



# Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2018

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenheim

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**Annual Parish Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2018  
7:30pm at the  
Memorial Hall.**

This is your meeting, so please come along to ask questions of the Councillors and hear reports of the years' activities and actions.

## Chairman's Update

Since our last newsletter, the new format of which was well received, we have had a busy time working on a number of village enhancement projects, as well as continuing our day to day duties.

You will by now have noticed the floral displays around the village. I think that you will agree with me all the planters look fantastic, thanks to Councillor Carey and Old Stratford in Bloom, and we are now seeing the results of the great work of Councillor Ritson and the Passenheim Planting team, who set around 4,000 daffodil bulbs along Passenheim Lane. This project is partially financed with grants from South Northants Council and sponsorship from local businesses. Thank you too to all those local businesses that are supporting this project.

We have overseen the renewal of the majority of the Streetlights within our responsibility, with more modern units. The lighting, which is now more energy efficient and will be a lower cost to operate, was funded using the "New Homes Bonus Scheme" that was allocated to Old Stratford and is paid for by central Government. I personally think that the style of lighting we have now is a great improvement and I would like to say a big thankyou to Councillor Holloway for his work on this project.

Councillor Murgatroyd has worked on improving the visual impact of the verges along Towcester Road, with some success in the light of the challenges of modern living (parking, delivery services etc). Thanks to her actions there has been some progress and she continues to investigate longer term solutions.

We also welcome Mr Chris Allin onto the Parish Council. Chris has lived in Old Stratford for some time and takes a keen interest in the area.

Finally thank you to our Parish Clerk, Mr Everett, for all his help over the past year. He carries out a vast amount of work on the behalf of Old Stratford and he also assists Councillor's in carrying out their duties. Once again, many thanks Derek.

**Tony Pateman,  
Chairman**

## Old Stratford In Bloom

Our enthusiastic group of volunteers gave up four consecutive weekends to install the nine planters before Christmas and managed to get the winter planting done. We also planted bulbs around the Parish so we are hoping for a good showing in spring. Passenham should be awash with colour when the 4,000 bulbs planted break ground. Sterling efforts by the residents of Passenham lead by councillor Linda Ritson.

OSIB meet regularly, we have compiled a plan for 2018 which, as well as maintaining the planters, also includes tidying up areas around the parish and creating some flower beds.

We have applied for a small grant from South Northants Council and have also been given a budget from the Parish Council. This, together with sponsorship from local businesses, means we should have sufficient funding to populate the planters with spring / summer flowers and maintain the planters throughout 2018.

We have 17 people in the group of volunteers, if anyone is interested in helping out please contact Colin Carey [colin.carey@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.carey@talktalk.net)



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## Information Lecterns Update

The Parish council are still planning to install 3 information lecterns around the Parish. We hope to make progress on this soon, but still await our highways license agreeing their location.

We have collected some images but need more. We plan to place one lectern in the centre of Old Stratford and one in Passenham, both displaying historical information, as well as one in the nature reserve showing wildlife and flora/ fauna.

If you have any images that may be of interest please contact Colin Carey [colin.carey@talktalk.net](mailto:colin.carey@talktalk.net)

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## Allotment Update

We have received confirmation from the Blackhorse Drive developers that work on the allotments will commence imminently. The next step is to establish a small committee to manage the allotments. Duties will include allocation of allotments, overseeing the area and managing any associated costs.

Please contact the Clerk if you are interested in having an allotment and/or being part of the management committee. Due to new data protection legislation, we would be grateful if you could also get in touch if you previously expressed interest and are still interested.

## Your Hall Needs You!

A committed group of volunteers are Trustees on the Hall Committee and have been running the Hall and organising events for this community for the last 17 years. However, due to illness or other commitments, we desperately need new members on our committee and appeal to anyone who would like to join us.



We meet six times a year to discuss issues relating to the upkeep of the Hall, function hires and our regular groups such as Pre-School, Bowls, Zumba, Slimming Clubs, Karate etc. The main events that we organise are our Senior Citizens' Christmas Party in December and monthly Senior Citizens' Afternoon Teas the Fireworks Display in November.

We would welcome any new members (over the age of 18 as you would be required to become a Trustee of the Community Hall), so if you are interested, either speak to Gerry Scovell on 01908 307461 or send an email to [oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk) Please support us if you can spare a few hours a year – it isn't a lot of time but it means a huge amount to your community.

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## Senior Citizens Christmas Party

It was lovely to see some new faces at our Christmas Party last year and we hope you all enjoyed the evening. Thank you to everyone who volunteered on the day and a huge thank you to Sheila for all her amazing cooking. We received some lovely comments from village residents, some of whom had never been before.

Remember, if you are over the age of 65, you are welcome to join us – just contact the Community Hall on 01908 307461 and we will add you to the invitation list. If we don't know about you, we can't send you an invitation! The date this year: **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December**.

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## Save the date – Fireworks display

We would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who attended the Fireworks Display last year. We had another successful evening and for the first time had a professional company setting off the display. We were delighted with the results and hope you all enjoyed it too.

As the fireworks companies are booked up in advance for the weekend closest to 5th November, we are unable to book a slot on that weekend. So this year, the Fireworks Display will be on Saturday 10th November. Admission is free to anyone under 16, then £2.50 for anyone over the age of 16.

Gates open at 5.30pm with the display usually starting around 6.30pm, but please come before the display as this is the biggest fundraising event of the year for our village pre-school.

## Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

These will continue to run in the Memorial Hall on the last Friday of every month (except December), between 2pm and 4pm, offering hot drinks, sandwiches and cakes. It's a lovely way to spend a couple of hours chatting with friends, or having a game of bingo. If you enjoyed our Christmas Party, why not come along - you will be made very welcome.

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## Get active with Zumba

We have a Zumba Gold class at the Community Hall on Wednesdays between 12.30 and 1.15pm, followed by a cuppa and a chat if you have time. It's a really relaxed class and our numbers are increasing so it would be lovely to see more of you. If you prefer something a bit more high impact, Ana also runs a class on Tuesday evenings between 6.30 and 7.30pm – you certainly know you've had a work-out with that one!

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## Supporting the Community Hall

The Community Hall Committee would once again like to say a huge thank you to the Parish Council for the support that we receive from them every year. We know their budgets are extremely tight but they continue to help us with a yearly donation that allows us to subsidise the groups and events at the Hall. Without their support we would find it very difficult to hold our Fireworks Display and Christmas Party, so we are extremely grateful to them.

Please don't forget that we offer discounted hire rates to village residents so when you are thinking of where to hold a child's party or some other special occasion, not only are we offering very competitive rates to other local halls, you are also supporting your community as well.

## Volunteers required for Old Stratford Parish Clean-Up

**Saturday 12th May @ 9am**

Between 9.00am -11.00am (but any time you can give is appreciated). Meet at the Memorial Hall to collect pickers, gloves and sacks

Please wear high visibility clothing if you have any.

**Many thanks for your kind support.**



## A5 Roundabout Improvements

Highways England are investing £3.7m in improving the A5 Old Stratford and reduce peak-hour queues by:

- Widening the layout on the A422 northbound approach
- Widening the A508 southbound approach,
- Advance signage on approach to the roundabout and new lane markings to help motorists enter / exit correct lanes.
- Complete resurfacing, improved street lighting, new traffic lights and improvements to safety barriers and drainage.

Following requests from the Parish Council and our County Councillor, Highways England have agreed to extend the A5 North footpath to Shrobb Cottage, which will allow pedestrians to use their own discretion in crossing the A5 earlier, away from the roundabout, as well as provide easier access to the Rights of Way at this location. Additionally the uncontrolled pedestrian crossing on the A422 will be relocated to a new stop line at the traffic signals and paths on the reservation and alongside the Roman Court new homes development will be improved. Anyone interested in the pedestrian crossing and pathway improvements of the A5 Old Stratford Roundabout can view this short video on youtube <https://youtube/wi8GyyeJ1W8>

You will have noticed that all of the works are being carried out at night, so as to minimise disruption to the public, and there are staff on hand at night to assist any pedestrians wishing to cross. There will be times when Highways England will need to close arms of the roundabout to carry out the works, including some full weekend closures, and they have pledged to keep the Parish Council and media informed of these dates in advance.

The Parish Council would like to thank Paul Valentine, Public Liaison Officer, for engaging with us and providing timely information on the development of this project. If you have any questions or queries or are interested in receiving the monthly update regarding these works or the video link above then please do get in touch with Paul on the contact details below.

**Paul Valentine,**

Public Liaison Officer – A5 Old Stratford Roundabout  
North Midland Construction PLC - Highway Utilities  
Mobile: 07596 278260 Email: [infoa5oldstratford@northmid.co.uk](mailto:infoa5oldstratford@northmid.co.uk)

**Working on behalf of Highways England**

**Highways England customer contact  
centre 0300 123 5000 or  
[www.highways.gov.uk](http://www.highways.gov.uk)**



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## Vehicle Parking

Inappropriate parking is still taking place on roads and grass verges in the area. 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.

## Consultation – Rail Central

In addition to the Northampton Gateway proposal for a major Strategic Rail Freight Interchange (SRFI) of approx 5.0msqft adjacent to Junction 15 of the M1, the Parish Council have been informed that a second (larger) SRFI, known as Rail Central is also proposed for junction 15A.

The proposal is being consulted on at present and is likely to be submitted directly to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) during summer 2018. These applications will not be considered by the District Council and, if one or both are implemented, the volume of HGV traffic passing along the A508 and through Old Stratford will severely increase.

More information on the proposals and how to provide feedback to the consultation (before Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 11:59pm) can be found at <http://railcentral.com>

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## Bus Services

With the well documented financial issues faced by Northamptonshire County Council, residents may be aware that we shall be losing our only bus service. Whilst the service should be funded until 2019, we understand it could finish as early as April 2018. At our March Parish Council meeting our County Councillor advised that he was trying to negotiate an alternative bus setup and we will update in due course. All rural areas of Northamptonshire will be affected by similar cuts.

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## Road Conditions and Pot holes

Northamptonshire County Council is responsible for the condition of Roads in the Parish and has established criteria that determine what repairs are necessary. The Parish Council continues to report damage, such as potholes in roads and pavements, but we are frequently advised that the holes are not of sufficient size to merit repair.

Residents wishing to report an issue with our roads can either get in contact with the Parish Clerk or report directly to Street Doctor on 03001261000 or

<http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/Transport/roads/StreetDoctor>

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## Buckingham Canal Society

The recent presentation by the Buckingham Canal Society was well attended. Their vision of restoring the canal from Cosgrove to Buckingham was met with mixed reaction. It is clear that if this ambitious project ever comes to fruition, it will not be any time soon. Even so, it is important to keep up to date with their proposals and so a Canal Society Liaison has been appointed. Colin Carey will be attending their AGM in March and periodic meetings with the Society.

## “Good” Ofsted for Old Stratford Primary

Old Stratford Primary school were delighted to share their latest OFSTED report before the Easter break. When last inspected in February 2016, they were then judged ‘Requires Improvement’ during a period of considerable change. To have improved from ‘Requires Improvement’ to ‘Good’ in only two years is a truly fantastic achievement and is a reflection of the time and support given by everyone connected with the school and who have shown a huge commitment in helping to make Old Stratford Primary School the best school it can be.

The school is now looking forward to continuing the journey and building on their success.

## Wrap around Care for Primary Pupils

Old Stratford Primary school are rapidly approaching the launch their wrap around care service provided by Energy Kidz. The new Breakfast Club and After School Club will start on **17<sup>th</sup> April**. Places are booking up quickly so if you do require a place then please register using the Energy Kidz website [www.energy-kidz.co.uk](http://www.energy-kidz.co.uk) or follow the link on the school website. [www.oldstratfordschool.org.uk](http://www.oldstratfordschool.org.uk)



### Old Stratford Pre School

The Community Centre, Deanshanger Road  
Old Stratford, MK19 6NL

Old Stratford Preschool (a registered charity) is a community preschool run by a parent committee. We offer children the opportunity to learn, play, and grow together while developing core skills in line with Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum.

Our preschool aims to:

- Provide a high-quality care and education for children
- Work in partnership with parents to help children learn and develop
- Add to the life and well-being of our local community
- Offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity

We are open Monday-Friday during term time from 08:00-15:00 and offer full and half-day sessions.

**All children aged 2 years until school entry are welcome.  
Spaces are available for our funded and non-funded sessions.**

Contact Dawn to learn more and view our excellent facilities!

email: [manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk)

tel: 01908 260664

web: [www.oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk](http://www.oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk)



Registered Charity No. 1033454 - Ofsted No. 219885



## Neighbourhood Watch

Recently there have been several thefts of vehicles and from vehicles in villages around us. Here are a few reminders:

- Remove all items from car or van. Especially tools from vans.
- Keep keys with you or out of sight in your house.
- Try to park in well-lit areas where possible. Vans should be parked reversed against a wall making access to the rear doors difficult.
- Always make sure your vehicle is locked.



Distraction burglaries by bogus callers are also on the increase.

Tactics they may use include:

- Smartly dressed male or female claiming to be from water board, police or council
- They may say they need to turn the water off, their car has broken down could they use your phone or some say they have lost a pet. All of these are a ploy to gain access.
- With rogue traders they may offer drive resurfacing, that you have a roof slate loose, or offer to do gardening. They may give a low quote which will increase as work begins.

**IF YOU ARE NOT SURE DON'T OPEN THE DOOR.**

Report non emergencies or any suspicious vehicles or activities in your area to 101, and use 999 only in emergencies please.

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## Phoenix Rising MK

Phoenix Rising MK are a Community Interest Company who run social and creative day service activities for adults with learning disabilities and difficulties. Based at St. John's Hall in Wicken, they operate six days a week working to support over 65 clients (known as "group members") from the M.K. and South Northants area who love the location and tranquil setting. They also run activities from other community venues in Milton Keynes and profits go back to supporting people with disabilities

They are looking for keen and dedicated individuals of all ages to add to their volunteers who work to support the group members. If you think you may be interested in giving something very positive back to your community, please do contact Adrian Pinckard and Alison Bentley on 01908 566999 or 07957095043 or see their facebook page for more information [www.facebook.com/PHOENIXRISINGMK/](http://www.facebook.com/PHOENIXRISINGMK/)

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## Whalley's Apprenticing Charity

Applicants of 16 years and over, can claim up to £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

## Home Start

***Everyone needs a bit of help sometimes,*** and many parents need help, friendship, advice or support during those early years when children are young. Home Start can get you the support you need, when you need it, then day-to-day family life and your children's future can be so much brighter.



Alternatively, if your family has grown up and moved on, you may like to volunteer to help young families with your experience. If interested Home Start will train and support you throughout.

For more information see: [www.homestart-davsn.org.uk](http://www.homestart-davsn.org.uk)

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## Towcester Area Door to Door (TADD)

TADD is a voluntary transport service, transporting people for over 37 years to and from their health-related appointments. They undertake over 7000 return journeys per year for nearly 900 residents who are members of TADD.

Our "aging population" in South Northants results in 300 of the members having had their 85th Birthday. TADD are totally dependent upon residents prepared to help as Volunteer Drivers and without their assistance it would be ultimately be unable to provide the service.

Whether you can spare an hour or so once a week, once a fortnight or a couple of times a month, there are always appointments to suit your availability, Volunteer drivers are paid their mileage costs (45p per mile in accordance with HMRC rules) and your car insurance premiums should not be affected.

If you are able to help, please contact TADD on 01327 810300 (9.00am to 1.00pm) or by e mail on [tadd@btconnect.com](mailto:tadd@btconnect.com)

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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.

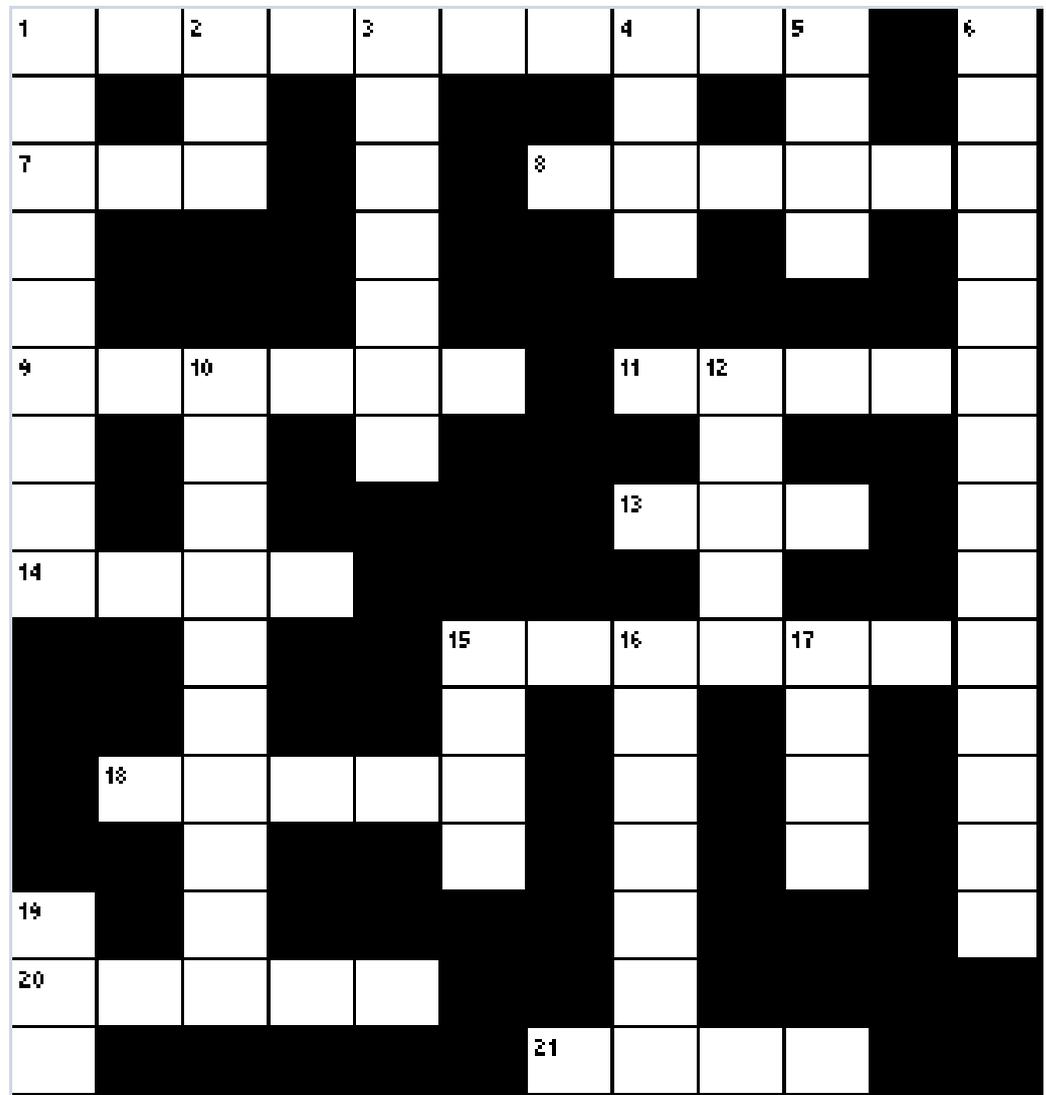
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## Test your Old Stratford Knowledge

1. Which England and Premier League footballer grew up in Old Stratford?
2. Which waterway used to course through Old Stratford?
3. What was the original name ( in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century) of Old Stratford?
4. Apart from The Swan Pub there used to be four pubs in the village, can you name them?
5. What were the Eleanor Crosses and how many still remain?
6. In the 19<sup>th</sup> Century trams ran through Old Stratford. Where did the route start and end?

*Answers will be on the OSPC website in May or from the Clerk*

# Just for Fun



### Across

- 1 Store your loose change here before you carry out an awkward Manouver
- 7 Get this health check done in the village to ensure continued safe motion
- 8 This tree can be found in the grove
- 9 Take the Watlin Way to this city
- 11 See 16 down
- 13 The Parish Council are trying to stop this rare conveyance from becoming extinct
- 14 Don't think you can spend this in the Bridge Store
- 15 These friends will provide you with something to eat
- 18 See 12 down
- 20 This close could be a clear liquid
- 21 This newly formed group hope to bring colour into the village (Abr)

### Down

- 1 You may live here, but it sounds like this fish shows up after you have inflated your tyres
- 2 Sever to describe a canal possibly
- 3 This queen provides a gateway into Old Stratford
- 4 Hidden in a riddle, a drink in the Swan could solve this dry condition
- 5 A thermally insulated chamber that would have been visible in the 1700s
- 6 If you live here you may spot this family conveyance after you see a bird in good shape
- 10 It may be a vision or pie in the sky, but will we really see this vessel back in Old Stratford
- 12 In a sort of way, this improved highways feature will make our lives better we hope
- 15 Chiroptera seen at dusk in Old Stratford
- 16 Charles had motivation but don't think he lives here
- 17 Could we see this Greek goddess of the rainbow growing in one of the planter displays
- 19 Scream missing its first, a hoot at night in the village

### Early History of the Parish – Part One

Passenham was amalgamated with Old Stratford to form the Parish of Old Stratford in 1951, however many years earlier the ancient parish of Passenham occupied a little over 3,250 acres.

The earliest reference to Passenham occurs in 921, when Edward the Elder, son of Alfred the Great, stationed his West Saxon army there, while the stronghold at Towcester was being fortified. This suggests that Passenham was in the early 10<sup>th</sup> century a royal estate, capable of hosting the King and his household. It is possible that the parish church, then a small royal chapel was established at about this time.

In the thirteenth century a larger church was built and dedicated to St Guthlac, an 8<sup>th</sup> century Mercian royal saint who was popular in the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> centuries. Passenham was a royal manor in the Domesday Book, in which it was recorded that Passenham had a mill, meadow, six ploughs, and at that time a recorded population of 16. Passenham had Jurisdiction ('soake') over at least part of neighbouring Cosgrove and was vested in its manor, possibly a sign that it was once the centre of a much larger territory, perhaps even a minister parish.

Whilst the history of Passenham is well documented, residents may not be aware that Old Stratford can follow its roots all the way back to the prehistoric period with unstratified worked flint flakes having been picked up in open fields on the northwest side of the Watling Street.

Archaeological evidence of a large Iron Age settlement has been identified on the south western side of the Watling Street, where a large ditch some 3.8 M wide and 0.86 M deep was found in 2015. The ditch contained occupation debris, pottery and animal bones. There are uncertain crop marks recorded south of the A5 traffic island at Old Stratford that may relate to this period and Iron Age workings were also found in 2016 when the Blackhorse field development was first investigated.

The Anglo-Saxon period knowledge within Old Stratford is very limited, but in 1996 the remains of three early-middle Saxon (450 to 650 AD) pottery vessels were found just beneath the topsoil when exaction work was being carried out for a building development.

The area to the east of Watling Street was formerly Cosgrove Parish, and was part of the ancient Cleley Hundred. In the Domesday survey of 1086, Cosgrove and Old Stratford were part of the territories held by Robert Count of Mortain.

After the battle of Tinchelbray in 1106, this part of the Mortain's land was forfeited, and was acquired by the honor of Berkhamstead. By the late 13<sup>th</sup> century the honor of Berkhamstead was held by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall. The land reverted to the Crown in 1376, and was still part of the Duchy of Cornwall in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*Thanks to Tony Pateman for this article, which has been edited for the newsletter, but can be viewed in full on our website.*

## 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	Chris Allin	23 The Meadows	01908 565648
	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	
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)