

PARISH COUNCIL

Chair's update

This month we had both our ordinary council meeting and our Annual Parish Council Meeting at which the Chair and officers are elected. All existing officers were re-appointed. At our ordinary meeting on 2 May, we agreed to increase the grant this year to the Sports & Recreation Trust from £2k to £4k which will be used towards the maintenance of the Recreation Ground. We are proud and grateful for the sterling work they do on our behalf. We were also devastated to learn some days later that the gates to the Rec in Matts Lane had been knocked down and severely damaged, apparently maliciously, and possibly by means of a large vehicle. If anyone has any information on the incident, please get in touch with me. The person or persons responsible need to be caught.

We understand from the District Council that they will be replacing the stone clad litter bins outside Stancheater and Sea Wall as they are attracting rats. The bins will be replaced with steel bins that rats can't access. We have asked our Parish Clerk to contact the Council to inform them that we would like to fill the old bins with compost and plant up some shrubs etc. We were left a bequest of £150 by a former resident who wished it to be used towards gardening of some sort, and it seems to fit well with their wishes.

In planning applications this month, the following were given permission. A rear extension at 9 Langlands, a revised parking layout and access to Hazelwood, Montacute Road, and conversion of barn at St Michaels Nursery, Masons Lane to a Plymouth Brethren Church.

Chair's Annual Parish Council Meeting Report

I would like to begin by thanking all those who have stood as Parish Councillors during the year, and also our District and County Councillors, Sylvia Seal and Neil Bloomfield, who have ably supported us with technical advice and moral support. I would also like to thank our Parish Clerk, Sarah Moore, for all the hard work she does throughout the year on our behalf. Over the past twelve months, we have said goodbye to parish councillors Neil Bloomfield, Brian Evans and Caroline Freeman who have left to pursue other commitments. We thank them for the help they have given on behalf of our village. We co-opted two new councillors, Stephen 'Teach' Waldock, and Suzanne Nelms who bring experiences and knowledge that will be useful to our council. We have currently have nine councillors in total, with two vacancies.

We have continued to support community facilities as we do every year by providing a total of £10,127 grant money towards operating costs for the Sports & Recreation Trust, the Memorial Hall, Hamdon Youth Group, and St Mary's Churchyard. As we do every year we also supported the May Fayre, one of the key social events in our village, by a £500 sponsorship for the printing of their programme, and we paid £450 for new music stands for the Stoke Band. We provided grants totalling £6,901 to the Memorial Hall towards the repair of its roof, and towards a major redecoration of the main Hall, lobby and stage areas, and refurbishment of the flooring.

Our major project, the purchase of the old Methodist Church in West Street for a new Youth Centre, is slowly progressing. There are significant delays at the Methodist Headquarters on paperwork which is out of our control and this is disappointing. Undeterred, we have pressed on with the other parts of the process by creating a new charity, Hamdon Youth & Family Centre Trust, which will run the new Centre and have drafted up a Service Management Agreement. We have also asked the District Council for advice on Listed Building Consent, had a Disabled Access Survey, and had initial plans drawn up for the building changes.

To encourage residents to keep our village cleaner, we recently agreed to buy and install a new dog bin at the corner of Great Field Lane with North Street and a new litter bin at the top of Windsor Lane by The Old Rectory, and these are in the process of being implemented. We organized a village 'Litter Pick' last May to clean up the streets – and this year's one is scheduled for 5 May. We have spent £7,444 on grass cutting and ground maintenance around the village.

In the areas of planning we achieved a major win in regard to the Arc Homes site at Stancheater. We submitted a detailed objection statement last Autumn against their application to get out of their obligation to provide six affordable housing units and a

developer's contribution to the village. The District Council's Planning Committee agreed with the content of our objection. We continue to keep a keen eye on the other potential development sites around the village so that we can respond quickly to applications. We have taken an active part on your behalf in consultations on the A303 Proposals, Road Safety (County Council) and Ward Boundaries potential changes. We firmly believe that we need to make our village's voice heard on key issues.

Finally, I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations in the village who have supported us over the past year, and who have shared ideas with us. This is a wonderful, caring and vibrant village to live in, and it seems to get better each year!

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Press Release

Time is running out to have your say

Anyone with an interest in Somerset's libraries has one more month to take part in the County Council's consultation on the future of its Library Service. The consultation ends on Wednesday 13 June and more than 4,000 responses have been received so far.

Somerset County Council is keen for anyone yet to complete the questionnaire to go online at www.somerset.gov.uk/librariesconsultation, view the proposal on the future of the library they visit most often and give their feedback. Alternatively, complete the survey at your local library. Decision makers want to know the impact potential changes to the library service would have on you, your family and communities. It also provides an opportunity to comment on the proposals and make alternative suggestions. Councillor David Hall, Somerset County Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for libraries, said: "With just a month to go before the library consultation ends, I encourage anyone who has yet to have their say to complete a questionnaire and make their voice count. It's important to us as many people as possible tell us their views on our proposals and how they may affect them before we make our final decision."

A final decision on Somerset's library service is expected later this year. For further information, please contact the Press Office on 01823 355020 or email pressoffice@somerset.gov.uk

- In total, nine area proposals are available to view covering proposals for each of Somerset's 34 libraries.
- The proposals show that for 12 libraries, there will be no change to the delivery of library services. These libraries include Bridgwater, Burnham-on-Sea, Chard, Frome, Glastonbury, Langport, Minehead, Taunton, Wells, Williton, Wincanton and Yeovil.
- For 15 libraries, community support may be required to keep library buildings open. These include Bishops Lydeard, Bruton, Castle Cary, Highbridge, Milborne Port, Nether Stowey, North Petherton, Porlock, Priorswood (Taunton), Somerton, South Petherton, Street, Sunningdale (Yeovil), Watchet and Wiveliscombe.
- The proposals also highlight that seven library buildings may remain unchanged or may require community support to remain open. These include Cheddar, Crewkerne, Dulverton, Ilminster, Martock, Shepton Mallet and Wellington.

To view all of our news releases, please visit www.somersetnewsroom.com

The SCC Communications Team are also on social media:

www.twitter.com/somersetcouncil

www.facebook.com/somersetcountycouncil

www.flickr.com/somersetcountycouncil

www.youtube.com/yoursomerset

To find out who the elected Somerset County Councillor is for a particular area, simply visit www.somerset.gov.uk/councillors-and-democracy/councillors/somerset-county-councillors/

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 5th June 2018

Our walk today will take us along Norton Path and down over Sandy Lane to Norton Mill and then along to Greenhams Cross. From there we will take the footpath up Grintley Lane and across the field to join the road which will take us to Chiselborough, where we will follow the footpath down past the old telephone exchange, past the Cat Head, then follow the footpath through the Churchyard and across the field 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.

THE VILLAGE ARTISTS GROUP

The Village Artists are holding a demonstration with Jo Hamilton on acrylic painting using an artist's knife in The Memorial Hall, on Wednesday 13th June between 7.30pm and 9.30pm. If you would like to know more or would like to join us, please phone Diana on 01935 881647. Booking is essential, admission is £5 and is open to non-members. Everyone is welcome.

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.

SOMERSET SIGHT

The Somerset Sight van is calling at the Memorial Hall car park on the following days between 1.30-3.30 pm: 11th June, 25th July, 24th September and 27th November

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

The United Reform Church stopped being a church in December 2016. Since early 2017, a small committee comprising the current user groups have been in discussions with Synod to try and save the building as a community project. We have made progress towards our goal but need to let the community know where we are, what the issues and concerns are and what might happen if we fail. Please come to our open meeting in the URC building on North Street on Wednesday 27th June at 7:00pm. If you have any questions before then, please contact Peter Hulett, 01935 824784.

Coffee Morning

Coffee morning on the 9th June from 10am -12.30pm. Another fantastic opportunity to see inside this beautiful building and hear about our plans for the future. The History Group displays prepared for the May Fayre will also still be on show. Look forward to seeing you!

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.

GARDENING CLUB

On Wednesday 27th June the Garden Club are delighted to welcome Manny Roper who will give a talk on Garden Allotments. Manny is well known for his involvement as a Judge at our Flower, Craft and Produce Show as well as the Norton Flower Show. Doors open at

7.00pm 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 4th August is included with this 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. So 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. If you have not received a Schedule please contact Sue Winwood as above.

STOKE SUB HAMDON BROWNIES, GUIDES AND CHARITY SHOP

On Tuesday 15th May a Girls Fashion Show was held, 23 Brownies modelled and 24 Guides narrated etc. and shop volunteers provided the team needed to put on the event.

Collectively we raised £202 in aid of Stoke Charity shop. Monies have gone back into our own communities for all the good causes. We thank everyone who came and either supported or was part of the team! Great fun was had by all!

Jackie, Brownie and Guide units.

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.

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

HAM HILL VOLUNTEER RANGERS

Why not join our friendly team of Volunteer Rangers on Ham Hill Country Park? You will get the chance to carry out a variety of seasonal countryside tasks such as coppicing, hedge laying, dry-stone walling, scrub clearance, tree planting and path clearance. Whatever your age, you are never too old or young to come along and join in the fun and immerse yourself in nature. No experience is necessary. We meet at 10.00am every Wednesday at Ham Hill

Ranger's Office and work until about 3.30pm with a break for lunch. You can work as often as you like; a full day, half day or just for an hour or two. We will provide you with gloves, tools, training, cups of tea and the odd home-made cake. Just wear some old clothes and bring along stout boots or wellies, a packed lunch (if required) and plenty of enthusiasm. *Just turn up or contact Paul the Ranger on 07973 887129 for more information.*

JUNE

5 th	Stoke Active Walkers
6 th	Crime Book Club – Hamdon Community Arts Project
6 th	Ham Hill Volunteer Rangers
9 th	Coffee Morning – Hamdon Community Arts Project
11 th	Every Step Counts
11 th	Somerset Sight
13 th	Village Artist Demonstration
13 th	Ham Hill Volunteer Rangers
20 th	Ham Hill Volunteer Rangers
25 th	Every Step Counts
27 th	Garden Club Talk
27 th	Open Evening – Hamdon Community Arts Project
27 th	Ham Hill Volunteer Rangers
30 th	Jazz Night

JULY

4 th	Crime Book Club – Hamdon Community Arts Project
9 th	Every Step Counts
23 rd	Every Step Counts
25 th	Somerset Sight

AUGUST

4 th	Flower, Produce and Craft Show
13 th	Every Step Counts
20 th	Every Step Counts