



# Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2019

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenham

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## Chairman's Update

I recently attended a meeting regarding the setting up of the new unitary authority. After 2021 Northamptonshire County Council will no longer exist and the County will be divided into two authorities: East Northamptonshire and West Northamptonshire. Old Stratford will be part of the West Northamptonshire authority, which will cover the areas of Towcester, Daventry, Brackley and Northampton Town. Notably, Health and Social Care will be run as a separate entity (much in the same way as the Police and Fire services), with its own line on Council Tax bills to ensure that the money gets to where it is needed.

Closer to home, Old Stratford's allotment gardens have been running since Spring and I would like to thank Adam Booth and the allotment association members for the work they have done setting out the ground for the plots on the site. I have a small plot and note that all the holders who have started growing vegetables and flowers have made the site look really good with some good produce being grown. I understand that all the full and half plots have now been rented out and anyone wishing to go on the waiting list should contact the Parish Clerk, Mr Derek Everett (01908 569053) or [clerk@oldstratford.org.uk](mailto:clerk@oldstratford.org.uk)

We are still experiencing speeding vehicles through Old Stratford and Passenham. To try and reduce these problems we are planning to install Speed Indicator Signs, I know you will have seen other newsletters making the same statement but I can assure all residents that we are getting closer to achieving our goal. I hope that the data we can collect from these new units will give us the evidence we require to convince the Police that we DO actually have a problem.

I have heard reports that the bus services are very good and are very handy for shopping and medical appointments, so it is pleasing to hear we now have a reliable useful service.

Finally, I would like to thank all those villagers who have worked tirelessly in the Old Stratford in Bloom group and the village litter picks. I think that their great work has improved the visual impact around the village immensely.

**Tony Pateman, Chairman**

## District Councillor's Update

### Local Government Reform

The draft bill authorising the setting up of the two Unitary Councils has been approved by the Secretary of State and is now waiting for it to be endorsed by Parliament over the coming weeks.

Political parties are beginning to select their candidates to become councillors at the Unitary elections next May. This initially will be to a 'Shadow Council' and in April 2021 will be a permanent position for 5 years.

### SNC Reform

Following the move to become a Unitary Council, SNC and Cherwell District Council's successful partnership has had to separate, creating a number of new employment vacancies where roles were previously shared. The recruitment process is virtually complete.

### Towcester Race Course

It has been announced that Towcester race course will no longer host National Hunt Racing. It was anticipated that its closure was only temporary but this is not the case, however there are currently no indications what the location will be used for. The first race ever held there was in back in 1876.

### Silverstone Heritage Centre

The new £20m Heritage Centre will open on 25<sup>th</sup> October, following delays due to the developers going into administration. You may recall that SNC has an interest in this project as it gave a loan of £3m along with the National Lottery for its completion. Details of exhibits and tickets are on their web site.

### Towcester Town Centre

At the beginning of October SNC agreed to purchase the old Co-op site, off Richmond Road behind the high street in Towcester. The intention is to redevelop the site for much needed parking and provide additional amenities for residents and visitors to the town.

### SNC Grants Funding for Local Projects

The grants panel will be sitting in October and 3 local applications are up for consideration: Speed indicator devices for London /Towcester Road and Passenham, barriers for the Community Hall and additions to St. Guthlacs.

Don't forget if you are a local organisation or charity you could be eligible for a grant towards a particular project.

If you wish to raise an issue, I hold a regular surgery and details of dates and location are on the parish website or on the notice board.

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

District  
Councillor's  
Update

## Old Stratford In Bloom

### Old Stratford in Bloom (OSIB)

The year has bloomed, blossomed and is approaching the Autumn change-over.

One of the most notable additions to the village has been on "The Village Green" by the traffic lights. The area by the crossroads has been improved by removing the overgrown area by the seat and village sign. This has been transformed with a display including a narrow boat, floral display and re-grassed area.



The Falcon boat has been created and put in place to demonstrate the village in its historical context. The Buckingham Canal historically flowed under the bridge by the traffic lights and the pub situated there was called the Falcon..... hence the boat's name. The boat was cunningly created from pallets by Councillor Alan Holloway. The final painting was undertaken by canal boat artist, Colin Dundas.



We are continuing to add to the floral displays around the village, with two more flower planters installed and six barrier baskets placed around the traffic lights. In the Spring lamp post baskets will be placed.

None of this would happen without the continuing enthusiasm and help of the volunteers who put in their time and effort. We are always happy to welcome new volunteers, no matter how much time you can afford. Welcome to Lee Hodgkinson, Kate Reynolds and Caroline Daniells.

We are very grateful to the sponsors of the planters and thank Hyundai garage for the extra sponsorship money recently donated. With this we are going to plant the wall around their garage. Also, a big thank you to the Swan for their donation of £250 from their 2nd anniversary celebrations.



Visit our Facebook page, Old Stratford in Bloom, to keep up to date with what's going on. If you would like details of sponsoring one or more of our planters, then do please contact Sue Gagg, on 07793-676415 or to be added to our list of volunteers please contact Chris Allin on 07702-0116615.

In the meantime, enjoy the Autumn Colours.

## Old Stratford Community Hall

### Community Hall Update

We would like to take this opportunity of thanking Nick Rowlandson for stepping in as the Community Hall Chairperson over the last year. Nick has now handed the reins over to Chris Hopkins, Chair of the Old Stratford Short Mat Bowls group, but has agreed to stay on as Vice-Chair.

#### Fireworks Display - Saturday 9th 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 gates open at 5.30pm, with the display starting around 6.30pm. Please come earlier and support our groups with their much-needed fundraising. Admission is FREE to under 16s and £2.50 for 16 and over. For licensing reasons, only alcohol purchased in our on-site bar can be consumed at the event. The bar will remain open after the fireworks, and we have a disco for the children, so why not make an evening of it!



Fireworks can be dangerous – please keep a close eye on your children and don't allow them beyond the roped off area for their own safety. Unfortunately, there is NO on-site parking available for this event, including disabled parking, as the car park area will be for pedestrians and stalls. Parking along the Deanshanger Road gets filled up very quickly, so please walk to the venue if you can.

#### Senior Citizens Christmas Meal - Sat 7th December (from 4pm)

Invitations will be delivered in the next few weeks 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, however if you have a partner who is under 65, they are very welcome to join you. Come along and enjoy a festive afternoon with us!

#### Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

We have been holding our monthly Afternoon Teas (and Bingo) in the Memorial Hall for the last four years, organised and run by Claire Clayton and Sheila Shepherd, along with a number of volunteers. Our thanks to Janet Ransom and Leslie Peach who have offered to take over and run these events, which are held on the last Friday of every month (except December), between 2pm and 4pm in the Memorial Hall. We will still pop in to say hello when we can but we wish Janet and Leslie all the best. They would love to see more of you though - any senior citizen is welcome; you don't have to be a village resident to attend, so come and spend a couple of hours chatting with your friends.

And finally, keep an eye out in this newsletter for other new community events that we are hoping to hold next year. If you have any ideas or suggestions, we'd love to hear from you!

## Old Stratford Preschool

For anyone new to Old Stratford, the Pre-School is a community pre-school run by a parental committee. The pre-school meets each day at Old Stratford Community Hall on Deanshanger Road. It accepts children aged 2 years until school entry.



The pre-school offers sessions 5 days a week and these can be full or half days. Sessions are Breakfast club 7:30am till 8.30am, Morning session 8.30 till 11.30am, Lunch Club 11.30 till 12.00pm, Afternoon session 12.00 – 3.00pm, Full day 8.30 till 3.00pm. Each child must enrol for a minimum of two sessions per week although further sessions, lunch clubs or breakfast clubs can be arranged as availability allows. We accept funding 15 and 30 hours. We also accept childcare vouchers.

Please visit our website for further details at [www.oldstratfordpreschool.org](http://www.oldstratfordpreschool.org) or phone the Pre-school manager Dawn on 01908 260 664.

The next open day will be held on Saturday 16th May 2020 at the Community Centre Old Stratford from 9am - 11am. (please check our website nearer the time)

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## 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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## 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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## Old Stratford Parish Clean Up

OSPC would like to send a massive THANK YOU to all those who joined the Parish clean ups during June and September.

The next litter pick event will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## Future Development (Local Plan- Part 2)

Every five years or so, plans are devised to ensure that appropriate growth within villages and towns in the SNC area is in line with local requirements. The Village Confines, which determine the potential requirement for housing development are such that little new housing will be possible in Old Stratford. However, land has been identified as a potential site for a small commercial development and a country park (near the A5 roundabout). **This will be subject to full planning approval and the adoption of the Local Plan Part two due in December this year.**

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## Rail Freight Interchange Project

It was announced by the Secretary of State for Transport on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October that approval has been given for the above project, which will be sited between Roade and Junction 15 of the M1. The project will have a significant effect on Roade and the surrounding area. Roade will have a new bypass and there will likely be an increase in traffic towards the M1 and the A508 towards the Old Stratford roundabout. Because this project was classified as a Strategic Infrastructure Project, SNC had only an advisory capacity and was not involved in making the decision.

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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 the County Council on 0300 126 1000 or



<https://fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk/>

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## Parking and Property Maintenance

A reminder to all residents and non-residents to park their vehicles responsibly. OSPC understand that there are some streets where households now have more vehicles than originally designed for, but parking on grass verges, pavements and double yellow lined areas causes problems for other residents and may result in enforcement action.

Also, a reminder for householders with hedges or planting next to the footpath, that you have a responsibility to make sure that the footway is not obstructed and causing problems for those with disabilities, small children etc

## Neighbourhood Watch Update

Crime is changing the Police are constantly adapting to tackle crime but the Police can't fight crime alone. They need the support of the Public. If you have any information about a crime or criminals in your area the Police want to know about it, for example drug activity, anti-social behaviour or any unusual behaviour. There are several ways of reporting:



- Via the Northants Police website.
- Phone 101
- Call Crimestoppers 0800 555 111 or fill in the form on the website. You will never have to give your name, your call cannot be traced or recorded and you will not have to go court.
- In emergency dial 999.

As we are nearing Christmas just a couple of reminders. Don't tempt the Christmas Criminal. When shopping make sure your parcels are in the boot and not on view. At home make sure no parcels are left on view from windows or doors and make sure the car and house keys are not on view especially through the letter box!

Please Speak Up and Be Safe! If none of this works for you, you can phone me on 01908 562677 I may be able to help.

**Jacki Ibell Neighbourhood Watch Co - Ordinator.**

## St Guthlacs Update

The Friends of St. Guthlacs Church Passenham are hosting concerts at the church in the run-up to Christmas, to raise the funds to install a toilet and servery. Tickets are available as below or from Odells & Co Ltd.



### Saturday November 16th 7.30-9.30pm

Old Club Consorte (musical directors Craig McLeish & David Lawrence) 'Masterworks of the European Renaissance'. Tickets £15, to include refreshments, from Craig (01908 265317), Robin (robingoodfellow68@gmail.com)

### Sunday December 8th 5.30-7.00pm

Swanbourne School Choir. 'Carols by Candlelight'. Tickets £10 adults, £6 children under 16. Mulled wine and mince pies available. Tickets from Emma (emmahawkins06@live.co.uk or 01908 564725)

### Saturday December 14th 6.00-7.30pm

Coro Fortuna Female Voice Choir (conductor and accompanist John Byron). 'Traditional and Modern British and European Carols'. Tickets £8 Mulled wine and mince pies available. Tickets from john@byronmusic.co.uk or 01908 251903,

## 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, Passenham	01908 566014
	Noeleen Ryder	96 Mounthill Avenue	01908 263244
	Ray Smith	18 Deanshanger Road	01908 564815
	Susan Tait	24 Willow Grove	01908 563182
OSPC Clerk	Derek Everett	10 Deanshanger Road	01908 569053
		clerk@oldstratford.org.uk	
District Councillor	Kenneth Pritchard	The Barn, Puxley	07764 939070
		ken.pritchard@southnorthants.gov.uk	
County Councillor	Allen Walker	17 Porters Close, Deanshanger	01908 260302
		awalker@northamptonshire.gov.uk	

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

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