

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

At our meeting on the 6th September we were pleased to agree our annual maintenance and insurance grant of £2,682 to the Sports & Recreation Trust. The Trust does an excellent job managing the Recreation ground on our behalf.

We had a number of residents attending our council meeting this month who wanted us to clarify what is being proposed for the new development at Stanchester (Shuldham's fields). We were able to clear up some misunderstandings about the true nature of the application by the developers. Arc Homes have applied to the District Planners for both their s.106 obligations to be discharged. In other words, they want to be released not only from building 6 affordable housing units on the site, but also from paying any monies to the District (of which some £84k odd would eventually come back to our village to support sports and recreation and community hall facilities). The reason they give is that the site is commercially unviable i.e. their profit margin is not high enough.

The Parish Council requested a "call-in" on the application, so that it was heard formally at the Area North Committee on Wednesday 27th September at Edgar Hall, Somerton. We have just had sight of the Officer's report, which recommends acceptance of the application. The Parish Council has not had access to the developer's viability report as this is deemed confidential, so we have no method of gauging the true financial facts on the developer's situation. We also believe that all planning processes should be open and transparent.

We strongly believe that this situation is wrong, and lets our village down badly. We desperately need affordable housing in Stoke for young families, and the cancellation of the monies under the developer's contribution will inevitably impact on current projects that both the Sports & Recreation Trust and the Parish Council are developing for the benefit of everybody. District Councils have the power under recent national rules to re-negotiate or discharge these types of obligations if developers can prove that the site is unviable, or there is no longer a need for the obligations. However, by taking this action they disrupt market forces and house prices; change the demographics of an area by making it more difficult for young people to get a home, and the parish loses the financial support it deserves.

We have put in a further detailed objection on material planning grounds to this application. This goes to all Committee members prior to the meeting, and you can read it on the Stoke website. I will be going to the Committee on behalf of the Parish Council to speak on behalf of our village with one last plea.

By the time you have read this in early October, the District will have made its decision and we will post this up on the parish noticeboards. Realistically we think we are unlikely to succeed wholesale, if at all, but at least we will have put up the best possible fight we can in the circumstances.

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, 3rd October 2017

Today we begin our walk by going along Bowey and up to the Monument, follow the track which will take us to the fountain at the top of the hill. We then take the footpath along to Fairy Land and down across Witcombe, turn to the left towards Odcombe and take the path which will lead us around the back of Bagnell farm. Leaving the farm on our right we follow the road from Bagnell Farm towards Tinkers Bubble, and then follow the path to the left which leads to Greenhams Cross and on 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.

POPPY APPEAL COLLECTIONS

Unfortunately, house to house collections will stop this year but there will be static boxes in all the local businesses i.e. chemist, pubs, vets, shops for everyone to get their Remembrance poppies, badges etc. Despite these changes I appreciate your continuing support for this worthy cause.

Jon Moore, Poppy Appeal Co-Ordinator

THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Stoke sub Hamdon Village Artists will be holding their annual Art Exhibition on 14th October in the Memorial Hall Stoke sub Hamdon between 10am - 4.00pm. Come along and see what we are all about and to support your local artists.

We are also holding a demonstration on 11th October between 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Gary Pyner, a Yeovil based picture framer, is coming to demonstrate his skills and to give us hints and tips on how best to mount and frame pictures.

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 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.

GET YOUR STOKE SUB HAMDON VILLAGE CALENDAR FOR 2018

Every home needs a calendar and the Memorial Hall Committee is producing one for 2018 to help raise funds for refurbishment and maintenance of its hall. The Stoke History Group is kindly collaborating with the Committee to provide a range of interesting monthly photographs to reflect a nostalgic look at life in our village. The calendar will be a slim planner style agenda at a cost of £5. If you would like to purchase one or more of our calendars, please contact Denise on 01935 827793 or at denisesburton@btinternet.com

CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 4th November

Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall

10.30 am to 4.30 pm

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!

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

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:

- 14th and 21st August
- 11th and 25th September
- 9th and 23rd October
- 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.

STOKE BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Are you a new mum wanting to get out and about? Or a local parent, grandparent or carer with young children who is looking for ways to keep them entertained? Come along to your local friendly baby and toddler group run by a group of local mums. We welcome children of all ages under 5. At the moment we have lots of babies under one, as well as a few one and two year olds. As it is the start of the new school year older children have now started preschool or school and the group is a great space for the younger ones to start making friends. And, of course, for parents to have a well-earned sanity break and have a chat over a cuppa and some cake! Stoke Baby and Toddler Group runs every Thursday morning during term time (9.30 – 11.30am) at the Memorial Hall. The first session is free for newcomers and then £2 per family. The hall is a great space for children to burn off some energy especially as the weather gets colder. There are plenty of toys to entertain such as Duplo, dressing up, brio train tracks and baby toys to name just a few. The weekly fee also includes a baby/toddler friendly activity such as sensory play, soft play or a craft activity and a snack for the children too. We look forward to welcoming you and meeting some new faces.

BROWNIES AND GUIDES

The Brownies and Guides invite you to come and hear Sean Gaffney, Naval Petty Officer of RNAS Yeovilton speak at the Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall on Tuesday, 7th November from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. Sean will be speaking on the topic of 'OVERCOMING ADVERSITY'. Talking about his career in the Navy, and how in 1999 he suffered a field gun crush injury and despite 25 operations became an amputee. His talk will tell of his fight back to fitness, his return to work and going back to Afghanistan, his sporting achievements and several medals received since.

This will be aimed at the audience age of the Brownies and Guides of 7-14 years old, but we are sure it will be an enlightening topic to many and wanted to invite all that would be interested to come along to the event. No matter what age you are! All are welcome.

There is no charge, however light refreshments will be provided and donations will go towards the charity Help the Heroes. More details please contact 01935 823606

OPEN DAY AT CASTLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Here at Castle Primary School, we aim to inspire and challenge children to fulfil their potential and become confident, polite and hard-working members of their community. We offer a warm, welcoming and friendly atmosphere and encourage people to view our wonderful school. To this end, we will be hosting an Open Day on Thursday, 12th October 2017, 9.00am – 10.00am and 2.00pm – 3.00pm. This will give you an opportunity to see our committed staff team hard at work and our wonderful children engaging with their learning. I will also be hosting a session in the hall where I'll be sharing our vision and values. We look forward to seeing you.

G. Nation, Head of School

HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

(formerly the URC)

October Programme

- 4th 2pm. Music YOU have loved. Any genre. Please bring along a CD of your favourite music for the group to enjoy. Further details – Mo & Alan on 579730.
- 7th & 8th 10am – 4.30pm. EXHIBITION OF LOCAL ARTS & CRAFTS. Open to everyone to display and visit. Further details – Maria on 824064
- 11th 2.30pm. Crime Thrillers Book Club – Further details from Pat on 826275
- 14th 10am-12 Noon. Coffee Morning Drop In.

Dates for your diary:

Young People's Festival, February 3rd 2018 at 7pm. An exciting opportunity for our young people to showcase their musical talent. More information/entry forms from Alan Spinney on 579730

MARIE CURIE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Marie Curie Christmas Fair on Saturday 18th November 10.30am – 3.00pm in the Stoke Working Men's Club.

FASHION SHOW

Stoke Charity Shop Fashion Show – Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm in the Hamdon Community Arts Project (formerly the URC, North Street). Please note the change of venue.

AUTUMN JUMBLE SALE

Norton-Sub-Hamdon Village Hall. Saturday October 28th. Doors open 11am. Loads of bargains: new/nearly new books, toys, bric-a-brac, bedding etc. Also cake stall, raffle, teas and much more. Admission 50p, children free. In aid of Hall funds. Contact: Jennie on 01935 881718

HAMDON MEDICAL CENTRE 'FLU SESSIONS 2017

We are holding the following 'flu sessions for patients that are in an 'At Risk' group including all patients aged 65 years old 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, seriously overweight or are carers are also entitled to a 'flu vaccination. No appointment is needed; just attend within the times stated. If you have a pre-booked appointment with a GP, Nurse or Technician from 25 September you can request to have your 'flu jab at this appointment.

Thursday 5 th October	4.30pm – 6.30pm	Saturday 7 th October	9.30am – 11.00am
Thursday 12 th October	2.30pm – 4.30pm	Thursday 26 th October	5.00pm – 6.00pm
Thursday 2 nd November	5.00pm – 6.00pm		

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

Countryside Events

For more details and bookings please visit:

www.southsomersetcountryside.com

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

October

<i>Ham Hill Country Park</i>		<i>Yeovil Country Park</i>	
<i>Monday 23rd</i>	<i>Find the Yeti</i>	<i>Saturday 7th</i>	<i>Fungi Foray</i>
<i>Monday 30th</i>	<i>Spooky Stories</i>	<i>Saturday 21st</i>	<i>Wonderful Woodlands</i>
		<i>Friday 27th</i>	<i>Halloween Trail</i>

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>

DIARY OF EVENTS:**October**

- 3rd Stoke Active Walkers
- 9th Walking for Health
- 11th Picture Framing Demonstration
- 12th Castle Primary School Open Day
- 14th Village Artist Group Art Exhibition
- 23rd Walking for Health
- 28th Jumble Sale

November

- 2nd All Souls Service – St Mary's Church
- 4th Craft Fair
- 7th Brownies & Guides 'Overcoming Adversity' Talk
- 13th Walking for Health
- 18th Marie Curie Christmas Fair
- 25th Charity Shop Fashion Show
- 27th Walking for Health

December

- 11th Walking for Health
- 18th Walking for Health