

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

The last few weeks have been marked by two great events for the village. Firstly, our celebrated annual May Fayre organised by the Sports & Rec Trust on the Bank Holiday Monday. Well it was AMAZING, wasn't it! We were blessed with a wonderfully hot sunny day, with masses of people attending from many villages around Stoke, and the Trust raised, I am given to understand, the largest amount of money ever taken. The day was packed with great events, fantastic food stalls, demonstrations and competitions, and things to see, do and experience for young and old alike. Huge thanks to Denise Burton and all the wonderful volunteers in the village who worked so hard over many months to make the day such a success and run so smoothly. You really did our village proud that day!

Secondly, (despite the weather!) we had a great 'Right Royal Do' celebrating the Queen's 90th birthday on Sunday 12th. Yes, the rain did come down in torrents, especially noticeable for those in the middle of The Right Royal Treasure Hunt!! But, after swimming back to the Memorial Hall, the day turned into a really happy occasion in the Hall with that classic of all British pastimes – an indoor picnic. We were entertained by a lovely selection of 'Royal Birthday Music' from the awesome Stoke Band. We had a very special visit in the guise of a 'Royal Queenly Visitor' on Horseback a.k.a. Crash Evans, one of our Parish Councillors, who gamely wore a stunning red white and blue gown with four inch stilettos, topped by a sparkly tiara over his grey wig, riding Jackie's horse up to the Memorial Hall with great confidence (well we thought so, Crash!). Our Royal Visitor then judged the Royal Cake Competition with much aplomb and munching! Great fun. Everyone shared in all the delicious cakes everyone had made and, as the sun came out, hot and strong, both young and old joined in traditional Party Games and races on the Hall Grounds. We will never forget the sight of our Royal Visitor hitching up his dress to scramble under the assault course netting! We finished up of course with the village tradition of 'Tug of War' between the Blues and Reds! A wonderful day. Thank you to Sue Menzies and Moira Hulett and all the volunteers who organized it all. Great to see everyone getting together and making things happen!

Work is ongoing on the project to put a bid in for the Methodist Church in West Street for a new Youth & Family Centre. We have now been granted pre-approval for our government loan, and are preparing for a bid. We will keep you updated when we have more news to report. In the meantime, the Parish Council have invited the Memorial Hall Committee to meet with us to discuss how we might assist them so that the Hall is used more widely by residents. The more support we can give each other in the village (as evidenced by the above two events) and the more we listen to each other and share ideas, the more successful we can all be.

We were saddened to hear that one of the Ham Hill Rangers has been very badly injured in a car accident recently, and we send his family all our heartfelt wishes. As a result of this, the Witcombe Valley Stream Project due to start this summer will be postponed and reviewed. If you have some spare time and can volunteer to help out the Rangers at this difficult time when they are short of manpower, I know you will be welcomed with open arms. Contact either Mike Wooden at the Friends of Ham Hill on 07795 170271 or Katy Menday at SSDC on katy.menday@southsomerset.gov.uk.

Neil Bloomfield has asked me to point out that in my Chairman's Annual Report I only referred to the 5 new councillors joining the Council last November. Neil did in fact step down in May, and came back in November. Sorry Neil for the 'omission, we didn't see you as new, we are so used to you being around!

The Stoke Working Men's Club have asked the Parish Council for a letter of support, which we are very happy to provide. They are applying for a grant from Avon & Somerset Police for more modern and efficient CCTV equipment which can cover a wider area. This will help deter anti-social behaviour and will be a great help to the police in their enquiries when incidents happen in the High Street or Ham Hill Road, and will be of great benefit to our local community for years to come.

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, 5 July 2016

Our July walk will be a 'Walk in the Park'. We will begin by going along East Stoke, past Stanchester Academy into Montacute; down Station Road and into Montacute Park where we will walk around Montacute Park, then back through Montacute towards Stoke. From there we will go up Hatchcroft Lane and through Hedgecock Woods 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.

STOKE CHARITY SHOP

The Stoke Charity Shop continues to do well and we already have lots of stock and great bargains for the Autumn and this is simply due to the amazing generosity of the people in the village. April was a very successful month and the monthly takings, which included the Fashion Show were £2,586.04. This is only possible with the work of the lovely band of volunteers and all those who support the shop. The money raised is for the village, so if you have an organisation, group or project that would benefit from a shop grant please contact Jane Baker on 825585 for a grant application form.

We say this often but it is always worth repeating - we couldn't do it without you! Thank you all for supporting us!

PAVEMENT WEEDING AND SWEEPING

Thank you to whoever cleared all the weeds from the pavement in North Street by The Priory and swept it beautifully all before the May Fayre.

Our village would look much tidier if everyone did their bit – how about a 'Pavement Sweeping Day' next may to "smarten up" for all our visitors that day. Dru Perry

THE RIGHT ROYAL DO

What fun we all had between the showers and it was all free! Thank you so much to the few who organised it all so well. Thank you to those that manned the gazebos and organised the games. Great fun was had by all.

One mustn't forget The Queen who arrived in all her glory on horseback. A splendid day. Thank you to one and all. Dru Perry

SPORT50

Free sports activities for 50+ year olds from 15 June to 6 July on Wednesdays 2pm – 4pm at the Memorial Hall. Adapted sports include New Age Kurling, Seated Volleyball, Boccia, Table Tennis, Walking Rounders, Walking Football and Badminton. Come along and join us for fun and games. You will get the chance to meet new people while trying different activities. For more information contact Sam Wenden-de-Lira on either 01935 462346; sam.wendren-de-lira@southsomerset.gov.uk or www.southsomerset.gov.uk/sport50

STOKE SUB HAMDON MAY FAYRE

We would like to thank everyone who came along to our annual May Fayre and hope you all had a fabulous time. We are still in the process of finalising the amount of money raised but are sure that this was our most successful May Fayre ever!

There are so many people to thank who make this event the success it is every year. We are extremely grateful to Castle Primary School, Stoke Band, Minster Vets, Sutton Household, Desert Divas, Andrew Wiggins (Punch and Judy), the Dance Factory, Yeovil Ukulele Club, Kuk Sool Wan Korean Martial Arts and Organic Rhythm for providing such great entertainment and also to Brendan and Karen Pang (Curry Bar), and the Working Men's Club and the Fleur de Lis for keeping us fed and watered. We are also incredibly appreciate to the National Trust for providing use of the Priory grounds, the Parish Council for sponsoring our programme and organising the grass cutting, those organisations who kindly donate raffle prizes and those who advertise in our programme, our stallholders, Dave Stidson for doing such a great job as 'Master of Ceremonies, to Bruce Trigger in his role as Town crier, and to Rob Hebditch who so kindly provides us with use of his field for parking as well as the beef and potatoes for the Curry Bar.

Of course we couldn't possibly hold this event without everyone who helps out during the year and on the day including members of our Committee, those of you who bake us such delicious cakes, sell our pasties and rolls, run the kitchen, organise our barbecue, and also our experts at directing stallholders and traffic. The list is endless and we couldn't manage without any of you – we are so grateful for all your help.

We look forward to seeing you all again next year! Denise Burton, May Fayre Committee

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

By now you should have received a copy of the Schedule and Entry form for the Stoke sub Hamdon Flower, Produce and Craft Show to be held on Saturday 6 August (if not, please contact either Tricia or Sue to request copies - details as below). The Committee and members of the Garden Club are indebted to Orchards Estates who have very kindly sponsored the printing of the schedules and entry forms.

Entries can be left at The Shop at The Cross from the 1 July onwards and we hope that we will have a record number of entries for this year's show, particularly from the children of the village. We would remind you that entries close on **Wednesday 3 August**.

The Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome. At our July Wednesday 27 July we will be having a talk on Gardening for Climate Change by a Gold Club Speaker from The Gardens Group which includes Brimsmore Garden Centre 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.

150TH 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 4th 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 3rd from 10am to 3pm and on Sunday 4th 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 150th anniversary of the church. Please contact either Carol Parker on 825393 or Norman Patch on 822792.

MEMORIAL HALL

QUESTION: WHO OWNS THE MEMORIAL HALL? ANSWER: YOU!

The Hall is owned by ALL the parishioners of Stoke sub Hamdon. The Parish Council are the Holding (or Custodian) Trustees but the Hall is run on a day-to-day basis by a Management Committee of Trustees of which I am currently the Chairman. This Committee

runs the Hall on your behalf, for your benefit and with the intention of keeping the Hall available to all you villagers who wish to use it. As this is YOUR Hall everyone in the village has a stake in its future, and everyone can have a part in that future.

The present committee consist of 9 members, but could and should be larger. The existing committee is too small to provide the range of expertise, ideas and attention the Hall requires. If you look at the list of village organisations on the back page of this newsletter you will have an idea of how many groups ought to have a representative on the Committee. This especially applies to those groups which use the Hall, whether on a regular basis or only occasionally, though being a Hall user is not a requirement to having a representative of your organisation on the Committee. Anyone who feels they can be useful is welcome.

The Hall is 40 years old and is in need of lots of TLC. Without more help, from more income, more Committee members with new ideas, more volunteers, more funding, the fabric of the building will deteriorate.

Or if you feel unable to commit to joining the Committee but are still concerned enough to wish to help, we are considering starting a "FRIENDS OF THE MEMORIAL HALL" group. This will be an informal list of those who are willing to help out with odd jobs, cleaning, decorating etc., as and when required.

If you can spare a little time to put towards the future of YOUR village hall, and are interested in joining us either on the Committee or as a "Friend", please contact me Clare Sampson on 01935 823669 or email: sampsonsatt@btinternet.com

CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL SUMMER FAYRE

Friday 1 July, 2 – 4pm. Come and join the fun at Castle Primary School's Summer Fayre. There will be lots to see and do including: Coconut Shy, Penalty Shootout, Name the Teddy, tombola, Guess the Weight of the Cake, bouncy castle, stalls, raffle and refreshments.

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

FOR THE VILLAGE, BY THE VILLAGE EVENT

Stoke sub Hamdon proudly presents

'And Grandsire Went Wrong'

An historical village mystery! Will be held in The Priory Tithe Barn (NT) in Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6QP. Performances are on Friday 1 July and Saturday 2 July - bring your own picnic from 6pm, the performance is at 7.30pm and; Sunday 3 July 2016 - bring your own picnic from 12 noon, the performance is at 2.00pm. Bar, Soft Drinks and Snacks are available.

'And Grandsire Went Wrong' is a play written by local author Angela Hodges, originally devised for radio but now adapted for the stage. The play's plot centres on a group of present day bell ringers who meet weekly in the church at Stoke sub Hamdon for bell ringing practice and the discovery by one of their members, of a set of initials 'GR', carved into the stone of the bell tower. This discovery sparks an investigation by 'Tricia' who manages to find out that mystery initials belonged to a local resident, George Ralph who lived in the village in the early twentieth century. The story then unfolds into one that through the telling of George's story of growing up in Stoke, then going off to the Battle of the Somme in the

Great War as a young man, cleverly links the present day bell ringers to the ghosts of the past, in more ways than they had ever imagined!

The performances will place in the Priory tithe barn (NT) in Stoke sub Hamdon (to coincide with the first day of the Battle of the Somme 1916). They will be held on the evenings of Friday 1, Saturday 2 July and a Sunday matinee 3 July 2016, incorporating a pre-performance picnic, in the Priory grounds whilst listening to wartime songs from the Stoke sub Hamdon Silver Band. Tickets £10.00, Concessions £8.00. Box Office 01935 824784 weekdays 9-5 only or email: info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk (not really suitable for children under 10 years old). Find us on www.stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk and join us on Facebook

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Further information from Youth Worker Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk and also on Facebook @Community Youth Project

DIARY OF EVENTS:

July

1st Castle School Summer Fayre
5th Stoke Active Walkers
1st, 2nd, 3rd 'And Grandsire Went Wrong'
11th Walking for Health
15th Walking for Health
27 Garden Club talk 'Gardening for Climate Change'

August

6th Flower, Produce & Craft Show
22nd Somerset Sight

September

3rd & 4th Exhibition of Church Memorabilia and Photographs - URC

November

12th Marie Curie Christmas Market