

November 2018



Hambridge and Westport

St James the less Hambridge **Save Our Church** - From Jean Knight

There was a meeting held on September 25th hosted by Kate Attebery, to discuss a way forward to keep our church open. Even if we don't actually attend church I'm sure most of us don't want to lose it! As Mr. Combe is retiring at the end of the year, the idea is to get lots of people to undertake small tasks and share the workload. Everyone at the meeting thought this was do-able and volunteered their help. We are hoping to keep the church unlocked, by day in the future. It is also planned to see what grants may be available to install a toilet and hand basin. This could then lead to having children's play sessions and meetings etc. held there and really utilising the church for a variety of other things.. Sheila Cleal and Jean Knight have set up a Flower Rota and have had a great response from people wanting to be involved. Anyone else wishing to add their name just let them know- it will only come around once a year. As it wasn't possible to inform everyone in both of our villages about the meeting, we have arranged another for **Monday 26th November at 7.30** in the Village Hall committee room. So everyone please come along and offer your ideas and advice on how to **"Save our Church"**.



Neighbourhood Watch - We have moved ahead with a pilot scheme organized by Trevor Owen. The police now require a majority of the residents to actually want a scheme before approval. Once we have been through the process and been approved, we can see how best to proceed. Would you think it would be good for your locality and perhaps you could suggest a coordinator, as one is needed for each area? Trevor will be able to help 01460 281668 or trevorowen910@btinternet.com

Hambridge & Westport Family Service welcome you to join them for the New All Age Worship Service. This is a short interactive service at the church with refreshments afterwards. Services will be held on the 3rd Sunday of every month at 9.30 a.m. Please join the fun.



Dog fouling - There have been a few complaints of dog fouling particularly on the Village Green near the Clump. It is so unpleasant to have children come home with dog poo over their shoes and clothes and of course there is always the possibility of disease. The dog warden has posted a few reminder notices, as it is quite a serious offence with heavy penalties.

Bumpy road - Westmoor Lane seems to be getting worse. There are loads of theories, mainly centering on the damage caused by the flooding. There is some concern that it might be closed, but the Parish Council are aware of the importance of the road as a main link for the village.

Cleaning the village - Why not adopt your local road sign? As the winter weather and mud worsens, a few volunteers currently clean the village signs, 30 mph, directions, road names and so on. If you have signs near you, why not clean them occasionally and share the chore. Be safe though!

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. October was Popular Music in Edwardian times and November a Fish and Chip Supper. 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.
- New Zumba Fitness Session running on Wednesday evenings from November 7th 6.30pm - 7.30pm. £4.50 per session. If enough interest it will continue to run on a weekly basis.

School Events - from Nichola Chesterton

Hambridge Primary School has a very hard working parent association - Friends of Hambridge School (FOHSA). They have a number of fundraising events planned throughout the year and a couple are nearly upon us. On Friday 23rd November you are invited to Christmas Bingo - this will be held in the village hall. Doors open at 6.30pm with eyes down at 7pm. The Christmas Fair follows shortly after on Friday 7th December between 6pm and 8pm and will also be held in the village hall.

These events are open to our whole community so please do feel free to come and join in and help FOHSA raise funds for the school. Recently, FOHSA have replaced the broken projector in the village hall as well as three of the interaction boards in classrooms. We are very grateful to the committee and to everyone who supports our events.



Friday 15th February 2019 - **ELVIS WILL BE IN THE BUILDING!!!!** Look out for further details.

Evelyn goes to Borneo! 14 year old Evelyn Hill is taking part in an expedition through Borneo with Huish Episcopi Academy. During the expedition they do incredible work in local communities and with the native wildlife and gather data for crucial research as well as have a life changing experience. There will be a Christmas fundraising themed pub quiz night at the Lamb and Lion on the 23rd of December.

Speedwatch - We all have our views on Speedwatch schemes. The records show that we currently do not have a scheme running in our villages. Worse still, no one is even sure where the equipment is from the last scheme. We should thank members of our community who have the courage to face some opposition and man the cameras. Everyone moans about speeding vehicles and then complains when they see the yellow jackets. However ... It's easy if you don't want to get booked, then don't speed. It may be your child, grandchild, pet, parent or friend who gets injured or killed. As the police say "It's not clever to drive fast and ruin someone's life!" Have you got enough community spirit to protect our village from the speeders and lead the scheme?

Another SOS - Please Support Our Shop - shop till you drop for Christmas but use the village shop whenever you can. Loads of special stuff for sure, We already have our **bob bob bobbing red robin!** Make an effort if you can, to use the shop for all those extras. The cakes are yummy, the bread is the best around and you get a chance to meet friends for coffee. A perfect village shop. Any chance we get to use the shop or Post Office makes it more likely they will stay in business. They have their "1st Birthday Celebration and another pre-Christmas Thingymajig" on 30th November, including tastings of wine, cheese, cakes and much more. More festive fun! And just check out their take away menu ... Fantastic!

Liz Martin, treasurer of the Recreation Trust provides this short history of **the skittles league**:

"In May 1975, Percy Harvey presented the Recreation Trust with a solid silver cup, valued at £250 a lot of money at that time, which he wished us to use in whatever way we could to raise money for our funds - his stipulation was that it was to be continually used and that it should be called the Avalon Cup. He lived at Earnshill Farm Cottage with his other sister and brother-in-law Bertie Adams - both well-known village families at the time and with relatives still living in the area.

At a Committee Meeting it was decided that we would run a skittles league, John Martin and Richard Pearce (committee members at the time) undertook to run this for us and they continued to do so for twenty years followed by Andy Spiers and Mike Johns and currently Paul and Jean Knight. Rules were drawn up and the League commenced in September 1975 comprising of sixteen teams playing on three alleys - The Clarence Inn (now known as The Old Barn Owl), The Lamb and Lion and Hambridge Brewery Social Club (now Chalons). The cup was used for the League Champions and a shield presented by Ind Coope for a knock-out competition. During the years many other cups have been donated in memory of village people for use by the League. We now have eight teams - four at the Lamb and Lion and four at The Duke of York, Shepton Beauchamp. The sad decline of public houses in the village and subsequent loss of alleys has affected all Skittles Leagues." It can be a struggle to keep it going but each year the skittles league raises several hundred important pounds for The Recreation Trust.

The Recreation Trust AGM is on the **3rd December** at 8.00pm. Come along and perhaps join the committee and contribute to, or support the running of the hall and recreation field.

The Lamb and Lion -

This is our only truly local pub now so let's all support it whenever we can. So if you are having a Christmas celebration make the Lamb and Lion your first choice. Talk to Jeremy on 01460 281774 for a booking. The Christmas menu for parties and Christmas Day lunch is now available.

Footpaths - An emotive subject with many opinions. There was an informal meeting on 12th Nov to discuss some of the issues. There is a general mood of optimism that solutions can be found for a few longstanding concerns. It is most important that a process is in place to alert the Parish Council when footpaths need attention. For keeping them passable we can coordinate this at village level with Ken Winstone, our footpaths representative, while the Parish Council have ultimate responsibility. You can contact Ken through the "contact us" form on the web site. The Parish Council will continue working to maintain and improve our network of paths.

And finally The Parish Council - Recent topics include

- White lines in Westport, Speedwatch, Neighbourhood Watch,
- Westport development approved, planning updates, planning concerns at Westport.
- Churchyard maintenance
- Damaged pavements at Westmoor lane, Westmoor Lane subsidence, Village footpaths

Meetings are open to the public (with a very few exceptions), and there is a slot allocated for public comment, or you may be invited by The Chair to speak at other times. A general rule is to speak for no more than three minutes. The next meeting is Monday December 10th at 8 p.m., in the committee room of the village hall. A draft of the most recent minutes and most recent newsletter is held in the shop or on the website www.hambridgeandwestport.org



Simon Denley, Chairman of The Parish Council laying a wreath at the War Memorial on behalf of the residents of Hambridge and Westport on Remembrance Sunday. Last year it was renovated but it needs regular maintenance due to the proximity of the road. The stone masons have said that the ham stone is prone to becoming discoloured so we can expect some aging to occur. Please help if you can with the upkeep. It might especially appeal to you if you have members of your family honored in the inscriptions. It is **OUR** memorial, owned by us all.

Planning - From the SSDC web site:

18/02149/FUL	09-JUL-2018	Land Adjacent Burgum ,Westport,Langport,TA10 0BH	Erection of a two bedroom, single storey dwelling with associated parking and landscaping.	Application Permitted with Conditions	View details - 1802149FUL
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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, or for the newsletter better still, e-mail Mike Evans micev@btconnect.com or call 01460 281114 or check www.hambridgeandwestport.org

How can we help you ask? Let the Parish Council know that you would like to give some of your time or expertise to keep Hambridge and Westport a great place to live. Clean signs, maintain web sites, deliver newsletters, help the village hall or church, contribute to the newsletter, write the newsletter, see how you or your organization can become outward looking and vitalize the village! We need **YOU** and **your skills**.

With our best wishes And as it will be the last newsletter before Christmas

