

PARISH COUNCIL

Litter Pick:

The Parish Council are organising a litter pick for Saturday, 16 May. Please meet at 10am and any children must be accompanied by an adult. All equipment will be provided. We have not held a litter pick since 2011 when we always had a good turnout of volunteers to help us keep our village clean and tidy – please support us once again so that we can get everything looking nice for the summer.

Local Elections:

You may have seen the posters on the noticeboard regarding the local elections. If any resident wishes to stand for the Parish Council then please either contact the Clerk (01935 822455) or the Electoral Services Department at South Somerset District Council (01935 462462) for more information and a nomination form. Anyone wishing to put their name forward will be required to hand their forms in to the Returning Officer at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT by 4pm on Thursday, 9 April.

P.C.S.O. REPORT

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 7 April

Our walk today will begin by going along the bottom of Bowey, out along Norton Path and down over Sandy Lane and up to Greenhams Cross. We will then go up Grintley Lane, follow the footpath to join the Odcombe road which will take us down into Chiselborough, past the Cat Head and follow the footpath through the Churchyard and across the fields back to the Lord Nelson for lunch.

We meet at 10.30am at Sea Wall, about 50 yards on the Montacute side of Bonnies Lane. Please wear suitable boots or shoes and clothing according to the weather. All our walks are free and we welcome new walkers to our friendly group. Well behaved dogs are also welcome. **ALL WALKS ARE UNDERTAKEN AT THE WALKERS OWN RISK.** For more information please contact Norman on 01935 822792.

1ST MONTACUTE BROWNIES

The annual celebration of World Thinking day took place in the SSH Memorial Hall on 24 February, where we were joined by both of the West Coker Brownie units. We found out information about the 4 World centres in London, Switzerland, India and Mexico, tasting their bread and cheeses as we went.

We then enjoyed a game of World Badge beetle and rounded it off with a candle lit 'Brownie Smile' being sent around the world to countries where Girl Guiding thrives. A charity coin collection by the girls raised nearly £20 towards the local Girl Guiding 'Jenny Bungay Hardship' fund.

Jackie Poole (AKA Snowy Owl!)

TAI CHI

Tai Chi is an Eastern Asia exercise that involves slow controlled movements with controlled breathing. Tai Chi will improve your balance, lower stress and make you more agile. The class is for all abilities and lasts for roughly one hour. Come along to the memorial hall at Stoke sub Hamdon on Wednesdays at 5.30pm, first session is free and £4 there afters

GARDENING CLUB

The first meeting of the Flower Produce and Craft Show sub-committee (the date for this year is the 1 August) has been held and it was agreed that early notification of the photography classes would be helpful.

This year these are: Seaside Flotsam and Jetsam; Garden Insects; Windy Day; Old Abandoned Farm Implements and A Musical Theme. All photographs must not exceed 72 x 5" in size on a white paper mount not to exceed 8" x 6", printed on photographic paper.

For all the growers these have been some chances to the vegetables & fruit classes – NEW 1 Marrow of any variety, the longest runner bean of any variety, 2 sticks of rhubarb, leaves trimmed to 1" with base left on and a specimen fruit bowl, display not to exceed 8" in diameter.

This year, the two children's classes will be: An animal made from fruit and/or vegetables (under 8 years) and 3 decorated fairy cakes on a tea plate (8-11 years).

There have also been slight changes to the Home and Produce classes to give variety and the Handicraft classes will now include a hand knitted item an article in Wood or metal, an article in Cross-stitch, Tapestry or Embroidery and a toy crafted in any medium.

This will, hopefully, encourage you to enter the show. However, in view of the printing costs involved and mindful of not wasting paper, the decision has again been taken this year to send a Schedule and Entry Form to everyone who entered the Show in 2014 rather than include in a later edition of the Village Newsletter. If anyone else requires a copy (available from the 1 May) please can they telephone either Sue on 01935 823671 or Les on 09135 508656.

The next Gardening Club meeting is on Wednesday 22 April when Mike Spencer will be talking about Mountains & Maharajas. Why not come along to the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm – you can be assured of a warm welcome – who knows, you may even want to join our Club!

MEMORIAL HALL

The Trustees of the Memorial Hall feel that it may be of interest to the village to know just how much it costs to run and maintain the hall for a year and below is a précis of the 2014 Accounts:

Income	Amount £	Expenditure	Amount £
Lettings	6,275	Wages	2,645
Craft Fair	673	Repairs etc	1,677
	<u>6,948</u>	Light, Heat & Water	2,105
		Insurance	954
		Miscellaneous	229
			<u>7,610</u>
		Loan Repayment	540
			<u>8,150</u>
		Deficit	-1,202
			<u>6,948</u>

As you can see from the above, the hall does not make any money; in fact the 2014 deficit of £1,202 was covered by a grant from the Parish Council. The hall is for the use of everyone in the village, we do not charge for the use of tables, chairs, the kitchen and crockery. If you are interested in hiring the hall for a function please contact the Booking Secretary, Ann Stuart on 01935 823890 and she will be pleased to advise of costs etc.

The Memorial Hall Trustees Committee would really welcome volunteers to serve on the Committee. It is not arduous, meetings are held in the afternoons, but we desperately need new blood with new ideas of ways in which we can make the hall more attractive to potential hirers. If you think you would like to join us, please contact either Sue Winwood on 01935 823671 or Clare Sampson on 01935 823669.

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Village Artists will be hosting a demonstration by professional painter, Jane Brayne, as to her methods of painting young children on Tuesday 28 April between 7.00pm and 9.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Stoke Sub Hamdon. It should be really interesting so please do come along. All are very welcome and entrance at the door is only £5. For more information please contact Lee Allen for V.A.G. on 01935 472675.

ACORN POP-IN PROGRAMME

March	26	Magna Carta - Michael Kerr
April	2	Hot Cross Buns/Trade Table
	9	Easter Holiday
	16	Quiz
	23	Glove Making - Mr Lewis
	30	Black Sheep of the Family - Anne Thomas
May	7	Behind the Scenes in Motor Racing - Sue Winwood

For more information contact Jennifer Kerr 01935 882609

ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE

Walk, Hop, Skip, Dance, Crawl – Enjoy! St Margaret's Great Somerset Colour Run, Somerset's most creative 5k, will take place on 14 June at Hazelgrove School, Sparkford, Yeovil BA22 7JA from 1.30pm.

A Colour Run is either running, walking, hopping, skipping or crawling around a 5k route whilst turning your whitest, brightest clothing into a piece of vibrant art as you pass through each colour station and get caked in powder paint. It's as fun and as simple as that! And we are looking for people to get involved on the day as both participants and volunteers.

The Great Somerset Colour Run can be enjoyed by all the family! Anyone aged 7+ can take part.

It costs £15 for an adult and £10 for a child up to age 14. There is also an option to purchase one of our unique colour run T-shirts at a cost of £5. Registration is through the website www.greatsomersetcolourrun.co.uk or by calling 01823 365615.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

April

7 th	Stoke Active Walkers
22 nd	Gardening Club talk by Mike Spencer on Mountains & Maharajas
28 th	Village Artist Demonstration by Jane Brayne

May

16 th	Litter Pick
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June

14 th	St Margaret's Hospice Great Somerset Colour Run
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August

1 st	Garden Club - Flower Produce and Craft Show
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