

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

A very successful "Celebrate Stoke" event took place on Saturday 17 October. The Memorial Hall was bulging at the seams with 28 clubs and organisations taking part, and lots of visitors coming to see what was on offer. A wide range of interests was represented from walking and exercise groups, playgroups for the little ones, Brownies, the two youth clubs, gardening, fishing, football and bowls clubs, the History Group, May Fayre, Sports and Rec Trust, Stoke Band, Village Artists and the new Stoke Performing Arts Group to name just a few of those attending. We were also pleased to see Castle School, the Friends of Ham Hill, St Mary's Church and the Village Agent. Free tea, cakes and savouries were also on offer to soothe tired voices and feed minds! It was a wonderful opportunity to see what leisure facilities are on offer in Stoke, to share ideas and to make new acquaintances.

At our meeting on Tuesday 13 October we agreed the purchase of a second defibrillator to be placed on the outside of the Memorial Hall, and commissioned an electrician to install the two defibrillators. Sixteen people in the village have now signed up to be trained up to use these, and training will take place once we have a date from the training company, probably at the end of the year. At the moment the training list is full, but if you would like to be trained, please let me know and we will put you on the reserve list in case any of the 16 original people have to drop out.

We are also delighted to announce that councillors would like to publicly honour and acknowledge the work that volunteers are doing in our village. We have agreed that Stoke should take part in the Volunteer Awards week, which runs from 1 – 7 June next year. We felt that there are lots of lovely people in our village who volunteer either publicly or privately to help others in times of need, or to offer friendship, practical help or to raise funds for good causes, and many of these go unrecognised. The Parish Council would like to change this and organise and sponsor an Awards ceremony and celebration in the Memorial Hall to be held one evening at the end of the week. There will be lots of categories for you to nominate people for awards, such as "Best Volunteer Under 16", "Supporting The Elderly" "Services To Youth" etc. and we will be carrying out a public consultation for you to decide the categories you would like to have. So as to ensure transparency and fairness, nominations will be judged by someone outside the village. There are several villages and organisations in Somerset that have this sort of event and we will be finding out the best way to do things.

The Parish Council are also exploring the possibility of asking the authorities to create a dedicated cycle route to Yeovil. This would run along one side of the A3088 starting from the junction of the slip road at East Stoke on the south (Montacute) side of the road. This would avoid the twists and turns of the road through Montacute and Odcombe which can be dangerous to cyclists, and would improve road safety for all. We know that many of you cycle into work and we would like to keep you safe! This would clearly be a major project for the relevant authorities, but would fit in well with their cycle path policy which currently comes to the edge of Yeovil. We need to produce evidence of support for such a scheme before we put forward a formal request for consideration, so please, if you or your children cycle, and you think this would be a good idea, please either drop me an email or a note and register your support. If we don't get support, we can't progress this. Contact details below.

Barbara Brooks

Chair of the Parish Council

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, 3 November

Our November walk will take us along East Stoke and up Church Lane, through Hedgecock Woods and up to Batemoor Barn. We will then follow the ridge along to Fairy Land, through Fairy Land and down across Witcombe to follow the lanes back to the Lord Nelson 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.

VILLAGE ARTISTS

Village Artists are pleased to announce a full day workshop with the professional award winning Pastel Artist and teacher, Richard Turner, at The Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon on Saturday 14 November from 10am - 4pm. The cost is: Members £20, non-members £25 and the theme will be Autumn. Richard will begin with a demonstration of a landscape and a still life. Participants are invited to bring good quality landscape reference photos or suitable still life objects and pastels plus the paper, or Richard can supply paper at cost price. Other useful items include a sturdy drawing board, tissues or wipes and clips or tape. The group has a limited store of pastels to lend if necessary. This is an exceptional event and booking is strongly recommended. Please see back page for the contact list.

BROWNIES

In mid-September we went on a great weekend adventure to The Magdalen Centre, near Winsham; with activities such as 'hands on farmers', team building games, orienteering, outdoor cooking and den building a fun weekend was had and the Brownies were able to earn their Environment badge as part of the varied syllabus. A huge thank you to Stoke Recreational Trust for their financial support; to Orchard Estates for the photocopying and; all the individuals' team working which without wouldn't allow this all to happen.

Brownies this term are concentrating on the 'Friends to Animals' and Crime Prevention' badges. We have been looking at fundraising for the local Hedgehog Hogspital, a visit from 2 police sniffer dogs and demonstrations, a tour of Isle Valley veterinary practise, seasonal crafts and traditional songs and games. We have a Gang Show type production of 'Dorothy in Wonderland' to see at Hazelgrove school during half term and a Hamdon District sleepover in November at Fleet Air Arm looking at the Science Interest badge and sleeping under Concorde to look forward to.

Brownies are aged between 7 and 10 years and meet at Castle Primary School hall on Tuesdays between 6pm and 7.15pm during term time.

If you have any girls 6 years+ who are interested in joining, (we have a small waiting list at present so get in early!) or have a skill you can share with the unit for an evening or fancy having fun and volunteering yourself longer term please call Jackie Poole 0777 935 4320 or go online to register yours or your daughters interest.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Service will take place around the Monument on Ham Hill on Sunday, 8 November at 10.45am, where we will be honouring the servicemen and women who have given their lives for our country and for today's servicemen and women who are currently in action and stationed around the world. You are all welcome to come to this poignant service. There is vehicular access available if required.

Jon Moore, Poppy Appeal Organiser

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Wednesday 11 November

There will be a brief Remembrance Day ceremony with one minute's silence at 11.00am on 11 November at the Memorial Stone in front of the Memorial Hall. All welcome.

TAI CHI

Shibashi Tai Chi Class at the Stoke Sub Hamdon Memorial Hall, Wednesdays 5.30-6.30 pm £4 per person. Call Martyn Powell 07717 893 749.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING ON CHRISTMAS DAY THIS YEAR?

We need to know by **Sunday, 15 November 2015** whether you would be interested in coming along to our Christmas Day lunch in the Memorial Hall.

This could be for you if you are someone who:

- is an older member of our community
- is someone of any age who may otherwise be alone at Christmas
- is someone for whom spending Christmas at home this year may be difficult
- is someone who may be unable to get out but would like to be able to have a friendly conversation and connect with others within the community
- is someone who may just want to do something different this year

A three course hot traditional Christmas dinner will be provided with all the trimmings (vegetarian option available). There will be no cooking or washing up involved! Some light-hearted entertainment will be provided in the afternoon should you wish to join in, and there may even be a visit from Santa! Transport can be arranged for those of you who are unable to get to the Memorial Hall independently. Although we do not have a price for the lunch at this stage, we can assure you that the cost will be an affordable amount.

If you feel this is something that you might like to participate in, please contact either Maria on 01935 824064 or Denise on 01935 827793 to discuss in further detail or express your interest. Booking is essential so please do not hesitate to contact us. **However, if more people do not express an interest by 15 November, then sadly it will not be possible for us to hold this event.**

STOKE BAND NEWS

Stoke Band Christmas Concert

The Christmas Concert is on Saturday 12 December in the Memorial Hall. Tickets will cost the same as last year, £6 per person, and will include Christmas pudding and pies. As usual there will be a licensed bar and refreshments. Tickets will be available from Jane & Ralph Herbert on 822402 from 16 November. Hope to see you on the 12th

Jane Herbert

BOXERCISE CLASS

A new Boxercise class is starting on Wednesdays between 6.30 - 7.30pm at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall. The first session is free.

Boxercise is a class using boxing pads and gloves (No Body Contact) to do exercise. The class will be a great workout for those who want to get fit fast at a fun and sociable class. For more details contact Martyn on 07717 893 749.

POP- IN ACORN

Programme

November	5	Boccia
	12	Chat & tea
	19	Christmas Traditions in Europe by Mrs Aileen Hase
	26	Christmas Quiz by John
December	3	Amanda & Choi

For more information contact Jennifer Kerr 01935 882609

COFFEE & CAKES IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

Please join us in the Memorial Hall for Coffee & Cake on Saturday 7 November from 10.00am - 1.00pm. This year we have Craft Stalls as well as Phoenix Cards for sale, so you can start your Christmas shopping very early. Donations of cakes will be welcome. All in aid of CLIC - Children's Cancer Charity and the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall. We look forward to seeing you all there.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

Can there be anything nicer than walking and talking and appreciating the beautiful autumnal colours around Stoke? 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.

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 uses, 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,

ST MARY'S CHURCH

All Souls' Day

The month starts with our special annual 'All Souls' Day' service at 6.00pm on Monday 2 November. In this reflective service we invite you to come along to remember with thanksgiving your family members/friends who have died, particularly in the past year. All are welcome.

Remembrance Service

On November 8 the community Remembrance Service at 10.55 at the Ham Hill memorial is always a very poignant event for the village. This year the names will include those who were killed over a century ago, but whose service and courage are still remembered. Anthony Russell will again be leading this service, and our Rector, Peter Thomas, will lead the prayers and speak at the service.

There will be no 10.00am service at St Mary's - but our special evening service at 6.30pm will include a reading of the roll of names and an act of remembrance.

Early notice of services over the Christmas period at St Mary's (more details next month)

Sundays

13th at 4.30pm Christingle service
20th at 6.30pm Village Carol Service

Christmas Eve

3.00pm Crib Service
11.30pm "Midnight Communion"

Christmas Day

9.30am Family Communion for all.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

November

2nd 'All Soul's Day' Service
3rd Stoke Active Walkers
7th Coffee & Cakes
8th Remembrance Sunday
9th Walking for Health
11th Remembrance Day Ceremony
14th Demonstration – Pastel Artist, Richard Turner
23rd Walking for Health

December

12th Stoke Band Christmas Concert