

Thank you to everyone who has responded to our plea for help with the newsletter delivery. We live in a fantastic village where people are more than happy to help in any way they can

PARISH COUNCIL

Request for New Councillors: Recent resignations and sickness meant we only had 50% representation at February's meeting, so it was obvious we need an injection of support to get us back to full strength. Would you be interested in joining us on the Parish Council? We have three vacancies, and we'd love them all to be filled! It doesn't matter whether you are new to the village or have been here for years, young or not so young, all are welcome to share ideas and make a difference to the village. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall and we are a really friendly group who want to and will make sure we improve facilities in our village. If you would like more information on what it's all about, please contact either Barbara Brooks, Chairman, on 823894 or Sarah Moore, Parish Clerk, on 822455.

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that three vacancies have occurred on the Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council. Unless a request for an election to be held is submitted in writing to the Proper Officer of the South Somerset District Council, at the Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil, Somerset BA20 2HT by no later than 15th March by ten electors for the Parish of Stoke sub Hamdon, the Parish Council will proceed to fill this vacancy by co-option.

Hamdon Community Arts Project: At the meeting councillors were given an update on the progress of the Hamdon Community Arts Project. The United Reformed Church facilities provide a valuable resource for various organisations in the village and the building itself contains the parish clock (owned by the PC). The team involved identified key issues to be overcome for the project to become a success; these include, planning approval to modify the building for community use, parking, continued support from local organisations and successful grant applications made to various sources including the Parish Council. Whilst this isn't an issue for the current financial year councillors needed to be aware of the costs that need to be considered for future planning.

Dog Mess: It is so frustrating that this subject seems to crop up now at virtually every council meeting. It is obvious from the nature of the complaints that this is a village wide issue. At this meeting, mess on the Sports and Rec Ground was the primary focus of complaint although the council are very aware there are also repeat offences occurring on the High Street and North Street pavements. Dog fouling is solely the fault of irresponsible dog owners unwilling to clear up after their dogs. Apart from the disgusting mess it can make, humans can contract Toxocariasis from an area in which a dog has fouled. The area is contaminated by eggs from Toxocara Canis and an infection may cause blindness and may provoke rheumatic, neurological or asthmatic symptoms. Residents are our eyes out in the community so if you see or know of an offender surely it's your duty to report it. Something that can be done by contacting the District Council direct or by using the "Report it" tool on the Government's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public/public-spaces-protection-orders>.

It may be necessary for new tools such as The Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) to be applied to areas, something which unfortunately impacts on the freedoms of all responsible dog owners as well.

On the spot Fines ('Fixed Penalty Notices') of £50- £80 are the norm and this increases to £100 in an area of a PSPO. Failure to comply can lead to penalties up to £1000.00.

Sadly, the problem does not appear to be going away despite previous notices. It might be that until the specific offenders who seem oblivious as to how anti-social this behaviour is are prosecuted things will not improve. Our Dog Warden has been asked to step up visits.

Grant Funding: A successful grant application was made by The Sports and Recreation Trust for an increase in its annual funding. Whilst we could not grant the full amount an

increase from £2000 to £4000 was agreed. This goes toward supporting the good work being done by the Trust and its associated teams of people all of which help to improve our village in a so many ways.

An annual grant application from St Mary's Church was also agreed. A grant of £876.75 was awarded to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard.

Footpaths: If any there are any problems with the footpaths around the village please could you notify the Parish Clerk in the first instance. The Clerk's contact details are at the bottom of the back page of this newsletter.

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

HAM HILL ROAD CAR PARK

There have been a number of thefts from vehicles in the Ham Hill Road car park. The opportunist thief is watching so please be vigilant do not leave anything of value inside your vehicles. Please do not give an unscrupulous person any opportunity!

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.

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 6th March 2018

Today we begin our walk by going along Bowey and then along Norton Path and down over Jack O'Beard, along Broadmead Lane and across the playing field to follow the footpath which will take us along past Chiselborough Church. We will then go past the Cat Head and then follow the road towards Middle Chinnock, turn left back towards Chiselborough and take the footpath to the right, through the woods then follow the road back into Chiselborough, back through Manor Farm and follow the footpath across the fields 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.

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, 14th 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 20th 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 6th April please.

Dr Kathryn Blaydes, GP Partner, Hamdon Medical Centre

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Pen and Wash Workshop by Josephine Hamilton on 3rd February was a tremendous success and enjoyed by both members and non-members of all abilities. Josephine taught us various techniques so that we could create some fantastic pictures.

The Village Artists hold several workshop days and demonstration evenings throughout the year so if you would like to join us, are interested in Art or just want 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 informal 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.

TRADITIONAL JAZZ NIGHT

Trad Jazz night featuring the Wriggle Valley Jazz Band at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon, TA14 6PZ on Saturday, 3rd March 2018. The doors open from 6.30pm with performance starting at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £10 and include a Ploughman's supper. Tables of 8 to 10 people available.

To book please ring the Box office 01935 824784 weekdays 9am - 5pm only. Answerphone - please leave message, we will get back to you.

SOMERSET SIGHT

The Somerset Sight van is calling at the Memorial Hall car park on the following days between 1.30-3.30 pm:

1st March, 11th June, 25th July, 24th September and 27th November

GARDENING CLUB

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club will meet on Wednesday, 28th March when a speaker from the Brimsmore Gardens Group will give a talk on 'Gardens for Pollinators'. Always something different but interesting. Everyone is most welcome to come along and who knows, you just might want to join us. We are not just the best Gardening Club, we are also very social crowd!

We are already preparing for our annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show which will be held on Saturday 4th 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 to 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, fuller details will be published in forthcoming Newsletters.

Details about the Gardening Club from either Sue Winwood 01935 823671 or Tricia Toosey 01935 823691

STOKE PERFORMING ARTS GROUP

Winter Ghosts

On 9th - 10th March at 7pm at the Hamdon Community Arts Project (old URC), North Street, Stoke sub Hamdon.

Historical tales of Winter Ghosts in and around Stoke sub Hamdon, combined with an interactive performance making the village ready for Spring so come along and enjoy finding out about some local ghost stories, nothing is what it seems on a dark night. Children - please feel free to dress up!

After our performance you can meet the ghosts, while enjoying a sausage in a bun with a glass of wine for adults and fruit juice for youngsters. Suitable for children 6+, Children must be accompanied by an adult. Costs - £4.00 - Child under 14; £6.00 – Adult; £18.00 for a family ticket (2 adults and 2 children). Includes blooded finger in a bun and a drink. Booking is essential.

To book please ring the Box office 01935 824784 weekdays 9am - 5pm only. Answerphone - please leave message, we will get back to you or email info@stokeperformingartsgroup.co.uk

SPORTS AND RECREATION TRUST

The A.G.M will take place on 6th March at the Working Men's Club. Come along and meet the trustees, hear what the Trust achieved in 2017 and our plans for 2018. Everyone is welcome for an interesting evening about your village.

The Trust is looking for a new secretary from April 2018. The Trust has gone from strength to strength over the last few years and has enthusiastic trustees who form an umbrella for the village football teams, the Charity Shop, May Fayre and SPAG (Stoke Performance Arts Group). In addition, the Trust is planning exciting new developments at the Recreation ground.

Why not come and join this friendly and vibrant group. The meetings are monthly, and the secretary is responsible for the agenda and minutes. For further information please contact either Pat Jenkins (current secretary) patfjenkins@hotmail.com.uk or Peter Hulett (chairman) peter@peterhulett.com.

HAM HILL VILLAGES (HHV) BENEFICE

At the very end of last year, the HHV Benefice became a legal reality. Stoke sub Hamdon is one of 7 villages (together with Chiselborough, Middle Chinnock, Montacute, Norton sub Hamdon, Odcombe and West Chinnock) in the group which is served by a Rector (Rev. Peter Thomas who lives in Chiselborough), an Associate Vicar (Rev Annie Gurner whose office is in Stoke) and a Benefice Curate (Rev Gary Edmunds who lives in Stoke) together with 6 Lay Readers (3 of whom, Barbara Foy, Colleen Jerrold, and Anthony Russell) are based at St Mary's. There is also a group of Lay Pastoral Assistants (who, amongst other things, help with visiting) and a Benefice Administrator (Caroline Lewars - based 2 mornings a week at The Parish Office in Castle Street). More information is on the Benefice website www.hamhillchurches.org. Some contact details on the back of this newsletter.

St Mary's - special services in March

To celebrate Mothering Sunday there will be a service for All the Family at St Mary's at 11.00am on March 11th - everybody welcome

We also have a number of special services to mark Holy Week the last week of Jesus life.

March 25th is Palm Sunday - when we recall Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and his welcome by the crowds.

March 29th is Maundy Thursday - there will be a service at 7.30pm in All Saints Hall recalling the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples.

On **Good Friday (March 30th)** at 9.30am there is a Walk of Witness from St Mary's Church to the Memorial Hall - as we carry the Cross we remember Jesus journey to be Crucified. There will then be a short service outside of the Memorial Hall at 10.00 am - followed by Hot X buns.

Easter Day (April 1st) begins with a Sunrise Service on Ham Hill at 6.30am (at the Toposcape below the monument) and then an Easter Communion service at St Mary's Church at 9.30am. More information from the Parish Office - 824167 or Rev Peter Thomas 881202

DIARY OF EVENTS:

March

1 st	Somerset Sight
3 rd	Traditional Jazz Night
6 th	Stoke Active Walkers
6 th	Stoke sub Hamdon Sports & Recreation Trust AGM
9 th – 10 th	SPAG – Winter Ghosts
28 th	Gardening Club Talk

April

14 th	Dr Bulley's Retirement Party
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