

March 2019



Hambridge and Westport

**If you want to be a Parish Councillor:** You need to get a nomination pack from South Somerset District Council and submit to the Returning Officer **by hand before 4.00 p.m. on 3<sup>rd</sup> April**. Voting takes place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May.

**History group:** Lots happening, and if you haven't recently looked at [www.hambridgeandwestport.org](http://www.hambridgeandwestport.org) then please take a look, and you may see old friends and quite a bit of information about the villages. Look at the "Gallery" and "About the village" links. We now have a shed load of information and dates, so we'll have to decide what to do with it all. However, we need input from as many people as possible so we're having a meeting on **Monday afternoon 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2 p.m.** in the upstairs room in the Hall. Please bring anything of interest along, or just bring yourselves. The information is all a bit of a jumble at the moment so we need your help.

**Community Lunches and more:** There is an opportunity to restart the village lunches and teas that were so successful a couple of years ago. The great news is that the first one is an afternoon tea on **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 3 p.m.** Please accept our invitation for you to join us and help if you like. We can all contribute to the costs. Afternoon tea includes tea, cake and loads of chat. There might be a quiz and there's bound to be some Easter eggs. It will be in the Village Hall, and it's during half term. We can also plan the next one!

**The Village Gathering: And now an important date for your diary. Saturday June 22<sup>nd</sup>!** If you have been in the villages for a few years, you will know the great feeling of belonging to a community. But you may have just moved in to the villages in recent times and this can be a great opportunity to meet others. We'll have people from the church, the school, the village hall, the Parish Council and any other group that wants to join in. The details are a bit sketchy at the moment, but possibly a "bring and share" picnic or simple food available. It's all planned to be very casual and we'll make sure there's some entertainment. If you would like to help with the entertainment, perhaps sing, dance, recite or juggle that would be good. Don't expect it to be mega professional. The whole idea is just to bring people together. More details when we think of them and thanks to the Parish Council for promoting this initiative. It will be **free** entry, and let's make it our very own social get together. I expect there will be a bar and a quiz, sure to be a raffle, and music in some shape or form. Might even be dancing 😊

**Congratulations** to Jenny Ludgate our Parish Clerk. Jenny is off to see the Queen at a garden party in the summer. It's for recognition of her outstanding service to the community.

**"BIG BREAKFAST"** at Hambridge Village Hall, **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 9.30 'til 1pm** Come along for a bacon, sausage, egg and toast breakfast, fundraising for Rebekah, a 2nd year Student Nurse who is going to Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka as a volunteer in September.



### **Gill retires from the Post Office and get thanks from the village!**

Gill was telling us that from 1854 John Dyer ran a Bakery and Grocers shop at the premises although the house dates back to around 1804. The stable and shed where the horse and cart were kept is still there! Gill's dad, Eric Plested bought the property in 1963 and Gill took over in 1996, so that's nearly 60 years in one family. The shop area was built in early 1900s and the PO was in the back room of the shop at one time - still shown on a lintel where a door used to be. I'm sure we all wish Gill a very happy retirement.

**It's been busy at Hambridge School, from Nichola.** The children came in to school in their own clothes last Friday in exchange for an Easter egg which are being made in to hampers for the FOHSA Easter Bingo in the village hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March. Doors open at 6.30pm, eyes down at 7pm - it would be great to see you there!, We continue to do well in sport with the Indoor Area Athletics team winning the county finals and the football and netball teams both winning the Taunton School tournaments. Super achievements all round!! April 1<sup>st</sup> sees the arrival of our visitors from Montpellier in the south of France. 16 children and two teachers are coming over to visit for a week and stay with school families. Some of our children then return to France (and hopefully much nicer weather!) in May. We are looking forward to welcoming them and showing them some Somerset traditions - skittles and willow weaving! As always, a big thank you to those in the local community that support our school. This year we are expecting 21 reception children to start - our biggest intake for a few years. The good news about Hambridge Primary School and its pre-school is obviously spreading!



**One Night with "ELVIS" was a great success raising £600.** Barry Paull hardly seems to have aged, and it was a chance for him to meet up with Sheila who gave him his first professional booking in 2002. Great to see loads of dancers on the floor, and pizzas seemed to be everywhere. There have been requests for more of the same so watch out for future events.

**The Village Hall:** Several large projects needing funds, and also a chance for you to help the committee with all the usual stuff involving running a well-used village facility. You might have just that skill that's needed, or just a pair of hands to lighten the load. Get in touch with Mandy, or any of the team, if you would like to help. Carpark and toilet improvements are on the horizon!

### **Would you like the Newsletter sent by e-mail as well?**

The Newsletter gets posted on the village web site and there are normally spare copies in the shop and village hall. If you live out of the village we can send it by e-mail.

**Village clean up morning:** Thank you to Paul and Kristina for joining me on a really wet morning to help clean up the village signs. It's amazing the difference a bucket of water and a mop can make. Kristina meanwhile was busy with her litter bag and tongs. Paul hasn't been in the village very long so it was great that he turned out to help. Kristina is famed for her rustic signs, and her dancing! What a great job by Rudi and his team cutting back the overgrowing grass on the pavement from Westmoor Lane to Hawkers Lane. It was a job the Parish Council was aware of so it was brilliant for it to be sorted.



#### **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 running 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month, Speak to Mandy.
- Rec. Trust every other month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday, Jan, Mar, May, Jul. Sep. Nov.

#### **St James the Less News from Kate:**

The AGM of the Church 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. There is also a need for volunteers to form a church cleaning rota. Perhaps you could help occasionally? Even twice a year to clean and dust or perhaps once a year to clean the brass. Just get in touch with Gill or Kate

#### **Poetry & Personal History:**

Would you, or someone you know, like to enjoy tea & cake and share the memories that certain poems and books evoke? We all remember the first poem we had to learn by heart at school! Whether you loved it or loathed it, we expect you will have something to say about it! We can also discuss further meetings and whether or not to stick with poetry or to read a novel to discuss. Maybe both. Hambridge is our oyster. There will be a warm welcome for those in the village who would like to get out during the day and meet some new people. Help can be provided with transport.

Please call me, Joanna, Tel: 281183/07495 309 540 Email: Joanna.masters@ gmail.com



**The Village Beacon:** Since being rescued a couple of years ago we have been looking for a permanent home for our village beacon. Possibilities are the Village Hall, The War Memorial area, The Church or the Village Green. It will be great for it to be available for future important national events. It will be moved to a more suitable place when we need to light it.

**And finally ..... The Parish Council: Recent topics from the March meeting include**

- Churchyard maintenance - Additional funds being transferred from the Church
- Significant progress on the pavements and access slope to Alford Close. There is now a planning application pending to get approval for changes.
- No progress on questions about the caravan parked at Westport canal bank area.
- Parish Council nomination forms distributed to two members of the public. Forms must be delivered by hand to the Returning Officer by hand by 4.00 p.m. 3<sup>rd</sup> April.
- Footpaths remain an ongoing topic, particularly the footpath from the Row to the canal. There are apparently no easy answers but several options are being investigated. Lack of funds to replace a missing bridge and the agreement of the landowners are important factors.
- In the opinion of the Parish Council, Westmoor Lane is now dangerous. This observation is going to be made again to the Highways Department. There is a feeling that it is just a matter of time before a vehicle leaves the road. The ditches are deep and wet!
- Ongoing concerns remain about the efficiency of the pumping station at Westport.
- **Sue Steel**, our District Councillor for many years is retiring. Sue has been outstanding in her support for the villages and the council members were unanimous in their praise and thanks. Due to boundary reorganisation we will now come under a different area and there will be an election for Sue's replacement.

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 April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8 p.m. and then Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>, 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. You might notice it's changed a bit. And you now have to search for Hambridge and Westport separately.

- Application to vary Condition 14 (approved plans) of approval 10/04094/FUL to vary the dwelling design (as per approval 16/01249/S73A) and to amend the access to vehicle crossover and reflect the as built floor levels. (This is at Westmoor Lane)
- Section 73A application to vary condition 2 (materials) of permission 18/00162/FUL to change material of front & side low level boundary wall to red brick with coping stone top. (Mystic Mead at Westport)

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)