

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's Update

The council does not have a meeting in August, so my update this month will be limited to planning and other village issues. We meet again on the first Wednesday in September at 7pm in the Memorial Hall.

On planning issues, District planners have given permission for a Vodafone/O2 mobile mast and cabinet to be situated on the grass by the gates to Stanchester Academy playing fields, by the slip road to the A3088. This application, which was first refused for the original site in front of the Arc Homes development in East Stoke, was always going to be a little controversial. There will be some of us who think it is a good idea, and some of us who don't. Against the proposal is the fact that the mast will be seen from St Michael's Tower, interrupting the view in a Conservation Area. For the proposal, is the fact that it will significantly improve mobile coverage in an area which currently suffers from poor or no signal. There is a national requirement in place to provide good mobile communications in all areas including the countryside. In the final event, Historic England, The Gardens Trust, the SSDC Landscape Architect and the SSDC Ecologist decided not to continue to oppose the application after amendments were made to the application. The National Trust continued to oppose, as did some residents. The District in the end took the pragmatic view that improved services were important in this instance.

As you know, the parish council are responsible for maintaining the Memorial Hall grounds, and there have been some meetings over the past few months between the District Council Tree Officer and ourselves about the condition of the trees in the grounds. A lot of them are in a very poor condition and are potentially unsafe or diseased, and after consultation and discussion on all the options, permission has been granted to fell those trees involved. New trees will be planted to keep the grounds green and pleasant. The felling of the trees will take place in the late Autumn/Winter which is the correct season to carry out this sort of job. If you want to see the plans in detail, and what trees will be planted, you can see them up on the SSDC site at reference 17/02478/TEA, or if you prefer you can email Sarah Moore or myself for a copy.

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.

DOG FOULING

Please can we remind all dog owners that they must clear up after their dogs. Unfortunately there is a minority of irresponsible dog owners who think that the rules do not apply to them. There is an increasing problem of dogs' mess around the village, not only on pavements and footpaths but also on our beautiful community spaces. This is especially so on the big recreation ground. Sadly, this creates a very unpleasant environment for children playing and other users of the lovely facilities that we have in the village and also for the volunteers who maintain these facilities. If it continues, unfortunately there will have to be a ban on all dogs going into the recreation ground which will be a great shame for the responsible dog owners in the village.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 5th September 2017

We begin our walk today by going down across the back of Castle Farm to Jubilee Woods, through Jubilee Woods and up Kings Road, past Southcombe's Factory and along the bottom of Great Field. We will then follow the footpath to go past West End Garage, cross the road and follow the footpath to Norton. In Norton we will go up Higher Street and then double back to go around Norton Church to follow the footpath which will bring us up to Matts Lane to the Fleur de Lis 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.

WILL YOU JOIN US?

We are looking for some more lovely ladies and gentlemen to join us in running the Memorial Hall! We're a small friendly and positive group who meet once every six weeks in the evening, and we care passionately about our village hall! Current members are Barbara Brooks, Denise Burton, Sylvia Davey, Moira Hulett, Rebecca Merrick, Allan Lilley, Clare Sampson and Jill Uhlhorn.

So what do we do? Well, we've been able to organise some much needed improvements to the maintenance of the building over the past few months, and in October, thanks to grants from the Co-Op and the parish council, we are having our hall lobby decorated and new matting laid as well as the main Hall and stage floors sanded and sealed. There are also plans to get the main Hall area repainted over the next few months. We've also improved customer service by creating new formal booking, complaint and equality policies and a clear and fair pricing structure, and by listening to customers' suggestions. If you live in the village and would like to get involved please contact Barbara Brooks on 824432 or chairsshpc@hotmail.com. You will be very warmly welcomed!

THE VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Stoke sub Hamdon Village Artists start back on 11th September. 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.

Make a date for your diaries and come along to our exhibition on Saturday 14th October in the Memorial Hall where you can browse and buy a picture or two for yourself or as a gift. We look forward to seeing you there.

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.

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:

- 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.

HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

(formerly the United Reformed Church)

On the 26th July members of the Hamdon Community Arts Project committee had a very positive meeting with Ruth Whitehead and Raoul Hewitt from the URC Synod when we presented our feasibility study and the collated information from the Open Door events held in May. The Synod is very supportive of our efforts to keep the URC for community use and will now allow us the time to construct a formal business plan which will be presented to them in early 2018. As you can imagine there is a great deal of work to do during the autumn!

In the meantime we intend to hold community events in the building. If you are interested in becoming involved with this project or would like any further information please contact Maria Eames on 824064.

CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, 4th November

Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall 10.30am to 4.30pm

The festive season starts here 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.

Why not come along to browse and buy some unique gifts for your friends and family. For more details contact Denise on 827793.

LITTLE FISHES

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler group starts again from 7th September.

Little Fishes is a weekly stay and play baby and toddler group held at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall every Thursday morning 10-12 (term time). We are a friendly and welcoming group of local parents and carers who run the group together for our pre-school aged little one. Please have a look at our Facebook page for weekly updates; search for 'Little Fishes, Stoke sub Hamdon'. The first session is free and thereafter £2. We are still looking for local volunteers who might like to come and help out. The kind of things we would like help with are making hot drinks or helping setup and clear up the play equipment. If you are interested in volunteering please come along to one our sessions.

THE STOKE CHARITY SHOP

We are making way for winter stock so don't miss out on the terrific bargains at our end of summer HALF PRICE CLEARANCE SALE on all items in the Charity Shop on Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd September. Also, on Saturday 9th September there will be a special opportunity to view and purchase items from the new winter range not yet seen in the shop at the Hamdon Community Arts Project (formerly the URC) in North Street, 10.30 – 3.30. Tea and coffee available.

Date for your diaries – FASHION SHOW and sale of CHRISTMAS ITEMS – 7.30pm on 25th November at the Stoke Working Men's Club, more detail and tickets later.

STOKE BAND AGM

Stoke sub Hamdon Band's AGM will take place on Thursday 28th September in the band room at the former URC at 8pm. Minutes from the AGM 2016 are available in the band room.

Stoke Band events

9th December – Christmas concert at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall

16th December – Carols at the Prince of Wales, Ham Hill at 4pm

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

After a summer of fun HYG are looking forward to some great sessions this September.

Our Monday sessions continue in the Lighthouse Café, 7-9pm and welcome young people from Year 7. Cost 50p.

September

- 4th Programme planning/Biscuit decorating
- 11th Photo shoot
- 18th Make your own keyring
- 25th Movie night

Our Wednesday session in the Meeting Room of the village hall in Norton (also 7-9pm) also welcomes young people from Year 7 so come and join in!

September

- 6th Photo shoot/What age can I?
- 13th Make your own keyring
- 20th Movie night

For more details on both from our Youth Worker, Lou, on 07402 987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me.uk

As ever we would welcome more volunteer, both to support Lou at the Youth Club and to work behind the scenes. We would particularly welcome anyone able to help us in the vital work of applying for grants which enable us to keep the Youth Club running. This is particularly valuable work as we are the only providers in Norton and Stoke of youth facilities with an aim to educate and involve young people in the community. Please contact John Bailey on 881227 or any member of the committee (including Lou) if you would like to join our friendly group.

ALL SOULS SERVICE, ST MARY'S CHURCH, STOKE SUB HAMDON

Thursday 2nd November at 6.30pm

All are welcome to this special service in remembrance of those who have died, especially anyone bereaved during the past eighteen months.

The churches website www.hamhillchurches.org has details of services across the 7 villages that make up the Ham Hill Benefice.

Countryside Events

For more details and bookings please visit:

www.southsomersetcountryside.com

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

September

<i>Yeovil Country Park</i>	
<i>Saturday 23rd</i>	<i>Foraging</i>

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 Foraging with Michael Jordan</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>

ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE

Saturday 16th September – Great Somerset Night Walk

This fantastic 9 mile walk will follow a circular route from Yeovil Town Football Club (Huish Park), incorporating the stunning night time views over Somerset from Ham Hill, before

returning back to the Football Club. The walk should take around 3-4 hours. Entry fees are £15 for adults and £10 for children aged 6-16, which includes your t-shirt, medal and goodie bag. There is no charge for children aged 5 and under, but they will not receive a t-shirt, medal or goodie bag. This year's walk has an 80's theme, so get out those legwarmers and big up your hair in readiness! VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED ON THE NIGHT. Please contact Susan Bickle, Mon-Wed 01935 709182/Thurs-Fri 01823 365613 or email susan.bickle@st-margarets-hospice.org.uk

DIARY OF EVENTS:

September

1 st & 2 nd	Charity Shop Sale
5 th	Stoke Active Walkers
8 th	Last Night of the Proms Concert
9 th	Charity Shop Winter Collection
11 th	Walking for Health
25 th	Walking for Health
28 th	Stoke Band - AGM

October

9 th	Walking for Health
14 th	Village Artists Exhibition
23 rd	Walking for Health

November

2 nd	All Souls Service – St Mary's Church
4 th	Craft Fair
13 th	Walking for Health
25 th	Charity Shop Fashion Show
27 th	Walking for Health