

PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Spring 2020

www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk

Welcome to the Spring Newsletter. The bulbs are beginning to show, colour returns, and we start another year in rather wet and windy conditions. The Flooding on Tilsworth Road is a concern and we have reported this and issues regarding blocked storm drains to Central Beds Council. We hope something will be done to rectify this in the very near future. If **flooding** is an issue, please ring **emergency number 0300 300 8049** and have the postcode available.

Mill Road is due some works to the road surface which is now in very poor condition. The speed calming scheme has been booked and confirmed for late spring/early summer and not February this year as we were originally told.

On the Village green, the tarmac road that runs across the middle has had a temporary repair and will be done more thoroughly later this year. The PC only maintains the section from the end of the cottages to the gate in front of the farmhouse. The section by the cottages remains the responsibility of Central Beds Council.

We will be transferring over to a new domain for the website this year so please make a note of the new website address (see above). During the transition from the old address to the new one, search engines may still show the old address. We hope to set up an automatic forward on the old address to forward you to the new domain from the old one automatically.

Any queries please contact our clerk. All details can be found under contacts at the end of the newsletter.

Following on from the success of the Battles Over event we will be celebrating 75 Years from the end of WW2 at the Community Hall on Friday May 8th, 2020 (Bank Holiday Friday). I do hope that you can join us. Please see Meeting Point and posters for details.

Finally, with some sadness but due to personal circumstances and because I believe change is good, I have decided not to stand for re-election to the Parish Council this May. I have been on the PC for almost 8 years, Chair for 5 years and it has been an honour to serve such a great community.

Much has happened in that time and I believe we now have a very proactive PC with great ideas and the financial means to carry out future projects around the village. I leave the PC in very capable hands. Thank you to all the team but especially to our clerk Maxine, whose guidance and support have been truly fantastic. I couldn't have managed without her. At the risk of sounding too much like a night at the Oscars I'd also like to thank all the residents who have assisted me in organising events at the Community Hall, newsletter deliveries, Spring Cleans, Working Parties and more - thank you for making them such a success. Stanbridge is a great village and I will continue to be involved with various projects, events and the Focus Group.

Please join me and the team for drinks and refreshments at my last Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 28th April 2020 at 7.30pm.

Best wishes to you all.
Elaine Sutton

FLOODING CAUSED BY BLOCKED DITCHES

Farmers, landowners, tenants and households please note – any ditches that run parallel to your property are your responsibility under riparian rights. Please keep them clear to stop run off onto the road. Station Road is particularly bad and has caused flooding on the pavement and road in recent weeks. If this were to freeze and an accident occurs, you may be liable to prosecution.

We would also ask everyone to ensure that any hedges or trees that overhang the pavement are cut back so as not to cause obstruction, especially for the elderly, disabled or those with visual impairments. If you are unable to do this, please let us know and the working party could help you.

VILLAGER OF THE YEAR

Thank you to those who nominated this year. The announcement will be made at the Annual Parish meeting on Tuesday 28th April.

FOCUS GROUP

The Villages Focus Group keeps on working to support Parish Councils, residents and businesses for fair and balanced planning in this part of south Bedfordshire. We continue to raise public awareness that it takes time and tenacity for positive changes and that even small contributions add up when there are many. Whether you take the time to write just 3-4 sentences to comment on a planning application or an appeal, waiting patiently for an answer on 101 for a Police reference number; or full participation in our ongoing meetings with CBC & Government (MHCLG) It all helps. We ask that each villager help work together towards permanent solutions so that this parish is safer and healthier for all. Yet if you don't report to the police, this area may lose what police cover it currently has and will not benefit from the new appointments it so desperately needs.

- Keep reporting all incidents to the CBC officer whether for the Police or not: jeanette.keyte@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
- Keep reporting to the Police on 101 or 999 (if active incident). They have been helpful with antisocial behaviours but cannot attend all calls as other major crimes may be happening at the same time. Yet if you don't report, this area may lose what police cover there is or not benefit from the new hires.
- Attend the next community Focus Group (email Grapevine at ourvillage.vine@gmail.com for details)

COMMUNITY HALL

The community hall is the perfect venue for parties, weddings, club celebrations or meetings. Residents of Stanbridge receive a 25% discount on hall bookings. For information or to make a booking please contact Paul & Di Weir on 07988 827601.

Regular groups meet at the hall and welcome support from our villagers. Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, Cha Char Chimps, Toddler and Baby Group and a 1950's Rock 'n' Roll and Retro Line Dance Class.

The car park has recently been resurfaced as well as new CCTV being installed and most of the internal lighting being replaced. Working parties to maintain the hall meet at 2pm on Mondays. Volunteers are always needed. If you wish to join the working party, committee or help with organising events, please contact Dave Spikesley on 01525 210093.

SPEEDWATCH UPDATE

This month sees the Speedwatch sessions increase with the advent of more daylight hours and (hopefully) nicer weather. Comparison of 2019 to 2018 saw a reduction from 16.5% to 11.5% of all vehicles being detected as speeding. More encouraging is that the number of repeat speeding offenders is low with over 90% of vehicles being detected once. Education is working!

We have held sessions in the 20MPH zone outside Stanbridge School to emphasise the speed limit. We have been accompanied by local police who assist in detecting speeding motorists, increasing the effectiveness of the sessions. Local police have also undertaken independent speed detection sessions in the village.

Speedwatch is a county wide initiative with over 71 separate groups across Bedfordshire. This group covers Stanbridge and Tilsworth villages, since most traffic comes through one or both villages. Comparing to the county results, with roughly 10% of all county effort, we capture 20% of all speeding vehicles.

We are always keen to receive more volunteers. Volunteering requires 1 hour per session, with as few or as many as you can manage (typically 1 or 2 per month). Training is provided on site. Finally, many thanks to all for the encouragement we receive from passing pedestrians and local motorists.

STANBRIDGE LOWER SCHOOL

Head Teacher Rosemary, the Parish Council and the Police have been working together to improve the parking outside the school. There have been several incidents of very dangerous parking especially across from the school gates. This has included driving at speed onto the pavements and then parking up on the kerb. This is all so dangerous when you think that this is happening at the same time that children are walking along these pavements. The police have been out on several occasions and told drivers not to park like this. Unfortunately, drivers only seem to heed this advice while there is a police presence. Do not be one of these dangerous drivers and parkers! Please park safely!

The School will be celebrating VE day on Thursday 7th May and as part of their day will be holding an afternoon Tea Dance at 1.30 till approximately 3pm. This will include singing from Fiona Harrison! All the School will be

dressing up in 40's style attire. Rosemary would like to invite local residents to join them for the Tea Dance – **please contact the School directly to book your place in advance**. Also, we would like to send a plea out to find a missing School Log which covers the period around the time of VE Day 1945. Rosemary thinks it was lent out to someone in the local community. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please contact the School or me.

MEETING DATES

The Parish Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Community Hall meeting room at 7.30pm. Members of the public are always welcome and are provided with a session at the start of each meeting to raise any issues they may wish the council to consider. Copies of the agenda can be found on our website or obtained from the Clerk. If you wish to receive a copy of the agenda electronically prior to each meeting, please contact the Clerk to be added to the mailing list. As Meeting Minutes become longer and difficult to display in such a small space, they will no longer be placed on the notice board. If you wish to see a copy, then please view online at www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk or contact the clerk on 07912 298141 or by email to maxine.whiting@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk.

NO PARKING ON PAVEMENTS

Pavements are for walking on. Please do not park on the pavement as this causes issues for the visually impaired and those with buggies or mobility scooters. Pavements are becoming very badly damaged due to the fact they are not built to take the weight of cars. Please be advised that Central Bedfordshire Council are cracking down on this and will issue fines to those found parking on pavements.

VILLAGE GREEN

The Bye Laws protecting the Village green strictly prohibit any motorised vehicle on the village green and signs have also been installed to state NO PARKING. Both are for safety reasons. Exceptions are by permission of the PC only and must be Marshalled, such as the Summer Fayre. Parking is available in front of the church when using the village green but please avoid Sunday for 9.15am services.

DOG WASTE

Please pick it, bag it and bin it. Do not leave it to collect later!! Dog waste is harmful, particularly to children, that alone should concern every one of us. DO NOT dispose of dog waste from home in the red bins as they are not emptied often enough. Place waste from your dog at home in your own General household waste bin and NOT garden recycle bin – see Central Beds Council website.

NEW WEBSITE

The Parish Council website was hosted by Beds Parishes but towards the end of last year we were informed that they would no longer be providing their website service. We have therefore had a new website built. As part of the new site being built we have taken this opportunity to update the domain name to fall in line with Parish Council recommendations by having a .gov.uk site. So, the new site is available at www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.gov.uk. We hope to set up an automatic forwarding from the old site to the new one while we wait for search engines to update their links. The PC email addresses haven't changed at the time of writing, but we hope to update those to the new address in due course. There is a lot of content on the old site, most of which has been moved over to the new site but not all of it has. Please check back regularly for updates.

SPRING CLEAN

The Parish Council will be organising our annual spring clean of the village soon. More details will follow soon. These events are great fun and excellent refreshments are always served care of some very good bakers in the village. If you're interested in helping out, please contact the clerk.

VE DAY CELEBRATIONS

On Friday 8th May 1945 at 3 pm Winston Churchill made the official announcement that World War 2 had ended. The date has been announced as a Bank Holiday this year and the whole weekend designated for celebrations across the world. Stanbridge and Tilsworth Parish Councils invite you to join us on Friday 8th MAY 2020 2.30 – 7.30pm where there will be music, dancing, singing, a cash bar, refreshments, a bouncy castle (weather permitting), games, church bells and memorabilia. We have also requested to be part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Fly Past, weather permitting. This is a ticket only event. Please contact Heather on 210789 or Elaine Jones on 210975. Adults are £5 with family tickets available for £15 incl. up to 3 children (additional children only £1 each). The price includes some refreshments. All profits will be donated to the Forces Benevolent Funds.

COUNCIL MEMBERS & CONTACT DETAILS

Name	Telephone	Email
Maxine Whiting (Clerk)	07912 298141	maxine.whiting@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Elaine Sutton (Chair)	01525 210792	elaine.sutton@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Richard Deville (Vice)	01525 210105	richard.deville@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Pete Lidford	01525 211797	pete.lidford@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Micky Waters	01525 211666	micky.waters@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Martin Walker	01525 210238	martin.walker@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Brian Houston	01525 210122	bh@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

General emails to ALL PC Councillors: contact@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Website: www.stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Contact Details
WARD COUNCILLOR MARK VERSALLION Cllr. Mark Versallion is our elected Central Bedfordshire Councillor. Mark can be contacted on 01525 234000 or at mark.versallion@centralbeds.gov.uk

You may also contact your MP andrew.selous.mp@parliament.uk if you have any concerns about what's happening in your area as he can take the matters further to both the Home Secretary & Communities Secretary. (Note: The Communities Secretary handles the planning policies).

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC**):** www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk you can report through the online system problems such as potholes, streetlights not working, grass verge cutting, drainage and flooding planning issues and much more. CBC Customer Services: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Tel 0300 300 8301 to report full rubbish bins around the village, fly tipping, information about Tidy tips and other general enquiries.

Police: www.bedfordshirepolice.uk you can sign up for BEDS ALERT to get messages directly from the police although we keep the most topical and relevant on our website. Also sign up to Street Watch, Speed Watch and Neighbourhood watch. We are aware that more incidents are being reported and happening in the area. For information and advice on how to keep your property safe including your home or vehicles please see the Parish Council Website under 'Security'.

Police Contact details:
Many crimes are NOT being reported, so the statistics in this area are NOT reflecting experiences. Do not just complain or use social media. TAKE ACTION:

No offenders present, call 101 Note: new appointment system is being deployed
Offenders are present, call 999
Report any issues on the following website www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report
For Intelligence and evidence OpSentinelCentral@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
These add to rural statistics that will help our community compete for police budget and ongoing ACTIVE police support.
Motorbikes have Special Operations called 'Operations Meteor': Call 101 or email opmeteorinbox@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk with pictures and/or footage.

Crimestoppers can be called **anonymously on 0800 555 111 or use website** www.crimestoppers-uk.org.
NFU and Crimestoppers now have additional reporting methods, by phone on 0800 7830137 or at www.ruralcrimereportingline.uk
The police now have a new victim support team called SIGNPOST. you can ring them on 0800 0282 887 out of hours you can leave a voicemail and they will call you back or by email on info@signpostforbedfordshire.com or www.signpostforbedfordshire.com/hub

Beds Police Rural and Farming Liaison Officer: rural.liaison@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk
To report HGVs, email HGV@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

ACTIVITIES and INTERESTS in STANBRIDGE

Organisation	Contact	Phone/Web/Email/Mobile	Purpose
Carpet Bowling Club.	Francis Waldock	01525 210782	Meeting on Tuesdays (afternoon) Thursdays (Evening)
Five Bells Golf Society	Richard Sutton	01525 210792	Players of all abilities welcome. Monthly games at different courses March to Oct. After game gatherings at the 5 Bells Pub.
Gardening Club	Micky Waters or Keith Faulkner	01525 211987 mickywaters@hotmail.com	Visits to gardens in the village and further afield. Talks, seed and plant swaps.
Ladies Wednesday Walking Group	Jan Cook	01525 211879	This is a ladies only group who meet on Wednesdays to walk. Started as 1st weds now operates throughout the month.
Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club	Billington Road - on Right approaching Stanbridge from LB	01525 371322 rugby@buzzardrugby.co.uk www.buzzardrugby.co.uk	This is a club for all ages and has a very strong Junior Section.
Men's Assocation Stanbridge and Tilsworth. (MAST)	Paul Weir	01525 210834 www.mast.org.uk	Meetings – 3rd Tuesday of the month at Tilsworth Golf Club. Various activities including Speakers at some meetings.
Parish Council	Maxine Whiting	07912 298141	The main purpose of the Parish Council is to uphold and improve the Village standards as much as possible for all the residents. Visitors welcome to any meeting Email the clerk at maxine.whiting@stanbridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Rainbow, Brownies & Guides - LB	via email	Join Us@ Girl Guiding UK	
Senior Citizens Luncheon Club	Jean Ball	01525 211988	Meeting 1st Wednesday of the Month.
Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall	Di & Paul Weir.	07988 827601 www.sandtca.co.uk	The hall can be hired for all occasions, both village and general functions. See the website for details of regular groups and classes.
Stanbridge Army Cadets	SGT Carolyn Figg	07775 607779	Meeting every Monday & Wednesday Eve. 7.30pm - 9.30pm at the Army Cadet Hut, Peddars Lane.
The Church of St John the Baptist	Vicar - The Rev. Kaushal David.	01525 211864	Service times are on the Church notice board. Activities include Plant sales, Safari Suppers, Annual Xmas and Summer Fayres.
Tilsworth Golf Club	Dunstable Road - approaching the A5 from Stanbridge	www.tilsworthgolf.co.uk	Dunstable Road near to junction of the A5 Watling Street. This is a very active Pay and Play Club venue which also has a Members section.
The Tilbridge Scout Group Beavers and Scouts	Wendy Watkiss	01525 757593	Cubs meet on Wed evenings. Beavers and Scouts on a Friday evening. Please phone for further details.
Toddlers	Karly Hall	07946 831771	Thursday during the Daytime - please phone for further details.
Women's Friendship Club. WFC	Jean Ball.	01525 211988	Meet on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at Tilsworth Church House. Many activities inc. speaker most months.
Women's Institute (WI)	Diane Malone.	01525 211058 07775 655188	Regular monthly meetings encompassing the usual activities of the WI nationwide. Visitors welcome.

If you would like your group added to this list, please contact the Parish Council

Events Diary

Friday 8th May 2020 – VE Day Celebrations.

2.30 – 7.30pm at Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall. Music, Dancing, Singing, Cash bar, Refreshments, Bouncy castle (weather permitting), Games, Church Bells and memorabilia.
We have also requested to be part of the Battle of Britain Memorial Fly Past (weather permitting)
Adults £5, Family £15 incl. up to 3 children (additional children only £1 each).
Price includes some refreshments

Saturday 16 May - Plant Sale.

10.00 - 12.00 in church

Saturday 30th May 2020 – Tilsworth and Stanbridge Food and Drink Festival.

2.00 – 8.00pm at Stanbridge and Tilsworth Recreation Ground. Join us at the Tilsworth and Stanbridge Food and Drink Festival. For live music, licensed bar, world foods, artizan market and children's entertainment. A fun day out for all. Adults £2, children free.

Saturday 30 May - Gala Dinner.

Church House

Saturday 11 July - Village Fayre

Saturday 18 July - Safari Supper

Meeting Point Magazine. A very useful magazine, especially if new to the village. It has local news, trades people and information about events and who to contact, plus recipes and quizzes. Annual Subscription is £6.00 for 10 issues. Published 1st day of month except January and August. For your copy please contact Bobby Francis Magazine co-ordinator bobbyafrancis@hotmail.com or 01525 222351.

If you would like to have an article, event or social activity included on the next Newsletter please contact the Parish Council.