

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter. Well, where do I start? There have been a number of challenges that we have tried to address since we last had our open meeting with you.

We started off by trying to do something about the bad and dangerous state of the footway outside the shop, Bridge Stores. We appear to be once again in a deadlock and are amazed at Northamptonshire County Council's (NCC's) apparent lack of willingness to assist in any way!

The Blackhorse field site was approved with an allowance for Allotments. As a 'new school' was omitted this has meant extensive long awaited refurbishments for the village school. We objected to the site entrance arrangements and found that NCC would not support us, after objecting themselves in the past to any development on the same grounds of unsuitable access!!

We hope that we will be able encourage an allotment management committee to establish itself with a view to manage them on behalf of the village.

Both Mary Clarke and Allen Walker have tried to be supportive to the village and I offer our thanks to them.

APRIL 2014

Mary's Saturday surgeries have been a success. We have produced the draft village plan, and will be consulting with you to ensure its currency. It will give us (the village) more involvement with planning issues in the future.

A last point that I would like to raise with you all is the ever falling number of councillors. I would remind you that it is so important to the future of Old Stratford and Passenham that we are able to articulate your views to both SNC and NCC so we do need a strong council to do this and it is your council!

Finally I would like to offer my thanks on behalf of the village for the work that the councillors have done on your behalf and all the tireless help and support that our parish clerk, Derek Everett, has given us.

I will end with my usual plea; 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.

I also look forward and hope to see you at the Annual Open Meeting to be held in the Memorial Hall on Tuesday 15th April (see back page)

Richard Whittaker
Chairman

Old Stratford Craft Club

Meets on Mondays 2—4.30pm in the Memorial Hall,
Deanshanger Road.

Everyone is welcomed

TADD (Towcester Area Door to Door)

Volunteer Drivers Wanted

We are urgently looking for volunteer drivers prepared to give a few hours per week to help the local community by driving people to medical appointments.

Drivers are reimbursed 40p per mile to medical appointments.

Andy Thorpe

TADD: TEL. 01327 810300

Office Hours 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday

News from Old Stratford Primary School Spring 2014

Following the major re-furbishment which took place between April and September last year, we have really enjoyed working in our new school building since September and can hardly remember what it used to be like. It was lovely to welcome some of our friends and neighbours from the village to our official opening ceremony and Macmillan Coffee morning at the end of September. Many were amazed at the changes which have taken place since they or their children came here to school. We can now proudly boast an educational environment fit for our children to achieve their very best. We have been incredibly lucky to receive more than £750,000 from Northants County Council towards the costs-so please remember this if your council tax goes up!

We look forward to hearing more about how the council plans to accommodate any new children who may come to live in the village as a result of new housing development.

We are always very happy to welcome visitors who would like to know more about their village school. Please contact me by phone or email if you would like to arrange a visit.

01908 267700

head@oldstratford.northants-ecl.gov.uk

You might also be interested to visit our new school website:

www.oldstratfordschool.org.uk

You may have seen our Year 5 pupils out and about on Tuesdays taking part in cycle training. This ensures that they understand the Highway Code, how to ride their bikes safely and the importance of cycle helmets and hi-vis clothing. We continue to be grateful for your understanding regarding traffic levels and parking near the school at the beginning and end of the school day. Do not hesitate to contact me or our community police officer if you have any concerns.

As you know, we are very proud to serve our local village community and take part in village events. It was lovely to see so many friends at the Community Centre in December when some of the children came to sing extracts from our Christmas performances of "Christmas Rock." Our school Theatre Club is also celebrating the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth with performances of "The Tempest" taking place in school just before Easter.

After the wettest autumn and winter for many years, our school grounds are really springing into action, with snowdrops, daffodils, catkins and cherry blossom for us to enjoy. We have a well-established Gardening Club at school, which has recently been awarded the Royal Horticultural 5 Star Gardening School Award, and would welcome any keen gardeners from the village who might volunteer to help the children plant and grow vegetables and flowers as part of their education. We also have a woodland walk and orchard in need of some loving care and attention.

Kind regards

Gill Tween
Headteacher

WHALLEY'S APPRENTICING CHARITY
(Stony Stratford, Cosgrove & Old Stratford)

Applicants of 16 years and over, can claim up to a maximum of £100 towards Books and Equipment required for their chosen profession.

For more information or application form:
please contact

Derek Everett the Parish Clerk on 01908 569053

Neighbourhood Watch Report

We have a new PCSO Nigel Phelps.

His report.

Regular patrols have been conducted and he is in the process of making appointments to visit schools to conduct talks for all the different age groups

While on patrol, vehicles have been checked and removed if necessary under the no Tax Scheme.

Parking issues lead to neighbour disputes. Please think where you park.

Locally identified priorities Parking and Speeding.

Speeding we are putting extra patrols when possible

Parking This is an issue for Northamptonshire Parking Services and their Civil Enforcement Officers.

Anyone parking illegally is liable to be issued a ticket.

News in brief from Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch

Police are handing out forensic marking kits to schools and rolling out crime prevention talks.

Drivers who do not wear seatbelts are going to be targeted in a week of action.

Beware of E mail scams. Banks will never ask for details of your account. These E mails should be ignored

Trading Standards say avoid rogue builders .Never agree anything on the doorstep always avoid cold callers.

Please make sure all cars or vans carrying tools are secure and cannot be seen.

With the good weather make sure garden tools are put away securely and all windows are shut when not in the house.

Jacki Ibell NW Co-ordinator 01908 562677

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.oldstratford.preschool.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.

Our open day this year will be held on Saturday 5th June 2014 at the Community Centre Old Stratford from 9am - 11am.

A brief History of Old Stratford

The weather this winter has been so wet I have not been out and about much my time has been taken up researching records and information to produce an in depth history of Old Stratford and Passenham. For this issue of our village magazine I would like to give you a glimpse into just a very small amount of information I have accumulated. I know that there was an organisation who traced a lot of this history so I apologise if they think I have got it wrong. It has been very difficult to find detailed records of individual people who have had a major influence on Old Stratford

Old Stratford has been shown on maps as far back as the 1300's in is also mentioned in records appertaining to the Kings Hunting Forrest of Whittlewood. It has been part of the Passenham royal estates since the 1300's. Although Old Stratford has no Manorial sites or sites of worship it should be assumed that those who owned Passenham also owned parts of Old Stratford. Old Stratford was divided between the Manors of Passenham (as previously mentioned), Cosgrove, Furtho and Potterspury. It initially stretched along the Watling Street and in its centre was the main arterial routes north-south and east-west.

As previously stated at the centre of Old Stratford is the cross roads and on its north-eastern corner there stands the old wheel rights yard, now an MOT centre and garage, prior to this the site housed the Falcon Inn. On the opposite side of the road, what is now the sole remaining public house's car park stood a blacksmith's shop and later a harness maker's business, the two buildings, on either side of the crossroads were removed to widen the junction, prior to the First Wold War (1913). It was at this time Mr Albert Edward Chapman purchased the land, where the garage is now, to start his wheel-rights business. It was known as A.E. Chapman & Sons, when on the retirement of their father on the 4th April 1946, the two sons, Arthur and Sidney Chapman took over

the business. It remained as a family business until 1970 when Arthur retired. During this time the business made wooden wheels with metal tyres, carts and repairing wagons for transporting cattle and sheep. After the Chapman's sold the business an agricultural repair Company took on the site where they carried out repairs to more modern agricultural equipment, this closed and is today the garage and MOT centre. The Chapman's were an enterprising family as they acquired land in Cosgrove Road which backed up to the old Buckingham Arm Canal, the land was divide into plots and each member of the family was given a plot and each plot had a wood cottage built on it, these wooden cottages were actually designed and built by the Chapman's, for the family and some were rented out by the family member to other people these rented houses were still retained by family members and when they wished to use the wooden cottage the tenant had to vacate. These wooden homes remained in the family for generations, some of the wooden cottages have been converted to more solid materials and at present there are only two of the original wooden cottages remaining.

The cottage and extension next to the wheel-rights yard was, initially a laundry run by Mr & Mrs White, for many years the old wooden roller mangle and wash tubs could be seen at the front of the building. This was shared with the village cobbler, Mr Kately used to make hand sewn boots and carry out shoe repairs in the same premises as the laundry. Mr Kately, senior, purchased the whole site and continued his shoe business from there for many years. This was a father and son business and Mr Kately senior taught his son the art of shoe making and repair.

At the turn of the century a new row of terraced houses (Willow Terrace) a further three more was built at this time in Wharf Lane. Prior to the building of homes expansion of the village was very small on the agenda. In 1674 there was only 17 households in Old Stratford, between 1830 and 1839 the population of between 150 to 200 people was spread between 4 Parishes; the Parishes of

Passenham, Cosgrove, Furtho and Potterspurly. In about 1899 this had increased to approximately sixty households; still spread between these Parishes, it was not until 1951 when Old Stratford and Passenham combined with Old Stratford to form the new parish of Old Stratford in 1951.

Old Stratford has seen steady growth since the 1890's to its size today. Today Old Stratford struggles to retain its last village Pub; throughout history the village maintain no less than five Public Houses. The earliest two Pubs mentioned was the White Lyon and Old Mother Redcaps both were mentioned in the Road Acts of 1647 for the White Lyon and the same acts of 1702 for Old Mother Redcaps, it is thought that at some time the White Lyon changed its name between the two dates mentioned. Some conjecture has been portrayed with regards to the actual site of either of these two Pub's, it is likely that it was situated at 11 London Road because until recent years there was evidence of the Pub's cellar and stabling yard. It is unclear when this Pub actually closed.

First records of The Saracen's Head Public house were shown in Highways Repair Act in 1743. The building, now a private house stands on the south corner of Wharf Lane. The large cellar and spacious courtyard building associated with a Public House or a Coaching Inn still remain. Also at this time The Falcon Inn was first mentioned in a Watling Street Repair Act, of the same year. In the early 1800's the Falcon's Landlord was a Mathew Wilson, he also owned a saddlers shop and three other houses adjoining the Inn, it is thought that the saddlers shop was the site of the now Bridge Stores.

At the north end of Old Stratford on the western side of the old Watling Street stood the Blackhorse pub. Some conjecture about the actual site of the pub remains as in the 1930's the pub was demolished and the spoils removed. Some villagers state that it was sited just inside the Blackhorse field but more likely it was situated in a section of overgrown land next to the last house in Towcester Road.

The now sole remaining Pub in Old Stratford is The Swan, it was first mentioned in a Public House Directory (Mussan & Co) of 1853, prior to this little is known, thoughts have been expressed that it was a private house and was converted to a Pub in the 1650's, but is very difficult to verify. At one time in the Pub's history a Blacksmith's and an antique shop stood on the now Pub's car park, at this time the Landlord was Mr Percy Mitchell. In 1871 The Swan Public House was owned by Mr Thomas King who also was a harness maker, at the centre of the Pub's car park stood a well which provided water for the first few cottages in Cosgrove Road. Subsequently all these buildings and the well were removed when they widened the corner of the cross roads circa 1913.

To be continued:

The Countryman

Old Stratford Community Hall News.

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended our Fireworks Display and Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch last year, especially to those people who gave up their time to man stalls at the Fireworks Display and their Saturday afternoon to help with the Christmas Lunch, which was a great success with nearly 80 guests this year! Thank you also to the Parish Council who help us each year with their very generous donation, without which we would struggle to hold these two events.

Our monthly Senior Citizen Afternoon Teas are still very popular and we have on average 20 guests attending each month. This is an ideal time to chat with old friends, make new friends or just have a natter with someone you haven't seen for a while.. Everyone is welcome to attend and you can bring a friend or carer with you. Just a reminder, we meet on the last Friday of every month (except December) in the Memorial Hall on Deanshanger Road,

Two further dates for your diary are the Fireworks Display on Saturday 1st November and the Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch on Saturday 13th December – more details to follow towards the end of the year.

If you, or someone you know, has had a fall then you may be interested to know that a strength and balance group is being set up specifically for people with possible mobility problems. If you would like more information on when this group will be running, please contact Lesley Peach at the Hall. on 01908 307461 for bookings and details oldstratfordcommunityhall@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget the Hall is available for hiring for special occasions and discounted rates are given to village residents! We look forward to seeing you all soon,

The Old Stratford Community Hall Committee

Highways issues

A reminder that **highway defects** such as pot holes, blocked drains and other highway defects can be reported to Street Doctor 0300 126 1000 (Option 4) or via the Northants County Council website (www.northamptonshire.gov.uk).

However, the best course of action is to contact the Parish Clerk Derek Everett on 01908 569053 or via the website www.oldstratford.org.uk who will do it for you and can keep tabs on repairs or works required on behalf of the Parish Council. This also applies to any **street lighting** defects.

Dog Fouling Continues to be a messy issue, especially on pavements and verges. The football field and areas around play areas are already designated 'poop-a-scoop' areas attracting heavier fixed penalty fines. As a dog owner myself I would like to think that everyone picks up after their dog (even on public rights of way across fields) but, I'm not that naive. In Oxfield Park can we at least keep it off the mown edges to the paths because children play there. Falcon Drive open space has now becoming a serious issue.

The Parish Council have new dog bins installed. You can also use the Litter bins (normally with a bin liner so if double wrapped there should be no excuse)

Litter The thorny issue of litter around the shop and the route to Elizabeth Woodford School and other areas continues to attract adverse comments, even where we have installed new litter bins. With national campaigns to 'Keep Britain Tidy' a kindly word or thought could help, or show by example and make Old Stratford a more attractive place to live.

Derek M Everett MILCM
Parish Clerk

Did you know your Community Hall offered
all these clubs and activities?

Pre-school sessions - Every week day (term time)

Karate - Monday and Wednesday

Pilates - Tuesday

Zumba - Tuesday

Taekwondo - Tuesday

Badminton - Thursday

Short Mat Bowls - Tuesday and Thursday

Slimming World - Wednesday

Weight Watchers - Thursday

Football - Various

For more information on timings, please pick up a leaflet in the
foyer
or ring Lesley Peach on 01908 307461.

Don't forget, you can also hire the hall for special occasions too.
(special rates for Old Stratford)

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman:

Richard Whittaker **Rectory Cottage, Passenham** **567895**

Vice Chairman:

Tony Pateman **32 Mounthill Avenue** **567907**

Council:

Bruce Clayton **54 Chapmans Drive** **562778**

Alan Holloway **45 Willow Grove** **562761**

Jacki Ibell **9 Cosgrove Road** **562677**

Nicky Lawrence **11 Chapmans Drive** **07967756988**

Donald MacDonald **61 Deanshanger Road** **562035**

Karen Morris **89 Deanshanger Road** **07532161875**

Ray Smith **18 Deanshanger Road** **564815**

Vacancy

Vacancy

Clerk:

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

District Councillor:

Mary Clarke **12 Station Road, Blisworth** **07747 757524**
(mclarke@cognisco.com)

County Councillor:

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

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

**OLD STRATFORD ANNUAL OPEN MEETING
to be held in the Memorial Hall
TUESDAY 15th APRIL 2014 AT 7.30PM**

**This is your chance to quiz Councillors on
matters affecting Old Stratford**

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Minutes of the 2013 AOM (previously displayed nb)**
- 3 Any Outstanding Matters (includes Development Issues & Allotments update)**
- 4 Petitions or Questions from Electors
(required in writing to the clerk by 12 noon 15th April)**
- 5 Adoption of Accounts**
- 6 Report from Northamptonshire Police**
- 7. Report from NCC Highways**
- 8 Report from District Councillor**
- 9 Report from County Councillor**
- 10 Any Other Business**