

Newsletter

SPRING 2023



Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick
PARISH COUNCIL

www.stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk





Chairman's REPORT

Cllr Lee Melville
Chairperson

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The Parish Council feel it is important to offer facilities for all youth age ranges and hope the upgraded track will bring a welcome addition to the older children in the Village, who needs are often forgotten.
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It has been a while since we had our last newsletter and another busy period. We have now had the local elections where our new ward of Wixams & Wilstead (incorporating Elstow & Stewartby) returned 3 new Conservative Ward Councillors and a new Conservative Mayor, as a Parish Council we welcome the change regardless of political position.

At this time it would only be correct to thank Tim Hill for his many years of service to our Village, we wish him well in his retirement. We hope to have a productive relationship with the new Councillors and ensure our Village is properly represented in its needs. We are especially focused on

No to the Local Plan 2040 and 4000 new homes at Kempston Hardwick Although we support the Quest Pit HOP TV studio planning application, we strongly disapprove of the highway arrangements. To ensure the Village Schools remain as places of education with the

planned two tier education strategy. To ensure the provision of the Brickworks heritage Centre and rebuilding of a Chimney with any future Brickworks redevelopment. GP provision and general infrastructure as our communities grow.

Hopefully you will be reading this before the launch of our Family Fun Day and relaunch of the BMX track at the Sports Pavilion on Saturday 3rd June 23, we hope to see many of you there. The event is free with lots of stalls and entertainment plus a professional BMX stunt display. The Parish Council feel it is important to offer facilities for all youth age ranges and hope the upgraded track will bring a welcome addition to the older children in the Village, who needs are often forgotten.

It is hoped that we can expand on more youth activities in the coming year. The Police will also attend this event to offer free Bike security marking and offer advice of staying safe near water, as the warmer weather

is now approaching we very much hope this advice is taken up.

Vehicle crime recently became an issue for some unfortunate residents, we have an active relationship with our Community Policing team and we raised these crimes as an urgent issue. It often may seem that the Police are not doing anything or you do not see them, but quite often teams are working in the background on intelligence or they are working in plain clothes. I am pleased to report that the gangs responsible for keyless car crime were apprehended after a cross force operation with Northants Police.

Hanson's Reach is now a major part of our Village, although its operation and management still falls with Persimmons Homes and Encore, we often hear complaints about the development and its poor management and although as the Parish Council we have no control on these matters, I have been meeting with senior

Managers from both companies to try and facilitate improvement for this significant part of our community. I am pleased to advise that both parties have agreed to a public meeting for the residents of Hanson's Reach and details will be communicated very shortly.

Finally, as we start this new year of local Government we continue to be keen to engage with you, follow us on facebook, attend our monthly meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month at 18.30 in the Dave Law Sports Pavilion or by emailing the clerk - clerk@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk. We also have 3 vacancies on the Council and ask if any of the community (who live or work in the Village for at least 1 year or more) are interested in joining the Parish Council, to contact the clerk in the first instance. It is a great way in contributing and help shape the way the Village runs.

I hope to meet some of you at the Family Fun Day and you all have a great summer.

New Conservative Ward Councillors

Graeme Coombes

I live in Wixams and have been Borough Councillor for the Parishes of Wilstead and Wixams since 2011. I've successfully argued for a 6th form at Wixams Academy and repeatedly challenged the Borough Council to deliver long overdue infrastructure, including Wixams Station. I'm currently in dialogue with health providers to support for a local GP facility.

Marc Frost

I've lived in Wilstead for 22 years and been a Parish Councillor for 6. This has given me a real insight into the challenges we face locally and I've fought against the many ill-thought-out planning applications that threaten to turn our area into an urban sprawl. As well as running a local business, I'm a JP and charity trustee, involved in the local community, walking the walk, not talking the talk.

Andrea Spice

I have lived in the Borough for over 20 years and am a strong community champion. I am a Nursery School governor and committee member at the RAFA Club in Bedford. I am also proud to be fighting against the decision by East West Rail to demolish residents' homes in the Poets area. I believe we must stand together against poor decisions that go against the best interests of our communities and villages.

We all look forward to engaging with residents of Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick Parish and the Parish Council, and hearing more about the issues that matter to you locally.



Chairman's Bench

In December, the Parish Council met with Alfred John Symonds to present him with a bench in his name as a thank you for his long serving dedication to the area. John served as a councillor for Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick Parish Council for over 20 years and was appointed the Chairman for the last 13 years of this duration. During this time, John played

a significant role in several projects and will always be a big part of the history of the village. We would like to thank John for his commitment to the role he played and wish him the best of luck and happiness throughout his retirement. For those that have not yet seen the bench in person, it can be found outside the Sports Pavilion.

Cllr Daisy Fraser



Name: _____

Stewartby Wordsearch

Y S V A H F J F P I L L I N G E O V
T T J O R J U Q S P S Z B T H S X F
K E R C H I L T E R N R O A D C F O
I W C O R O N A T I O N W A Y H O R
L A F G W B R O A D M E A D X O R D
N R M A G P I E P C R N O B R O D E
D T K H O N E Y Q U E S T S B L B R
R B N B T R U S S E T A P G Q L L G
I Y Y E W A V E L L R G N Z E A U K
V L M F C H I M N E Y W A Y J N E U
E U D K I T C H E N E R Q G S E Z E
T O T A W A N Q C H U R C H I L L F

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘.

BROADMEAD
CHILTERN ROAD
CHIMNEY WAY
CHURCHILL
CORONATION WAY
FORDER

HONEY QUEST
KILN DRIVE
KITCHENER
MAGPIE
OXFORD BLUE
PILLINGE

RUSSET
SCHOOL LANE
STEWARTBY
WAVELL

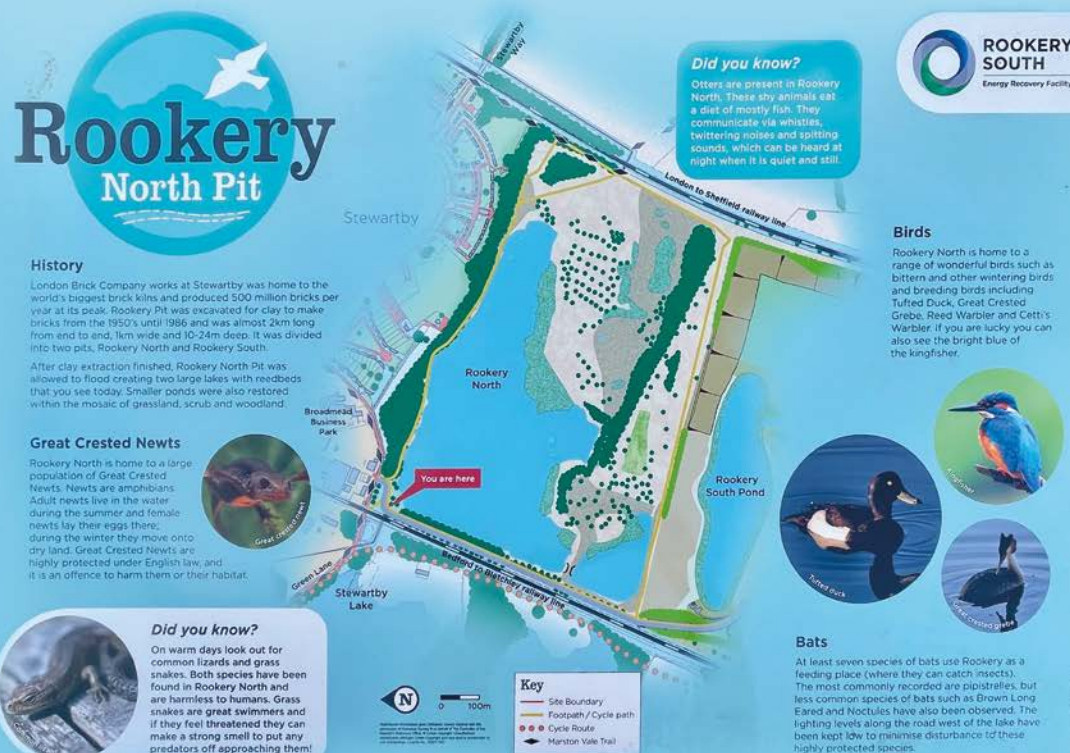
Find the Stewartby road names hidden in the wordsearch below and send us a photo of your completed search to entries@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk.

For extra points, send us a photo of yourselves with your favourite Stewartby road sign.
The winner will be announced in the next newsletter.

New walk around Rookery South

The pathway around Rookery South and the Covanta plant has now been opened in its entirety and is very pleasant to walk round. The path takes you from the entrance to Covanta on Green Lane, round the majority of the site. There will be several signs on the tour round which will give you distances between where you are and the various villages – Stewartby, Marston, Lidlington

etc. Also, a number of boards with information on the different parts of the Rookery South plant and also some history at another point. There has been lots of planting around the site and as a result it should be an enjoyable walk which will come more pleasant as it grows and becomes more substantial. We all hope that you enjoy using the pathway and its pleasant views.



Marston Vale Line News



Marston Vale Line Services

Marston Vale Line services were temporarily suspended on 1st December 2022 following confirmation that Vivarail (the company which maintains the Class 230 trains) had entered administration.

As Vivarail directly employed the maintenance staff who fuel, examine, service, repair and respond to any in-service faults, it was no longer safe to operate the Class 230s from the point of administration.

Arrangements have been made to introduce Class 150s. Passengers may remember these two carriage units from their service on the Line until 2019. These trains have since undergone a full refurbishment including the installation of accessible toilets. Train services will resume in Autumn 2023. Please see <https://www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk/news> for details.

A full rail replacement bus service (all stations and limited stop) will continue to be provided in the meantime. All vehicles are accessible. Changes are due to be made to the bus timetable from 22nd May. The new timetable will be posted on the MVCRP website once confirmed.

Refunds for delayed journeys of 15 minutes or more can be claimed from the LNR Delay Repay Scheme.

Please visit <https://www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk/about-us/delay-repay> for train journeys and e-mail contact lnr@wmtrains.co.uk for Rail Replacement Bus journeys. Please purchase rail tickets from a staffed station, the Ticket Vending Machine (TVM) at unstaffed stations or via <https://www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk/tickets-discounts/ticket-types>.

Tickets purchased online can be collected at any TVM. Please note the bus drivers are unable to issue rail tickets.

Please make your views known to London Northwestern Railway (LNR) over the lack of rail services via
<https://www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk/contact-us/customer-relations>.

Alternatively, Customer Complaints/Comments Forms can be collected from Bedford Station & Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre or please contact Stephen for a form to be sent to you. Please also write to your MP.

Please report any problems with Rail Replacement Buses to LNR as above. No buses are provided on days when industrial action is taking place. Please see the MVCRP website.

CCTV

CCTV is being installed at all stations along the Marston Vale Line. Additional cameras are to be installed at Bedford St Johns to enhance the system that was fitted last year. The cameras are due to go live in the next few weeks.

Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre is open Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 – 4:00. The Tea Room is open at the same times. Please call 01525 287120 to book. The Heritage Centre has recently received a further Trip Advisor Travellers' Choice Award. Please see the new Heritage Centre website for full details of the building - <https://ridgmonthheritage.org.uk>.

Steam on the Marston Vale Line

Unfortunately the visit of steam locomotive Mayflower on 26h April was cancelled due to operational reasons. It is hoped to reschedule for Spring 2024. Watch this space!

Bedfordshire Brickworks Exhibition – Saturday 27th May 2023 – 10:00 – 4:00

The popular one day Exhibition at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre is returning in May as part of the Greensand

Country Festival. The Heritage Centre and Tea Room will be open as usual.

Milton Keynes Model Railway Exhibition – Saturday 10th June 2023 – 10:00 – 4:30

The Exhibition is being held at the Ridgeway Centre, Featherstone Road, Wolverton Mill. The Exhibition is one of the largest in the area with something for all ages! Please visit <https://mkMrs.org.uk> for details.

For further information on any aspect of Marston Vale CRP or the Marston Vale Line please contact Stephen Sleight, MVCRP Officer, on 01234 832645, e-mail stephens@bedsrcc.org.uk.



VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk



FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/marstonvalecrp



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!

[@marstonvalecrp](https://twitter.com/marstonvalecrp)

Community Police



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

Protecting People and Fighting Crime

Together



**Sergeant
Carl Perri**

With feedback from engagement events, surveys and community information, the North Rural Community Team will prioritise speeding and theft from motor vehicle in the coming quarter.

Speeding is the most complained about issue across the 54 towns and villages in north rural Bedfordshire.

As a result, we feel it appropriate to focus our attention on this issue. PC Vito Napoli is taking the lead on this project with the objective of raising awareness of the risks of speeding and encouraging people to drive safely and reduce speed. We have set a target to conduct speed enforcement sessions in every village or town within the coming weeks. In addition, volunteers from SpeedWatch will be assisting our enforcement sessions.

Our team will be working closely with student officers to target a variety of locations, in a bid to focus on education and enforcement. One area identified and being focused on is the Hanson's Reach area of Stewartby. Contrary to some beliefs, we don't like issuing tickets resulting in points and fines, and we would rather educate than enforce. However, we are here to protect YOU,

which means we need to take robust enforcement where necessary.

In addition, we have noted a rise in theft from vehicle across the county. This includes vehicle crime with people breaking into cars for phones, money or personal belongings but also includes catalytic converter thefts which is a growing national issue. Catalytic converters control exhaust emissions and sit beneath your vehicle. Thieves target these converters by cutting them from the vehicle to sell the metals contained inside.

Locally we have not seen a sudden spike in offences, therefore the work we are proactively carrying out aims at prevention and reassurance.

If you see any suspicious activity around vehicles, I urge you to not approach but where possible from a safe distance call the police on 999. If the offence has passed, contact 101 or report online.

The only way we can reduce speeding and theft from motor vehicle is by working together. Please report incidents into the police via telephone or online via the Bedfordshire Police website.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you as we work on our projects in the coming weeks.

Meeting Space

@ Dave Law Sports Pavilion

Looking for a versatile venue to hold your next work meeting or event? What about the Dave Law Sports Pavilion. With a large main hall, an equipped kitchen, and ample parking, the Pavilion can accommodate groups of various sizes. Our facilities are perfect for meetings, training sessions, workshops, and team-building events. The Pavilion has

modern amenities including high-speed internet, audio-visual equipment, and refreshments can be provided also.

CONTACT

clerk@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk to book the Pavilion for your next work meeting or event!

Christmas Fair

We had a wonderful time at the Christmas Fair and Santa's Grotto back in November 2022 at the Village Hall. Santa was very busy with all the children coming to see him in his grotto. The children were certainly excited to Santa and his Elf helpers. The events committee would like to say a big thank you to all the stallholders for their fantastic array of gifts, food and activities. The raffle and tombola remaining as popular as ever with some fantastic prizes. We would also like to thank our sponsors for this event.

The event finished off with the annual Christmas Tree light switch on. It was great to see the turn out for this part of the day. And we are sure you will agree the brass band made it feel a special moment.

Cllr Terri Banks



Memorial Gardens

Lots of work has been carried out on the Memorial Garden last year including new plants and a new path which is better for walking on for both dogs and humans.

There are 4 memory walls in the corner of the garden which can have plaques on it and also we can offer a rose bush with a plaque or a bench.

- The prices are as follows:**
- Plaque on wall 8" x 6" with lifetime maintenance £235
 - Rosebush with plaque and 15 years maintenance £800
 - Wooden Bench including plaque and 15 years Maintenance £2000

If anyone would like to have these, we now have a form which can be requested from the Parish Clerk and returned so that we can order and add to the walls or gardens as required. Clerk@stewartbykparishcouncil.gov.uk

needing help?

local charity could help.

WOOTTON

Wootton Poors Land Charity,
Registered charity number 200216

A Wootton Charity, here to offer financial help if you are in real need and when other benefit payments can't be claimed for this item. For example in the past we have helped with furniture (beds, washing machines), costs of travelling to hospital, medical equipment and mobility equipment.

(Residents of Wootton and Stewartby only).
For more information, please contact in confidence wootton.poorsland@gmail.com or Peter Ackroyd on 01234 768391



Planning

The Parish Council always pays avid attention to local planning matters, the most recent applications of interest; -

Quest Pit - HOP TV & Film Studio
The Parish Council in principal support this application, we feel it will commercially enhance the area including employment creation. Their plans also show proactive steps to protect the local wildlife of the location. However, we do not support the infrastructure and highways arrangements with a roundabout proposed some 350 yards from the Junction of Stewartby Way. We feel that the roundabout should be located at the Junction of Stewartby Way and the B530 which is already a problem junction. This way we can improve an already dangerous junction and future proof for it as and when the Brickworks site is redeveloped. The Parish Council has objected to the application in its current format.

Bedford Interchange Warehouses
An application was received to build a series of Warehouses to the rear of Bedford Interchange, located behind the Next store. Access to this site would be from the already congested interchange roundabout and new entrance road to the retail park. We fail to see how adding heavy goods vehicle movements to this location can have any merit as it will only compound the issues already experienced. The Parish Council has objected to this application.

New Care Home, Kempston Hardwick
A new build care home application has been received for the former Dog rescue site, we believe this will improve the area that is in a current state of disrepair as well as create local employment opportunities. The Parish Council however has asked that a Section 106 requirement be considered to introduce a 30mph speed limit to Kempston Hardwick given the significant new housing in the area and School bus drops on this section of road. The site will naturally increase traffic to the area and a developer's contribution to road safety should be considered.



What's on Guide

MAY

The Worst Princess

@ Grove Theatre

26 – 28 May

A modern fairy tale turned on its royal head, this bright and bouncy show will have children of all ages cheering along for The Worst Princess! Feisty Princess Sue escapes the clutches of her twit of a Prince in a funny, feminist twist on the traditional princess tale. This is a story about adventure, mischief and unlikely friendship. Packed full of music and mayhem The Worst Princess is made for 3+ but suitable for all.

Dino Week

@ Mead Open Farm

27 May – 4 Jun

Check out the website for more details nearer the time!

Colour Obstacle Rush

@ Milton Keynes

27 May

Colour Obstacle Rush is the biggest run in the world that combines the fun of colour and obstacles. This will be the most memorable, fun and colourful run of your life!

Wrest Park & Kids Rule!

@ Wrest Park

27 May – 4 Jun

Get ready for a right royal knees-up at the Kids Rule events this May half-term. Join the fun at Wrest Park to celebrate King Charles III's coronation with hands-on activities and fresh-air family fun. Book online and save 10%.
Wrest Park & Kids Rule! | English Heritage (english-heritage.org.uk)

Little City

@ Forest of Marston Vale

31 May

An entirely mobile role play City for the under 6's to explore and enjoy. Utilising bespoke backdrops and specially selected high-quality toys and equipment, your child can fully immerse themselves in their own world and welcome you in too! £9 per child.

JUN

Party with a Princess

@ Forest of Marston Vale

2 Jun

Join this children's afternoon tea fit for royalty (12.30-1pm) followed by meet and greets, games and sing-a-longs

with the Miracle and Flower princesses! (1-2pm). Dressing in your best finery or fancy dress of your choosing is encouraged, but not mandatory. Parental supervision at all times is essential. Suitable for ages 3+. £15 per child.

Half-Term Animal Encounter

@Herrings Green Farm

4 Jun

Spend some time with the beautiful animals at Herrings Green Farm this half-term. Under the guidance of the animal keepers meet and feed some of the animals including llamas, goats, Kunekune pigs, calves, sheep, donkeys and more. A real hands on activity for all ages, getting you close to animals and nature.
The activity lasts for approximately 90 minutes. Adult £16.00 Child £12.50

The Great Green Week

@ Forest of Marston Vale

From 10th June

The Forest of Marston Vale have arranged various events for The Great Green Week for more details go to Events - what's on | The Forest of Marston Vale Trust Save the Date!

Please
go to

[www.raring2go.co.uk/
bedford-and-biggleswade/
whats-on](http://www.raring2go.co.uk/bedford-and-biggleswade/whats-on)
for all the latest
information and details
of what's on in the area

Forest Family Fun Day

@ Forest of Marston Vale

2 Sep

Join in the fun on Saturday the 2nd of September for the biggest fundraising event of the year, the annual Forest Family Fun Day. The day has something for the whole family and will be jammed packed with an array of things to do. Bluey and Bingo will be appearing at intervals throughout the day!
Book your early bird discounted tickets for only £2 per child and £1 per adult. Early bird discounted tickets will be available until the 30th August. After this period, including on the day, tickets will be available for £3.50 per child and £2.50 per adult.

Your Councillors and contacts

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Chair

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lmelville@stewartbykhparishcouncil.gov.uk

Tilly Bartens
Clerk

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Councillor

07904 131 102

Michael Nelsey
Councillor

Lloyd Haley
Councillor



Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick
PARISH COUNCIL

Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick Parish Council
Council Office, Stewartby Village Hall, Stewartby Way,
Stewartby, Bedford, MK43 9LX

EVENTS CALENDAR 2023

SATURDAY

3RD JUNE

BMX Family Day
Sports Pavilion

SATURDAY

11TH NOVEMBER

Remembrance Day
Village Hall

SATURDAY

25TH NOVEMBER

Christmas Fair & Grotto
Village Hall

Stewartby & Kempston Hardwick

PARISH COUNCIL