



Minutes of Annual Parish Assembly Tuesday 9 April 2024 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Kathryn Dodington (Chair), David Locke, Trevor Morley, Pat Stimson, Barbara Osborne, Terry Richardson and Simon Lake.

Also Present: Dave Weston (clerk) and 12 members of the public.

- 1. Apologies:** Cllr Louisa Fowler (WNC), Christine Sears and Mike Partridge.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual Parish Assembly 2023.** There were no minutes to present.
- 3. Chairs Report:** Cllr Dodington main report had been posted on the website. She told the assembly that local resident Will Irlam has carried out some clearance work on the church filed drain and hopefully that will reduce the flow of water onto Bridge Road. Cllr Dodington has sent a letter of thanks.
Provisionally, WNC have said that Bridge Road will be closed between 2 and 20 September 2024 to allow the repair to the running water and road surface. The church clock has one side not working, we are contacting the engineers to try and fix under guarantee.
The posts and chains have been replaced on the green with some other work to enhance having been done, many thanks to those parishioners who have funded and completed this work.
The council are trying to meet with representatives from WNC to seek additional grant monies in respect of the upheaval endured by the village during the building of the bypass.
Cllr Phil Larratt, cabinet lead for highways, has agreed to come and visit the village to see for himself the issues we are having with our roads and footpaths.
- 4. WNC Councillor Report:** Cllr Fowler wasn't present, and her report is available on the website for viewing. Attached at Appendix A
- 5. Northamptonshire Police Report:** The police report is available on the website for viewing. Attached at Appendix A
- 6. Reports from clubs and organisations:** Cllr Dodington then invited comment and questions on the following reports received from local organisations:
 - 6.1: The Parish Council Accounts. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A
 - 6.2: Stoke Bruerne Cricket Club. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A
 - 6.3: Book Club. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A
 - 6.4: Tove Valley Football Club. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A

6.5: Stoke Bruerne Canal Partnership. The museum has pledged £1000.00 to help finish the woodland walk. **Q: MOP** are vacancies advertised at the museum during the holiday period on local Facebook groups. **R:** Yes they are, there is always a chance for casual work. Attached at Appendix A

6.6 Stoke Bruerne Village Hall. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A

6.7: Shutlangar and Stoke Bruerne Flower Club. No comment made. Attached at Appendix A

6.8. The David Blagrove Trust. It was noted the parish council are holding ring fenced funds from the trust for the specific use on the church clock. Attached at Appendix A

7. Any other items of parish concern.

Q: Can the 20mph limit be extended back to Wentworth Way.

KD: We can ask, historically, it has been difficult to get support for speed reduction options such as humps etc. We will ask WNC to consider.

Q: Can the police enforce the 30mph limit?

KD: We will ask.

Q: Lorries are using the village over the 7.5tonne limit.

KD: They are allowed access to the village if needed. We have spoken to Mick George over their vehicles short cutting through for the works near Heathencote.

Q: the brickwork on the bridge needs attention.

KD: The canal partnership is trying to get the Rivers and Canals to look at it.

Q: The step near the locks with the loose bricks hasn't been repaired.

KD: It is sectioned off and waiting for repair.

MOP: I have left a litre of water at the flower boxes for watering.

There were no further questions.

The meeting closed at 8.08pm.

Appendix A: Meeting Reports



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Parish Report 2023/24

The last year has been challenging for all of the villages in the Towcester and Roade Ward, who have had to deal with the traffic issues generated by the Roade bypass and ongoing works caused by Segro development at J15. Parish councils and I have worked together to try to reduce the impact of the works and although the inconvenience has still been considerable, we have been able to alleviate some of the inconvenient which residents have had to endure. Maggie and I are both aware of the dreadful state of the roads in the vicinity, and the damage which has been done to surfaces, and we are constantly emailing the Highways department in order to support the complaints that parish clerks are putting in, with regard to the state of the roads. We were pleased with the outcome of our lobbying when it came to the Blisworth road remedial work near Roade, and we will continue to challenge officers to ensure that other villages in the ward receive appropriate support.

Planning issues have continued to be a challenge, and the work to fight the DHL application continues. I have had regular updates from WNC and this has enabled me to inform parish clerks of progress towards a full application. I have worked with fellow councillors to scrutinise the application, thus allowing us to focus on the appropriate areas for challenge and objection. Maggie and I will continue to campaign against the application, both by lobbying councillors on the Strategic Planning Committee and also by making representations at the hearing. Although there are still significant backlogs in planning, WNC are making every effort to alleviate these by recruiting extra staff and ensuring that support services cooperate with them in a timely fashion.

For the last year I have also sat on the Sustainability Committee, helping WNC to focus on how to prioritise the environment and consider the carbon cost of our decision-making, recognizing that climate change is already having a very real impact on the villages in the Towcester and Roade ward, with drains unable to cope with flash flooding and road surfaces being damaged by the flooding.

I have also been a member of the Children, Education and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and this has enabled me to support officers in looking at ways that we can support the most vulnerable families in our community, preventing an escalation of care. The committee holds relevant partners to account and provides guidance on strategic direction, for example checking that key milestones of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy are being met.

On the Corporate Parenting Board I monitor steps being taken by NCT to ensure that our most vulnerable children are being appropriately cared for, with the nurture they are being given replicating that found in a family home. As part of this work I have chaired the Task and Finish Group on Recruiting and Retaining more Foster Carers. In the early summer I will report to Cabinet on the steps that we can take to support Foster Carers so that they are given the support and recognition they need, so that more people want to work with NCT and care for young people.

As a member of the Virtual School Advisory Panel I have checked that we are providing the best life chances for CEVC, by monitoring their education and outcomes.

One of the privileges of my jobs continues to be meeting, and working with, the parish council members who volunteer so much time to ensure that their village is a great place to live and to work. I always enjoy attending the PC meetings so that I can gain a deeper understanding of the problems residents are facing and how I can support the parish clerks to improve life for residents of WNC, whether that be in searching out grants for play equipment or speaking at planning committees against new homes outside village boundaries. I look forward to another year of successful collaboration.

Northamptonshire Police

Annual Report and You Said, We Did

March 2024 South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams have welcomed a couple of new members to the team and have also seen a couple move onto pastures new. PC Mohammed Mir has joined Brackley and PC Stefan Macovei has joined Towcester. PC Frankie Smith has moved to a seconded post as a Dog Legislation Officer with the Force and PCSO Paris Jones has left to take up a role as a civil servant. PCSO Jen Harrison is supporting our team whilst working as a dedicated anti-social behaviour officer.

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Hopefully most villages will have now been visited by the Beat Bus, an initiative launched in late 2021. We aim to use this and other resources to bring officers to your doorstep and offer some of our more isolated residents the opportunity to speak to officers on a 1-2-1 basis whilst the officers also complete some of their existing workload in an agile manner. Our focus is driven by you and if you feel that your village would benefit from any additional visits then please contact us – details can be found at the end of this report. We would rather become involved in resolving any issues or concerns at an early stage to prevent situations escalating or deteriorating. Ideally our visits should be timed alongside community events, meetings or gatherings to maximise opportunities to meet your local officers.

Overall, South Northants is a pleasant and safe place to live. Crime levels are relatively low and if you wish to look at more detailed information in respect of these then you can visit [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk) - Your area

Our community identified policing priority surveys, highlighted that road safety; vehicle crime and rural crime are your real areas of concern and these were chosen to be the priorities between December 2023 and March 2024.

Road Safety:

As a Neighbourhood Team, we have responsibility for engaging with all of our local schools across all year groups. We receive many reports relating to the use of vehicles around school times from the public and schools themselves. These reports are followed up by ourselves, or by us linking in with partner agencies and enforcement will be undertaken where appropriate. We acknowledge that many schools are located within tight road networks and that societal changes are often the cause of sheer volume of traffic utilising these to get children to and from school. Therefore, much of our work in tackling issues will be educationally based in order to, disrupt and deter issues. Enforcement will be a last resort but is always an option for persistent issues.

In December 2023 during the Force's Drink and Drug Drive campaign, an operation was carried out during a night in South Northants. This resulted in 27 people submitting to breath tests, 3 arrests for drug drive, disqualified driving and handling stolen goods (diesel). 18 offences were identified, 5 vehicles seized and a quantity of stolen property recovered. For anyone believing that it is unfair Police targeting motorists clearly this proves that notion to be misguided. Criminals use our road network and drive vehicles also.

Vehicle Crime:

Nationally there is a trend in stealing load and diesel from HGVs parked up overnight. Currently these offences are low in number in South Northants and affect major trunk road predominately. Thefts of tools from vans is more problematic and officers aim to follow up all offences of theft from a motor vehicle with a call or visit to the victim, completion of any CCTV enquiries, house to house where appropriate and a media report for witnesses. These offences are opportunistic in nature and hard to second guess where they may occur. Vans are a particularly vulnerable target for stealing tools however these types of vehicles are parked in most streets and activity around them doesn't always draw attention. We encourage 2 van owners or operators to invest in lockable options for items within the van and consider marking tools to make them less attractive for onwards sale.

Rural Crime:

The rural crime team has seen a much quieter start to 2024 than 2023 with far less thefts and rural crime activity happening. We have noted an increase in plant machinery thefts and building sites are proving favourable. The team have been busy with numerous warrants alongside the RSPCA for animal welfare related incidents as unfortunately we are seeing an increase in people abandoning their animals or just not caring for them. We have had several arrests for rural crime which are progressing at this time and cross border working with our neighbouring forces where we see offenders committing crime across several counties. We have delivered training inputs to all the young farmer groups across the county which have been well received. We have also been on training inputs with the other regional forces in Lincolnshire and Leicestershire on wildlife crime matters and to the LAMMA show at the NEC where we build working relationships with other forces and manufacturers as well as engaging with our own rural community who attend the event. We have recovered several stolen items and returned them to their owners and are continually developing intelligence around offenders. We've also had several reports of livestock worrying and where we had a particular problem which resulted in a warrant being obtained and the dogs seized and eventually rehomed. We will continue to support the rural communities through attending events and being visible and ask that any information no matter how small you may think it is, report it as it may be the missing part to a wider problem.

Please consider signing up to Northants Talking. This is an email messaging system that all Schools, Parish Councils, Neighbourhood Watch and community members can join. In registering your email address, you will receive up-to-date information regarding crimes, policing activity, crime prevention advice and much more. This system is a two-way process and offers you a chance to respond to information provided as appropriate. If the majority of the community sign up then we can create a virtual network of additional eyes and ears, watching out for suspicious activity, looking out for vulnerable friends, family and neighbours and receiving information about local events and activities that can help alleviate fear of crime and promote a safe and secure lifestyle. You can join the Northants Talking Messaging System easily via this link:
Northamptonshire Talking

Your Neighbourhood Policing Teams are based within the Community at Brackley and Towcester Police Stations. These are Police bases so don't have an open front office to visit but officers are there daily. We would like to attend as many events, local groups, warm spaces, community ladders as possible to allow you opportunities to meet us and share your concerns, we can offer information and advice and tackle community issues with your support.

Please do follow us on social media where possible (Twitter: @SthNorthantsNPT and Facebook: 'Daventry and South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Team'). We try and promote as much of our day to day activities as we can however if there is anything else that you would like to see us report back on then let us know. Your feedback is important to us and you should be part of any changes we implement. There are some aspects of our work that we cannot report back on due to the vulnerabilities of the persons involved, and their right to privacy but we will try and let you know as much as we can about the type of work that we get involved with.

We work closely with our Rural Crime Team and you can follow their work via Twitter: @hutch472 & @NorPolRural.

We have previously reported a rise in issues associated with the use of social media to send offensive messages and/or images. This has especially been an issue with children of school age from school years 6 upwards (ages 10-16). Thankfully work between Police and schools seems to have reduced the amount of reports. We will always focus on safeguarding, education and intervention as first choice but there have been occasions where this type of behaviour has had to be tackled at a higher level with Youth Offending Team intervention to prevent children entering the Criminal Justice System. Officers will be undertaking further assemblies and class inputs with schools over the coming months.

Should you wish to discuss a particular issue that is of concern to you or meet a member of your Neighbourhood Policing Team then please contact either team via: NT-SouthNorthantsBrackley@pnn.police.uk or NT-SouthNorthantsTowcester@pnn.police.uk PLEASE DO NOT REPORT CRIMES VIA THESE EMAIL ADDRESSES Reporting an issue or crime to the Police can be made in a number of ways. This includes ringing 101 or online. Northants Police's new website offers a reporting system for

- A road traffic incident
- Missing person – no immediate harm
- Terrorist activity
- Fingerprints appointments – this could be asked for when travelling abroad
- Hate Crime/ Incident

So that your report can be managed as quickly as possible, it's important to consider the following information and have it ready to provide:

- the date and time the crime happened
- the location, such as address or road name along with the town or village
- a description of any people involved
- the details of any witnesses or suspects
- if you think there's any other evidence such as forensic evidence or mobile phone footage
- if there is clear CCTV footage of the offence being committed The above reporting tool can be reached via: <https://www.northants.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime/>

USEFUL LINKS

Northamptonshire Police Website: <http://www.northants.police.uk/>

Check if a vehicle is taxed or untaxed and report if necessary:

<https://www.gov.uk/check-vehicle-tax>

Useful link for all matters related to driving: <http://think.direct.gov.uk/>

This link will provide you with useful information to help protect yourself from scams:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam/>

Trading Standards – Advice and help for consumers: West Northants Trading Standards

Contact Crime Stoppers anonymously about crime: <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>

Fearless - a site where young people can access non-judgmental information and advice about crime: <https://www.fearless.org/>

Northamptonshire Neighbourhood Watch: www.ourwatch.org.uk

Report to South Northants Council - Fly tipping, dog fouling, Litter, noise pollution and other issues: West Northants Council

Advice on boundary disputes with neighbours:

<https://www.ricsfirms.com/residential/legal-issues/boundaries/rics-consumer-guide-boundary-disputes/>

Street Doctor – reporting Highways issues:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-andstreets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Thank you from South Northants Neighbourhood Policing Teams

STOKE BRUERNE PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS 2023-2024

Payments	Budget 2023-24	Expenditure 2023-24	Plus/Minus to 31 March 2024
Clerks salary	2880	3276.16	-396.16
Clerks Expenses	400	312.00	88.00
Mowing	5500	6000.72	-500.72
Utilities	2000	993.77	1006.23
HMRC	720	577.91	142.09
Asset Repairs & renewals	2000	1200.00	800.00
Insurance	1200	599.00	601.00
Subscriptions	550	584.79	-34.79
Audit Fees	100	0.00	100.00
Traffic Survey	650	0.00	650.00
Open Space maintenance	500	471.00	29.00
Clock	500	5789.39	-5289.39
Equipment Inspection	100	98.40	1.60
Village Hall Hire	100	225.00	-125.00
Misc	100	103.40	-3.40
Section 137 Grants	800	0.00	800.00
Training	200	208.80	-8.80
Website / Anit-virus	400	493.38	-93.38
Contingency	1000	327.36	672.64
Tree Inspection / Maintenance	300	444.00	-144.00
Totals 2023-2024	20000	21705.08	-1705.08
Receipts			
Precept	16687.00		
Pitch hire	300.00		
Bank interest	178.22		
Grants			
VAT			
SEGRO	3370.00		
WNC Finance	307.14		
Donation DBT	483.36		
Lloyds Banking Group	3.62		
Total Receipts	21329.34	21705.08	-375.74

Closing Bank Balances

	31 March 2023	31 March 2024	
Current Account	£9985.68	£9827.72	
Deposit Account	£10,088.51	£10,266.73	
Un-presented Payments		£396.00	
Total Monies Held	£20074.19	£19,698.45	Difference £375.74

Stoke Bruerne Parish Council
Annual Parish Meeting 2024
Chairs Report

We were sorry to say goodbye to Ruth Smith in January-2023 which left me managing the ship. I have enjoyed being chair of the Parish Council and learning how to do that.

We also said goodbye to Bob's Damerell our Parish Clerk and were delighted to welcome Dave Weston (a stalwart of the Cricket Club) as our new Parish Clerk. Dave has been a breath of fresh air and kept us all on the straight and narrow.

We have also welcomed David Locke to the Parish Council recently.

The huge challenges have been the roads and the work related to the J15 work. It seemed that neither WINVIC or WNC had the communications abilities so that was taken on, on behalf of the Parish Council, and shared with other Parishes.

Bridge Road has been a challenge to us and at the moment we see no light at the end of the tunnel despite doing our very best with WNC.

We have spent a lot of time dealing with drains and we believe we are nearly on top of that now.

We have spent a rather large amount on getting the village (Church) clock going again. The most difficult part of that was dealing with the permissions required by the Diocese of Peterborough. There is still work to do if we can find the money for the extra work.

The lampposts have been inspected and one, in Bridge Road, has sadly failed that inspection. It will cost in the region of £2,900 including VAT to replace it. These lampposts are now over 30 years old so we must budget for further replacements.

We have had to move the Parish Council website following the demise of the current service providers. That will be live soon. We have changed electric suppliers and saved a considerable sum of money and we are in the process of changing our bank account and moving all payments on line.

It just remains to say thank you to my fellow councillors for bearing with me and doing what they can to keep the village going and to our new Parish Clerk, Dave Weston, for sorting everything out and bringing us into the 21st century.

Kind Regards

Kathryn

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Spencer Bruerne Cricket Club Report

2023 saw another year of progression for the cricket club.

We ran 3 open age sides in 2023 competing in Divisions 4, 12 and 15 of the Northamptonshire Cricket League. Over 70 people played for the club during that period including many young players who have progressed through our youth system. Highlights included, the 1st XI gaining promotion to Division 3 for next season by virtue of having finished in the top 5 and qualifying for promotion via a reshuffle of the leagues divisions. The 3rd XI, which is our developmental team saw them record their first victory having only started in 2022. They play their home games at Collingtree.

The real joy was seeing how the junior set-up continues to thrive. In 2023 we ran an under 11 and under 13 side. The under 11s finished 3rd in their league and the under 13s second. We had 1 child selected to represent the club at District cricket level and 1 child was invited for trials with Scotland. We also had 2 children receiving specialist coaching with the local MCC hub.

We ran the ECB Allstars and Dynamos programme which saw 48 children and families at the club on Friday evenings to receive an introduction to the game. We also hosted a softball tournament with teams from across South Northants playing against each other.

In total, 93 children had a cricket experience at the club in 2023. We are regarded as a model by the Northants Steelbacks in the community team on progressing youth cricket in the county.

All the childrens coaches, ground staff and clubhouse staff are volunteers. We are proud that we don't have to pay for all the work that is done. We estimate well over two thousand hours of time is given up for the benefit of the club.

We refurbished the club room in 2023 with help from an ECB clubs and communities grant. This saw a redecoration, new flooring as well as new tables and chairs. A great benefit was also the marquee we installed outside the pavilion.

The club was impacted by the construction of the Roade Bypass. The closure of Rookery Lane impacted us to a degree, but the biggest impact can now be seen by the fact that with the removal of the hedgerows and raising of the A508, vehicles can clearly be seen driving now and will be a distraction for batters for 2024 (well that's their excuse anyway!). There is additional noise form the road as well. We will have to purchase an additional sightscreen to try and lessen this.

For 2024 we are running another junior team this time at under 15 level. The likelihood is we will have to have one of the teams playing their cricket at Collingtree due to pressure

on the ground which in the summer is in use 5 evenings a week as well as every Saturday. We have also booked a couple of Sunday friendly fixtures as well.

We will be refurbishing the ladies toilets this year and are looking at installing somewhere for the ladies and girls to change in as we have ladies playing in our teams as do the opposition.

The big project for us though is to replace our practice nets. The current ones are at least five years beyond their sell by date. We want to install a state-of-the-art practice facility that is fully enclosed, that would enable us to host junior matches and practice on the same evening. We would also need to replace and resite the equipment shed. The cost of this is around £60K. Fundraising and grant opportunities are being explored for this.

The club remains an inclusive and welcoming environment. Everyone is welcome to pop in and see what we are about.

Ian Stimson

Chair Spencer Bruerne CC

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Book Club Report

At the beginning of March, the book club will be known as a drop-in centre, for anyone who wishes to come along, for a cup of tea and biscuit, or cake. The books will still be able to be borrowed and returned when read, and if anyone wants to buy a particular book, they will be able to at a nominal fee.

The hall will be opened at 2pm and closed at 3.45. We may occasionally have talks, or a table for bring and buy. If anyone feels able to give an interesting talk for about 30 to 45 minutes, voluntary, we would be pleased to hear from them.

Judy Cave

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Tove Valley Football Club

Tove Valley FC have been using the playing field for the past year in conjunction with Towcester Town Juniors Football club to provide local grassroots football to the community, for open aged men at the pitch in Stoke Bruerne. As a home venue, the pitch has been used for the season for approximately 20 games for two teams across the year.

In addition to use of the pitch, we have been in communication with the Parish Council and residents to improve parking monitoring over winter months, now storing traffic cones at residents property which are used to discourage access to Wentworth Way, ensure clearance on Bridge Road and provide a passing place for overtaking vehicles entering the village. This new system, particularly coning off access to Wentworth Way, appears to have been more effective with positive feedback from residents on the level of parking in this resident only street since our meeting at the end of 2023, with in person monitoring of this supporting the parking management on Sundays.

Regards

Jack

Tove Valley FC Chair

REPORT TO STOKE BRUERNE ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2024 ON BEHALF OF STOKE BRUERNE CANAL PARTNERSHIP AND THE FRIENDS OF THE CANAL MUSEUM

1. The Canal Museum and café have had a reasonably successful year but have been plagued by staffing issues which has limited the amount of progress which it was hoped to make in terms of site offer. Recruitment in the hospitality sector has not really recovered since the pandemic and the lack of public transport restricts accessibility for potential applicants. However, restricted opening hours were achieved on almost every week through the winter and now a full complement of staff is in post so we are hoping to be able to move forward with activities into the summer months.
2. In contrast the number of volunteers now recruited has increased substantially which is very positive. This includes
 - (i) welcome volunteers in the museum, helping to improve the visitor experience and support the staff
 - (ii) new volunteers helping to manage the site within and around the museum
 - (iii) additional volunteer lock keepers, who this year are manning the lock flight at weekends as well as during the week
 - (iv) hedge layers, who have made a great job of the old hedge line below the A508 road bridge.

The only group of volunteers who have been restricted by lack of available opportunities are the curatorial volunteers from the Friends. This is regrettable and it is hoped that new arrangements within CRT to manage volunteers will be more fruitful this coming year. Offers to assist with web page maintenance have also been made.

3. During the year, the Partnership met approximately every other month and discussed a wide variety of issues, acting on these where it could. The Partnership has been very aware of the financial concerns facing the Canal and River Trust and has affiliated itself with a movement called Funding Britain's Waterways which is campaigning for improved national funding for all waterways, not just those operated by CRT. The cuts are

having an effect at all levels and one obvious local cut has been the decision to stop all emptying of dog bins. The Partnership was particularly concerned about this and eventually put in place a volunteer solution through its Adoption Group. I would like to place on record our appreciation of the reliable work of Roger Cooper in this regard whilst noting that this cannot be seen as a permanent solution and stressing that the problem affects local residents and their pets at least as much as visitors.

4. The Adoption Group task days have continued throughout the year, only one month having to be cancelled due to the weather. A wide variety of landscaping work has been carried out, the biggest project of which is the improvement of the far end of the Woodland Walk. Just one final work party is required to complete that job but already I hope you will have found the route much safer and pleasant to use. Our thanks are due to Winvic and KAutoCivils for their generous donations of materials and to Will Irlam for accommodating delivery. Two memorial seats commemorating Stoke Bruerne residents were also successfully installed and ongoing maintenance of all the seats along the canalside continues.
5. The Group has also accommodated work groups from Network Rail on two occasions, when work around the bottom locks area, including the allotment site, continued. This latter project is still very much ongoing, with a polytunnel, greenhouse and composting loo all being planned.
6. You will all be aware of the recent lock flight stoppage works which volunteers supported as much as possible. Ongoing discussions are currently being held with CRT about painting of the ironwork and lock beams when the weather allows.
7. The Partnership is also supporting CRT in its efforts to engage input from the University of Northampton and Moulton College students, particularly in regard to improvement of the Learning Centre building. Approval of a bid for funding to allow roof repairs is currently awaited.
8. The Friends of the Museum were saddened by the death of several key founder members during the year. It no longer carries out fundraising events, due mainly to lack of able members but

continues to manage the remaining funds it possesses. In 2023 a further donation following the Braunston Historic Boat Show towards the maintenance of NB Sculptor was gratefully received.

9. On a final note, the Partnership now has a bank account so any grants or donations will always be much appreciated and put to good use!

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Meeting 2024

Village Hall Report

The Village Hall, the village hall is being let out for parish council meetings, various dance classes, Morris dancing men and Morris dancing ladies. We have had some children's birthday parties. Other parties as well. We hold two or three fund raisers through the year.

Some extra heating is being looked into as the old storage heaters, which provide background heating, are not working particularly well.

The price to hire the hall is now £9, with a subsidised price for people who live in the village of £6.50.

Judy Cave

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Council 9 April 2024

Shutlanger & Stoke Bruerne Flower Club

Fun, Flowers and Friendships

The Flower Club was first created nearly 40 years ago by residents of both Shutlanger and Stoke Bruerne. Many of those founder members are still heavily involved with the club as it exists today.

The club has grown tremendously over the years. It now has a consistent annual membership of between 40 and 50 members. Some 14 years ago it outgrew Shutlanger Village Hall where it held its monthly meetings and moved to Roade. Initially at the British Legion Club and now at the Community Centre (Village Hall).

The club's programme consists of NAFAS (National Association of Flower Arrangements Societies) qualified demonstration evenings, workshops where members try out their own skills in flower arranging, day outings to wonderful gardens around the country to explore, and social get togethers.

Guests are regularly invited to attend demonstration evenings and a raffle is held where the lucky winners take home the fabulous arrangements the demonstrator has produced. As with any club we are always encouraging new members to join up and make new friends.

In 2025 we will be celebrating our (40th) Ruby Anniversary.

Christine Sears
Joint Vice Chair

Also attached, a copy of our latest newsletter

Stoke Bruerne Annual Parish Council 9 April 2024

The David Blagrove Community Trust

As many of you are aware, the Trust was sadly wound up during 2023. The reasons for this were primarily the pandemic and its resultant effects on fundraising opportunities, together with key members/supporters leaving the village and other resourcing issues.

However, during our active time from the launch in March 2017, the Trust raised a considerable amount of funds to help support community projects for the Church, the Village Hall and the Parish Council. Plus, costs/expenses were saved by the School and the Parish Council with labour resources provided by members of the Trust.

Our other very successful event was a wonderful weekend spent inviting a number of disadvantaged, young girls from London, to come to Stoke Bruerne and experience the countryside and the workings of the canal system. More of this educational work was planned, but as expressed earlier the pandemic and lack of resourcing prevented this from happening.

Funds also went to the provision and instalment of two memorial benches in Stoke Bruerne honouring the lives of residents David Blagrove and Roy Sears, with the final remaining amount in the Trust's funds donated to the Parish Council to be ring-fenced for maintenance work on the village clock, housed on the church tower.

Sarah Blagrove

Trustee, the David Blagrove Community Trust

Christine Sears

Secretary, the David Blagrove Community Trust