have a current vacancy on the Parish Council, so if you are interested, please pop along to see what it entails.

I will end with my usual plea and ask you all to come along and participate in our monthly meetings held on the second Tuesday in the month at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

Richard Whittaker. Chairman

**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.oldstrafor.org.uk**

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

Nature Yards from Your Door

Spring saw gardens brimming with bright colours and fragrances of lilac and blackcurrant. This is when our vast bee population is working its hardest with dozens of different types and size bees all looking for nectar to bring back to their own respective nests. Bumble bees occupying sites such as disused mouse or vole holes in the ground and mason bees making use of cracks in walls to make their nests. Unlike honey bees all of these types are solitary requiring very little space to nest. We have been delighted for some years to watch the mason, solitary and leaf cutter bees use the simple bee boxes we have in the garden. With bees being such essential pollinators I would encourage anyone to help them out by having a box.

'The Country Man' previously hit on the plight of some of our song birds this year with it being a harsh winter and would the effects be felt in the numbers seen. From my location I can say I haven't noticed a reduction in numbers. This could possibly be as 80% of all our song birds spend the winter in Scandinavia returning in the spring and they missed the worst of our weather. There is song being provided in the front and back of Deanshanger Road from robins (at all hours I might add) song thrushes and dunnocks. We have even been lucky enough to have been visited by blackcaps and bullfinches. It is the smallest birds that do suffer the most in winter with less ability to maintain body temperatures being so small. I think there may be a few less blue tits and long tailed tits in our gardens and I didn't see the coal tit at all this spring. Smaller still the wrens and goldcrests have been rarely seen so far this year.

The winter months were not only hard on the birds but also the butterfly populations. I fear this may be a year where our normal

butterfly abundance on the buddleia will be greatly reduced. Species like the brimstone and orange tip were in flight early as these over winter in the pupal state, often well protected from the elements. For the tortoiseshell, red admiral, peacock and comma all of these are our most often seen species because unlike any others they are able to hibernate and appear in the warm spring days to kick start the summer breeding season. But numbers are very low this year. The nectar rich plants so often visited year on year were in full bloom and the sun had been constantly warm enough to wake them from their slumber early in the year. I have only seen one comma and later than usual, peacock and admiral.

The nice break of two long weekends has enabled me to be in the garden more and I have been rewarded by a number of raptor sightings. There has often been a pair or three buzzards soaring high over Old Stratford looking for carrion and recently hearing the unmistakable cry. I was delighted to see seven of them circling together. This has subsequently been topped by two appearances of the red kite, three together the second time, flying across Deanshanger Road and down towards the river. On the first occasion the kite was joined by a sparrow hawk and the size difference becomes so apparent when they circle together. Last weekend our most common raptor the kestrel, hunted in the meadow hovering and swooping as it looks for signs of voles in the field which are again abundant. Lastly, the sighting of the year to date, a little owl roosting. Having spotted him roosting in the same tree for a week or two I can only assume he has set a nest site there. I'll keep you posted.

So it is all happening right outside your door, keep your eyes peeled and without having to go to nature reserves or sit in hides you will find all number of wonderful creatures just yards from your door

The man from the meadow

Old Stratford Community Hall News.

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

We are holding our annual Fireworks Display on Saturday 3rd November at the Community Hall. Gates open at 5.30pm and the event finishes at 7.30pm. Adults are £2; children under 16 are free. We will be offering you a fun evening with lots of activities for the children, our very popular band, BBQ, hot and cold drinks, a bar, sweets and popcorn, mulled wine, doughnuts and lots more. Please come along and support our groups.

AFTERNOON TEAS

Our monthly afternoon teas for senior citizens are proving to be very popular and we would like to thank everyone who is attending and all the people who volunteer to help. We hold these events on the last Friday of every month between 2pm and 4pm at the Memorial Hall. Why not come along and join us? You are welcome to bring along your friends, even if they don't live in Old Stratford. We offer a selection of delicious homemade sandwiches and cakes and it's a perfect opportunity to have a chat with your friends. Our next afternoon tea is Friday 26th October so we hope to see you there!

SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Another date for your diary is Saturday 8th December when we will be holding our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch. Invitations are being prepared and will be delivered in the next couple of weeks. This is a lovely event where volunteers from the village and the Community Hall committee make and serve a four course Christmas Lunch, with singing from the Old Stratford Primary School Choir. If you are new to the village or have never been before and would like some more information, please contact Lesley Peach on 01908 307461 and we will send you an invitation. We welcome anyone over the age of 65, however if you have a partner who is under 65, they are very welcome to join you.

Other Diary Dates

Mobile Library Timetable (Use It or Lose It)

2nd Wednesday of each month between **13:40—14.00** at Deanshanger Road, Old Stratford near The Memorial Hall

14 November 2012

12 December

09 January 2013

13 February

13 March

10 April

08 May

12 June

10 July

Note the time change

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

Saturdays at the Memorial Hall on the following dates:

24 November 2012

15th December

26 January 2013

23 February

23 March

25 May

27 April

25 May

22 June

27 July

No dates in August

28 September

26 October

23 November

14 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

Craft Club (Mondays 2 — 4.30pm in the Memorial Hall)

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 26 Fegans Crt, Stony Stratford 262919

Pauline Stevenson 73 Oxfield Park Drive 263905

Susan Tait 9 Willow Grove 563182

Vacancy

Clerk:

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

District Councillor:

Mary Clarke 12 Station Road, Blisworth, 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