



# Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2017

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenham

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## Chairman's Update

Welcome to our new look newsletter. In response to feedback we are trying a new format so please get in touch and let us know what you think!

We have had a number of successes in the Parish since our last newsletter, so I wanted to share a few with you:

Thanks to the tireless work of the Friends of Passenham, District Councillor and the Parish Council, the mineral plan for the area no longer includes Ham Meadow, which is good news for Passenham residents. Unfortunately the life of the quarry has been extended, but will at least be subject to a four year review.

You may have noticed that we have undertaken a project to upgrade the street lighting around the village. This was achieved with money available to OSPC from the New Homes Bonus, which comes from the development of new homes in the village. These new lights are brighter, more energy efficient and less costly to maintain. I would like to thank Councillor Alan Holloway for his sterling effort in managing this project.

We are looking at further improving the appearance of the Parish through a number of initiatives which are described through the newsletter. My special thanks go to Councillor Colin Carey for his extensive work in obtaining funding towards the purchase of planters and information lecterns, and coordinating the emerging Old Stratford in Bloom team.

Most residents will be aware that The Swan has reopened for business after its extensive refurbishment. The site is once again becoming a focal point of the village and we look forward to seeing the cottages complete the development. I wish Mr Wilson and his Staff well for the future and I hope all residents will use the new and improved facilities that we campaigned to retain as a village asset.

We currently have a vacancy for a Parish Councillor. If you are interested in getting involved in the community, please come along to a meeting on the Second Tuesday of the month or contact any of the Councillors for more details.

Finally, I would like to thank Councillor Nicky Laurence for her work on the OSPC Facebook page, which now has 70 followers. Please follow us for regular updates.

**Tony Pateman,  
Chairman**

## HGV Traffic passing through Old Stratford

In August, following concerns raised by residents, the Parish council carried out an extensive survey of HGV traffic passing through Old Stratford. The results were staggering and showed that between 0800hrs and 1800hrs over 300 HGV's passed through the village, an average of one every 1.8 minutes. It was also established that over 70% of this traffic either originates or is going to destinations via Queen Eleanor Street and Wolverton Road (up towards Wolverton and beyond). These vehicles do have an alternative route via the main A5 albeit a slightly longer passage.

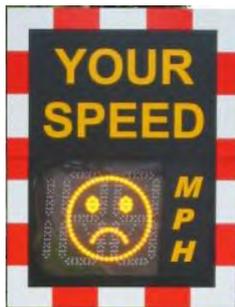
With this in mind the Parish wrote to 16 haulage companies explaining the problems that this high volume of traffic was creating to our residents' welfare and to their properties. The letter requested that they asked their drivers to use the main A5 route instead. We did receive some positive feedback, others have simply ignored our request.

We hope to carry out another survey in the near future but would be interested to hear from residents if they think there has been any reduction in traffic. Full details of the survey can be obtained on request from Councillor Colin Carey [colin.carey@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.carey@talktalk.net)

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## Speeding

Speeding is still a major problem in the Parish, although sadly a recent meeting with the Police Inspector for this area informed us that unless there are any major accidents caused by persistent speeding the Police are reluctant to get involved due to resource levels.



OSPC have two Speed Indicator Devices (SID), which record the number of vehicles travelling over the 30mph speed limit as they pass. Along London Road we have recorded in excess of 100,000 speeding vehicles per month and in one month Passenham Lane had over 20,000 vehicles travelling at speeds in excess of 35mph. The Parish Council are looking to improve the equipment that we own to provide more information that can be downloaded and passed to the Police.

An alternative option available would be to establish a group to participate in the Police/ Northants County Council initiative "Community Speed Watch" in which ten members of that community volunteer to be trained by the Police in the use of a speed indicator device. Police are then able to use the information gathered to send warning letters and pay repeat offenders a visit. <http://www.northants.police.uk/page/community-speed-watch> Please get in touch to discuss further if you are interested in forming an action group.

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## Cyclists

We have received a number of complaints of near misses with cyclists on the pavements between Old Stratford and Stony Stratford. OSPC appreciate that, whilst this action is against the Law, riding a bicycle on the main road through the village is extremely dangerous and in rural areas such as this the Police tend to take the view that it is safer for cyclists to ride on the pavement. Please respect the rights of pedestrians to use the footpaths and use a bell to warn pedestrians you are approaching.

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## Planned A5 Roundabout Improvements

There is a £3.5mIn upgrade proposed for Old Stratford Roundabout to alleviate traffic flow problems. Detailed plans are not yet available, but work is anticipated to commence in spring 2018.

## Consultation – Northampton Gateway

There are plans for a major Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) of approx 5.0msqft adjacent to Junction 15 of the M1. An application is being consulted on at present and is likely to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) late Jan/early Feb 2018.

If implemented, this scheme is likely to increase the volume of HGV traffic passing along the A508 and through Old Stratford Roundabout. There are public consultation meetings planned:

- Roade Primary School 14<sup>th</sup> October between 12.00 and 17.00
- SNC offices The Forum 20<sup>th</sup> October between 14.00 and 19.00

More information on the proposals can be found at

<http://www.northampton-gateway.co.uk/>

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## Bus Services



We have heard that the future of the 90 bus route, although contracted until 2019, is currently being considered as part of County Council funding reviews. Our County Councillor Alan Walker is liaising with the various parties to try and stop this service from being cut. We will provide updates when available.

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## Vehicle Parking

The Parish Council in conjunction with the Northamptonshire County Highways team have been trying for many years to improve the visual impact of the grassed areas and verges in Old Stratford and Passenham. Recently we have experienced an increase in parking in these areas which has either destroyed the grass or left it impossible to maintain (mow).

Highways have recently reseeded the verges along Towcester Road, but unfortunately this has already become a mud bath. The Parish Council are working with the Highways department and hoping to involve local residents to explore options for the improvement of this area. We are however restricted in what can be done as there are services passing under these verges and also legislation does not allow us to use any item that could be considered an obstruction along the highway (ie boulders, sleepers etc).

Due to inappropriate parking on certain roads in the area, OSPC are also supporting the need for new waiting restriction designations around junctions.

Please could all residents of the Parish be mindful of the impact of their parking, both from a safety and visual impact perspective and be aware that the Highways Department do have the ability to take enforcement action.

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## Road Condition

The Parish Council continually report potholes in roads and pavements, although we are informed that they have to meet certain size criteria for Highways to take action. Members of the public can report any Highways issues at <http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/StreetDoctor>

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## Litter Pick – Sat 4<sup>th</sup> November

The next Parish Clean-up will be held on Saturday 4th November between 9 and 11am. If you could spare an hour or two to help out, then please come along to the Memorial Hall, where we will supply sacks, picking sticks and hi-vis vests. You are also welcome to join us for a well-earned cuppa when you return the equipment.

## Planters & Information Lecterns for Old Stratford

Our grant application to locate flower planters and information lecterns within the Parish has been approved and a small group of volunteers are now working towards getting these in place.

The planters have been purchased and we are now waiting to have our highways license issued so we can start putting these out and get some winter planting in place. We also have funds to put in some displays of bulbs in time for the Spring.



The group has called themselves Old Stratford In Bloom (OSIB), they meet periodically and have been liaising with Stony Stratford In Bloom (SSIB) to seek advice and coordinate planning for displays. It has been slow progress and it is early days in this project but we hope to bring a little colour into the village and Passenham.



We intend to locate two information lecterns in Old Stratford and one in Passenham. We are presently collecting images relating to the history of the Parish and of the wild life present in the area.

Details of the proposed location of Planters and lecterns can be found on the OSPC web site under "About / Publications"

<http://www.oldstratford.org.uk/publications.html>

**If you would be interested in helping out with the installation and upkeep of the planters or if you know anyone who has images relating to the history of Old Stratford / Passenham that could be incorporated onto the lecterns then please contact Councillor Colin Carey who is leading on these projects [colin.carey@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.carey@talktalk.net)**

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## Allotment Update

The Blackhorse Drive development is now well underway. At the point fifty properties are completed (imminently) this should trigger the handover of allotments from the developer.

We will need to form a small committee to manage the running of the allotments, including allocation and managing any associated costs. Please get in touch with the Parish Clerk if you are interested in having an allotment and/or being part of the management committee.

## Fireworks Display - Saturday 11th November (5.30–7.30pm)

This year we have a small increase on admission fees. Children under 16 are still FREE, anyone over 16 is £2.50. The display is due to start around 6.30pm but please come earlier and support our groups with their much-needed fundraising.



Please remember, for licensing reasons, only alcohol purchased in our on-site bar can be consumed at the event. Anyone trying to enter the event with alcohol will be asked to dispose of it or stay off-site. Fireworks can be dangerous – please keep a close eye on your children and don't allow them to wander beyond the roped off area for their own safety.

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## Senior Citizens Christmas Party Saturday 9th December (from 4pm)

Invitations will be delivered in the next couple of months but please reply promptly as we are restricted on numbers. If you are new to the village or have never been before and would like some more information, please contact the Hall on 01908 307461 and we will send you an invitation. If we don't know about you, we can't invite you! We welcome any resident of the village over the age of 65 and if you have a partner who is under 65, they are welcome too. Come along and enjoy a festive afternoon with us!

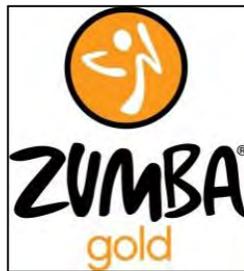
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## Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

A reminder that we hold an afternoon tea on the last Friday of every month (except December), between 1.30pm and 3.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Any senior citizen is welcome; you don't have to be a village resident to attend, so come along and spend a couple of hours chatting with your friends.

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## New Zumba Class Starting



For those of you familiar with this new dance craze and have fancied giving it a go but thought it might be too fast-paced, then come along to a NEW Zumba Gold class that Ana is putting on at the Community Hall, starting on Wednesday 4th October at 12.30pm where the aim is to have fun and get active at your own pace. The classes cost £5 each and are pay as you go so you don't have to make a long-term commitment – although once you try it, we're sure you'll be hooked!!

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## St Guthlacs Dates for your Diary

### Sunday December 3rd 7pm

Fiore Musicale Christmas music on Advent Sunday concert (small choir, cellist and organist performing seasonal music by Bach, Esteves etc.)

### Sunday December 10th 7pm

Christmas Carol concert with Swanbourne School choir.



## Remembering Mrs Tee

Old Stratford Primary School, with the assistance of a team from Santander Bank, recently created a new memory garden to remember Mrs Gillian Tee, who sadly passed away earlier this year, shortly after retiring from school. She had spent many years working at the school and contributing to village life alongside her late husband, in fact she received an MBE for her services to education. From proceeds collected by parents and residents in the village, a metallic garden ornament has also been installed.

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## Craft Club @ the Memorial Hall

There is a Craft Club meeting on Mondays in the Memorial Hall 2-4pm. Everyone and all types of crafts welcome.

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## Old Stratford Pre-School

Old Stratford community 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 with breakfast club 8.00 till 8.30am, morning session 8.30 till 11.30am, Lunch Club 11.30 till 12.00pm and afternoon session 12.00 – 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.

**Old Stratford Pre-school**



Please visit our website for further details at

[www.oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk](http://www.oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk). or phone Dawn 01908 260664

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## Neighbourhood Watch

At this time of the year as the evenings grow darker, it is easy for potential burglars to tell which homes are unoccupied, he just looks to see which ones have lights on! A timer is a good idea. Link it to a hall light so that the light will show through several windows giving the impression more than one room is occupied.

### Trick or Treat

Halloween is coming soon and is a fun time for the young ones but not everyone enjoys it! Playing pranks with flour and eggs can have serious consequences.

1. Please take young children out in organised groups.
2. Do not knock on doors that say No Trick or Treat
3. Be visible with torches and stay in well-lit areas.
4. Do not enter any houses always stay on the doorstep.
5. Finally please do not frighten the elderly or very young.
6. Be safe and enjoy yourselves.

A warning about Christmas! Please do not leave any presents wrapped or unwrapped in view of any window or door, this is too much temptation for thieves.

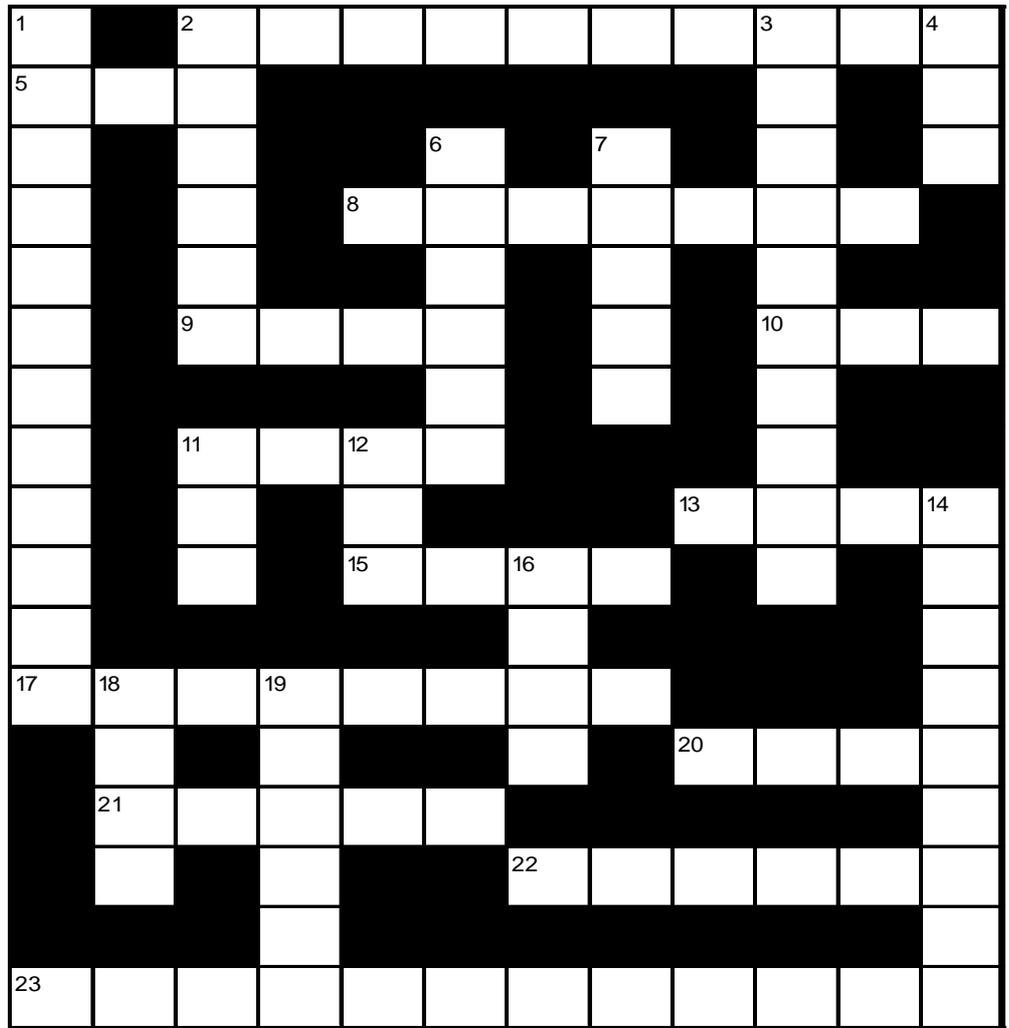
Finally phone Scams are still on the increase so remember neither the Police nor Bank would ever ask for your details or Pin on the phone or at the door and certainly would not send a courier! If you feel it's a scam ,it probably is. Phone 101 and report it.



**Jacki Ibell, 01908 562677**

## How much do you know About Our Parish?

Just for fun



### Across

- 2 This arm once spanned the village (10)
- 5 This company have been digging around Old Stratford to provide the key to life (abbr) (3)
- 8 This Arabian Tribesman used to be a drinking hole (7)
- 9 Your local representative group (abbr) (4)
- 10 See 13 Across
- 11 At last this anatidae is back in Old Stratford (4)
- 13 This mode of transport was extended to Old Stratford in 1888 (4,3)
- 15 A frequent visitor above Old Stratford but has no strings (4)
- 17 Our neighbours who once had a Roman villa (8)
- 20 This imperial measure once again available in Old Stratford(4)
- 21 Old Stratford has had one of these at the bridge for decades (5)
- 22 This far eastern organization operates in Old Stratford (6)
- 23 Funded by the village, less we forget (8,4)

### Down

- 1 This patron now resides in Passenham (5,7)
- 2 This cottage in Old Stratford can provide sustenance (6)
- 3 The launch site of sea going vessels (5,5)
- 4 This short item is needed for an activity at the community hall (3)
- 6 This bird was once a drinking establishment (6)
- 7 Cheerful at the Gym (5)
- 11 Your Local Authority (Abbr) (3)
- 12 This Biblical Ship was not launched in Old Stratford (3)
- 14 This Avenue is named after two tors (9)
- 16 This river is out over the Parish Boundary (4)
- 18 Sounds like this boundary is trickling (4)
- 19 We are thinking of getting a Christmas tree this year, perhaps Santa would like one of these (6)

Contact us

## Councillor Contact Details

| Role                | Name              | Address                             | Telephone    |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| OSPC Chairman       | Tony Pateman      | 32 Mounthill Avenue                 | 01908 567907 |
| OSPC Vice Chairman  | Nicky Laurence    | 11 Chapmans Drive                   | 07967 756988 |
| OSPC Councillors    | Colin Carey       | 71 Dickens Drive                    | 01908 569171 |
|                     | Alan Holloway     | 45 Willow Grove                     | 01908 562761 |
|                     | Karen Morris      | 95 Deanshanger Road                 | 07532 161875 |
|                     | Lynda Murgatroyd  | 19 Towcester Road                   | 07713 622328 |
|                     | Linda Ritson      | The Old Rectory, Passenham          | 01908 566014 |
|                     | Noeleen Ryder     | 96 Mounthill Avenue                 | 01908 263244 |
|                     | Ray Smith         | 18 Deanshanger Road                 | 01908 564815 |
|                     | Susan Tait        | 9 Willow Grove                      | 01908 563182 |
|                     | Vacancy           | Please enquire if interested        |              |
| OSPC Clerk          | Derek Everett     | 10 Deanshanger Road                 | 01908 569053 |
|                     |                   | clerk@oldstratford.org.uk           |              |
| District Councillor | Kenneth Pritchard | The Barn, Puxley Road               | 07764 939070 |
|                     |                   | ken.pritchard@southnorthants.gov.uk |              |
| County Councillor   | Allen Walker      | 17 Porters Close, Deanshanger       | 01908 260302 |
|                     |                   | awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk     |              |

Find us on 

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/OldStratfordParishCouncil/>

Website: [www.oldstratford.org.uk](http://www.oldstratford.org.uk)

Join Us

## Become a Parish Councillor

Do you care about Old Stratford and Passenham as great places to live and work? Are you interested in making a difference by influencing decisions that affect your community?

We are looking for a volunteer to join Old Stratford Parish Council. The role involves attending a Parish Council meeting on the second Tuesday of the month and expressing your opinion on the topics being discussed.

The only requirements are that you are over 18 and a qualifying citizen of the Commonwealth, European Community or the Republic of Ireland.

If you are interested please come along to the next meeting to see what we are all about, or contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors for further information.