

# Ston Easton Parish Council Newsletter



**Forthcoming Parish Council Meetings**  
**Tuesday 12 July 2016 – Ston Easton Hall: 7.30pm**  
**Thursday 8 September – Clapton Hall: 7.30pm**

## Parish Council Accounts 2016

The annual accounts were considered and agreed at the meeting on 12 May. There is now a statutory period when the accounts are open for public inspection before being sent to the external Auditors, Grant Thornton. All relevant documents can be viewed on the **Parish Council** page of the village website [www.stoneaston.org.uk](http://www.stoneaston.org.uk) or by contacting the Clerk.



## Clare Hall Garden Party

**Clare Hall is hosting a Garden Party to celebrate the Queen's Official 90th birthday**  
**From 2pm on Sunday 12 June 2016**

**The Village Voices Choir will be entertaining residents and guests, light refreshments will be available and there will be stalls selling plants, crafts & cakes.**

*Everyone Welcome!*



## Your PCSO - Nicola Housley

Nicola's beat covers a large rural area including the villages of Binegar, Chilcompton, Clapton, Cranmore, Doulling, Emborough, Gurney Slade, Oakhill, Stoke St Michael & Ston Easton. Regular 'Beat Surgeries' are held in some villages – details of these surgeries can be found on the beat page of the Avon and Somerset Police website [www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/?p=BA3](http://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/?p=BA3).

The duties of a rural PCSO vary from week to week & include anything from animals on the road, neighbour disputes, dealing with reports of anti-social behaviour, assisting at road accidents or securing crime scenes. PCSOs also make crime prevention & reassurance visits after burglaries, giving advice on locks security etc. Another aspect of the role is giving talks on road safety & personal safety to local primary school children & attending public events to raise awareness of the service.

**Non urgent issues can be reported by calling 101 or by e-mailing [nicola.housley@avonandsomerset.police.uk](mailto:nicola.housley@avonandsomerset.police.uk)**

## **\*\* A Date for Your Diary \*\***

**GET ACTIVE STON EASTON** Village Fun Day & Fun Dog Show  
**Sunday 11th September**  
Ston Easton hall & playing fields.  
Look out for further information in the next Parish Newsletter

## News from your Village Agent

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**Do you have a computer, laptop or tablet** that you would like to make more use of? **Somerset Skills and Learning** are funding free sessions that can be held in village halls etc to help people make the most of their devices. Let me know if you are interested and we might be able to get enough people together for a course.



If you need help with technology but are unable to get out and about, computer tuition in your own home is available through **IThelp@home**. Please contact me if you would like more details.



Teatime treats



**Contact The Elderly** ([www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk](http://www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk)) is a charity which organises monthly afternoon tea events for anyone over 75, who live alone and find it difficult to get out and about. Transport is provided & the events, held locally in volunteers' homes, are always friendly & welcoming.

Organisers of a new group in the Wells and Shepton Mallet area are looking for volunteer hosts and drivers and (most importantly) people who would like to attend the get-togethers which are always held on the second Sunday of each month. Please contact me if you are interested in attending the afternoon teas or if you are able to volunteer as a driver or host.

As always, please feel free to call or email me

*Jacky Smith*

07950 782436 / [jacky@somersetccc.org.uk](mailto:jacky@somersetccc.org.uk)

## Matters from Recent Parish Council Agendas

At the meeting on Thursday 12 May, Tom Osborne & Rob Winkworth were re-elected as Parish Council Chair & Vice Chair respectively. Matters for consideration at the Annual Parish Meeting included the Chairman's report for the year & financial reports from the Clerk and Internal Auditor.

Various donations were agreed including £100 each to Mendip CAB and the Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance. A report was also received from Clapton Village Hall Committee detailing events held at the hall and giving an update on fundraising.

The usual highways matters were discussed and the Clerk reported that a new litter and recycling bin has been ordered to replace the broken one in the layby on Rush Hill.

### Clapton News

**Litter Pick.** Sunday 24th April saw more than 20 villagers turn out in lovely weather to clear the verges & hedgerows in the lanes around Clapton. Equipped with hi-viz gear and litter picking equipment provided by MDC, the volunteers covered Langleys Lane down to the substation, Clapton Road to Bullswood cottage, Greenditch Lane/Cross Lane & Thickthorn Lane to the Clapton junction. An amazing 34 bags of cans, bottles & food wrappers were collected along with various car & lorry parts, 2 car stereos, a hi-fi system, a bed, an inflatable boat, a huge bag of builders' waste & 2 sacks of something unidentifiable!! Well-earned refreshments were served in the Village Hall afterwards.

**Pilates** classes in Clapton Village Hall are going well after a boost from several new attendees (including at least one Parish Councillor!)

In 2000 the previous **Clapton Village History Group** undertook a survey of households & produced a record of the village to mark the Millennium. As an extension of this work, the newly re-formed Village History Group is intending to explore the history of our houses, both old & modern. Residents have been contacted to ask for their co-operation & at the end of May, we hope to visit every house to collect as much information as possible. The material we collect will be stored on a Clapton Village website that will eventually be accessible to all villagers.

The **Village History Group** is also putting together an archive of photos and documents for an event probably in June to celebrate the Queen's official birthday. It is intended to build on the golden jubilee event which was very well received. Format and date tbc – watch the noticeboard for details.

### The Mendip Gardening Club



was started six years ago & is based in Ston Easton. It was aimed initially at the local community, but now attracts members from many of the surrounding villages. The Club is affiliated to the RHS & a member of the Somerset Federation of Gardening Clubs. It aims to encourage an interest & love of gardening & all things pertaining to it. Membership is £10 per year & visitors pay just £2 each meeting. The Club meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at Ston Easton Village Hall & most meetings include a speaker or a visit with a seasonal theme. Visitors & new members are sure of a warm welcome.

Recently it was agreed to broaden the topics & in January Chris Sperring came along to talk about owls. On June 15th Sam Scriven will be speaking about The Jurassic Coast. Why not come along & discover where Ichthyosaur fossils were found on the Mendips?

For more information phone Val 01761 241617/June 01761 413116 or go to [www.stoneaston.org.uk](http://www.stoneaston.org.uk) & click on the **Gardening Club** link.

**...and finally....** Was the first horse-drawn mowing machine in the country used at Clapton? This was the claim made when an initial history group met in the village the 1980s. Residents at the time, Mervyn Fowler and Ron Carver, told the group that the machine was shipped to this country from the United States around 1860 and was used at Manor Farm. Mervyn related that its wooden shipping crate was used to make a cupboard for his grandmother and subsequently a trolley for milk churns. Although the claim for being the first machine is unsubstantiated, it is interesting that the occupiers of Manor Farm in the 1861 Census are recorded as Daniel and Amelia Fry, who had children, Sarah aged 8 and John 6 both born in Ston Easton, but a daughter Kate aged 2 born in the United States. Our researches reveal that the first horse-drawn mowing machine was called *The Eagle* and it was first made in the USA in the late 1850s so could the Frys have brought the mower back with them when they returned to this country?? Unfortunately, we have yet to find any rusting machinery with **Eagle** stamped on it in a local nettle patch!

### Future Newsletters

If you have any feedback, suggestions for items you would like included in a future edition or if you would prefer to receive your Newsletters by e-mail please contact the Clerk, Fiona Lyons. 07887 861826 or [fionailyons@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:fionailyons@hotmail.co.uk)

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