

Unfortunately, we are losing our volunteer who delivers the newsletters each month to Walscombe Close, Kings Road, Queen's Crescent and the bottom of North Street. The Parish Council would like to say a huge 'thank you' for everything they have done over the past few years and your help has been invaluable and very much appreciated.

We are now in need of someone to deliver in this area because without the assistance of our volunteers we would not be able to bring you the parish newsletter. Would you be willing to help? If this is something that you would be interested in the please contact Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk on 822455 or email [clerkssphc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clerkssphc@hotmail.co.uk). Thank you.

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

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

At their meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> December councillors were pleased to agree to a grant of £450 towards the cost of new music stands for Stoke Band. There has been a band in Stoke since 1891, with the present band reformed in 1945 during VE celebrations, and they have continued to bring us much pleasure at village events.

Councillors were also pleased to be able to support the Youth Group who have now expanded to 62 young people. The enlarged numbers have meant that a second session each week is now required to keep the sessions manageable. Councillors were pleased to award a grant of £2,640 towards a Youth Worker for the second session. The Group are also supported by Norton Parish Council, the County Council and other funders. The Hamdon Youth Group is an inter-village group with youngsters coming from Stoke, Norton, Chiselborough and West Chinnock.

Councillors also agreed to pay the remaining £2,068 of the annual grant to the Memorial Hall towards its upkeep, refurbishment and insurance.

We also spent some time discussing a draft Budget for the coming financial year next April. The Council is not able to make final decisions until we have the tax base information for the village from District Council.

We recently contacted the developers of the various sites around the village to get an update of when they are likely to start. We understand that two of the sites have both been affected by the builder Titan Construction going into administration a few months ago. Stonewater Housing Group (who are building 14 affordable homes behind the Co-op in East Stoke) and Blue Cedar Homes (who are building retirement homes on the Southcombe's site) are now finalising contracts with new builders and hope to start in the early Spring.

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

**Tel: 824432; Email: [chairsshpc@hotmail.com](mailto:chairsshpc@hotmail.com)**

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

## **STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS**

*Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018*

For our first walk in 2018, we will start by going along Bowey and up to the Monument. We will then follow the ridge along past the Prince of Wales to the top of Hedgecock Woods. From there we will go through the woods and across the field which will take us around the back of St Michaels Tower; we will follow the footpath to Batemore Barn then along the top of the hill to Fairy Land and back across the hill 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

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL**

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. The total amount raised this year was a fantastic £1,909.51. Many thanks to all the businesses and everyone who helped with the collecting. I would also like to say a special thank you to Ian Mathieson for helping me to

collate the donations and to Louise Hann and the staff at Montacute Post Office for helping with the banking.

*Jon Moore, Poppy Appeal Organiser*

### **LEADERS NEEDED FOR FOSSEWAY SCOUT TROOP**

The 1st Fosseway Scout Troop, which includes boys and girls aged from 10 ½ to 14 years old from Stoke sub Hamdon, Martock and surrounding villages, is seeking new leaders. Existing Group Scout Leader Marie Lowe is hanging up her woggle at the end of 2017, meaning that the Troop was threatened with closure.

Tim Burch, who is already Group Scout Leader for the South Petherton Troop, has taken up the role temporarily for 1st Fosseway. He will oversee both Groups until new leaders can be found for Fosseway. This means that the dozen Scouts must travel from their home scout hut in Martock to South Petherton each week.

Tim Burch explained that it made good sense to join forces, but his aim was to find enough leaders for Fosseway to regain complete independence as soon as possible. Until then, the Troop would be holding its meetings with the Scouts in South Petherton. Mr Burch stressed that the move is only affecting the Scout Troop as the Beavers and Cubs still have enough leaders to stay in Martock. He stated that they still have a busy programme planned for the combined Troop, with plans for everything from camping to caving, or climbing to canoeing and rafting. Having a bigger Troop means that many more opportunities can be offered to the Scouts, but it needs a correspondingly larger pool of adults to support it. Like everything in Scouting, the more support there is, the better it will work. Mr Burch said that they are always looking for more leaders and non-uniform helpers. Anyone wishing to volunteer does not need any special skills – though there is a full training programme and job-sharing is an option. Anyone interested can email [fossewayscouts@porcupine.org.uk](mailto:fossewayscouts@porcupine.org.uk) for more information.

### **AFRICAN DRUMMING CLASS**

A new friendly and relaxed class teaching West Africa Djembe drums at Stoke Working Men's Club on alternate Fridays lunchtimes, from 12 noon to 2pm. The cost is £8 per session and drums are available to borrow. All club members are welcome and new members can join on the first session. The dates are: 12th Jan, 26th Jan, 9th Feb and 23rd Feb. Why not try something new? You might just love it! You've seen us at the May Fayre - now you can join us. See Organic Rhythms on Facebook for more information.

### **RINGING REMEMBERS CAMPAIGN**

Scores of bell ringers will be recruited to help commemorate 100 years since the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War in 1918. On 11 November 1918 the ringing of church bells erupted spontaneously across the country, as an outpouring of relief that four years of war had come to an end.

On Armistice Day 2018, it is planned that bells will ring out in unison from churches and cathedrals in villages, towns and cities across the country and Big Ben will also strike at 11am to mark the centenary of Armistice Day. The campaign **RINGING REMEMBERS** will recruit a total of 1,400 bell ringers for the event – the same number that lost their lives during the conflict.

In our village of Stoke sub Hamdon, the bell ringer who died in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War was called George Ralph and he died on the Somme in 1916.

Would you like to ring for the Armistice in Stoke in 2018, remembering George Ralph and all the Stoke men who died in the War? To be able to ring next November, you need to start learning **NOW**. If you are interested or would like to know more, please contact Angie Hodges on 01935 823928

### **YOUNG PEOPLE'S MUSIC FESTIVAL, HAMDON COMMUNITY PROJECT**

Saturday, 3rd February at 7pm. Come and listen to young people showcasing their musical ability in a free concert. For further details please call Alan on 01935 579730. Any young musicians (under18) who would like to take part call Alan as soon as possible

### **VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP**

The village Artists welcome Pen and Wash artist and teacher Josephine Hamilton to a workshop on Saturday February 3rd between 10am - 4pm. For all inquiries telephone Diana on 01935 881647. The workshop is open to non-members, please telephone Diana to book. Would you like to join us? Are you interested in Art or just wanting to take up a relaxing hobby? Please feel free to drop in for a chat and a coffee to see what we are all about. We are a small friendly informal group who meet in the Memorial Hall on Monday and Friday mornings between 10am – 12pm, and on Thursday evenings between 7.30 - 9pm. You can attend any number of sessions for just £20 per term. Why not call in? All abilities are welcome.

If you are interested you can find out more by visiting our website [www.yeovilarts.co.uk/villageartists/index.html](http://www.yeovilarts.co.uk/villageartists/index.html), or visit our new Facebook page - The Village Artists Group Stoke-sub-Hamdon or just come along for a trial session. For more information please contact Diana on 01935 881647.

### **PILATES CLASSES**

Join Kate Ronaldson, who is a Certified APPI Pilates Instructor, Level 5 Sport and Remedial Massage and RGN.

Sessions are held on Mondays at Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall and restarts on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Beginners: 17:30-18:15; For the Less Active: 18:25-19:10 and; Mixed Ability: 19:20-20:05. Pilates helps to alleviate pain, aches and tension, improves posture and body awareness, increased muscle tone and strength, endurance of core postural muscles, back problems; can minimise recurrent episodes, improved balance, improved mobility in all joints including spine, pelvic and shoulder stability, maintains and can increase bone density, improved pelvic floor function, relaxation, more efficient digestion and enhanced immune system. For more information contact Kate on Mobile: 07974029559, E-mail: kateronaldson@hotmail.com

### **TRADITIONAL JAZZ NIGHT**

Trad Jazz night featuring the Wriggle Valley Jazz Band at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6PZ on Saturday, 3 March 2018. The doors open from 6.30pm with performance starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include a Ploughman's supper. Tables of 8 to 10 people available.

To book please ring the Box office 01935 824784 weekdays 9am - 5pm only. Answerphone - please leave message, we will get back to you

### **SOMERSET SIGHT**

Happily, the Somerset Sight van is calling at the Memorial Hall car park on the following days in 2018:

15<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 11<sup>th</sup> June, 25<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### *January*

2<sup>nd</sup> Stoke Active Walkers  
15<sup>th</sup> Somerset Sight

#### *February*

3<sup>rd</sup> Village Artist Group Pen & Wash Workshop  
3<sup>rd</sup> Young People's Festival

#### *March*

1<sup>st</sup> Somerset Sight  
3<sup>rd</sup> Traditional Jazz Night