

Limpley Stoke

news

Issue No 21

December 2019

Wiltshire police are 'world class'

Wiltshire Police Force has won a prestigious World Class Policing Award in recognition of its 'outstanding' response to the 2018 Novichok attacks in Salisbury and Amesbury, which attracted global attention and scrutiny.



As news of the major incident broke last March, the force set up a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) which led the multi-agency response. The two incidents saw one of the biggest partnership operations ever undertaken, unprecedented anywhere in the world.

Award judges described the response as a "world class, world-leading, complex response to one of the significant global events of 2018. The collaborative partnership response ... and the need to establish new processes to handle sensitive and secret communications at the highest levels ... whilst working in the glare of local, national and international publicity was extraordinary."

The Wiltshire force – one of the smallest in the UK – and partners beat off competition from 54 finalists, drawn from more than 100 entries across the globe.

Chief Constable Kier Pritchard said: "This was truly an unprecedented incident for our small force and it required a unique multi-agency approach. This award is a reflection of the huge amount of dedication shown by the SCG, as well as the hundreds of officers and staff involved in working together to keep the public safe in extraordinary circumstances."

30 years of Link

All passengers and drivers, past and present, are invited to the Limpley Stoke & Freshford **Transport Link AGM** at 11am on **SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14** at the Old Bakery in Freshford.

This is a special AGM to celebrate the Transport Link's 30 years of continuous service. The scheme began in Limpley Stoke in May 1989, with Freshford coming on board 10 years later.

GENERAL ELECTION

Thursday, December 12
Polling station: Limpley Stoke Village Hall, 7am-10pm.

Post box thefts

A dozen post boxes have been stolen recently from different locations across Wiltshire, including Westwood Road in Trowbridge.

Thieves appear to be targeting the post boxes in rural areas and stealing the mail inside.



As well as thefts across Wiltshire, the post box at the end of Pipehouse Lane, Freshford, was reported missing back in August.

PC Michelle Hayley of Wiltshire Police thinks the post-mounted boxes may have been stolen for their scrap metal value or because they could be collectable items.

Anyone with information should call PC Haley on 101 (quoting crime reference 54190109101), or call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

What is the Parish Council doing for us?

Chairman, Anthony Gennard, sets out the PC's aims and objectives for the next two years



Well, quite a lot, is the answer to that question! Having been in the Chairman's seat for six months now, I thought I should update everybody on what's happened in that time and show that we are being really proactive in our pursuit of a better village.

First, we have expanded our council members to support a two-year plan I proposed in late summer, which is centred around three key themes: **Community, Environment and Traffic**, all of which support the Freshford and Limpley Stoke Neighbourhood Plan (2014-2039).

Our new membership includes Georgina Taylor (**Events**); Denise Barnes (**Environment**) and Ian Barnes (**Roads**). They join the existing team of Francis Firmstone (Vice-Chairman and Planning), Alan MacDougall (Pathways and Bridleways), Ed Elias (Local Business and Tourism), Nicky Boulton (Freshford Liaison), and our excellent Parish Clerk, Bryony Kohn.

In addition, we have met with our fellow councillors in Freshford and Winsley to ensure we act both coherently and as a joint force on bigger area issues.

To support our **Traffic** theme, I proposed a new approach to traffic in October and, alongside [Wiltshire Councillor] Johnny Kidney and Francis Firmstone, had meetings with [local MP] Michelle Donelan, Wiltshire Council and Highways England to garner support. Our plans include:

- significantly **reducing through-traffic on Woods Hill**, which sees over 700 vehicles a day going up and down the hill, often far too quickly;
- coupling that with **no parking** on lower Woods Hill, and prioritisation and calming of traffic along Lower Stoke by the old station, will allow us to create a village centre in front of the Hop Pole;
- establishing **village entrance signs**: at Midford Lane from Midford; on the A36 at Midford Lane; at the Lower Stoke viaduct, and on the A36 before Woods Hill from Bath;
- implementing **better traffic calming** along Midford Lane, Middle Stoke and Crowe Hill/Crowe Lane;
- **improving A36 crossings** from Upper to Middle Stoke;
- proposing that Highways England support a 30mph A36 **'village' speed limit** from Midford Lane to Brassknocker traffic lights **and** support our request to improve the time allowed to turn right to Winsley.

HOP POLE. Sadly, it appears that Joe Abbott is no longer taking on the pub. It remains a listed Asset of Community Value (ACV) until 2023 but, without a viable landlord proposition, is likely to remain empty. So, action is needed and, if no solution is forthcoming from The Wellington Pub Company early in 2020, we will consider more concrete options to secure the pub's usage for our village.

"We are being really proactive in our pursuit of a better village"

In our **Community and Environment** themes we have lots of exciting initiatives and information coming in 2020. As we go forward with real positivity, I want to thank a few people. First, my wife Jo for running the LSPC website and taking a role on the Village Hall Management Committee. And, of course, the Parish Council team who, as volunteers, all strive to make Limpley Stoke a better place to live.

Please take the time to read our Minutes and Actions List (<https://limpleystoke.org/parish-council>) as we try to be as informative as possible. Do say hello if you see me out and about and feel free to contact me, or any PC member, via our details on the website link above. More news next month.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone!



***Anthony Gennard, Chairman,
Limpley Stoke Parish Council***

Tips for a plastic-free Christmas

SAVE OUR PLANET (SOP), local self-help group, has come up with some environmentally-friendly tips to help you avoid plastic over-use in the build-up to the festivities.

WRAPPING

Here are some beautifully-wrapped gifts using biodegradable, up-cycled or compostable materials, such as brown paper, newspaper or fabric, without creating thousands of tonnes of waste.



CARDS

An astonishing 1.5 billion Christmas cards are thrown away by UK households each year, according to Friends of the Earth. Online e-cards are an increasingly popular alternative. Cut your carbon footprint, save trees, and money (which you may then choose to donate) by making your own or buying charity cards. Christmas cards made from recycled card can be re-used as gift cards.

CHRISTMAS TREES

Buy a pot-grown tree to re-use year after year, or look for the FSC-certification (certified as organic and pesticide-free) or Soil Association logo on cut trees. Real Christmas trees can be left out for recycling next to your garden waste bin.

MAKE YOUR OWN

CRACKERS using scrap or brown paper, plastic-free gifts and made-up jokes.



Cracker snaps and brown paper from HobbyCraft, Mero Retail Park, Lower Bristol Road, BA2 3GL.

Wiltshire's Green Pledge

Wiltshire Council, as part of its drive to be carbon neutral by 2030, has launched the Wiltshire Green Pledge, a simple online tool to encourage people to commit to becoming as environmentally-friendly as possible.

There are many small changes that can have a positive impact on the environment, such as leaving the car at home and walking more; taking shorter showers and not leaving taps running; and switching off lights when not in use.

Take a couple of minutes to make the Green Pledge at <https://surveys.wiltshire.gov.uk/snapwebhost/s.asp?k=157261245291>.

Back in the air

Wiltshire Air Ambulance has received its Air Operator Certificate (AOC), allowing it to resume its emergency service for the people of Wiltshire and surrounding areas.

The charity's helicopter was grounded temporarily due to a delay by the Civil Aviation Authority in issuing an AOC following tests on the aircraft.

Changes to bus times

Users of **Odd Down park and ride** may not be aware that the RUH bus times have changed. Instead of leaving Odd Down on the hour and half-hour, the No 42 bus now leaves at 5 minutes to and 25 minutes past the hour.



What's On



Limpley Stoke Christmas Party

Saturday, November 30
Limpley Stoke Village Hall
7pm – midnight

Disco plus live music from **The Limpley Strokes**.

Bring your own booze and finger food.

Tickets £5 from Steve Best / Gitte Dawson / Denise Barnes.

Cotswold Winter Birds

Wednesday, December 4
Midford – Tucking Mill

Leisurely Cotswold Guided Walk along cycle path, with regular stops to watch birds and wildlife. Starting point: Hope & Anchor pub, Midford, 10am. 4 miles / 2.5 hours.



Mobile library monthly visit:
Thursday: December 19
10.00-10.25am
Uplands Close, Midford Lane

Herbs at Christmas: food, gifts & superstitions

Wednesday, December 4
Freshford Memorial Hall
7.30pm

Seasonal talk by medical herbalist, Christina Stapley, exploring both the herbal nature of familiar Christmas evergreens such as holly, ivy and mistletoe, and the decorative possibilities of rosemary, bay, juniper and a range of herb seedheads.

Superstitions connected with Christmas decorations and references to the history of Christmas will add lively anecdotes.

Members free / visitors £3.00
Everyone welcome

Joy to the World



Tuesday, December 17
Holy Trinity Church,
Bradford on Avon, 7.30pm

Cantamus Chamber Choir's celebration of Christmas, with seasonal readings and carols. Conductor: Michael Daniels. Licensed bar and mince pies from 6.30pm. Tickets £12 / £5 students and under-18s from Wiltshire Music Centre (01225 860100 or wiltshiremusic.org.uk).

Santa and Elf Run

Sunday, December 8
Bath Spa Uni, 11am-1pm

Dorothy House festive fun-run through (new venue) Bath Spa University's scenic grounds. Participants can choose to run, jog or walk a 2.5km or 5km route. Free parking.

Event details and sponsorship forms available from <https://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/events/santa-and-elf-run-2019/>.

For donations only, visit <https://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk>.

Change to December movie night

The village hall movie night scheduled for Wed, Dec 11 has been postponed until the New Year to avoid potential clashes with the following day's General Election. Apologies to all. A new date will be publicised when confirmed. Any queries, please contact limpleycreative@gmail.com.

WASTE COLLECTIONS

Domestic waste/ black box:

Monday, December 2
Monday, December 16
TUESDAY, December 31



Green bin:

Wednesday, Dec 4
Wednesday, Dec 18
(green waste collections resume **Wed. January 15**)



Plastic / cardboard:

Monday, December 9
Monday, December 23
TUESDAY, January 7



Household recycling centre opening times:
wiltshire.gov.uk/rubbish-and-recycling

Wishing you
all a Merry
Christmas
and
a Happy
New Year

