

All items for the  
Summer edition by  
Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August

# Stoke News

Summer 2023

Contact Jean House  
[jeanhouse@btconnect.com](mailto:jeanhouse@btconnect.com)  
For more news look at  
[www.stokestgregory.org](http://www.stokestgregory.org)

This edition of the newsletter is sponsored by Oven  
Wizards – a local Oven Cleaning business.



**We clean your oven... so you don't have to.**  
**Call today to have your oven, hob, extractor or Aga  
professionally cleaned**

Tim Hill is launching his own Oven Cleaning Business  
as part of the Oven Wizards Franchise. Oven Wizards  
have provided Tim with comprehensive training  
which will enable him to professionally clean all sorts  
of makes and models of ovens.

As well as Taunton and Bridgwater, Tim also covers  
Somerton, Chard, Wellington and surrounding areas

A recent Survey carried out indicates that oven  
cleaning is one of the most hated chores in the  
home. Tim is providing an introductory discount for  
his first 20 bookings, so feel free to contact him to  
discuss your oven cleaning requirements.

**Tim Hill contact details**  
**Tel Mob. 07931 382899**  
**E mail [timhill@ovenwizards.com](mailto:timhill@ovenwizards.com)**  
**[www.ovenwizards.com](http://www.ovenwizards.com)**

## New Security Fencing for Stoke School.

“.....The village school will shortly be having  
brand new fencing installed alongside Willey  
Road to replace the existing wooden fence.  
This will be much smarter and safer, and allow  
the children to access the front outside play  
area which has been out of bounds for some  
months....”

### Wanted – Stoke News Sponsors and Copy

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](mailto:ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

Copy for the Autumn issue can still be sent to Jean  
and she will pass it on to the new editors 😊

## Parish Council Report

Our **Community Village Plan** has now been  
completed and is available on the Village web site  
and the Village face book page. Hard copies are  
available at the Chapel, the Parish Church, the  
Royal Oak Pub, the shop and café, the Village Hall,  
the Levellers group and the W.I.

The Parish Council would like to thank the working  
Committee who worked so hard to produce it.

They are Danny James (Chair), Kate James, Alfred  
Van Pelt, Paul Fielding, Gill Slattery, Elly and  
Russell Kidd and Kelly de Silva.

The Plan has been officially adopted by the Parish  
Council and they will use this as a reference for  
prioritizing an action plan to achieve what the  
Community have requested. We now have an  
evidence - based document that we can use for  
obtaining grants for various projects. The  
document will be constantly reviewed and updated.  
A separate Committee will be formed to monitor  
the progress and report back to the Community.

Thank you to all those people who contributed to  
the **Coronation Celebrations** on the 8<sup>th</sup> May by  
having a stall or by just coming out in the wind and  
rain to support this village event.

In spite of the bad weather we were able to access  
the Village Hall and still have a Celebration.

We are sorry to learn that Jean House is stepping  
down as **Editor of Stoke News**.

The Parish Council would like to thank Jean for 8  
years of outstanding service to the Community,  
producing the most popular and most relied upon  
form of communication for the Village. We now  
have a vacancy for a new editor. If anyone would  
like to come forward please could they contact the  
Parish Clerk [ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ssgparishclerk@hotmail.co.uk)

We now have **two vacancies on our Parish  
Council** for anyone who is interested in serving  
their Community. There is a lot of hard work ahead  
and much to do. If you feel motivated to make a  
difference, please contact our Parish Clerk. We  
welcome young people to come forward so that  
they can be represented on the Council.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Women's Institute

We have some exciting events planned over the Summer months for Stoke St Gregory WI.

At the June meeting from 7pm in the Village Hall on Tuesday 13th Carolyn Dauncey will be designing a posy arrangement in a rose bowl.

On July 11th we have our summer supper outing and this year we will be having a meal at the Pitney Farm Cafe followed by a tour of the Organic Farm.

Why not come along to our August 8th Coffee Morning from 10:30am, contact the President for further details, new members are always welcome.

Two further planned outings will see members visiting the Museum of Somerset at Taunton and a Federation trip of a tour of Hinkley Point Power Station.

A date for your diary: Stoke St Gregory WI will be hosting a CPR demonstration at the Village Hall on Saturday 9th September from 11am.

Dr Hickman and Dr Winter from NC Health Centre will be undertaking this and it's open to anyone who wishes to attend. Donations in lieu of a fee towards SAVES, the Charity that provides a network of volunteer doctors to support the ambulance service in Somerset.

Amelia Holt 01823 490401

\*\*\*\*\*

### TABLE TENNIS - JOIN THE CROWD!

The Wednesday evening table tennis group continues to thrive, and new members are always welcome.

Come and join us, every Wednesday evening from 7-9pm at the Village Hall for a couple of hours of sociable exercise.

All ages (currently 14-70+) and 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? First week free! Just come along, or for more info call Paul on 490565.

## Village History: What's in a Name?

The earliest record of the Hembrow family we have in Stoke is William Hinborow, whose son, also William, was one of the first baptisms to be recorded in the parish, in 1562. By 1604 the spelling is Himborow. After a brief appearance of Hemborrow in 1626, the following year saw one of the 'r's being dropped. Hemborow remained, but the rest of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century saw many more variations. Hemborowe, Henbrough, Hembry, Hembury, Henborow, Henbrough, and Henbury all appear in the registers. In 1743 Hembrow appears for the first time, but is still greatly outnumbered by the other spellings. It is not until 1800 that Hembrow becomes the common spelling and the other variants disappear from the registers.

Garlant was another family already in the village when records began to be kept, and they soon became the Garlands that remained for the next 500 years. The Chedzoy name does not appear until 1663, when Robert and Elizabeth's son Edward was baptised, but by the time their daughter Judith was baptised in 1671 their name was written Chidzoy. In the mid 18<sup>th</sup> Century Joseph and Hannah were recorded as Chedzey, Chedzoy and Chedzy at different times. To complicate things further there was also a Walter and Jane Chedgzoy. In contrast, the House family, who first appear in the registers in 1569, when John House married Margaret Hobbs, vary very little in later times, apart from a few instances of Howse.

A final name of interest is our modern day Boobyer. In the early 17<sup>th</sup>C it was spelt Boobier or Bowbier. Later on in that century the names Booby and Boobey appear. The 18<sup>th</sup>C saw Boobier and Boobyer appear, but Booby, Boobey, and even Boobby were still around at the end of the century. 1838 saw the last use of Boobier in the parish records, and all that remained was Boobyer.

### *Some SSG Limericks (Reprising Stoke News Autumn 2019)*

*The limericks below were first published in the Taunton Courier of 24<sup>th</sup> November 1926. A competition had been held for a verse containing two rhymes for Stoke St Gregory.*

A yo(l)kel at Stoke St Gregory  
Shell-ed out all his cash for an eggery;  
But the hens would not lay,  
So the 'show' failed to pay;  
Plain fact here eggs-pressed – not al-leg-ory.

It's a joy to be at Stoke St Gregory  
Renowned for its clubs and its waggery  
Once in it you'll never,  
Go away from it ever,  
For withies bring fortunes, not beggary.



As we approach the warm days of summer, we can look forward to enjoying coffee and cake in the Royal Oak Garden during the day or sampling excellent food in the evenings or lunch on Sundays.

Trading is still difficult for small businesses but both the shop and pub are trading successfully. The changes made to reinvigorate the Royal Oak businesses are starting to show benefits.

We are very grateful to our volunteers who are supporting the shop magnificently. They are showing tremendous flexibility and commitment. As customers, you may notice that volunteer training is ongoing. Initially this may slow service a little, but it will help us to increase our pool of trained volunteers.

At the recent member meeting it was suggested that the committee should have a campaign to raise capital for paying off our loans. It was suggested that this could be achieved by the community buying shares. Although the initial share offer was closed, shares can be purchased at any time.

Any capital raised in this way will be ring fenced and used only to reduce our loans, unless the purchaser chooses otherwise.

The function room was used for the members meeting and for a very successful magic evening. The event was highly entertaining with music from Dave Owen (who is a stalwart of the acoustic evening in the Royal Oak) and a superb exhibition of magic from our local professional magician James Brown. It was a wonderful spectacle which brought in about 50 customers, all of whom were riveted throughout and had a great time.

We can now offer good value high quality pub food. We have recruited Jenna, a very talented chef, to our team. She is an experienced chef who has worked in a variety of catering establishments in the UK and abroad including 5\* hotels, bistro pubs and busy cafes. Jenna will bring her passion for the environment into her cooking, sourcing local and seasonal ingredients to create a range of tasty dishes. She aims to highlight the great produce available to us locally and the varied dishes and flavours that can be created using them.

On our opening weekend Jenna produced a superb range of meals, including a roast dinner on Sunday, which received fantastic reviews from our customers. As demand increases, we are very aware that we will need to maintain high standards of menus and service. In order to ensure that we do not overreach ourselves and lower our customer satisfaction, we are restricting the number of diners per session and ask customers to book their table. This limitation is a temporary measure until we are able to provide Jenna and Phil with the necessary front and back of house support needed to deliver an excellent service. We are organising a team of volunteers and paid staff to help with waiting, pot washing, food prep, cleaning etc. If you wish to try our new food offering, please contact Phil at the Royal Oak to book a table (see below for contact number). Food is available on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings plus Sunday lunchtime. Our volunteers are proving to be a vital asset. If you feel that you might like to join our band of volunteers or that you have skills that can help, make the new food service a success please contact Phil, Jo, Carolyn or Ann Woods. Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to you enjoying the new Royal Oak dining experience!

Mike Blair – Chairman Pub - [royaloaksg@gmail.com](mailto:royaloaksg@gmail.com) - Facebook Royal Oak Stoke St Gregory - Phone 01823 490602



## **ANYONE FOR TENNIS?**

**All Ages – Club Sessions- Rusty Rackets  
Coaching- Matches- Tournaments  
Membership or Pay & Play  
Stoke St Gregory Tennis Club**

**Tel: 01823 490541**

**[ssgtennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:ssgtennisclub@gmail.com)**

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

**See our website for Club Junior membership offer for £10**

**Also, Junior Coaching sessions are available every**

**Saturday during term time: 1.30pm under 10s & 2.30pm**

**10+years**

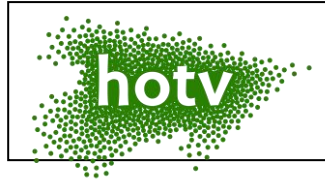
**Half term & Holiday camps are also frequently available.**

Check out more events in the Shop,  
on the website  
[www.stokestgregory.org](http://www.stokestgregory.org) and at  
[www.facebook.com/StokeStGregory](https://www.facebook.com/StokeStGregory)

# NOTICEBOARD

Events for September,  
October and  
November by Friday  
18<sup>th</sup> August

## Car Boot Sale



In aid of the community shop and pub  
**Williams Hall**  
**Stoke St Gregory**  
**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June**  
**10am- 1pm**

£2 per adult, Children free.  
BBQ & Hot drinks available  
(Sellers £10 per vehicle  
& doors open from 8.30am)

For information or pre- booking contact:  
[thomasstob@aol.com](mailto:thomasstob@aol.com) or 07943 005594

\*\*\*\*\*

In Aid of Willow Set Pre- School and  
Stoke St Gregory Playing Field

## SNAPPA

+ Disco

**Friday 1st September**  
**Williams Hall, Stoke St Gregory**  
**7.30 til late**  
Doors open at 7.30

Bar and food (cash or card)  
Raffle with lots of fantastic prizes to be won.

Tickets on sale from the beginning of June, early bird  
price of £10, til 31/7, then £12.  
Tickets include entry, first drink and food.

More information and Tickets Contact Angela Kiddle on 07518 907594

## Stoke St Gregory Baptist Church

*Dates for your diary:*

### **Strawberry Tea & Grand Opening of Stable**

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June 3pm at SSG  
Baptist Chapel. Come and enjoy  
the celebrations!



### **Messy Church**

Sun 4<sup>th</sup> June and Sun 2<sup>nd</sup> July  
starting at 10am with breakfast.  
Crafts, singing, Bible stories – fun  
for all the family!

### **Songs of Praise**

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July 11am on the  
playing field. Joint event with St  
Gregory's Church.

### **TWiGS Babies and Toddler Group**

For babies & toddlers and their  
carers, every Thursday in term  
time 9.30 to 11.30am.

### **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!*