

Chair's Update

We were very sorry to hear that Bill Gosney passed away in December. As many of you will know Bill was a great contributor to our village in lots of ways over many years. Perhaps his most well-known gift to us was the way he created what is now known as the Jubilee Wood at the bottom of North Street. Then known as the Old Sewage Field, Bill planted trees, cut paths, built hides and put in a couple of seats. When the Water Board decided not to renew their lease, the parish council contacted the Duchy and it was agreed to mark the Queen's Jubilee by making this area of land into a Jubilee Wood for all the community. A formal ceremony was held, and at the centre of the wood Bill planted an Oak sapling, given by the Duchy, that came from the park at Windsor Castle. Bill continued to look after this land, spending hours down there, and it became a lovely quiet place for residents to walk and enjoy nature. Recently the Duchy have kindly replanted more trees, and Bill's legacy continues to live on. He will be much missed.

Still on the topic of trees, you may have seen some tree work being carried out in the Memorial Hall Grounds. Although the land belongs to the Hall Trustees, the parish council has for many years as a goodwill gesture taken over responsibility for the grass cutting and trees on behalf of the village. Last year a survey was carried out which revealed that some of the trees were either diseased, overcrowded or needed significant pruning, and the District Council's planning permission was granted to implement the recommendations. This work is now being carried out, with some new trees being planted.

Contact details: Barbara Brooks, Chair of the Parish Council

Tel: 824432; Email: chairsshpc@hotmail.com

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

LOST RING

A gold ring was found in Castle Street on 13th December. If anyone has lost a ring please contact the Parish Clerk on 822455 describing the ring in detail.

SCHOOL ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS 2020/21 CONSULTATION

Have Your Say,

School admissions arrangements for children who are due to start or transfer school for the 2020-21 school year, and those moving schools during the 2020-21 school year will be consulted on for a period of 6 weeks ending 31 January 2019.

This consultation applies to a number of schools and academies throughout Somerset.

This consultation period allows parents, other schools, religious authorities and the local community to raise any comments or concerns about proposed admission arrangements.

To view the admission arrangements and for details of how to make comments, please visit www.somerset.gov.uk/admissions and choose the page School Admissions Policy or phone (01823) 356671.

STOKE ACTIVE WALKERS

Tuesday, 8th January 2019

Our first walk for the New Year will take us along Highway and down Windsor Lane, through Lower East Stoke Farm by kind permission of Nick Hill, and then up the Link Road to cross the main road. From there we will go up Hatchcroft Lane, then back through Hatchcroft woods and follow the footpath below the Prince of Wales. We will go through Double Ditch and across the front of Ham Hill 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.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION POPPY APPEAL

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Poppy Appeal. The total amount raised this year was a fantastic £2,550. Many thanks to all the businesses and everyone who help with the collecting. I would also like to say a special thank you to Ian Mathieson for helping me collate the donations and to Louise Hann and the staff at Montacute Post Office for helping with the banking.

Jon Moore, Poppy Appeal Organiser

KEEP FIT CLASSES

Come and join us at Body Conditioning classes on Mondays at 6.30pm. Also, two new classes will be starting in January; 10th January - Ladies Circuits at 6pm in the Memorial Hall and on 11th January - Seated Chair Exercises (light workout) at 10am in the All Saints Hall. Everyone is welcome. For more information contact Sue Menzies on 829632

HAMDON COMMUNITY ARTS PROJECT

HCAP is pleased to report that we are steadily moving forward. We had a meeting in October with the Synod and their support for our project is heart-warming. The Synod have valued the building on the open market at approximately £200,000 but would consider selling it to HCAP for a community project for around £100,000 - £130,000.

We have had the building valued and surveyed in the last month. This enables us to confirm the estimated market price and to have a good understanding of what work will be required to get the building into good condition. The Synod has also offered support to the project with the option of a mortgage with them if we can raise 50% of the purchase price. Very importantly for fund raising, we already have pledges from the community of £20,000 – this is excellent news and provides tangible proof of community support for the project. We are intending to make an offer within the next 12 months.

The building is already in use with Hamdon Playgroup in the undercroft, the Stoke Band for storage and rehearsals and the Charity Shop for storage. We are using the main body of the building for fund raising events, such as the Fauré Requiem, which raised £462.00. We are also very grateful for grants made over the last month, the Parish Council £500, Stoke Performing Arts Group £500 and Stoke Charity Shop £500, these are all to help cover our initial costs, such as the survey and the valuation.

We have future events planned over the coming months and we are very pleased to announce that ABRSM (The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music) will be using the building as the regional centre for music exams four times a year.

We are also in receipt of a £500 donation from the film company that used the Priory in September, this grant was based on the nearby residents electing us as their favoured choice of good cause. We are very grateful for this.

HCAP has its own bank account and is in the process of becoming a charitable trust. We have a long way to go and much work to do but begin to feel that we are making progress. As ever, your continued support is very important to us and so much appreciated.

Forthcoming events:

Let 'Ruby and the Rockets' entertain you with a mix of classic Rockabilly and modern Rock 'n' Roll! They'll be playing from 7.30pm, 16th February 2019, in the Memorial Hall. Bar and Buffet. So, pop on your Blue Suede Shoes and prepare to dance the night away.

We are also welcoming again this year the 'Young People's Music Festival', 23rd March 2019 at 2.30pm in the Hamdon Community Arts Project building. Like last year these young musicians will be showcasing their talents using instruments such as piano, flute, violin and brass. AND.... I have to say at last year's it was an absolute privilege to be among them.

Moir Hulett – HCAP

VILLAGE ARTIST GROUP

The Village Artist Group 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 – 9.30pm during term time. You can attend any number of sessions for just £25 per term. Why not call in? We start back after Christmas break on 7th January 2019, new members are always 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.

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

SOMERSET SIGHT

Happily, the Somerset Sight van is calling at the Memorial Hall car park on the following days in 2019 between 1pm – 3.30pm: 25th February 2019, 10th April 2019, 24th June 2019, 11th September 2019 and 19th November 2019,

POP IN

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

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 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

DIARY OF EVENTS:

JANUARY

8th	Stoke Active Walkers
14th	Every Step Counts
28th	Every Step Counts

FEBRUARY

16th Ruby & the Rockets – Memorial Hall
25th Somerset Sight

MARCH

23rd Young People's Music Festival