

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

Methodist Church sale

We had a well-attended second public consultation meeting on the proposal for the Parish Council to bid for the Church and use it for a Youth and Family Centre. It was good to have lots of questions and comments. The vote at the end was a majority vote in favour of making a bid.

Over the two meetings total voting was as follows:

In principle, should we make a bid? 65 were in favour, and 7 were against

If buying means raising council tax for a Band D property by £13.90 a year to fund the purchase, should we bid? 60 were in favour, and 21 were against

Residents should note that 72% of houses in Stoke actually pay less than Band D. (We have to quote Band D rates by law).

The next stage in the process is to complete the drafting of a Business Case to support the Public Works Loan Board for pre-approval for a loan, and to continue with our grant funding applications to SSDC for a Community Grant, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Village SOS. Several residents have told us that they would like to give a donation for the purchase and so we are circulating with this newsletter a Pledge Form to all households. We don't want any money at this stage please, just an indication of what we might raise in the village for the purchase, so that we can plan better. And thank you in advance!

Dog bins

These have now arrived, and will soon be installed. One will be at East Stoke by Hedgecock Lane and the other at the Memorial Hall at the edge of the drive into the car park, easy for dog walkers walking along the High Street and West Street. Please use them and keep our streets clean!

Volunteer Awards Ceremony

I am afraid we have had a lot of negative feedback about this initiative: people have felt that it would be unfair to reward one volunteer over another, and several people said that many volunteers did not want to come into the spotlight at a public ceremony. Added to this we have only had less than a handful of nominations. So at our meeting on the 12th we took the very difficult decision to cancel the event. However, Councillors would like to take this opportunity to say a huge "thank you" to all those people in the village who over many years have quietly given their time, energy and commitment to helping others, and our community. You are so very valued and we salute your kindness.

Noticeboard

Our new large noticeboard has now been delivered and installed in the Memorial Hall Grounds by the layby. We have sited it just the other side of the wall to make it easy for you to read items while standing on the pavement. Residents will be pleased to see that there is now a dedicated "Local Organisations" section where event posters etc. can be placed. Please contact Sarah Moore our Parish Clerk if you want to put something up. The existing noticeboard by the old Post Office will now be taken down, repaired and refurbished and put up by the Co-op in East Stoke.

Stoke Performing Arts Group

We were pleased to award a grant of £400 to SPAG for the purchase of a Community Projection system. The purchase is also being jointly funded by the

Sports & Recreation Trust. This multi-media system will allow photographs and film footage to be shown at SPAG's performance of 'And Grandsire Went Wrong' in July. The system will also be available in future for other village groups to borrow for all sorts of uses - cinema nights, presentations, fashion shows, race nights and sing-along shows like the Sound of Music last year. A great idea and one which we are pleased to support.

May Fayre

We were pleased to agree a grant of £490 towards the cost of printing of the programme for the May Fayre, which will be held on the Bank Holiday 30 May.

Village Ground Maintenance

Following a tender process, we have awarded a contract to Garden Farm & Country Services for the next 9 months. A new 3 year contract, based on quality performance standards, will be introduced at the beginning of 2017 following tenders.

Contact details below.

Barbara Brooks

Chair of the Parish Council

chairsshpc@hotmail.com

Tamarisk, High St (opp Working Mens Club)

DOGS

The Parish Council have recently received a complaint about the amount of dogs' mess not being picked up and disposed of appropriately around the village and unfortunately it is only a minority of irresponsible dog owners who do not clear up after their pets. It is in the owner's best interest to do this because if caught there can be a fine of up to £1,000. The Parish Council have purchased two new dogs bins which we hope will help to alleviate some of the problem.

However, should you see anyone acting irresponsibly the Dog Warden has asked if residents could report any incidents directly to her so that they can be dealt with. All calls are confidential and dealt with anonymously. Please contact Lynette Osment at South Somerset District Council on 01935 462462.

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, 3rd May 2016

To start our May walk we will go out to East Stoke and up Lake Lane; along Long Ground then follow the footpath around the front of the Quarry Works and across the ridge to Batemore Barn. We will then go across the field to Ladies Walk and around the back of Abbey Farm, around the bottom of St Michael's Tower and up through Hatchcroft Woods, then through Double Ditch back to 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.

THANK YOU

Anthea Davidson would very much like to thank all the lovely people of Stoke for their wonderful support after the loss of Gordon. To everyone who sent sympathy cards or otherwise offered their condolences, thank you so much. It was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to Stoke Band who played carols outside our house just before Christmas, Gordon very much enjoyed that. Warm regards, the Davidson family

VILLAGE ARTISTS

The Village Artists are once again hosting a full day workshop on Saturday, 21 May between 10am - 3.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Stoke where we will be hoping to produce a 'masterpiece' in watercolour with the help of the well-known and award winning artist Paul Weaver; non-members may participate but a basic knowledge of watercolour painting would be useful. Basically, we will look at buildings with or without people in the scene. This will be a great tutorial and, further information is available via a phone call to me at the number given below. Cost: Members £20; non-members £25. Lee Allen. 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*

DAMAGE TO THE MEMORIAL HALL

In February this year the guttering and downpipes on the Memorial hall were renewed, and a damaged double-glazed window unit replaced. The Trustees of the Hall are disappointed to have to report that one of the new downpipes has already been damaged by footballs being kicked against it and the new window unit has several football imprints on it.

May we ask that parents discourage their children from using the Hall wall for football practise and instead use the ample space available on the recreation ground.

MEMORIAL HALL AGM

The Memorial Hall is holding its AGM on Wednesday 4 May at 7.15pm in the Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The current Committee of Trustees is looking for new members to join us. We hold about 6 meetings and 1 or 2 fund-raising events throughout the year, so nothing too onerous. There is absolutely NO financial commitment or liability to being a Trustee. We just need new blood with new ideas to help keep this valuable asset accessible to all in the village.

Come along and meet the existing Committee on 4 May. We look forward to seeing you there.

THANK YOU

Thank you very much for all the sympathy cards and messages of condolence from all our family and friends after the loss of Stuart. Your kind words and support meant a great deal to me and I just wanted to say thank you. Janet Rose

STOKE SUB HAMDON MAY FAYRE – 30 MAY 2015

Come and join us on Monday, 30 May 2015 for our annual May Fayre from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm in the grounds of the National Trust Priory and the Memorial Hall and grounds (refreshments available in the hall from 11 am).

Entertainment includes our family favourites but this year we will be joined by Yeovil Ukulele Club, Yeovil Traditional Korean Martial Arts and Yeovil Street Dancers as well as other surprises! Our Working Men's Club will be running the bar again and there will be plenty of food available to keep you going during the day, plus a whole host of different stalls where you can browse and shop.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day and so if you are able to spare a couple of hours we would really welcome your help. Offers to bake us a cake would also be greatly appreciated by those running the kitchen – we were so busy last year than we ran out mid-afternoon, so we really would be grateful for your lovely contributions!

Please look out for the May Fayre Programme - your personal entertainment guide for a great day out. We very much look forward to welcoming you to our Fayre.

For more information, or if you would like to volunteer or bake us a cake, please call Denise on 01935 827793 or 07788 900672.

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.

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.

TAI CHI

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

POP-IN PROGRAMME

May	5	Bingo
	12	Beating the Bounds - Illustrated talk by Brian Wright followed by raffle
	19	Possible visit to Garden Centre
	26	Talk by Nina Carlisle
June	2	Airs & Graces. Trade Table

With summer nearly here (hopefully) we would really like some extra help with the tea rota to reduce the weight on some of our more elderly helpers. It would just be for an hour on a Thursday afternoon from 3 pm passing tea and cakes round and helping with the washing up. Although we meet weekly if someone could just do one week in a month it would be a great help. Thank you.

Contact Paul Spearman (01935 826375) or Jennifer Kerr (01935 882609)

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

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Hamdon Youth Group, whilst still without a permanent home, is kindly being made welcome for our Monday club in the Skittle Alley of the Fleur de Lis in Stoke. In May there will be no Youth Club on the two Bank holidays but the programme will be May 9 - Sports/Drugs, 16 - Open Session, 23 - Arts and Crafts.

In Norton the Outreach Cafe at the Village Hall will be open on May 4 and 18 offering a warm welcome to chat and have a cuppa and on the alternate weeks in the same place are the very active Youth Voice meetings (11 and 25 May) when young people

can bring their concerns about issues concerning them in the villages and to plan events.

The Club, Cafe and Youth Voice meetings are all open to young people from both villages in Year 6 and above and start at 7pm. Further information from Youth Worker Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk and also on Facebook @Community Youth Project

SOMERSET SIGHT

The Somerset Sight mobile unit will be visiting the village on Mondays May 16 and August 22 when it will be in the Memorial Hall car park in the afternoons from 1.30 - 3.30pm. If you have vision problems, do visit this very useful facility.

CHURCH ROOF

Although we had hoped to start the work on the church roof in February we planned without taking account of the bats! It now seems that we have to wait until October - when they will be asleep again. We are obviously disappointed about this delay.

HAM HILL VILLAGES (HHV)

We are getting closer to formally creating a single benefice of the seven villages that surround Ham Hill (i.e. *the parishes of Chiselborough, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, Norton sub Hamdon, Odcombe, Stoke sub Hamdon, and West Chinnock*). What this will mean is that we will be working more closely with our neighbouring churches in the other parishes. Already St Mary's meets once a month with St Catherine's in Montacute and the Baptist Church in Montacute for a joint service, which moves around the 3 churches, on a 3rd Sunday evening.

We are anticipating that the formal consultation on creating the HHV benefice will start soon.

During May we will be holding a special service on Ham Hill (at the Toposcope near the War memorial) on Ascension Day (Thursday May 5th at 7.00 p.m.) for all the local churches - and everyone is welcome.

Peter Thomas

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS – MAY

Yeovil Country Park

Saturday 7th Dawn Chorus Walk

Tuesday 31st Fairy Tale Trail

Chard Reservoir

Tuesday 31st Beautiful Birds

DIARY OF EVENTS:

May

3 rd	Stoke Active Walkers
4 th	Memorial Hall Committee AGM
9 th	Walking for Health
16 th	Somerset Sight
21 st	Village Artist Workshop
23 rd	Walking for Health
30 th	May Fayre

June

4th

Volunteer Awards

12th

Queen's 90th Birthday Celebration

August

6th

Flower, Produce & Craft Show

22nd

Somerset Sight