



.....TO EVERYONE IN STONDON !

There's loads to look forward to in 2012 - and if your New Year's resolution was to get more involved in village life there are plenty of opportunities to do just that.

10 REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL IN STONDON IN 2012

- 1** At last ! The money's been raised. The interminable bureaucracy has been dealt with. Now we're just waiting for a break in the weather for our contractors to come and build the **New BMX Track** on the SRA's Station Road playing field. We hope it will be completed by the end of the month.
- 2** Plans for the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend** (2nd - 5th June) are progressing nicely. A marquee has been booked for Stondon Park (The Rec) and a whole load of events are being discussed - a Hog Roast and Dance, as much live music as we can get, children's events, Big Lunch, combined church service, bmx display and even another Camp-out!! Put the dates in your diaries, and if you'd like to help out with anything - or have more ideas - please contact Cllor. Kevin Smith kevin_smith@msn.com;
- 3** A "**Village Plan group**" has been working away and you will be receiving a questionnaire from them in the next month or so. This follows the "Planning for Real" event last summer and is your chance to have a say in the future development of our village. If there are things you'd like to see in Stondon, or issues you'd like to address you'll have your chance then. If you'd like to be involved in the process, you can (again!) contact Cllor. Kevin Smith on kevin_smith@msn.com.
- 4** Plans are also progressing for a new housing development on the field behind Station Road. Nothing has been finalised yet, but the developer - in line with the new "Localism" Act - has been consulting many groups and individuals in the village. He seems very concerned to help Stondon as much as he can and ideas being talked about are to **extend the Village Hall for the benefit of Stondon Stompers**, to provide a **MUGA** (multi-use games area) and to help with provision of **allotments**. He also aims to improve the drainage and sewerage issues in the Bedford Road area, and maybe provide some sort of traffic calming on Station Road.
- 5** Stondon Parish Council and Beds Police are trying to do something about speeding traffic in our village. They are looking for volunteers to join a **new "SpeedWatch" group** in the village. After training, volunteers will operate a speed gun in Stondon and will pass on details of speeding vehicles to the Police. Volunteers can make as big or small a commitment as they like, and they hope it will be a good deterrent to the speeders through our village. If you'd like to find out more about this scheme, please phone Cllor. Kerry Dellar on 817218, or email us at info@stondon.net.
- 6** When the shop on the 3-Star Park closed, Nigel Mann, who has a **fruit and veg van** (selling locally produced veg. + eggs from Shillington), offered to deliver and sell to residents which he is still doing. He's on the 3-Star Park and in Stondon/Henlow area from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. every Saturday morning and would stay longer if he had more customers in Stondon. He'd probably be prepared to go to other parts of Stondon depending on potential customers. You can contact him on 01462 711802 to find out more.
- 7** **Broadband Speed** - something in Stondon we can not really complain about - it doesn't exist for us! Most of us will be lucky to get 3Mb, some it will be as low as 0.5Mb.....Distance doesn't affect the quality of voice services delivered over copper,. But it does affect the quality and speed of data transmission. The longer the distance from the exchange to the cabinet and from the cabinet to the premises, the weaker the data signal becomes. BT is upgrading the network to Superfast fibre, and the Shefford exchange is due to come online in June this year. We hope this will mean a much faster broadband service for us all.
- 8** Following an injection of new blood into the Parish Council at the elections last year they have several new initiatives underway including the **Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations**, giving support to the **Parish Plan Group**, and they are currently in the process of **improving the PC website**. You can find dates, agendas and minutes of PC meetings and other news and information relevant to the village [here](#).
- 9** Although it has gone a bit quiet about the possible **allotments**, we are still hopeful that we will have some good news in the spring. It all relates to item 4 above, but there are plenty of people beavering away to try and make sure it happens.
- 10** And finally, the days are getting longer and we've avoided (so far !) the disruption that last winter's snow brought! It's a great time for **YOU** to get involved in village life - there are a couple of ideas above and there's a list of clubs and groups you could join on Stondon.net. The SRA are always happy to welcome new members who would like to help improve and maintain the playing fields in the village, and the Village Hall committee would love to welcome new members to help run this vital village facility.