

STOKE MANDEVILLE PARISH COUNCIL

Summer Events 2012

➤ ***Diamond Jubilee***

The summer began with the celebrations of HM the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Although the weather was poor it did not stop the celebrations with many residents coming along to the Combined School on 3rd June. Our thanks to Matt Ashmead, Head Teacher, for enabling use of the building, where decorations and arrangements were quickly made by willing helpers, the Craft Market Place and a Memorabilia Exhibition, with photos and displays, efficiently relocated in classrooms. The day began with picnic lunch in the school hall, fancy dress and circus acts for the children, music and a pig roast for everyone, the day concluding with dancing to a live band during the evening. All in all and despite the weather, it was a celebratory occasion enjoyed by all.

➤ ***Olympic Torch Relay***

On 9th July we welcomed many visitors to the village to see the Olympic Torch Relay. Streets were lined with people as we cheered on the accompanying cavalcade of vehicles, twirlers and jugglers. Children from surrounding schools were camped out along verges near the school. And the sun did shine and the rain stopped. The torch bearers paused a while at the change over points which allowed children to have their photos taken with the torch and to record this moment of history. Thanks to all those who provided refreshments and toilet facilities and more especially those who volunteered on the day.

➤ ***Olympic Art Challenge***

Stoke Mandeville Art Challenge was the Stoke Mandeville Cultural part of the 2012 Olympics and sponsored by the Parish Council. Although there were no entries in the category for 5 – 11 year olds, those submitted in categories 2 and 3 were of an extremely high standard and our congratulations to everyone who participated. Successes in each category were Kristina Novakovic in Category 2 for a painting on canvas and Pat Wignall in Category 3 for collaged photography. All entries were displayed in the foyer of the Osbidian Art Gallery in Old Risborough Road. Our grateful thanks to Trisha of the Gallery for hosting the display and participating in the judging of the entries.

➤ ***Flame Festival***

The Flame Festival takes place in Aylesbury Market Square on 28th August to celebrate the opening of the Paralympic Games. The event commences at 6.30 pm and includes the LOCOG ceremony being screened along with a programme of Olympiad projects and themes. At 9pm the Paralympic Torch Relay enters the Market Square through the archway of the Court House and runs onto the stage. The torchbearer uses the torch to light two lines of fire/fuses. The fire lines burn upwards, split and diverge. Images on the Court House project more lines of fire that spread around the square to make a beautiful tapestry with narratives, images and music telling the Stoke Mandeville / Paralympians story in what promises to be a spectacular evening.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Council took place at the beginning of May when Jenny Hunt was elected Chairman and David Starr Vice Chairman. Those currently serving on the Council are Brian Adams, David Starr and Pat Wood for Hawkslade Ward; Mark Palmer and Mungo Duncan for Stoke Leys Ward; Richard Butler, Barbara Ezra, Jenny Hunt and David Kennedy for the Village Ward and Andrew Clark, Brian Tyndal and Stephen Watson for Stoke Grange Ward. Please do not hesitate to contact your local Parish Councillor if there are issues you wish to discuss. Contact details of Parish Councillors can be found on Parish Council Notice Board or by contacting the PC Office.

Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field

We have heard that our application to become a QEII Playing Field has been successful. This is a scheme run by Fields in Trust, which is a campaign to protect 2012 outdoor recreational spaces in communities across the country as a permanent living legacy of the Diamond Jubilee and 2012 Olympics. It also gives permanent protection to playing fields and community outdoor space. Visit www.gefields.com and look at how many votes your favourite park has got and make sure you vote for Stoke Mandeville Playing Field – we need to hatch up those votes.

Leisure Equipment for Playing Field

The Parish Council is in receipt of £16,598 to spend on local sport and leisure facilities under Sec 106 which was allocated in respect of properties developed at Motts Travel site now known as Church Court. The Council has to submit suitable projects for the consideration of Aylesbury Vale District Council and is anxious to hear from local residents as to their views and ideas for the use of this money on the Eskdale Road Playing Field. It needs to address any additional leisure needs that have arisen since that development in 2007 which could be, for instance, younger children or for older adults. The funding cannot be used for maintenance or for non sport and leisure facilities. In addition the Council is separately pursuing through an independent fundraiser and as a legacy of the 2012 Paralympic Games, the possibility of an adapted AdiZone community multi sports zone which would include facilities for disabled people. If you are able to suggest likely sponsors please let us know.

Allotments

With the wet Spring and early Summer it has been difficult for many allotment holders to work on their allotments this year, particularly as the rain always seems to fall at a weekend. However, we have received complaints from tenants about the fact that not all allotment holders are cutting the grass paths which run alongside their allotment and also that high weeds exist on many and are seeding to other areas. Although we are not as strict as in some countries about seeding weeds, we would urge allotment holders to keep their plot tidy even if unable to cultivate this year. The Agreement states that allotment holders who do not fully cultivate their plots will be evicted. We have a waiting list for allotments and if allotments are not used then there is a risk that they will be lost to the tenant.

HS2

Representatives from SMAG and the Parish Council are involved in the Community Forum for Aylesbury town and Stoke Mandeville which is addressing with HS2 Ltd major issues for our community should HS2 eventually go ahead. Planning the route is well underway and the enormity of how it will affect the parish fully recognised. This is not just about the operation of the line from 2026 onwards but the eight year construction period four of which will be along this part of the route. We have raised major concerns about the impact of construction traffic bringing noise, dust, traffic congestion throughout our Parish both in the village, Hawkslade and further afield. Whilst no infrastructure maintenance depot is likely to be built in this area, there will be other distributor points locally to hold and maintain large equipment and also to be used for labour camps.

The A4010 Risborough Road which is to be bridged at the entrance to Old Risborough Road will be closed off whilst the bridge is installed prior to the track being built. We have requested that the track at this point be tunnelled to avoid the need for bridges which includes that in Marsh Lane. Alternatively, there has been a suggestion that Risborough Road be permanently closed at that point making it an access road only with the A4010 from Terrick Crossroads being diverted across fields to the A.413. However, this has major implications for residents and also “blue light “services but could alleviate noise from the proposed bridge [so that nearby residents do not get a double whammy]

and also reduce heavy traffic along Station Road and Risborough Road. Your views would be appreciated on this point. In addition the Parish Council has agreed to commission an independent base line noise assessment within the next few months to be used for future comparative purposes.

'Last Chance for Stoke Mandeville's Deserted Village'

A booklet "Last Chance for Stoke Mandeville's Deserted Village" has been produced by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and outlines what will happen should HS2 take the course now proposed with the line planned to travel through the site of the 12th century church ruins and burial ground and also the remains of the Saxon and Norman village about which not much is known. The site has never been excavated and lies just off the Risborough Road unseen and unnoticed. Furthermore, it is not catalogued on any maps although the old church has been. Copies of the booklet can be obtained at a cost of £2 each from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society c/o Buckinghamshire County Museum.

Planning

The following decisions made on applications made for development in the parish have been received from AVDC as the local planning authority. All applications are considered by the Parish Council and those comments taken into account by the local planning authority.

Permitted Development

- First floor extension – 6 Roblin Close
- Single Storey link front extension – 15 Chapel Lane
- Rear Conservatory – 71 Wendover Road
- Rear Conservatory – 9 Aidan Close, Aylesbury.

AVDC has recently increased its charges for pre application advice for new houses on a graduated scale depending on the proposals. For 1 – 5 dwellings this is now £200 plus VAT for written advice and £350 plus VAT for follow up meeting. There will be a charge for enquiries relating to the question "Do I need planning permission. A fee of £50 plus VAT will be charged for researching the planning history on which the advice will be based.

Litter on the Playing Field

We are fortunate to have a playing field in the centre of the village with facilities for all ages. It has been encouraging to see so many people this year using the tennis courts, children's play area, basket ball, skate park and new football goalposts. Sadly there has been an abundance of litter this year also. Although the Council is paying for additional litter pickups every week, it should not be necessary to do so. So please take pride in your playing field and take your litter home with you or place in the many litter bins provided and if you see others dropping litter, please put them in the direction of the nearest litter bin. Together we can all make a difference.

Jenny Hunt
Chairman SMPC
1st August 2012

Please insert in box

**TRUSTEE WANTED
STOKE MANDEVILLE & OTHER PARISHES CHARITY**

Stoke Mandeville Parish Council as the nominating body for the Charity, is seeking a Trustee to fill a casual vacancy on the Board of Trustees . Meetings take place four times a year in the evening on the last Wednesday of the months of January, April, July and October. The Object of the Charity is to provide for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parishes of Stoke Mandeville, Great Missenden and Great and Little Hampden. No formal qualifications are required but Trustees must live within the parish. In addition to have a community, financial or charity background and good communication skills would be helpful. The position is voluntary and initially is until 31 December 2014.

Details about the role of Trustees can be obtained from the Clerk of the Charity, Mrs. Caroline Dobson on 01296 431859/mobile 07966442036 or e mail CED@wychwood-communications.com or alternatively the Chairman, Mrs. Barbara Ezra on 01296 612560 or email the.ezras@googlemail.com.

Applications should be made in writing before 30th September 2012 to The Clerk of the Stoke Mandeville Parish Council, The Community Centre, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville, Bucks HP22 5UJ.