

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

At our meeting on 5 April we were pleased to award an additional grant of £1,000 to the Memorial Hall Trustees towards roof repairs.

West Street Planning Application

We have now submitted our formal response to the District Council. We stated that it was important that house construction materials should be in keeping with the village character as evidenced by our formal Survey; that the known sewage and drainage problems in West Street need to be sorted; that parking allocations on the site should not be reduced so pushing parking on to West Street; that the 10 affordable housing should contain some 2 bedroomed houses to help young people; and that contributions should be sought from the developer towards community hall facilities, and sports and recreation facilities. Subject to that we had no objection in principle to outline planning permission. We are of course only a consultee just like residents; we have no input into the planning decision process. District planners will make a decision in due course. You can find our full response pinned up on the Parish Noticeboard.

Planning Decisions

The application by Vodafone /O2 for the installation of a 20 metre column at East Stoke near Stanchester has been refused by the District Council, due to some adjacent trees being protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

Annual Parish Meeting

We had a very well attended Annual Parish Meeting on the 18th April. Residents put forward several ideas, including ways of keeping our village looking cleaner and tidier. They also asked us to consider holding an annual event like a 'Bring a Neighbour' Harvest Supper, aimed at those who may not often have the chance to get out to social events and make friends. All of the 18 clubs attending gave brief presentations on their activities in the past year and it is fair to say that all of us learned something new about each other! Wine and light refreshments were served, and it was good to see the colourful display tables. A really good networking event and bringing parish council and villagers together as part of joint planning for the benefit of all.

Official Stoke sub Hamdon Facebook Page

Did you know that our village now has an official Facebook page, managed by a number of the various organisations like the Sports & Recreation Trust, Parish Council, Charity Shop, Stoke Performing Arts Group etc.? You can find it by searching in Facebook for "Stoke sub Hamdon @stokeunderham". There has been some confusion with two other Facebook pages with similar names – these have no direct connection with the village and may not contain wholly accurate information. But only ours is the genuine one!

Charity Shop Play

Huge thanks to the Stoke Performing Arts Group who gave us 3 most enjoyable productions of Angela Hodge's play "The Charity Shop" at the end of March in the Memorial Hall. The event was a brilliant example of what can be achieved when organisations work together in Stoke – SPAG in producing the play, the Parish Council for funding the cost of the rehearsals, the Memorial Hall for throwing open its doors, the Bowls Club, Little Fishes and Village Artists for forgoing their meetings so the play could take place, and of course, the Charity Shop! A great credit to all those who worked so hard to entertain us – it was a real laugh and we can't wait for the next one!

Chair's Update

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

LITTER PICK:

The Parish Council are organising a litter pick for Saturday, 13 May. Please come and support us in keeping our village clean and tidy. We will be meeting at 10am at the Memorial Hall. Any children wishing to help out must be accompanied by an adult. All

equipment including hi-viz waistcoats will be provided. We have not held a litter pick since 2015 when we had a good turnout of volunteers. Please support us once again so that we can get everything looking nice for the May Fayre and the summer months. For more information please contact the Parish Clerk, Sarah Moore on 01935 822455.

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, 2 May 2017

To start our walk today we will go out through East Stoke and up Church Lane to Hedgecock Woods, along to the Quarry Works and follow the ridge along to Batemore Barn. From there we will go down over Ladies Walk then across to Abbey Farm and up the footpath which leads around the bottom of St Michaels Hill, back through Hedgecock Woods and along 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 VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Stoke Village Artists will be at the May Fayre please come and find us and check us out; we'd love to say hello.

Dorset watercolour artist Alison C Board will be demonstrating her painting techniques at the Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on 14 June from 7.30pm-9.30pm. £5 entry fee. Please phone Diana for more info 01935 881647.

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.

May dates 8th and 22th.

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.

STOKE SUB HAMDON MAY FAYRE

Don't forget that our May Fayre takes place on Monday, 29 May 2017 from 11.30 am to 5.00 pm in the grounds of both the National Trust Priory and Memorial Hall. There will be plenty of entertainment for everyone to enjoy on the day, as well as numerous craft and plant stalls

offering you lovely things to buy. Beers, cider and a variety of food will keep you fed and watered.

We are always looking for volunteers to help on the day and would really welcome your support.

All funds raised are to support projects for our local community. Please contact Denise for further information – 01935 827793

MAY FAYRE 29 MAY - CALLING ALL CAKE BAKERS!

Would you like to help on the day in the Memorial Hall kitchen or could you donate a cake? Last year thanks to your help we had a wonderful selection of cakes to sell in our pop up cafe!. There is a rota in the Stoke Charity Shop if you could spare a couple of hours on the day. We're busy from 8am until about 5:30 pm and would love to hear from you. Thanks.

Jill (829513), Penny (822208).

LADIES BOULES GROUP

Now that the Ladies Skittle season comes to an end it's time for us to meet at the Boules Court in the Memorial Hall grounds on Wednesday evenings from 8pm onwards. Bring your favourite tippie (straws or glasses), enjoy good company and learn the great game of Pétanque. First meeting, May 3rd and every dry Wednesday thereafter. All ladies welcome.

Dru 822703

STOKE BAND NEWS

On 20 May Stoke Band are giving a Spring Concert as part of the launch of the Hamdon Community Arts Project. The concert is at the former United Reformed Church in North Street, starting at 7:30pm. There will be the band's usual mix of music and light refreshment and a raffle. The concert will be followed by a retiring collection. Look forward to seeing you there.

Jane Herbert

GARDEN CLUB NEWS

Once again the Gardening Club will stage its annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show at the Memorial Hall and Grounds. This year, the Show is a week earlier than usual and will be held on Saturday 29 July. In order to give everyone the opportunity of sowing their seeds in good time or dusting off their knitting needles, a précis of the schedule is:

Vegetables and Fruit Classes will include: potatoes, runner beans, lettuce, tomatoes, carrots, courgettes, beetroot, herbs, onions, cucumber, longest runner bean, rhubarb, etc.,

The Flower Classes remain as last year and;

Home Produce has one or two slight amendments. For those among you who are keen on Handicraft, the classes include: a hand knitted or crocheted item, an article in wood, metal or pottery/ceramic, an article in cross-stitch, tapestry or embroidery, a machine or hand sewn article and a patchwork/quilted article not to exceed 15" x 15".

The two Children's Classes are: A painting or drawing of a tree for the under 8 years old and an imaginary animal made from any NATURAL plant materials (vegetables, fruit, seeds, nuts etc. can be used), no pasta and it must NOT be painted for the 8-11 years old.

The photography Classes include: Pets, A River Scene, Weather Vanes, Weeds and A Musical Theme.

We hope by giving this information early enough we will encourage many of you to enter our event. The Schedule and Entry Form will be circulated with the June Village Newsletter. Should you wish to have a stall at our event, please contact Sylvie Bates on 07877 943362 and she will be happy to send you the relevant booking form.

The Garden Club meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month and visitors can be assured of a warm welcome. At our May 24th meeting, Lara Smith will talk on Growing English Cut Flowers 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.

SINGING FUN DAY

Come and have a 'Fun Day' of singing with professional singer and tutor, Fee Baker B.Mus(Hons) LRSM, Deputy Director of Music of Taunton School, and Mark Cracknell BA. FRSM, Director of Music of Taunton School, on Saturday, May 20th 9.30am to 4.30pm approx. at Norton Village Hall TA14 6SF (plenty of parking). All places to be pre-booked at £15 per person, includes all refreshments. Further information and application forms from Jenny Hillman at d.hillman583@btinternet.com or 01935 881901, or Sue Bow sue.snailshome@btinternet.com or 01935 881550.

Cheques payable to St Margaret's PCC and sent to Mrs J Hillman, Lynchets, Smiths Hill, Middle Chinnock TA18 7PW

All proceeds to St. Margaret's Church, Middle Chinnock

VILLAGE BUNTING

Don't forget! If you are arranging a fete, fair, party or parade, then the village's own bunting is available to borrow Free of Charge. Please contact Clare on 01935 823669 to arrange collection.

THE MEMORIAL HALL SAYS A BIG "THANK YOU" TO THE CO-OP

The Co-Op in East Stoke has awarded the Memorial Hall £1,000 from their Local Community Fund. The Hall was one of 3 local charities chosen to be eligible for this award. The Hall Committee is thrilled to receive this amount; it is way above our expectation.

Thank you also to all Co-Op members whose purchases at the East Stoke store have gone towards this, and to all those Co-Op members who went on-line to vote for the Hall's cause.

The Committee intend to spend this money on new flooring for the Hall's lobby. We then hope to re-decorate the lobby – so Watch This Space – we may be asking for volunteers.

The Hall may be included in the next round of Co-Op funding, so please check out the store for which charitable causes are in line for further funds.

Clare Sampson – Chairman of Management Committee 01935 823669

COME AND JOIN US TO PLAY SCRABBLE

Do you enjoy playing Scrabble? Come along to the Lighthouse on the 3rd Thursday of the month between 10 and 12 am and meet like-minded people, enjoy a drink with a homemade cake and play with other Scrabblers. Please bring your own set and help to keep your mind active. It's just for fun and everyone is welcome. If you are interested please contact Janet Rose on 825501.

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Congratulations to our member, Charlie Main who was recently given the Pride of Somerset Youth Award for his work in the community, not least for our Youth Group. It's great to see our young people growing in this way, and gratifying to read the reviews of other members. These are a few excerpts (with the full comments to be posted on both villages and on the club Facebook page). "Whenever I am at youth club I feel very safe. I'm so glad that I am welcome here and its only 50p!" "The leaders are great and easy to talk to" ". .you can go to relax and have fun..." "Whoever is 10+ should come here if they can."

The Monday club nights: 7:00pm-9:00pm @ The Lighthouse Café are for Years 6 and above and cost 50p.

1st May Healthy food/quiz.

8th May Spring planting

15th May Team games/Trust games.

22nd May Drugs/Alcohol Quizzes.

29th May our young people will be helping at the May Fayre (all day).

For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS:

May

2nd Stoke Active Walkers
6th Hamdon Community Arts Project Open Door/Drop-In Event
8th Walking for Health
13th Litter Pick
20th Singing Fun Day
20th Stoke Band Spring Concert
22nd Walking for Health
29th Stoke May Fayre

June

14th Village Artist Group - Watercolour Demonstration

July

29th Flower, Produce and Craft Show