

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### *Chair's Update*

I am delighted to tell you that at our meeting on the 8 September, we gave approval for the installation at Stonehill of a brand new playground area with lots of exciting imaginative equipment for the children at a cost of £33,700. We also approved for the replacement of a new multi-play area on the Memorial Hall grounds, which has been showing a lot of wear and tear, and this will cost £20,495. We understand that the two schemes have a lead time from the manufacturers of about 8-10 weeks, so installation will be towards the end of the year. The projects were approved following a competitive quotation system and we were also able to obtain a discount as we were buying two schemes.

We also gave approval at the meeting for the installation of a broadband Wi-Fi system in the Memorial Hall, together with some necessary repair work to the guttering and windows. The cost of this is £2,500. We agreed to give a grant of £396 for the broadband running costs, to be reviewed in a year's time. This is part of the overall major refurbishment planned for the Hall, which will be carried out in a series of stages so as to minimise disruption to hall use.

A number of residents had complained recently about state of Cole Lane, where there have been a significant number of leaves for a long time blocking the drains, often causing flash flooding down to North Street. We asked the District Council to clear the Lane, ensuring that leaves are taken away, not just thrown back up on the bank, and this has now been done.

Some months ago we found that Royal Mail were planning (without consultation) to remove the post box in the High Street at Tomasz the Hairdressers, as it was too costly to repair, and were unlikely to replace it. We thought this was way out of line, and continued to make strong objections to this, enlisting the help of the SSDC Conservation Officer, and David Laws, our then MP. We are chuffed to report that Royal Mail have now finally sent a formal letter backing down from the removal, saying they will just repair it in due course. Result!

We have also got a brilliant result on the problem of the overhanging trees in the High Street opposite Bonnies Lane and Sea Wall, which are now dangerous and causing damage to passing buses. There has been a long-standing disagreement between the Duchy who own the field above, and Highways, both disputing the ownership of the land between the road and the fence at the top of the bank, and so we sought the advice of the District Council's legal department. Following strong pressure from the parish council, both sides have now agreed a "one-off, without prejudice" solution: the Duchy will remove the trees, sterilise the land, and Highways will provide the roadwork management needed. The work is expected to be done in the next couple of months

*Barbara Brooks*

*Chair of Parish Council*

## **CELEBRATE STOKE**

Everybody in Stoke has a warm invitation to come along on Saturday afternoon, 17 October to the Memorial Hall to a "Celebrate Stoke" event. Clubs and organisations in the village will be setting out their tables with information and demonstrations of what they do, when they meet, their successes – and even inviting you to join as well! We have a wide range of different activities already - from Quirky Quilters, Stoke Band, Angling Association and the Boys Brigade to the Charity Shop, the Sports & Recreation Trust, the May Fayre, Village Artists, Healthy Walks,

Stanchester Sports Centre and our new Village Agent and much, much more. So whether you are young or old, there will be something for everybody.

The event is being sponsored and organised by the Parish Council and free refreshments will be provided (by local bakers of course!). So put the date in your diary! Saturday, October 17 from 2 – 5pm. See you there!

### **P.C.S.O. REPORT**

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: [www.police.uk](http://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, 6 October*

In October our walk will take us along Bowey to Norton Path, then to Sandy Lane and down Jack O'Beard to Broadmead Lane. We will then go back across the field to the footpath to Little Norton, past the Mill and along the road past Tinkers Bubble to the bottom of Witcombe. We will go up to Batemoor Barn, across the ridge to Fairy Land 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.

### **HAMDON YOUTH GROUP**

Hamdon Youth Group is starting the new school year with more young people joining the Monday sessions, and the Youth Voice forum is currently coming up with ideas for the re-vamp of the BMX track and is aiming to be involved in a number of events in both villages in the coming months.

The programme for the **Monday sessions, in the Methodist Hall, Stoke from 7pm - 9pm** for October is:

5	Tower games
12	Family what is it
19	General Session
26	Halloween Arts/ Safety

All from Year 6 and above are welcome.

Youth Voice generally meets on alternate **Wednesdays in the Meeting Room, Norton Village Hall, 7pm - 8.30pm**. If you would like to join in come along to one of the meetings to have young people's voices heard in your community (Ages 11+). In October they will meet only on the 15th. Contact our Youth Worker for more info Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk)

Hamdon Youth Group is facing a number of problems to enable us to continue providing services for young people in our villages. We urgently need more volunteers to help at sessions and also to join the steering group that raises funds

and generally organises the basis of the group. Also we have been told that the Methodist Hall will soon be unavailable for our meetings and we urgently need to find another venue. Please contact John Bailey (01935881227) or Lou Chant (07402 987921) if you can help.

### **STOKE CHARITY SHOP**

Have you ever thought of volunteering? We are a really friendly bunch and volunteering for a few hours in the shop is a great way to meet new people, catch up with friends old and new and have lots of fun while you are doing it! Shifts can be flexible and there are many different activities involved so you don't have to do something you don't like. Please think about it - we promise you a warm welcome and you won't regret it. Call in the shop for more details any time you are passing. The Stoke Charity Shop Committee

### **POPPY APPEAL**

Can you help us? We are looking for volunteers to help with the annual Poppy Appeal collection for East Stoke, Walscombe Close, Queens Crescent and North Street. If you are able to assist us with one of these areas and willing to give up an evening to help with this worthy cause please contact Jon Moore on 822455.

### **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

### **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?**

A small group of us in the village are organising a community lunch on Christmas Day in the Memorial Hall this year for:

- any older members of our community
- anyone who may otherwise be alone at Christmas
- because spending Christmas at home this year may be difficult
- because you may be unable to get out but would like to be able to have a friendly conversation and connect with others within the community
- because you 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. Places will be limited and booking will be essential so please do not hesitate to contact us as soon as possible. We do need to get an idea of numbers so that we can get plans underway. If no-one expresses an interest, then sadly it will not be possible to hold this event.

### **STOKE BAND NEWS**

Thank you to all who attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary concert; it was a special evening especially the solo by Roy Blackmore a founder member and former Principal Cornet.

The Band is holding its Annual General meeting in the Band room at the URC at 8pm on 15<sup>th</sup> October. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### **ALL SOULS' DAY**

There is a very special service in St Mary's at 6.00pm on Monday 2 November to mark All Souls' Day. We invite you to come to this service in which we will remember with thanksgiving your family members/friends who have died. If you would like someone in particular to be remembered, or have any questions, please let Rosemary Egerton know on 07817 182779 or Lesley Strutt on [lesley.strutt@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.strutt@btinternet.com) or 2 Hamdon Close (in Matts Lane) by Wednesday 30 October.

### **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

October	1	Chard Canals - Film with A Keene
	8	Board Games & Trade Table
	15	'Butterflies' - Talk with Jayne English
	22	Fish & Chips lunch
	29	Village Agent - Talk with Cath Holloway
November	5	To be arranged

For more information contact Jennifer Kerr 01935 882609

### **'GATHER-ING'**

Somerset Art Weeks Exhibition at The Priory Stoke sub Hamdon 3 - 4 and 10 - 11 October. The large tithe barn within The Priory complex, a rare and unique group of medieval domestic and agricultural buildings, is the focus of this contemporary craft project. The title 'Gather-ing' references the function of a barn as a space to collect/bring/gather people, animals and crops, as well as a symbolic meeting place to gather for ritual celebration. Curated by Craftspace, artists Stewart Easton and music associates, Jacky Oliver, Helen Snell and Gillian Widden will showcase new

work made in response to the site. Poet technologist Chris Jelley has been commissioned to interact with the artists and the site.

Saturday 3 October, 11am until 3pm. The installations will be presented with the artists during a 'live' celebration in the barn. Also the installation will be open for viewing and lead artist Stewart Easton will be available to talk about his work and the project on Sunday 4, Saturday 10, and Sunday 11 October, 11am until 3pm.

As part of Somerset Art Works' creative programme Momentum, funded by Arts Council England Lottery Funding.

### **VILLAGE ARTISTS**

On Saturday, 28 October we will be holding our Annual Group Exhibition where we will be showing and selling our pictures at very affordable prices. For any further information call Lee Allen 01935 472675.

### **COFFEE & CAKES IN THE MEMORIAL HALL**

Make a note in your diaries. On Saturday 7 November from 10.00am to 1.00pm there will be Coffee & Cakes for sale, raising funds for CLIC and the Memorial Hall.

Funds will go towards making the Hall the most attractive venue for village events and for hire for private parties and celebrations.

Please come along and support your Hall and our chosen charity and donations of cakes would be much appreciated.

### **BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS**

Mrs Marie Collins celebrated her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday recently with an enjoyable afternoon tea with her lovely family and friends at Oak Tree House.

### **NORTON FESTIVAL**

The village of Norton-sub-Hamdon is hosting a village festival during harvest, 9 - 11 October. We warmly invite everyone to come along and join in our celebrations with us. There will be plenty of activities for everyone to enjoy, including a village scarecrow trail, an Art Exhibition in the Reading Room, a re-enactment of an historic horse ride, family film night, a concert by the Parnham Voices, floral displays and exhibits with refreshments, promenade performances in the village church and a village feast. All culminating in a special service in the church with our benefice choir and guest preacher; something for everyone to enjoy.

This is a real village community event to which all are invited. For more information please visit our web site [www.nortonfestival.org](http://www.nortonfestival.org)

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### **October**

3 <sup>rd</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup>	'Gather-ing'
6 <sup>th</sup>	Stoke Active Walkers
9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Norton Festival
10 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>	'Gather-ing'
15 <sup>th</sup>	Stoke Band AGM
17 <sup>th</sup>	Celebrate Stoke Event
28 <sup>th</sup>	Village Artist Annual Group Exhibition

#### **November**

2<sup>nd</sup>  
7<sup>th</sup>  
8<sup>th</sup>

'All Soul's Day' Service  
Coffee & Cakes  
Remembrance Sunday