

PARISH COUNCIL

Newsletter Deliveries

A plea of help was put in the November issue asking for volunteers to help deliver the newsletters and I would like to thank those of you who have kindly offered your services.

However, we still don't have anyone to deliver the newsletters in North Street. Would you be willing to help and have half an hour to spare once a month? Do you live in North Street or nearby? Then please get in touch; we would appreciate your help.

For more information contact Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk on 822455 or email clerkssphc@hotmail.co.uk

Chair's Update

We were very pleased to welcome a new parish councillor, Andy Dawe, last month. Andy lives at The Old Vicarage in East Stoke and brings strong business skills to our team, which is now up to full strength.

The new Youth Centre is on its way! I am delighted to report that our bid for the closed Methodist Church in West Street has finally been accepted and approved by the Church's Trustees, paving the way for a new community Youth Centre for our village. This is the first ever successful Community Right to Bid in South Somerset since the legislation was introduced in 2012, only 1 of 11 in the UK, and is a tremendous achievement for our village, and something we can all very proud of. A real example of people power! We were interviewed on Friday 17th February on BBC Somerset radio by Matt Faulkner – you can catch it on BBC IPlayer for 30 days. Work has now started on the legal processes of title transfer which will probably take about 2 months.

The reason it has taken so long to get approval since our bid last June is because we are buying the church for £130,000 which is lower than the value given in the surveyor's report. Under charity law, the Church can only sell at under market value in very exceptional circumstances, and Trustees had to go through a tough audit and evaluation process before being able to say yes.

We are going to use the remaining £20,000 from our funds together with some additional community funding to bring the building up to current public building requirements, and to give it a fresh look. This will involve a new kitchen area, extra toilets and disabled access etc. A recent survey revealed that the building is in good condition needing just some tender loving care which you would expect from a building that hasn't been used much over the last 5 years. We'll also be doing some fund-raising for extra facilities and decoration. All the kids are very excited about the news and it's great to see their enthusiasm. Both the Hamdon Youth Group and the Brownies and Guides have already started thinking about how they can help on fund-raising! (Want to help in this? See below).

The Centre will be run by a charitable trust made up of youth group users, parish councillors and residents - a community facility run by the village, for the village. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for our village. It has been great having residents and councillors working alongside each other in our Working Party, and we look forward to lots more of this.

Once the property becomes ours, we will arrange an Open Afternoon for you all to come and see it (at the "before" stage!) and later on once we've done the key works we will have an official Opening Ceremony with a Fete etc. Want to help us and get involved in the setting up of the Centre? Your practical and fundraising skills, enthusiasm etc. will be warmly welcomed! Contact details below.

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; 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. 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, 7th March 2017

This will be our spring walk to Pitt Pond by kind permission of Jack and Carol Parker. We start by going along Bowey and up to The Monument. From there we will follow the footpath to Batemore Barn and down to Pitt Pond. We will spend time having a good look around Pitt Pond and then follow the footpath across the field to Batemore 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.

THE TRIANGLE TRUST

The Annual General meeting of the Trust took place in The Reading Room, Norton sub Hamdon on Wednesday 25th of January. This was the first time the AGM had been held away from the Medical Centre and it was extremely well attended. It was particularly good to welcome Dave Phillips to the meeting; Dave was one of the founding trustees in when the charity was set up in 1990.

It was suggested in future years the AGM will take place in villages covered by the practice. The Secretary explained what the Trust had achieved during the past year and Peter Callaghan was able to give an up to date report on how the 25th Anniversary Appeal was proceeding. If there are any patients who would like to support the Appeal and may have lost their forms, please do ask at the medical reception where they have some spare forms. The Trustees and Committee do thank everyone who continues to support the workings of The Triangle Trust and they will be announcing their forthcoming fund raising events during the coming year.

THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

Are you interested in Art or just wanting to take up a relaxing hobby? We are a small friendly group who meet in the Memorial Hall on Monday and Friday mornings between 10am – 12pm and Thursday evenings between 7 - 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, 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.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

If you enjoy walking or would like to start walking with other people, then a warm welcome awaits you on the following walks, which are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month. The walks start and end at the Lighthouse café in Stoke sub Hamdon.

Every Step Counts starts at 9.30 am and is a 30 to 40 minute walk around the village, with drinks available at the Lighthouse after the walk.

Health Walks begin at 10.30am and the walks last 1.5 hours. Lunches and drinks are available after the walk.

March dates 13th and 27th.

Please contact Walk Leaders, Penny on 822208 or at pennyatrapnell@aol.com

Mark and Jane on 07496 148756 or Anne on 826256 if you would like any more information.

SPRING JUMBLE SALE

There will be spring jumble sale at Norton sub Hamdon village hall on Saturday, March 11th. Doors open at 11am and the admission is 30p. All the usual stalls and more. Loads of

bargains, refreshments and a raffle. All proceeds to Hall funds. For more information contact Jennie on 01935 881718.

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Following the great 'sell out' success of last year's – 'And Grandsire Went Wrong', Stoke Performing Arts Group are pleased to announce they will be performing a 'pre-loved village comedy' called 'The Charity Shop', at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PZ. This is a brand new play written by our own talented local author Angela Hodges.

Performance dates: Thursday 30th March, Friday 31st March and Saturday 1st April 2017
Doors open from 6.30pm; performance 7.30pm. Tickets £8.00; Concessions £7.00. Please book your tickets in advance by ring the Box Office 01935 824784 weekdays 9-5 only (if answer phone leave you telephone number and we will ring back) or email: info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

(not really suitable for children under 10 years old)

We would like to thank The Stoke sub Hamdon Charity Shop who have been brilliantly supportive. There will be stock items available for purchase before and after the performance.

There is also a Bar, Soft Drinks and Snacks available from 6.30pm

SPAG Core Team

www.stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk. info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

ROTARY CHARITY TEA PARTY IN AID OF POLIO PLUS

The Rotary club of Yeo Vale invite you to join them for Tea/Coffee and a slice of cake for £3.50 on International Women's Day (I.W.D.) Wednesday 8th March at the Light House Coffee Shop, West Street, Stoke sub Hamdon. 2.30 - 5.30. Look forward to seeing you.

MEMORIAL HALL

YOUR MEMORIAL HALL NEEDS YOU!

Are you familiar with simple accounting? Do you have a few hours a week spare?

The Memorial Hall is seeking a new Treasurer. The task involves sending out invoices, banking cheques, paying bills, and preparing a monthly account of comings & goings to present at committee meetings. Also summarising the "end of year" accounts for examination.

If you can spare the time to help keep the Hall open and viable I would love to hear from you. You can telephone me on 01935 823669 or email on sampsonsattt@btinternet.com.

Clare Sampson - Chairman of Management Committee

P.S. We always have space for new members to join us, especially if you are a member of one of those organisations or groups listed on the back of this Newsletter. Contact me!

CHURCH NOTICES

March 1st 6.30 p.m. - Ash Wednesday - a service to mark the start of Lent will be held at the United Reformed Church at 6.30 p.m.

March 3rd 10.30 a.m. – Women's World Day of Prayer - a service for all (including men!) at All Saints Hall, written by women from the churches in Philippines

Benefice Administrator

The Ham Hill Villages Benefice (7 parishes including Stoke) have a vacancy for an Administrator. The person appointed will work 4 hours a week (possibly across 2 days), and will need good secretarial and person skills. For more details are available from Rev Annie Gurner (01935 824167 or email: revgurner@btinternet.com). Applications by March 20 to Annie.

At Norton, Chiselborough, West & Middle Chinnock

During Lent and Easter there will also be some other special services. A poster with all the Worship Services in the 7 Parishes across the Ham Hill Churches is posted at all the churches and outside All Saints Hall (the Lighthouse Coffee Shop).each month.

HAM HILL COUNTRY PARK EVENTS

All events can be booked online at www.southsomersetcountryside.com or by phone 01935 462282

Saturday, 25th March - Mother's Crafts - between 10am – 12 Noon. Woodland craft gifts – using materials on site. Make a personalised handmade gift for your mum or special family member. Bring a photo of you with your family and make a picture frame from wood. You can also make jewellery from clay and a card with your gift.

Booking is required and the cost is £5.00 per child. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Accompanying adult free. Max 15

Tuesday 11th April - The Eggathon – between 10.00am – 12.00 Noon. How eggciting! This is a real Easter Eggstravaganza of traditional egg games. We will start by painting our eggs and decorating them. Then we will take part in an egg rolling competition; will your egg roll the furthest? And egg rolling races where you push your egg along a track with a hazel stick and finish with a good old Easter egg hunt. There might even be some chocolate ones!

Booking is required and the cost is £5.00. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult, accompanying adult free. Max 24

DIARY OF EVENTS:

March

7 th	Stoke Active Walkers
8 th	Rotary Charity Tea Party
11 th	Jumble Sale
13 th	Walking for Health
14 th	Charity Shop AGM
27 th	Walking for Health
30 th & 31 st	SPAG – 'The Charity Shop'

April

1 st	SPAG – 'The Charity Shop'
24 th	Memorial Hall AGM