

# The Town Crier

Stony Stratford Town Council . Issue 61 . Spring 2018

Fullers Slade . Galley Hill . Stony Stratford Town

Don't forget to vote on  
**Our Neighbourhood Plan**



Same day, same place  
as Local Council elections  
**3 MAY 2018**



Stony Stratford Town Council

To find out more, view the plan at [www.stonystratford.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan)  
or look through a copy at the SSTC office in the Library, 5-7 Church Street, Stony Stratford  
or at the Rowan's Centre, Fullers Slade.



## What is the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan?

Neighbourhood Plans are a way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work. They were introduced in the Localism Act 2011 as a way of letting people who know and care for an area, plan for it. Neighbourhood planning is about building neighbourhoods and planning positively for development – not stopping growth. The Act explains how communities can get more involved in planning for their areas – specifically how they can create plans and policies to guide new development and, in some cases, grant planning permission for certain types of development. The Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan (encompassing Stony Stratford, Fullers Slade and Galley Hill) sets out planning policies and aspirations to guide how the local community wants the parish to look over the next 10-15 years in terms of new development, building design and the protection and improvement of community facilities, parking, local services and open spaces. A key element of the Plan is how to maintain the economic vitality of our High Street and local economy whilst trying to ensure that people can walk and cycle safely around the parish area.

In Stony Stratford, we have been working on the development of a Neighbourhood Plan since late 2012. Initially a steering group comprising town councillors, residents from Stony Stratford, Fullers Slade and Galley Hill together with members of the Business Association and other local groups worked to develop the Plan that you will be asked to vote on in a referendum on **Thursday 3rd May 2018**.

The Plan has been through the following stages:

- Stage 1: Define the Area – The Neighbourhood Plan area was designated on 28th May 2013

- Stage 2: Prepare the Plan: The Steering Group developed the proposals which were consulted on with the public and statutory consultees. The completed plan was submitted to Milton Keynes Council in June 2016. The publicity period was held between 29th June to 10th August 2016.

- Stage 3: Independent Check: Milton Keynes Council appointed an independent examiner, Mr John Slater, to review whether the Stony Stratford Plan was in general conformity with higher level plans, and if so, whether it should proceed to referendum. The Independent Examiner concluded that the plan, if amended in line with his recommendations, meets all the statutory requirements.

**A summary of the Policies follows.** The full policies, maps and aspirations can be found at [www.stonystratford.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/planning/neighbourhood-plan).

**Policy 1 - Sustaining and Enhancing the Main Shopping/Commercial/Employment Area:** Any proposals or planning applications within the town centre will be considered in the context of the health and vitality of the shopping and commercial/employment area.

**Policy 2 - Cofferridge Close:** Any redevelopment of the parts of Cofferridge Close within the primary shopping area shall be a mix of shops, businesses, hotels and non-residential

institutions (please see the full Neighbourhood Plan for a glossary of the terms) or proposals for any alterations to the non-residential elements shall preserve and enhance the conservation area and the setting of any adjoining listed building.

**Policy 3 - Market Square:** There will be a presumption against the further loss of ground floor commercial or retail uses. The change of use or redevelopment of the doctor's surgery and related health facilities for other uses will not be approved unless the equivalent facilities have been replaced elsewhere within the town centre. Improvements to pavements, carriage-ways, lighting, signage, seating and street furniture be harmonised with the town centre, and any development proposals will be required to support this policy where it is appropriate

**Policy 4 - Plough Corner - Wolverton/London Road Junction:** Any redevelopment of this site shall provide a combination of town centre uses, to achieve a more intensive, balanced and mixed-use development appropriate to the conservation area. New development should be locally distinctive in a style sympathetic to, and sustaining the significance of, the adjacent listed buildings which are to be retained and protected. Any redevelopment of this site shall reflect the importance of achieving a scheme of visual and architectural prominence

**Policy 5 – Shopfront Improvements:** Any proposed changes to shopfronts or signage shall be undertaken of a high standard of design as set out in the Design Guide (and successor documents). Any alterations to shop fronts in the town centre should contribute positively to the character of the conservation area and to the quality of the building and street-scene.

**Policy 6 – Sustaining and Enhancing Fullers Slade Local Centre:** The mix of activities at the local centre shall include a retail store, other shops/services and where possible should be enhanced. Proposals which reduce or erode the scale or mix of activities at the Fullers Slade local centre will be resisted. A residential development on the Cavendish site would be supported with a community/training/workshop facility if appropriate.

**Policy 7 – Sustaining and Enhancing Galley Hill Local Centre:** The mix of activities at the local centre shall include a retail store, professional services, food and drink, hot food and takeaway and the community/arts facility. Proposals which enhance the activities and help maintain the fabric of the buildings will be encouraged.

**Policy 8 - Enhancing Residential Amenity:** New development which is contrary to the provisions of the Design Guide (and successor documents) and/or has a detrimental impact on the lives of people, as a result of poor design, inappropriate parking provision, accessibility, design or flooding will not be permitted.

Any proposals for development where relevant shall be considered against the criteria within the Design Guide and the impact on residential amenity, parking, accessibility, design and flooding, and where appropriate should take into account opportunities to address existing deficiencies in residential amenity in the area of the development. Any proposals for residential development will also be considered against other relevant policies in the Neighbourhood

Plan especially 1,9,10,11,12, 13 and 15.

**Policy 9 - Development Proposals:** The following sites within the parish are identified for development to support the Plan's aims and objectives:

- the Northern Gateway, comprising the former caravan sales and gasworks sites on the eastern side of Stony Stratford High Street, for either commercial uses (B1 - Business use class, possibly C1 hotel) or a more mixed-use development combining residential and commercial uses, with a quality of design recognising the position at the northern entrance to Stony Stratford and the adjacent conservation area.

- the growth of new or expanding businesses and the redevelopment of the former tram shed in St. Mary's Avenue as a centre for small and starter enterprises, possibly incorporating adjoining site(s) with an improved access from Russell Street and improvements to parking and garaging, or for residential development. Due to the importance of the former tram depot to the town's history, a heritage assessment should be made of the former tram depot and this should inform any (re)development proposals.

- the current St Giles residential home off Russell Street should be redeveloped for residential purposes to provide care and/or affordable homes for elderly and young people. The scale and design of the new development should reflect the quality of the location and its heritage, and provide if possible opportunities to improve vehicular access in the area

- the re-development of Plough Corner (see policy 4)

- the 'Southern Gateway' site, situated between London Road/Queen Eleanor Street and Ridgeway, could include the on-going use of Queen Eleanor School and Watling Way Centre for education, recreation and community uses, with possible integration with the Galley Hill local centre (see policy 7)

- the Cavendish site in Fullers Slade developed for a combination of residential and community/training/workshop facility (see policy 6).

The residential development proposals described in this policy will be considered in light of the policies in this Plan, and the impact on nearby residential amenity, parking, accessibility, design, and flooding.

Proposals for residential development shall provide affordable housing provision in accordance with the standards with the Milton Keynes Core Strategy or successor documents (and the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document).

**Policy 10 – Protect and Enhance Social, Sporting, Play, Cultural and Community Facilities:** The change of use of the current range of sporting, social, cultural, and play facilities will not be permitted and opportunities shall be sought from any development proposals to improve these.

The change of use of the current range of community facilities within the parish, particularly York House, Watling Way Centre, and the Children's Centre on Moorfoot and the building holding the former Sp@ce Children's Centre on London Road will not be permitted.



Where there is a proposal for the loss of sporting, social, cultural, play and community facilities, this will only be acceptable where a replacement facility of equivalent size, quality and convenience is provided within the Parish.

**Policy 11 – Car Parking Provision:** The current capacity and balance of car parking in the town shall be maintained. There is a presumption against loss of existing public car parking provision unless an equivalent number of replacement spaces have been provided in alternative, appropriate locations elsewhere in the town centre.

**Policy 12 – Enhancing the Parish’s Heritage and Public Realm:** Applicants will demonstrate within design and access statements, when required, how proposals have sought to preserve and enhance the significance of the conservation area and how the design has had regard to the

advice contained within the Stony Stratford Design Guide (and successor documents).

**Policy 13 - Protect and Enhance Open Space Within the Parish:** This Plan designates as Local Green Space the landscaped areas in Cofferridge Close.

In addition the following areas are identified where no reduction in the extent and quality of the open space will be permitted: Horsefair Green; Millfield; Mortimer Park; Higlin’s Piece; “Spider Park” on Fullers Slade; Wolverton Road Recreation Ground; The undeveloped space behind York House; Ancell Trust Sports Ground.

We are now at Stage 4: Local Referendum and the plan (V21) will go forward to a referendum of local electors to be held on **Thursday 3rd May 2018** (the same day as the elections to

Milton Keynes Council). The question that will be asked is as follows: **“Do you want Milton Keynes Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Stony Stratford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?”**

People on the electoral register in the parish of Stony Stratford (including Fullers Slade and Galley Hill) will be entitled to vote in the referendum. If more than 50% of those voting in the referendum vote ‘yes’, then Milton Keynes Council is required to bring the plan into force and use its policies when considering planning applications in the plan area.

Finally, The Town Council would like to thank everyone who was instrumental in the formation of **YOUR** Plan and would encourage you to vote in the forthcoming referendum.

*Lynne Compton, Clerk to the Council*

Dear Resident,

**Stony Stratford Town Council Precept 2018/19**

Changes occurring in government today affect services provided by Parish and Town Councils and setting a precept is a difficult decision for a Council to take lightly. Taking into account year on year reductions in grant from Milton Keynes Council, (According to the MKC Parish and Town Council Tax Base and provisional funding allocations document, this Council has in real terms had a 5.64% loss in income), rising inflation and continuing to provide services for the local community, loss of grants for provision of the Citizen’s Advice Service, updating old IT equipment, additional compliance costs for the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) plus the major works to improve the Mill Lane Car Park, and, it is hoped, create additional car parking spaces, this Town Council has reluctantly agreed to increase the precept by 10% to £197,207. The total expenditure for the Council for the coming year will amount to £277,468 after taking into account grants received, income raised and use of reserves which means that a Band D property will increase this year to £78.82 (2017/18 - £71.75), an increase of £7.07 per annum per household. Below is a summary of some of the services we offer and planned improvements.

**5 - 7 Church Street (the Library)** is the main asset owned by the Town Council and expenditure includes the upkeep of the building for use by Town Council, Library and community groups such as the Citizens Advice Bureau (which continues successfully to offer assistance and advice to the community), and Crafting for Change (teaching craft skills for the young and not so young, which is going from strength to strength). In addition, this year for 2018, the Council has agreed to support a new well-being initiative to be held in the Library. The well-being meetings, led by an experienced therapist, aim to provide a FREE monthly well-being to anyone over 16. In addition, the extra opening times at the Library have been achieved by Friends of Stony Stratford Library (FOSSL).

**The Town Crier** is produced by the Town Council to keep you up to date with what we and other organisations are doing. We recognise the importance of distributing this newsletter in hard copy as well as using Social Media to communicate with residents. Our Information Officer, manages the Council noticeboards,

updating them weekly with information together with updating the revised Town Council website [www.stonystratford.gov.uk](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk) and Facebook. The revamped website has now been running for a few months and includes many new features with the intention of informing residents about meetings, events and community group activities. Please let us know what you think of our new community website.

**Grants:** For the coming year, we are setting aside £5,000 for grants to local organisations wishing to run events or activities to help the community. During 2017/18, we have supported, amongst others; Folk on the Green, Stony Live, Riverside Festival, a new Tennis Club initiative, Stony Stratford in Bloom, the Big Draw and Lantern Festival, Christmas Lights Switch On, Act Out Drama, Friends of Stony Stratford Library, Horsefair Green together with Residents Associations. These groups, assisted by their army of volunteers, benefit from grants provided by the Town Council. The Big Draw and Lantern Festival both held at York House, have a very large and ever growing following. Grant application forms can be accessed via our website and advice on completing the form can be provided by the Town Clerk

**Stony Stratford Neighbourhood Plan** has been submitted to Milton Keynes Council and following the formal legal examination (which resulted in a number of changes), will go to referendum on Thursday 3rd May 2018 where residents will be able to vote on the Plan, to support it, and so ensure the vitality of the High Street and maintaining and improving essential green spaces.

The Town Council manages two **allotment sites**; the Wolverton Road Allotment and the Boundary Crescent site (which has undergone substantial improvements). The Town Council also owns the London Road site which is ably run by the Stony Stratford Allotment and Leisure Gardening Association. Allotment application forms are available on our website or contact the Deputy Town Clerk if you would like further information.

**Landscape Maintenance:** This is now the fourth year of our responsibility for landscape maintenance within the town – a task which we took over from Milton Keynes Council and for which we currently receive a grant to cover expenditure. The work is undertaken on our behalf by Marcus Young Landscaping. We

continue to believe that this is a critical contract for us as it gives us control over one of our most important assets: the open space that is clearly valued by the community. Managing the contract has also allowed us to make a number of improvements around the town: replacing hedging, removing overgrown shrubs and improving the overall look of the town. It is still uncertain if we will continue to receive a grant from MKC after March 2020.

**Stony Stratford Floral Features**, these are supported by the Business Association, Town Council and Stony in Bloom. From season to season and year to year, the work of Stony in Bloom volunteers together with our contractors, provide and maintain the fantastic displays that add colour and a feel-good factor to the Town. Although we budget £14,000 annually for this, the actual cost to the Town Council, after donations from the Business Association and fundraising by Stony in Bloom, is approximately half this cost.

**Litter Picking in the Mill Field** in which many volunteers are involved, **youth activities at York House**, the **Farmers Market** and **maintenance of public toilets, dog and litter bins** are other examples of some of the responsibilities of the Town Council.

**MKPA summer play sessions** for young people, **Big Lunch, August Bank Holiday Fair** and **Apple Day**, which have become annual events, are some of the services and activities currently supported by the Town Council. We understand that these well attended events are much appreciated by the community.

**Projects:** We are hoping to make substantial improvements to Mill Lane Car Park and increase the number of spaces. We are also investigating obtaining a grant from the Lottery Fund to provide more secure fencing for the Wolverton Road Allotments and working in partnership with Milton Keynes Council to obtain grants for replacement of the Wolverton Road Recreation Ground play equipment.

The Town Council/Councillors have excellent support from the Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Information Officer and I thank them and also fellow Councillors for their support to me as Chair.

We have some very difficult years ahead.

*Joan Walker MBE, Chair, SS Town Council*



## Stony Stratford In Bloom 2018: 10 Years of Helping Stony Stratford to Bloom Brightly!

Go to [me3819.wix.com/stonyinbloom](http://me3819.wix.com/stonyinbloom) for the latest news



**2018 marks Stony in Bloom's 10th anniversary** and SSIB volunteers are planning a number of exciting projects to celebrate. Many of the volunteers who were involved from the start are still hard at work weeding, pruning and planting to keep the town looking beautiful - and little did we think when we began that it would take over our lives! Over the years our numbers have grown - which is just as well, because recently we counted up and realised that we'd created or transformed 38 perennial beds around the parish! We have 2 work parties a week to maintain the beds, and extra sessions before Britain in Bloom judging day. Though the Town Council pays for the flowers in the planters which we plant up twice a year, and the SSBA for the hanging baskets, SSIB volunteers fund-raise for the 38 perennial beds with our fundraising meals at Calcutta Brasserie, plant sales and selling items at our Christmas Switch-On table. The Stony in Bloom greetings cards (of the London Rd hollyhocks and tree baskets) have been selling well. We've also secured grants from Milton Keynes Community Foundation and the National Grid for our work in the town.

**A major project to celebrate the 10 years is the creation of a new bed on Fullers Slade** opposite the FS bed on Slade Lane. Dominic Harris (Manor Drives) helped us prepare the ground, and Bunnings donated manure, compost and sand.



MK Community Foundation awarded us a grant of £200 towards the shrubs and annuals - and work has already begun with the planting of roses and a rowan tree.



When the earth is warmer we'll be planting lots more shrubs and bulbs so that there

will be a vibrant splash of colour to delight residents or those passing on the bus. The Rowans Centre, Youth Group and Fullers Slade residents will be helping with future planting there.



We're also planning an exciting **restyling of the bed in front of the Library**, and in July there will be a **display in the Library cabinet** with a 'Before and After' theme. Essentially Local, with support from Vitreus Arts, Skills Art Supplies and Wolverton and Greenleys Town Council, is organising an adult art competition with a theme of celebrating Stony in Bloom and Wolverton in Bloom's improvement of their respective towns over the last 10 years. And we haven't forgotten another anniversary! Eileen Cox is kindly sponsoring purple, white and green plants for one of the town planters to celebrate votes for women.

Ron Cox has very kindly donated and planted snowdrops outside the Ancell Trust Sports Ground which are looking beautiful.



Meanwhile, throughout the last few months, volunteers have been dodging showers and frost to make sure the weeds are despatched so the spring blossoms can



burst through. The golden pansies in the planters have done a grand job of cheering up shoppers on dismal winter days in the High St, and crocuses are beginning to peep out, providing hope of spring to come.

As usual, we're organising a **horticultural talk in the Library**. On **March 21st Clare Price from Seeds To Success** will be speaking on the topic of **Choosing Trees for Small Gardens, and Maintaining Them**.

A crucial aspect of our role over the last 10 years has been to encourage Stony Stratford's younger residents to enjoy gardening, and the pupils at the schools have shown immense enthusiasm. **St Mary and St Giles School has just received its Level 3 and Level 4 Campaign for School Gardening certificates from the RHS** - and with them, seeds and vegetable plants to the value of £250. Once again at the Big Lunch we'll be organising a hanging baskets activity for children, and hope to get sponsorship from McCarthy and Stone again this year to plant up hard-hats with the children to beautify the school and the McCarthy and Stone site.

### Looking Ahead

**April 21st Plant Sale/Tombola** combined with the York House Coffee Morning **End of June** we'll be judging the Front Garden competition, this year with an extra prize for a Celebrating 10 Years theme. Email [Judith.deveson@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.deveson@gmail.com) or phone 01908 562876, to enter yourself or a neighbour!

As always, thanks to all our sponsors for their support over the 10 years. More volunteers always warmly welcomed! Email [Judith.deveson@gmail.com](mailto:Judith.deveson@gmail.com), Phone 01908 562876. [www.stonyinbloom.wixsite.com/stonyinbloom](http://www.stonyinbloom.wixsite.com/stonyinbloom) or [www.facebook.com/stonyinbloom](http://www.facebook.com/stonyinbloom).

*Judith Deveson, Chair, SSIB*

### Whalley's Apprenticing Charity (Registered Charity Number 310511)

The Charity makes grants to people between the ages of 17 - 25 years of age who are resident in Stony Stratford, Old Stratford and Cosgrove who are either in Further Education or an Apprentice. The trustees normally meet in January, April, July and October and application forms can be obtained by contacting the secretary, Miss. K. Phillips. 78 London Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes, MK11 1JH, telephone: 01908 563350, email: [karen.phillips440@gmail.com](mailto:karen.phillips440@gmail.com).



## Your Community News



### Stony Stratford & Wolverton Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

All Stony Stratford and Wolverton units had a fun time around Christmas – creating a mini panto for parents and friends, a visit to the cinema, and parties! Rainbows, Brownies and Guides are now back and looking forward to fun and adventures this year.

On 22 February is World Thinking Day (which is the birthdate of Robert Baden Powell and his wife Olave who founded Scouting and Girlguiding). It is a special day for both Scouts and Girl Guides who celebrate the day – thinking of members in this country and around the world. This year, we are holding a celebration over the weekend of 24/25 February when the girls will working towards their World badges.

1st Stony Stratford Brownies had the opportunity to go to Butlins Skegness at the beginning of January to take part in an event organised by our Region, where the Brownies took over the holiday site! There were many activities and some very tired Brownies when they boarded the coach home! They are now are working towards their Friend to Animals Badge and will be going to Pets at Home.



2nd Stony Brownies had a stall at the switching on of the Stony Stratford lights. They raised funds for the unit, the girls spent several weeks preparing the goods for the tombola stall – there were jars with sweets, pasta, rice, teabags etc. and cardboard Santas, snowmen and reindeer with a sweet surprise. Over £100 was raised which helped fund their Christmas outing to the cinema to watch Paddington 2, which was enjoyed by all.

Stony Stratford and Wolverton Guides celebrated Christmas at Wolverton House. Stony Guides have had fun making music and Wolverton Guides are working on the Guiding Traditions badge. They have also painted mugs ready to bake a cake in a mug in a few weeks time.

Just before Christmas Emma from 1st Stony Stratford Brownies made her promise after having completed her leadership training. If you would like to join us (and Emma) as a leader or occasional volunteer, please email [Wolvertondc@outlook.com](mailto:Wolvertondc@outlook.com) or go our website [www.girlguiding.org.uk](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk) where you can get more information about each section and also register your interest.



### News from Russell Street School

This half term we continued to learn about our local environment by visiting the Mill Field as part of 'Winter in the Park'. The children really enjoyed looking for signs of winter, learning how to use a thermometer and identifying features of our locality.



Children in our Reception classes have been reading 'The Elves and the Shoemaker'. They visited our local shoe cobbler, Classic Cobblers, and had a lovely time finding out how best to look after their shoes.



The children in KS1 have been learning all about India. They have learnt how to find India on a map, lots of information about different religions and even had a go at cooking and eating a curry.



Our school Nursery class visited 'Woodstock's Bakery' as part of their work on 'Five Current Buns'. The children enjoyed learning about how to make bread and cakes.

Our Nursery is open to children 3 years and over. We currently offer 30 hours of government funded places. If you are interested in applying for a nursery place, please see our website or call 01908 563148.

### Stony Stratford Riverside Fair 2018



The ever popular Riverside Fair will take place on the Millfield in Stony Stratford on 9th June 2018 between 1pm and 4pm. Come along for the music, fairground rides, circus skills and children's entertainment and so much more! Family Fun with many of the attractions free! Bring a picnic, browse the stalls (food, charity and gifts etc.) and enjoy a pleasant afternoon in a lovely setting.

For more information or to enquire about having a stall at the Fair please contact us via our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/StonyRPG>.

### Children's Christmas Wreath Making at Stony Stratford Library



For yet another year FOSSL put on two wonderful xmas wreath making sessions on Friday and Saturday 8th and 9th December. The children and adults had a fabulous time and it is proving a seasonal hit each year. Thank you to all those who were able to give their time yet again. I have more photos of the event kindly taken by Peter Scrimshaw and if you'd like a copy contact the library and I will send them to you. Well done everyone.

*Jackie Fowler, FoSSL*



### Bard of Stony Stratford 2018

Are they Bard enough? The Bardic Trials – 23rd January 2018. York House Centre, Stony Stratford.

The Eighth Bard of Stony Stratford is Sam Upton! The Bardic hopefuls entered the open competition before a live audience and a panel of expert judges; but it was Sam who triumphed after two rounds to be appointed Stony Stratford's Eighth Bard.



The Mayor congratulating Sam  
Photo courtesy of Aniseed Photo /  
www.aniseedphoto.com

Stony Stratford has a long and honourable tradition (well at least since 2010) of appointing a Bard as figurehead for the spirit of creativity, culture and community in the town of Stony Stratford. Anyone who has a voice and the power to use it can compete against their peers for this prestigious position. The choice of the people is the voice of the people; and each Bard holds their position for a Year and a Day. During that period the holder of the Bardic Pencil (yes that's their prize) produces and performs original pieces in the oral tradition to celebrate the customs and achievements of the town and its people.

Bard Sam Upton was congratulated by the Mayor of Milton Keynes Councillor David Hopkins. It was a wonderful evening and if you weren't there; here's a few words from the new Bard of Stony Stratford.

"My name is Sam Upton, I am a spoken word poet from Milton Keynes, previously

the 7th Bard of Northampton and now the 8th Bard of Stony Stratford.

I write about my life, experiences and how the world appears to me. When I perform I hope to share my emotions and be as honest as possible. I have performed live poetry in Milton Keynes, Stony Stratford, Northampton and London: these have ranged from open mics to literary events, local venues to festivals. I am also a poet for the Milton Keynes Living Archive and have worked with them to produce a poetic narrative to local wartime history for their production 'Works on War'.

I began writing and performing when I turned 26 in 2014. I love the power of words and for me poetry is the perfect medium. It allows for a shared emotional experience and being so honest whilst on stage is exhilarating and empowering. I use free verse with simple often direct language to break the notion that poetry can only exist in strict forms. My goal is to spread the spoken word and show others that as a creative platform its application is limitless.

Being the Bard is an honour and one I intend to do proud. It is a new tradition with ancient roots; and one I hope will spread and grow to other towns."

We look forward to a Year (and a Day) of Bard Sam Upton. So, if you should see a young man walking the streets of Stony Stratford dressed in a green cloak, carrying a dragon-headed staff, and wearing an unfeasibly large beard then it'll probably be Bard Sam. You should hail him by saying "All hail the beard - sorry - Bard". You'll also see him at a number of Stony events over the coming Year and a Day. **All hail the Bard! All hail the Bard! All hail the Bard!**

More information about the Bards of Stony Stratford - present, past, Junior and Youth - is available at [www.bardofstony.weebly.com](http://www.bardofstony.weebly.com).

### Dick Whittington In Stonyland 26th to 28th January at York House

Stony's third annual pantomime sold out to an enthusiastic crowd, singing with Sally The Cook (Roddy) "You won't believe the size of Sally's pies" to original music written by Neil.



While Dick (Danni who also wrote the script) and Tommy the Cat (Pamela) kept King Rat (Karen) and his Ratpack (Judith, Cameron and Oliver) in order, Captain Havoc (Andy) and Lookout Jim (Pat) caused havoc in the rigging. Fitzwarren (me) forgot his lines and was rubbish (oh yes he was!). Thanks to Denise who did the make-up, and to all those who helped and who joined in.



The money raised goes to support Stony Stratford Theatre Society and next year's pantomime. Pantomime 2019 is booked for the end of January at York House (oh yes it is!).

### StonyWords 2018



25 events over 13 days at 6 venues. A sell-out poetry reading by Roger McGough, a puppet show for children, a talk about translating a famous French author, a gala concert, an Elizabethan consort, films, and pop-up

theatre. And that didn't include a supper celebrating Scotland's most famous poet, a talk about F Scott Fitzgerald and an evening of Shakespeare and music. Or the election of our Town Bard!

Thanks to everyone who organised or attended an event. We're already planning next year's fortnight to be even better. The dates are January 22 to February 3. Please visit [www.stonywords.org.uk](http://www.stonywords.org.uk) for details.



### STONY STRATFORD ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 12TH APRIL 2018, 7.30 PM, ST MARY & ST GILES PARISH HALL

Come along and have your say. We are hoping to have candidates who will be standing for Stony Stratford Ward to present to you prior to the forthcoming elections. Further details will be available shortly on the Town Council noticeboards, website and Facebook page.



**Planning, production and problem-solving  
at 1st Stony Stratford Scout Group**

Beaver  
Scouts are  
contributing  
to a national  
Scouting  
project  
called 'A  
Million  
Hands',  
where they  
learn about  
social issues  
and  
demonstrate  
community



impact. Having researched the topic of homelessness with a view to supporting mental wellbeing, they worked together to design a flyer and distributed copies around Stony Stratford. The flyers aimed to help raise awareness of homelessness in Milton Keynes, provide useful information and invite the public to bring donations of useful items to an event at the hall. Beavers

also worked hard to put on a fantastic talent show for parents and guests at the event on 5th March.

Cub Scouts have been getting productive this term, making peg soldiers as well as roman helmets. They also got cooking and made Eccles cakes for Founders Day on 22nd February, which saw many of our group proudly wearing their uniforms to school.



Scouts have been practising both their practical and problem-solving skills with activities like pancake making and course-building to carry themselves across the hall without touching the ground. This week's quiz questions prompted much thought: What can you put in a box, which will make the box weigh less?

Congratulations to Charlie Pritchard who has just been selected as a British Exploring Leader. At 25, Charlie is currently the youngest leader with the British Exploring

Society and we are very fortunate to have him as a leader with our group.

Scouting provides over 200 activities and is open to boys and girls aged 6 to 18. If you are interested in joining Scouting please visit [www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved](http://www.scouts.org.uk/get-involved) or telephone Alby Wilson on 01908 563398. Find 1st Stony Stratford Scout Group on: [www.facebook.com/1stStonyStratford](https://www.facebook.com/1stStonyStratford).



**Stony Stratford Floral Club  
Diamond Anniversary**

Stony Stratford Floral Club founded in May 1958 celebrates it's Diamond Anniversary this year. We

are a friendly and informal club meeting on the first Tuesday of each month at Russell Street School Hall, Stony Stratford to enjoy a social evening with wonderful demonstrations which can then be won in the raffle. We are affiliated to the National Association of Flower Arranging Societies (NAFAS) which means that our visiting demonstrators must have attained a high standard.

We also arrange workshops for our members where we can learn how to improve our skills when using flowers, foliage and containers which helps to build up our confidence and is a very enjoyable way to spend an afternoon. The Club also organises outings to lovely gardens, horticultural shows or national flower shows and as part of our Diamond Anniversary

celebration we are arranging a trip to Norfolk for the weekend to visit the renowned Old Vicarage Garden at East Ruston and also Ickworth.

We have two special demonstrations this year to be held at Stantonbury Theatre on Tuesday 15 May when Alan Smith and Lee Berrill will entertain us with "A Sparkling Affair" (tickets £10 in advance or £12 on the door), and later in the year on Wednesday 28 November the renowned National Demonstrator Jonathan Moseley will demonstrate "Berries, Blooms and Baubles" (tickets £15 in advance or £18 on the door).

Annual membership costs £40. Visitors are very welcome to come along to any meeting at Russell Street School Hall for £8 a visit unless we have a National Demonstrator when the cost is slightly higher. Why not come along and join us at one of our meetings, more information is available from Sue on 01908 564453, Judy on 01908 569429 or Rose on 07507780316.

**'Vintage Stony' - New Year's Day**



A massive turn out, probably the largest to date. We had just celebrated the 'minutes noise' at noon to mark the passing 50 years ago of the legendry racing driver 'Jimmy Clark OBE' when the heavens opened, and everyone ran for cover!

Even allowing for that the event made a record amount for New Year's Day of £4850.00,



which has all been donated to our local Hospice at Willen. A massive thank you to all connected to the event, especially the residents who again showed their co-operation with the town at bursting point. A special thank you also to David Evans MBE who was our guest judge this year.

Our summer event this year, 'Classic Stony' is taking place on **Sunday 3rd June** as part of 'Stony Live' For additional information, or if you would like to join our event team to help out on the day please contact us at [www.classicstony.co.uk](http://www.classicstony.co.uk).



**Stony Stratford Lions Club**

A busy three months collecting at our usual venues helped swell our coffers and we are very grateful to everyone who supported us and Morrisons, Sainsburys and Tesco's for their support.

During the next three months please look out for us collecting on behalf of the Marie Curie daffodil appeal, 7th of April at Morrisons Westcroft, 6th of May at

Morrisons new store near the Station and last but certainly not least we are relaunching our Classic Car Show at Milton Keynes Museum. This is a great evening for everyone, not only enthusiasts, and the first date will be 17th of May from 4 until about 9pm. This event has grown from strength to strength and we all hope that it will be even better supported than last year. Thank you for all your help.

*Christopher Coolen,  
PRO, Stony Stratford Lions Club*



### Stony Nightingales WI

We thought we'd take a look back over 2017 where we have enjoyed so many interesting talks from the Brain Tumour Trust, Gardening from the OU, a look into Body IQ and alternative therapies, and a very flavoursome talk and demonstration on chocolate. Then we've had visits to the theatre, Malvern Garden Show and Highclere Castle, a tour of The Royal Albert Hall, oh and not forgetting the trip to a Kwikfit workshop to get a grip on what mysteries lurk under our car bonnets. Some of our members also enjoyed an adventure to Edinburgh for a weekend.



Phew – now, as well as all that, we have additional clubs such a craft, singing, walking and book clubs that meet up once a month to discuss the latest good read, or try out a new craft; or enjoy some singing together; or go walking both locally and further afield.

As you can imagine most of the above included a good helping of tea and cakes!

Our WI was originally formed in 2009 and we are a friendly group with over 70 members of all ages. Our members believe we are a strong, enthusiastic group who enjoy having fun and laughter; and supporting each other.

We meet every second Thursday of the month at 8pm at Swinfen Harris Church Hall, London Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1JA. Visitors welcome £4.00 per session (max of 3 visits). A different speaker each month and day trips throughout the year.

## the WI

### Stony Stratford WI

Since my last report we have had our January (Christmas) lunch at the Conservative Club, a lovely opportunity to get together and celebrate what we hope will be another interesting year. In February we had a very knowledgeable speaker, Chris Ward, telling us about Orchids and Owls (Not Concrete Cows) - who would have believed that such beautiful orchids as the one pictured here could be found growing wild in the woodlands of Milton Keynes!



Chris reminded us of all the fascinating wildlife that abounds in the many wild places in our city.

In March we will be entertained by James McCafferty of Cantlos, who will sing traditional British songs accompanied by instruments such as the Cittern, the Dulcimar, the Bodhran and the Melodeon, and, if you don't know what all of these are, as many of our members don't, why not come along as a visitor and find out – it should be very interesting and great fun.

April promises to be a busy month, we have Edwin Rye coming to tell us how he prepared his garden for the Gardener of the Year Competition, we will be visiting the Recycling Factory in Old Wolverton and we shall be travelling to London to have a guided tour of the Foundling Hospital Museum, a follow on from our talk by Colin Oakes last year. We shall have time to look around that part of London and to treat ourselves to lunch at

one of the nearby restaurants. An eventful month followed by a more serious meeting in May to discuss the resolutions on the Agenda for our National AGM, which will be held this year in Cardiff.

Our Group Meeting in May, which involves WIs from Bletchley and Whaddon, will be held in Bletchley and the speaker will be Lucy Tranquillian, her subject being her life as a Stunt Artist, and our own WI meeting in June will involve Shaun McCormack telling us about his experiences as a Yeoman of the Guard, the Queen's Bodyguard.

At County level members are looking forward to hearing Christine Walkden talking, at our Annual Council Meeting, about her Gardening Life and Times, and another interesting event in the calendar is a demonstration and talk by Vera Demenezes, depicting her own fantastic Quilts and Embroidery, about her expulsion from Uganda and her later, successful life in England.

We have changed our meeting place for our Craft & Chat gatherings on the third Tuesday of each month, from the Methodist Hall to the Library. Our thanks to Harold, the Caretaker of the Methodist Hall, for his help and support over the years. Nothing much is happening in our York House garden, but seeds have been planted and plants are waiting for the (hopefully) warmer days of Spring and Summer.

**Meetings are in York House, London Road at 2.15pm on the first Tuesday of every month. Visitors are welcome, give us a ring or email, or just come along. Contact Janet Baxter (01908 313677) or Gill Williams (01908 563684) or e-mail Gill.williams@fsmf.co.uk for further details.**

### Stony Stratford Art Society

For us, 2018 began with our annual lunch at the end of January. This year we visited the Bell at Beachampton. As well as good food, and social interaction there was an informal review of our activities during 2017, plus discussion of the 2018 forthcoming events. As this is being written in February 2018 we are still unclear about many dates for upcoming events, however, we do know that the Odells Market events, held on Saturdays in Stony Stratford, which are an integral part of Stony Stratford's annual life, and indeed ours, are going ahead and we shall be represented. The first one is on 9 June. Additionally, we have dates for July, August, and September which will be in the next edition of The Town Crier. We have also, begun planning our involvement in other local 2018 activities and exhibitions. Early ones at which we hope to see you include exhibitions at Passenham; others include, the Castlethorpe, and Hanslope fetes.

From reading the above you will gather that despite our name our membership is far more wide-ranging. We would welcome you expanding this further. We always look forward to seeing you at these events where you can enjoy, and, (we hope purchase!), a variety of work produced by local talent, of which there is a gratifyingly surprising amount. You can also chat with members of the Society who are always happy to talk to you about their work and the Society and its activities.

We are delighted to announce that at our 2017 AGM our membership decided that our 2018 membership fee will remain £28 per annum (plus the £1 attendance fee per session). We were delighted to welcome at least one new member at our first meeting of the 2018, and look forward to welcoming others. Further information available from Secretary, Brian Marshall (Tel: 01908-378454). **Meetings at York House continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month (1400 -1600). Dates are shown on our Facebook page.**



### MK 50 Bench for Galley Hill

The large tree stump near the Galley Hill play area is literally

taking shape - very nice it looks too. The really interesting part is now taking place. Pupils from St Mary & St Giles COE South will be making a contribution by illustrating historical events that have taken place in the area during the trees two hundred years plus existence. I wish to take this opportunity and say how grateful I am to all parties concerned in this project - can't wait to see the end product.

*Michael Allsopp, Galley Hill resident*



What's On. Many more events at [www.stonystratford.gov.uk/Whats On](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/Whats On)

## Spring Plant Sale & Coffee Morning

★ Saturday 21st April ★

9.30am - 12.30pm

York House Centre, London Road

### Coffee Morning

Fundraising for York House Community Gardens  
\* Homemade Cakes \* Tea & Coffee \* Children's Activity \*

#### Shrubs, Perennials, Fruit and Veg'

Stony Stratford  
In Bloom

Contributions welcome  
ring or email Judy Deveson  
to arrange collection **01908 562876**  
**judith.deveson@gmail.com**  
or bring on the day

Horticultural  
Tombola

At 10.30am

Family Planting Workshop  
Help Plant the Edible Sharing Beds



#### Stony Stratford Theatre Society

will be entertaining us with short excerpts  
from a variety of plays and some live music.



me3819.wix.com/stonyinbloom



York House Centre  
Youth • Community • Arts  
London Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1JQ Tel 01908 563361 [www.york-house.org.uk](http://www.york-house.org.uk)

## Rock those Frocks

for  
York House Centre

Saturday 12 May 2018

7.30 - 10.00 pm

Tickets £5.00 in advance from York House or on the door  
(includes a glass of prosecco, wine or soft drink)



A fashion show for ladies of assorted shapes,  
sizes and birthdays

French, Italian and boutique style clothing and  
accessories at affordable prices

Licensed Bar



Ticket & bar profits + 10% of sales in aid of:



York House Centre  
Youth • Community • Arts  
London Road, Stony Stratford, MK11 1JQ Tel 01908 563361 [www.york-house.org.uk](http://www.york-house.org.uk)

Registered charity 1122220



Wolverton & Stony Stratford  
Rotary Club: 11th Annual  
Charity Golf Day

Wednesday 6th June 2018  
Abbey Hill Golf Club

Teams of 4, £49.50 per player, incl. 2-  
course dinner, Proceeds to MacIntyre  
Contact: Jim Barnes on 01908 982882 or  
email [jimcelbarnes@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcelbarnes@hotmail.com)



#### The 11th Annual Wolverton & Stony Stratford Rotary Club Golf Day

Date: Wed 6 June 2018 Cost: £49.50 per player  
Course: Abbey Hill Golf Club First Tee: 12.00  
Teams of 4  
Rotary teams to play for the Malcolm Poulter Memorial Cup

- Coffee & Bacon Roll on arrival
- 18 Holes Stableford
- Individual & team prizes
- Putting competition
- 2-course Dinner
- Raffle & auction

The funds raised will go towards the cost of providing a new  
kitchen and training facility at the MacIntyre Coffee Shop in  
Stony Stratford.

To take part in this amazing day and help raise money for a great cause, please  
complete the details below and email to: [jimcelbarnes@hotmail.com](mailto:jimcelbarnes@hotmail.com)

Team Name: .....

Players	Email address & mobile	H/cap
1		
2		
3		
4		



Saturday, 2nd -  
Sunday, 10th  
June 2018

Back again for another glorious year of  
music, arts, walks, music, talks, poetry,  
more music, storytelling, dance, comedy,  
family events, fairs, even more music, and  
..... agriculture. Stony's splendid venues  
have, once again, rallied to the call: pubs,  
clubs, churches, community centres,  
restaurants, the library, open spaces, and  
the streets of the lovely old market town

are all part of it. The StonyLive! Mega-  
Draw helps ensure that the festival can be  
financed each year, so look out for our  
charming and friendly ticket sellers at  
events.

Thanks go to Stony Stratford Town  
Council, the Stony Stratford Business  
Association, and all the advertisers in the  
programme for the much-needed financial  
support. Visit our shiny new website at  
[www.stonylive.info](http://www.stonylive.info), and keep yourself up-to-  
-date with new events being added.

#### Stony Stratford Floral Club

6 March: Demonstration by Kathy  
Stangaard "The Sound of Bow Bells"

3 April: Demonstration by Linda  
Seabrook "Celebrations"

Meetings start at 7.30pm, Russell St School  
Hall, Russell St, Stony Stratford. Visitors  
welcome £8 per meeting. Information  
available from Sue on 01908 564453, Judy  
on 01908 569429, and Rose on  
07507780316.

May sees a very special evening at Stanton-  
bury Theatre celebrating our Diamond  
Jubilee on Tues 15th with a demonstration  
"A Sparkling Affair" by Alan Smith and  
Lee Berrill starting at 7.30pm. Tickets are  
£10 in advance or £12 on the door.

StonyLive! Family Barn Dance with  
Pinkers Spinney, June 2nd 2018, 6.30-  
8.30pm, Market Square, Stony Stratford

FREE entry to the  
annual StonyLive!  
Family Barn  
Dance. Ian, Sarah  
and Chris from  
Pinkers Spinney



will be playing  
lively tunes - you won't be able to resist  
getting up to dance! Irene will walk you  
through each dance so everybody can join  
in! For more information: 01908 563944  
or 07940 852110, or mailto:  
[Irene@pinkersspinney.co.uk](mailto:Irene@pinkersspinney.co.uk).  
Visit: <http://www.pinkersspinney.co.uk>.



**Events at York House  
Centre, London Road,  
Stony Stratford MK11 1JQ**

The friendly volunteer York House bar staff will be pleased to serve you real ale, wines, and soft drinks at the events – the proceeds from which go to York House.

**Bridge By Numbers  
from 3rd April to 6th June 2018  
Tuesday evenings, 6–7.30 pm**

A step-by-step bridge course for adult beginners. Bridge by Numbers is like no other bridge course:

- \* No knowledge or experience required
- \* No complex rules or systems to learn
- \* You'll be playing within minutes
- \* You'll be playing bridge competently and confidently by the end of the course
- \* You'll have plenty of fun!

Donations only. Come as a 'partnership' or on your own. To book contact Joe on 07974 696589 or laredo.joseph@gmail.com

**Eat Street,  
6th April, 4th May & 1st June 2018**



pop up\_street food\_milton keynes

Another season starts for Eatstreet, the immensely popular gourmet and exotic street-food feast,

scheduled for every first Friday in the month during 2018.

The menu changes every month, but six or seven vendors bring you all manner of goodies, from the gourmet toasted cheese sandwiches of the Good Times Cafe, Caribbean hot-stuff, spicy Punjabi delicacies, Chinese dumplings, unbelievable Mexican tacos, gourmet pizzas and burgers, something for those with a sweet tooth..and..and..and.Stony Beer Bear provides the bar with a choice of German lagers or local real ales and entry is free!

**Performers Evening @ The Songloft  
6th April, 1st June & 29th June 2018,  
8-11pm**

These nights are for anyone who wants to participate and have a chance to show their hidden talents. We get lots of local and not so local musicians turn up as well. On certain evenings we showcase artists who are new to the area. Please check our website for full details. Tickets £3 on the door.

**Stony Tracks with Roy Nevitt  
11th April 2018, 8-9.30pm**



Stony Tracks is a fundraising event for York House held on the second Wednesday of each month. Entry is £5.00 and tickets are available from York House and Odells. At each show, Derek Gibbons will

be in conversation with a local resident about their life, and playing some of their favourite music. (sound familiar?).

This month's guest is Roy Nevitt. Roy Nevitt moved to Stony Stratford in 1967, initially to work as a lecturer in Drama, training teachers at North Bucks College of Education, situated in Bletchley Park. After two years there and three and a half years in the USA, he returned to England and in 1974 was appointed Director of Drama at Stantonbury Campus. He played a key role in building up drama and theatre in the new city, involving students, the community at large and professional theatre practitioners. For 7 years he was Chair of the MK Theatre and Gallery Company, responsible for the Theatre and Gallery, which he also helped to bring into existence. With Roger Kitchen and Maggie Nevitt, he founded the Living Archive and was its Artistic Director for 10 years.

You can keep in touch with Stony Tracks via: <https://www.facebook.com/stonytracks>.

**Five Men Not Called Matt @ The Songloft  
20th April 2018, 8-11pm**

Five Men Not Called Matt were formed before time began to introduce the therapeutic effects of singing good chorus songs. Five Men Not Called Matt entertain in their own inimitable way with their powerful voices, splendid harmonies, great choruses and big personalities. Tickets £8.00 (on the door or from website).

**Steve Ashley @ The Songloft  
4th May 2018, 8-11pm**

Steve Ashley has long been regarded as one of British folk's



finest singer-songwriters. His reputation for writing contemporary songs inspired by the English Tradition was established in 1974. Since then his songs have been recorded by many leading folk artists including Fairport Convention, Ralph McTell & Wizz Jones, O'Hooley & Tidow, Dave Pegg & PJ Wright, The Arizona Smoke Review, Phil Beer, Maggie Boyle, The Bushwackers, The Owl Service & Hannah Sanders.

For more information contact 01908 611074 or email [songloft@gmail.com](mailto:songloft@gmail.com) or visit [thesongloft.co.uk](http://thesongloft.co.uk) or Friends of the Song Loft on Facebook.

**Stony Tracks with Sarah Pinborough  
9th May 2018, 8-9.30pm**

May's guest is Sarah Pinborough. Sarah was born in Newport Pagnell, and lived in Syria until she was 8, when she was sent to board at Bedford High School. She describes herself as "the naughtiest girl in the school" and was thrown out at 16, after which she

went to Edinburgh Academy for Boys.

She has managed a strip club in Soho, been head of English at Lea Manor High School in Luton, and has been a full-time writer for nine years, writing over 20 novels. Published last year, "Behind Her Eyes" was The Sunday Times No.1 best seller. Sarah has also written screenplays for the BBC, including episodes of Torchwood. Tickets £5.00.

**Rock Those Frocks  
12th May 2018, 7.30-10pm**

"Rock Those Frocks" and York House Centre combine forces to bring you an affordable fashion show, with delightful items to buy on the night. Come prepared – you won't be able to resist taking something home.

Our charming models, who come in assorted shapes, sizes, and birthdays, will be sporting various outfits, specialising in French, Italian and boutique styles. In addition to clothes there will be jewellery, scarves, and other stalls offering dried flower arrangements and other delights.

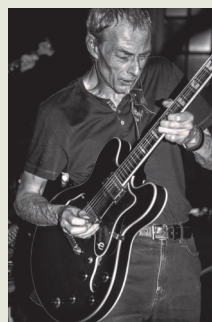
Tickets £5: from <https://www.wegotickets.com/event/432197> or York House Centre or on the door.

**Flossie Malavialle @ The Songloft  
12th May 2018, 7.30-10pm**

Flossie Malavialle is a French born singer who has been based in the North East of England since 2002. Several years on, she has become an accomplished performer playing at folk clubs and festivals all over the UK (and beyond) and supporting acts such as Fairport Convention and Show of Hands. Flossie's powerful yet sensitive rendition of songs combined with her quaint northern twang and humorous banter will no doubt entertain and leave you with a smile.



**Roadrunner! Roadrunner!  
2nd June 2018, 8.15-11pm**



After too long an absence, the magnificent Roadrunner will tear down to Stony for an evening of high energy R&B and R&R and a fair bit of mayhem. Not to be missed if you love wild performance, fiendishly-good

musicianship, and a rocking good night. "Rutland's greatest R&B band" – see <http://stevejohnsonroadrunner.co.uk/page1.php>. Tickets £5.00: for sale on-line at <http://www.wegotickets.com>, and available at York House Centre.



**StonyLive! Hoedown!**  
**9th June 2018, 7.30-11.00pm**



Ticket £5: from York House or Odells in the High Street, or phone 07940 852110.

Come along to StonyLive's first ever Hoedown with Stony Stratford's own Taylor'd Country. Wear yer Stetsons, boots, denim and checked shirts and give us a yee haw! Great country music and fun! Sing along to songs by Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Merle Haggard, Johnny Cash, Shania Twain and lots, lots more played live by 6 piece band Taylor'd Country! Join in with fun, party line dancing and barn dancing with Irene leading the way. Chilli & rice supper available for £3.50. Part of Stony

Live! Festival. Raffle tickets available for this.

For more information and reservations: 01908 563944 or 07940 852110, or mailto: irenetaylor@tinyworld.co.uk. Visit: <https://www.facebook.com/Taylord-Country-126280909652/> or <http://www.taylordcountry.info> or Twitter @taylordcountry.

**Stony Tracks**  
**13th June 2018, 8-9.30pm**

Stony Tracks is a fundraising event for York House held on the second Wednesday of each month. Entry is £5.00 and tickets are available from York House and Odells. Guest to be advised.



**Whose Turn is it Anyway**  
**23rd June 2018, 8-10pm**

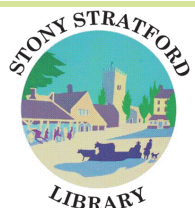
Welcome return of the high-energy night of hilarious

improvisation. If you've ever seen the comedy TV show "Whose Line is it Anyway?" you'll know what to expect! One team of comedians, one compere, and an evening of improvised comedy where the only rule is that there are no rules! Except for some rules.

The players don't know who they'll be, where the scene will be set (in fact, one of our performers is like that in everyday life too)... all of that comes from you (or your loud friend - you can be as involved or as uninvolved as you like!)

Some of the team members have been doing this for fifteen years, so you'd think they'd know what they were doing by now. Find out how wrong you can be at this hilariously spontaneous night!

*Please note that drinks at events in The Beechey Room are on a Bring-Your-Own (and glasses) basis. Access to the Beechey Room is via the rear entrance to York House. For further details of events see the York House website: [www.york-house.org.uk](http://www.york-house.org.uk). For more information on the Song Loft events contact 01908 611074 or email [songloft@gmail.com](mailto:songloft@gmail.com) or visit [thesongloft.co.uk](http://thesongloft.co.uk) or Friends of the Song Loft on Facebook, or the York House website.*



**Friends of Stony Stratford Library**

**Writing One Hot Summer:**  
**Dickens, Darwin, Disraeli and The Great Stink of 1858**

A talk by Rosemary Ashton, Emeritus Quain Professor of English Language and Literature, University College London  
**17th April, Stony Stratford Library, 7pm**

Rosemary Ashton's One Hot Summer, published in 2017, describes a year which was pivotal in the lives of three great Victorians - and which also saw the river Thames so polluted and foul-smelling that Parliament was nearly forced to decamp to the provinces. She will talk both about the year 1858 itself and also about the way she came to write the book and the challenges she faced in structuring it.

Professor Ashton is an eminent scholar of the Victorian period. She has published many books, including a life of George Eliot and studies of nineteenth-century intellectuals and Victorian Bloomsbury.

Tickets available at the Library from 27 March.



**GHRA Tuesday Coffee Mornings** (10am - 12pm) are still going well and we would love to see more people from all three communities of SS attending, where we can all exchange ideas and thoughts in a nice friendly atmosphere. There will be a fun quiz sheet at coffee mornings too!

**Music For All at St Mary & St Giles**



**Friday 6th April 12:30-1:15pm**  
**FREE First Friday Organ Recital by Adam Parrish** - A free 45 minute lunchtime concert. Soup & roll served at noon (£3) until 12:20pm, when we will all take our seats for the concert.

[www.adamparrishmusicwebsite.com](http://www.adamparrishmusicwebsite.com).

**Saturday 14 April 7:30pm A Treasury of English Choral Music** - Polymnia (Milton Keynes' premier chamber choir) return to St Mary and St Giles with a programme spanning some three hundred and fifty years of English music.

[www.polymnia.org.uk](http://www.polymnia.org.uk).

**Sunday 15 April 3pm Tea Dance** - music by SMSG Church Band, at SMSG School North Site, King George Crescent, Stony Stratford MK11 1EF. Waltz on down for a fun afternoon of ballroom and sequence dances, with a mid-session tea to recharge the dancing shoes! Tickets £5 each, in advance only from any band member or by phoning Lesley Salter 01908 567404.

**Thursday, 19th April 12:30-1:15pm TT@TT** - SMSG Church Hand Bell Ringers will bring you a varied programme of music they would like to share and will be joined by the Hand Bell and Belleplate Ringers from SMSG School.

**Saturday 28 April 7:30pm MK Sinfonia** playing Faure, R. Strauss, Mozart and Bologne, Chevalier de Saint-Georges Symphony No.1 in G major, Op.11 (part of the BBC Ten Pieces III). [www.mksinfonia.org.uk](http://www.mksinfonia.org.uk). Tickets £12, concessions £10, under 16s £3. Telephone (01908) 377518 or book online: [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk).

**Saturday 12th May 7:30pm French Connections** - Susan Chappell, Geoffrey Allan Taylor & Valerie Kirby-Ashmore play piano and viola, including pieces by Cesar Franck - Free Concert.

**Thursday, 17th May 12:30-1:15pm TT@TT** - 45 minute free recital by

Geoffrey Allan Taylor (different repertoire!).

**Friday, 1st June FREE First Friday Organ Recital** - A free 45 minute lunchtime concert. Soup & roll served at noon (£3) until 12:20pm, when we will all take our seats for the concert.

**Saturday, 2nd June 7:30pm Music Makers of Milton Keynes** - come and hear a great variety of music by this talented local choir. Free Concert. Part of StonyLive!

**Sunday, 3rd June 7pm Goldfinch** - Singer/Songwriter Martyna Wren, pianist John Bowman and string players bring a great evening's music to SMSG - Not to be missed! Tickets £10, but free to under 18s.

**Saturday, 9th June 7:30pm Vivant** - Clive Williams and Mark Prescott return to fill the church with the beautiful sounds of this melodeon and violin duo. A free concert.

**Friday, 15th June 7:30pm Edvard Grieg's birthday** - Stony Stratford pianist Joe Laredo invites us to celebrate the 175th birthday of Edvard Grieg in fine style. If you've not heard Joe play before you have been missing out! Free Concert.

**Thursday, 21st June 12:30-1:15pm TT@TT** - 45 minute free concert given by

our local school children. Bring your lunch and give the young performers your support.

*See the Music for All @ SMSG website for further details of all these events <http://www.musicforallsmg.org/whats-on>.*

**Town Council meetings for your diary**  
Come along and have your say

#### Full Council

**When:** 15th May 2018  
**Who goes:** All councillors - Joan Walker MBE (Chair), Lynne Compton (Town Clerk) & MK Councillors

#### Planning

**When:** 27th March, 24th April & 22nd May 2018  
**Who goes:** Michael Allsopp, Paul Bartlett, Simon Cherrill, Anne Cryer-Whitehead, June Payne, Pete Thornburgh, Joan Walker MBE & Town Clerk Lynne Compton

#### Projects

**When:** 1st May 2018  
**Who goes:** Paul Bartlett, Cliff Brett, Anne Cryer-Whitehead, Pete Thornburgh, Keith Tilley, Joan Walker MBE & Deputy Town Clerk Sally Firth

#### Finance & General Purposes

**When:** 17th April 2018  
**Who goes:** Michael Allsopp, Cliff Brett, Robert Gifford, Keith Tilley, Joan Walker MBE & Town Clerk Lynne Compton

#### Property Development

**When:** To be advised (please see our website)  
**Who goes:** Michael Allsopp, Cliff Brett, Simon Cherrill, Robert Gifford, Joan Walker MBE & 3 outside representatives & Town Clerk Lynne Compton

The Town Council and its committees use different meeting venues in the parish. Always check the venue on the Meeting Notice. This can be found on the noticeboards: in front of Budgens, outside SMSG School in Galley Hill, on Slade Lane in Fullers Slade and the office. You can also go to [www.stonystratford.gov.uk/Town Council Meetings](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk/Town-Council-Meetings) to view the Meeting Notice and download papers.

If you have any ideas, comments or concerns please contact us at:  
**Stony Stratford Town Council**

5-7 Church Street, Stony Stratford, MK11 1BD

Open: Monday - Friday 10am - 3pm

Please use our Church Mews entrance on Mondays.

tel: 01908 566726, email: [office@stonystratford.gov.uk](mailto:office@stonystratford.gov.uk)

website: [www.stonystratford.gov.uk](http://www.stonystratford.gov.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StonyStratfordTownCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/StonyStratfordTownCouncil)

Please contact Melanie Hyde at the address above or email [info@stonystratford.gov.uk](mailto:info@stonystratford.gov.uk) for Town Crier and website news.  
Summer 2018 Issue 62 - Distributed by end June 2018. Copy deadline: 20 May - covers news and forthcoming events from 1 July - 30 September 2018.



#### Easter Holiday Play Sessions with Milton Keynes Play Association

This Easter holidays Milton Keynes Play Association will be back with two Play Sessions funded by Stony Stratford Town Council. At each session MKPA

provide a large inflatable, engaging craft activities and different fun sports.

The dates for the Easter play sessions are as follows:

**4th April, 10am - 12.30pm - Calverton End Play Area**

**6th April, 10am - 12.30pm - Wolverton Road Recreation Ground**

Dates for the summer holiday play sessions will be available on our website and Facebook page nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you at there!



Don't forget that Stony Stratford Farmers Market will be held on the last Friday of each month in the Market Square from 9am-1pm. The dates for the upcoming markets are: **30th March, 27th April & 25th May.**



#### Fullers Slade Residents Association

#### StonyLive comes to Fullers Slade!

Wouldn't it be great if StonyLive came to Fullers Slade this year? Fullers Slade Residents Association (FSRA) have heard the message loud and clear and are organising music in Spider Park, Fullers Slade on Saturday 2nd June, noon to 4pm. Bring along a picnic and enjoy this outdoor family social event.



If it rains the venue will be the Rowans Centre in Moorfoot, Fullers Slade where the community cafe will be open from noon on the day anyway and children's music themed story telling is taking place from 4pm. FSRA thanks Councillor Denise Brunning and SSTC for supporting this fun event.

#### Successful Litter Picks

Stony Stratford Community Church is helping Fullers Slade Residents Association get rid of rubbish with monthly litter picks.



These are supported by SERCO picking up larger items at least quarterly. If you'd like to join in, come to Spider Park at 10.45 am on the second Sunday of each month. There'll be a warm welcome and a biscuit afterwards.

#### FSRA Invites

Fullers Slade Residents Association hosts public meetings every month. Regular agenda items include police updates, regeneration and forthcoming events. Next meetings are 9 April, 14 May, 11 June and 9 July. All welcome at 6pm, The Rowans Centre, 13a Moorfoot. Further details are available

#### Stony Stratford Big Lunch Sunday, 3rd June, 12 noon to 4pm



The Stony Stratford Big Lunch will be back again on 3rd June, bringing to you a fantastic opportunity for family, friends and neighbours to spend time together and have fun! The Big

Lunch will offer lots of family friendly fun including children's games and activities, live music and some of your favourite foods to enjoy. Of course you can bring your own picnic too. Admission is free. The venue has yet to be confirmed — updates will put on the Town Council noticeboards, website and Facebook page.



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