

**All items for the
Winter edition by
Friday 18th November**

Stoke News

Autumn 2016

**Contact Jean House
jeanhouse@btconnect.com
For more news look at
www.stokestgregory.org**

Transport Survey

An action item carried forward from the 2008 Village Plan, and recently highlighted as part of a review of this plan, is Village Transport. While there have been several consultations in recent years on the use of the bus, this survey seeks to understand more generally the transport needs in the Village. It is independent of any bus consultation and specific to the needs of Stoke St Gregory.

The survey is enclosed in this News Letter, and apart from the second question only requires that you tick or circle the appropriate boxes which are self-explanatory.

Please return any completed survey to either the Village Stores, or to any Parish Councillor, by Sept 18th. It goes without saying, that the greater the response the better guidance we will have to deal with future transport needs.

Stoke St Gregory Women's Table Tennis

We are pleased with the regular attendance at this friendly table tennis club. This year we are not taking a summer break and numbers have been encouraging. Some members were the guests of the evening table tennis group recently. It was very instructive for both clubs. We realised that the speed of the male game was partly due to superior quality white balls, which we women will invest in.

We play each Wednesday morning from 10am until 12 noon. Ladies- why not give us a try? You would be made very welcome.

Route 60+ Driving Workshop

Somerset Road Safety is offering a repeat of their free workshop for older drivers in the village hall. This includes use of a driving simulator, informative talks and the offer of a one hour driving refresher course. If anyone would be interested in attending, will they please tell David House, who can be contacted on davidhouse511@btinternet.com or talk to any Parish Councillor.

Wanted – Stoke News Sponsors

Are you a local business? Would you like to sponsor a future edition of Stoke News and have your business featured? For further details, please get in touch with Becky Goodchild, The Parish Clerk, on 690235 or at ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council News - Allotments

At the July Meeting of the Parish Council a revised proposal for allotments in the field behind Church Close was presented. This proposal sought to address the concerns raised by those directly affected by the original plan. The modified plan includes minimising the interface with Church Close and the inclusion of planted buffer zone and community orchard between Church Close and the actual allotment plots. Vehicle access from Slough lane is proposed although there will be footpath access at the South end of the area.

The PC voted unanimously to approve this proposal. Work has now commenced on fundraising from national organisations in order to start the groundwork necessary to enclose the area and to provide screening and planting for the area. It is anticipated that the area will be ready for the next growing season

If you have an interest in either a whole plot or a half plot, please register your interest with any member of the Allotment Association (Robin Ferrett, Faye Shorley, Trevor Williams or Graham Glead)

PC News – Defibrillator Most people will be aware of the defibrillator outside the village shop, but not everyone will realise that it is intended to be useable in an emergency by anyone, even if you have no training. The machine gives clear audible instructions at every stage. If somebody's heart has stopped, speed is more important than the niceties of technique. On receiving a 999 call where a heart attack is suspected, the ambulance service will inform the caller if there is a public defibrillator nearby, and if this can be deployed before the ambulance arrives, that could increase the chances of survival. We are planning to arrange a demonstration at the Village Fête on 17 September to raise public confidence in the use of the defibrillator, and if there is any call for it we will organise a training day in the Village Hall as well.

Tractor Traffic

Tractor traffic is an essential part of rural life, however the Parish Council has received an increasing number of comments and complaints from local residents concerning the conduct of some tractor traffic on Village roads. These comments generally fall into the category of excessive speed or use of mobile phones while driving; sometimes both.

The PC has agreed to approach the authorities directly to request more robust enforcement of traffic regulations, but there is also the opportunity for individuals to register specific complaints on-line. The link to this form is:

<https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/contact-us/report-a-crime-or-incident/>

The more specific the information the greater the chance of resolving the issue so at the very least the reg. no. of the vehicle, along with the time, place and the infraction perceived should be noted.

Parish Council News (continued)

[June–August 2016]

Two long-term issues were finally agreed at the July PC meeting: the revised proposal for allotments in the field behind Church Close (described in more detail on page one of this issue) and the go-ahead for the TDBC parking scheme at Polkesfield. This latter is not as extensive as we had hoped, but should nevertheless ease the parking situation to an extent.

The results of the **Affordable Housing Survey** were also announced by TDBC Housing in June. There was only a 30% return, and interpretation of the results was complex, but the conclusion was that while 11 respondents expressed a desire for affordable housing, a breakdown of the details suggested that there was no significant need to increase the existing stock. The full text of the report is available to view, and will be posted online.

The new **website** has been in limbo for some weeks pending migration to a new software platform, but it is hoped that it will be ready for reloading content by the beginning of September. The idea is for individual organisations to be able to edit their own pages, and as soon as the structure is in place, page-owners will be contacted and given details of how to do this.

The **broadband** situation continues to be uncertain. It is still hoped that wireless broadband at 10 mbps will be available in the village for those without access to fibre, but CFB, who originally planned to establish a connection weeks ago, have encountered snags finding a site for a way-station, and are now in the process of teaming up with another supplier. In the meantime it could be in everybody's interests (with or without access to BT fibre) to express an interest on the Gigaclear website (www.gigaclear.com). Gigaclear's network model is far more radical than BT's: they bring fibre to the home rather than just to the cabinet, so the distance to the cabinet problem which bedevils the existing fibre rollout is much less significant. There is a good chance that GC will bid for the Phase 2 contract that BT pulled out of, but in the meantime they are extending their network on a purely commercial basis, and have recently moved into pockets of the Blackdowns. They naturally prioritise areas according to the amount of interest demonstrated.

There has been a good deal of news recently about the controversial merger of Taunton Deane with the bankrupt district of West Somerset, which was agreed by TDBC at their full council meeting on 26 July. Many people feel that the reasons for this merger, put forward by the Conservatives who have control of the council, are disingenuous and misleading, and the PC agreed to write to the Council leader beforehand, urging delay pending further consultation. West Somerset have yet to agree, but since they have more to gain than Taunton Deane, it is unlikely that they will look a gift horse in the mouth.

A new website, www.travelsomerset.co.uk, has been set up by Somerset County Council to give information on current and future road closures and bottlenecks.



FILM, and Apples Galore!

It's a busy Autumn!

On **Thursday, 22nd September at 7.30**, we'll be screening "**Disobedience – the courage to break free**" at the **Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory**. The film lasts 40 minutes and we hope it will be followed by a lively discussion on what is being achieved, and might still be achieved, by direct action against the destruction being wreaked (directly and indirectly) through the extraction of fossil fuels. Do come and join us if you can.

Apple Fun Day

Saturday, 1st October from 2 to 6 pm, North Curry Pavilion on Greenway

We'll be celebrating apples and the many things you can do with them with something for all the family:

- Apple juicing
- Apple dunking and other apple-themed activities and information
- Apple cakes and treats to sample
- Bottles of Fruits of Athelney juice to buy
- Tea and coffee
- Hopefully even some local cider and pizzas...
(watch the local notice boards for information)

If you'd like to help, contribute something appley to eat, bring some apples for juicing or just stay informed as plans develop, please email transitionathelneyemail@gmail.com or call Mike Lynch on 07768 704466.

Apple juicing

Looking ahead we have two apple (and pear) juicing days on **October 15th** and **November 12th** in **Stoke St Gregory village hall**, when we make hundreds of bottles of juice for local apple tree owners as well as for commercial sale. If you're likely to have surplus fruit and would like to have them processed please get in touch and we'll let you know more.

Winter Table Tennis

resumes at the Village Hall on Wednesday evenings, 7-9pm, starting Wed 7 September. All standards welcome, age 12 upwards. £2 charge (£1 for youngsters) includes hot drink & biscuits. For more info contact Terri on 490671 or Paul on 490565.

Stoke St Gregory Women's Institute

Our June meeting was greatly enjoyed by members. Dr Karen Stead-Dexter told us all about birds of prey. We enjoyed meeting and admiring three of her birds. The July 85th Birthday Tea Party for the SSG WI was a great success. Many other Somerset branches were represented and many compliments were received. At the time of writing our August meeting is to be one with a difference. It is our usual Tea Afternoon but with Archery! Many members (and some spouses) are looking forward to being instructed by Matthew Minno. Let's hope for bullseyes all round. September's meeting will bring us Grace Dives to speak about "Apples and Pairs." October is "Scarf Tying" with Jan McNeill, who entertained us last with her "Life at sea." In November, our talk is entitled "Pins, Needles and Sewing Machines."

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7pm in the Williams Hall. All are welcome.

Stoke St Gregory

Village Fete and Fun Day Saturday 17th September

Starting at 12 noon on the Playing Field

Come early and enjoy some lunch before
the races start!

All the popular stalls will be there.

Any donations to the bottle stall/bric-a-brac/books/produce/cake stall would be gratefully received as would any offers of help.

Please contact Sara on 490069 or Jane on 490508 for further information

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

Our Meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month in the North Curry Playing Fields Pavilion at 7.45 for 8pm.

September 1st - Sally Leaney on "Garden Design". Did you see her Gold Medal garden at Taunton Flower Show?

October 6th - Michael Pollock on "Trees and Shrubs" which will include some advice on propagation.

November 3rd - Katherine Crouch on "Plants that Should be Better Known". Katherine is a very informative and amusing speaker!

Non members and guests are always very welcome.

Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

to take place in the Church Rooms on Friday 30th September 2016 from 9.00am. Everyone welcome to come along to help raise money for Macmillan cancer support. It is the perfect chance to catch up over a cuppa, enjoy some gorgeous treats and help Macmillan be there for people facing cancer. All donations and cakes will be gratefully appreciated.

*For more information please contact
Jane Smith 491428 or Jill Baker 490552*

There's always something happening at the Baptist Church.....

Back to School Monday - drop in for coffee, cake and a chat between 9-11am on Monday 5th September.

Twigs every Thursday from 9:15 - 11:45 am coffee, chat and lots of toys.

Who let the Dad's out? Offers great bacon butties, newspapers and a chance to meet other Dad's and their kids - Saturdays 10th September, 1st October, 12th November - 9-11am.

Quiet Space - why not make time for yourself....our church will be open for prayer and reflection Mondays 12th September, 10th October, 14th November, 12th December 9am - 8pm. Crèche facility available 9-10am.

Harvest - Sat 24th Sept, join us for tea in our beautifully decorated Sanctuary at 3pm and then on Sunday 25th we invite you to our Harvest Festival followed by a 'Bring and Share' lunch. Everyone welcome, bring friends and neighbours. Donations over the weekend gratefully accepted for our 2016 charity - Mary's Meals.

Talk & Supper - Friday 15th October, Mike Davison will deliver a most interesting insight into the community effort involved in the foundation of East Reach Hospital (Taunton). Tickets £12, contact Liz Hembrow (490828) to include a delicious 2 course home cooked meal - bring your own wine.

Messy Church - Fridays 30th September and 4th November from 3:30p.m - come along after school and enjoy crafts, worship, singing games, and we cook your tea. Remember it's NOT just for kids!

Christianity Explored - An opportunity to enjoy coffee and scrummy desserts while exploring the life of Jesus through reflection and discussion. We get one life and deep down we're all asking the same question.... What's it all about? Everyone welcome at 7pm on Wednesdays 5th, 12th, 19th October, and 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd November.

Contact Barbara Carpenter for more information on 490195 or rockin-rev@live.co.uk.

Check out more events in the village Stores, on the website www.stokestgregory.org and at www.facebook.com/StokeStGregory

NOTICEBOARD

Events for December, January & February by Friday 18th November

Tuesday, September 20th at 8pm Open Mic Night at The Royal Oak.

As of September our monthly Acoustic Nights will be replaced by Open Mic Nights and will be held in our function room. If you are interested in taking part please give Nicola a call on 01823 490602 for more information.

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY –

Saturday, October 29th at 9pm –

Halloween Party at The Royal Oak with live music from Snappa who will be playing covers from the 50's to present day, from rock and roll classic to modern day indie anthems.

ST GREGORY PLAYERS

Present

"Wyrd Sisters"

A dramatisation of one of Terry Pratchett's best known Discworld novels - madcap fantasy comedy with a touch of literature for good measure. And the Wyrd Sisters bear more than a passing resemblance to the witches in Macbeth - with touches of Blackadder
Adapted by Stephen Briggs

**WED 26TH TO SATURDAY 29TH OCTOBER 7.30PM
WILLIAMS HALL**

Tickets £9 adults. £6 children. Concessionary ticket for carer of those with special needs.
Available from Stoke Stores

Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning'

Church Rooms

Friday 30th September 9am

Everyone welcome. All donations and cakes will be gratefully appreciated.
(See details on Page 3)

Village Fete and Fun Day Saturday 17th September

Starting 12 noon on the Playing Field

BBQ, Beer Tent

Afternoon teas and cakes

Races

Live music from local bands

Tug of war

(Details on page 3 of this issue)

Please contact

Sara on 490069 or Jane on 490508 for more information

Transition Athelney is showing the film

'Disobedience'

at the village hall in Stoke St Gregory on Thursday 22 September.

Doors open at 7.30 pm.

Entrance free, donations welcome.

The film lasts 40 minutes and will be followed by refreshments and a discussion. Please come along.

The Williams Hall Social Committee would like to thank everyone who helped and came to make the 10th anniversary celebration a brilliant success

THANK YOU

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 10th September

"Marie Antoinette's Guide to Farming"

An amusing talk by Sarah Harris on the ups and downs of running a smallholding.

Saturday 5th November

Guy Fawkes Breakfast

9am to 11am

Breakfast £6 Adults £4 Children

Come, eat, socialise and let us cook your breakfast for you.

Saturday 26th November

Dinner and Dance

Celebrate 50 years of the Beatles release of "Yellow Submarine" with a dinner and dance on this theme.

7pm for 7.30 pm

Music by John and the General

TAUNTON URBAN AND RURAL NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM
Police Emergency Number – 999 Police non-emergency number – 101
Police Sergeant 1593 – Bob Manning; Beat manager PC 2898- Dean Chedzoy
PCSO 8466 – Eamonn Leniston – 07889655309
PCSO 8412 – Claire Escott

'The Art of the Needle'. Liz Tapper Local Artist at Somerset Art Works Open Studios with Candace Bahouth, Helen Knight and John Robbins at Venue 94 in Pilton. 17th September - 2nd October