



THE VILLAGE NEWS

Protecting & enhancing the place we love!

SPRING 2023 Vol 2

A very warm welcome to the Spring news update from The Village Society. If like us, you are passionate about 'village life' and all that it can bring to individuals and groups alike, then do read on for more information about what The Village Society has been up to last Winter, earlier this year and visit our website to see what we hope to achieve in the future. We need passionate supporters who can join us, volunteer with us and help promote our work, so please do spread the word, visit our website & social channels or get in touch www.smvillagesociety.org we want to hear from you.

Run by Stoke Mandeville Villagers *for everyone*

Politically non-aligned, we welcome everyone over the age of 18 who visits, resides, or works in the village of Stoke Mandeville. Being a subscriber to the website & membership is free.

Our mission is to ensure 'village life' remains at the heart of our growing community

What is 'village life'?

The connecting and socialising between individuals, tightly knit communities and those with common interests. As a Society we seek out opportunities to bring people together in order to help tackle social isolation & loneliness, promote well-being & respect for all parts of our diverse community and create a sense of pride in our surroundings. Having opportunities for the community to come together often requires amenities to be available for 'communing' to take place, and whilst the village is well-served with amenities expected of an English semi-rural village, there are always opportunities to improve.

How we will achieve our mission

1. Help protect & promote the village **heritage** in collaboration with other bodies
2. Encourage & develop **community** activities & initiatives throughout the year
3. Regularly **communicate** what's going on to generate interest in our community
4. Support the improvement & development of **amenities** which can enhance quality of life



Our Ultimate Goal

We will win Buckinghamshire's Best Kept Village again!(we last won in 2000)

Benefits of winning this award include decreased littering, greater community communication, communal pride in homes and public spaces, a more attractive and welcoming appearance, name recognition for the village, and increased tourism and income for local businesses



What we've been up to...



Painted the village shop wall - worked with the Parish Council to ensure our contractors 'side-out' all the pavements and there was a live Christmas tree for future Christmases on the village green - litter picked the village - dressed the village green in Christmas decorations - hosted Christmas singalongs in the pubs - encouraged all to join in the Christmas Eve Carol service at St Mary's with the new 'Village Choir' formed specifically to encourage like-minded villagers to come together through their love of singing – continued to support the 'Warm Welcome' campaign hosted at The Ark each Thursday



Just launched ...

A new 'village directory' with information about everything in the village is now live on our website and the 'village choir' has been reformed meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm. If you would like your village organisation, club or business listed, please email us at info@smvillagesociety.org. Thanks to our generous sponsors there is no charge for this.



www.smvillagesociety.org

