



Old Stratford Parish Council Newsletter

Spring 2020

For Residents of Old Stratford and Passenheim

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Chairman's Update

It's the start of another year and a new decade. Over the next few months we will have a better understanding of how the new unitary authority for West Northamptonshire will take shape, with elections to the shadow council. Those elected will oversee the formation of the new unitary authority and then continue to be councillors in the new unitary authority.

More locally there are opportunities for people from Old Stratford to stand as Parish Councillors; any residents over 18 from Old Stratford are eligible (see article for further details).

The allotments are now starting their first new growing year and I wish them well with what produce they grow on their plots. A compostable loo will be installed for their use. Old Stratford in Bloom are continuing to improve the aesthetics of the village with all the planters looking really good. I would like to thank them for their work on the Christmas lights in the village. Also our thanks to the Swan Public House for the lovely Christmas tree and decorations. I thought the village looked really festive this year.

We still receive many complaints regarding the number of speeding vehicles as well as heavy goods vehicles passing through our village. We will soon have new speed indicator devices installed in Old Stratford and Passenheim. These new units will provide us with greater information about the traffic problems we experience, and the information will be forwarded to the Police to help them prioritise their resources for enforcement.

Problems with parking are still notable throughout Old Stratford. A gentle reminder to all vehicle owners to park responsibly and a request that parents bringing their children to and from school are mindful of their impact on the residents in the surrounding streets.

**Tony Pateman,
Chairman**

Please note the date for the Annual Open Meeting is: 21st April 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall. Everyone welcome!

District Councillor's Update

Local Government Reform

On the 14th of February the approval was given by the House of Commons and the House of Lords for the setting up of two Unitary Authorities, West Northamptonshire and North Northamptonshire. These new councils will replace the Districts, County, and Borough Councils. The elections for the new councillors will take place on the 7th of May and those new councillors will not take up their full responsibility until May 2021. Parish Councils will not be affected and until 2021 your existing District and County Councillors will still be representing Old Stratford residents.

Council Tax - 2019/2020

At a South Northants Council meeting on the 26 of February, next years' 2020/2021 Council Tax level had been approved and resulting in an increase as follows. SNC Council Tax up by £5 per Band D household (2.99%) plus an additional increase of £10 per annum for policing (+4.08%) and £1.21 per annum (+1.99%) for the Fire and Rescue Service. In addition to this there is the Adult Social Care element that has to be decided by the County Council.

Grant Funding

The Community Grants process will restart on the 1st of April and applications are requested from any local organisation or club that has specific projects that wish to be considered for funding. Application forms and details are on the SNC web site.

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

Becoming a Parish Councillor

If you are over 18 years old and would be interested in becoming a Councillor, please contact Mr Derek Everett (Parish Clerk – details on contacts page); giving your name and address and your wish to stand as a Parish Councillor. The closing date is 8th April 2020.

The Parish Council consists of 11 members and elections to the Parish Council will be held on the 7th of May 2020.

Road Conditions and Pot holes

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/>

Old Stratford in Bloom (OSIB)

It feels great to be on the spring side of winter and to feel that the earth is awakening, as already the daffodils planted are coming up!



OSIB has already had a couple of damp outings to weed the "Green", tidy the front of the Memorial Hall and improve the bed and area at the road entrance by the Hyundai garage.

The barrier baskets by the traffic lights have been put in place and are continuing to brighten up the area despite the damp. A new planter has been bought to be placed by the crossing in front of Furtho House. In the near future we shall see the appearance of some baskets around the lamposts. This is part of the ongoing plan to bring colour to our village.

In order to keep costs down and to have a stock of replacement plants, a greenhouse is being purchased to be placed at the back of the Memorial Hall.

At the time of printing we must thank the following for their continued support in sponsoring a planter.

- Hyundai
- Salt Clinic
- Spandino Oro
- Naomi Evans
- Thomson Balch
- Home Instead
- The Swan
- Old Stratford School
- LVC Central
- James Clarke



If you would like to sponsor a planter please contact Sue Gagg on 07793-676415 for details. We would also like to thank the Stratford Motorists Centre for providing the electricity for the Christmas lights.

If you would like to join a work party as a volunteer do please speak to one of us when we are around the village or contact Chris Allin on 07702-011615. We should be fairly visible in our new Hi-vis OSIB vests!!! The work parties are usually on Sunday mornings and last an hour or so.

Community Hall Update

To all those people who braved the weather and attended our annual Fireworks Display, thank you very much for your support. Despite the conditions, we had another successful event, providing some much needed funds for our local pre-school. We hope you all enjoyed the evening.

This year the Fireworks Display is provisionally booked for **Saturday 7th November** – we will confirm this date in the next edition of the newsletter. 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 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 for this year is **Saturday 12th December**

Senior Citizens Afternoon Teas

These will continue to run 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.

Activities and Classes

We have a wide variety of activities that regularly take place at the Hall which cater for all ages and all abilities. Some groups are struggling for numbers and it would be a real shame if they had to close due to lack of interest.

We offer weekly sessions of Zumba and Zumba Gold (a Latin American dance/exercise class), Karate (for adults and children), Short Mat Bowls, Slimming World, Weight Watchers, Football, Silver Sabres (discover your inner Jedi!), Socatots, Char Char Chimps, Mums & Toddlers – have a look at the display boards in the foyer for more information.

There really is something for everyone and new members are always welcome.

Memorial Hall Centenary

This year is the centenary of the Memorial Hall, which opened on the Whitsuntide Bank Holiday Monday 1920. Co-incidentally 2020 will also be the 20th Anniversary of the community hall. OSPC were considering holding an event in celebration, but to date there has been little support expressed. Should anyone have any suggestions for events or be interested in being part of an organising committee, please email Nicky Laurence nicky.laurence@oldstratford.org.uk

Old Stratford Parish Clean Up Mornings

The dates for this year's litter pick and village clean up's are:

Saturday June 20th

Saturday September 19th

Saturday November 28th

The litter pick starts at 9.00 am and finishes at 11.00 am. Picking equipment, sacks and high Vis vest will be provided. Tea, coffee and biscuits are also available to welcome you back. All villagers are invited including family members. Please come along and meet other residents whilst helping to keep our village tidy.

Old Stratford Preschool



The Pre-School is a community pre-school run by a parental committee, who meet 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 or phone the Pre-school manager Dawn on **01908 260 664**

Our open day this year will be held on Saturday 28th March 2020 at the Community Centre Old Stratford from 11am-2pm. (please check our website nearer the time)

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.

Crime in Old Stratford

There has been a spate of car thefts, burglaries and thefts from vehicles in our village recently. Our message is not to become over-anxious about this, but rather to be vigilant and to take a few basic commonsense precautions. Having consulted with Phil Croney, Neighbourhood Police Officer, who lives in Old Stratford, here is his advice to reduce or avoid the possibility of crimes occurring:

- **Thefts from cars** - these have mainly occurred to cars, which have been left UNLOCKED overnight.
- **Thefts from vans** - this is occurring throughout the County to locked vans, resulting in the theft of high-value tools. It is crucial not to be complacent about removing tools from vans, day or night. There is now an app developed and endorsed Secured by Design. Find it www.toolwatchapp.com. The toolwatch app database connects tool owners to local Police Force. By registering your serial numbers with the app you are supported if your tools are stolen.
- **Car thefts** - there have been on occasion cars stolen. This often happens to cars with keyless entry. It is therefore essential that you keep your key locked up if possible. Otherwise thieves can sequence your key software remotely. Likewise there have been incidents of houses broken into and keys being stolen. Please keep all keys out of sight from windows and doors.
- **thefts of Number Plates** - it is not uncommon to find Number Plates being removed from parked vehicles. These are then used by organized criminal gangs to hide the identity of their own vehicle or that of a recently-stolen vehicle.

If you are the victim of a vehicle-related crime, no matter how small or trivial it may seem, it is crucial it is reported in the following ways :

- if you feel a crime is about to be committed, is in progress or has just occurred, ring the police immediately on 999.
- If you need to report you are a victim of crime, you can report to Northamptonshire Police via their website link: northants.police.uk or ring 101.
- It is also possible to use the "report suspicious" app on the same website.

Recent success by the South Northants Neighbourhood Police Team :

- following a recent operation, a significant number of stolen tools were recovered from an organised crime gang in and around Towcester and Brackley. Since some of the tools were marked, they were re-united with their owners.
- a number of stolen vehicles, diggers and Number Plates found located in a neighbouring village.

Finally, your local Northamptonshire Police Team is working closely with Officers in Milton Keynes and Buckinghamshire to share information and intelligence.

Neighbourhood Watch Update

There is a current phone Scam where an automated call pretending to be from Amazon Prime tells victims their subscriptions will be renewed for £39.99. From here they ask for personal details or Bank Details.



Amazon would not use this method of contact and any call that is unsolicited should ring Alarm Bells. Hang up immediately and if you have given any sensitive information phone your Bank and report it. Also phone Action Fraud 0300 123 2040.

The Commissioner responsible for policing has agreed to attend a future Parish Council meeting to discuss residents issues. A date for this has yet to be finalised due to forthcoming elections, so keep an eye on Facebook, our website and the notice boards.

Co-ordinator Vacancy

Sadly our Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator Jacki Ibell is stepping down from the role and we are looking for a volunteer to take on the role. There are only 3/4 meetings a year and online information sharing. If you are interested then please call Jacki on 01908 562677, and she will be happy to discuss further.

Defibrillators

OSPC has installed defibrillators outside the Community & Memorial Halls, with a further unit to be located in Passenham soon

To access please phone for an ambulance and quote the location code on the box to obtain the PIN code.

REMEMBER: Anyone can use an AED without training. AEDs have visual and voice prompts which guide the resuscitator through the process. The device is failsafe and will not administer a shock unless a particular heartbeat is detected

Bag that Poo - Any rubbish bin will do!

The Parish Council continues to receive complaints from residents about dogs fouling the footpaths, children's play areas and the playing field at the Community Hall. If a dog waste bin is not available, then bagged poo can be placed into any rubbish bin.

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**

Get in Touch

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 914601
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	

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

Website: www.oldstratford.org.uk