

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's update

We were delighted to co-opt a new councillor last month, Suzanne Nelms, who lives at Stonehill. Suzanne's family have lived in Stoke for a number of generations, and her great great Grandfather built a large proportion of the hamstone houses in the village. We welcome her enthusiasm and the skills she will bring to your team of councillors. (There are still two vacancies on the council, so please do contact me or Sarah Moore if you are interested).

In our public session on the 4th April, we heard a presentation from the Hamdon Arts Community Project (HCAP) on their initial Business Plan for the operating costs of the potential new arts centre. They were keen to obtain a letter of support from the parish council for a future Listed Building Consent application for potential changes they would need to make to the building. Councillors were happy to agree to this, and we understand that the URC Synod have asked HACP for a final report to go to them by August this year.

Hamdon Youth Group formally applied for payment of their 2018/19 grant, which was agreed in principle last December. This year's grant will be £5,890, an increase of £2,640 which will cover the costs for a second Youth Worker for the project and payment was agreed by councillors.

I am afraid that the question of dog poo is raising its head again, this time at Stonehill. There is a lovely lady at Stonehill who has for many years volunteered to empty the litter bin there (the District Council will not pick up at the Stonehill play area), and she tells me that many dog owners are putting their black dog poo bags in the open bin, rather than use one of the special dog bins around the village. Last week she counted 36 bags! The smell was incredible, and not fair for a volunteer to have to cope with. Please, please use the special dog bins provided. One dog owner at Stonehill is also allowing their dog to do its business at the gate of the children's play area without bothering to pick up the mess. If you know who this is, please let us know – it is an offence, and we will take this further with them. Help us to keep our village clean!

Councillors also agreed that the District Council should do their annual safety checks on the village play equipment areas. The District Council offers a more competitive price than RoSPA. We also noted that the picnic tables in the Memorial Hall grounds need some sanding/cleaning and agreed to get a handyman to do. We have also asked our ground maintenance contractor to spray and remove the weeds down North Street and the centre of the village ready for our annual May Fayre

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

WILL YOU JOIN US?

You are all cordially invited to come to the Annual Parish Meeting on Wednesday 16th May at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. This is a once a year Open Meeting for residents, where you are invited to come and tell us what you would like the Council to look at over the coming year in parish council meetings, be it a new idea for the village, or something you would like to see working better. The meeting will be hosted by the Chair of the Parish Council and the Parish Clerk.

The meeting will open with light refreshments, including wine, tea and coffee at 7pm, followed by your questions at 7.30pm. Some of the clubs in the village will then give a short 5-minute talk about their activities over the year or will be asked to send in a report. Hope to see you there!

Barbara Brooks, Chair

LITTER PICK

The Parish Council are organising the annual litter pick for Saturday, 5th May. Please come and support us in keeping our village clean and tidy. We do this just prior to the May Fayre so that our village can present itself in the best possible way to the many visitors who come to Stoke on that day.

We will be meeting at 10am at the Memorial Hall. All equipment including hi-viz waistcoats, gloves etc. will be provided and any children wishing to help out must be accompanied by an adult. Tea and cakes will be provided on your return to the Hall! For more information please contact the Parish Clerk, Sarah Moore on 01935 822455.

IMPORTANT – DO YOU BELONG TO A CLUB IN STOKE? DO YOU RUN A BUSINESS?

If so, then details about you or your customers – name, email and telephone numbers will be somewhere on a list. Not a problem you might think? Not so. Data protection laws are changing big time from the 25 May – from then on, anybody holding personal data (but not your own domestic Xmas card lists!) will need to provide written evidence as to why that data is held, and you will be restricted on its collection and use. You have to keep the data secure and ensure that it is not hacked or given out to third parties. Failure to do will result in a large fine. Although the new laws were originally targeted at large marketing organisations who typically ask for more info than they need to create a marketing profile, the law also applies to you and me. Each club /business/charity will become a Data Controller and responsible for meeting the new Regulations. You will have to have a Privacy Notice if you have a website.

For example, if you run a venue you will have a booking system. This holds personal information from hirers and potential hirers, but you will now have to destroy that data once its original use is finished. You will have to have written evidence of people's consent to hold any data and tell them how long you will hold it for – and then destroy it. You won't be able to contact them about anything else at all only for their original hire purpose. If you want them to have general information, you have to get extra consent. You can't send out an email to a random group of people and display those email addresses openly in the email, because you are breaching privacy. You will need to enter their email addresses as 'blind copies', sending the email to yourself. The good news is that we have learn that members of clubs/councils etc. can continue to email each other internally without hiding their email addresses, as you have a legitimate reason to do so, and you are operating as a 'closed group' - but that's about it!

You can find out more information about the new regulations (called General Data Protection Regulations or GDPR) and how they will affect you at the Information Commissioners Office. They provide a useful self-assessment tool at <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/resources-and-support/data-protection-self-assessment/>.

Barbara Brooks, Chair

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 1st May 2018

This will be our Bluebell walk for 2018. We start by going along Bowey and up to the Monument. From there we will follow the ridge along to The Prince of Wales, across the field to the top of Hollow Lane and follow the footpath which will take us down over Ladies Walk. We will then cross the field and take the path around the back of Abbey Farm and then go back through Hedgecock Woods, through Double Ditch and across the front of Ham Hill and back to the Fleur di 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.

THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The Village Artists are hosting a workshop day with the illustrator and artist, Alison Mitchell, on 12th May between 10am – 4pm at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon. If you would like to know more or would like to join us, please phone Diana on 01935 881647. Booking is essential and is open to non-members.

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

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.

CASTLE SCHOOL QUIZ NIGHT

Open to All

Castle Primary School is hosting quiz night on Friday 11th May and teams of adults from the village are welcome to join us. A maximum of 6 members per team please. The cost is £5 per team member and this includes refreshments of either chili or soup. The quiz starts at 7.30pm in the school hall.

The money raised will go towards playground equipment so come along and have some fun and help a good cause (there are prizes too!).

Booking in advance is essential. Entry forms are available from the school office by emailing elherrod@gmail.com or phone/text 07801 282729.

GARDENING CLUB

On Wednesday, 23rd May the Gardening Club are delighted to welcome once again Mike Spencer who will give a talk on Ice, Fire and Fjords. For those of you who do not know Mike, he goes off on treks around the world, takes lots of wonderful picture and then gives talks on his experiences. Doors open at 7.00 am and the meeting starts at 7.30 pm. Everyone is welcome, and we look forward to another most interesting talk. Further details from Sue Winwood 01935 823671.

Don't forget we shall be at the May Fayre on 28th May in the orchard area of the The Priory (entrance from North Street) selling superb plants at extremely competitive prices!

The schedule and entry form for our Flower, Produce and Craft Show to be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 4th August will be included in the June edition of the village newsletter. For those crafters among you, this year the classes will include: a hand-knitted or crocheted item; an article in wood, metal or pottery/ceramic; an article in cross-stitch, tapestry or embroidery; a machine or hand-sewn article and; a patchwork/quilted article. Now is the time to dust off those crochet hooks, sharpen those sewing needles and making sure you have the right sized knitting needles, so you can ensure your entry will be ready for the big event. Our Flower Show is open to everyone, you do not have to be a member of the Gardening Club to enter. We look forward to seeing you on the 4th August.

BROWNIES & GUIDES ARE FUNDRAISING!

We wanted to thank everyone who came to support us at our Easter Bingo night, it raised a wonderful £505 towards making our programme a little more 'different'! We have booked for the Organic Drumming to come for a night this term and have trips and sleepovers that we can now subsidise.

On Tuesday, 15th May we are having a girls' fashion show and selling in aid of the Stoke Charity Shop. If you would like to treat your daughters to a new outfit, please come along! 6-8pm. £2 entry.

At the May Fayre we will be offering 'Pick & Mix' style lunches aimed at younger taste buds. 50p per item or 6 items for £2.50; drink, sandwich, savoury, pud, fruit, sweet treats! Come and say hello!

1st Montacute Brownies and 2nd Hamdon Guides

JAZZ NIGHT

Jazz Night featuring the Wriggle Valley Jazz Band at the Memorial Hall, Stoke sub Hamdon TA14 6PZ on Saturday 30th June. Doors open from 6.30pm, performance starts at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 and include a ploughman's supper. The bar will be provided by Stoke

Working Men's Club. Tables of 8 or 10 people available. Box Office 01935 824784 weekdays 9-5 only. Answerphone – please leave a message, we will get back to you.

STOKE SUB HAMDON MAY FAYRE

Monday 28th May – 11.30am -5.00pm

National Trust Priory and Memorial Hall Grounds

Come and enjoy our popular and busy annual May Fayre with lots of entertainment including Yeovil Ukulele Club, Desert Divas, Enigma Border Morris, Professor Paradox, interactive drumming, family fun dog show, food and craft stalls and much more.

If you would please like to bake a cake for us or help out on the day, we would be so grateful. All funds raised are to support projects for our local community. Please contact Denise for further information on 01935 827793

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Hamdon Youth Group Committee would welcome new members to run the HYG. Friendly 2-monthly meeting with ample coffee and biscuits but doing a worthwhile job in organising the Youth Clubs in Stoke and Norton with the support of Community Youth Projects who provide our qualified Youth Worker. Any age welcome. Please contact John Bailey on 01935 881227 or email jabailey@toucansurf.com if you would like to know more.

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 2nd and 4th 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

POP IN PROGRAMME

May

- 3 In House Film
- 10 Garden Centre – Monkton Elms

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

MAY

- 1st Stoke Active Walkers
- 5th Litter Pick
- 11th Castle School Quiz Night
- 12th Village Artists Group Workshop
- 14th Every Step Counts & Health Walks
- 15th Girls' Fashion Show
- 16th Annual Parish Meeting
- 21st Every Step Counts & Health Walks
- 23rd Gardening Club Talk
- 28th May Fayre

JUNE

- 30th Jazz Night