

## **Chair's Update**

Dog fouling: We were pleased to see from the monthly Recreation Ground report that there had been a significant reduction in dog fouling. Good to see that people are being more responsible about our public places. Long may this continue! We also formally reported one known instance of dog fouling on the High Street and the dog warden has taken action and warned the person concerned.

## **Planning**

New developments: We can now report that building work has re-commenced on the site behind the Co-op at East Stoke. The new builders are the DR Jones Group, and they will be completing 14 affordable houses on behalf of Stonewater Housing Association. Building work has also now started on the old Southcombe's site in Great Field Road. Dribuild Group Ltd will be building 16 homes for Blue Cedar Homes Ltd – these are lifetime homes aimed at the over 55s which are capable of being easily converted for additional mobility needs, with an onsite manager for property maintenance. Both these sites have been delayed until now as the original contractor Titan Ltd went bankrupt.

West Street: Following the final signing of a section 106 Agreement, the formal consent for Outline planning permission was issued on the 13 June for 27 homes to be built on West Street. This Agreement will provide (once Full planning consent has been issued) the sum of £62,913 towards specific and previously identified community, sports and recreational projects in Stoke, and some affordable housing. As at the time of writing, the Agreement itself has not yet been published on the SSDC website, just the brief details. Of the 27 homes, 35% of these homes are required to be affordable i.e. 10 homes. The parish council had asked for some of these to be 2 bedroomed to meet local need, and we are pleased to see that this has been recognised by the developer and District, as 4 of the 10 affordable homes have to be 2 bedroomed, a big improvement from recent developments in Stoke, which have been mainly 4-5 bed houses. Resident concerns included parking, road safety, and flooding issues, and these have all been addressed comprehensively in the final consent.

The developers will also, like all new eligible sites, be required to contribute towards a Community Infrastructure Levy to SSDC, and 15% of that money will come back to Stoke. The developer will now need to submit a further application with their detailed plans for materials and design etc. under Reserved Matters for consultation. Both the s.106 Agreement and the CIL monies depend on Full planning permission being granted before they come into operation.

Governance: at our last meeting we agreed a new Procurement policy which sets out detailed and improved procedures on how the council spends its money. We also updated our Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

Youth Centre: not much to report on progress, I am afraid. We are still awaiting approval from the Methodist Church Headquarters on some of the final clauses of the various documents that need to be signed. Both the Crewkerne Circuit and the parish council are in agreement.

Councillor Vacancies: we still have two vacancies. If you would like to join us or would like more information on what is involved, please get in touch either with our Parish Clerk, Sarah Moore, or myself. We are a friendly team from all walks of life and you will be made very welcome! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 4 July. There is no council meeting in August: the next one will be Wednesday, 5 September.

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **PARISH OF STOKE SUB HAMDON**

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that one vacancy has 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 **30<sup>th</sup> July** by ten electors for the Parish of Stoke sub Hamdon, the Parish Council will proceed to fill this vacancy by co-option.

## **STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS**

*Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> July*

Today we begin by going along to East Stoke, down Windsor Lane and through Lower East Stoke Farm (by kind permission of the Hill family). We will follow the track to the Link Road and along to Montacute, around the back of Montacute House, past the Ice House and follow the footpath which will take us across Yeovil Road to the bottom of Ladies Walk. We will go across to Hollow Lane and then around the back of Abbey Farm and Montacute Town, 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.

## **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

## **SOMERSET SIGHT**

The Somerset Sight van is calling at the Memorial Hall car park on the following days between 1.30-3.30 pm: 25<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> September and 27<sup>th</sup> November

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

Are you a mum, dad, grandma or grandpa? You are? Then we need YOU!

Due to people moving away and children starting school in September, the Stoke Baby & Toddler Group is looking for volunteers to join and help run our lovely little group, and for new members. We meet on a Thursday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am in the Memorial Hall. For only £2 per family per session we have lots of toys on offer and enjoy weekly craft activities, stories and snacks for children, as well as hot drinks and cake for adults. It's a great way to meet people with babies and young children in the local area and make friends. To find out more please contact us through our Facebook page Stoke Baby and Toddler Group.

## **GARDENING CLUB**

On Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> July the Gardening Club are delighted to welcome Tom Amery from The Watercress Farm in Hampshire who will give a talk on the growing and harvesting of watercress (hopefully he will have some samples for purchase). The doors at the Memorial Hall, Stoke open at 7pm and the meeting starts at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to another most interesting talk. Further details from Sue Winwood 01935 823671.

The Schedule and Entry form for our Flower, Produce and Craft Show to be held in the Memorial Hall on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> August, was included with the June edition of the village newsletter. 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 4<sup>th</sup> August. If you have not received a schedule please contact Sue Winwood (as above)

## **STOKE CHARITY SHOP SUMMER OPENING TIMES**

From 1<sup>st</sup> July the Stoke Charity Shop will be open Monday to Friday 9am – 4.45pm and Saturdays 9am – 1pm throughout the months on July and August.

We would like to thank the volunteers and supports of the Stoke Charity Shop and wish them a great summer.

## **HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS CENTRE (FORMERLY THE URC, NORTH STREET)**

### Crime Book Club

The village crime book club is now well established with friendly amateur detectives. We meet once a month, the first Wednesday at 2.30pm in the R.U.C. The next meetings are on the 6th June and 4th July. We now have a small lending library which is growing all the time. Why not come and join us. We look at a variety of crime authors both modern and classical. You will be made very welcome. Pat Jenkins. patfjenkins@hotmail.co.uk

## **HELP US TO GET HOME!**

For some time now, the 1<sup>st</sup> Fosseyway Scout Troop have not met in Martock (though the Beaver Colony and the Cub Pack are still there). A shortage of leaders means that for the time being the Scouts (boys and girls aged between 10½ and 14½) have joined with the Troop in South Petherton.

Tim Burch, the Group Scout Leader for both Groups, explained “We still have a busy programme – everything from camping to scuba diving, or climbing to canoeing and rafting, but the joint Troop is close to its maximum size, and we are struggling to find room for the older Cubs when they reach Scouting age. We have a short-term solution in place, but the real answer is to move Fosseyway back to its proper home in Martock – something that can only happen once some more Leaders have been found, both at Martock and at Petherton.”

“We urgently need more leaders and non-uniform helpers,” Tim added. “All they need is an enthusiasm, a willingness to work with young people and some spare time. They don’t need any special skills as there is a full free training programme, and job-sharing is an option. Anyone interested can email me for more information at [fosseywayscouts@porcupine.org.uk](mailto:fosseywayscouts@porcupine.org.uk).”

## **ST MARY’S CHURCHYARD – WORKING PARTY**

We hope you can join us on July 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am when we will have a go at tidying up various parts of the churchyard (e.g. removing ivy, tidying around some graves, clearing some undergrowth etc.). Just turn up – bring useful tools if you have them!

## **ST MARGARET’S HOSPICE OPEN GARDEN 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

St Margaret’s Hospice Yeovil is welcoming visitors to their beautiful gardens on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> July, between 12.00pm – 5.00pm, children are very welcome! Eat a picnic on the lawn, take the children’s trail (50p), guess the name of the rabbit, or just relax with homemade cake and tea. Entry for adults - £3. For more details please call Susan 01935 709182

Milford Dip allotments in Yeovil will also be open to view their amazing Dahlias on Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> August between 12.00pm – 4.00pm

## **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. The programme for July is:

|                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 <sup>nd</sup>  | What is depression?/Lacrosse |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Silly Games/Drug Quiz        |
| 16 <sup>th</sup> | Programme Planning/Mug Cakes |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | BBQ                          |

In Norton on Wednesday evenings in the Meeting Room of Norton Village Hall, the July programme is:

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | All things AMERICAN |
| 11 <sup>th</sup> | Alcohol Awareness   |
| 18 <sup>th</sup> | Games Night         |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | BBQ                 |

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](mailto:lou.chant@cyp.me)

**DIARY OF EVENTS:**

**JULY**

|                  |                                                 |
|------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| 3 <sup>rd</sup>  | Stoke Active Walkers                            |
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Crime Book Club – Hamdon Community Arts Project |
| 9 <sup>th</sup>  | Every Step Counts                               |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | St Mary's Churchyard Tidy Up                    |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup> | Every Step Counts                               |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Gardening Club Talk                             |
| 25 <sup>th</sup> | Somerset Sight                                  |

**AUGUST**

|                  |                                |
|------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup>  | Flower, Produce and Craft Show |
| 13 <sup>th</sup> | Every Step Counts              |
| 20 <sup>th</sup> | Every Step Counts              |