

All items for the
Winter edition by
Friday 18th November
2022

Stoke News

Autumn 2022

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



Welcome to this Autumn 2022 edition of
Stoke News
sponsored by Stoke Environment Group

The aim of SEG is to share information about our environment and sustainability, to identify opportunities to tackle the challenges arising from climate change, to promote respect, protection and restoration of our natural environment and to contribute to community resilience where support, cohesion and wellbeing are enhanced.

For more information contact us on envirostoke@yahoo.com

Stoke St Gregory Parish Council Report

Since May 5th when the new Parish Council was formed, the vacant ninth seat has been advertised and Danny James was subsequently co-opted.

During the last three months the Council have fully supported the following planning applications:

The Wagon House Stoke Road, Meare Green; change of use of land from agricultural to residential with the erection of an ancillary building. In addition, an application for the installation of a ground mounted solar array of 16 No. Panels on the land.

Willments Farm Church Road, conversion of outbuilding to ancillary accommodation with change of use from former dual-use farmyard and domestic curtilage

Crossway Farm, Stoke Road for a non-material amendment of application 36/17/0027 for amendments to windows, doors and interior partitions.

Willments Farm Church Road for the erection of an agricultural building. SSG PC support this application on the basis reassurances are sought within the conditions, the buildings will not be used in the future for livestock and with the only discharge being rainwater and surface run off into a soakaway as per planning application

Lower Huntham Farm, 36/22/0013 CQ, prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No dwelling house (class C3) and associated building operations

Lower Huntham Farm, 36/22/0014 CQ prior approval for proposed change of use from agricultural building to 1 No dwelling house(C3) and associated building operations

Ash Grove Stoke Road, for demolition of a garage and erection of a single storey extension to the side of the dwelling.

On the 2nd June a member of the public requested support from the PC to SWT planning to remove the unlawful cesspit as a matter of urgency (planning application 36/21/0012). The Clerk, with the full approval of the Council, drafted a communication to the Case Officer in support of the removal of the cesspit.

ROYAL OAK GOLF SOCIETY? WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED?

There is a possibility of setting up a social golf society in the Stoke St Gregory area, to be based around the Royal Oak. The initial idea is to share contact details for all those who might be interested in finding playing partners. The players would then make their own arrangements for a game at one of the local courses, hopefully followed when convenient by a drink and a chat at our local Royal Oak. From time to time through the year we might run organised Society outings/competitions too. At this stage we are trying to establish whether there is enough interest to make this a worthwhile venture. So, if interested, please contact Paul Fielding on 01823 490565, 07754911146, or fieldingap@hotmail.com.

Newsletter deliveries

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to Fran and Phil Lawrence who, until recently, delivered Stoke News to all the houses in Polkes Field and Willow Mead, amounting to more than 70 copies – quite a number! And a lot of exercise! They have kindly volunteered to do the deliveries ever since Stoke News began as the ‘New Village Hall newsletter’ about 20 years ago.

Another volunteer has kindly stepped forward to take over from Fran and Phil now that they no longer feel they are able to do the round. Gill Slattery delivers in the Polkes Field area. She is very happy to do so, but would also be happy to share the round with another person if anyone in the area would like to help out. If you feel you would like to do so, please contact Jean House on the email above or on 01823 490349.

Thank you again to Fran and Phil. 😊

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

TABLE TENNIS - JOIN US?

The Wednesday evening table tennis group had a quiet summer, but gets into full flow again on Wed 7 Sept. Come and join us, every Wednesday evening from 7-9pm at the Williams Hall for a couple of hours of sociable exercise.

- All ages (currently 14-70+) and standards welcome - here to learn the game, or just a knock around, or join one of our 2 teams in the lower echelons of the Bridgwater league.
- 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? First week free! Just come along, or for more info call Paul on 490565.

Parish Council report (cont.)

To prepare our community for the future once a Unitary Authority is established in April next year, the PC have been busily engaged in forming a **Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan (PIIP)**. This is a working document that will be constantly updated and will include all the amenities and services that we currently enjoy and those that we do not have. It will include anything that needs repairing, replacing or updating. This document will be used in the future for reference when deciding how we spend Parish monies.

We would also like to have a fully comprehensive view of our Parish, a review of the needs of the Community on all levels, Health and well-being, Leisure and Recreation, Education, Climate change sequestration etc. This will be a **Village Community Plan**. It is a project that will involve not just the Parish Council but the wider Community. We advertised on our new Facebook page and Instagram at the beginning of July for anyone interested in forming a Steering group to put this plan together. Our Clerk submitted an expression of interest in the project to the LA. The deadline was 31st July to qualify for professional help and advice for undertaking this project free of charge. Only a limited number of Parishes would be able to receive this help. We are delighted to say that we heard on the 9th August that we had been successful. This project needs to be completed by the 23rd March before the Unitary Authority comes into being. This plan will form an evidenced based document which will greatly assist our Parish in the future for obtaining LA grants etc.

The volunteer Steering group consist of Kelly De Silva, Janice Pearce, Ian Upshall and Danny James from the Parish Council and 11 members of our community have come forward and expressed an interest in getting involved.

On the 8th August the meeting was solely and specifically concentrated on the **CIL monies**. The expressions of interest, the outcomes of the parish survey and the new PIIP were all studied. Each expression of interest from all sources that has been submitted so far was considered and matched against the criteria set out within the regulations of CIL and how it should be spent. Some submissions were not put forward for the second phase. The proposers have been notified. Those that have gone through to the second phase have received a questionnaire asking them how many people in the village it will benefit; How are they going to cost it and how many people have actually requested it. When these completed questionnaires have been received, and the deadline is in time for our next meeting in September, we will then consider those requests that are remaining. Some smaller projects can be funded by other means.

Full details are on the Parish Council noticeboard in the village and on the village website.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in their suggestions.

Stoke St Gregory History: Field Names.

Skellalley Orchard, Ganges, Hanging Hill, Dinny Ball. Just some of the 150 or so field names that appear in the Parish Tithe Map Apportionment Book of 1840. Some spellings may have changed as they were written down by clerks who may not have understood the local accent, but it is certain that many of the names date back to at least Anglo Saxon times, when clearings were made in the ancient forest. The Ball of Dinny Ball (a narrow field to the East of the track leading up from Stanmoor Drove to Slough Court) is almost certainly from the Saxon word balca (modern balk). It was a strip of land left unploughed, sometimes grazed, between two cultivated areas. Hanging Hill, SW of Dykes Farm, sadly has no connection with public executions. The Saxon word hangehole simply means a steep slope. Ganges (where Stanmoor Drove meets the railway) would be a much later name given in jest to a field some distance away from the farm, and maybe awkward to get to. Other examples (from Wiltshire) are Botany Bay, Jericho, and New Zealand. Skellalley Orchard - who knows?

And then there are the fields that gave their names to dwellings. Culvercroft, (where the Lord's doves would be kept); Woodbridge, the name taken from the area of land called Wood Breach (a clearing in the large woodland of Woodhill); Longacre, (a long enclosure); and finally, slightly confusing, Lowhay, on one of the highest points in the village at the top of Curload Hill. Hay is from Saxon hege - a hedge, or the land surrounded by a hedge or fence. Low is from the Saxon hlāw - a mound, so it's an enclosed piece of land on a hill.

For more field names, and maps to show where some of them are/were, visit www.gregorystoke.org for the first of this season's history posts on Sunday 4th September.

Autumn, and apple juice, is nearly upon us!

In spite of the drought, we hope there will be sufficient fruit in the area to do some apple pressings either in group sessions or for people to hire the equipment to do their own at home, perhaps working with others.

Everything needed from the apple mincer to pasteurisers can be hired for £25 per day. Bottles can also be supplied if needed.

Please get in touch if you'd like to take part, letting me know roughly when you think your fruit will be ripe so that I can do my best to coordinate you with others. *For more information contact: Brian on 490623 or email bandk@bkjeanes.co.uk*



Stoke Environment Group – the start of a journey

Stoke Environment Group (SEG) was formed in June 2021 with the support of the Parish Council and a raft of other organisations and bodies whose members care passionately for our environment and feel driven to take action in the face of climate change. SEG is by no means a unique community group but each community is unique and SEG's projects reflect this fact.

The recent weather, and indeed global events over the last twelve months, have served to remind us of the fragility of our environment and our dependence on the food chain and on an affordable energy supply. There is no longer a valid argument for assuming someone else will 'fix' these things, or to hope for the best and ride out the storm. The state of the environment and the impact of climate change is already changing our way of life. We have the opportunity to control many of those changes – or we could simply abdicate any responsibility. SEG members, in their own small way, are identifying and undertaking small projects in our community that will, over time, make a difference. It is our community's response to a global wake-up call.

The first twelve months is the start of a journey of a lifetime – indeed, it is a truly inter-generational journey. As the Chinese proverb reminds us "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step". We would like to encourage everyone in Stoke St Gregory to join us on this journey for the sake of future generations and not necessarily for the enhancement of our own lives.

In June we held our second Envirofair which was very successful – we are already planning one for 2023! Everyone loved the Owl display, bumblebee badge making, watching the honeybees and making electricity! If you missed it, be sure to join us next year.

SEG has also started work to increase the level of biodiversity in the Spinney near the village hall, planted a hedge, made planters for the bus stops and cleared many kilometres of local paths. We even held a Composting Workshop which was more informative than we could believe.

There are lots of plans for the second year, but we really would appreciate everyone contributing their ideas and aspirations for our community. Currently the group has 93 members (no cost or commitment required) which is close to 10% of our community, but we would welcome more. SEG works closely with the Parish Council and other community groups and experts from organisations such as Somerset Wildlife Trust, Reimagining the Levels and Woodland Trust. So please let SEG have your ideas and suggestions.

Coming up in September 2022 we have the Great Big Green Week, and we currently have three events planned – see the flyer and posters for more information and do join in. We are sure many people reading this are very proud of where we live, so let us share that pride and make a difference on our journey.

Finally, SEG have ambitious plans to create a community woodland garden that will provide a natural, environmentally-friendly safe space. If we could plant 1000 trees, then in time they would absorb a large proportion of carbon that we, as a community, emit to the atmosphere (each household in SSG produces, on average 22.6 tonnes CO2 every year!). To achieve our goal of a community woodland garden the group needs access to roughly 2 to 4 acres. The garden would include meeting areas, areas for quiet contemplation, vegetable and fruit areas, educational areas and a wildlife pond. So, if you are a landowner or you know someone who is, we would love to have a chat about partnering and creating something that is truly inclusive to which every single member of our community can enjoy and contribute. Please contact us if you think you can help or have any suggestions on how we might achieve this ambition.

More information on SEG can be found on our website and Facebook pages 'envirostoke' or email envirostoke@yahoo.com.

Stoke St Gregory Parish Church Dates for October to December

Services are advertised on the notice boards in the
Square and Church Notice boards

The general monthly pattern is

First Sunday 11am Morning worship
Second Sunday 8.30am BCP Eucharist
Third and Fourth Sundays 11am Eucharist

Specific non-routine Services are listed below:

September

4th 6pm Evensong Patronal Festival
(Special service celebrating Church volunteers)

October

2nd Harvest Eucharist
(Special family-based Service)
30th Evensong for All Soul's Eve
(Time to be Confirmed)

November

13th 10.50am Remembrance Service
(In the Parish Church,
Joint Service with Baptist Church)

December

15th (Thursday) Carols in the Square
(With Father Christmas)
18th 6.30pm Carol Service
24th (Saturday) 3pm Crib Service
10pm (First Mass of Christmas)

Live theatre is back in Stoke!

St Gregory Players' last show was "The Canterbury Tales" in 2019. Then Covid struck ...

Happily, we are now able to reactivate the group and matters are well in hand to get back on stage later this year.

We will be presenting "A Bolt from the Blue", a hilarious comedy by David Tristram at the Williams Hall for three evenings on **November 17, 18 and 19**. The cast is in place and rehearsals start soon. Ticket sales this time will be online, via seaty.co.uk in due course.

David Tristram is one of the country's most popular current playwrights, a reliable source of extremely funny but thought-provoking scripts.

"Edward Jones was just an ordinary man, doing ordinary things – until the day before his fortieth birthday. What happened next was, quite literally, incredible. It defies belief. It defies logic. It defies the fundamental laws of science and nature. But it happened. And it came like a bolt from the blue."

Any questions –
phone Neil Morgan on 01823 490981.

Check out more events in the Shop,
on the website

www.stokestgregory.org and at
www.facebook.com/StokeStGregory

NOTICEBOARD

Events for December
2022, January &
February 2023 by
Friday 18th November

WILLIAMS HALL - FORTHCOMING EVENTS - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY!

10 September – CHARITY EVENT – LOUIS & THE IGUANAS
(Soul, Ska, Reggae & RnB band)

17 September - COFFEE & BOOKS restarts
(Williams Hall event)

8 October - CELINE, MY HEART WILL GO ON
(Carlton Productions tribute act with band)

22 October - ROCK & ROLL EVENING
(Williams Hall event with Elvis tribute act & DJ)

29 October - COFFEE & BOOKS
(Williams Hall event)

5 November – BONFIRE BREAKFAST
(Williams Hall event)

Adults £7
*****CHILDREN UNDER 12 EAT FREE*****
NB All children must be accompanied by an adult

26 November - COFFEE & BOOKS
(Williams Hall event)

1 December – nearly ELTON
(Carlton Productions tribute act with band)

2 December – KINGSBURY EPISCOPI BAND
(Williams Hall event Brass Band Christmas Concert)

Further details of all our events will be posted in advance on Nextdoor, Facebook (see Williams Hall Events), Williams Hall website www.williamshall.org.uk and on posters/banners around the village.

If you have any queries please contact Louise on 0776238933 or Paul on 07754911146

If you are able in any way to assist in the organisation or running of the Williams Hall Events please contact Louise on 07761238333 @williamshallevents

Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club

Junior tennis coaching

After very successful Summer Holiday Tennis Camps, Dan will continue to provide coaching at weekends during term times. Dan is now only available on Saturdays, so the previous Sunday sessions will change to Saturday afternoons, continuing each Saturday during term time. Sessions will be at:

1.30pm - under 10 years

2.30pm - 10 years & over

We are able to offer a 50% reduction on the normal rate for a block booking, thanks to support from Somerset Community Foundation.

Pay & Play for one-off lessons is possible, but will be charged at the normal rate.

Please book via Luke Andrews: Latennis@hotmail.com 07437 404242
Or enquiries to: ssgtennis@gmail.com 07956 981679

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Stokestgregorytennis>

In the event of bad weather necessitating cancellation of any session, you will be contacted by the coaching team.

Also we are offering a special junior membership for £10 (normally £25) giving full membership until 31st March 2023. This allows for booking a court & playing free of charge with another member. If interested please contact ssgtennis@gmail.com / 07956 981679 or apply online at

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/StokeStGregoryTennisClub>

Please share and tell your friends and families!

Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

Dates for your diary:

Harvest celebration service

Sun 25th Sept 10.30am

TWiGS Babies and toddler Group

Restarting on 8th Sept for babies and toddlers and their carers and then every Thursday in term time 9.30 to 11.30am.

Messy Church: Sun 9th October starts at 10am with breakfast.

Crafts, singing, Bible stories – fun for all the family!

Joint Remembrance service at St Gregory's Church on Sunday 13th November at 10.45am.

Luncheon club

Every other Wed 12noon

For more info, please contact Liz on 490828 or Alison on 490380.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

**St Gregory Players
Present**

A Bolt from the Blue

**A hilarious comedy
By David Tristram**

Williams Hall

**November 17th, 18th and 19th
Ticket sales: seaty.co.uk**