

OLD STRATFORD PARISH COUNCIL SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Report

Welcome to this edition of our Newsletter. This edition carries some 'Good News' for a change, the bad and dangerous state of the footway outside the shop, Bridge Stores, has been looked at again by Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and they have produced an acceptable scheme for the resolution of the problem but we have had to contribute 50% towards the cost

We still 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. If you are interested we would like to hear from you as we need your help and advice.

Both Mary Clark and Allen Walker have tried to be supportive to the village and I offer our thanks to them. Mary's Saturday surgeries are a great success.

The draft village plan is in its final edit and we will be consulting with you to ensure its currency. It will give us (the village) more involvement with planning issues in the future.

Our plea for more councillors has been answered and we have three new-ish faces to welcome:- Jacki Ibell (returning), Allen Holloway (returning after a long absence) and Ray Smith. (we still have two more vacancies)

JULY 2014

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. **Richard Whittaker Chairman**

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

In view of the recent burglaries in the Village, here are a few reminders to ensure your home is not an appealing target for a burglar. We would like you to be extra vigilant and consider your home security especially with the Summer holidays on us.

- Look out for your neighbours when they are not at home. If you see anything suspicious report it to the Police
- Ensure your home is secure, lock windows and doors and double lock UPVC doors using the keys as well as lifting the handle
- Don't leave your home looking unoccupied, use timer switches to set lights to come on as it gets dark
- Ensure all valuables are marked, or photographed with ID numbers noted
- Ensure that all garden tools are securely locked away in a shed or garage. Do not leave them around for an offender to use to break in.

Finally should you see anything suspicious or suspicious vehicles (white vans?) in your area please phone 101 straight away. For burglary in progress or life or death emergency 999

Jacki Ibell Neighbourhood Watch 01908 562677

Passenham United Charities

Passenham United Charities exists to give small grants to local people who live in, or have connections with the parishes of Passenham, Deanshanger, Old Stratford and Puxley.

Grants can be given to any in need; they are most frequently given in the event of a funeral and to voluntary groups. The Trustees will also give grants to parents of schoolchildren for school trips and other expenses. This would normally be arranged through the School.

The Charities' income is quite small and so grants will normally be in the region of £50 though the Trustees will consider requests for higher amounts.

Anyone who thinks that they may qualify for a grant and wishes to apply should contact the following in complete confidence:

Rev Christopher Murray 01908 262371
Clerk to the Charity 01908 562035

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

Old Stratford & Passenham **Village Plan**

All the data has now been collated and a rough draft of the Plan has been submitted to the Parish Council. The Council has expressed a wish to continue with the Plan and it is now being proof read and assembled ready for rough print. Once the Plan has been rough printed all members of Old Stratford and Passenham communities will be able to make their comments known and where necessary amendments can be made to accommodate any villager's wishes that have not been initiated in the rough draft. Households will be notified once this rough copy is ready for public display. Copies will be available to view by computer, in Old Stratford Community Centre, Parish Council Chairman Home Address in Passenham for those residents of Passenham and via the Parish Website.

Village Plan Co-Ordinator

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 for fuel and a contribution towards running costs .

Andy Thorpe

TADD: TEL. 01327 810308

Office Hours 9.00am to 1.00pm Monday to Friday

**OLD STRATFORD
FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATION**

Old Stratford Parish Council as Trustees of the Memorial Hall would like to invite any villager, who wishes to, to place a personal Memorial to a family member (or members) in the Hall. **The Memorial can be to anyone (man or woman) who served in the First World War in any capacity.** As there are many who have moved to the village over the past 100 years there does not need to be a local connection. The Memorials can be displayed for a short time or continuously as wished.

The Parish Council would like, in particular, any information concerning the men named on the Memorial Plaque. Any information will be acceptable, but details from those with a personal interest would, of course, be best.

The Memorials can be in any form. One suggestion is a photograph and a short biography which should include something about the War Service. A simple card with a name and dates is another possibility. However the Memorial can be in any form (not too large!). Original photos or memorabilia should not be used for permanent display, as its safety could not be guaranteed, but they could be displayed at the regular viewings.

The Hall will be open, at times to be announced, on a regular basis for the placing of Memorials and will remain open until November 11th 2018. A record of all Memorials and items displayed will be made and will be made and kept in the Hall. The form of this record is to be established and suggestions would be gratefully accepted by the Parish Council.

From time to time the Hall will be open for a general viewing of the Memorials and for the display of original items such as medals, service records and any pieces of equipment. A final exhibition will be held in November 2018.

Please see Parish Notice Board for details of times of openings and viewings.

The History of Old Stratford Continued

The canal comes to Old Stratford, in 1793 the Grand Junction Canal, it became known as the Grand Union Canal in 1929; was authorised by an Act of Parliament, the Act made provision for an arm from the main line to Old Stratford, terminating at the former Roman road the Watling Street, which was a major communication route. The continuation on to Buckingham was surveyed at the same time (1793); this was included in another Act of Parliament and passed in 1794. The initial section from Cosgrove to Old Stratford was to be constructed as a board canal capable of carrying boats which were 14ft wide. The Grand Junction Canal or Grand Union Canal had to cross the river Great Ouse at Wolverton; originally the plan was to construct a crossing on the level, with a flight of locks down one side of the valley and another up the other side. The Old Stratford branch would have had a junction with the main line at the lowest level and followed the course of the Great Ouse valley. From Old Stratford the canal was to continue as a 7ft narrow canal, which would have joined the river at Passenham, effectively becoming navigable, as a number of locks would have been needed along the course of the river. These plans were changed when it was decided to construct a high level crossing of the Great Ouse, ruling out the use of a junction and so the arm left the main line just above Cosgrove lock, following along the north side of the River Great Ouse valley which resulted in a canal which was on one level for most of its length, there being only two lock as it approached Buckingham.

The Grand Junction, including two flights of locks to cross the River Great Ouse; opened in August 1800 and the Old Stratford arm opened six weeks later in September. The extension to Buckingham progressed quickly and was built in 8 months. It was formally opened in May 1801. Water was supplied by a feeder from the

River Great Ouse in Buckingham. The two lock system was replaced by an embankment and an aqueduct, which opened for traffic in 1805. The aqueduct was so badly constructed it started leaking at the side almost from the time of its construction. Finally on the night of February 19th 1808 it collapsed. All Stony Stratford was thrown into panic. The fear was not that the canal waters would deluge the surrounding district, but that the mass of materials which had fallen into the river would block up the River Ouse and the whole district would soon be flooded, actually their fears were soon removed, when in fact, when only one aqueduct arch had collapsed and the other was still standing, this allowed the River Ouse's water to pass through. The repair took over a year to complete and the old wood and clay aqueduct was replaced by a narrow iron channel, known today as the 'Iron Trunk'. By the 1850's the canal was suffering from competition from the railways. Another problem the arm suffered from was that the water supply from the river Ouse contained large amounts of silt, which deposited in the canal, making its navigation difficult, also the Buckingham Corporation used the canal as a disposal point for sewage, which added to the problems of the arm. Trade continued to decline and the Grand Junction Company resorting to take legal action against Buckingham Corporation to stop dumping sewage into the canal in 1890. In 1919 a large section of canal near Mount Mill Farm was replaced by a concrete trough, in an attempt to reduce the leakage, the arm was dogged with leakages all its life. The last recorded commercial traffic was in 1932 with a delivery of chemicals to Leckhampstead. In 1944 the arm was blocked by a temporary dam close to the first bridge at Cosgrove, this was done to prevent further leakage and the temporary dam was never removed. The Section of the arm from Old Stratford to Buckingham was abandoned in 1964 but from Old Stratford to Cosgrove it still remained open as far as the dam as moorings. The Old Stratford section was severed by the construction of the new A5 in 1975/6 and the Old Stratford basin (Hayes Basin and Wharf) was sold in 1991. The route of the section between Old Stratford and Deanshanger was severed when the construction of the A422

Old Stratford Wharf became one of the busiest spots in the neighbourhood. It was the nearest point to Stony Stratford that the canal came to and all types of materials and goods to and from Birmingham, London, and all places in between, were delivered to the Old Stratford Wharf. Some of the types of materials unloaded there were hundreds of tons of coal, bricks, slates and all other materials required by the growing town of Stony Stratford. A large warehouse was erected which was used for storing grain and other merchandise. At this time the Wharf was run by a Company known as The Old Stratford Wharf Company under the Firm of Harrison, Oliver and Kirklees dated between 1820 and 1824. When Hays Wharf was built a little later, the Wharf was constructed of brick; the underground storage areas had high vaulted ceilings and Yorkshire stone slab flooring, these vaults were clean and dry for the safe storage of grain.

Two other wharfs were also based in Old Stratford, Slaymaker's and Calvin's. Slaymaker's was the larger of the two, on this site there was a barley moulting operator and Mr Walter Slaymaker who was a coal and corn merchant and Mr Canvin was a coal merchant, and for some years he ran two narrow boats for trips along the canal to Cosgrove and Buckingham; the Buckingham trips stopped during the period when the canal became too narrow and shallow beyond Deanshanger. The Canvin family sold the yard when the canal became unusable and the Millward family retained the yard as a coal merchant, at this time the coal was delivered to the yard by road as the canal was no longer navigable. Very little is known about the moulting business in Slaymaker's wharf, but the Slaymaker family retained the wharf yard and building into the early 1980's. It is where they ran their family coal merchant business. Mr Walter Slaymaker was not only a coal and corn merchant he was also a carter and contractor, offering horses and horse drawn vehicles for hire, during the First World War he also was a milk dealer selling milk which he milked from his own six cows. In fact during 1916, he was summoned before the local magistrates for having sold milk containing water. In his defence

Mr Slaymaker stated that one of his six cows was in a poor condition, the milk from this cow was placed in a separate pan. It would then later be fed to his pigs and his wife sold the wrong milk. The case was adjourned until a later date.

During this period the population of Old Stratford (1820-1840) appears to have doubled and many new houses were erected. Next to The Falcon Inn the landlord of the Inn had a saddler's shop and three other houses were built in Northampton Lane (Cosgrove Road) at this time The Blackhorse, The Swan, The Falcon, and The Saracen's Head all did a roaring trade with their combination of road and canal clientele.

Look for the third instalment in the next issue of the Parish Magazine.

The Countryman

Old Stratford Craft Club

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

Everyone is welcomed

DOGS

Usual plea to dog owners to clear up after their dogs, especially on the recreation ground and around the play area and of course on all footpaths and verges.

Dogs should also be on a lead when on the recreation ground however well trained



News from Old Stratford Primary School Summer 2014

You may have seen the banner outside school in March showing that our school was joining in celebrations for the 450 anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. All the children in school studied *The Tempest* in their English lessons. Our Reception class even had Caliban's cave as part of their role play area. Nearly 70 children aged 7-11 in the school's Theatre Club performed *The Tempest* to enthusiastic and very impressed audiences just before Easter.

Our school brass band and orchestra have been busy too. Old Stratford Brass recently took part in the regional finals of Music for Youth in Northampton. Our brass and orchestra groups also played a short concert at Passenham Fete earlier this month. We continue to uphold the traditions of Maypole dancing at school; children in Years 5 and 6 finally managed to rise to the challenge of the Single Plait in time for our performance at the Fete.

We fit all this around our many sporting events - not forgetting of course all those English and Maths lessons too! This term, we are using the World Cup as a focus for our learning, with lots of opportunities for work in English, Maths and Geography. What a pity that England was knocked out of the competition so early.

As a school we very much value education outside the classroom. Our school grounds and village are used regularly to support learning, especially for our younger pupils. All of the children in our Key

Stage 2 classes, aged 7-11, have the opportunity to go a little further afield to take part in residential visits. Years 3-5 are visiting Everdon, Grendon and Irthlingborough this year, while our Year 6s have just got back from a week's stay on the Yorkshire coast. We visited the puffins on Bempton Cliffs, sailed on a replica of Captain Cook's ship Discovery in Whitby, visited Hogwarts Station in Goathland and spent a day in York. There was also paddling, sandcastles and football every evening on the beach-and that was just the staff!

We are very grateful to parents for supporting the school in allowing children to take part in these visits as they are an invaluable part of children's personal and social education.

We are looking forward to many end of term events at school.

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 school website:

www.oldstratfordschool.org.uk

Kind regards

Gill Tween

Headteacher

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 Laurence 11 Chapmans Drive 07967756988

Donald MacDonald 61 Deanshanger Road 562035

Karen Morris 95 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, 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