

## **PARISH COUNCIL**

### *Chair's update*

A quiet month in the Parish Council in March. We have been taking part in three consultations as follows.

#### A303 Proposals Consultation

Somerset County Council wanted comments on the proposals for the A303 Sparkford to Ilchester road safety. As part of the feedback to this we have joined with Montacute Parish Council in voicing our concerns that the A303 Ilchester by-pass has not been included in the overall proposal. Leaving this stretch of road unwidened will have a serious effect on both Stoke and Montacute as when traffic builds up, drivers take a short cut through our villages. Although not strictly covered by this consultation, we felt that we ought to stand up on the wall and shout, on the basis that if you shout loud enough, eventually someone will hear!

#### Road Safety Consultation

This was from Somerset County Council, on their Road Safety Strategy 2017-2026. The Vision is to ensure that no-one is killed or seriously injured as a result of a road crash. We felt that the aims of the strategy although admirable were unrealistic and therefore unachievable. The strategy suggested that roads should be better designed with improved maintenance. However, we felt these are only achievable if there is the budget and resources available, which seems unlikely. The strategy also put great emphasis on road user responsibility but there was little mention of Highways' part in all this. We specifically asked for a relaxation of the rules whereby 30mph signs are not allowed in Conservation areas like Stoke. We felt that road safety was more important.

#### Ward Boundary Consultation

This was issued at the back end of last year. As you know, most of Stoke is in the Hamdon Ward, with part of East Stoke in the neighbouring St Michaels Ward, which also includes Montacute. We took the opportunity to tell them that we felt that the area of East Stoke should be transferred to the Hamdon Ward, so that the whole of our village was in the same Ward, and this reflects feedback from some East Stoke residents. A report on the first stage of the consultation has now been produced and it appears that the two Wards of Hamdon and St Michaels may well be joined into one large Ward – so not quite what we suggested, although all areas in Stoke would now be together. This change would bring Stoke, Montacute, Tintinhull, Chilthorne Domer and Chiselborough into the same Ward. We understand it is likely to be some time before final decisions are made.

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

*Tel: 824432; Email: [chairsshpc@hotmail.com](mailto:chairsshpc@hotmail.com)*

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

## **STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS**

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018*

Our walk will begin by going along Bowey and then along Norton Path. From there we will go down over Sandy Lane and up over Norton Cover to Fairy Land; across the ridge to Batemore Barn and take the footpath that brings us to the back of Abbey Farm. We will then go up to St Michaels Tower and back through Hedgecock woods 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.

## **DR BULLEY RETIREMENT**

We felt you would like to know that Dr Roger Bulley is retiring from Hamdon Medical Centre in April after 35 years of dedicated and caring service to our community. To mark the event, we are planning a tea party for patients and former members of staff to come and say

farewell and thank you to him on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April between 2.00pm and 4.00pm at Stoke sub Hamdon Memorial Hall. Please drop in, we know he would love to see you.

There will be a book available in the Medical Centre reception from 20<sup>th</sup> February for those who wish to write him a good luck and thank you message. Any donations towards a leaving gift, to be presented to him at the tea party, can be left at reception at Hamdon Medical Centre no later than 6<sup>th</sup> April please.

*Dr Kathryn Blaydes, GP Partner, Hamdon Medical Centre*

### **CHESS**

I am wondering if there is any interest in forming a chess club in the village – more perhaps on a ‘social’ rather than a competitive basis – and meeting weekly/monthly in the afternoons?

If you are interested, please contact Clive White on 01935 829019. If there is sufficient response I will arrange a meeting to discuss in more detail.

### **EVERY STEP COUNTS AND HEALTH WALKS**

Why not come along and join us on our led walks and enjoy seeing the lovely, everchanging countryside around Stoke. You will receive a warm welcome, lively conversation and the opportunity for a cup of tea or lunch at the Lighthouse Café after the walks.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays of each month and both walks start and end at the Lighthouse Café opposite the Fleur de Lis pub.

‘Every Step Counts’ walks begin at 9.30am and last approx. 30 to 40 mins, walking on pavements or paths around the village.

Health Walks start at 10.30am and last approx. 90 minutes, walking along tracks, footpaths and occasionally ascending Ham Hill and visiting neighbouring villages.

Just turn up, wearing suitable clothing and shoes for the weather.

If you would like more information, please contact any one of the four trained walk leaders: Mark & Jane 07736032971 Penny 822208 or Anne 826256

### **WHAT HAS THE CHARITY SHOP EVER DONE FOR STOKE SUB HAMDON?**

Six years ago, the vision of Val Stokes and others in the village helped to establish the Stoke Charity Shop, under the umbrella of the Stoke sub Hamdon Sports and Recreation Trust. Since its founding, the Charity Shop has provided a vital centre for the village and the proceeds from the shop, along with the May Fayre, has provided over £75,000 for village projects, administered by the Trust. Just some of the local organisations to benefit from grants include the Memorial Hall, Castle School, Oaktree House, the Lighthouse Café, SWMC, Junior Football, Stoke Band and Hamdon Brass, Village Artists, Brownies, Guides and Boys Brigade and Somerset Performing Arts Group.

The Charity shop continues to thrive thanks to our volunteers, the very generous donations made to us by villagers and the sustained support of our customers and the Trust. New volunteers are always welcome. If you would like to join us, contact Anne Ashlee, Charity Shop Secretary on 07821007116.

### **MAY FAYRE 28TH MAY - CALLING ALL CAKE BAKERS!**

Would you like to help on the day in the Memorial Hall kitchen or could you donate a cake? Last year thanks to your help we had a wonderful selection of cakes to sell in our pop-up cafe. There is a rota in the Stoke Charity Shop if you could spare a couple of hours on the day. We're busy from about 8am until 5:00pm and would love to hear from you. Thanks. Jill (07896299340), Penny (01935 822208)

### **MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE OF THE MEMORIAL HALL - NOTICE OF AGM**

We would like to invite you to the Annual General Meeting which will take place in the Memorial Hall on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2017 at 8pm. If you have an agenda item, please get in touch with Jill on 01935 829513.

If you could spare a small amount of time approximately once every other month and would like to join us as a Memorial Hall trustee or as a Friend of the hall please contact Barbara on 01935 824432 or Jill on 01935 829513. We look forward to seeing you on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

## **POP IN PROGRAMME**

### **April**

5 Easter Break – No meeting  
12 Quiz – John Trade Table  
19 100 years – Women’s Vote – Michael Kerr  
26 Boccia

### **May**

3 In House Film  
10 Garden Centre – Monkton Elms

For further information please contact Paul Spearpoint on 826375 or Jennifer Kerr on 882609.

## **MARTOCK LIBRARY**

### ***Library Consultation***

Somerset County Council is looking to cut costs, and a favoured way is by using volunteers to run many of their smaller libraries. Martock is on the cusp of this, with an annual footfall of 38,945 yet only 1,224 active borrowers. Why not borrow a book and help keep the library open – the professionals will find you your dream book.

Do the county council not realise our Library is also a true community hub, somewhere you can guarantee finding out what’s going on and get helpful advice from professional librarians. For those living on their own, it is an invaluable way of getting out and seeing familiar faces. A priceless service and not one to throw in the bin when SCC is spending so much money on helping people who feel lonely and isolated.

You can download audio books and eBooks free of charge. For only £1 you can order in from every library in Somerset, Dorset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire, either in the library or online. There’s hardly a book in the world you can’t find! Above all, please fill in the questionnaire, either in the library or online at <http://democracey.somerset.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=632>

### ***Free 3D printer drop-in day***

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 10.30 - 4.30

Martock Library has someone showing off a 3D printer; everyone welcome and you leave with a little white 3D bunny!

### ***Friends of Martock Library***

A friends group is beginning to take shape. It will support the library in as many ways as it can and encourage interest groups to meet there. If you would like to know more or become a friend, drop into the library, or come to the Farmers’ Market in April where we will have a stall or contact [fergus.dowding@btinternet.com](mailto:fergus.dowding@btinternet.com) or phone 822202.

## **ODCOMBE MOVIE NIGHT**

Odcombe Movie Night will be showing “Stars Don’t Die in Liverpool” (15) on Monday 9th April at 8:00pm in the Village Hall. The doors open at 7:30pm. Tickets: £5.00 in advance or £6:00 on door. Phone: 07934 737104 for tickets.

## **STOKE CHARITY SHOP JUMBLE SALES**

*Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2-4pm, Stoke Working Men’s Club*

Stoke Charity Shop is holding a Jumble Sale in the function room at Stoke Working Men’ Club. Clothes, books, games, toys, bric-a-brac, books, games, refreshments and more. Come along and grab a bargain and have some tea and cake. Admission 50p.

## **STOPPING TO HELP A STRANGER**

Well done to the three school girls who stopped to help the gentleman who had collapsed in West Street. They could have easily walked by but decided to do what they could. I was the only other person around but by the time I got there one of them was already on the phone

to the ambulance. Also, thank you to everyone else who either stopped to help or offered help. What a caring village we live in. I am sure the girls' parents are very proud of them.

*Jane Bourbon*

### **GARDENING CLUB**

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club will meet on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April and we are delighted to announce that Gardener, Author, Lecturer and Nursery Owner, Sally Gregson will talk on '21<sup>st</sup> Century Cottage Gardens'. This should be very informative and interesting plus there may be plants for sale! You are most welcome to come along, you might want to join us as not only are we just the best Gardening Club, we are also a very social crowd!

We are already preparing for our annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show which will be held on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August in the Memorial Hall and for those photographers among you, the classes this year are: Shadows; Road works; Little drops of water; Only a rose plus; A musical theme. The Children's classes: Under 8 – A painting or drawing of a wild animal; Aged 8 – 11 – A Birthday Card for a friend, any medium, maximum size A5. We will also be having Vegetable, Flower, Home Produce, Flower Arranging and Handicraft classes, which will include runner beans (plus the longest been!), French beans, tomatoes, herbs specimen fruit bowl, roses, perennials, sweet peas, dahlias, gladioli, scones, all butter shortbread fingers, chutney, jam, marmalade, a floral exhibit of single colour the list goes on. The full Show Schedule will be distributed with The Village Newsletter nearer the time. Details about Gardening Club from either Sue Winwood 01935 823671 or Tricia Toosey 01935 823691

### **HAMDON YOUTH GROUP**

The Hamdon Youth Group is continuing to run two sessions on Monday evenings in the Lighthouse Café to accommodate all the young people who wish to join in. The exceptions to this are on Bank Holidays (April 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup>).

From 6.30 – 8.00pm young people from school years 6-9 will have the following programme in April:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Stress Ball Making
- 16<sup>th</sup> Fun Games Night/Bingo
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Programme Planning/Mug Cakes
- 30<sup>th</sup> Movie Night

The later sessions, 8.00 – 9.30pm for Years 9 and older will have the following programme:

- 9<sup>th</sup> Food Games
- 16<sup>th</sup> What is it to be a man
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Programme Planning/Mug Cakes
- 30<sup>th</sup> What would you do if .....

All sessions cost 50p. Norton sessions on Wednesday evenings in the Meeting Room at the Village Hall are open to all and focus on special projects. It is hoped that these will soon include stop-frame animation. For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402 987921 or email [lou.chant@cyp.me.uk](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me.uk)

### **ST MARY'S CHURCH**

#### ***Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms***

St Mary's Church and clergy are available to celebrate these important items in the life of your families. Did you know that everyone in the village, who has not been previously married, has a right to a church wedding? (and, in fact, most people who have been previously married will probably be able to have their wedding in a church), and that everyone from the village has a right to a church funeral service, and St Mary's will also provide a minister for a service at the Crematorium. We will also baptise those from our parish. We are here to serve.

### ***Easter Day – April 1<sup>st</sup>***

There will be an all-age communion service at St Mary's on Easter Day at 9.30am. There will also be a brief "sunrise service" at 6.30am at the Toposcope on Ham Hill.

If there are people who are not able to get to church because they are housebound but would like to receive communion at home occasionally, please let one of the clergy or the Parish Office know (info on the back page)

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

#### ***April***

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stoke Active Walkers
6 <sup>th</sup>	Martock Library 3D Printer Drop In
9 <sup>th</sup>	Every Step Counts & Health Walks
9 <sup>th</sup>	Odcombe Movie Night
7 <sup>TH</sup>	Stoke Charity Shop Jumble Sales
14 <sup>th</sup>	Dr Bulley's Retirement Party
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Every Step Counts & Health Walks
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Memorial Hall AGM
25 <sup>th</sup>	Garden Club Talk

#### ***May***

14 <sup>th</sup>	Every Step Counts & Health Walks
21 <sup>st</sup>	Every Step Counts & Health Walks
28 <sup>th</sup>	May Fayre