

Stratton Audley News Update November 2018

The Parish Council carries out regular door drops as well as constantly updating the website (www.strattonaudley.org) and noticeboard plus Facebook page. We do this to encourage involvement in the community and appreciate your feed back. Please keep this sheet as a reminder. Additionally the Parish Council hold meetings usually on the first Wednesday of each month in the Red Lion at 7pm and you are welcome to attend.

Dates for Your Diary

- **Remembrance Sunday 11th November.** The service in the church will take place at 10.45am and as you know this year is the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War and bells will be rung throughout the country. Please try and attend this act of remembrance
- Special Event - **We Will Remember Them** on 17th November in the Church @ 7.30pm. The History Society presents an evening of readings and letters. See the calendar section on the website for more details or contact Dorothy Howard on 277 694.
- The next **Village Road Sweep** to be carried out by Cherwell District Council will be on Tuesday 27th November during the morning, to clear the worst of the autumn leaves. As usual it would be appreciated if cars could be removed from the streets for a short period.
- Christmas Party in the Church on 14th December at 6.30pm. Dinner and mulled wine followed by a carols broadcast on the big screen for all to join in with. Tickets: Jackie Fox on 278 584.

Village Improvement Fund

As most of you will have seen, we have now installed six new litter bins and one large dog waste bin as direct replacements for the old rusting ones which were becoming difficult to empty.

Planting of new bulbs around the village is to be undertaken by several people and we need volunteers to contact Stewart Hopkins on 277 937. Early next year we intend purchasing some new benches and improving the look of the entrances to the village.

If you have suggestions on improving our village communal areas, or a specific idea you think would be good and are prepared to help make it happen by committing some time to the project, please speak to one of the parish councillors or contact the clerk by email at strattonaudley.parishclerk@gmail.com (all contact details are on the notice board and the Stratton Audley website).

Stream Clearance and Pound Development

A team of volunteers led by Stewart Hopkins recently cleared the stream which runs under Mill Road in an attempt to help prevent flooding that occurs most years to the houses in the vicinity and as part of the drive to improve the look of the village. The Parish Council hired a mini digger and Simon Goss removed all the debris and sludge deposited over the last 30 years. In all about 300 meters was cleared. Photos can be viewed on the website.

The following week work began on clearing the area of land known as the Pound on Launton Road by the entrance to the Bucks Way footpath. As a result of removing the undergrowth and lower branches of trees, an area twice the size has been created and with the ivy removed from the stone walls, there is now a delightful view of the field beyond which contains the foundations of the medieval castle. Under consideration is the planting of wild flowers and next year in the Spring further ground works will be carried out. Additional seating and signage will be put in place and maybe, just maybe, a replica set of stocks will be constructed and situated where records show they once existed. Again photos of the works have been posted on the Parish website.

Another suggestion that is under consideration is the repair to parts of the hard-core path alongside the pond, in order to allow for better access specifically for wheel chairs and mobility vehicles.

First Aid Awareness Training

We will be holding a First Aid Awareness Training Session on Saturday 17th November at 10am in the church. This is both for those who have previously attended a session as a refresher and anyone new who would like to be more aware and confident, in case of an emergency. Additionally you will learn how simple it is to use the 'heart-starting' defibrillator which is located in the church porch. To put your name down for it please contact Stewart Hopkins 277 937 or John Honsinger on 278 000.

Conservation Area Review

Cherwell District Council are currently undertaking a review of Stratton Audley Conservation Area which was designated in 1988 and last reviewed in 1996. The District Council has a duty to review its conservation areas from time to time and to produce an appraisal to reflect current issues. A report will be published in early 2019 and public consultation will take place.

Elm Farm Quarry Development

Oxford County Council planning committee met on 29th October to review the Ecology Report and consider whether it was appropriate to issue enforcement proceedings to secure the restoration of the Quarry as the current condition requiring restoration will not be enforceable after December 2018. The Committee confirmed its support. Separately Bicester Heritage, has submitted a planning application to extend the time for restoration works up to June 2020, which means that OCC would not have to take enforcement proceedings to protect the "restoration" position until 2020. The legal position will be discussed at the Parish Council meeting on 7th December. Objections need to be with OCC by mid November. The Parish Council would ultimately like to ensure that the site is retained as a nature reserve and that the public has unhindered access to it.

Other Matters

- **VAS.** The vehicle activated sign on the Bicester Road will remain in place for the time being, as this is the road that carries the most traffic through the village and it is proving to be effective in slowing down vehicles. In time we hope to acquire a second unit.
- **Pot Holes.** The Parish Council regularly reports pot holes. However we would encourage everyone to take the simple step of going on-line and reporting problems. All it requires is for you to go to www.fixmystreet.com and put in the location and other details requested. You can also report fly-tipping and other unsightly matters.
- **Footpaths & Bridleways.** The official footpath warden for this area is Stewart Hopkins and he needs a few volunteers to occasionally walk the paths and report back any damage or unpassable footpaths. If you have a dog and/or go for regular walks then maybe you could help and join this loose network of people. Please call Stewart on 277 937 to discuss.
- **East West Rail.** Plans are now with the Secretary of State and assuming they are approved, work is scheduled to begin in 2019 (see www.networkrail.co.uk/east-west-rail). A regular liaison meeting has been set up. The two key issues for the Parish are HGV traffic on Park Road and the construction of a new turning where it joins with the A4421.
- **The Expressway.** The government has identified route B as the preferred Corridor for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/route-announced-to-unlock-full-potential-of-englands-economic-heartland>). However uncertainty continues to exist over the precise route it will take out of Oxford and indeed, whether either route will ever be viable. So this is one to watch carefully and we will keep you updated.
- **Bicester Heritage Hotel.** Permission has been granted to build the hotel. The detailed plans are available on the CDC site (reference number is 18/01253/F) and there is a link to this on the Stratton Audley website.

www.strattonaudley.org