

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

We were pleased to co-opt a new councillor to the team at our last meeting. Stephen "Teach" Waldock who lives in Norton Road is a retired college lecturer and brings the council up to full complement. His skills and enthusiasm are warmly welcomed.

At our meeting in October we also agreed to make a grant of £3,000 towards the redecoration costs of the Memorial Hall. We understand that the repainting work and resealing of the hall floor is due to take place at the end of October, so by the time you read this, we will have a lovely fresh look to our village hall.

Planning

Many of you will have seen the bright orange posters up round our village giving the good news about our success with the Arc Homes planning decision. Yes, we won! This was an application by Arc to be released from building 6 affordable houses on the Stanchester site, and from paying a developer's contribution towards community facilities, on the basis the site was now commercially unviable.

The District's Area North Committee has supported our village in rejecting Arc's application. Your parish councillors had always maintained a very strong opposition to Arc Homes' attempt to be relieved of community responsibility. We need affordable housing in this village. We undertook a great deal of technical research which we presented to District and we attended the Committee meeting on Wednesday 27 September to speak on behalf of our residents. Our final 6 page objection statement can be found on the Stoke sub Hamdon website at www.stoke-sub-hamdon.co.uk. We understand that the District took expert legal advice and as a result rejected Arc's application, agreeing with our technical objections. As the build work had materially commenced, planning obligations had been triggered.

A word of caution, before we all break open the champagne! Arc Homes have the right – and may well – appeal against the decision. However, the District Council Committee formally advised Arc Homes at the meeting that rather than appealing for the decision to be simply overturned, they expect them to consider re-negotiating the Section 106 obligation, sending a very strong message to the developers that community interests are always important in new developments. Their appeal would be weakened if they did not try to re-negotiate. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

The Parish Council is proud to have been part of such a very positive first step.

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 November 2017

This is an extra walk to Pitt Pond by kind permission of Jack Parker to see the Autumn Colours. We begin by going along Bowey and up to the Monument where we will then follow the ridge along past the Prince of Wales and take the footpath which leads to Batemore Barn. From there we will go down across Witcombe and along to Pitt Pond where we will spend time walking around the pond. We will then retrace our steps back to Batemore Barn and 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, 12th 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

THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Village Artists Group is holding a watercolour workshop with Mike Jackson on Saturday, 11th November, in Stoke Memorial Hall, 10am - 4pm. Non-members are very welcome! For more information and/or to book a place please contact Diana 01935 881647.

Would you like to join us? Are you interested in Art or just wanting to take up a relaxing hobby? Please feel free to drop in for a chat and a coffee to see what we are all about. We are a small friendly informal group who meet in the Memorial Hall on Monday and Friday mornings between 10am – 12pm, and on Thursday evenings between 7.30 - 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.

STOKE BAND NEWS

On Remembrance Sunday 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 9th December, tickets will be £6 and Christmas puddings and pies will be served as usual.

On 16th December, following the success last year, we will once again 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.

As usual and weather permitting we will be around Stoke on Christmas Eve.

THE HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

Stoke Creative Collective

A big thank you to the exhibitors, helpers and everyone who attended October's Stoke Creative Collective Art and Crafts exhibition. More than 150 people came along to our first event at the Hamdon Community Arts Project in the former United Reformed Church and made it a great success. We've had some positive feedback and are looking forward to doing it again next year. Other plans include a willow weaving course, pottery for kids and a photography group. If you want to know more or get involved in Stoke Creative Collective, contact Kaz Doyle, on 07813 860314.

Events

Music YOU have loved

We had the first session of "music YOU have loved". Disappointingly there were only 2 people who turned up but undeterred we played tracks from c.d.'s we had brought along and found that we had a really enjoyable afternoon. We wondered whether some people felt unable to get to the venue or perhaps cope with the steps to the building itself. It would be so helpful to know the answer to these questions and you can talk to either Maureen or Alan on 01935 579730.

We made ourselves very comfortable with all the new cushions which had been provided and enjoyed a cuppa with a biscuit or 2 at 'half time'.

To give you a flavour of what was played we heard :-

'It don't mean a thing' by Duke Ellington
'Saint Sans Samson et Dalila' played by James Galway
'Fields of France' and 'Raglan Road' from Legends of Irish Folk
Pavarotti singing 'You Are My Heart's Delight'
Josh Groban singing 'You Raise Me Up'
'Bohemian Rhapsody' by Queen
'Albeniz Asturias' and several tracks from Mission Hall Band

The next session is Tuesday 7th November 2pm. **Any genre** – just bring along a piece of music (**on CD**) that you have thoroughly enjoyed or has meant a great deal to you to share with the group (monthly event), contact **Mo & Alan 01935 579730**

Singing IS Fun!!!

Friday 3rd November 2 pm.

Friday 17th November 2pm

Fortnightly group. If you enjoy singing this is ideal for **YOU!**

No need to read music - just enjoy singing contact Mo & Alan 01935 579730

Crime Thrillers Book Club

Wednesday 8th November at 2..30

Contact patfjenkins@hotmail.co.uk or 01935 826275

Coffee 'Drop In' - Saturday 11th November 10-12 Noon including a sale of Charity Shop Christmas items.

THE STOKE CHARITY SHOP FASHION SHOW

The Stoke Charity Shop Fashion Show and sale of Christmas items will be held on Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm in the Hamdon Community Arts Project (formerly the URC), North Road. Tickets: £4 adults, £2 children on sale in The Charity Shop now. Wine and soft drinks will be available.

THE MARIE CURIE CHRISTMAS FAIR

A Christmas Fair in aid of Marie Curie will be held between 10.30am and 3pm on Saturday 18th November in the Function Room at the Stoke Working Men's Club. There will be lots of Christmas goodies available and light refreshments served all day.

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 4th November, 10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall

A reminder of the date for our Christmas Craft Fair with a variety of stalls selling handmade crafts, cards, decorations, books, jewellery and much more. There will also be a raffle and refreshments will be available throughout the day. Please come along to browse and buy your early Christmas gifts, including our village calendar for 2018 which will be hot off the press

Anyone who wishes to donate cakes to help our fundraising efforts should bring them to the Hall from 9.30 onwards.

Stalls have all sold out but if you need any further information, please contact Denise on 827793.

FRESH NEW LOOK

You won't recognise the Memorial Hall the next time you see it (hopefully at our Christmas Craft Fair on the 4th November!). We have been organising a long awaited major refurbishment in October. The main Hall, stage and lobby areas are being repainted with light and airy colours; and the stage and hall floors are being renovated, sanded and resealed with Junckers Sport. We are also laying down heavy duty ribbed matting in the lobby area. Our thanks to the many volunteers who have helped in this project, particularly Barry Gosney, Steve Dean, Moira Hulett - and of course our other halves who have climbed up and down ladders to take down (and put up!) the stage curtains etc.! We are most grateful to the Parish Council and the Co-Op for their grants towards this project. Like

any charity, we are also raising funds ourselves towards the costs by holding a Christmas Craft Fair and the design and sale of our own village picture calendar - ideal for your Christmas stockings! Come and see us soon!

WALKING FOR HEALTH

The Every Step Counts walk is a 30 to 40 minute, pavement walk and the Health Walk is a one and a half hour walk on footpaths around the local area. The walks are free and everyone is welcome. The dates for your diary for the next few months are:

13th and 27th November

11th and 18th December

If you would like further information please contact walk leaders, Penny on 822208, Mark and Jane on 07496 148756 or Anne on 826256.

SATURDAY 11TH NOVEMBER

There will be a brief ceremony of 1 minute's silence held at the Memorial Stone outside the Memorial Hall on Saturday 11th November at 11.00am. All are welcome.

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.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AT ST MARY'S, STOKE SUB HAMDON

St Mary's would love to welcome all of you to celebrate the birth of Jesus with us at these services.

Sunday December 10th

4.30pm Christingle Service

Sunday December 17th

6.30 pm Village Carol Service

Sunday December 24th

11.00 am Reflective service for Christmas Eve

3.00 pm Crib Service

11.30 pm "Midnight" Communion

Christmas Day

9.30 am Christmas Communion

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Hamdon Youth Group has been welcoming so many young people so we have decided to split our Monday youth club into two sessions. From 6th November these are 6:30pm - 8:00pm are for years 6,7,8,9 and from 8:00pm-9:30pm for years 9+ stating that yr. 9's can go to both. We hope the extra space will make Youth Club even more enjoyable for our young people. Please note we welcome young people from Chiselborough and West Chinnock too.

The programme for November for Monday evenings is:

6th - Board games/ Programme Planning

13th - Biscuit Decorating

20th - Movie night.

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

COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS

The Ham Hill Bonfire

Friday 3rd November 2017 - 5.30pm at the Ranger's Office

Back by popular demand! Bring the dog, no fireworks please (we aim to be pet and livestock friendly!). Make your own guy and bring him up to the office for 5.30pm, follow the candlelit procession out to the stone circle and watch the lighting of the bonfire at around 6pm. Tinker's Bubble spiced apple juice and toasted marshmallows for a small donation. Have a warm wonderful evening by the fire. We rely on your donations to keep this event running so please give something to our donation buckets on the evening. Donation event, No need to book just turn up.

November

<i>Ham Hill Country Park</i>		<i>Yeovil Country Park</i>	
<i>Friday 3rd</i>	<i>The Ham Hill Bonfire</i>	<i>Saturday 4th</i>	<i>Autumn Photography</i>

December

<i>Ham Hill Country Park</i>		<i>Yeovil Country Park</i>	
<i>Friday 15th</i>	<i>Carols from Ham Hill</i>	<i>Wednesday 6th & Thursday 7th</i>	<i>Rustic Rudolf</i>

For more details and bookings please visit:

www.southsomersetcountryside.com

Enquiries: countryside@southsomerset.gov.uk or telephone 01935 462282

DIARY OF EVENTS:

November

- 2nd All Souls Service – St Mary's Church
- 4th Christmas Craft Fair
- 7th Stoke Active Walkers
- 7th Brownies & Guides 'Overcoming Adversity' Talk
- 11th Village Artists Group – Watercolour Workshop
- 11th A Minute's Silence – Memorial Hall Grounds
- 12th Remembrance Service – Ham Hill
- 13th Walking for Health
- 18th Marie Curie Christmas Fair
- 25th Charity Shop Fashion Show
- 27th Walking for Health

December

- 9th Stoke Band Christmas Concert
- 11th Walking for Health
- 16th Stoke Band – Carols at the Prince of Wales
- 18th Walking for Health