



# Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2018

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenham

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## Chairman's Update

Things may appear a bit quiet at the moment as some of our major projects, such as the installation of the new street lighting and the formation of Old Stratford in Bloom, have now been implemented. However, we are in the planning phase for a number of new projects for the Parish, including the installation of defibrillators, in connection with the East Midlands Ambulance Service. We are also looking to install three new speed indicator devices, one for Passenham and two for Old Stratford. These will be solar powered and will hopefully encourage drivers to reduce their speed.

Considerate parking: I wish to remind all residents and non-residents to park their vehicles responsibly. I understand that there are some streets where households now have more vehicles than originally designed for, but parking on grass verges and pavements is causing concern to pedestrians, people with push chairs and disabled vehicles. Once again I ask please park responsibly as we don't wish to resort to having to request enforcement action.

I would like to take this opportunity to say what beautiful floral displays we have had around the village over the summer. Thank you to all the Old Stratford in bloom team of volunteers.

To mark the centenary of the end of the First World War, in which Old Stratford lost 10 of its young men, we are planning a number of commemorative activities, including the installation of commemorative bench to replace the one at the crossroads by the shop, a larger wreath and the installation of a floral tribute outside the memorial hall. These will dedicated to those who fought and died in both World Wars.

Last, but not least, congratulations to St Guthlacs Church Passenham, who finally have been granted consent for the construction of a new refectory and toilets. It has taken several years to get this far but the Diocese of Peterborough has given them permission to proceed with the much needed improvement works.

**Tony Pateman,  
Chairman**

## District Councillor's Update

I am sure you are all aware of the appalling financial situation that our County Council finds itself in and, I might add, in no way was your Parish or District Council a contributory factor to its demise.

This situation has resulted in serious actions having to be taken to improve the financial governance of our county. Earlier this year Government Inspectors were sent in to Northamptonshire County Council (NCC) and from their advice and MPs support, it was proposed that two new Unitary Authorities should be considered, in place of the current system of a County Council with seven District Councils and Boroughs. These recommendations have been strongly endorsed by Central Government and, in reality, the existing local authorities have had little choice but to consider and agree.

On 30<sup>th</sup> of August, at a full South Northants District Council meeting, Councillors voted very reluctantly to recommend to the Secretary of State to support proposals to dispense with NCC and itself and form two new Unitary Authorities. These will be formed in the west with South Northants, Daventry and Northampton and in the east/north Kettering, Wellingborough, East Northants and Corby.

For your District Council it is going to be challenging. It not only has to be involved with the setting up of the two unitary organisations but at the same time has to separate itself from the very successful relationship it had forged with Cherwell District Council. This means undoing an organisation that had been developing over the past six years and now will involve separating staff, finances and all support services that it has been responsible for.

There is a significant amount of work to be done before the formation of our new authority is complete, for example, the added responsibility of absorbing the significant debt from NCC and the Borough, staffing levels, location of offices, budget allocation, committees, election of councillors etc. The timescales to complete the reorganisation will be quite demanding as government approval will be forthcoming before the end of this year and it is envisaged that the new authorities will need to be fully operational by April 2020. With this timetable, local elections due in 2019 will be delayed until 2020 to coincide with the formation of the new authorities. However, we have to move on and try to get the best possible outcome for Old Stratford and SNC residents in the new organisation. Your District Council is committed to do so.

As progress is made I will be keeping your Parish Council informed of any developments. I do hold a surgery on a Saturday every two months at the Memorial Hall and I will be only too pleased to answer any questions. My next surgery is 10.00am on 24<sup>th</sup> of November.

**Ken Pritchard, Councillor - Old Stratford Ward  
South Northants District Council**

## Remembrance Sunday Ceremony

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> November, there will be a short ceremony of remembrance held at the Memorial Hall at 11am to pay our respects to those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, in the two World Wars and more recent conflicts. Everyone is welcome to attend, we will gather at the hall from 10:45am.

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## Memorial Hall Centenary

January 2019 marks the Centenary of the first brick being laid at the Memorial Hall, which opened on the Whitsuntide Bank Holiday Monday 1920. A report from the Northampton Mercury dated May 28<sup>th</sup> 1920, (abbreviated) reported:

*The Memorial Hall, at Old Stratford, was opened on Whit-Monday by Colonel W. H. Bull, K. H. S. ....Mr. W. S. Parrott read the Trust deeds, and pointed out that the Hall had cost £760. Only £260 had been raised, which left a deficit of £500. Mr. W. W. Dickens, of Old Stratford immediately offered to provide the sum of money, so the Hall had been paid for entirely. (Applause)...After the ceremony the Last Post was sounded and the National Anthem was sung.*



To mark the centenary occasion, OSPC would like to run an event (or series of events) in celebration. Co-incidentally 2020 will also be the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the community hall. Should anyone have any suggestions for events or be interested in being part of the organising committee, please contact Nicky Laurence on [nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk](mailto:nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk)

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## Marking the End of WWI

To mark the centenary of the end of World War One, the Parish Council and Old Stratford in Bloom are dedicating a display outside the front of the Memorial Hall that will include a “river” of 100 poppies ordered from the British Legion.

If you would like to sponsor a poppy (suggested donation £1), please pass donations to the Clerk or a Parish Councillor.

## Old Stratford in Bloom (OSIB)

Since the last newsletter, we have seen two sets of planting by the OSIB team. The successful summer displays in the planters, have now been replanted with our Autumn/Winter scheme.

Aided by a group of volunteers from Santander on possibly one of the hottest days of the year in July, the team also carried out works to improve the appearance of some of the existing vegetation through the village and dug out four new circular rose beds.



With a gift of £250 from Santander, we have purchased and received a new stone effect planter for the front of the memorial hall which will be planted up in due course. Many thanks once again to Santander for their help and support.



OSIB have entered a photographic competition with the suppliers of the planters, Amberol, to try and win £2,000 worth of garden products. In addition, in November we will be planting the rose bushes in the four new beds.

Additionally a scheme has been planned, in the courtyard in front of the Memorial Hall, ready for Remembrance Sunday

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## Passenham Planting Update

We have now purchased another 3500 daffodil and crocus bulbs to enhance the display of spring daffodils in Passenham, which we enjoyed for the first time this year. To facilitate this, a clearing and pruning weekend has been scheduled for 6th/7th October followed by two planting weekends on 13th/14th October and 20th/21st October. Volunteers would be welcomed, with planting taking place 10.00-12.30 on these dates.

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## Residents – Thanks for Playing your part

The Parish looks better for a little care and attention from the OSIB team, but we want to also say “thank you” to all residents that play a part. Whether volunteering with OSIB, keeping your own hedges and land tidy, joining in litter picks, joining project working parties or simply reporting issues you see in the area. Let’s continue to make Old Stratford a Parish to be proud of!

## Allotment Update

Unfortunately the establishment of allotments in Blackhorse Drive and subsequent handover to the Parish Council is further delayed.

Originally they should have been handed over to the Parish by the building of the 55<sup>th</sup> house, but the developers have made a planning application to change this to the point where the 110<sup>th</sup> house has been completed. It is understood that they are currently using the allotment site as a material store and waste area.

This delay is somewhat frustrating to the Parish Council and all those wishing to take up an allotment but, hopefully, we will have some more positive news soon

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## Diary Date

### **Volunteers required for Old Stratford Parish Clean-Up**

**Saturday 24th November**

**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.**



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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>

## Community Hall Update

There have been a couple of changes at the Community Hall recently. We now have a few new members on the committee and are delighted to welcome Nick Rowlandson as the new Chair and Colin Wilderspin as Vice-Chair, both Old Stratford residents. We would like to take this opportunity of thanking them for stepping forward and for taking on these demanding roles.

We are in the process of producing a Facebook page and information about our regular groups and upcoming evenings will be regularly advertised on the local 'Nextdoor' website.

Here's some information about our two forthcoming events!

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## Fireworks Display

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November (5.30pm – 7.30pm)**

Come along and join in the fun at the Old Stratford Fireworks Display and help support your community groups. The display is due to start around 6.30pm but the gates are open from 5.30pm.

Please come earlier and support our groups with their much-needed fundraising. Admission is FREE to anyone under 16 and £2.50 for 16 and over.



**Please remember**, for licensing reasons, only alcohol purchased in our on-site bar can be consumed at the event.

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.

Unfortunately there is NO on-site parking available and parking along the Deanshanger Road gets filled up very quickly, so please walk to the venue if you can.

This year we have decided to keep the bar open for the rest of the evening, along with a disco, so why not make an evening of it!

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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 2pm and 4pm 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.

## Senior Citizens Christmas Party Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> December (from 4pm)

Come along and enjoy a festive afternoon! If you have not previously attended, are a resident of the village, over the age of 65 and would like some more information, please contact the Hall on 01908 30746 (partners under 65 also welcome).

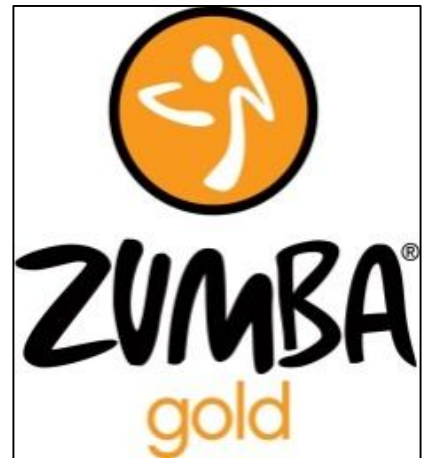
If we don't know about you, we can't invite you! Invitations will be delivered in the next few weeks but please reply promptly as we are restricted on numbers.

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## Zumba and Zumba Gold

Join in this energetic dance craze! If you really want to have some fun and exercise to great dance music, come along to the Community Hall on a Tuesday evening at 6.30pm.

For those of you who would like to try Zumba but feel it's a bit too high impact, Ana has a much more relaxed class on a Wednesday lunchtime at 12.30, for just 45 minutes. This class is ideal for anyone who maybe wants to exercise again after an absence, injury or operation.



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## Supporting the Community Hall

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.

If you are interested in hiring the hall, please contact **Gerry Scovell** 01908307461 or [oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:oldstratfordcommunityhall2@hotmail.co.uk)

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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**

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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.

## Roundabout Improvements

The Old Stratford roundabout project is nearing its completion and hopefully we will all soon reap the benefits once the smart system has been given time to “learn”. The Parish Council would like to thank Paul Valentine for all his help as liaison officer on this project, as he has worked to make information dissemination, road closure and rerouting as painless as possible. This project was the first in which Highways England employed a liaison officer and they are now looking to replicate this approach on all major projects across the country.



Highways England have provided the below update:

By the end of October 2018, we will have completed a £3.4m improvement scheme, which is aimed at cutting journey times and reducing peak hour queueing, whilst also improving the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

Scope of Works:

- On the approach to the roundabout, which intersects the A5, A422 and A508, two additional lanes have been added and resurfaced; over 6, 670 tonnes of asphalt was used.
- 33 new SMART traffic lights and columns were installed, which utilise the latest Micro Processor Optimised Vehicle Actuation (MPOVA Technology).
- Over 6,500 meters of ducting were laid, along with the installation of new LED Street lighting columns that will (on average) generate 50% energy savings, year on year.
- The surrounding footpath was widened from 0.9mtrs to 3mtrs and new pedestrian safety barriers were also installed.

As thousands of vehicles travel through the roundabout every day, we minimised disruption to the travelling public by undertaking the majority of works during the night. This ensured the roundabout was passable during the day, especially during peak times. The resurfacing arms of the roundabout took place over five weekends, negating the need to close the entire roundabout at any point.

**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)**



## Old Stratford Bus Services

At the end of July Old Stratford lost its bus services to Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes and Towcester during the main part of the day. This is one of many cuts in services resulting from the severe financial position of Northamptonshire County Council (NCC), when notably a proportion of the NCC Council Tax charges paid by residents is intended to support bus services throughout the county.

The Parish Council and a number of concerned residents have contacted NCC and Rt.Hon. Andrea Leadsham (MP) expressing concerns about the withdrawal of the local 90 bus service. Initially the draft budget at NCC proposed that some subsidised bus services would be retained, but once the full severity of financial pressures on the NCC became clear, all subsidised services were withdrawn.

When approached with a proposal to divert all X89 buses via Old Stratford and Stony Stratford, Stagecoach, who operate the X89 and 89 services, advised their additional costs would be unviable.

The Bus services we are left with are outlined below:

<i>*NS=Not Saturdays</i>	NS					NS
Milton Keynes Stop B4	06:35	08:00	09:45	17:54	19:14	20:14
Milton Keynes Rail Station Z5	06:43			18:02	19:22	20:22
Stony Stratford - Wolverton Rd	06:55			18:12	19:32	20:32
Old Stratford - Deanshanger Rd	07:01	08:15	09:59	18:18	19:38	20:38
Deanshanger Glebe Rd	07:11	08:25	10:08	18:26	19:46	20:46
Towcester Health Centre	07:56	09:12	10:36	19:03	20:23	21:23
Northampton - The Drapery	08:49	09:14	10:07	19:51	21:11	22:11

<i>*NS=Not Saturdays</i>	NS					NS
Northampton - The Drapery		06:07	14:52	15:52	17:12	18:12
Towcester Health Centre		06:50	15:38	16:38	17:58	18:58
Deanshanger Glebe Rd	05:58	07:32	16:15	17:15	18:35	19:35
Old Stratford - Deanshanger Rd	06:06	07:43	16:23	17:23	18:43	19:43
Stony Stratford - Wolverton Rd	06:12	07:49	16:29	17:29	18:48	19:48
Milton Keynes Rail Station Y5	06:24	08:07	16:43	17:43	19:01	20:01
Milton Keynes Stop B3	06:32	08:15	16:51	17:51	19:09	20:09

The Parish Council would like to hear from residents on what timed services they need to fill these gaps, so please let us know your views and the days and times that are most suitable. This will then enable us to see if organising a scheme is feasible, for example hiring a minibus running a limited service.

Please address your responses to the Clerk either by Email or letter, so we can assess the feasibility and costs to the users, which could potentially be shared with people who wish to use the service from adjacent parishes.

## Old Stratford Primary School News

Over the summer holidays we converted to an academy under the Grand Union Trust. This means we are now under a Multi academy trust with New Bradwell Primary School and Jubilee Wood Primary school in Milton Keynes. [www.grandunionpartnership.org](http://www.grandunionpartnership.org)

This term, we welcomed several new pupils across Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, as well as all our new Reception children. We hope they will be very happy at Old Stratford Primary School; the staff are looking forward to getting to know each and every one of them!

Last year's SATS outcomes were some of the best results that Old Stratford has produced. All of our children reached or exceeded their targets and they should be very proud.

## Old Stratford Pre-school



The Community Centre, Deanshanger Rd, Old Stratford, MK196NL

Play-Learn-Grow



Registered Charity no.1033454 OFSTED NO. 219885

Old Stratford Preschool is a community preschool run by a parent committee. We offer children the opportunity to Play-Learn and Grow together while developing core skills in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. We achieve this by Planning in the Moment, considering the child's key interests at that time and sharing our findings with the parents.

Old Stratford Preschool aims to:

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

We are open Monday -Friday during term time from 7:30-15:00 offering full and half-day sessions (minimum two sessions per week)

***All children aged 2years until school entry are welcome, with spaces available for our funded (15 & 30 hours) and non-funded sessions***

Please contact Dawn to learn more about the preschool and view our excellent facilities. Email: [manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk](mailto:manager@oldstratfordpreschool.co.uk)

Tel: 01908 260664

## Neighbourhood Watch Update

### Prepare for Dark Nights

1. Keep front and back doors locked at all times.
2. If you are out in the evening keep your curtains drawn and leave a radio on.
3. Remember to keep garage and sheds locked.
4. Keep your front door well-lit and make sure fences and bushes are no more than a metre high,
5. Never leave keys hidden outside.
6. Keep bins away from Windows



When out and about:

1. Let someone know where you are going
2. Keep purse, wallet and keys secure.  
Only take essentials NO valuables.
3. Be aware of surroundings and don't text or listen to music on your phone.
4. If you are out regularly at night get a personal attack alarm.
5. If you are a runner, walker, or cyclist stick to well-lit routes don't wear headphones, change your route and vary your times regularly.

101 is the number to report incidents and general enquires. In an EMERGENCY call 999. To report a crime and remain anonymous call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111

Please stay safe.

**Jacki Ibell, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator** 01908 562677.

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## St Guthlacs Update

St Guthlacs is Old Stratford's Parish church and is one of the most important grade 1 heritage sites in the area. Forthcoming events include:

- "A Song for Bobby Bannister" – concert with Woburn Cryers. Sunday December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm
- Christmas Concert with Swanbourne School Choir, Sunday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm

The Friends of St Guthlacs (FoSG) are a registered charity dedicated to preserving the church and developing its use by local communities. For further information about events, services or visiting the church, contact Emma Hawkins (FoSG Organiser) on **01908 564550** or email **emmahawkins06@live.co.uk**.

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## Deanshanger Methodist Chapel

- **Sunday Morning Worship 10.30am--** a traditional, friendly & welcoming service
- **Drop In @ the Chapel --**homemade lunch –1<sup>st</sup> Friday in month from 12 noon
- **Pop In @ the Chapel -** coffee and cake and homemade soup - Wed 28 Nov – 10am

## Councillor Contact Details

Role	Name	Address	Telephone
OSPC Chairman	Tony Pateman	32 Mounthill Avenue	01908 567907
		Tony.pateman@oldstratford.org.uk	
OSPC Vice Chairman	Nicky Laurence	11 Chapmans Drive	07967 756988
		Nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk	
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, Passenheim	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	

Get in Touch

Find us on 

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

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