

# STOKE ASH & THWAITE



October & November  
Newsletter  
2021

# GOOD MORNING!

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7 DAYS A WEEK



**Buffet Selection** £4.25

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**Full English Breakfast** £4.95

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**Vegetarian Breakfast** £4.95

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**Bacon or Sausage Sandwich** £3.95  
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**Four Egg Omelette** £4.45  
Plain or with cheese, ham or mushrooms

**Butchers Ham & Cheese** £4.45  
A baked roll, Cleveleys butchers smoked ham, smoked cheddar and creamy brie

**Porridge** £2.95  
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**Maple and Pecan Danish** £2.00

**Large Croissant and Preserves** £2.00  
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Grapefruit Juice £1.95

Cranberry Juice £1.95

Tomato Juice £1.95

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**The copy deadline for ALL issues this year will be the 10th of alternative months and for advertisers the 12th**

This edition of the newsletter has been produced in good faith but errors and omissions may occur during the process of production. Please let us know if this is the case so that they may be corrected.

*Please note that the views expressed in readers letters are not necessarily those of the editors. We cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of material submitted for publication; however we reserve the right to include, edit or omit letters as we think appropriate.*

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# Editors Point of View



Well hello to all. Recently there has been concern about speeding in Stoke Ash, I have heard the stories via a few sources, however recently being back behind the wheel I have experienced crazy & dangerous driving within our village. Most of it leaving the corner from the junction to the back lane through to Debenham, down to the A140 past the farm etc.

Had I been doing the speed these drivers were doing both cars would have been possible write offs. More important the drivers and possibly passengers could have been DEAD or certainly in Hospital with serious injuries.

Now it appears these drivers are all visitors to our village staying in hired premises. Lets tell the owners of these premises 'Will you kindly advise your Lets via what ever means you use, along with a Notice in the premises stating 'This is a Village and our speed is 30mph'.

We have three entrances to our village from the A140 (which has speeds of well over at times 70mph). I happen to see all sorts of transport doing various speeds getting out my driveway. At times it can be a nightmare and like you I do not want stupid drivers on our village road.

The Police are aware but till there is a fatal death or injury no one can do Anything!

**SO PLEASE DO YOUR BIT, WATCH IT IN THE VILLAGE.**

If you have news to share please e-mail me ok.

# All Saints Church Stoke Ash with Thwaite

## WORSHIP

- Harvest Worship this year will be held on Sunday October 3rd at 3.30pm.
- November 11th – Act of Remembrance will be in the churchyard at the War Memorial starting at 10.50am.



Please refer to the church notice boards for details of all the services around the benefice and online. (This is subject to change depending on Government guidelines.)

If anyone wishes to take part in an online church service you can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/southhartismerechurch> or at [rev.julialall@gmail.com](mailto:rev.julialall@gmail.com) Phone: 01379 678064.

## CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's festival will be held in the church on:

Saturday December 4th – 11.00am-4.00pm

Sunday December 5th 12 noon-4.00pm

Wednesday December 8th 1.00pm-3.00pm

The Grand Draw will take place on Wednesday December 8th at 3.00pm.

## BOOKS AND JIGSAWS

Books and Jigsaw Puzzles are always on sale in the porch at All Saints Church. The outer door is always unlocked (but is stiff to push open).

## SECRETARIAL HELP

The Parochial Church Council of Stoke Ash urgently needs someone who could volunteer to help with a few routine secretarial tasks on a very part-time, occasional basis. If anyone is interested and feels they can help, please call June Scott the Church Warden on 01379 678926, who can give you some more information about what is needed.

# STOKE ASH VILLAGE HALL LOTTERY WINNERS

## Winners since last publication were:-

Date	Winner	No.	Prize	Carried Forward
Jul 10th	A.Warwood	1	£25	
Jul 17th	A.Warwood	1	£25	
Jul 24th	Roll Over	59	£25	
Jul 31st	Roll Over	48	£25	
Aug 7th	Roll Over	58	£25	
Aug 14th	Roll Over	58	£25	
Aug 21st	Roll Over	51	£25	
Aug 28th	L.Coe	41	£150	

**Notes:** The Social Club is now operating as normal on the 4th Thursday of each month at 2.30 pm..

The Gardening Club will be holding an AGM on Monday 29th November at 7.30 pm in the Hall.. The WI and Parish Council are holding their meetings in the Hall.

Private hirings can now be booked. The 2metre distancing is still being observed but masks are optional.

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# Grand Christmas Draw

The Grand Christmas Draw of the Thwaite Lottery, will hopefully take place on November 20th at 12 noon. Coffee & Carols from 11am. Venue The Old School Room. Please join us for a Parish get together.

*Chris & Dick Maisey*

## News from the Rectory

It's all happening here! Although lockdown was a difficult time for us, and we were saddened to have closed our churches at a time when people needed somewhere to turn to, this time has led to people thinking about their calling to serve in our churches as part of our growing ministry team.

In January we appointed Emma Morris as a Schools and Families worker to help with our ministry to the four Church of England primary schools, and to help strengthen our links between church, school and home. In May, three new Lay Elders were commissioned, and 2 Lay Elders were recommissioned to assist with pastoral care and leading worship.

In July we welcomed Debbie Nicholls who was Licensed as a Lay Minister working in the community, and our self-supporting Curate, Revd Lauren Moore was ordained priest in St Edmundsbury Cathedral, and will continue to minister among us.

This is an exciting time, and in our church in Stoke Ash we are also looking to the future. We need more people to join our PCC to bring fresh ideas, help make decisions, care for this beautiful historic building and ensure the future sustainability of the church within the community.

We are particularly looking for a secretary who can take minutes at our meetings and communicate our events - we have 4 meetings a year. For more information, please contact me: [rev.julialall@gmail.com](mailto:rev.julialall@gmail.com) or ring 01379 678064.

*Blessings, Julia*



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# STOKE ASH WI

**Here we are – back at last! Our first meeting at the Village Hall for over a year. Hooray!**

Since our last face-to-face meeting in March 2020, how the world has changed! However, when our first speaker of this year came to us, it brought it home to us that there have always been big changes happening. Sarah Poppy, who originates from Stoke Ash, told us about this area in Roman times. When the Romans arrived in the region, they certainly brought some order with them and tried to make travelling easier by the building of straighter and more substantial roads. The A140, then known as Pye Road, is still largely along the lines of the original Roman road between Ipswich and Norwich. It is thought that a fairly major Roman villa (Villa Faustini) was constructed in the area, but it's not clear whether it was at Stoke Ash or at Scole. This would possibly have been used as a resting place for people travelling between Ipswich and Norwich.

We can be certain that this has been a very busy region in past centuries as quite a few substantial archaeological finds, from many eras, have been catalogued from this area. Most notably the Hoxne hoard, the Sutton Hoo site and the Mildenhall treasure. These were large, valuable finds, but there are many smaller finds that have been useful in pinpointing where some of the Roman settlements may have been. Looking on the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service 'Suffolk Heritage Explorer' website, you can see what has been found in your local area.

There are many websites that give information about historical finds and occurrences. A search online will give many sources of information if you'd like to learn more about the ancient history of your local area.

Our next meeting also covered historical matters, although not quite as far back as the Roman occupation. This was about the early origins of local newspapers and was conveyed to us through slides and narrative by Pip Wright. Pip has been to us a couple of times before and can be relied upon to give a very entertaining talk on one of his many, well researched, subjects.

We learned that early local newspapers were mostly an amalgamation of some of the more interesting London stories, rehashed and printed in a weekly 'rag' (because the papers were made of rags in those days).

Most of the stories were about well-known people or were more for entertainment value. There was little checking of the authenticity of any story, which in those days could have been difficult and time-consuming, so they were often 'tales' told by members of the public, written as fact by the newspaper editors.

The cost of a newspaper in the 1700's was equivalent to the weekly wage of an agricultural worker, so it would have only been the wealthiest of people who would have bought them. They often then passed them on to their servants and eventually they may have made their way to a local inn. As there would have been very few local workers who could read, they would often rely on one of the more educated visitors to read the articles to them. It is thought that the paper would have been passed through 20 or 30 hands before being discarded.

A tale printed in one newspaper told of a man on a bicycle who was conveying eels he'd caught. When his tyre went flat, he was said to have wrapped an eel around the wheel to replace the tyre, which got him to his destination. Better still though, the very same eel went on to be a useful tyre substitute for several more years. A fishy tale, if ever there was one!

There were often stories of marital matters, including bigamy, polygamy and even wives being sold! Apparently, a butcher in Newmarket advertised his wife to be sold for 5½d per pound. Very entrepreneurial!

Once businesses started to use their local papers to advertise their goods and services, the editors were able to make more effort to include truly (and true) local news and information. Many of the papers are still going today, although under different names and ownerships. They continue to bring news and entertainment to their communities, although this must be increasingly difficult since the TV and internet now bring almost instant news to most homes.

This was another enlightening and entertaining talk by Pip Wright and we look forward to hearing from him again in the future.

Our programme for meetings is published on the village website and on our dedicated WI page (<http://sefwi.org.uk/institutes/stoke-ash>).

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the village hall, starting at 7.30pm.

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Let's give it a try again, come for a free lunch and chat

'We'll meet again' monthly lunch club

## The New Youth Hall Chapel Lane, Stoke Ash IP23 7EU

Time 12.30 for 1.00pm

It's been a long time since we met due to Covid 19 so we trust that you have all kept well. For your own wellbeing it would be good if you could organise for yourself a Lateral Flow Test two days before the event if you can. These can be obtained 'free of charge' from the chemist as per government advise.

Masks and hand sanitiser are all available at the Hall.

invitation for

**Wednesday September 22nd and then October 27th**

The meal is primarily for those over 65 in the Stoke Ash & Thwaite area who would like to meet up with others who may be living alone and would like to have a meal and chat

RSVP to Gordon or Janis on 01379 678450 Mobile 07745 365583

If you require transport please ask. Next months meal will be October 27th

Supported by Pargiter Trust Fund, Stoke Ash & Thwaite PC and Stoke Ash Baptist Church

**All are welcome at our  
regular activities\***

  
**Stoke Ash  
Baptist Church**

(\*Adjusted timetable with meetings also on Zoom in lockdown periods)...

**Sunday 10.30am      Worship Service**

**Tuesday 7.30pm      Worship Service**

We hope to re-start our JunXion Club for 5-11yrs (Friday evenings) and our monthly community lunch for the over 60s as soon as it is practical and safe to do so. More information will be published here soon.

*Regular activities in normal times: Friends & Neighbours, Community Breakfasts & Lunches, Home Groups, Christianity/Discipleship Explored Courses & Holiday Club.*

***Please join us - you will receive a warm welcome.***

**More details on our website at [www.stokeashbaptist.co.uk](http://www.stokeashbaptist.co.uk)  
Stoke Ash Baptist Church (SABC), Chapel Lane, Stoke Ash, Suffolk IP23 7EU  
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# Gardening Club

The Gardening Club has cancelled all meetings and outings, that Bob had on his provisional programme for this year, but is planning to hold its AGM on Monday 29th November.

# Stoke Ash Social Club

The Social Club is still closed we will be discussing an opening date soon.

## *Thwaite 50 Lottery*

Subscription is by membership, which is either £5 a month or £60 per year, join any time. (We now have 28 members)  
Prizes every month of £25, £20 and £15. We end the year with a Grand Christmas Draw in November.

**For more details: Christine Maisey 01449766286**

# Schooling

My young son came home from school last week and I overheard him doing his maths sums out loud. So I hear him saying  $7+7$  the son of a b\*\*ch is 14..  $5+5$  the son of a b\*\*ch is 10.

So I walk in and ask him what he's saying and why he's saying it and to just double check I did hear it right. So he tells me 'well dad it's what my teacher taught me today and he carried on  $2+2$  the son of a b\*\*ch is 4...

So, I leave the room and get straight on the phone to his teacher and I say rather abruptly to her is this right that your teaching my child to swear in class teaching him that  $2+2$  the son of a b\*\*ch is 4 ???

It went quiet for a second or two and she then started laughing and she tells me 'no sir what I said was  $2+2$  THE SUM OF WHICH IS 4..... Think I need to bake that lady a cake or something? what say you Friends

# A Simple Formula For Living

Live beneath your means.  
Return everything you borrow.  
Stop blaming other people.  
Admit it when you make a mistake.  
Give clothes not worn to charity.  
Do something nice and try not to get caught.  
Listen more; talk less.  
Every day walk for at least 30 minutes.  
Strive for excellence, not perfection.  
Be on time. Don't make excuses.  
Don't argue. Get organized.  
Be kind to unkind people.  
Let someone cut ahead of you in line.  
Take time to be alone.  
Cultivate good manners.  
Be humble.  
Realize and accept that life isn't fair.  
Know when to keep your mouth shut.  
Go an entire day without criticizing anyone.  
Learn from the past. Plan for the future.  
Live in the present.  
Don't sweat the small stuff.  
It's all small stuff.

## **Stoke Ash Village Hall Lottery**

£1 per week with weekly prize money of £25  
based on the correct Saturday Bonus Ball.

Available at the Village Post Office

**For more details: Sheila Coe 01379 678463**



# Thwaite St Georges

On a miserable Bank Holiday afternoon we were treated to a very enjoyable informal Cello concert by Yalda Davies in St Georges, Thwaite, we listened to a Bach Suite, & 2 Irish Folk Songs.

The acoustics in St Georges Hall are wonderful and were complimented by Yalda and her musical talent. Yalda would be happy to play on future occasions if the need arises.

St Georges looked very clean & tidy, so good to see an audience of 30 people within the old church.

There was a special treat afterwards in the Schoolroom where all were happy to partake in Tea & Cream Scones, ending a very happy afternoon.

*Chrissy & Dick Maisey*



# Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council – Notes on report on meeting held 19 August 2021

## **Planning:**

**Hill Farm, Grasshopper Lane: DC/21/04091** – application for prior approval for a proposed change of use of agricultural building for Events/Wedding Venue

A large number of parishioners (some 23) were in attendance at the meeting, the majority to overwhelmingly express their objection to this planning application due to the huge impact and disruption it would have on the community and environment. Parishioners were advised that they must also send their objections direct to MSDC. The Parish Council supported parishioners and agreed to recommend refusal of the application. The Parish Council's objection can be viewed on the MSDC planning website quoting the planning ref no. above.

## **Land at Norwich Road (part in the parish of Stoke Ash & Thwaite):**

**DC/21/00476** – the Parish Council recommended refusal of this application on the grounds the increased number of dwellings (14 instead of the approved 9) would create additional traffic accessing the A140 at an accident blackspot, there was no parking provision for visitors, no pavement on to the A140 for pedestrians accessing services and the increased number of dwellings represented overdevelopment of the site.

## **Car Parking - Stoke Ash:**

**The Street:** Two options had been put forward by Suffolk CC Highways to try to alleviate the parking issue in the area opposite the ex-telephone kiosk – the issue being the difficulty for buses and large vehicles passing through that section – double yellow lines at the pinch point to stop parking or a solid white line to delineate the road edge at the wider section. Members opted for the second option, a white line would allow vehicle owners to see the width of the road to ensure it was wide enough for passing vehicles. This will be pursued with Highways.

**Roman Way** – parking on green verges: a MSDC officer had inspected the area and two suggestions had been put forward. Installing barriers along the verge or to create additional car parking spaces on the verges, this option would however be expensive due to the possible upgrade that would be required to underground services and working around the trees. As an alternative Parish Council Members suggested installing Grassguards, these would protect the grass and protect the tree roots. This would be pursued with MSDC.

Full Minutes available to view at: [www.stokeashandthwaite.onesuffolk.net](http://www.stokeashandthwaite.onesuffolk.net)

**Date of next meetings: Thursday 21 October 2021 and Thursday 18 November 2021, 7.30pm at The Village Hall, Stoke Ash**

# Stoke Ash & Thwaite Parish Council – Full meeting report 19 August 2021

**Item 6.2 of Minutes - Parish Council Response to Application. No: DC/21/04091**  
Application for prior approval for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Building to Assembly and Leisure (Class D2) under Schedule 2, Part 3, Class R of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development)(England) Order 2015 (as amended) for an events/wedding venue. Hill Farm Grasshopper Lane Stoke Ash Suffolk IP23 7ER

At a meeting held on 19th August, Stoke Ash and Thwaite Parish Council discussed this application, and voted unanimously to object in the strongest possible terms.

The Village Hall was full to capacity for this item, with all members of the public in attendance wishing to register their objection, other than the applicant's mother and her friend, a contractor for the applicant.

The reasons given for objection by members of the public were varied, with most if not all referring to noise and the dangerous increase in traffic. Others were also concerned about the loss of amenity for residents that such a development would bring, and the change in character of the village and environs. In particular Huggins Lane itself was mentioned many times as a quiet and peaceful area to walk with dogs, children, cycling and general play and used as an access to the footpath network in the village. It was felt that this would be lost and unusable due to increased danger associated with traffic, and also that the peaceful nature of the area in general would be ruined due to the very large numbers of vehicles and visitors envisaged in the application. This disruption was seen as having the potential to be constant, given the times of operation, servicing the site and so on. Safety concerns were also mentioned by most, with the roads in the village being mostly single lane, and also the three junctions joining the A140 having seen many and continuing accidents.

Of particular concern was the fact that the "tidal" traffic would mostly need to queue on the A140 in order to turn right in to the village. Another general concern was traffic movements through the village especially at night, when residents would normally expect peace and silence, and not the noise and light nuisance associated with heavy traffic close to their homes. Stoke Ash has no streetlights and is usually very quiet and dark at night.

The wider economic benefits claimed were questioned, as the only beneficiaries identifiable with any certainty are those directly connected with Hill Farm. There would only be wider economic benefit if all other venues in the area were unavailable, therefore there is no need for this venue and doubtful benefit to the wider area. The supposed benefits for these few must be weighed against the harm which will be done to the village, and the misery and nuisance caused to those who have made it their long-term home. The only supporters thus far of this damaging scheme were those with a financial interest. The only person present who spoke in support was the co-owner of Hill Farm, mother of the applicant.

## Specific comments from general public attendees

The applicant's mother was invited to speak first, and explained that when buying the 150 acre farm they did so with the intention of diversification. She thanked the Parish Council for supporting their application for the glamping enterprise, and said that they wanted to further diversify by using one of the barns as a wedding/events venue. The barn would be sound proofed and professional advice had been obtained on queries likely to be raised by members of the community. Their intention was to be a part of the community and not separated from it.

A resident stated that he had recently moved house from Northamptonshire to Suffolk with one of his reasons being that a neighbour was intending to set up a wedding venue business. He understood that best efforts would be made in soundproofing but from experience sound can't be stopped from travelling. People gather outside the venue, doors open, live bands invariably noisy, and from his personal experience noise would have the biggest impact on the community.

A resident who is a professional provider of karaoke, disc jockey and other musical services to venues and events stated that "there is no way that the noise can be contained within the building". He particularly highlighted "bass" noise, and the fact that doors and other openings would not always be closed, with revellers coming outside to smoke and other things. Traffic wise, there are more children in the village and using the roads, the single-track roads also used by horses and agricultural vehicles.

Another resident living some distance from the farm (580 metres) stated that he had moved to Stoke Ash in order to get away from noise, and that the noise from the events and guests arriving and leaving would be intolerable, as he already suffered from noise and disturbance emanating from the glamping site at the farm, which is quite close to the proposed venue. He thought that this was due to the topography of the area, with Hill Farm being located almost opposite his property on the other side of the small Dove valley which might amplify sounds. He could sometimes quite clearly hear conversations from the site, as well as the more general noise from the site such as shouting, loud laughter, children loudly playing and so on.

Residents of Roman Way and The Street stated that their peace was often spoiled by noise from the glamping site, and they were concerned that there would not only be the extra noise generated by people at the site, but also extra vehicle movements at anti social hours. Concern was expressed that many of these drivers and passengers leaving the venue would likely be in high spirits, leading to disturbance outside the venue as well as when passing through the village. At least one long standing resident said that they would be forced to move out of the village if this venue is approved.

A resident stated that their home was a listed building, and as such they were unable to install double glazing, a recent one off event was very noisy, particularly the base music. She also said that her farm also runs a Touring caravan site for several caravans, and that her clients expect and look forward to staying in the peace and quiet of the countryside. The proposed development will cause a loss of business. Guests coming and going past the caravan site would upset caravan guests.

A resident of Roman Way said that living opposite the site noise from the site travels particularly during the Summer months and is very clear, with the glamping noise sometimes seeming as though it was in her back garden. The village could not take any more noise.

A Roman Way resident was concerned that although the application states a finishing time of 11 pm for events, venues have the facility for licence creep, and that extensions up to 1 am would be likely.

A resident of Hill Farm Cottages said that the lane was totally unsuitable, being an ex farm track, and that the lane couldn't cope with the volume of traffic, a reasonable person would guess that 130 guests would result in 70 – 80 cars, plus service vehicles etc. The unofficial passing places mentioned in the application are actually private property. The applicants proposal of new passing places was an admission that there would be heavy traffic, but would make little difference as only 25% of land adjoining Huggins Lane was under control of the applicant. He didn't want his liberty to come and go at will curtailed by activities at Hill Farm. Photographs submitted with the application were taken at a time of minimal crop growth with better visibility.

A resident of The Street was concerned about visibility around the blind bends, she had been nearly run in to already by users of the glamping site. The footpath running through the site would bring walkers in to conflict with venue guests. The venue is just not right for a village such as this, it cannot cope. At times of traffic congestion Sat Navs will direct traffic through the centre of the village.

A resident of Hill Farm Cottages questioned the Planning Statement and Reports provided with the application. Economic benefits were questionable, other than for those directly connected with the venue, and the nebulous claimed wider benefits needed to be set against the harm done to the village environment, and the misery and nuisance caused to those who have made it their long term home. Economic benefits for the wider area could only accrue if all other venues were unavailable, therefore there would be no extra benefit for the area as a whole. The only supporters of the application are those with a financial stake. Noise and traffic generated would be completely at odds with the village. The Ecology and Highway reports were restricted and inadequate, and the Planning Statement draws wrong conclusions from these and the Acoustic report. He thought that the Planning Authority or Parish Council should consider commissioning their own independent reports. There is no proven need for this venue, there are plenty of others already.

Huggins Farm resident said that noise carries readily, and that noise would get much worse. Noise inside the building may be somewhat controlled, but this is not so for the noise made by people arriving and leaving, congregating outside, getting in to cars, doors slamming, talking and shouting. If the hedgerow was removed it would remove noise and headlight protection for Roman Way residents. Noise travels easily through the quiet countryside.

A resident of Roman Way said that noise from the glamping site could be heard continually if the wind is in the right direction. His main concerns were noise, traffic, children playing in the village, access to the A140 due to poor visibility an accident waiting to happen.

A Thwaite resident had experience of policing such events, and said that once a crowd gets together it just has to be endured, there is no stopping it. Approval of the application would be setting a precedent for this village, and other villages.

Residents comments above are abridged, we apologise for the length, but felt it necessary to include them in order to provide context for the Parish Council response.

Objections came from a complete cross section of residents, from those who had lived here all their lives to the most recent arrivals. There was universal condemnation of the very dangerous multiplication of traffic movements, and universal fear that they would no longer be able to enjoy peaceful occupation of their homes.

### **Stoke Ash and Thwaite Parish Council**

Discussing this item, the Parish Council fully endorsed all of the residents comments above. In addition, Councillors have carefully read all of the comments of objection on the planning web page, and wish to thoroughly endorse them.

There would be no benefit for the village and a significant impact on village amenity. There would be benefit only for the applicants, with the possibility of displacing business from other nearby and more suitable venues. The proposal will result in increased traffic, excessive speed for the roads with increased noise and light pollution. There was concern over parishioners comfort and enjoyment of their homes. There were already problems in the village regarding traffic and parking, there are now more children in the village playing, Church lane is a single-track road as is Huggins Lane, the proposal is not suitable for a quiet village such as ours.

All Councillors were present other than Chair, who as a notified neighbour was excluded and left the building.

### **Councillors voted unanimously to object to the proposal**

The applicants are now fully aware of the depth of feeling in Stoke Ash about proposed and existing developments at Hill Farm, and fear of the ensuing disruption to the village as a whole and to their individual lives. It has been reported to us that the applicants have been actively canvassing traders in the area to express their support for this their plans, and we feel that this regrettably seems to show a callous and selfish disregard for the feelings and wellbeing of the local Community. This being despite the statement made at the meeting that they “wanted to be part of the Community and not separated from it”.

The proposed development will have serious impact on the amenity of the village as a whole, with the most damaging impact on the residents of Huggins Lane, and is quite unacceptable.

## **Detail**

The proposal is for “Change of Use”, but we think that none of this building is suitable for incorporation in to the venue. The structure of the building is steel re- enforced concrete columns, supporting a wood and asbestos roof. Some residents are quite familiar with the building, which is adjacent a public footpath. Clearly the roof cannot be used, and the supporting columns seem to be at the end of their useful life, with some having the reinforcing visible and also having suffered damage over the years from farm machinery. Therefore we believe that the building is not suitable and will need to be completely renewed, and that accordingly the application should be for a new build, rather than attempting to use Permitted Development legislation.

We note that that there is no structural engineers report with the application.

### **There will quite clearly be a major adverse impact on Highway safety.**

We do not believe that Suffolk Highways response has been properly considered, or has taken sufficient account of the current usage of Huggins Lane, or the amount of traffic which will be generated by the proposed development.

The Transport Report accompanying the proposal is incomplete and misleading, and so decisions based on the information contained within this document are likely to be mis-informed.

The report states that the existing glamping and guest accommodation can accommodate 50 guests for an over night stay. The report does not mention anything at all about the number of guests expected at the proposed venue, which is 130. Therefore, any reasonable person would expect that this would result in at least 60 – 80 extra vehicles using the lane, not including service vehicles. Huggins Lane historically has had very low traffic. The proposal would therefore result in up to at least 180 extra vehicle movements, probably a 10 fold increase.

The report states that there is ample parking on site, yet the provided block plan identifies only 36 parking spaces. Assuming that 8 of these would be in use by glampers, this means that there will be 28 parking spaces for at least 60 – 80 guest vehicles.

The Report states that the existing use of Huggins Lane is to access only Hill Farm, Hill Farm Cottages and Huggins Farm. This implies that the only usage of the lane is for vehicles. This is a substantial oversight and over simplification. Huggins Lane is much loved and used by residents and others as being the quietest and safest lane in the village. It is a haven for pedestrians, either alone or with dogs, pushchairs, children, youngsters learning cycling and so on. As it is a no through road it is the only access to the bridleway and road network for the horses at Hill Farm Cottages. At the end of the public section of the lane is access to footpath 17 and the rest of the footpath network. Huggins Lane is a narrow lane, bounded for the most part by raised verges, and has no adjoining footpath. The Planning Statement states that “the section of Huggins Lane which is adopted highway does contain a number of unofficial passing spaces on the grass verge and field accesses”. There are in fact 2, one of which is the entrance to the sewer beds and in frequent use by tankers, and both are private property, and unsuitable for heavy usage.

The applicant has under their control only about 25% of the land adjoining Huggins Lane, thus the opportunity for providing passing spaces is limited, and will do very little to mitigate the risks for non vehicular traffic. We believe it to be common practice for venues such as this catering for 130 guests plus staff and up to 50 glampers to be required to have one way traffic, i.e. one road in and one road out, in order to properly cater for emergencies and emergency vehicles. The proposed passing spaces are an entirely inadequate solution.

The report makes no mention of pedestrians or other users, which is a very significant oversight. This usage of the lane is discussed elsewhere, so we will mention here only the footpath which is routed through the farm yard at Hill Farm, between the proposed venue and the car park. The potential for unpleasant contact between revellers and footpath users would appear to be obvious. In addition walkers of rural footpaths do not expect a vista of parked (or moving) vehicles, and a venue akin to a nightclub.

The Highway Report states that “vehicles utilising Huggins Lane for the proposed event space will be tidal, all arriving in single direction within a similar time period. Thus, two passage of event related vehicles is not expected”. This statement has been mis-used in the Planning Statement, which says “the proposal is highly unlikely to cause two way passage” etc. This of course takes no account of traffic other than “event related”. This traffic could be cars, tractors, pedestrians, horse riders, children cycling and so on, just going about their daily business. The conflict between these users and event traffic (tidal, maybe 60 - 80 vehicles) is potentially disastrous, and very high risk indeed.

We feel it important to note that the Report gives no detail as to how emergency vehicles would access Huggins Lane in the event that it was full of this “tidal traffic”.

Junctions to the A140 are known to be dangerous and requiring extreme care, with much reduced visibility in summer months. Photographs forming part of the Traffic Report were taken before the growth period for plants. The proposal to remove a section of hedge “obscuring forward visibility” is rendered pointless once the crops have grown up, and visibility is once again obscured.

The Traffic Report takes no account of traffic queuing on the A140 waiting to turn right into the village. This traffic being “tidal”, it would be reasonable to assume a queue of large numbers of vehicles, with drivers unfamiliar with their surroundings.

The Traffic Report also fails to mention that aside from Roman Way, which often has parked cars, all other routes in the village are single track. The sudden deluges of 60 – 70 vehicles in the village is completely unrealistic, and would cause major disruption and risk to other road users, particularly pedestrians and playing children.

The Report mentions that there is a history of zero injury accidents on Huggins Lane in the past 22 years, and states “The existing use of Huggins Lane is safe”. Quite true, but the proposed use of Huggins Lane will likely be an entirely different story.



The Report summary quotes NPPF Para 109, and goes on to explain why the proposal is considered safe. We reject completely these conclusions, and have explained our reasoning above. The proposed development should be refused on highways grounds, in accordance with NPPF Paragraph 109, as there would be **an Unacceptable Impact on Highway Safety.**

### **Noise Impacts of the development**

The Planning Statement States that “The report confirms that with suitable mitigation measures and controls, the development will not impact on the amenity of the occupants of the cottages”. This is false. The acoustic report makes no such statement. In addition, the noise will have a seriously adverse impact on the occupants of the cottages. The acoustic report states the background noise level at the cottages boundary is 29 dB. It also states that this measurement can be used to set limits for sound of 34 dB, being 5 dB above the typical background level. This is entirely unacceptable in this quiet rural area, representing in excess of a two-fold increase in sound, due to the logarithmic scale of measurement. For every 3 dB increase in sound, sound is twice as loud. In addition this sound would be completely alien in nature, not the type of sound associated with a rural location, and therefore would be intensely annoying and distressing. At 3.18 in the Acoustic report is the statement that “Car parking is just north of the barn, adjacent existing glamping parking at approximately 170 metres from the nearest noise sensitive premises”. This is also false, the car park is approximately 60 metres from the garden of the cottages. In addition, the report references “a typical scenario of 40 vehicle movements”. This is not acceptable, and the report should instead reference the maximum number of vehicle movements, which with the venue catering for 130 guests, plus service personnel, is more likely in the region of 70 – 90 vehicle movements. These movements may occur at any time of the day or night, and would likely be accompanied by the anti-social noise associated with this type of venue. One of the cottage residents (our Chair) has suffered significant mental illness, such that he could no longer work, and uses the area of his garden with a pond and closest to the venue and car park as a “quiet place” to sit and listen to nature. This peacefulness would be completely destroyed. In addition the residents of the cottages would no longer be able to enjoy their property in accordance with the Human Rights Act Protocol 1, Article 1, which says that everyone is entitled to peaceful enjoyment of their property.

Noise from the glamping site (DVC/19/02353) already causes significant nuisance to residents of Stoke Ash, please see objections, and travels readily on the calmer summer evenings. We think that the geographic location of Hill Farm is partly responsible for this, and cause noise to be easily heard at some distance. Residents of The Street, Roman Way, Church lane and Thorndon Road are all disturbed by the noise. We just cannot be further impacted by the noise generated by this proposed events venue, and the noise from traffic movements. Stoke Ash has always been a quiet village, and this development will result in loss of amenity and yet more nuisance.

The report concentrates on the cottages as the nearest properties, but the noise will affect the whole village. When considering the impact of noise we feel it very important to recognise not only the volume, but the type of noise. Residents can happily put up with the drone of a combine harvester or other agricultural machinery at various times of the year, however the noise produced by revellers is extremely irritating, and Stoke Ash is not the right place for such a venue. We note that the Planning Statement seeks to shift the responsibility of noise control to the Planning Authority, and suggest that the best way for the Authority to deal with the noise problem is to reject the application.

This proposal should not go ahead due to the **Noise Impacts of the Development Ecology**

It is unfortunate that the existing glamping site has already caused considerable harm to the natural environment. The proposed development will cause even more harm. The Planning Statement says “The report confirms that the building is of low ecological value and no further surveys are necessary”. We disagree with this glib and superficial assessment. The ecology report is restricted in its scope and conclusions. Those with a more thorough knowledge of the area can easily recognise this. Disturbance to wildlife will be very significant, please refer to the objection comments of Paul Morris. Great Crested newts use all the ponds in the area for spawning and breeding, and will need to traverse the car park and other area of the proposed development. It is likely that Otters visit the ponds in the area, although perhaps the glamping has already displaced them. The vastly increased (probably increased from zero) traffic movements late at night will cause casualties among nocturnal animals. Village residents have already remarked on the decrease in animals since the glamping started, and this can only be exacerbated.

The previous occupant of the farm entered the farm in to an environmental stewardship programme under which wildlife flourished, ponds were made in to better habitat as were other parts of the farm. The wildlife was safe and largely undisturbed, and grew in numbers and variety. This development will be reversed if the proposal goes ahead. We note that the ecology report states that “there are no significant watercourses in the locality”. There is a main watercourse about 110 metres from the car park, and the River Dove is about 60 metres further. There is a hedge and ditch system ending at the car park which connects directly to the River Dove and is a wildlife corridor.

We believe that this proposal will result in an

### **Unacceptable Impact on Wildlife and the Environment Sustainability**

When purchasing Hill Farm in 2019, the applicants would have been well aware of the agricultural prospects for the holding. This application is an attempt to exploit Permitted Development legislation in order to further establish an unsuitable commercial enterprise which under other circumstances would not be considered. It would appear to us that little attempt has been made to make the farm sustainable through agriculture, concentrating instead on the leisure and hospitality sector.

The applicant lives in Surrey with her partner and has a highly salaried career. Due to this we believe that this development cannot be justified on sustainability or diversification grounds.

## Summary

**The application does not meet the relevant criteria for permitted development under Class R**

**The “change of use” of the building from agriculture to a flexible commercial use (wedding/events venue) will result in severely adverse impacts in terms of highway safety, noise, and ecology.**

The proposal if approved will be in contravention of the following NPPF policies and guidance :- Paragraph 84(c) **85**

92(b) 98 **100** 104 **110(d)** **112** **171**

Stoke Ash and Thwaite Parish councillors having carefully read all the comments of objection to date would like to thoroughly endorse and echo them, and would urge and request that you set aside the time necessary to study them. This proposal if approved would have a devastating impact on the village and the lives of residents, as well as increased risks of accidents due to traffic.

### **We object in the strongest possible terms to this proposal**

Finally, we apologise for the length of this response, but we feel that nothing less than the future of our village is at stake. If you have the necessary time, we would be very pleased to welcome you to the village where a Parish Councillor would be happy to provide a guided tour.

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# Bonne Maman

Costco carries this jam and I felt that this story needed to be shared.

This incident took place in a supermarket in New Jersey.

“At the supermarket today, I found a small, elderly woman standing in front of a high shelf holding Bonne Maman US preserves. She was having trouble finding the flavour she wanted because the jars were set back on the shelf.

She couldn’t read the labels. She could barely reach them. I offered to help.

After I handed her the raspberry preserves, she thanked me, paused, and then asked, “Do you know why I buy this brand?”

I laughed and replied, “Because it tastes good?”

“Yes, it tastes good.” She paused again. “I am a Holocaust survivor.”

This was not the conversation I expected on a Sunday grocery run. “During the war, the family that owns the company hid my family in Paris. So now I always buy it. And whenever I go to the store, my grandkids remind me, ‘Bubbe, don’t forget to buy the jelly.’”

I told her that, that was the best reason I ever heard to buy any company’s product. And then we both smiled behind our masks and went our separate ways.”

Someone else looked into the story and indeed, the town that Andros Company, the makers of Bonne Maman, comes from, hid and saved Jewish families in WW2. It was called Biars sur Cere, which then had about 800 villagers.

From an article, “You have to understand what it was like then. There were posters on the walls, from the Nazis and from the collaborators, and they said that if you are found to help a Jew, a freemason, a communist, a socialist, or a pervert, you will be shot on sight.” Despite the great danger in which helping them put the villagers in, still they kept the children safe.”

A good reason, And a poignant reminder that when we look out for each other it can change lives, and that there are good and selfless people in the world.

*Special report X the editor*

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# Red Wine

The regular taster at the winery had left, and the Director started looking for a new one to hire. A raggedy, dirty looking drunkard came to apply for the position.

The director of the factory really wanted to send him away, but decided to test him. They gave him a glass of wine. He tasted it and said, “It’s red wine, a Muscat, three years old, grown on a north slope, matured in steel containers.” “That’s correct”, said the Director.

They gave him another glass, “It’s red wine, Cabernet, eight years old, a southwestern slope, oak barrels.” “That’s correct”, said the Director.

The Director was astonished. He winked at his secretary and appealed to her to suggest something. She left the room and returned with a glass of urine. The alcoholic tried it. “It’s a blonde, 26 years old, pregnant, in the third month. And if you don’t give me the job, I’ll also tell who the father is!”

Yes it’s a bit over the top but have a Grin & smile

---

## Hi Vis jackets

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## Ask a silly question.....

In the Motor Transport yard of the York and Lancaster Regiment, they had been preparing for the REME annual vehicle inspection for several weeks. A specialist team were due in a few days to start inspections of all the regiment's vehicles, weapons, radios and ancillary equipments. Early one morning, several young drivers were cleaning the underneath of a truck, cleaning and polishing, and even shining the grease nipples. They wiped everything with kerosene to make the chassis components appear shiny and polished. The job was, to say the least, rather dirty despite judicious use of rags, and the cleaning team would get absolutely filthy.

The RSM (Regimental Sergeant Major) happened to be passing by that morning, and noticing the soldiers underneath the truck, demanded to know what they were doing. The senior soldier stuck his head out from underneath, indicating the kerosene pots and rags, answered ' Good morning, Sir, we're just buttering a slice of toast, and we'll be out shortly'.

The RSM considered the situation, remained remarkably quiet and erect, harumphed, and marched off, eyes staring straight ahead.

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# Lessons from an old Emperor in the Far East

If you plant honesty, you will reap trust.  
If you plant goodness, you will reap friends.  
If you plant humility, you will reap greatness.  
If you plant perseverance, you will reap victory.  
If you plant consideration, you will reap harmony.  
If you plant hard work, you will reap success.  
If you plant forgiveness, you will reap reconciliation.  
If you plant openness, you will reap intimacy.  
If you plant patience, you will reap improvements.  
If you plant faith, you will reap miracles.

## **But**

If you plant dishonesty, you will reap distrust.  
If you plant selfishness, you will reap loneliness.  
If you plant pride, you will reap destruction.  
If you plant envy, you will reap trouble.  
If you plant laziness, you will reap stagnation.  
If you plant bitterness, you will reap isolation.  
If you plant greed, you will reap loss.  
If you plant gossip, you will reap enemies.  
If you plant worries, you will reap wrinkles.  
If you plant sin, you will reap guilt.

Remember your graves because your way passes over it. You will be dealt with as you deal with others, you will reap what you sow and what you send today will meet you tomorrow.

So be careful what you plant now, it will determine what you will reap tomorrow, The seeds you now scatter, will make life worse or better, your life or the ones who will come after. Yes, someday, you will enjoy the fruits or you will pay for the choices you plant today.



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
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Remember when you had a lot of energy, Well, sometimes I participate in: your energy, I leave you exhausted... memory loss or your concentration.

I can make you sleep for many hours or I can cause insomnia. I Make you tremble & feel cold; everyone else's temp is normal.

I can make your feet, hands, face or eyes swell, I can make you feel very anxious & suffer with panic attacks. I'm very complicated...

Do you remember that sudden mood swing? Yes, it was me... crying for no reason... me, pi\*\*ed off for no reason! that's me too.

I can make your hair fall out, be thin, dry and brittle. I can cause acne, dry skin! I have no limits I will make you gain weight no matter what or how you eat.

Doing activities like walking or exercise won't get me out of your body, but it will help calm me down a little, that's if you have the energy!

I know you started going to the doctors to "sort me out" Treatments help me relax for a little while but not forever!

I can cause high cholesterol, blood pressure problems, that's just me been me! Heart & liver problems? That's me too! dental problems? Me too

Will you feel tired... yup, and your family and friends will be tired of hearing you moan again and again how "I feel so poorly". They don't know that I remove part of the energy your body and mind need's daily to perform their tasks!

They will not understand you! why this disease attacks your body from your hair to the tips of your toes, and that every cell and organ of your body requires the appropriate amount of thyroid hormones that I kick down!

So don't stop taking those pills every morning that the doctor gave you... they replace the t4 hormone I decrease.

Although I don't like them much, I can't play as many jokes, I know it will help you feel a little better!

Lots of love, *Your Thyroid friend.*

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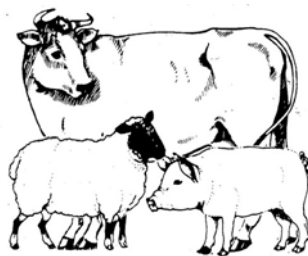
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- One was late because he was stuck on the road where there was an accident;
- Another survivor missed the bus;
- Someone threw food on themselves and needed the time to change;
- One had a problem with his car, which did not start;
- Another one returned to answer the phone;
- Another one had a baby!
- Another didn't get a taxi.
- But the story that impressed the most was that of a man who put on a new pair of shoes that morning, and before he got to work he had a blister. He stopped at the pharmacy for a band aid and that's why he's alive today.
- Now when I get stuck in traffic; when I lose an elevator;
- When I return to answering a phone;

## **And many other things that desperate me, I think first:**

- This is the exact place you should be right now...
- Next time your morning seems crazy, the kids take time to get dressed, don't find the car keys, find all the red lights...
- Don't get angry or frustrated.

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### Well, what would you have done?

As duty officer one weekend, I received a phone call from a hospital in another part of the country. The call was from a wife, at that moment in the labour ward. She was waiting the imminent arrival of her child and was distressed that her baby would be born whilst her husband was in custody, and she hoped her husband would be forever ashamed that he was 'locked up' instead of being with her at the birth of their first child.

I 'phoned the hospital and checked with the Matron that the story was true, and then visited the guardroom to speak with the soldier. He was in close arrest and awaiting a Court Martial, having been absent for several months before giving himself up. He appeared to be extremely upset with the situation, and full of remorse.

It being the weekend, no senior officer was available to discuss the options. As the soldier had given himself up as opposed to being captured, and following my discussions with him, I decided to release the soldier for 36 hours. This would give him time to get to see his wife and newborn child, and return before the start of the working week, as he agreed and promised to do.

In fact, he didn't. Nor did he go to see his wife and child. His wife 'phoned me in my office some months later to both thank me, and to personally apologise.

My Commanding Officer advised me 'off the record', that under the circumstances, he would probably have done the same thing. However, he gifted me with several extra duties as recompense for the hassle the prisoner's non return had caused!

Given a similar circumstance, would I again release a deserter? Probably not but.....

---

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With great luck he arrived, taking the admiration of everyone in the place, then the owner announced;- We have a brave winner.

After collecting their reward, the couple returned to the hotel, upon arrival, the manager told him; he was very brave to jump, then the man said;- I didn't jump, someone pushed me!

His wife smiled... Moral: "Behind every successful man, there is a woman who pushes him."

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# MEMORIES

As a boy growing up in the East End of London, there was not a week that went by without seeing my various family members. Even when we moved out, as they say, to Elm Park, we still met as family every weekend, even midweek. I grew up in a world which does not exist any more. Sure, there are still shadows, giving a hint of that long ago world, but only the lightest of shadows.

Midweek, I would accompany my dad to visit his family: my nan, grandad and uncles in Plaistow, before going to the Black Lion pub, not for the beer but for the well-known West Ham Boxing Club, which was part of the pub. It has now gone but, about ten years ago, I was invited to visit as an honoured guest in memory of my father. Alas, this historic and important local sports facility has since been pulled down to make way for housing as was the running track in previous years. The language of this present age...build, build and more build. I do wonder who is going to be able to afford all these newly-built homes. Still, back to the story...

My mum's mum and family lived in Bethnal Green, so Victoria Park was part of the weekend's attraction, with its lakes and beautiful gardens. There were even wild wallabies roaming around, as were deer and other creatures. Now, living in a town or city does not mean that my world was devoid of nature and a menagerie of animals too vast to list was part of my world as a small boy. There were the proverbial pet monkeys that uncles kept, uncles who had been to sea and brought a pet, usually a monkey or parrot, back with them, or they had paid a memorable and unforgettable visit to Petticoat Lane, where one could buy almost anything that wasn't bolted down. In fact, my dad would say you could enter the market at one end and see your wallet for sale on a stall as you were leaving at the other end.

I remember my nan coming home from Roman Road market and crying out: 'The eels have gone! They are not in my bag!' They had escaped on the journey home from fish stall to table, making their escape, one imagines, down some drain back to the river - or else someone else had an eel or two for their tea, courtesy of my family.

I was recalling to someone recently that when I was very little, my mum, an avid film-goer, took me one afternoon to see Captain Blood, the pirate film starring Errol Flynn at Upton Park or East Ham cinema. Outside was a man with a flat board, hung around his neck with a piece of string and on this board were chicks running around all over the place. All that stopped them (for there was no edging to this platform to stop them tumbling off) was his hands and fingers, moving constantly at great speed to keep them all from escaping. It was like some mad Tommy Cooper moment, fingers and chicks all moving at once in this dance of containment. You could buy a chick, take it home and it would grow for eggs or dinner, or even both. I did say that it was a world that no longer exists, only his shadow in my memory.

My dad's family lived in Grange Road on the back of the sewer hill (now given some fancy name but, back in those days a spade was a spade, so it was 'the sewer hill'). This is where my nan kept her donkey and she and my grandad had a small garden, a farmyard of animals and chrysanthemums for a small boy to wander around in and play. This small garden (we called it 'the yard') contained ducks, chickens, dogs and the proverbial cat, with which my grandad spent some of his time at war. All of the animals, including the exotic birds in the small aviary, and the pigeons from next door's pigeon loft, were well cared for.

Best of all, the lady and man next door had a bear (yes, I did say 'bear') in their garden for a season or two but that is another story, for another time, I dare say - a true one at that.

Growing up in this world of nature, somewhat unconventional by today's standards, it was no surprise that my world as a teenager was one of snakes, geckos, assorted dogs, no cats (my grandad's dislike of them left an indelible mark on me) fish, butterflies and an assortment of other creatures, even a stuffed crocodile that my parents bought me. My parents had both agreed that a live croc was not entering their home, so a stuffed one was the compromise. I still have him sitting above my desk. He will outlive us all, I'm sure.

What a wonderful world and special time that was for me - and many like me - to grow up in. Out of all those creatures of my now distant world, the dog is still my favourite and we are blessed (and I do mean blessed by God) to have our own dog that is part of His creation for us to care for and to bring us pleasure, much as God in Genesis created this wonderful world for His pleasure, as well as for Adam - and thus us - to care for and take pleasure in.

'And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it' (Genesis 2:15). The word 'Eden' in the Hebrew, means 'delight' and 'pleasure,' so this garden was Adam's first knowledge of God, if you like and was one of how much God loved him and cared for him, by providing for him. Adam was called by God to 'dress it and keep it' as verse 15 says. This meant not toil and labour but to care for it in the sense of a careful and loving stewardship role - a joy and pleasure to participate in.

This world in which we live: isn't it wonderful that even in the midst of man's rebellion - which we are seeing manifested arguably even more prolifically today, as in the time of Noah, I would suggest - (See Matthew 24: 36-42) God still calls us to care and show a loving stewardship over the creatures He created.

*Mike Forrester : Stoke Ash Baptist Chapel*

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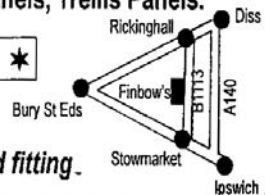
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