

GRASS

THE NEWSLETTER AT THE ROOTS OF THE UNITED BENEFICE
OF BLISWORTH AND STOKE BRUERNE/ SHUTLANGER,
WITH GRAFTON REGIS AND ALDERTON

Viva La Difference!

The difference Christ makes cannot be underestimated or overstated. Once this is grasped then nothing is ever the same again. Once we were “not a people”, once we “had not received mercy”, (see 1 Peter 2) once we lived as people with no hope and without God, (see Ephesians 2) but NOW (if we have received Christ into lives) all is different. We have a new ID as the “people of God”, we are brimming full of hope, and God is with us and we know it!

Some of the life changes Christ brings about in us are as follows:

1. The ordinary is metamorphosed into God’s extraordinary; a life of boredom becomes a “life in all its fullness” which is Jesus’ promise.
2. There is a depth to our knowledge of God which is unknown before. This comes from meeting Christ personally. When we encounter the living Christ nothing will ever be the same again. Witness Saul of Tarsus.
3. Our sin is forgiven and we can live free of guilt: “there is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (Romans 8.1).
4. Our lack of ability to please God is suddenly replaced with a desire to live for his glory. Can’t do/won’t do is changed to “I delight to your will O Lord”.
5. We suddenly see that all of God’s people (church) is important and also that we are salt and light for the whole of culture and society (“You are the salt of the world, says Jesus).

Is this your experience? It certainly can be and I hope it is. Let God put a new spring in your step this year.
Roy Mellor

Service Schedule for May 2007

Sunday 6th

Blisworth - 8.00 a m: Holy Communion, 10.0 a m: Sunday Club, 11.00 a m: Morning Worship
Shutlanger - 9.30 a m Morning Worship (no Holy Communion)

Sunday 15th

Stoke Bruerne - 9.30 a m: Holy Communion, including Sunday Club
Blisworth – 10.45 a m: Joint Service at the Blisworth Baptist Church

Sunday 20th

Blisworth - 8.00 a m: Holy Communion, 11.00 a m: Morning Worship,
Stoke Bruerne - 10.00 a m: Sunday Club
Grafton Regis - 9.30 a m: Holy Communion

Sunday 27th

Blisworth - 11.00 a m: All age Worship with Communion
Alderton - 9.30 a m, Holy Communion. 2.30 p m: Baptism

Useful Telephone Numbers for the United Benefice of Blisworth and Stoke Bruerne with Grafton Regis and Alderton

Rector: The Revd Roy Mellor, tel 01604 879112

Churchwardens of Blisworth: Mrs Angela Cheesbrough, tel 01604 859839 and Mrs Fiona McKenzie, tel 01604 859541

Churchwardens of Stoke Bruerne: Mrs Jackie Evans, tel 01604 862473 and Mr Brian Lewthwaite, tel 01604 863500

Churchwardens of Grafton Regis: Lord Charles Fitzroy, tel 01908 542908

Churchwardens of Alderton: Mrs Amanda Selvey, tel 01327 811380 and Mrs Daryl Halsey, tel 01327 811040

VILLAGE NEWS



STOKE BRUERNE

Stoke Bruerne Village Hall

The Annual General Meeting for the Hall will be held on Friday 25 May at 7.00 p m. This is an open meeting. Anyone is welcome.
Judy Cave

Northampton Greyhound Rescue Coffee Morning

A big thank you from us and the dogs to everyone who supported our coffee morning. It was a lovely, informal village get together, and a great success. Thanks to Robert and Freda for the washing up and to Diana for folding all the raffle tickets. The grand total raised, including donations, came to £260.
Thank you again. Alison and Hazel



BLISWORTH

Mothering Sunday

The fourth Sunday in Lent, sometimes called Refreshment Sunday, but more often called Mothering Sunday, was celebrated this year on 18 March. The Church was transformed, at the 11.00 a m service, into a 'Café Church'. The pews on the right hand side of the aisle had all been moved well to the side, and in their place were small tables, each with four chairs. The tables, covered with white tablecloths and each with a vase of flowers, looked most attractive. As the congregation arrived, they collected a cup of tea or coffee and a muffin and sat themselves down. The service was led by Geoff Moore and included music and images, projected on the screen, and throughout the service, Norma and Peter moved among the tables, offering 'top ups'. Towards the end, the children presented primula plants to their mothers and to the other ladies who were there. It was a lovely service and thanks go to the Rector and Geoff Moore for all the planning that went into it, and also to Norma and Peter for the catering.

There were, of course, many ladies among the St John's congregation who were unable to join the Mothering Sunday service for one reason or another, and other ladies had been to the early Communion service. These ladies were not forgotten, and plants were taken to them. Our garden has lots of little patches of primula flowers – all growing from Mothering Sunday plants given over the years.

Eastertide

Palm Sunday

This began with an early Communion service, when we were each given a palm cross, as was the congregation at the 11.00 a m service. Morning Worship included a baptism – the baptism of Holly Louise Appleton, who lives with her parents in Stoke Road. Our usual congregation was, of course, swelled by family and friends of Holly. There were lots of children, who always seem to find the actual baptism so interesting, and such fun. We pray that Holly will have a long and happy life.

Towcester Choral Society

Then, on Tuesday 3 April, we were thrilled to receive a visit from the Towcester Choral Society. Several ladies who live in Blisworth – Jean Addison, Barbara Evans, Jenny Tufnell and Jane Underwood – are enthusiastic members of the choir and it was at their suggestion that the possibility of a concert here was discussed. The arrangements were made with surprising speed and so the choir, about 50 strong, made their first visit to St John's Church. Despite a viciously cold wind, a good audience was assembled in Church, ready to start at 7.30 p m.

The work which the choir had chosen to sing was 'The Armed Man', a work which very few of us had heard previously. It is a Mass for Peace, composed by Karl Jenkins, and specially commissioned at the Millennium by Guy Wilson, who is Master of the Royal Armouries. The music accompanies, illustrates and illuminates the words of the Mass, words which were selected by Guy Wilson. The words convey horror and the terrifying noise of war, but these passages are interspersed with passages portraying the peace and stillness of God. The words have been selected from a wide range of diverse texts, texts from people of various races and of various religions.

Starting with a 15th century French song, 'L'Homme Arme', then pieces from the Koran, the traditional Mass, the Bible, the Hindu Mahabharata, classical poetry, a poem by a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb, and ending 'Better is Peace'. The hope is that the work, music and words will, in a small way, move us all towards peace.

The large choir sang beautifully, ably conducted by Mary Rice, their Musical Director. The accompanists on piano, trumpet, flute and drums were excellent, and the visual texts came up at the correct places.

'The Armed Man' was an intensely moving experience. It seems to be such an appropriate piece for this time especially. Have we learned nothing? We see the aggression, hostility and horror which war brings, on the TV news every night with pictures from Iraq, Afghanistan and Darfur. It would be so easy to despair. Then we remember that this is Easter time and the Prince of Peace is preparing to give his life to enable each one of us to have peace with God. Without that peace, how can we have peace with one another? Did I enjoy 'The Armed Man'? No, I don't think that I enjoyed it, but hearing it for the first time was an intensely moving experience and one which I will never forget. I imagine that each of us present reacted to the words and music in their own individual way.

So thank you again, Towcester Choral Society, for coming to our Church and bringing such a powerful message for Easter. Excellent refreshments were served afterwards. The retiring donations are to be shared equally between the Choral Society for their expenses, and our Church for our expenses.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

On Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, Church and Chapel had again arranged to have joint services between the two congregations. We have done this in previous years and it does seem to be an arrangement which is well liked. So we assembled on Maundy Thursday in St John's at 7.30 p m for our service. The address was given by Pastor Ted Ashworth, prayer was led by Victoria (home for Easter) and we took Communion just in front of the chancel steps. However, two very new procedures were given their place in the service. The first was the symbolic washing of feet, remembering how Christ had insisted on washing his Disciples' feet, and the Rector emphasised the importance of humility in the life of a Christian. Five or six of those present had offered their feet for washing, and the symbolic washing and drying was done by the Rector and the Pastor together. The second innovation came at the very end of the service. We sat in silence while Janet and Victoria stripped from the altar the cross, the candles and the altar cloth and frontal, and carried them reverently into the Vestry. The Church was thus unadorned in preparation for Good Friday.

The following day, Good Friday, we assembled in the Chapel at 2.00 p m for an hour-long service of meditation on the Passion, the trial and the crucifixion of Jesus. The Pastor read to us passages from the Gospels, interspersed with appropriate hymns, with an address by our Rector, and by individuals in the congregation going forwards to read one or two verses especially relevant to that point in the story. These verses were illustrated by representations of the robe, the crown of thorns, the sign written 'INRI', the nails, and the spear used to pierce Jesus's side. It was a most moving service.

Easter Day

Then, on Easter Day itself, we went into Church just before 8.00 a m for the early Communion service. Now it was beautifully decorated. The altar was adorned with the celebration frontal, the delightful SONRISE banner was hanging by the screen, the new pedestal had a lovely arrangement of white flowers, and there were lots of daffodils. For a few seconds, the bright morning sun shone through the east windows, especially through the central panel and the representation of Christ shone brighter and brighter until all that could be seen was a blaze of golden light. The words of the hymn came into our minds, 'O help us to see, 'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee'.

After our Communion service at 8.00 a m, the Rector had to hurry away to Stoke Bruerne for the service at St Mary's at 9.30 a m, and then back to St John's for Morning Worship at 11.00 a m. What a rush – hardly time to think!

Lent Lunch

We had a second Lent lunch – this was on Monday 26 March – when we were entertained at the Rectory. The soup was excellent, as were the cheeses and other delicacies, and everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy their lunch, and also the lively chatter. These Lent lunches have become a popular part of our Church community's calendar. On this occasion, donations were invited for TAP.

What is TAP? It is short for the Church Times Train-a-Priest fund. This fund, set up in 1952, has helped over the years to provide support for Ordinands and their families, while the Priests in training are studying in college. Over the last 50 years, nearly 5,000 families have received help, and grants have ranged from £350 to £1,050. A special appeal is made in Lent, so the donations from this Lent lunch will go to this appeal.

PCC Meeting

A short PCC meeting was held in Church on Sunday 1 April at 12.15 p m. This was to accept the accounts for the financial year ended 31 December 2006. There was also a discussion about problems with the graveyard.

Wedding

The wedding was celebrated on Saturday 10 March between Lucy Ellen Higgins and Andrew Stuart Lord. The Rector officiated, before a large congregation. The couple's home will be in Birchfield Road in Northampton.

Funeral

There was a funeral on Wednesday afternoon, 14 March. This was for Mrs Ethel Dorward, whose family have lived in the village for many years.

Error

I wonder how many of our readers spotted the mistake in the April edition of GRASS? The captions beneath two of the photographs taken at the first Lent lunch were transposed. The photo in the middle is, of course, of 'Win Pyke and her party', while the photo on the right is of 'a full table in the sitting room'.

Favourite Text

This month's entry ends with a favourite text, which is chosen for us by Val Penn. It is from St Matthew's Gospel, verse 7, from chapter 7:

'Ask and it shall be given you;

Seek, and ye shall find;

Knock, and it will be opened unto you'.

Derek Bull



GRAFTON REGIS

Good News and Bad News

The good news is that a dedicated team spent a very productive Saturday 21 April, to celebrate St George's Day, in cleaning the Church and clearing the Churchyard. After a hard morning's work, we were treated to an excellent ploughman's lunch in blazing sunshine. Surely God shines on the righteous. Many thanks to all those who helped.

The bad news is that the following Monday, 23 April, we held our PCC APCM in the Village Hall, with only 4 attendees, including our Chairman, Roy. John Gallimore sadly announced his resignation as Churchwarden, for which we give him our heartfelt thanks for all his good work, which means that Diana and I hold all the Church offices: Churchwarden, Treasurer and Secretary. This is not what we would wish and indicates a profound lack of support in the village. We feel that if nobody else is willing to take on part of this responsibility, we will have to face the inevitable and contemplate an end to 1,000 years of worship in our Church. Now is the moment for Graftonites to step forward. We are always available to talk. Charles FitzRoy

Baptism

Elizabeth Annabella Freegard, granddaughter of Sonia Baker, was christened at the Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Grafton Regis on Sunday 15 April by the Reverend Roy Mellor.

When the Reverend asked Elizabeth's father to present her to the congregation she produced a huge smile! She was an absolute treasure throughout the service and at the reception afterwards. Elizabeth was especially fascinated with the candle she was presented with as you can see from the photo taken! We were blessed with wonderful weather on the day which made the boat trip we organised for family and friends at Stoke Bruerne even more pleasurable. This was followed by a meal at the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne.

Kevin and Alexandra Freegard would like to say a special thank you to the Reverend Roy Mellor for making the service so special and enjoyable. Our family and friends were made to feel very welcome and the children enjoyed being invited to come and stand by the font during the Baptism.



St George's Day Lunch

St George's Day was celebrated in style in Grafton with luncheon. We were treated to beef olives with a choice of dauphinoise potatoes and/or new potatoes and three vegetables, followed by rhubarb cake or strawberry and kiwi pavlova. We then had coffee and mints. Paul Lock talked to us firstly about St George and then about the Order of the Garter – most interesting. Many thanks to Jean, who cooked the delicious lunch, to Barry, who washed up, to Paul who entertained us so well, and to all those other unseen people who helped in making this event so enjoyable. These lunches will now stop for the summer but hopefully will start again in October. Jean found the recipe for beef olives in a very old cookery book – the New World cookery book which was first published in 1927, and as they proved so popular, the recipe follows:

Braised Beef Olives

One and a half pounds of stewing steak (or anyone other cut of beef) thinly sliced
1 oz dripping
1 oz seasoned flour

Force meat

3 tablespoons of breadcrumbs
2 tablespoons of chopped suet
1 teaspoon of mixed herbs
Pepper and salt
One egg

Method – Beef olives

Cut the meat into pieces about 2" by 3". Make the forcemeat with the breadcrumbs, suet, herbs, pepper and salt and enough beaten egg to hold it together. Place a little of the forcemeat on each piece of meat, roll up and tie securely. Coat the olives with the seasoned flour. Heat the dripping (or oil) and fry the beef olives until well brown. Put to one side to keep warm.

Method – Mirepoix

Prepare the vegetables and slice thickly, cut the bacon into small pieces. Melt the dripping and fry the bacon and vegetables in it. Cover the pan with a lid and fry gently for 10 minutes, shaking the pan occasionally. Add the herbs, salt and peppercorns and transfer to a roasting tin. Place the beef olives on top of the mirepoix and add enough boiling stock to cover the vegetables. Cover with a lid. Cook for approximately 1 hour at 150C or Gas mark 2. (The instructions for the original recipe were to cook for 3 hours at regulo mark ¼, so you can cook it slowly and at low heat if you prefer).

Mirepoix (a bed of vegetables)

One large onion
One large carrot
Half as much turnip as carrot
One stick of celery
1-2 rashers of bacon
1 oz dripping (or butter)
A bunch of herbs
6 peppercorns
Salt
Stock or water



ALDERTON

Church Cleaning Rota
Churchyard Rota

May
28 April to 11 May
12-25 May
26 May – 1 June

May McKay and Carol Weston
Don & Doreen Allen
Graham Welch (whole Churchyard)
Henry & May McKay

Service Date: 27 May

Edna Cook

Edna Cook from Shutlanger has been playing for us at services for several years now, since Marjorie Chown retired.

She has been a great joy to have in the Church – always cheerful and willing to change tracks at the last moment, despite the anomalies of our musical instruments over the years. She and her husband, Raymond, have decided that the time is now right for them to move house to be nearer to their family and we are very sorry to say goodbye to her.

At the service in March, Edna was presented with a copy of our hymn book, Complete Anglican Hymns, Old and New – the version with music. Good luck in your new home, Edna – we will miss you. Alderton PCC



Race for Life

I will be running the Race for Life again this year, at Silverstone race track in June with my sister and if anyone would like to sponsor me I would be most grateful, and so will the people that the money we raise goes to. Thank you in advance. June Scott (tel 01327 811747)

Easter Celebrations

Easter Sunday started in Alderton with a short, informal lay-led service, conducted by Diana Redman. There was a large congregation, of mixed ages; the children had been invited to bring along a cuddly toy to show us. After the service, everyone went to the bottom of Spring Lane where the festivities continued.

Easter would not be Easter without Alderton's traditional egg & spoon races, Easter bonnet parade and egg hunt. As usual a fair amount of cheating and doubtful carrying took place in the egg and spoon races but the results were as follows: junior egg & spoon – girls: dead heat for Alex and Jaime, boys: Dominic; ladies egg & spoon: the Odell girls beat all the ladies by a good margin; men's egg & spoon was technically won by Innis, who, despite coming to the post last did contrive to carry his egg on his spoon in the traditional manner – ie not cheating. The Easter bonnet parade was judged by a visitor to Alderton – to save too much local bias and this was won by Holly, Erin and Dominic.

The egg hunt was a free for all and refreshments were served in the Church afterwards – good weather and good turnout made the event a great success.



Thanks must go to Team Grundon for organising the event.

St George's Day

A group of revellers from Alderton and Grafton Regis celebrated St George's Day in style, at The Boat, Stoke Bruerne. We enjoyed the Morris dancing, which was held in the car park of The Boat, and then retired to the cocktail bar for a delicious meal. A bottle of champagne was opened, to celebrate Lyn Woodger's special birthday, and she was serenaded in the traditional manner. Many thanks to the staff at The Boat for their help – it made it very special to have a private dining room with one square table, which made it easy to talk to everyone – so much better than a long, thin table. We all very much enjoyed this important English event.



Summer Shakespeare

The good weather makes us all aware that summer is just around the corner, and that means the Annual Shakespeare on The Mount. This year the play is "Twelfth Night" and the dates are Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 August. More details will appear in future editions of GRASS but do, please, take out those diaries and make a note of the dates NOW.
Derek Batten

The Glorious Twelfth

Last month's GRASS published the dates of this year's performances of Twelfth Night at The Mount. The sharp eyed will have noted that the Sunday, 12 August, is also "The Glorious Twelfth", the start of the grouse shooting season, so, to recognise this coincidence, we shall be giving all of the adults who come on that day a nip of the Famous Grouse whisky. What an incentive! The play is Twelfth Night. Performances are on 11 and 12 August. Tickets are £13 (£10 concessions) and are available from Linda Dards (tel 01327 811265) or Derek Batten (tel 01327 811304).

Dog fouling

Could all dog owners please do the right thing when it comes to dog fouling in and around Alderton; the Mount and the village field seem to be getting littered! The improving weather, a series of bank holidays and village events on the Mount and village field will be so much better if owners can take home any deposits large or small that their pets may leave!
James Rudd, Chairman, Alderton Village Committee

Thank you for Recycling!

South Northamptonshire Council would like to thank the residents of the villages who were new additions to the recycling scheme, for making the new schemes such a success. The twin bin and door to door schemes were expanded in October to include an extra 50 villages, including Alderton. Since then the Council has collected over 250 tonnes of garden waste and cardboard from the green bins. This will be turned into compost and used on local fields instead of being buried in a landfill site.

During the same time, from the 50 new villages the Council has also collected:

- 66.3 tonnes of green waste – 4.6 tonnes from Alderton alone!
- 20 tonnes of glass
- 30 tonnes of paper
- 7 tonnes of cans and plastic bottles

These are being taken to recycling facilities in Milton Keynes and Northampton before going on to re-processors, to be turned into new products. There has been a great deal of success in Alderton. Please remember that there are separate vehicles collecting the boxes and bins and therefore they are emptied at different times. Please also remember to put cardboard in the green bin, not the paper box.

If you have any questions about the scheme please contact South Northamptonshire Council on 0845 2300 223 or email environmental.services@southnorthants.gov.uk.
Alison Odell

GENERAL NEWS

For Sale

2001 (Y reg) Volkswagen Polo Match 1.4 Petrol - 5 speed 5 door hatchback, in Mercator blue, with the following features:

Air conditioning, electric windows, central locking, ABS, and factory VW immobiliser.

Full VW dealer service and history, with genuine 2,040 miles by careful lady owner.

Tax & MOT until end of April.

In excellent condition inside and out, this is a rare low mileage example of popular and economical car. Price: £4,250

For further details and to arrange a test drive, contact: Brian Lewthwaite, tel: 01604 863500.



Horse Manure for Sale

Horse manure, off the pasture, 50p per bag. (PYO. free!)

Proceeds to Brooke Horse Charity. Phone Mercia Cooper on 01604 863397, 8 Rookery Lane, Stoke Bruerne

Friends of the Canal Museum at Stoke Bruerne

Announce their Open Weekend

16/17 June 2007

A weekend to celebrate our canal heritage

- **Boat trips**
- **Craft demonstrations**
- **Music and entertainment**
- **Historic craft**
- **Waterways trade show**
- **Beer tent open all day**
- **No admission charge**
- **Plenty of car parking (£2.00 per car)**

A full, fun family day out

From 10.00 to 18.00 daily, plus free evening entertainment on Saturday

CRIME DOWN ACROSS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



Crime has fallen across Northamptonshire for the fourth successive year, meaning thousands fewer victims of crime. In the past year (1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007) Northamptonshire Police has seen total crime drop by 3.1 per cent, or 2,100 fewer recorded crimes, on the back of a 7.9 per cent decrease in crime the previous year (05-06).

Alongside the reduction in crime countywide, both policing areas of the county – Northamptonshire West (covering Northampton, Daventry and South Northants) and Northamptonshire North (covering Kettering, Corby, Wellingborough and East Northants) have also seen a drop in crime, with a 3.4 per cent drop and 2.6 per cent reduction respectively.

Most categories of crime countywide have fallen too, including house burglary (DOWN 4.3 per cent), robbery (DOWN 3 per cent), sexual offences (DOWN 8.7 per cent), violence (DOWN 3.6 per cent), theft of motor vehicles (DOWN 5.7 per cent) and criminal damage (DOWN 1.9 per cent). The only slight increases were in theft from motor vehicles (1.4 per cent) and drug offences (0.4 per cent or 6 crimes).

Northamptonshire's Assistant Chief Constable Alan Featherstone said: "Tremendous efforts have been made by officers and staff throughout the Force working closely with our partners, which has resulted in a fall in crime year on year since 2003.

"The roll out of Safer Community Teams across the county, which are dedicated teams of officers working with local people and partners, has undoubtedly helped prevent and detect crime and anti-social behaviour and reassure the public.

"There have also been a number of high profile operations targeting specific crimes or hotspot areas that has helped bring overall crime down.

"However we must not be complacent and everyone has a responsibility to help keep crime down in the county. One of the areas where there has been an increase is theft from motor vehicles – this could so easily be prevented by people removing valuables from vehicles."

Chief Superintendent Paul Phillips, Commander of the Northamptonshire West area, said: "Officers and staff have been working flat out to bring crime down meaning there have been 1,318 fewer crimes and therefore fewer victims on the Northamptonshire West area over the past year.

"A particular area of success has been a reduction in violent crimes, with 353 fewer incidents this year, as we continue our work to make our towns and villages safer places for people to live in, work in and socialise in.

"Burglary remains a challenge with 1 in 4 of all house burglaries down to insecurities, and I would remind people of the importance of locking up at all times, including when you are at home. Some people are also still leaving valuables, such as sat nav systems in vehicles, which provide rich pickings for offenders, so the message is remove it, don't lose it.

"Last but not least, I would like to thank members of the public for their support to date, and urge them to continue to work with us and our partners into this year to help make the county even safer."

To view crime statistics in detail visit www.northants.police/beatstats

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United Benefice Calendar for 2007

All groups and organisations within the community are warmly invited to include events here.

May

- 1 Mobile library to Alderton, 2.45 p m to 3.00 p m
- 3 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 6 May Day celebrations in the field, Alderton
- 8 Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, SB V.Hall, 2.00 p m. Resolutions meeting, competition to be arranged
- 9 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 10 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m
- 11 Farmers' market, Richmond Road car park, Towcester
- 12 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.00 p m
- 14 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 6.30 p m
- 17 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 22 Mobile library to Alderton, 2.45 p m to 3.00 p m
- 23 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m
- 23 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 25 Farmers' market, Market Square, Stony Stratford
- 25 AGM for Stoke Bruerne Village Hall, 7.00 p m
- 31 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 31 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m

June

- 2 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m
- 6 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 8 Farmers' market, Richmond Road car park, Towcester
- 12 Grafton Regis walk and talk, p m
- 12 Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, SB V.Hall, 2.00 p m. Speaker: Kate Willis, subject: life and times from 1914. Competition: picture of grandparents.
- 13 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 7.00 p m
- 14 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 16/17 Friends of Canal Museum Open weekend, 10.00 a m to 6.00 p m
- 20 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 21 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m
- 26 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 7.00 p m
- 28 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 29 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 7.00 p m
- 29 Farmers' market, Market Square, Stony Stratford
- 30 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m

July

- 4 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 10 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 7.00 p m
- 10 Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, SB V.Hall, 2.00 p m. Chat and cup of tea afternoon. Competition: a picture 3" x 3" made from beads and buttons
- 12 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 12 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m
- 15 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 18 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 26 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 28 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m
- 29 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m

August

- Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, no meeting
- 1 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 2 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m
- 9 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 11 Shakespeare on The Mount, Alderton – Twelfth Night
- 11 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m
- 12 Grafton Regis walk and talk, 2.30 p m
- 12 Shakespeare on The Mount, Alderton – Twelfth Night
- 23 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 23 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m

September

- 1 Alderton Art Festival
- 2 Alderton Art Festival
- 6 Health walk in Salcey Forest, meet 2.00 p m at the cafe
- 11 Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, SB V.Hall, 2.00 p m. Speaker: Trisha Bailey, subject: what the post lady saw, competition: an old postage stamp
- 12 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m
- 13 Mobile library to Navigation car park, Stoke Bruerne, 3.10 p m to 3.30 p m
- 16 Combined Annual Home & Garden Produce Show, SB Village Hall
- 26 Health walk, Stoke Bruerne, 10.00 a m

October

- 9 Stoke Bruerne & Shutlanger WI, SB V.Hall, 2.00 p m, Annual General Meeting. Competition: a pig made from a vegetable.
- 27 Hallowe'en celebrations, Alderton

November

- 3 Bonfire night celebrations in the field, Alderton

GRASS on the Internet

GRASS is produced in colour but printed in black and white, however it is available on the Internet at www.grassnews.co.uk in full colour.

Thanks again to Jackie Grundon for proof reading

THE CLOSING DATE FOR THE NEXT EDITION OF GRASS is Thursday 10 May – earlier than usual, due to holiday commitments. If you can get any copy to us earlier than that it would be very much appreciated.

Please send any copy to:

Linda Dards, Moorend, Spring Lane, Alderton NN12 7LW tel 01327 811265, fax 811874, e-mail: linda@dards.net

Could you please include your name & phone number with entries in case we have any problems

If you would like to add photographs or drawings to your text these are welcome and can be supplied via email or as photos, and returned after scanning. Contributions by email are most welcome, we can accept most formats; please request a response from us on receipt – so you are sure that we have your submission.

Word (any version) is preferred.