

September 2018



Hambridge and Westport

Includes two important items about the church and shop!

St James Church Hambridge needs YOU A message from Rev Phil,

The day to day running of the church has fallen to a few faithful members, and these, sadly, have found themselves unable to continue due largely to getting on in years. Richard our churchwarden and treasurer for example has served for over 40 years so has done his bit. He is stepping down and away from all active duties at the end of the year.

It leaves us in a real fix, and threatens the very survival of the church despite the fact that our fabric and finances are basically very sound. He has very helpfully written down and broken down into manageable chunks all the relatively straightforward tasks he performs. That means if we had offers of volunteer help from members of the community we may well be able to continue to be a wonderful resource for the village of Hambridge - including its children - into the future. Without it, the future looks bleak.

If you or others you know in the area might be able to help with some practical tasks (coming to church is optional!) then please speak with Gill at the post office, Kate Attebery (01460 281200) who helps with the family service, or the Rector Phil Denison (denisonphil15@hotmail.com) 01460 259155. We would be very pleased to hear from you, and are happy to answer any questions you may have without having to commit yourself.

Once we have some expressions of interest we will hold a meeting as soon as possible to take things forward and secure a future for our lovely village church.

Policing in the community - Would you like to be updated with information like this? You may be able to help solve crimes or at least be aware of the need for care,

During the early hours of **12 August** a break in occurred at a commercial property. Entry gained by breaking a single glazed window to the rear of the property. Once inside a till was removed from the counter.

During the evening of **11 August** a car parked at Thorney, Langport was broken into and items stolen including bank cards and cash. **Police are appealing for information** after a house was burgled between 10am and 5pm on Thursday **2 August**. Thieves forced entry into the address in Isle Brewers, and made off with cash, jewelry, electrical goods, 44 pouches of Spanish branded Golden Virginia tobacco and a distinctive Rolex Sea Dweller watch with a black coloured face and a silver bracelet. Police would like to speak to anyone who was passing through Isle Brewers and saw anything suspicious, or who may have dash cam footage this area at this time. They would also like to talk to anyone being offered Spanish branded pouches of Golden Virginia or the Rolex watch. If you have any information please **call 101 and quote reference 5218173007**.

To receive these updates we really need a Neighborhood Watch group in the village. Perhaps a volunteer to co-ordinate. Could you be that person? Please give me a call on 01460 281114 if you would like to know more. Maybe just form a small local group of a few houses.

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 come and join the fun.

Huish & Langport Short Matt Bowls Club play at Hambridge & Westport Village Hall on Monday & Friday evenings from 7.00 to 10.00 p.m. They are looking for new members to come & join them for a friendly evening of light exercise. All you need is a pair of flat shoes. Just phone **David Loveday** on **01460 281119** or come along to the next session

Community meeting up: It would be great to have another session of village lunches or afternoon teas similar to those we held a couple of years ago. We need an organiser so please give me a call if you think you could help. Full training provided.

Hello!

A warm welcome to new residents. For those who have moved in to Hambridge and Westport more recently, a good starting point is to attend a Parish Council meeting. At the very least you will meet the members of the Council and you may even want to become more active in village life. There is also the fairly static web site at www.hambridgeandwestport.org or try Facebook: Hambridge Village Stores; Hambridge News and Events; Hambridge Road Watch; Lamb and Lion Hambridge and several more.

Cleaning the village - You may have seen the informal signs reminding us that "Beauty dies where litter lies!!!" There are a number of people in the village who carry out local improvements to our environment, for example, cleaning road signs, weeding public paths, picking up litter or mowing grass in public areas. The parish council have funded the painting of direction finger posts, refurbished waste bins, painting of seats and renovation of the war memorial. But please feel free to help where you can as well, so that we keep our twin villages a glorious place to live. So it would be a great help if you pulled a few weeds at the village war memorial or offered to help maintain any other part of our villages.

Shared resources - There are a number of people in the villages who, for example, use oxygen therapy at home. Perhaps we could establish a register of people who might share resources in an emergency. This could even extend to car share or using the skills of tradesmen or experts from our own community. The shop might be a good place to base this idea. Perhaps "meet and chat" sessions, one day covering car sharing, one day fix and mend, one day phone and Internet issues and so on. What do we think?

Regular Events at The Village Hall

Every Monday and Friday from 7pm onwards, Short Mat Bowls. 2nd Monday of Month Parish Council. 2nd Tuesday of the Month WI, Every other Thursday 7.30pm onwards Whist.

The next **Recreation Trust** meeting is on Monday 3rd September 2018 at 8.00pm

Hambridge and Westport **Youth Café** (open to Children of School Years 8 up to Year 11)

The Youth Club runs from the upstairs room at the village hall and provides a safe environment for the children to 'Hang Out'. Attendees are also allowed to use the outside area (subject to parental consent). From September the Youth Café will be open on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm. There is a session subscription of £1 per person but on 4th September we will be holding a free session for those wishing to come along. Snacks and treats are available to purchase from the Tuck Shop.

Job opportunity - Do you know about web sites and have an interest in helping the Parish Council. We have a web site www.hambridgeandwestport.org and it would be good to have someone to help update and possibly also produce the newsletter. Full training given if you want to learn or brush up your skills. Just give Mike a call. Yes, there's a catch - it's unpaid!

SOS - Please Support Our Shop - Unfortunately the shop was broken into on Sunday 12th August, as yet no one has been caught. This presents another huge challenge as it's a really hard struggle to keep a small village shop afloat! Most of us will have seen the demise of many local village stores and only very occasionally can they be replaced by community initiatives. So the shop needs your support, if it goes we will most likely lose the post office as well. The village has become a stronger community since the shop has opened. It can even affect house prices and the general sense of wellbeing, as Hambridge and Westport stand out as a more desirable place to live by having a shop, pub and school and church. We could be in danger of the village becoming "sleepytown"

So firstly, please support the shop in any way you can. Secondly please let Linda know if there are any great ideas to develop the shop as a village hub. Maybe we could use the shop for a repair cafe, community meetings, book club anything really. Perhaps a regular meeting time for coffee. Thinking caps on straight away please - It's our shop!

And of course Linda would like to say thanks again for those people in the village that already use the shop and support it.

The Lamb and Lion - Watch out for special events at our **only** local pub. Development plans still in progress for the Barn Owl so it looks like we have lost that forever. You can always look at planning applications and all the related documents on the SSDC web site. It will be good to see the Lamb continue to thrive so let's all use it whenever we can. It was great to see the massive local investment and what a great pub it is now. It was fantastic that most of the work was completed by young tradesmen from the village. If you haven't tried it, there is a spectacular view from the roof terrace. 01460 281774 for a booking.

Skittles - Jean and Paul Knight run the four man skittles league. The season will start again in October. Many from the village have played for years and it was sad to see the passing of Stan Male who had captained the Moonlighters since the start over 40 years ago. Once again it is planned to play at our own Lamb and Lion and at The Duke of York at Shepton Beauchamp. If you would like to join in with this most traditional of pastimes perhaps give Paul a call (01460 281571) and see if any teams are short of players. There will be a "kick off" AGM at the end of September.

And finally The Parish Council

Recent topics include

- White lines in Westport, ideas for speed restriction and white line pavement from the school to the church.
- Dog bins - request for addition in Westport
- Planning applications - all on the SSDC web site, link from the hambridgeandwestport.org site
- Footpaths - possible re-routing of blocked footpath adjacent to the recreation ground.
- village hall car park - grants to re-surface
- memorial for Stan Male
- warning of overgrown vegetation being a fire risk
- damaged pavements and incomplete infrastructure after housing development at Westmoor lane, possible non-compliance of footpath

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. Remember, it's so much more productive to join in making the decisions than to try to alter them afterwards. Dates for the next few meetings are: Monday at 8 p.m. on September 11th, October 9th, November 12th and December 10th, in the committee room of the village hall.

There is normally a printed version of the minutes in the shop.

Planning - From the SSDC web site:

Planning Reference	Date Received	Address	Proposal	Decision	
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.		View details - 1802149FUL
18/01761/FUL	04-JUN-2018	Iltonia ,Westport,Langport,TA10 0BJ	The erection of a 3 bay garage to rear garden and an open porch to front of dwelling.		View details - 1801761FUL
18/01543/COU	14-MAY-2018	Land North Of Orchard Leigh,Hawkers Lane,Hambridge,Langport,Somerset,,	Change of use of land to extension of residential garden (Retrospective)	Application Refused	View details - 1801543COU
18/00984/FUL	26-MAR-2018	Barn Owl Inn ,Westport,Langport,TA10 0BH	Alterations and the conversion of former Public House into 3 residential flats and 1 dwelling and the erection of 2 dwellings with car parking and ancillary works.		View details - 1800984FUL

Items for the Newsletter: 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

With our best wishes

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