

January 2017



Hambridge and Westport

January 2017 "What's On"

Web site: The web site is changing and the Internet is coming! There will be no change to the web address, it will still be www.hambridgeandwestport.org. As soon as the Parish Council have completed the installation of Wi-Fi in the village hall they will publicise access information. It is also planned to install a telephone for emergency use.

Chances to meet - The Parish Council applied for and received a grant of £400 from the "Wellbeing Fund" which was used through 2016 to address loneliness in our rural community. We should acknowledge the support that we have had from Christopher Le Hardy and Sue Steel, our County and District Councillors. We are pleased to report the following activities as we reach the end of the calendar year and the end of the pilot period.

- 5 Newsletters distributed to every household, giving Parish Council and Village news
- 4 village afternoon teas and 4 village lunches in conjunction with the school. Many thanks to Iain, Alex, Rebecca, the catering staff and of course the pupils.
- 2 community indoor street parties, one for the Queen's birthday and one for Christmas. Thanks to Jean and Paul, Andy and Julie and many others who helped.
- A community lunch at The Lamb and Lion, many thanks to Jeremy and his team.
- 2 afternoon teas at the nursing home including a Christmas performance by the Kingsbury brass band. Many thanks to Matthew and his team.
- Over 100 residents engaged in some way with the pilot. Thanks to you all.
- A sustainability element incorporated, for example a newsletter production and delivery structure in place, and additional volunteers recruited to continue the tea/lunch events. Thanks to Barbara, Hazel and all the newsletter delivery team.

We feel confident that we have been going in the right direction during the year. We can greet 2017 with a sporting chance of continuing the activities, as there is still more we can achieve. Loneliness can be so different for each one of us. Let's start the year with a promise to seek out and address loneliness in our villages, wherever it might be.



The War Memorial: Yippee! Yes it's been cleaned, and doesn't it look great! Why not stop and have a look if you are passing. We intend to apply for a grant to level the flagstone, straighten the kerbs and repair the railings. 75% Of the cleaning costs were paid for by a grant from the War Memorials Commission.

Westmoor Lane: The Parish Council are discussing with County Highways how the lane can be made even safer after the resurfacing. High unmarked edges seem the main concern and it's still a bit wavy. Highways say that's a feature of moorland roads ☺. Permanent signs perhaps and a speed limit might help?



The Chairman's Award: We are delighted to report that Sheila Cleal received the County Chairman's award for her tremendous contribution to our villages over many years. Who can forget the cabarets, the harvest suppers, and even now the 200 club. Well done and thank you Sheila!

Rubbish bins: It looks like three weekly collections is a done deal starting later in the year.

Planning applications: Many residents attended a recent parish council meeting to voice their views on a possible major development in the heart of Hambridge. Similar attendances helped inform the councillors on their approach to potential developments in Westport. To check planning applications go to <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/view-a-planning-application-online/> and search for Hambridge or Westport.

Village lunches and teas: Hazel Blackman on 01460 281615 will co-ordinate the afternoon teas and lunches in the village hall. These give our young students a chance to meet residents from the village, and for us to have a glimpse of school life. The day of the week is changing to more closely fit with the school curriculum. The next dates will be afternoon tea from 3-4 p.m. on **Thursday 2nd February**, and lunch from 1-2 on **Thursday 9th March**. **Please check the Post Office for information and to register to attend.** Thanks to Gill for this. The afternoon tea is more flexible with numbers, but the lunches have to be booked with the catering team so we need to know your menu selection a couple of days in advance. In April there will be a community lunch in the Lamb and Lion and for this **you will need to register with the Lamb and Lion or at the Post Office.** Date to be arranged.

Items for the Newsletter: The Parish Council would be pleased to receive any contributions for the newsletter. Just contact Simon Denley on 01460 281340 or Jenny Ludgate our clerk on 01458 251432 m.ludgate@btinternet.com

The Church: Why not look for an occasion to meet with the recently appointed rector for Isle Valley Benefice, the Rev Phil Denison. He lives in the vicarage at Broadway 01460 259155 denisonphil15@hotmail.com and likes to be known as the Reverend Phil. Anne Plested is the Benefice Admin person 07500 634318 islevalleybenefice@outlook.com

The School: We will all be very sad to see Iain leave his position as Head, but it will also be good to give a warm welcome to Nichola Chesterton as the transition takes place. Perhaps take the opportunity to say hello.

Dates for Parish Council meetings: Monday at 8 p.m on January 9th, February 13th and March 13th, in the village hall. If you attend you will have your voice heard and be able to make a contribution to the many discussions that effect our village life. Meetings are open to the public (with a very few exceptions), and there is a slot allocated for public comment.

With our best wishes

The Parish Council

Published by Mike Evans and generally reflects the views or discussions of the Parish Council