

All items for the
Winter edition by
Friday 23rd November
2018

Stoke News

Autumn 2018

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

Parish WW1 100 Commemoration

Time to come together as a community.

Saturday 10th Nov 12 noon - 5pm.

An exhibition depicting Stoke during 1914-1918 will be staged at the village hall. Tea/ cakes available or why not enjoy a cheese and homemade soup lunch while you take in some local history –
Donations to the Poppy Appeal.

Sunday 11th November Parish Remembrance Service around the flagpole at the village hall. Scouts, Cubs and Beavers and members of the community will be taking part. If you'd like to be involved do let us know. Coffee will be served in the hall afterwards - exhibition open until 4 pm.

Bonfire Party with eats (weather permitting) on the playing field during the early evening.

There will be **ringing of the church bells** in coordination with national events.
Donations to Friends of the School

House to House poppy collection will take place around this time. If you are willing to do some collecting, then you are most welcome to join the team.

Village School and Willowset will be embracing the significance of this anniversary.

Talented young mums are busy crocheting poppies, so that a bit of yarn bombing can be included. The plan is to make the poppies into a piece of artwork.

Contributions of cakes will be gratefully received.
There's still lots to fine tune, but in true Stoke style we'll get there!

If you'd like to help please contact:

Ian at the Village Stores, Richard & Emma
Dobson 491601 or Sue Hembrow [07810352266](tel:07810352266).

TABLE TENNIS FOR FUN & FITNESS

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, like most of us did. 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? And if you are really keen you could play in our new match team, joining the Bridgwater & District League for the first time from October. First week free! Just come along, or for more info call Paul on 490565 or Terri on 490671.

Stoke Stampede

The race will be held on the 6th January 2019. The Stoke Stampede is a wonderful village event, held to maintain the Playing Field and Play Area. The race attracts runners from all over the South West and can only be run with the help of the local community, so I am asking all people who wish to volunteer, to contact me by phone or email. It would be really helpful to know who we have as help, before the day.

The committee does understand that we have lost a few local runners due to not knowing when registration will be open. So this year we will be notifying you by posts on the noticeboards at the Village Hall and Playing Field, also the shop. So please keep an eye out and register early.

Phone: 07519 307133

Email: paulmorse1959@outlook.com

Thank you for your help. Paul Morse (Race Director)

REEVES FEAST

- a part of the history of Stoke St Gregory.

This is a small Village fund which can offer small financial contributions to residents and families finding themselves having to deal with significant hardship. The fund has recently benefitted from a few donations but it would welcome any further donations to allow the support it gives, to continue. One of the methods of donation has been by those in receipt of the Winter Heating Grant, offering it, if they do not need it for themselves.

Reeves Feast is run by Heather Venn (01823 491483) and Gill Yaskin, who would be happy to discuss any questions that you may have.

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. GREGORY
Following a wonderfully sunny summer, the Parish Church is looking towards the Autumn and our traditional Harvest Celebrations.

Saturday 6 October - Church decorating

Sunday 7 October - Harvest Festival Service

Monday 8 October - Harvest Supper.

Tickets: £10 each.

Produce auction following supper: come and join the fun!

Christmas Services

There will be our usual range of Christmas Services and celebrations, details will appear in the Winter edition of the Village Newsletter and in the Parish Magazine.

Parish Council News [June, July, August]

I have a slight quandary when writing the PC report for Stoke News once a quarter, because I also write a report for the Parish News every month, and I worry about boring readers of both by being too repetitive. As it happens, there is no parish mag in August, so since there were things that needed saying, it was decided at the last PC that the same monthly report that normally goes there would also be published as a News item on the village website. What follows therefore is a brief summary of developments since June—apologies if you have read some of this elsewhere.

The most significant item of news is that the immediate future of the **Rose & Crown** appears to be safe, since a sale has been agreed, and the new owner intends to keep it open as a pub. This excellent news was dramatically announced at a public meeting in the Village Hall on 7 June, which had been called to discuss the setting up of a steering team to look into the question of a community shop and/or pub should the current shop fail to conclude a sale.

The **steering team** has now been formed and has met twice. Its principle job at this stage is to thoroughly research the options and present them to the village. Any community enterprise is necessarily still just a contingency plan while the existing businesses are trading. It has been agreed to call the project the **Heart of the Village**, since that is what it is designed to protect. Many of us feel that it is important to keep the centre of the village alive with as much commercial activity as possible. There should soon be a new HOTV page on the website.

There remain too many **uncertainties**, particularly around the future of the shop and the Royal Oak, to be able to predict what we will end up with. In the meantime the best advice that can be given is to use the services you value: this goes for the bus as well as the shop and the Oak—and of course the Rose & Crown.

The other big issue is a **proposal to build houses** on half of the allotments field. There will be (or was) a presentation in the Village Hall on Tuesday 4th September setting out the details and inviting responses from the public. This development will only go ahead if it has community support, so it is important to make your views known. The proposal is for 29 houses, of which over 41% would be “affordable” and many of the others relatively small. This is a private development, but it is offering exactly the sort of housing that the PC has long been arguing that the village needs, and it could provide a shot in the arm to existing businesses. Details should be on the website by the time you read this.

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

Universal full fibre broadband is a step closer. A representative came to the July PC meeting to tell us that Gigaclear will be starting to build their network in this area from early next year, giving virtually everyone in the village the option of speeds up to 200 Gbps—at a price. Monthly subscriptions start at around £40, but prices are likely to fall as the network matures and third party companies are given access to it. In the meantime, Rural Broadband Southwest is still providing a reliable wireless service at about 10 to 15 Gbps at £25/month for most of those who BT has left in the lurch, and this should continue to be an economical option. RBS are interested in connecting new customers, and could buy new capacity so as to raise the speeds if the number of customers supports such a move. For more details on any of these issues, please visit the village website. And please also supply the website with news of your own: www.stokestgregory.org

Did You Know? that Pole Cats were once hunted as vermin in Stoke? Although now making a comeback all over the UK, this member of the weasel family, by 1915, was only found in Wales and remote parts of Scotland. We know from the parish records that people were paid a bounty. 1779 - “for killing 22 Pole Catts: 7s 4d”. 1780 - “27 Pole Cats: 9s”. Sparrow catchers had to work harder to make money. 1780 - “188 doz and 116 doz Sparrows: £2.11s” [See the reproduction sparrow trap in the museum at Willows and Wetlands]. Hedgehogs were another target with 14 dead ones bringing in 2s 4d. In 1792 John Beck was paid 1s for an otter. Other targets were the kingfisher and the osprey. How many must there have been to consider these wonderful birds as pests?

Lots more to discover in the Stoke Parish Records. If you need any leads, contact Dave Evans - gregorystoke-history@yahoo.co.uk

Stoke St Gregory Walking Group



Only two more summer evening walks:

Tuesday 4th September 6.00pm & Tuesday 2nd October at 5.00pm.

Note the earlier start time in October.

We will have a 3 mile walk round Curry Mallet in September followed by supper at a local pub. All are welcome to join us. Meet outside the Village Stores.

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners **September 6th “Container gardening with a twist”**

Jonathan Garratt

October 4th AGM at 7.15 followed by “The X Factor, tips for a memorable garden” Neil Ross

November 1st “Hedgerow Medicine” Helen Kearney

Meetings are held in the Pavilion of Greenway Playing Fields, North Curry on the first Thursday of the month. We meet at 7.45pm for 8.00 and anyone is welcome to come along as a guest, enjoy the talk, have a coffee and a chat. Hopefully you'll enjoy yourself so much you'll want to join us permanently as a member!

A View from The Stores.....

What a great summer it has been – after a rather wet and dull and sometimes snowy start to the year! Since the last Stoke News we have brought on board some new suppliers – mainly as a result of some long-standing local suppliers experiencing difficult business conditions resulting in closure. It is a reflection of how the national economy will, eventually, impact on every aspect of our lives. The good news is that we have found new suppliers that are able to provide excellent high quality foods. Of particular note is our recent association with Jon Thorner's, based at Pylle, who is supplying us with excellent pies, pastries and fresh meat – their pies have to be tried to be fully appreciated!

On another note, we continue to work with the Parish Council and the newly formed Heart of the Village team to develop ideas to invigorate life in the village. Look out for further information on this important project and please contribute if you can – your opinion and preferences really do matter and I know the HotV Team would appreciate hearing from you. Feel free to write anything down and leave in the shop and we will pass it on to the Team – in complete confidence.

Karen and Ian would like to thank the community for supporting us when we shut for a break for the first time in seven years. It was much appreciated! Thanks also for all the good wishes Karen has received following her 'knee-op'.

Stoke St Gregory Women's Institute

The summer months brought us together for many enjoyable visits and social occasions. These included our annual Garden Meeting held in Sandra Glead's garden this year and the annual Coffee Morning held in Janet Daniels'. The wonderful weather added to the pleasure of these delightful occasions. As usual we enjoyed sharing lovely refreshments in relaxing surroundings with friends.

Members also really enjoyed a visit to Middelney Manor near Langport. We were given a fascinating guided tour by the owner, followed by cream tea in the garden. Originally an island manor of the abbots of Muchelney, the manor is now very much a family home, but one with a rich history to share.

On a somewhat larger and grander scale, some members joined a county WI visit to Highclere Castle of "Downton Abbey" fame, bringing back memories of the series. Fans will now look forward to the feature film about Downton Abbey.

We are very lucky to open our autumn programme with a talk entitled "Life above the Levels." given by local speaker, Stephanie Mottershead. Stephanie is a highly qualified, real, space science enthusiast. She has done courses at NASA and constantly seeks 'to go where no others have gone before!' It should be an illuminating evening. All are welcome to join us. Stephanie and her mother Jos are well known to those of us who play at the Women's Table Tennis sessions.

Next meeting: Tuesday 11th September. 7pm. "Life above the Levels" Stephanie Mottershead

October meeting: Tuesday 9th October "A walk up the Garden Path" John Dando.7pm

November meeting: Tuesday 13th November- Members' Fun evening.7pm Visitors are always welcome.

Williams Hall Social Events Committee: Forthcoming Events

Cider, Cheese and Chutney Evening

Saturday 6th October 7pm for 7.30pm

A social evening with tasters of local ciders, homemade chutneys and locally sourced cheeses. Just £3 per person. Tickets available at The Village Stores, or pay on the door. We will also have cash bar and raffle.

Village Breakfast

Saturday 3rd November 9am to 11am

Once again, the Social Events committee will be cooking breakfast for the village. So come along, chat, eat and leave the washing up to us.

£6 for a full English plus cereal, toast, tea and coffee. Kids under 12 eat free.

Brass Band, Mulled Wine and Mince Pies

Saturday 8th December 7pm for 7.30pm

Get in the mood for Christmas with The Glastonbury Brass Band. Listen to the band while enjoying a glass of mulled wine and mince pie for £5 per person.

Look out for more details on all these events and more, on posters, social media and on the village website.

Would you like to help put on more events? Perhaps you have an interest in cooking or would just like to get more involved in village life. Williams Hall Social Committee would love to hear from you. Speak to us at one of the events or Contact Louise 07761238933

Medical Advances arising out of WW1

A talk by Michael Davidson

At the Baptist Church on Friday 16th November

With supper, starting at 7.00pm £10.

Medicine and care had to develop quickly during WW1 to treat injuries on a scale that had never been experienced before. Mobile x-rays, blood transfusions, artificial limbs and facial surgery (Michael's particular area of expertise) were all transformed during the war.

WW1 is mostly remembered for the number of lives lost. This talk will remind us of the medical innovations that arose out of it, some of which are still in use today.

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club



Junior Coaching –Tennis for Kids



This is a National Course which is coming to Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club. It will be for 5-8 year olds, on Sunday mornings at 10am, starting on September 16th. The course costs £25 & each child will get:

6 weeks coaching with Natalie, a brand new Babolat racket & case, red balls to practice with and a personalised T-shirt. Booking should be made online at: <http://tennisforkids.uk/StokeStGregoryTennisClub> Coaching for 9 year olds & above will follow at 11am, also from September 16th. First (trial) session for any new juniors will be free. The normal rate per session is £5 for non-members (£4 members), payable half-termly. Any queries contact Natalie - 07810251642 natgrinter@btinternet.com or Kathy (as below)

Club sessions - Visitors welcome Monday mornings from 10am. Wednesdays from 5.30pm, while the light still allows, 2pm thereafter. Sundays from 2pm

Winter subscriptions There are still plenty of opportunities to play tennis during the winter months & our club sessions continue all year. We also compete in a Winter League. Half price subscription rates apply for winter membership from October 1st. For more information, contact Kathy 490575 or kathryn.davidson7@btinternet.com

FOR ONE NIGHT ONLY

Gill and Dave Walters

Present

PRE-CHRISTMAS BINGO

SATURDAY 10th

NOVEMBER

WILLIAMS HALL

EYES DOWN 7.30PM

£1.00 entrance

Tea/coffee/biccies

The Royal Oak will be
hosting a fun and friendly

Pool competition

on Friday evenings to
commence as of mid-
September.

If you are interested in
taking part please contact
Nicola or Wesley for further
details. Tel. 01823 490602

Early evening Bonfire (no
fireworks) on the Playing Field
Sunday 11th November.

Check timings nearer the time
on Village website/Facebook.

In Somerset for one night only, and as part of their national tour
Tone Dance and Take Art are proud to present

Juliet and Romeo

A production by Lost Dog

A unique blend of dance, theatre and comedy

Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory

Saturday 3rd November

Doors 6.30 Show 7.45

Tickets £12. Students £8, including supper

Contact (01823) 490981 / 698283 or www.takeart.org.

and/or, in the afternoon, you are welcome to the Lost Dog Choreography Workshop

Tickets £10. 2-4pm, same venue, same contacts

Williams Hall Events
Dates (Details Pg.3):

Saturday 6th October
Cider, Cheese &
Chutney Evening.

Saturday 3rd
November
Village Breakfast

Saturday 8th
December
Brass Band, Mulled
Wine and Mince Pies