

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

Methodist Church Sale

Thank you to all those that came to the well-attended 1st public consultation meeting on the proposal to bid for the Church and use it as a Youth Community Centre for all our young club members. We shared with you the facts and figures of what it was all about and there were lots of questions asked and opinions expressed. A summary of the meeting, together with the research done into the project can be found on the Stoke-sub-Hamdon.co.uk website.

Please come along on Saturday 2 April at 2.30pm in the Memorial Hall to the 2nd consultation meeting. We hope that by having it on a weekend afternoon, more families can attend. Support your village by coming along and voting on your viewpoint!

Friends of Ham Hill Presentation

We had a very interesting presentation at our last council meeting by Mick Wooden of the Friends of Ham Hill about the work they do to support the Rangers. Our hill, one of the oldest Iron Age forts in the UK, has a unique habitat, and it takes a lot of looking after. Did you know that you can help? The Rangers are always looking for volunteers to help look after the paths, trees etc. If you are free on a Wednesday, go along to the Rangers office and you will be welcomed with open arms! Keep fit, learn new skills and do something for our village!

The Rangers also organise activity days for schools and the general public to learn about the nature on the Hill. The Friends fundraise to support the activities on the Hill and help out at the Rangers Information Centre, in nature surveys, and on major event days. We were slightly embarrassed to find that out of the group who make up the Friends, only two of them come from our village. Come on, Stoke, let's give them more support and show we are proud of our Hill! More information on how to join from Cllr Brian Evans on 07816 980990 or Mick Wooden on mickwooden90@hotmail.com or 07795 170271 and on the Friends Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/HAM-HILL-Country-park/320962194716687>

Street Lighting

As those of you who live in the High Street will know, there has been no street lighting for several weeks now due to a mains cable fault, which has made walking on the pavement and crossing the road at night hazardous to say the least. Sarah, our Parish Clerk, made a formal complaint to the County Council on your behalf about the length of time Western Power have taken to repair it. Major work has now taken place to replace the cabling and hopefully this will have solved the problem.

Flooding East Stoke

I attended on 9 March on behalf of the Parish Council at a site meeting to engage with the relevant authorities on how to further reduce flooding in heavy rain along East Stoke. Members of the Flood Prevention Team, Highways, our County Councillor John Bailey and several residents were present. Although the major drainage works done last winter by Highways to divert water at the top of Windsor Lane through new pipes has been successful in reducing the amount of flooding into East Stoke, there are still problems along the road, with the gullies back-filling in very heavy rain. Investigations are taking place on how the Holy Spring water reaches the outfall in Windsor Lane, and whether there are any blockages in other pipes.

The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations

This will take place on Sunday 12 June on the Memorial Hall Grounds. There are still places on the organising committee, so come along and join us! For more information contact Barbara Brooks (contact details below).

Celebrating Longevity

We told you last month about Kath Sharman who celebrated her 101st birthday in January. Well, we heard shortly afterwards about Ted Marshall James who will celebrate his 102nd birthday in May. So we thought it would be a nice idea to have a photograph taken of the two of them and this took place a couple of weeks ago. They really enjoyed meeting each other, and lots of village memories were shared! Once the photograph has been mounted, we hope to have it put up in the Memorial Hall as a mark of respect and for people to see.

Contact details below.

Barbara Brooks

Chair of the Parish Council

chairsshpc@hotmail.com Tamarisk, High St (opp Working Mens Club)

APOLOGY

In the last Newsletter I made reference to the possibility of the URC closing later this year and that as a consequence Hamdon Playgroup and Stoke Band would lose their meeting places, and would need new premises at some point. At our consultation meeting on 29 February I learnt that a number of staff at the Playgroup had been very upset by my statement as they thought that this meant they were going to be made redundant. I wish to apologise unreservedly (as I did at the meeting) for any misunderstanding and that it was not our intention to cause upset in any way. As the URC had already issued a statement last September that 2016 was likely to be their last year, it was natural to suppose that the Playgroup would be affected at some point. We did not know that discussions had not yet taken place on the situation. So again, my sincere apologies, we were only trying to raise awareness and support for all the groups in the village.

Barbara Brooks, Chair of Parish Council

VOLUNTEER AWARDS 2016

Just to remind you all the nomination forms are available from the Doctors, Vets, hairdressers and shops as well as the village website. Please show your gratitude to the people who make this village the wonderful place it is for us to live by picking up a form and nominating someone who does something for the community. Whilst delivering the forms I have heard of people who do many things that make a difference, so let's show them our appreciation. You can nominate for the following categories:

- Outstanding contribution to the physical environment of our village
- Outstanding contribution to our village community
- Outstanding contribution by a young person
- Outstanding contribution to the health and wellbeing of our village
- Long Service Award

Nomination forms should be returned to Tamarisk, High Street, (opp Working Men's Club) or by email to chairsshpc@hotmail.com by 14 May. Anyone who does volunteer work of any kind will be most welcome at our Celebration on the afternoon of 4 June for cream tea and entertainment, so save the date! It's our Thank You to you all.

Wendy Hall

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, 5th April 2016

This will be our annual walk to Pitt Pond by kind permission of Jack and Carol Parker. We start by going along Bowey and up to the Monument; we will then follow the footpath past the Prince of Wales and down to Pitt Pond. We will spend time having a good look around Pitt Pond and then follow the footpath to Batemoor Barn and back to the Prince of Wales 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.

HAM HILL – SHEEP ATTACKS

Due to 4 sheep deaths and multiple mauling's on the northern spur area of Ham Hill in just one week of February please could village residents help us keep an eye out for irresponsible dog owners that have allowed their pets off the lead in areas that have sheep grazing. Large and clear warning posters have been erected at all gateways, so there can be no confusion over where sheep are currently grazing. It is vital that sheep grazing is retained on the Hill to ensure the heritage is protected and that public access is preserved. The Rangers Jon and Paul would really appreciate everyone's help with this matter. Ham Hill Rangers on 823617

LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE SHOP

The Lighthouse Coffee Shop opens again on Monday April 4. Our opening hours are Monday and Thursday 10.00am to 1.00pm. Do come and visit us, all drinks are free on our opening day.

St. Mary's church PCC

VILLAGE ARTISTS

Village Artists are giving a very Special 2 hour evening workshop in the Memorial Hall Stoke sub Hamdon, on Tuesday 19th April 7 – 9 pm. Everyone including Absolute Beginners is welcome to come and try their hand. Professional artist, engraver and printer, Andrea Clark will be demonstrating charcoal drawing techniques, especially of animals. The cost will be only £5 per person with all materials supplied by the club. Simply bring with you a good reference picture of a favourite wild or domestic animal or bird and join in the fun. Please book your place as quickly as possible to secure a place for this special event. Phone Lee on 01935 – 472675.

TREES

Trees are really important for our health and well-being and we should be planting many more of them in Stoke sub Hamdon. Our target for autumn/winter 2016-17 is to

plant at least 10 new trees to replace those felled or damaged by storms and we need the community's help to achieve this.

Please let me know malcolmuhlhorn99@gmail.com if there are open spaces in the village near you where a new tree will not only bring you and wildlife lots of pleasure but also benefit our community.

Parish Tree Warden

GARDENING CLUB

Stoke sub Hamdon Flower, Produce & Craft Show

Saturday 6 August.

This is to call all those photographers, wood-workers, potters, knitters, needle workers AND CHILDREN to get your creative thinking caps on and start work on your entries to YOUR Village Show.

Children's Classes

Under 8 years of age. Create a face on a paper plate. You can use any paints, crayons, collage etc. that you wish. The judge will be looking for imagination as well as artistic flair.

8 - 11 years of age. Decorate 1 gingerbread man & put on a tea plate. You do not have to make the "man". He can be bought. Just get creative with his "outfit".

Photography Classes

This year these are--- "An Architectural Feature", "Time", "New Life", "Cobwebs" and of course the Musical Inspiration class on a musical theme to win the Stoke sub Hamdon Band Trophy.

Photos printed on photographic paper. Not to exceed 5" x 7", mounted on a white paper mount no larger than 6" x 8".

Handicrafts

These classes are "A hand knitted or crocheted item", "An Article in wood, metal or pottery/ceramic", "An Article in Cross-stitch, tapestry or embroidery", "A single item of hand-crafted jewellery", "A patchwork/quilted article not to exceed 15" x 15".

Photographs & handicraft items should not have been exhibited at Stoke Show before.

So get "crafting" everyone. We expect a bumper crop of entries this year. Keep an eye on future issues of this newsletter for further information of fruit, vegetable & flower arranging classes.

A Date for Your Diary - Talk by Air Ambulance Service

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club have invited the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance Service to come to Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Wednesday 27 April to talk about their vital work throughout the two counties. Take-off is at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome. Come along and hear about their day-to-day activities and their exciting rescues.

There will be NO admission charge for this talk, but don't forget the Air Ambulance Service is run on voluntary contributions, so we hope you will be generous and make a contribution to their funds. Tea/coffee and cakes will be available.

STOKE BAND NEWS

During March Sonja Helliard, the training band tutor, resigned from the band. We would like to thank her for her hard work with the training band. If you have any enquiries about training please contact Gill Robins or Jane Herbert.

THE STOKE CHARITY SHOP

Presented to you by The Stoke Charity Shop - St George's Day Fashion Show with a pre-season Sale on Saturday 23 April at 7.30pm in the United Reformed Church, North Street. Tickets are £3.50 for adults including a free glass of wine and £2 for children.

TAI CHI

Shibashi Tai Chi Class at the Stoke Sub Hamdon Memorial Hall, Wednesdays 6.00pm – 7.00pm £4 per per person. Call Martyn Powell 07717 893 749.

POP-IN PROGRAMME

March 31 Holiday
April 7 John's Quiz
14 Hidden Shakespeare- Michael Kerr
21 Royal Birthday - 90 years
Boccia
28 Lytes Carey Manor - Andrea Hirt
May 5 Bingo.

As the summer is approaching we would really like some help with the tea rota to reduce the weight on some of our more elderly helpers. It would just be an hour on a Thursday afternoon from 3 pm with passing the tea and cakes round and to help with the washing up. Although we meet weekly if someone could just do one week in a month it would be great help.

Thank You. Contact Jennifer Kerr (01935 882609) or Paul Speakman (01935 826375) if you are able to help.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Why not come and join us, there are two walks on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, starting and ending at the Lighthouse café. No walks on Bank Holiday Mondays

The Every Step Counts walk begins at 9.30am and is a lane and pavement walk with one slight incline, lasting 30 to 40 minutes.

The Health Walk starts at 10.30am and use, lanes, fields and footpaths within a 3 mile radius of Stoke and last 90 to 100 minutes.

These walks are open to everyone, friendly, free and have at least two walk leaders, so if someone feels they can't make the whole walk they can return via a shorter route with a leader. Please wear appropriate clothes and footwear for the weather conditions. We look forward to seeing you and if you require any further information please contact Penny 01935 822208 or Mark and Jane at jane.gooch@tesco.net

MARIE CURIE COFFEE MORNING

Join us for a cup of coffee and a piece of cake on Saturday 23 April between 10am and 12pm in The Lighthouse. All money raised stays locally and £20 buys one hour of nursing care for a person with a terminal illness. Please come along and support us if you can.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

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Youth worker Lou Chant can be contacted on 07402 987921 or via lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS – APRIL

Yeovil Country Park

Tuesday 5th April Easter Egg Trail

DIARY OF EVENTS:

April

2nd Consultation Meeting – Methodist Church
5th Stoke Active Walkers
11th Walking for Health
19th Village Artists Charcoal Drawing Workshop
23rd Stoke Charity Shop - St George's Day Fashion Show
23rd Marie Curie Coffee Morning
25th Walking for Health
30th Coffee & Cake Morning

May

9th Walking for Health
23rd Walking for Health

June

4th Volunteer Awards
12th Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

August

6th Flower, Produce & Craft Show