

January 2019



Hambridge and Westport

**Wow!** Loads to report since the last Newsletter ...



**Hambridge has its first new postmistress in 22 years at the shop.**

Linda takes over from Gill. From 28th of Jan the new post office hours will be 10-4.30 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and on Saturday 10-1 (so closed Wednesday) Linda had never even worked in a shop before let alone run one, but decided to give up her career and take on the shop - purely for the fact the village needed one. It's been a challenge and a really steep learning curve but after a year of no salary, living and breathing shop, stock, accounts etc. Linda says they are finally noticing the rewards (obviously not monetary ☺ Linda added!) but to see people

meet up, pop in for a chat, giggle or have a point of contact for lost dogs, phones, bank cards or even to make Paul laugh it's been worth it.

**Thank you Linda and Paul! And of course many thanks to Gill and her family.**

**Rec Trust (HWRC)** Over 30 people attended a lively AGM of the Hambridge and Westport Recreation Trust. Tributes were paid to the late Stan Male, often referred to as Stan the Man, by the Rec Trust Committee. Stan made an enormous contribution to maintenance and building alterations. Roy Sanders has moved away and his contribution was also recognized. The committee has been expanded and there was a possibility of roles being shared to reduce the workload. Simon Denley has joined the core team as Vice Chair. A very open discussion covered many aspects of hall management, including cleaning, toilet renewal, flooring problems, car park resurfacing, disabled spaces, access procedures, hall letting and footpath access. Liz Martin, the long serving treasurer was poorly and unable to attend. Extracts from the accounts for 2017/18 (in rounded figures) showed a surplus of just under £4000. The skittles league contributed over £1000 (Jean and Paul), the 200 club £500 (Sheila) with the bar contributing £2000 (Mandy and team). The next committee meeting will be on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Resurfacing the car park is a major item, with the school and the Rec Trust committee all looking for the best solution. Having additional members on the committee may help to share the work of keeping our hall maintained and to its high standard. **Big thanks to Sue, Liz and Mandy and all the Rec.Trust committee.**

**What would you like to see in the Newsletter?** For cost and operational reasons, The Newsletter is likely to remain at this size and format. But what would **you** like to see in the Newsletter? If you feel that there are topics that would be interesting, just let us know.

How about **a register of skilled people in the village** so we know where to go for an electrician, plumber, computer expert, gardener, child minder, nurse, policeman, newsletter writer and so on? We would be more aware of local services, or those who might be able to help in an emergency. We can keep a copy in the shop and on the web site.

**Neighborhood Watch** - Now up and running in Playses Green. If you would like a scheme in your area, Trevor can help. Call 01460 281668 or [trevorowen910@btinternet.com](mailto:trevorowen910@btinternet.com) . In the local beat area thefts from cars and house burglary top the list.

**Lighting up our lives.** Congratulations to Jean, Paul, Chris and Will who lit up Ham Green over Christmas. You can't have missed it! They raised £401.14p for St Margaret's Hospice Yeovil, in remembrance of a dear friend, Mr. Danny Lawrence.

**History group** We are at a time when some of the history of Hambridge and Westport may well be lost forever. Village stalwarts like Richard Combe, Gill Dunster or Richard Pearce have a wealth of information through their long family associations. There might soon be an opportunity to have a display cabinet in the Village Hall and now would be a great time to coordinate all this knowledge. I'm sure we already have items that could form a starting pack. Has anyone encountered a fossick? It's a walk through the village to identify places and items of interest and record them. For example village wells, milestones or old buildings that have changed their use. Perhaps we could organize one? As a starter, does anyone know the whereabouts of the banners from the Hambridge Friendly Society? If you are interested in joining a village history group call Mike on 01460 281114. I wonder who is the oldest village person? Perhaps let us know what you think about that as well ☺ Perhaps your house has an interesting history, The Old Post Office, Hambridge Farm, Westport Chapel or The Blacksmiths all come to mind. And of course there is the canal .....



**Village signs clean up morning. Would you like to join me?** Saturday February 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall car park Bring a mop and bucket of soapy water and a bag for rubbish. We need a couple of vehicles for transport and a high viz jacket or two. Why not take a litter bag if you go walking in the village? Kristina (Hundry Lane) has some litter tongs you can borrow (just inside her gate).

**OK, so you want to be a Parish Councillor? Elections coming up in May this year.** The main purpose is representing the views of all parish residents, but lots of other chances to improve our villages. Additionally there are boundary changes and Sue Steel will be retiring as our District Councillor. Sue has made a huge contribution over the years. We will also have a new County Councillor replacing Adam Dance, as we will come under a different area. Parish Council information is displayed on the notice boards in Hambridge and Westport.

**Village meeting places** change over the years, and Liz Martin told us recently something of the history of the Village Hall. As far as I know there are at least three other community centers that have been important to village life. Perhaps you know of more. There was the Brewery Social Club, The Legion Hut and more recently I have heard details about a room in the glebe field behind the war memorial. It fell in to disuse about 1910 and may have been called The Big Room or Long Room. Do you know more about this? We have a collection of historic correspondence about this contained in the church records, and soon to be stored at Somerset County Records Office.

### **How do you feel about the village having additional street furniture?**

There has been a proposal for a drinking fountain. If you think this is a good idea perhaps contact Kristina Pitts 01460 281148. The general feeling amongst the Parish Councillors is that they are not in favour of funding this unless of course there is considerable interest from the community. Perhaps a picnic table somewhere with the right permissions obtained. There is budget to replace the existing benches if required.



**One Night with "ELVIS"** Barry Paull and his amazing ELVIS tribute show is coming to Hambridge. So get your glad rags on, pump up the volume and prepare to shake a leg!!!! **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February**

**Tickets available from the Village Stores £10 each!!!** We have a

feeling that Hambridge Village Hall was Barry's first ever professional show many years ago. He is going to be "in the building" to help raise money for the car park by the school, so all proceeds will go to a good cause. Barry is known for a good show so why not come along. Ethic Street Pizza will be there selling pizzas and more.

### **Regular Events at The Village Hall**

- Every Monday and Friday from 7pm onwards, Short Mat Bowls. Contact David Loveday on 01460 281119
- 2nd Monday of month Parish Council.
- 2nd Tuesday of the month WI in the committee room at 7.30. Different speakers and activities every month and refreshments afterwards. New members are always welcome, just contact Sandra on 01460 242080.
- Every other Thursday 7.30pm onwards Whist.
- Youth Club now running 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, Speak to Mandy.

**St James the Less News from Kate ..** At the service on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December we presented Richard Combe with a gift of a carved wooden bowl for all his hard work and commitment to the Church over so many years. Richard was very pleased with his gift and thanked everyone.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> January we held an open PCC meeting at the Church which was attended by PCC members and volunteers. The first part of the meeting was the Parochial Church Council (PCC). It was then opened up to everyone. Revd Phil firstly explained about the Electoral roll of the Church and how being on that was a prerequisite for being on the PCC.

We went through the various roles within the Church that need covering since Richard has stepped down. The transition has gone smoothly and we are amazed at the volunteers who have stepped forward and offered help, Thank you all so much. With this support we have managed to cover the majority of the roles needed to keep the Church going.

There were discussions about the types of Services held at the Church and the timings of these. Revd Ian Gibson (who takes the service on the second Sunday of the month) asked what services the village would like? The services currently are 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday month Communion, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday All age Worship, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Communion. These are all held at 9.30 and everyone is welcome to attend. The AGM of the PCC is to be held on 10<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30 in the Church. This is a public meeting, so please attend if you would like to help.

**From Nichola Chesterton Head teacher of our school and Acting Executive Principal.**

From all at Hambridge Primary School we'd like to wish you a very Happy New Year. We had a busy end to 2018 with lots of events in the community. We held our school nativity and carol concert at the church and would like to thank them for the use of their beautiful venue. We would also like to thank everyone for the donations we received, which were topped up by the Church and given to their nominated charity. Our school choir also made multiple appearances over the festive season and did the school extremely proud (You can catch clips of them singing on our school Facebook page). One particularly local venue was Vicarage House Care Home where both the Key Stage One and Key Stage Two choirs performed some festive numbers for the residents. Our year 5 children continue visiting the Vicarage on a weekly basis where they enjoy reading to the residents, It's always lovely supporting our local community.

Over the course of the next term we have lots to look forward to, including class trips and 'Bring Your Parents to Lunch' day. I'm sure there will also be community events fundraising for FOHSA and school projects - do keep your eyes peeled for these. As always, our school is always open and you are welcome so if you'd like to visit please do make an appointment with the office.

**And finally ..... The Parish Council - Recent topics include**

- Setting the precept (budget) No increase in council tax, additional allowance for Newsletter, a meet and greet village event, replacement of benches if required, grant to the Recreation Trust.
- Planning concerns at Westport.
- Churchyard maintenance
- Damaged pavements at the new development at Westmoor lane, Intervention by our County Councillor, Adam Dance. Agreed by all concerned that it needs fixing, disagreement about who and how. Westmoor Lane subsidence, tarmac now cracking.

Meetings are open to the public (with a very few exceptions), and there is a slot allocated for public comment. The next meeting is Monday February 11th at 8 p.m. and then Monday March 11th, in the committee room of the village hall. Minutes, the precept and the newsletter are normally held in the shop or on the website [www.hambridgeandwestport.org](http://www.hambridgeandwestport.org)

**Planning - From the SSDC web site:**

Land Adj. Goosemead Cottage, Westport, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0BJ,	The erection of a dwelling with new vehicular access.
Burnside, Westport, Langport, Somerset, TA10 0BH,	The erection of a 3 bay garage. (Retrospective).

The Parish Council would be pleased to receive any contributions for the newsletter or for discussion at the meetings.. Just contact Simon Denley on 01460 281340 or Jenny Ludgate our clerk on 01458 251432 [m.ludgate@btinternet.com](mailto:m.ludgate@btinternet.com), or for the newsletter, e-mail Mike Evans [micev@btconnect.com](mailto:micev@btconnect.com) or call 01460 281114 or check [www.hambridgeandwestport.org](http://www.hambridgeandwestport.org)