

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

Please note there is no Parish Council meeting in August and when we reconvene in September Parish Council meetings will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall.

### ***Chair's Update***

#### Dog bins

The new dog bins are now installed at Hedgecock Lane and at the entrance to the Memorial hall drive. Please use them and keep our streets clean and hygienic! Also a reminder – no dogs are allowed in any of the children's play areas in the village at Stonehill or the Memorial Hall Grounds. Dog owners ignoring this will be prosecuted as this is an offence. There is a very practical reason for the ban – not all children are confident around dogs and we don't want any chance of dog fouling on the ground where our children play.

#### Noticeboard

Several residents have asked how they can get notices and posters put up on the new Noticeboard in the Memorial Hall Grounds. Please contact Sarah Moore our Parish Clerk on 822455 if you want to put something up. Or drop the poster in to her at 24 High Street.

#### Playdays 2016

In conjunction with the District Council the Parish Council has contributed to a one day Playday during the Summer holidays for the younger children. It will take place in the Memorial Hall Grounds from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday 27 August and there will be all sorts of activities to try out. Be there!

#### Methodist Church

We have now made our Community Right to Bid for the church for a new Youth & Family Centre and are awaiting a decision. We understand that the church will take several weeks to consider any bids as the decision has to be made by several departments within the organisation. We cannot give you any further information about the bid itself at this stage, as clearly the negotiations are still live, but we promise we will let you all know as soon as we can once we have a decision.

#### Road Closures

There are a number of road closures from the end of July and during August – please see the main noticeboard for more information. Unfortunately, it may well mean traffic comes through the village, rather than using the longer diversionary routes and this will mostly be at night. Roads affected are the A3088 (Cartgate Link Road) for 5 weeks from 25 July, and Lysander Road (part of) for 4 weeks from 25 July.

*Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council*

*Tel: 823894; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com*

*Tamarisk, High St (opp Working Men's Club)*

## **WE NEED YOUR VIEWS PLEASE!**

The Parish Council have been advised that a developer may soon be putting in a planning application to build 27 houses on the field in West Street immediately next to the end of New Close Terrace. Of the 27 houses, mostly 3 or 4 bedroomed houses, 10 are intended to be "affordable" i.e. either social rented houses, or low cost home ownership. We do not know at this stage the overall footprint size of the houses, but they are likely to be quite small in order to get 27 houses on this 2 acre site.

It's important that when the Council do respond formally to the application in the Autumn we take residents' views into account. We understand that at the beginning of September the developers will post out to each house in the village a formal information letter with a site plan etc., asking for your feedback. They will then put a finalized planning application in to the District Council and at that stage the Parish Council's Planning Committee will be asked formally for our views.

In the meantime, we would like to know at this stage what **YOU** think of the initial proposals. Is this development a good idea? Do you think our village has a housing need? Do you think the village needs this particular size of development?

For your information, currently 3 sites in the village have been granted planning permission – Stanchester – next to East Stoke Lodge (18 houses), East Stoke - behind the Co-Op (11 houses) and Southcombes (14 houses). This brings the total number of new houses planned up to 43 houses out of the District Council's 5 Local Plan target of 44.

What do you think the houses should be built of? They will be, we understand, mainly white render with just a few out-facing walls in hamstone. The site is in a key place – right at the entrance to the village from the Crewkerne direction, and the site will be very visible from the top of Ham Hill. In view of the fact that we are a Conservation Area, meaning that all new buildings are preferably of hamstone, or reconstituted hamstone to keep the character of the village, would you prefer to see the houses built of all hamstone?

There have been sewage and rain water drainage capacity issues in West Street over the past few years – do you have any views as to the effect this new development might have?

There do not appear to be any play/green areas on the site. Is this important to you?

Building more houses at the end of the village makes the village longer. Is this important to you?

Please let us know your initial thoughts at this stage. You can do this by either emailing me or dropping a note in – contact details below. Please do respond – your views are **important**.

*Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council*

*Tel: 823894; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com*

*Tamarisk, High St (opp Working Men's Club)*

### **P.C.S.O. REPORT**

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://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, 2 August 2016*

We begin our walk today by going down across the back of Castle Farm to Jubilee Woods. We will go through Jubilee Woods and up Kings Road, past Southcombes Factory and along the bottom of Great Field. We will then follow the footpath to go past West End Garage, cross the road and follow the footpath to Norton. In Norton we will go up Higher Street and then double back to go around Norton Church to follow the footpath which will bring us up to Matts Lane and onto the Fleur de Lis 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.

### **STOKE BOWLS CLUB BRING HOME THE TROPHY**

Stoke Bowls Club entered the Yeovil League Division 2 last season after more than 18 years in the Taunton League and came top of the league. Playing teams from as far afield as Hazelbury Bryan and Yetminster they won eight games out of ten to take the title. At the presentation at Cerne Abbas, the President of the League said this was the first time any team had entered the Yeovil League for the first time and won the trophy. Well done Stoke!

### **HAM HILL**

#### **Medieval Fayre**

Ham Hill will be hosting a Medieval Fayre on Saturday, 3 September. The fayre will have a number of living history performers and craft displays to enthral you all. We are looking for local groups or individuals to perform something medieval whether it is 'am-dram', singing or dancing and anyone who wishes to display a craft such as weaving, cooking ironwork etc.

However, if performing or arts and crafts aren't your forte and you would like to be involved, we are looking for volunteers to help with marshalling, setting up etc. on the day.

### **Witcombe Valley Stream Project**

It was reported in last month's newsletter that due to our Ranger, Jon's accident the Witcombe Valley Stream Project had been postponed and was under review. We are happy to report that the project to reinstate the ancient stream that used to flow through the valley will still be going ahead as planned this Summer. It is only the educational side of the project that has been put on temporary hold.

For more information on either of the above items please contact Brian Evans, Friends of Hall Hill, by emailing [brianevans64@live.co.uk](mailto:brianevans64@live.co.uk) or telephoning either 826125 or 07816980990

### **LIGHTHOUSE COFFEE SHOP**

We do want this to continue as an amenity but we do need more volunteers. Would you be able to give 2 hours once or twice a week?

A friendly team would be willing to initiate you (there is virtually no cooking!) Do pop in and talk to the people on duty.

Thank you to all those who support us whether as customers or volunteers.

Sarah Russell (On behalf of St Mary's PCC)

### **GARDEN CLUB NEWS**

Members of the Garden Club are busily preparing for the Stoke sub Hamdon Flower, Produce and Craft Show to be held on **Saturday 6th August** from 12.30pm onwards in the Memorial Hall Grounds with the Flower Show exhibits in the hall open to the public from 2.00pm. Light refreshments will be available in the hall from 12.30pm.

We are hoping that we will have a record number of entries for this year's show, particularly from the children of the village and we invite everyone to come along and enjoy the various craft stalls, demonstrations but more importantly to support the Garden Club and its members who have worked so hard to make this event possible.

The Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome. We do not have a meeting in August; our next event is Wednesday 28 September when we will be having a talk on The Natural Beauty of Dorset by Colin Varndell and you are all welcome.

For further information on the Gardening Club please contact either our Secretary Tricia Toosey on 01935 823691 or our Chairman Sue Winwood on 01935 823671

### **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

We want to celebrate 150 years of the United Reformed Church in the village. There will be a service led by the Moderator, Revd Ruth Whitehead, at 2.30 pm on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September followed by tea and cakes. There will also be an exhibition of Church memorabilia and photographs so if anyone has anything of interest could they please contact the Church Secretary on 01935 824847. The exhibition will be open on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> from 10am to 3pm and on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> from 11am onwards.

### **HISTORY GROUP**

If you have any wedding or christening photographs taken at the United Reformed Church from the late 1800's to present day we would be grateful if we could borrow them for the exhibition to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church. Please contact either Carol Parker on 825393 or Norman Patch on 822792.

### **STAMPS**

Thank you everyone who has donated used stamps for Somerset sight in the past. Last year we raised £185 for them. The supply seems to have nearly dried up so could I remind you that I welcome any used stamps with a little bit of envelope surrounding them (or old postcards too.) Please post through my letterbox at 8 High Street, Stoke sub Hamdon as

this is a great cause and helps many people have an easier lifestyle supported by Somerset sight charity and costs us nothing but a bit of effort. I also welcome old phones and original ink cartridges to raise the money for them too. Any question please phone me on 01935 822119  
*Kaz Doyle*

### **MEMORIAL HALL SOS**

One of the exterior concrete window ledges to the kitchen is badly damaged. The sill has broken and a large piece is loose. Is there anyone out there who can advise the Management Committee on the best way to remedy this? If you know or know someone who may know, please contact me. See below.

Looking at another problem – does anyone know anything about buildings' acoustics? I'm sure we are all aware the Hall has a serious problem in this department and the Committee are hoping we can solve it. Once again I ask – Does anyone know anyone who can help or advise. Please contact me.

Clare Sampson on 01935 823669. Email [sampsonsatt@btinternet.com](mailto:sampsonsatt@btinternet.com)

### **WALKING FOR HEALTH**

The walks are free, friendly, non-fattening and can be fun! Come along and join the walks on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, except Bank Holiday Mondays. Every step counts starts at 9.30 am and is a slower paced walk around the village on lanes and pavements and lasts for 30 to 40 minutes. The Health Walk starts at 10.30 goes further, to Norton, Chisleborough and up Ham Hill sometimes and these walks last 1.5 hours. They are continuing throughout the summer and both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café, where a well-earned coffee or lunch can be purchased after the walks. We would like to welcome Anne Ashlea and Molly her Scottie to the team of walk leaders. August walk dates 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. September dates 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07974103275.

### **KATHLEED SHARMAN (KATH)**

Hilary, Stephen and all the family would like to thank everyone who sent cards, messages and attended Kath's funeral service at St Mary's Church on June 24<sup>th</sup>. Kath passed away peacefully in her sleep on June 9<sup>th</sup> aged 101 years.

My good friend, Rosemary Egerton, kindly travelled back from Wolverhampton especially to take the service for us. Kath will be sadly missed by family, friends and everyone who knew her. She was a very special lady.  
*Hilary Singleton*

### **HAMDON YOUTH GROUP**

#### **Hamdon Youth Group**

With summer holidays upon us we have some great meetings planned for you on Monday evenings. All young people from our villages from Year 6 + are welcome on Mondays 7.00pm - 9.00pm @ Fleur de Lis Skittle Alley.

1<sup>st</sup> August - **Closed** (staff on leave)

8<sup>th</sup> August - Open session

5<sup>th</sup> August – At the Rec for sports,

22<sup>nd</sup> August - Ham Hill picnic

29<sup>th</sup> August - **Closed** (Bank Holiday)

The Drop-in cafe in Norton and Youth Forum are taking a summer break during August. Any queries please contact our Youth Worker, Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk) and also on Facebook @Community Youth Project. Have a great holiday!

### **TENT SERVICE 6.30pm Sunday August 21**

Once again we will be celebrating in song in the Marquee on Norton recreation ground to conclude the Norton & Chiselborough Flower Show weekend. There will be a selection of the most popular hymns both "Ancient" and "Modern" – and we will hear something of their

background stories and about their writers. This is an event for people across the 7 parishes of the Ham Hill Benefice.

## **COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS – August**

*Ham Hill Country Park*

Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Medieval Fayre

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### **August**

2<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Active Walkers  
6<sup>th</sup> Flower, Produce & Craft Show  
8<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health  
22<sup>nd</sup> Somerset Sight  
22<sup>nd</sup> Walking for Health

#### **September**

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Church Memorabilia and Photographs – URC  
8<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting  
12<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health  
26<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health

#### **October**

15<sup>th</sup> Craft & Table Top Sale – Memorial Hall

#### **November**

12<sup>th</sup> Marie Curie Christmas Market