

# Limpley Stoke news

Issue No 29

September 2020

## Experimental closure for Woods Hill

An application for a six-month experimental closure of Woods Hill has been submitted to Wiltshire Council by Limpley Stoke Parish Council. Funding support has been applied for which, if successful, would mean Wiltshire Council (WC) will pay for half the cost of the experimental closure. The Parish Council anticipates a decision on the works to begin in the autumn.

The closure will allow any impact on other areas of the village to be assessed and for appropriate mitigation to be taken in the future. Due to essential safety issues and threat to life associated with Woods Hill traffic movements, the Parish Council plans to make the closure permanent at the end of the experimental period. Woods Hill is the Parish Council's roads priority.

The Parish Council also plans to install bollards along the pavement edge in Lower Stoke (by the former railway station) to stop cars using the pavement as a road, as well as improved 'Passing Place' signage and markings. Village 'gateways' will be installed at the B3108/Lower Stoke junction entrance; on the A36; and at the Midford Lane entrance to Upper Stoke.

In addition, the PC has asked Wiltshire Councillor Johnny Kidney, to push WC/Highways England to improve the 'Not suitable for HGV' sign on the A36 which is intended to discourage heavy traffic from using the B3108. A reduced speed limit (from 40mph to 30mph) on the A36 through Limpley Stoke is also being pursued (*see separate articles: page 3*).



*Traffic chaos is a regular occurrence on Woods Hill*



Finally, in an attempt to stop inconsiderate and sometimes dangerous parking, the PC is seeking to place 'No Parking' signs in those places where people (both local and visitors) continue to park without due consideration for others.



*One of many motorists flouting the hill's 'No Entry' signs*

*Chairman's update courtesy of Anthony Gennard  
Pictures: Nick Catcheside and Simon Hares*

# Elizabeth Coombe 1925-2020

Well-known and much-respected Limpley Stoke resident, Elizabeth Coombe, died peacefully at home on Monday, August 10. Her funeral will take place on **Wednesday, September 2 at 2.00pm** in **St Mary's churchyard**, Limpley Stoke, where she will be reunited with her late husband Brian.

Sadly, due to Covid guidelines, the number of official invitees will be very limited. However, Elizabeth's family plan to carry her coffin to St Mary's Church, taking the route of her usual walk along Middle Stoke, starting from outside Limpley Stoke Village Hall at around 1.30pm. If you'd like to pay your respects by lining the route, the family will be delighted to see you. If you can, please wear something yellow, Elizabeth's favourite colour. A book of condolence will be left outside the village hall on the day, which anyone who knew Elizabeth is invited to sign.

Elizabeth Coombe was born in Cologne, Germany, in 1925, the daughter of an army chaplain. She was brought up in Stockton in the Wylfe Valley, where she met and married Brian Coombe, in 1949. After several tours in Germany and three hair-raising years as a defence attaché living in war-torn Saigon, Brian retired from the army and the family moved to Dormy House in 1974, where they threw themselves into village life.

Between them, the couple ran the Parish Council, Royal British Legion, Freshford Tennis Club, WI and Friends of Waterhouse (a former nursing home). They also loved St Mary's Church, where Brian was a long-standing churchwarden and Elizabeth ran the flower and cleaning rota for many years. Her most recent official village role was opening the new railings on the Twizzle path next to the play park in 2017, accompanied by her son, Simon Coombe, a former Limpley Stoke Parish Council chairman.

Most of all, Elizabeth was a people's person and the family has been overwhelmed by the number of residents who have said she was the first person to welcome them to the village.



*Opening the village fête in 2010*

## Hop Pole latest

A lack of any volunteers coming forward led to the Parish Council taking on the challenge of securing the Hop Pole Inn for the village at the start of the year. A bid to purchase the pub, set at a maximum of £218,000 including VAT, was submitted via Criterion Asset Management Group, agents acting for Wellington Pub Company (WPC). Unfortunately, the offer was rejected by WPC, which suggested a significantly higher offer would be needed in order to be successful. However, the PC is neither able nor willing to do this but will leave its offer 'on the table'. Should the PC decide to pursue the purchase further, its business case will be made available on the village website.

The PC has received huge support for the purchase of the Inn (97.3% from 183 residents) and also for any possible increase in the parish precept, if that were ever necessary (also 97.3% from 183 residents). Any increase in the precept has been set at a maximum of £50 per annum but, even if the PC were successful in securing the pub, it would try to avoid any increase.

The Hop Pole remains under the protection of an Asset of Community Value (ACV) and the PC will continue to object strongly to any moves that may lead to attempts to sell it on for redevelopment, either now or in the future.

*Read the full update from LSPC Chairman, Anthony Gennard, at [limpleystoke.org](http://limpleystoke.org).*



# A36 speed review and B3108 junction issues

“As society has emerged from lockdown over the past few weeks and months, the volume and dangerous speed of traffic on the A36 through Limpley Stoke has been more evident than ever before”, *writes Wiltshire Councillor, Johnny Kidney.*

“Following a site meeting I held with members of the Parish Council and Michelle Donelan MP prior to lockdown, Michelle and I have been pressing Highways England for a review of the speed limit where the A36 passes through Limpley Stoke. On the back of my liaison with Highways England’s Regional Network team for the South West and Michelle’s lobbying at governmental level, I was delighted to receive confirmation from Highways England that they will indeed conduct a review of the speed limit. The review will take place before the end of this financial year. It is my hope that this will result in an urgently-needed reduction to 30mph on the dangerous bends through Limpley Stoke, where we have seen a marked increase in traffic volumes and speeds since lockdown, with HGV traffic in particular representing a significant problem. There is local precedent of a 30mph limit where the A36 passes through Woolverton, a short distance to the south, as has been pointed out to Highways England.

This review represents a significant step forward in highlighting and addressing highways issues in the village, but there is more to do. I look forward to continuing to work with Michelle in supporting the Parish Council and the community in addressing related highways concerns such as the unsustainable and dangerous levels of rat-running through the village lanes, as well as the ongoing issues with HGV traffic, both on the A36 itself and the very concerning increase in lorries and trucks using the B3108 as an alternative route to avoid Bath since B&NES introduced a weight limit on A36 Cleveland Bridge.

Please do get in touch for help with any local issues at [johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:johnny.kidney@wiltshire.gov.uk), and stay up to date with news from Wiltshire Council affecting our village communities via my Facebook page at [facebook.com/JohnnyKidney4WandW](https://www.facebook.com/JohnnyKidney4WandW).”

## PC needs help!

LSPC has had to take on a larger range of responsibilities with fewer than the ideal number of councillors. Chairman Anthony Gennard is asking for volunteers to help carry forward some of its plans and to allow it to give the appropriate time and resources to all issues.

Specifically needed are people to lead on environmental initiatives, including developing links with Freshford PC, and also the King George V play park, to include annual safety report actions, improvements, and liaison over landscaping and tree plans.

Contact Parish Clerk Bryony Kohn at [bryony.kohn@gmail.com](mailto:bryony.kohn@gmail.com) for more details.

“Limpley Stoke’s location on the border of two Parliamentary constituencies, Chippenham and North East Somerset, means that teamwork between MPs and councillors is essential when approaching the challenges affecting the village”, *writes Michelle Donelan MP.* This is especially true when it comes to addressing issues surrounding the A36, which Limpley Stoke residents have raised as a key concern with me. Residents will no doubt be aware of the excellent work that Cllr Johnny Kidney has put in to addressing concerns in the village about the speed limits on the A36 and I am keen to build on this progress with him and our neighbouring MP, Jacob Rees-Mogg, to fix other issues like the A36/B3108 junction. Following meetings I have had with the Parish Council and Cllr Kidney, it is clear that difficulties negotiating this junction, particularly at peak times, results in dangerous rat-running through the narrow lanes of the village.

Building on the success of the A36 speed limit review campaign, we will be renewing our efforts to urge Highways England to implement a solution to aid the flow of traffic through the lights at the viaduct on the A36/B3108 junction. This is a junction that I know residents of Limpley Stoke and indeed other villages are concerned about and we need Highways England to address this. Not only would this have immediate safety benefits for Limpley Stoke’s residents by forming an essential element of potential solutions to rat-running in the village, but it would also have a very positive knock-on effect for emissions and the local village economy in the long-term, particularly if the Parish Council succeeds in its bid to secure the future of the Hop Pole Inn.

So I look forward to getting even more progress on this issue and I hope to be able to update you with more good news in the near future.”

Michelle can be contacted on 01249 704465 or you can email her at [michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk).



The Galleries Café terrace has opened for business. The terrace seating area will be open from **Wednesday to Friday, 10am to 2pm**, serving coffees, cakes and lunches. **On Saturdays**, the terrace will open from **9am to 12.30pm** serving coffees, cakes, filled bagels and other breakfast options.

## Free to good home(s)

A treasure trove of unused postcards and birthday cards was unearthed recently by two daughters clearing out their parents' house in Limpley Stoke. Most of the cards come from art galleries or were collected on overseas trips. Many have been carefully stored with a note of the country or gallery/museum where they were bought. The sisters would very much like to find a good home for some or all of the cards. No purchase is necessary, they would just like to pass them on to like-minded recipients who will appreciate them. Contact Sarah on 07900 080 200 or email her at [sjwsarahjane@virginmedia.com](mailto:sjwsarahjane@virginmedia.com).



## History talks on hold for now

Freshford & District Local History Society has suspended its autumn talks due to Covid-19 restrictions. Developments will be monitored carefully and meetings will resume as soon as possible.

## WASTE COLLECTIONS

### Household waste

Monday, Sept 7  
Monday, Sept 21



### Blue-lidded bin

### Black box

Green waste  
(chargeable)



Wednesday, Sept 9  
Wednesday, Sept 23



## Useful numbers

Transport Link 07714 16 92 16  
Power supply emergency 105  
Police (non-emergency) 101  
Bradford on Avon Police:  
Andrew MacLachlan  
0752 897 2236  
[andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:andrew.maclachlan@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk)

MP: Michelle Donelan  
01249 704465  
[michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:michelle.donelan.mp@parliament.uk)

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MyWiltshire app: potholes, road issues, blocked drains, grit bins  
[www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywiltshire-online-reporting) or  
phone 0300 456 0105



Mobile library monthly visit:  
**CANCELLED** until further notice

Website: [www.limpleystoke.org](http://www.limpleystoke.org)



[Limpley Stoke Community](https://www.facebook.com/LimpleyStokeCommunity)



[@LimpleyFolk](https://twitter.com/LimpleyFolk)

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