

Unfortunately we are losing a couple of our volunteers who deliver the newsletters each month and I would like to say a huge 'thank you' for everything they have done over the past few years. Their help has been invaluable and was very much appreciated. Without the assistance of our volunteers we would not be able to bring you the parish newsletter.

Would you be willing to help? We are looking for anyone to help deliver newsletters each month from the top of North Street to Walscombe Close and, after Christmas we will also need help with deliveries to Montacute Road, Stanchester School and Co-Op.

Also, if there is anyone who would be willing to help on a temporary basis between December and April we are looking for someone to cover the West Street round.

If this is something that you would be interested in the please contact Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk on 822455 or email clerkssphc@hotmail.co.uk

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

Councillor Vacancy

We have one vacancy on the council, as Chris Earl has reluctantly had to resign due to new work commitments away from the village. If you are interested in joining us, are open to new ideas, and willing to take an active role, please contact either our Parish Clerk Sarah Moore on 822455 or myself (details below) for an informal chat.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that one vacancy has occurred on the Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council. Unless a request for an election to be held is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council, at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT by no later than 16th November by ten electors for the Parish of Stoke sub Hamdon, the Parish Council will proceed to fill this vacancy by co-option

Methodist Church – Youth Centre

No news yet – they are still meeting and discussing, and we're still strongly in there with a chance!

Potential West Street Development

We have just been advised by the developers that they will be distributing a feedback survey in a couple of weeks. This will be posted to all households in the village to collect public comments on their proposed development of 27 houses at the end of West Street. Following the survey they will then submit a formal planning application to District planners. At that point the Parish Council will have the opportunity, as you will individually, to put forward your observations.

Remembrance Sunday on Ham Hill

At this time of year we remember all those residents, friends and relatives who have given their lives in war, particularly in the First and Second World Wars, but also in more recent conflicts across the world. We owe them all a great debt. The village annual Remembrance Sunday service will be held on Sunday 13 November, and the Parish Council together with many organisations in the village will be laying wreaths during the service on the village's behalf. All are welcome, young and old, to attend to pay your respects so please come along. Last year more than 200 people attended.

Boules Court

The new Boules Court has now been laid in the Memorial Hall Grounds near the trees. We are very grateful to the Sports and Recreation Trust for providing this for the village: and to the Memorial Hall Committee for allowing it to be laid in the Grounds. The Parish Council will be looking after it (as it does for all equipment and grass cutting on the Memorial Hall Grounds) and be responsible for it in the future. Congratulations to the couple last Saturday afternoon who were seen christening its first use – you will have to give us some tips!

Recreation Ground

Now that mornings and evenings are darker, we are finding that there is a small minority of dog owners who are allowing their dogs to run in the dark on the Rec without picking up their dog mess. Please stop doing this, it is anti-social, irresponsible and creates a health hazard. As a dog owner myself, I know that there is no excuse for this – do as I do, take a torch and

pick up! If you know anyone who is not cleaning up after their dog, you can report them anonymously and in confidence to the Dog Warden Lynette Osment on 01935 4624462. The fine can be up to £1,000.

BBC Points West Report

A number of you may have seen a report on BBC Points West in the middle of October on the possibility of development of a Garden Town in the Martock and Stoke area. The parish councils at Martock, Ash, Ilminster, Tintinhull and ourselves have all agreed to set the position straight for residents. Following investigations, it appears that this is a totally inaccurate and unsubstantiated report based on old facts and misinformation, and there is no need for residents to be concerned. Whilst historically Somerset County Council has expressed an aspiration for such a development in the four vision priorities within their County Plan, it remains just that, with no sites earmarked and the idea merely a vision. The Governance Manager at Somerset County Council has confirmed that any discussions with District Council partners are still at a strategic level only. In addition, the District's Planning Policy Manager, Paul Wheatley, has confirmed that they are continuing and will continue to develop the adopted Local Plan, which does not include any plans for such a development in the Martock/Stoke area.

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 823894; 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, 1 November 2016

For our November walk we will begin by going down Whirligig Lane and up Tunwell Lane; we will then proceed up Cole Lane and along Langlands, down Matts Lane and up Dannings Well Lane. From there we will go across Norton Path and up through Norton Covert across the ridge to Batemore Barn, then down across the field past Montacute Tower and follow the footpath back through Hedgecock Woods 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.

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

The annual Remembrance Service will take place around the Monument on Ham Hill on Sunday, 13 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

FOOD AND CRAFT MARKET - CHANGE OF DATE

Please note that the date has changed for the Food and Craft Market hosted by Stoke sub Hamdon Working Men's Club. This will now take place on Saturday, 3 December 2016 from 10am to 4pm to avoid clashing with Montacute's event the previous week. Please make a note in your diary as we look forward to seeing you! For further information, please contact Denise on 01935 827793.

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.

The Village Artist Group will be holding a workshop on decorative art with Di Singleton on Saturday 12 November from 10am to 4pm at the Memorial Hall, Stoke-sub-Hamdon. All are welcome. The cost will be - Members £20, Non-members £25.

For more information please contact Diana Bailey on 01935 881647.

We will also be holding our AGM on Thursday 17 November at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

DUNSTER IN CANDLELIGHT

December 2nd & 3rd

Coaches leave Stoke at 2pm, South Petherton at 2.15pm – bound for Minehead Park & Ride to arrive in Dunster at 4pm and leaving at 10pm. There are still plenty of seats available. The approximate cost is £15 to include a programme and the park & ride ticket. For more information please contact Dru Perry 01935 822703.

WALKING FOR HEALTH

The walks are free, friendly, non-fattening and can be fun! Come along and join the walks on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, except Bank Holiday Mondays. Every step counts starts at 9.30 am and is a slower paced walk around the village on lanes and pavements and lasts for 30 to 40 minutes. The Health Walk starts at 10.30 goes further, to Norton, Chisleborough and up Ham Hill sometimes and these walks last 1.5 hours. Both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café, where a well-earned coffee or lunch can be purchased after the walks. November walk dates 14th and 28th. Contact Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07974103275.

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

After the great success of the Stoke Performing Arts Group's inaugural performance, 'Grandsire went wrong' written by Angela Hodges, we are pleased to announce that Angie has taken up her pen again and written a very different play, called 'The Charity Shop', to be performed in the village sometime in the Spring of 2017. The Charity Shop, a 'pre-loved comedy' will be fun to perform by all walks of life; there are parts for children, young adults, as well as males and females of all ages.

Auditions are being held on 8 and 15 November, 7.30 – 9.00pm at the Working Men's Club. If you would like to audition, or just want to watch, you would be more than welcome to come along. Please see our website info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk. *SPAG Core Team*

JUMBLE SALE

There will be an Autumn Jumble Sale at Norton Sub Hamdon Village Hall on Saturday 5 November. Doors open at 11am and the admission is 30p. Everyone welcome. All proceeds are in aid of Hall funds. For more information contact 01935 881718.

STOKE BAND NEWS

On 29 September Stoke Band held their AGM. The position of Secretary was split between two members; Gill Robins will look after Engagements and Michelle Cleal will be the Minutes and Correspondence Secretary.

The band's training section is now up and running again. If you are interested in learning a brass instrument we meet on Thursdays at the Band Room between 7:00pm and 7:45 pm. Jane Herbert and Charlie Main are currently running the sessions.

Our next engagements are on Remembrance Sunday when a small number of the band will be joining the service on Ham Hill to accompany the hymns. In the afternoon the band will be at the British Legion Service in Ilminster.

Christmas is coming fast and our Christmas Concert will be on Saturday 10 December, tickets will be £6 and Christmas puddings and pies will be served as usual.

On 17 December we will be playing carols outside at the Prince of Wales from 4:00pm until 6:00pm. Please come and sing along with us. This is an event for all the family to enjoy.

Our other engagements are, on Saturday 3 December, the band will be performing at the Haselbury Plucknett Bible Society and later on 17 December we will be at St Catherine's Church in Montacute for the nine lessons and carols service. Other carolling sessions are being arranged and weather permitting we will be around Stoke on Christmas Eve as usual.

MEMORIAL HALL

Memorial Hall Table Top Sale

The Memorial Hall wish to thank everyone who supported our first Table Top Sale which was held on 15 October. A special thanks to all those who donated cakes and items for sale on our White Elephant stall and who came along to support us. The home-made soup was much commented upon and the array of cakes was superb.

Thanks to all my Committee and also to their respective other halves who always turn out to help.

Clare Sampson - Chairman of Management Committee

Remembrance Day - 11 November

There will be a commemorative 1 minutes silence held at the Memorial Stone outside the Memorial Hall at 11.00am on Friday 11 November. All are welcome.

HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE 'FLU SESSIONS 2016

We are holding the following 'flu sessions for patients that are in an 'At Risk' group including all patients aged 65 years and over and those with a chronic disease (such as heart, lung, liver or neurological disease). Patients who have diabetes, a weak immune system, that are pregnant or are carers are also entitled to a "flu vaccination.

Thursday 3 November 2.00pm-4.30pm

Saturday 5 November 9.30am-11.30am

No appointment is needed; just attend within the times stated. If you have a pre-booked appointment with a GP, Nurse or Technician in October/November you can request to have your 'flu jab at this appointment. If you are housebound and cannot attend a clinic, please contact the surgery. Please note the car park will only be available for drop off/collection during the clinic times.

THE LIGHTHOUSE CAFE

A warm welcome awaits you. Do pop in and have a drink and/or something to eat. If you haven't been before you'd be most welcome and if you haven't been for some time we'd love to see you again. The Lighthouse is open on Mondays and Thursdays between 10am and 1pm.

MARIE CURIE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday, 12 November from 10.30am - 3.00pm. The local fundraising group are holding their very first Christmas Fair in the function room at the Working Men's Club which will be transformed for this very special occasion.

Lots treats and goodies are available on the sumptuous stalls plus some beautiful Christmas items generously donated to the Marie Curie group by Brimsmore Garden Centre. Entry is free. Please use the side door. Refreshments will be available. All money raised will stay locally to support the nursing service in providing care for people with terminal illness in the community.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

November

1 st	Stoke Active Walkers
3 rd	Flu Sessions – Hamdon Medical Centre
5 th	Flu Sessions – Hamdon Medical Centre
8 th	SPAG Auditions
11 th	Remembrance Day
12 th	Village Artist Group Workshop – Memorial Hall
12 th	Marie Curie Christmas Fair – SWMC
13 th	Remembrance Sunday
14 th	Health Walk
15 th	SPAG Auditions
17 th	Village Artists Group AGM
28 th	Health Walk

December

2 nd & 3 rd	Dunster in Candlelight
3 rd	Food & Craft Market
10 th	Stoke Band Christmas Concert at 7.30pm
12 th	Christmas Bingo - Stoke Working Men's Club
17 th	Carols for all, Stoke Band at Prince of Wales at 4:00pm