

All items for the
Winter edition by
Friday 22nd November
2019

Stoke News

Autumn 2019

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

The Parish Church of St Gregory is pleased to sponsor this quarter's issue of the SSG Village Newsletter.

Accompanying this edition you will also receive a questionnaire which we would invite you to complete.

Many of you will be aware that we are in the exciting position of searching for a new vicar and your views will help to formulate the profile we wish to present in our advertising campaign.

Please take a little time to help us in this.

Heart of the Village

Share Offer Now Live!

Have a say in the future of your village

Shares are now on sale for the Heart of the Village, a project to retain a shop and a pub at the centre of our village. Shares are available at £25 each with a minimum purchase of four shares. The offer closes on September 30th. The initial response has been encouraging and we are optimistic about meeting our target. See more at www.HOTVSSG.org, or pick up an application form at the Village Stores.

Please come to the Village Hall on September 2nd from 5pm to 9pm if you want to find out more. The drinks are on us.

ST GREGORY PLAYERS

Canterbury Tales has been cast and rehearsals begin in September for this exciting production of the The Archers version of some of Chaucer's tales by Nick Warburton. Performances will be from **Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th November**

If anyone has any old plain coloured sheets, duvet covers or curtains, they could be useful for our costume makers. Please call 490155 and we will arrange collection.

We are also looking for someone to organise the properties used by the cast, and to Stage Manage the production. Please call 490155 for more information.

BINGO. Dave and Gill Walters are running a **Fun Bingo Evening** in the Williams Hall on **Saturday 28th September**. Tea and coffee will be available but bring your own wine etc.

Doors open at 7pm for eyes down at 7.30pm. Come and join in the fun.

Wanted – Stoke News Sponsors

If you would like your business featured in the next edition, please get in touch with Jean House; or Kelly de Silva, Parish Clerk, at ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk

Parish Council Report

At the August PC meeting Janice Pearce was elected to the vacant position on the Parish Council, so we now have our **full complement of councillors**. We welcome Janice who based on her previous professional experience, expressed an interest in specifically representing the both the old and the young of the Parish.

The most significant event following the last Stoke News has been **approval for the Planning Application** to develop houses next to Willey Road. The proposal was passed unanimously by SWTC Planning Committee. The key consideration in reaching this conclusion was the demonstration that there is a need for social and low-cost housing from within the village. On this basis, the recommendation by SWTC was changed from rejection to approval. The approved application includes all the amendments that had been proposed following the public consultation, such as footpaths on Willey road and an extended buffer zone behind Church Close. The developer has indicated that work on the infrastructure, services, roads etc. will start towards the end of the year. There are many implications for the village, not least of which is the impact on the school. Every effort is being made to ensure that the capacity of the school can be increased not only to cater for this development, but also the anticipated contribution that will potentially come from a similar development in Burrowbridge. As a postscript it is worth reflecting that this development represents the first significant increase in the village housing stock since 1982!

HELP YOUR LOCAL SCOUT GROUP? - TREASURER NEEDED

Would you like to help your local Scout Group? Our Treasurer is stepping down, and we need a replacement. The job involves only low-level book-keeping/spreadsheet skills, and a willingness to attend about 4 committee meetings each year. If you think you might be able to help please contact Paul Fielding for details on 490565.

Parish Council Report (continued from page 1)

Separately the planning application for the **new pavilion** went before the planning committee in June and was also unanimously approved. Work has already started on this important facility for the Village. It is intended that this pavilion, replacing the existing wooden structure, which is over 100 years old, and which started life as Athelney railway station, will promote both the existing tennis and cricket clubs and open the possibility of restarting a football team. Following the sad loss of Dennis Silk there is considerable support that this pavilion be named in his honour to commemorate his contribution to the village.

At the July meeting the PC agreed that there will be **no street lighting** in the new Willey Road development. One topic which has stirred discussion is the 20-metre **transition zone** between Church Close and the development. Further clarification has been requested from the developer before taking a final decision on how to proceed.

The **Annual Audit of PC accounts** was conducted by Liz Hembrow. I am pleased to report that Liz commented favourably on the completeness and accuracy of the accounts as presented. As the PC edges towards on-line banking some minor changes will become necessary in our Financial Regulations.

Following a successful event several years ago, **Route 60+** will be repeated. This is a free event. The talk is aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer for longer. We are very aware of when a person who lives in a remote area must stop driving it presents a difficult lifestyle change. In the talk, strategies to help continue driving will be covered and (for a fee) a driving assessment will be offered with a driving instructor. Everyone who attends will get a copy of the highway - code and other literature to assist them. If there is enough interest the event will be held at the Village Hall. Please contact the Parish Clerk if you would like to participate.

Finally, in a tribute to the tenacity of the Parish Clerk a **new dog waste bin** has been located at the entrance to the village hall. It is hoped that this bin, which will be emptied by SWTC will discourage leaving waste bags either at their point of use, or the rather unpleasant alternative of using the waste bin at the bus stop.

TABLE TENNIS FOR FUN & FITNESS

The table tennis group continues to flourish. We get 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. Younger players particularly welcome. Why not give us a try? You've got to do something to keep you active on those chillier autumn nights! First week free! Just come along, or for more info call Paul on 490565 or Terri on 490671.

The limericks below were published in the Taunton Courier of 24th November 1926. The newspaper was founded in 1808 by JW Marriot. Incorporated into the Somerset County Herald in 1936, & eventually discontinued in 1964.

ORIGINAL LIMERICKS (from the Taunton Courier)
The following are a few of the best Limericks sent in by our readers in reply to our competition of a fortnight ago, in which we offered a Guinea for the best verses of this character, each containing two rhymes for the names Stoke St Gregory:

A wooden -legged chap, poor as beggary,
Tramped the roads till he reached Stoke St Gregory;
To the volk there did cry,
"My leg please to buy",
But the volk 'ooden have nar his leg or 'e.

Far famed are thy bells, Stoke St Gregory!
They form a remarkable al-leg-ory;
So clear and so true,
So sweet though so few;
Thy *belles* put description to beggary.

Once a lady from out Stoke St Gregory
Decided to set up an "eggery";
The place was so fitting,
The hens were soon sitting,
And the lady removed far from beggary.

Stoke St Gregory Walking Group



The dates for the rest
of the season are:
Tuesday 3rd September
Tuesday 1st October

We have had a variety of walks so far this season, all with glorious views and kind weather. We have visited new pubs and enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new ones.

It's not too late to join us for the rest of the season; well behaved dogs are also welcome. We usually walk for 3 – 4 miles followed by a meal at a pub.

**If you'd like to know more please ring
Liz Hembrow 490828.**

North Curry and District Amateur Gardeners

**Meetings held in the Pavilion of Greenway Playing
Fields at 7.45 for 8.00pm**

September 5th Rejuvenating a tired garden
Elizabeth Holman

October 3rd The restoration of Hestercombe Gardens
David Usher

November 7th Hardy Exotic Plants
Katherine Crouch

Everyone welcome! Come and join us!

From the Village Stores.....

As we approach the end of another summer in Stoke St Gregory, we find ourselves steadily marching towards the 31st October and Hallowe'en. Most years we might think about saving ourselves from the ghouls and spirits and all things malevolent. This year, 2019, is no different as we also consider the consequences of our impending exit from the European Union. Irrespective of our personal views on Britain's withdrawal from the European Union, it is generally accepted that we will all be affected in some way. I have recently been reading comments published by road hauliers, farmers, supermarkets, suppliers, producers and so on, and it is clear that some foods will either increase in price or will be in short supply for a while – or both. The Village Stores has always had a policy of 'buying local' and supporting other small businesses and we are confident that the inevitable shock wave of our (highly-likely) no-deal departure will be mitigated as far as possible by this policy. We will therefore continue to source as much of our food as possible from local suppliers and thus limit the impact of price rises and availability where we can.

Of course, when this country has found itself in similar circumstances of escalating prices and stock shortages, we have quickly adapted our way of life and adopted a policy of self-sufficiency. With the closure of our shop in December and the intention to establish a community pub and shop, we would urge our community to consider a new 'adapt and adopt' strategy. Both the pub and the shop are very important to any thriving community. After eight and a half years, Karen and I are acutely aware of the much broader contribution that the presence of the shop makes to our community. It is not just a source of 'emergency supplies' (as evidenced during bad weather, or the 'forgotten item' on return from a trip to the supermarket in town!), but is a symbol of the community's identity. Furthermore, it is a source of local information, mail deliveries, directions for builders, long-lost relations, holiday makers, etc., roadworks and diversion information, a place to report crimes, somewhere that your parcels can be safely deposited awaiting collection, and for mending telephones, fixing the broadband, collecting prescriptions and, of course, the 24 hour weather outlook. The shop provides all this and more! But it's not Karen and I that are 'the shop' – we are simply the current caretakers of the community asset. The community project, HOTV, is a massive task that has required a great deal of effort to get where it is. We absolutely believe the project is vital for sustaining and growing the role of the village shop that is so important to our community. We want a shop to continue to function in Stoke St Gregory – a change of location and ownership is irrelevant. Without a shop, whether privately or community-owned, our village will be less welcoming, less likely to receive investment and support and more vulnerable to cuts in funding and infrastructure maintenance. Furthermore, property values are likely to be adversely affected where there is no village shop. That's why this community project deserves the support of us all. Its value is far greater than a convenient place to purchase your milk or newspaper. It's about sustaining the valuable rural community life that we all enjoy now.

Please think very carefully about the impact on Stoke St Gregory, now and in the future, should you choose not to support the HOTV project. Let's instead work together to make a success of this initiative. (Continued in next column)

We have a defibrillator on the wall of our shop. It doesn't get used very often. But it's there. It sustains life when required. It gives comfort and support knowing it is there. The proposed community shop is similar – it will give the opportunity of life, wellbeing, neighbourly spirit, focus and support to everyone in our fantastic village. And it will sell chocolate!

THE PARISH CHURCH of ST. GREGORY

We are now in Interregnum and urge all who live in SSG as well as those who worship at the Parish Church to take part in the Questionnaire and Meeting, details of which appear elsewhere in this News.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday 6 October - 1100 Harvest Festival Service

Monday 7 October - Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce

7pm for 7.30 Tickets: £10. Raffle.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Thursday 19 December

Carols in the Square with the Baptist Church

Sunday 22 December -

Carol Service in the Church

Tuesday 24 December -

3.30pm Crib Service in the Church

1130 - Midnight Mass

Wednesday 25 December - 0830 - Christmas Morning Holy Communion

Stoke St Gregory Women's Institute

Our annual Garden Meeting this year took place on a golden July evening in Kathryn Astin's pretty, productive garden. We relaxed and chatted, enjoying the delicious refreshments and friendly company.

Then in August we had our usual annual Coffee Morning at Vicki Fielding's home. Despite the rain, which forced us indoors, we enjoyed a very pleasant, lively morning. Our fun, informal WI quizzes have become a bit of a tradition too. Again we enjoyed one on this occasion. The Committee members too had excelled themselves. Their cakes were delicious. We were also happy to buy donated goods and produce in a Bring and Buy sale.

Looking ahead, our September meeting is a timely one on "Somerset Nature and Climate Change." with Steve Mewes speaking. October will bring us the return of the popular Emma Duke to speak about her driftwood art. Then in November we welcome F. Phelps who will amuse us with "Comic Verse and Comedy." As usual, our year ends with our Christmas Lunch, to round off a very enjoyable WI year.

Meetings are held in the Williams Hall at 7 pm. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month:

Tuesday, 10th September.

Tuesday, 8th October.

Tuesday, 12th November.

We always welcome visitors. Why not think of joining us sometime?

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club

Tennis Coaching At The Club

A reminder that after the summer holiday break tennis coaching will restart on the 7th September for junior players. Adult coaching is also continuing.

- For juniors there will be two sessions every Saturday afternoon (excluding half term), between 2 & 4pm, with 4-8 year olds in the first session, followed by 9-13 years in the second.
- Adult coaching will take place afterwards at 4.00pm on Saturday afternoons. It doesn't matter if you are a beginner, rusty racquets or an experienced player.

If you have not been before why not come & give it a try – all welcome, you do not have to be a member of the club to play!

For more information, contact Stuart Mark 490541 stuart.w.mark@btinternet.com
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stokestgregorytennis>

WILLIAMS HALL SOCIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY 12th OCTOBER
ROCK & ROLL EVENING WITH ELVIS 56 and DJ THE BEAR
Tickets £10

***NB. Tickets are now available from ***
The Village Stores, Withies Deli or Louise on 07761 238933

Bar and Raffle

SATURDAY 2nd NOVEMBER
VILLAGE BREAKFAST 9am to 11am
Adults £6

*****CHILDREN UNDER 12 EAT FREE*****
NB All children must be accompanied by an adult
Come to eat, socialise and let us cook your breakfast for you

SATURDAY 7th DECEMBER
CHRISTMAS FUN QUIZ
Tickets £5 (Includes mince pie & mulled wine).
Bar and raffle

More details on these events will be advertised on the Village Hall Website www.williamshall.org.uk and on posters around the village.
Follow us on social media



@williamshallevents



@williamshallevents

We look forward to seeing you at these events

ST GREGORY PLAYERS

Canterbury Tales

The Archers version of some of Chaucer's tales by Nick Warburton.

Performances: **Thursday 7th to Saturday 9th November**

Williams Hall

PARISH CHURCH OF STOKE ST GREGORY

HARVEST FESTIVAL
Sunday 6 October - 1100
Harvest Festival Service
Monday 7 October - Harvest Supper and Auction of Produce
7pm for 7.30 Tickets: £10.
Raffle.

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

Dates for your diary:

Harvest: Saturday 28th Sept 3-5pm
Come and enjoy tea, coffee and cake and see the harvest decorations.
Sunday 29th Sept 10.30am Harvest celebration service

Messy Church: Friday 4th Oct 3.30-6pm
Crafts, singing, Bible stories and a meal – fun for all the family!

TWiGS Babies and Toddler Group
Every Thursday in term time 9.15 to 11.30am.

Messy Church: Friday 29th Nov 3.30-6pm.
Crafts, singing, Bible stories and a meal – fun for all the family!

Luncheon Club

Every other Wednesday at 12noon
Do you know anyone living in the village who is isolated and would benefit from coming to the church to share a meal with others?

If so, contact
sonyacsetchell@gmail.com
for more details.

ST GREGORY PLAYERS Fun Bingo Evening

Williams Hall

Saturday 28th September.

Tea and coffee will be available but bring your own wine/drinks.

Doors open at 7pm for eyes down at 7.30pm.

Come and join in the fun.