

ARTICLE FOR MAGAZINE October 2019

RECREATION GROUND

You may have seen the security fencing around a couple of the huts in the recreation ground. It recently came to light that there was a leak in the roof of the largest hut so the parish council decided to get it repaired. However, on inspection it was found that the roof is beyond repair and the rainwater is getting into the electrics making the hut extremely dangerous so the builder recommended that the hut should be demolished. He also carried out an inspection on the middle hut and found that this was in a similar condition. We are now waiting for EDF Energy to remove the meter and once that is done Western Power Distribution can cut off the supply.

Sadly, we have just heard that the Bonfire Night event will not be going ahead this year. The parish council did offer to supply portaloos for the event, but the Bonfire Committee discussed at length the possible courses of action but due to the lack of other amenities they decided to cancel the event for this year.

On a good note, there has been some considerable progress regarding the new pavilion. Since members of the Parish Council met with representatives from the National Trust along with District Councillors, the Planning Officer and the parish council's appointed architect, the National Trust's curator and archaeologist have now approved the planning officer's suggestion of moving the new pavilion along the hedge line near the car park. This is such welcome news so now we can move forward and submit the amended plans to the Planning Department. Also, we have been informed that the new lease will soon be finalised.

In addition to this the National Trust has approved the new play equipment and we have applied for funding to help with the purchase of this. We are hoping to install a cone climber (Witches Hat), a basket swing and 3 small wig wams.

VE DAY 75 2020

As mentioned in the last magazine, it was suggested that the village could have a street party in the Borough to celebrate the VE Day 75 event on 8th May 2020. Thank you to those residents who have come forward to help with the organisation of this event, your help is very much appreciated. We have now had a couple of meetings and as there is so much going on it has been decided to spread the celebrations out over the whole weekend. Please make a note in your diaries for next year; you will not want to miss out! On Friday 8th, there will be a church service in the morning in conjunction with church services around the country, followed by a street party in the afternoon along South Street and the Borough with games from the era. The celebrations will continue into the evening with singing and entertainment. There will be a History Exhibition in St Catherine's on Saturday, 9th with photographs, paintings and artefacts from WWII. To round the weekend off on Sunday 10th, there will be a Sports Day and picnic on the recreation ground. This is a great opportunity to bring the whole community together to not only have fun and enjoyment but to remember the sacrifice of our ancestors and the end of WWII. More information to follow in the coming months.

FLOWER FESTIVAL

What a wonderful display of flowers in the church during the Flower Festival and such an array of creative ideas. The church looked magnificent. Thank you to Rob Fisher who captured the arrangements in a photographic montage and for kindly allowing the parish council to post it on its website. Please do go and have a look.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

We announced our new website in the last magazine and asked village organisations and businesses to promote themselves or anyone wishing to advertise an event to contact the Parish Clerk but sadly no one has come forward. This is a great opportunity to let residents old and new and the wider community see what this village has to offer. This is a fantastic village and we need to promote all the wonderful clubs, organisations etc. we have.

DEFIBRILATOR TRAINING

After the success of the defibrillator training in July and the amount of interest that has been received, we have decided to hold another free training session for residents. This will be held in the village hall on Saturday, 12th October between 9.30am and 12 Noon. If anyone is interested please contact Christine Saint to book your place on 01935 822814.

ROUTE 60+

We have been approached by Somerset County Council's Road Safety team who would like to run a free of charge presentation for older drivers, and it is called Route 60+. The talk is aimed at helping to keep older drivers driving on the road safer for longer. Many of us rely on our cars and if a person has to stop driving it presents a difficult lifestyle change. We are hoping to book the village hall sometime next month so we will give you an update in next month's magazine.

ALLOTMENTS

As there have been several break-ins on the allotment site, we have now blocked off the access from Mason Lane and the main gate is now padlocked with only the parish council and allotment holders having access. Hopefully, this will deter any unscrupulous individuals. The parish council would like to say a huge thank you to Ann Gihon and Terry and Kay Harper for all their hard work on improving the allotment site and for making it more welcoming. As a result of this, there are only a few vacant plots left. If you are interested in growing your own vegetables whether experienced or just starting out and would like an allotment, please contact Ann Gihon on 01935 822359.

COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH

Once again, we are asking for help from residents. If you are passionate about how fast traffic is going through the village and have an hour or two spare, please volunteer for the Community Speedwatch team. The task is not too onerous, all you would have to do is record the make, model, colour and registration number of the vehicle and, of course, the vehicle's speed. A designated person will then input the data onto a spreadsheet which is sent to the local Community Speedwatch HQ, and each volunteer will be professionally trained on how to use the equipment etc. by the police.

As previously mentioned, three residents have kindly offered their services, but we do need more people to help so that the task is not down to the same people all the time. If you are interested in volunteering there will be an informal get together at the Phelips Arms on Wednesday, 6th November at 7pm. Do please come along, all are welcome. If you are unable to attend but are interested in volunteering, please contact one of the councillors or our parish clerk.

HIGHWAYS

Somerset County Council have given notice under Section 14(1) of the Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 of a temporary road closure which will prohibit all traffic from proceeding along East Stoke from the junction of Windsor Lane, Stoke sub Hamdon, south-eastwards for a distance of 84 metres. This will enable Sun Traffic Ltd to rebuild the retaining wall to the Duchy of Cornwall properties. This order will become effective on 9th October 2019 for 2 weeks.

Residents travelling to the doctors or dentist in Stoke or travelling to Martock, Crewkerne etc. will need to find an alternative route. The recommended route from Somerset County Council is via the A3088 and then the A303.

The parish council have put in an objection to the recent Traffic Regulation Order which was advertised in the Western Gazette. We have asked the Traffic Management Team to reduce the length of double yellow lines along Yeovil Road as it was felt that vehicles would end up parking on the grass verge opposite the garage at peak times of the day. This in turn will cause an obstruction to the visibility splay at the junction of Yeovil Road and Back Lane. We have also asked them to reduce the distance of the double yellow lines near the houses in Back Lane.

CRIME & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

For any advice and further/up-to-date information on incidents please go to the website: www.police.uk. If you are a witness to or the victim of a crime then it is imperative that you report it to the police immediately whether it is during the day or at night. When reporting an incident please telephone either 101 for non-emergencies or 999 for emergencies only.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Parish Council meetings are held on the third Monday of every month in the Village Hall except for August and December. Parish Council meetings are open to the press and public so residents are welcome to come along and listen to what we have to say. There is also a short public session at the beginning of every meeting.

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, 21st October 2019 at 7.15pm.

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