

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### ***Chair's Update***

We did not have a Parish Council meeting in August, so my update this month will be brief! When we meet again in September we are changing the day and week in the month when we meet. From now on Parish Council meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month, at 7.15pm in the Memorial Hall, as usual.

### **Methodist Church**

As mentioned in last month's update, we are still awaiting the Church's decision on our bid for the purchase of the property as a new Youth & Family Centre. We understand from the agents that two other bids have now been made, now that the Community Right to Bid period has ended, but we have no information as to whether these are for business use, or whether they are potential buyers wanting a change of use to residential. We understand that the church hopes to make a decision at the very end of this month. We promise we will let you all know the final outcome as soon as we have a decision.

### **West Street potential development**

Thank you to all those residents who provided feedback on initial plans provided to us by the developers. From comments received so far, it is clear that houses built mainly from hamstone, or reconstituted hamstone would be preferred rather than white render, and that the view from the Hill down into the village would be spoiled. You were also concerned about the effect of extra housing demands on sewage and flooding along West Street. Some of you felt that there was already sufficient new proposed building in the village, based on the District Council Local Plan. This Plan, passed by the District Council, sets out the target for new house building over a rolling 5 year period – and we have got to this figure already, although none of the 3 development sites at Southcombes, Stanchester and back of East Stoke Co-op have yet started building. However it is a minimum target figure, there is no maximum figure that can be built.

Just to clarify, the Parish Council have no powers to stop a development on the grounds that we just don't like the look of it for this village, or think that there is no need for further development in the village. Rules about objecting to planning applications are quite strict. Our role is to reflect residents' concerns based on what is called "material planning considerations". What we can object to is if the development does not meet policies set by the District Council and the following material planning considerations:-

- Layout, design, character and density of buildings
- Flood risk
- Effect on listed building(s) and Conservation Areas
- Access and highways safety
- Traffic generation
- Adequate parking and servicing;
- Noise and disturbance from the scheme
- Disturbance from smells
- Loss of trees
- Loss of ecological habitats
- Public visual amenity (not loss of private individual's view)
- Overlooking and loss of privacy
- Overbearing nature of proposal

(You may remember that we originally successfully objected to a planning application for a fast food take away at the Cross, and our objections were traffic generation, noise and disturbance from the scheme, adequate parking and disturbance from smells. Nobody was saying that the village should not have a take away – just that the one proposed was in totally the wrong place, and would have had a disastrous impact on the immediate area).

We understand the West Street developers will be writing formally to each household in September asking for feedback – we strongly urge you to respond to this survey, it's

important that you make your views heard. If they do put in a planning application, then again it is important that your voice is heard – whether it is for, or against the application. If you don't say, nobody knows!

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 823894; Email: [chairsshpc@hotmail.com](mailto:chairsshpc@hotmail.com)

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

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

There have been a number of burglaries and thefts in Stoke sub Hamdon and Tintinhull during July and August. During the summer months when the weather is hot we tend to leave our windows and doors open and we find great joy in letting our friends and neighbours know that we are going away or are on holiday. The opportunist thief is watching and listening so please be vigilant! Don't broadcast that you will be away or post on social media sites where you are. Please lock your front doors and close front windows especially if you are in your back garden – you may not hear if someone is entering your house. Please do not give an unscrupulous person any opportunity!

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 September 2016*

For our September walk we begin by going along the bottom of Bowey and up to the top of Ham Hill. We will then go along the ridge past the Prince of Wales to follow the footpath along the top of Hedgecock Woods, then up to Batemore Barn and down over Witcombe to the lane which will take us to the back of Bagnell Farm. We will then follow the footpath back through Little Norton 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.

### **FOOD AND CRAFT MARKET - DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

Stoke sub Hamdon Working Men's Club will be hosting a Food and Craft Market on Saturday, 26 November 2016 from 10 am to 4 pm. Come along to take a look at the variety of stalls with all sorts of lovely things to buy. Refreshments will be available, including mulled wine! Entrance is free. We look forward to seeing you there! For further information, please contact Denise on 01935 827793.

### **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.

We would like to invite any interested parties whether to perform or help with the actual production of this play, to come to our first play reading on the Tuesday 13 September at the Working Men's Club, 7.30pm. Everyone will be welcome. For more information contact: [info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk](mailto:info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk) SPAG Core Team

### **STOKE CHARITY SHOP**

Pre-season sale in the United Reformed Church, North Street on Saturday, 10 September between 10am-2pm. Start the season with a bargain before the clothes are seen in our shop. Refreshments will be provided by The Hamdon Playgroup.

### **STOKE SUB HAMDON COMMUNITY GATHERS TO CELEBRATE THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WITH CASTLE SCHOOL**

Residents around Castle Street, Stoke sub Hamdon joined children, teachers and school staff on Friday, 1 July for an afternoon of celebrations for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Through lunchtime Castle Street was filled with tables and decorations for the community to share food, singing, games and dancing throughout the afternoon. It was the first time the street has been closed for a party since Charles and Diana were married in 1981. The event was followed by the Friends of Castle School Summer Fair.

Castle Primary School Head of School Jeremy Handscomb said:

"Children have been learning songs, dancing and royal-themed games to help the school and our neighbours on Castle Street celebrate the royal birthday in style. It's a great opportunity for our school community to gather and celebrate in style. Our Year 6 children were selling the products they've created as part of an exciting Enterprise project with Virgin Money to help them understand how business works."

This Enterprise project is 'The Fiver Challenge' which is backed by Virgin Money and Young Enterprise to help children set up mini businesses in school to promote financial literacy, teamwork and resilience. More information is available at [www.fiverchallenge.org.uk](http://www.fiverchallenge.org.uk).

### **STANCHESTER & ASH PURPLE PATCHERS**

There will be a quilt exhibition by Stancheester and Ash Purple Patchers on Friday, 9 September at All Saints Parish Church, Martock TA12 6JL between 9am and 5pm. Entry is free and there will be a quilt raffle, a sales table, traders and refreshments. All in aid of the Macmillian Nurses at Yeovil District Hospital. For more information please contact Kay on 07778268051.

### **STOKE BAND**

The Band was shocked and saddened by the sudden death of its Secretary Adrian Biggs. Adrian had been a member of the band for over 51 years, only retiring from playing at the May Fayre this year. Adrian served the band in many capacities over the years including chairman, treasurer and musical director.

The band's AGM has been set for September 29<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in the band room when a new secretary will be appointed; until then Jane Herbert has taken over temporarily as acting secretary.

### **DUNSTER IN CANDLELIGHT**

I propose to run a coach to this event on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December picking up in Stoke and South Petherton. The cost per seat will be approximately £15.00 which will include a programme, the park and ride ticket and the driver's tip. Please ring me to reserve a place on 01935 822703.

*Dru Perry*

### **HAM HILL**

#### **Medieval Fayre**

Ham Hill will be hosting a Medieval Fayre on Saturday, 3 September. The fayre will have a number of living history performers and craft displays to enthrall you all. We are looking for local groups or individuals to perform something medieval whether it is 'am-dram', singing or dancing and anyone who wishes to display a craft such as weaving, cooking ironwork etc.

However, if performing or arts and crafts aren't your forte and you would like to be involved, we are looking for volunteers to help with marshalling, setting up etc. on the day.

#### **Witcombe Valley Stream Project**

It was reported in last month's newsletter that due to our Ranger, Jon's accident the Witcombe Valley Stream Project had been postponed and was under review. We are happy

to report that the project to reinstate the ancient stream that used to flow through the valley will still be going ahead as planned this Summer. It is only the educational side of the project that has been put on temporary hold.

For more information on either of the above items please contact Brian Evans, Friends of Hall Hill, by emailing [brianevans64@live.co.uk](mailto:brianevans64@live.co.uk) or telephoning either 826125 or 07816980990

### **150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

At the beginning of September we will celebrate 150 years of the Church at North Street. Previously known as the Congregational Chapel until 1972 when it became the United Reformed Church. There will be a service led by the Moderator, Revd Ruth Whitehead, at 2.30pm on Sunday 4 September followed by tea and cakes. Stoke Band will play before and after the service. There will also be an exhibition of Church memorabilia and photographs so if anyone has anything of interest could they please contact the Church Secretary on 01935 824847. The exhibition will be open on Saturday from 10am to 3pm and on Sunday 4 from 11am onwards.

### **2<sup>ND</sup> HAMDON GUIDES – OUR FIRST TERM!**

Our New Guide Unit has been a great success. We have 12 Guides at the moment and both girls and leaders have enjoyed a fun packed term.

For our first couple of weeks, the girls did lots of planning to make decisions on what patrol they want to be in, what the patrols will be called and what activities and trips they would like to do whilst at Guides. They also enjoyed playing lots of games to get to know each other and most importantly, have some fun!

Throughout the term we had one patrol complete their football 'Go For it' badge while another did one about Chocolate. We met up with units of Guides, Brownies and Rainbows to celebrate the Queen's birthday and do a whole day of crafting. We supported Martock Charity shop at their retro-fundraising event and did a litter pick in Stoke-Sub-Hamdon. We have also been orienteering at Ham Hill and returned for another trip to make fires, toast marshmallows and make campfire popcorn! We also had a trip to Greenbank pool in Street and the term finished with some of the girls joining Martock guides for Summer Camp.

Next term we have plans to complete more Go For It badges, a bat walk in Ninesprings, Sailing, Remembrance Service, Film night and a Trip to Air Hop and Christmas Shopping to keep us busy as well as starting to fundraise towards a trip to London next year!

If you would like to join our Guide unit (for girls aged 10-14) we run on Tuesday's, 7-8.30pm from the Memorial Hall in Stoke-Sub-Hamdon. Please call Claire Kelly on 07747 846472 or visit <https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk/>

### **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. They are continuing throughout the summer and both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café, where a well-earned coffee or lunch can be purchased after the walks. September walk dates 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>. Contact Penny on 822208 or Mark on 07974103275.

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

September	1st	Cream Tea Outing to Weymouth
	8th	FILM: Road to the Isles
	15th	Poems and Readings
	22nd	Boccia
	29th	Hastings (1066) Culloden (1746) - Michael Kerr
October	6th	Fish & Chips - Raffle - In House

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

### **HAMDON YOUTH GROUP**

Hamdon Youth Group is getting back into gear after the summer of fun. Lou, our Youth Worker will put up posters about our Monday evening events this month as we are still coping with the uncertainty of lacking a main larger venue. However the wonderful people at the Fleur in Stoke are giving us a temporary home still for which we are very grateful. Youth Voice will be on alternate Wednesdays at Norton Village Hall Meeting Room. All these meetings are open to young people from Year 7.

On September 15 our AGM will be held at Norton VH meeting room at 7.30pm. All are welcome to come to find how we run HYG. Volunteers to work with young people and to work behind the scenes are still needed.

For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk)

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### **September**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Medieval Fayre – Ham Hill
- 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Exhibition of Church Memorabilia and Photographs – URC
- 6<sup>th</sup> Stoke Active Walkers
- 7<sup>th</sup> Parish Council Meeting
- 9<sup>th</sup> Stanchester & Ash Purple Patchers Exhibition
- 10<sup>th</sup> Charity Shop Pre-Season Sale
- 13<sup>th</sup> Stoke Performing Arts Group Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Hamdon Youth Group AGM
- 12<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health
- 26<sup>th</sup> Walking for Health
- 29<sup>th</sup> Stoke Band AGM

#### **October**

- 15<sup>th</sup> Craft & Table Top Sale – Memorial Hall

#### **November**

- 12<sup>th</sup> Marie Curie Christmas Market
- 26<sup>th</sup> Food & Craft Market