

All items for the
Autumn edition by
Friday 24th August
2018

Stoke News

Summer 2018

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

Stoke Levellers

Formerly Sedgemoor OAPs

We are a group of members of any age that meet on the 3rd Tuesday in the month at the Williams Hall with a speaker or entertainment. We also have a coach outing once a month from May to September.

We welcome anyone who would like to join us
Please contact Jenny Priddle – 01823 490740 or Sue
Nicholas 01823 698814

Parish Council News (March April May)

Community shop/pub survey This is the first edition of Stoke News since the results of the community shop/pub survey have been known. The full details are available on the village website, but in brief the outcome was astonishingly positive with 86% of responses being either supportive or very supportive of the idea of a community shop, and 75% likewise of the pub. There was also a high number of potential volunteers. Of course these numbers have to be tempered by the reality of how much people would actually use the services, and we still do not know whether we are going to have to set them up since the situation with the Rose and Crown and the existing shop remains unclear. Two things that cannot be repeated enough are that the PC would fully support a commercial sale of the shop (and would not set up a community shop in competition), and that if you do not use it you may lose it. In the meantime however we are continuing the process of preparing the ground for the community option, and there will be a public meeting on 7 June to set up a steering group. All of the 55 people who volunteered themselves as potential members should be receiving a direct invitation, but this concerns all of us and anybody is welcome.

Annual Parish Meeting The main speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24 April was Viv Price, who spoke on behalf of the Plunkett Foundation about community shops and pubs, and the many ways, over and above the obvious, in which they can bring added value to a village.

Reporting Highways issues etc Another topic that was brought up at the APM was the serious damage to road edges thought to be caused by tractors. The Somerset County Council Highways department is not repairing these as they used to because of budget constraints, and while the PC is currently pursuing the issue with Highways, one aspect that came out in later discussion is that any member of the public is free to report road damage directly on the Highways website. This goes for encroaching hedges and in fact many of the issues which people bring to the PC. Often it is quicker and more effective if instead of referring a problem to the PC, they are taken directly to the SCC or District department concerned. Naturally any councillor will help and advise where necessary. There is an item in the news section of the website sunnlvng information about this.

WW1 100 Year's Commemoration

The past couple of months have been very busy for some of the team, so it's about time we began ramping things up, because November will be upon us before we know it.

Thank you to everyone who has offered to help with the exhibition, cook and bake etc your input is greatly appreciated.

Our aim is to bring our whole community together to mark this anniversary. Stoke like most communities suffered much loss. This is our opportunity to recognise what our village sacrificed, experienced and endured.

Interested in being involved?

Call Sue Hembrow [07810352266](tel:07810352266) or speak to Ian Upshall at The Village Stores.

Stoke St Gregory Women's Institute

Well into our WI year, we have enjoyed inspiring, informative speakers and attended outside events, as well as participating in fundraising and village functions. A recent highlight has been when a small group of our members took part in the Somerset WI Centenary Banner Parade. Over 400 WI members marched through the streets of Wells, at one point singing "Jerusalem". Our beautiful banner from Stoke, showing the cranes, was much admired. What a way to finish our President, Sandra Glead's, first year!

Next meeting: Tuesday 12th June -Nichola Penn on "Boo Cottage Botanics." 7pm Visitors are always welcome!

The Village Stores at Stoke St Gregory

01823 490240

info@stokevillagestores.co.uk

NOTICE OF HOLIDAY CLOSURE

23-30 July 2018

The Village Stores will be closed after trading (midday) on Sunday 22 July 2018 until we open again at 7.30am on Tuesday 31 July 2018. We will also have to suspend our usual deliveries on Friday 27 July 2018 and will recommence on Friday 3 August 2018.

This closure is to enable us to have some time off after seven and a half years. We apologise in advance for the inconvenience.

In the meantime, we will continue to provide you with the best possible service!

Parish Council News (Continued)

Farming report On the subject of tractors, a discussion document about the impact of farming was published on the website on 12 April. This was the outcome of much talk at the PC and elsewhere over the last few months. It is a rewrite by Graham Glead of a report originally compiled by Phil Stone (published separately on the N Curry website). Part of the idea is to generate discussion and encourage imaginative ideas for mitigating any issues. Your thoughts or comments would therefore be very welcome (grahiamgleed@gmail.com)

Comments are also invited on the **Library Service**. Taunton Deane are running a consultation until 13th June. If the library is important to you, it would be well worth contributing at somerse libraries.co.uk/consultation/, or ring 0300 123 2224 for details.

Broadband In the last issue I encouraged people to register an interest for both Gigaclear and TrueSpeed. Both companies are planning full fibre networks, but while Gigaclear are contracted by CDS to do so throughout this area, Truespeed are dependent on a 30% sign-up to justify a commercial build. It seems unlikely that TrueSpeed would achieve this in the circumstances, so I have to admit that though the principal of competition is good, this was probably a bit of a red herring. There is more on the background to all this in a news item on the village website.

Crime There have been a number of break-ins reported in North Curry recently, and some in Stoke. There has also been a telephone scam reported, where someone purporting to be from the Telephone Preference Service invites you to share account details. As with all of these things, if someone rings out of the blue and offers you something you never asked for, especially if they ask for personal details, you should be very sceptical. Any legitimate caller will give you their name and number, so that you can verify their credentials. We are lucky to live in a relatively low crime area, but we still need to be on our guard and take precautions, both as regards our physical property and how we act on the phone and online.

Sprucing up the village By the time you read this, new arms for some of the old cast-iron signposts in the village should have been cast, and we hope to have the posts restored and freshly painted over the summer. And in more good news, warm thanks to Graham Glead for organising a very successful village litter-pick in April. Many volunteers turned out, collected 20 bags of rubbish between them and were rewarded with refreshments in the Royal Oak afterwards. The village is all the better for it.

Village website At several points in this report I have referred readers to our website. It is a very useful channel of up-to date information, but surprisingly few people use it. In order to be the information hub we would like it to be, we need to be supplied with copy on news and events so that all residents can trust it to be fully comprehensive. Several prominent recent events have not been listed either in the diary or the calendar.

One fresh incentive for visiting is that Dave Evans has just set up (or linked to) a whole new section on **village history** which makes fascinating reading. Click on the brown History tab —and then make sure that you have read the recent News and bookmarked the home page!

Village Hall Trustees

After serving on the Board of Trustees for the Village since its opening, Dave Evans has stepped down. I would like to thank Dave for his many years of rich contribution and unstinting service. He will be missed. This does mean that there is now an open position on the Board of Trustees which we would like to fill. If you have an interest in helping to continue the success that the Hall has achieved, please contact Graham Glead (490407) or any other of the trustees.

Allotment Available

The growing season is in full swing and the allotments are bursting with activity. The fruit trees in the orchard have blossomed, beans and broccoli are thriving, however there is one half plot which is not occupied and is available for anyone wishing to take it on. We have our own mechanical equipment so preparing the plot should not be an issue. If you are interested please contact Robin Ferrett on 07734752828.

Village Fete : Saturday 16th June 2pm

More details on page 4

Stoke St Gregory History Web Pages

Don't miss the new Stoke St Gregory History Pages web site. It has started with twenty pages, covering all aspects of village life, but the framework has been set to cater for the vast amount of potential information about Stoke's history. Some is already collected and is waiting to be organised. Even more is waiting to be discovered. The easiest way of accessing the site is through the village web site: www.stokestgregory.org and click on the HISTORY tab.

Apart from withies, basket making, and agriculture in general, which are still at the heart of village life, the site covers the institutions of church, school and pub. Social life includes outings, clubs and societies. Families & individuals, hamlets & individual buildings, all have their places on the site. Transport, as in many villages, has been vital to development, with rivers, railways, droves and roads all being important at different stages of Stoke's history.

When you visit the site, please feel free to suggest new pages, or think about creating your own, which could then be fed directly into the site. If you would rather write an article, no problem - it can be made available for download. If you're researching the history of an old village family or the history of your home, this site could provide a platform for your results.

Farming News –

A seasonal look at what has been happening on farms in Stoke St Gregory. What a rollercoaster the last three months have been weather-wise – snow and bitter east winds in March, followed by never-ending rain, it seemed, (200mm measured here in March/April + the snow melt) and then the recent sunshine and heat – all of which have had their influence on agricultural activities. The snowy conditions in March did make things difficult for livestock farmers in particular, with frozen water pipes and tanks, as well as the added problem of milk not being collected by the tankers – understandably, due to the atrocious road conditions- but still extra worry for the farmers involved. Many sheep farmers were needing to lamb their ewes in severely cold conditions – this was true nationally, as all areas of the country experienced the ‘Beast from the East’. The wet April meant that many field work tasks could not be carried out in a timely way and it has been a particularly late season for the drilling of spring arable and maize crops. However with the warmer sunshine in May things are starting to get back on track with cows and young stock out grazing the fields and the grass growing well. The heat of the sun will hopefully bring the maize on nicely, as the long daylight hours of June allow fast growing rates for the plants. Silage has been made on many farms in the village and will continue through the next few months, along with hay – hoping for a hot, sunny June!

If there are any other farmers in the village who would like to contribute to the newsletter please contact Jean House on the email address on page 1.

TABLE TENNIS - GET ACTIVE AND MEET FRIENDLY NEW PEOPLE

The table tennis group gets together on Wednesday evenings, from 7-9pm at the Village Hall for a couple of hours of sociable exercise. All standards welcome. All equipment provided. Pay on the door, £3 per evening for adults (£1 for youngsters 12yrs+), including refreshments. Why not give us a try? You might surprise yourself. After a few sessions you'll feel like you've always been one of the group. If you're nervous, why not bring a friend too? First week free! Just come along, or for more info call Paul on 490565 or Terri on 490671.

Village Walking Group

In May we had enjoyable walk from Muchelney, beside the Parrett and back through Drayton. 16 of us had supper at the Firehouse. Dates for future walks are:

Tuesday 5th June

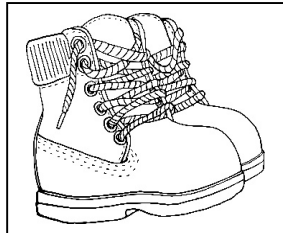
Tuesday 3rd July

Tuesday 7th August

Tuesday 4th September

Meet outside the shop at 6.00pm to share lifts.

Anyone is welcome to join us. Liz 490828



THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. GREGORY

The PCC held its Annual Meeting on 25 April 2018 in the Church Room. Jane White and Will Tilley were re-elected Churchwardens and subsequently commissioned by the Archdeacon of Taunton at North Curry on 17 May 2018.

Village Fete: The Church is running the following stalls and would be very grateful for contributions. Cakes; Bric a Brac and Produce. If you are able to contribute to this or offer help please contact Jane White on 490508.

For your diaries: Harvest Festival and Supper
Sunday 7 October and Monday 8 October

Wanted – Stoke News Sponsors If you would like your business featured in the next edition, please get in touch with Jean House; or Becky Goodchild, The Parish Clerk, on 690235 or at ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Calling all yarn, felting and fabric enthusiasts. We need your help!

The Haymoor Hookers crochet group are organising a poppy display for the Remembrance 100 Year anniversary in the village hall.

We would love to have as many different types of material and skill involved as possible. So we are calling on knitters, crocheters, felters, sewing enthusiasts, and crafts I haven't even thought of, to help us create something truly beautiful.

We have 5 months to get as many poppies of all sizes as possible and we can't do it without you.

If any groups, clubs or individuals think you can help in anyway please get in touch.

Please contact Emma by email ssgpoppies@gmail.com our Facebook group Haymoor Hookers or pop into The Wagon House, Meare Green to see me as I am usually in.

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club

Junior Coaching with Natalie restarts after the half-term on **Sunday June 10th** at 10am and 11am

These sessions are going very well so far.

Fees for the 7 week half-term will be £28 for members, £35 for non-members.

New participants may have a trial session for free.

Natalie: 07810 251642 natgrinter@btinternet.com

Great British Tennis Weekend – Play Tennis for FREE – Sunday June 10th 12 noon- 5pm

Come along on your own or as a family to enjoy free use of our courts. Members will be on hand, rackets are available & balls provided.

There will be refreshments, including a **Barbecue** from 3pm.

Check the website www.lta.org.uk/gbtw for details or to book a session in advance.

You can of course still turn up & see on the day if you haven't booked.

Our annual **Bunny Austin Tournament** will be held on **Sunday June 24th at 2pm.**

Non-members welcome. This is a mixed doubles event – partners drawn on arrival.

Please let Kathy know if you'd like to join in.

For further information, contact Kathy Davidson 490575 kathryn.davidson7@btinternet.com

Afternoon Tea at the Royal Oak

Sunday, June 10th, 12 noon to 4 pm

Indulge in one of the best British traditions and join us for Afternoon Tea at The Royal Oak. Enjoy a selection of delicious sandwiches, homemade cakes and scones with clotted cream and preserve. Tea will be served in our restaurant, £12.50 per person and why not sip a glass of Prosecco for £3.95 to add a bit of sparkle to your afternoon.

If you are a gin lover then we have the perfect treat for you. Our Gin High Tea is the classic afternoon tea experience with two speciality Gin and Tonics. £19.95 per person, a must if you love a G & T!

Booking is essential, call Nicola on 01823 490602, go on spoil yourself.

We have the **Morris Men joining us at The Royal Oak** to cheer us up with their music and dancing. Come along and join us on:

Tuesday, July 24th at 9pm - Taunton Deane Morris Men

Thursday, August 16th at 8.30 pm - Chalice Morris Men

South West Folk Group visit Stoke St Gregory

The SW Folk Group of the Camping and Caravanning Club have been visiting Stoke St Gregory for a number of years for their group events, staying in the grounds of the Village Hall. They enjoy pastimes and entertainment such as folk crafts, music, dancing etc. They have enjoyed staying in Stoke, and meeting the locals. Their next visit will be in late July. On this occasion they would like to offer an open invitation to the villagers to join them, for their evening of traditional music and dance. So if you would like to go along just to listen and watch, or maybe to join in, you will be very welcome. There will be no tickets for this event – just turn up. Watch out for notices nearer the time.

The Camping and Caravanning Club Folk Group (South West Area) will be holding a dance on **Friday 27th July and Saturday 28th July** at the Williams Hall from 19:30 to 22:30. The dance will be a ceilidh with spots (songs & readings) with barn dance style dances. There will be a break for tea, coffee & biscuits halfway. The £2 for attending will be collected then. Please come to dance, sing or just listen.

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

invite you to join them for

Summer Tea on Sat 30th June at 3pm at the Baptist Church

Come and meet with friends and enjoy tea, cakes and of course strawberries at our afternoon tea.

Come and join the Baptist and Parish churches for **Songs of Praise on Sun 15th July on the playing fields (or at the Baptist Church if wet)**

Bring your picnic blanket / chairs and enjoy tea, coffee, cake and fruit for our first café style Songs of Praise.

NORTH CURRY FILM CLUB

(All welcome from surrounding areas)
We have the last 3 films of the season – we will be choosing our next season in June/July and suggestions are always welcome (to John Attwood athwold@talktalk.net 01823 490648). Films are at the North Curry Village hall with doors opening at 7 pm (bar available) and the film starts at 7.30pm. Guests pay £5. Details

www.northcurryfilmsociety.org.uk

June 27 A United Kingdom (12A 111min) The true story of King Seretse Khama of Botswana (David Oyelowo) and how his loving but controversial marriage to a British white woman, Ruth Williams (Rosamund Pike), put his kingdom into political and diplomatic turmoil.

July 25 Manchester by the Sea (15 137min) A hardened handyman (Casey Affleck) returns to his hometown in New England to care for his 16-year-old nephew (Lucas Hedges), but his arrival unearths a checkered history.

Aug 22 The Man who knew Infinity (15 108min) The story of the life and academic career of the pioneer Indian mathematician, Srinivasa Ramanujan (Dev Patel), and his friendship with his mentor, G.H. Hardy (Jeremy Irons).

Great British Tennis

Weekend –

**Play Tennis for FREE –
Sunday June 10th**

12 noon-5pm at the Tennis
Courts on the Playing Fields,
Stoke St Gregory.

For more details see page 3.

Village Fete

Saturday 16th June at 2.00pm

Children's Sports, Decorated hat competition for all ages.

Cakes, Produce, Plants, Tombola, Teas, BBQ, Licensed Bar,

Displays by the Gym Club & Dragonfly Dance Company

Anyone one who is willing to help in any way or
would like a stall should contact

grahiamgleed@gmail.com or

naomitilley@hotmail.com