

## PARISH COUNCIL

### *Chair's Update*

At our meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> September we were delighted to co-opt new councillors onto the council to replace the two vacancies. We warmly welcome Caroline Freeman, who lives in Windsor Lane, and Robert Manning, who lives in Brocks Mount. They bring with them lots of skills and enthusiasm and are both looking forward to helping us make our village the best place it could be to live.

### *Methodist Church*

No news yet from the Methodist Church on which bid they will accept (or none!) for the purchase of the church in West Street. As it is a complicated issue, we understand that the decision may well have to be made at a higher committee than the regional ones, and due to timings, is therefore not likely to be made until the middle of October. We promise we will let you all know the final outcome as soon as we have a decision.

### *Royal British Legion*

At our meeting councillors agreed to a grant of £75 to the Royal British Legion. This is for a poppy wreath for the Remembrance Day Sunday service next month, which is held at the Monument at the top of Ham Hill. The wreath, along with others, will be laid on behalf of our village to remember those brave men and women in Stoke who have died in war, not only during the two World Wars but also in more recent conflicts. All are welcome, old and young, to attend to pay their respects.

### *Training*

Some of our councillors will be attending a training evening in October at the Somerset Association of Local Councils. We are keen to ensure that all those to volunteer to stand as parish councillors get the knowledge and training they need to carry out their duties, so that we can serve you as best we can.

### *Dog Bins*

Please a big reminder to all dog owners **NOT** to put dog poo bags in the rubbish bin at the front of the Memorial Hall. The proper new green dog bin is just to the left by the trees. If you put your bags in the open litter bin, it not only smells terrible for the rest of us, but is unpleasant for the Hall caretaker, who has the unenviable job of taking them out and putting them in the proper place.

### *Memorial Hall*

Two of our councillors, Rebecca Merrick and myself, have now joined the Memorial Hall Committee to assist them in managing the Hall. We hope to bring some new ideas and ways of working, and practical support. If there are any residents who would like to join us to help, you would be welcomed with open arms!

*Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council*

*Tel: 823894 (new number after 4 November – 824432); Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com*

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

## FOSTER CARING

*Did you know* – there are **over 500 children** in care in Somerset?

*You have the skills to help them.*

Do you want to give back to your community? Could you be open to welcoming a local child into your home that needs your support? If you answered yes, you could be a perfect fit for Fostering in Somerset. Somerset County Council needs 50 new fostering households to help children of all shapes and sizes who are coming into care. Currently over 500 children in the county need to be cared for by people who are not their parents, for a variety of reasons – and the majority of them are in foster care.

*Did you know?* Research by the national Fostering Network charity indicates that over 80% of newly-approved Foster Carers hold strong 'Pioneer' values, which means they're chiefly motivated by wanting to help others, just like community-minded individuals. Just as each child is different, there are lots of different fostering schemes – each offering fantastic training – that you can consider. We especially need people in Somerset who can:

- Offer an older child aged 10-plus a loving home

- Give teenagers guidance and stability as they mature into adulthood
- Help siblings of all ages stay together
- Offer disabled children new experiences and give parent carers a break
- Help a parent and their young child.

If you want to find out more, please phone our friendly, professional team on 0800 587 9900 or email [AandFRecruitment@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:AandFRecruitment@somerset.gov.uk). You can also read about Fostering in Somerset schemes, case studies, upcoming information events and by downloading an information pack by visiting [www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk](http://www.fosteradoptsomerset.org.uk)

### **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, 4 October 2016*

This will be our autumn walk to Pit Pond by kind permission of Jack and Carol Parker. We start by going along Bowey and up to the Monument. From there we will follow the footpath past the Prince of Wales and down to Pit Pond. We will spend time having a good look around Pit Pond and then follow the footpath to Batemore Barn 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.

### **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**

The Village Artists Group are pleased to announce their forth coming annual exhibition to be held in Stoke Sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Saturday 22 October 10am - 4pm. Entry is free. This exhibition is the culmination of a year's work in and around the area with varied and interesting pieces. Come and see for yourself; you might be tempted to join us, all abilities are very welcome. We meet 3 times a week; Monday and Friday, 10am-12am and Thursday evenings, 7.30pm-9 pm. The first session is free. During the year we have visiting artists for demonstrations and workshop days for a more hands on approach - you are all welcome.

The Village Artists Group is holding 2 demonstration evenings in October and a workshop in November. The first demonstration is on Wednesday, 12 October with Mr Andy Greuter. Andy is a certified Bob Ross instructor and teaches the Bob Ross landscape, wet on wet oil painting techniques. Our second demonstration evening will be on Thursday, 20 October with Shirley Allnutt. Shirley will be demonstrating the art of Encaustic painting. This is the technique of using heat and wax to paint with amazing effects. Both evening demonstrations start at 7-30pm - 9.30pm. The entry fee is £5 and both events are open to non-members.

The workshop is on Saturday, 12 November from 10am – 4pm in the Memorial Hall. This will be on decorative art with artist Di Singleton and the cost is £20 for members and £25 for non-members.

## **DUNSTER IN CANDLELIGHT**

*December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>*

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. October walk dates 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Contact Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07974103275.

## **OAK TREE HOUSE POP IN PROGRAMME**

October 6th Fish & Chips - Raffle - In House

All welcome. Contact Paul (826375) Jennifer (882609)

## **YEOVIL DISTRICT SWIMMING CLUB ARE ON THE HUNT FOR NEW TALENT**

Have you been inspired by the Olympics this summer? Do you LOVE swimming? Want to learn to swim FAST? Then there is no better time to join Yeovil District Swimming Club! With the recent appointment of their new head coach, Rebecca Richards, YDSC is the perfect place to take your swimming to the next level. The club trains young athletes from the age of 8 to adulthood at various locations in the Yeovil and Sherborne area. The swimmers enjoy success at all levels, from County to Regional through to National competitions and beyond! New swimmers to the club between 8 and 11 years can enjoy their first month training free! To find out more and to book your assessment then please contact [ydsc.committee@gmail.com](mailto:ydsc.committee@gmail.com) or go to [ydsc.co.uk](http://ydsc.co.uk) for further information.

## **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.

Saturday 15 October	9.30am-11.30am
Thursday 20 October	4.30pm-6.30pm
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.

## **HAMDON YOUTH GROUP**

Hamdon Youth Group is continuing to run our Monday sessions at the Fleur in Stoke thanks to their kind co-operation but we can only offer our young people limited space and facilities there so are still keeping our fingers firmly crossed that we'll hear a positive result on the Methodist Hall soon. Meanwhile look out for posters from our Youth Worker, Lou, for latest details. The Youth Voice group will continue to meet every two weeks on Wednesday in Norton and posters will also give dates for that.

We'd like to extend a special invitation to the new Year 7 young people to join Hamdon Youth Group.

Volunteers from adults to support the Youth Group are still needed, from assisting Lou to raising much-needed funds. For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk) or via Facebook @Stoke & Norton Youth Groups.

### **CASTLE SCHOOL**

There is Community Defibrillator Training, run by Hamdon First Aid at Castle Primary School, Thursday 13 October at 3.15pm – all welcome.

### **ST MARY'S, STOKE HARVEST CELEBRATIONS**

This year's Harvest Festival Service at St Mary's will be on October 9 at 6.30 p.m. - all welcome as we celebrate and give thanks for God's generosity to us.

On the 8th there will be a Harvest Supper - details from Sam Lewis (881925)

### **ST MARY'S, STOKE ROOF**

We are anticipating that the roof work at St Mary's - postponed from earlier in the year because of potential Bat issues - will begin in October.

### **COUNTRYSIDE EVENTS - OCTOBER**

#### *Ham Hill*

3<sup>rd</sup> Fabulous Foraging

#### *Yeovil Country Park*

8<sup>th</sup> Fabulous Fungi

28<sup>th</sup> Halloween Trail

28<sup>th</sup> Find Yeti

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### **October**

4<sup>th</sup> Stoke Active Walkers  
10<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health  
12<sup>th</sup> Village Artist Group Oil Painting Demonstration  
13<sup>th</sup> Defibrillator Training at Castle School  
15<sup>th</sup> Craft & Table Top Sale – Memorial Hall  
20<sup>th</sup> Village Artist Group Encaustic Painting Demonstration  
22<sup>nd</sup> Village Artist Group Exhibition  
24<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health

#### **November**

12<sup>th</sup> Village Artist Group Workshop

#### **December**

3<sup>rd</sup> Food & Craft Market  
10<sup>th</sup> Stoke Band Christmas Concert