

Chair's Update

Youth Centre

I am pleased to say that significant progress has been made since last month on the legal documentation for the parish council's purchase of the former Methodist Church in West Street. It is planned to exchange contracts in August, with completion in September. It has been a long, hard project since we started the Community Right to Bid process in 2016 but we have refused to let the long delays beat us, and we have continued to press ahead with determination. The building will become the Hamdon Youth & Family Centre, the very first time we have had a permanent meeting place in the village for our younger generation. The Centre will provide a place for groups like the Brownies, Guides, Youth Club, Baby & Toddler Group and other children's groups to play, compete, discuss social and moral values, have fun and learn together as they grow from babies into responsible young adults. The Centre will be managed by a new village charity, with the majority of trustees being the user group representatives themselves - very much a "by the community, for the community" project for generations of Stoke residents to come.

When we first brought the project to the village, it was anticipated that we might have to raise council tax to fund the government loan each year. Over the past two years the parish council has put aside within its annual budget the loan repayment amount (hoping that we would complete quickly!), set up major and more effective budget monitoring; and therefore we have been able to potentially fund the loan repayments from the existing budget without raising the precept (your council tax). Those monies previously put aside for the project will now be used to put in new unisex and disabled toilets, a kitchen, central heating etc., required to bring the building up to modern public building standards, to get the project off to a good start.

Planning

There is nothing to report on planning issues this month – the summer months are often slow for planning applications with many people away on holiday.

URC Project

There appears to be some confusion and misunderstanding in the village about the parish council's support for the Hamdon Community Arts Project ("HCAP") on the site of the former URC church in North Street. I would like to put this right.

The HCAP project is to convert the building to become an Arts & Crafts Centre, and this will bring more recreational facilities into the village. Nobody wants to see our village lose such a beautiful building in the village, with all its village history, and the effect it would have on the current groups using the premises.

The parish council, contrary to rumours going around in some quarters, have no objections to the project, and agreed in early 2017 and again in April 2018 to write a general letter of support at the appropriate time. Representatives of HCAP have kept us regularly informed about its progress, both formally at council meetings and informally. We understand that HCAP is exploring a number of different ways of securing the building for community use with the URC Synod. We wish them every success with this exciting community project.

There are no council meetings in August each year - the next full one will be on Wednesday 5th September.

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday 7th August 2018

We begin our walk today by going down across the back of Castle Farm to Jubilee Woods, through Jubilee Woods and up Kings Road. We will then follow the track that will take us to Percombe then down across Great Field and take the footpath past West End Garage. From there we will 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 and follow the footpath which will bring us up 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.

STOKE SUB HAMDON GARDENING CLUB'S FLOWER, PRODUCE AND CRAFT SHOW

Stoke sub Hamdon Gardening Club's annual Flower, Produce and Craft Show will be held in the Memorial Hall, Stoke on Saturday 4th August. The hall will be open for the sale of home-made cakes, teas, coffee and ploughman's lunches from 11.30am and the exhibits will be open to the public from 1.45pm with prize giving taking place at 3.45pm. We look forward to seeing many of you at our event ~ a lot of people have spent many hours putting on, what we know, will be an excellent show. Outside the hall in the Memorial Grounds, we will once again have our grand raffle and plant stall.

The Gardening Club does not have a monthly meeting in August, our next scheduled event is Wednesday 26th September when Stephen Griffiths will talk about Abbotsbury Gardens Past, Present and Future.

For further information please contact Sue Winwood on 01935 823671

SONG BUS SINGING GROUP

The Song Bus Singing Group will be starting on 4th September between 1.45pm and 2.45pm for ages 0-4 years. Sessions will be held weekly on a Tuesday in the All Saints Hall. For more information please contact Jeanette Rumbelow on 06749733686.

CAR PARK CLOSURE

An American TV production company is filming at The Priory on Friday August 17th. The production company Starz who produced Outlander, are filming The Spanish Princess and have used several well-known locations in Somerset already. Charlotte Hope (Game of Thrones) and Laura Carmichael (Downton Abbey) are among the cast. It will be necessary to close the back half of the Memorial Hall car park to allow for their very large production vehicles by the gate. This area will be sectioned off, but residents are asked not to leave any cars at that end of the car park from 5 pm on the Thursday. Thank you for your co-operation.

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

Pop In meet at the Oak Tree House on Thursday afternoons at 2.30.

We like to chat over tea and cake and join in games such as board games and Boccia or listen to a speaker from a variety of backgrounds.

We realise that many people are missing out on socialising with us because they need transport. Is there anyone in Stoke sub Hamdon who would have a few hours free on Thursday afternoon to pick up a few older people from the Stoke sub Hamdon area and drive them to and from the group? We will pay 45p a mile for petrol.

If you would be interested, please contact Paul on 07770348767 or Cath on 07968521746.

HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

The FIRST Open Meeting was held on Wednesday 27th June. The outline Feasibility Study and Business case were presented and on a vote the attendees were overwhelmingly in favour of retaining the building as a community asset.

The SECOND Open Meeting will be held on **Saturday 11th August at 2pm**. Please come along if you can.

Please note that this meeting is about the future of the URC building – if you have any issues with other projects in the village please consult the Parish Council directly.

Sunday 2nd September at 2.30pm

Musical entertainment featuring a programme of folk, blues and light jazz music with the popular sisters Wendy Partridge and Linda Redman. See the website below for more information on this talented duo. Tickets are £5 and include a cream tea.

Please book tickets by calling 824064 from 9am-5pm. This is an answerphone so please leave a clear message including your phone number and we will contact you.

This will be a fantastic event for music lovers of all ages and It may also be your last opportunity to see inside this beautiful building and experience the terrific acoustics.

<https://www.yeovilarts.co.uk/events/a-ycaa-café-with-sister-act.html>

HAMDON YOUTH GROUP

Hamdon Youth Group provides a welcoming place for young people to meet in our villages. In STOKE we continue to run two sessions on Monday evenings in the Lighthouse Café, divided into two age groups.

The session from 6.30 -8.00pm is for young people from school years 6-9 and from 8.00 – 9.30pm is for Years 9 and older.

In Norton on Wednesday evenings in the Meeting Room of Norton Village Hall.

Check our Facebook page for latest info: <https://www.facebook.com/hamdonsyouthgroup>

For more information please contact Lou Chant on 07402987921 or email lou.chant@cyp.me

ST MARGARET'S HOSPICE

New Volunteering Opportunity - Open Gardens Area Coordinator

Do you love gardening? If so this may be the role for you

This year's Open Gardens have been very successful, and with even gardeners more pledging an opening next year, we now need additional help in the lead up to the 2019 season, and over next summer.

Activities will include visiting the gardens to risk assess and liaising with the garden owners regarding the garden details, any additional help that may be needed, delivering the resources prior to the opening, and collecting and banking takings.

We are also looking for volunteers to attend the garden son the open days to help with taking entry payments or serving teas.

If either of these opportunities appeal to you, please either email Susan on susan.bickle@st-margates-hospice.org.yk or call 01935 709182

DIARY OF EVENTS:

AUGUST

4 th	Flower, Produce and Craft Show
7 th	Stoke Active Walkers
13 th	Every Step Counts
20 th	Every Step Counts

SEPTEMBER

24th
26th

Somerset Sight
Gardening Club Talk – Abbotsbury Gardens